



# Evaluating Trends of Procedures Performed by Pediatric and General Dentists

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## BACKGROUND

- 4 out of top 30 diseases in the world related to oral health.<sup>1</sup>
- 46% of 6-19 year olds in US<sup>2</sup> have untreated dental caries
- 34 million school hours lost due to acute or unplanned dental care<sup>3</sup>
- 2 million ED visits in 2017 due to dental conditions<sup>4</sup>
- Fewer general dentists feel comfortable treating children<sup>5</sup>

## METHODS

- Data from 70 insurance companies obtained from Fluent™
- Retrospective analysis of dental claims made from 1/01/2018-12/31/2024
- Inclusion criteria:
  - 1-11 years of age
  - Provider type (both general and pediatric dentist)
  - Dates of all treatment rendered
  - Paid claims separated into 4 distinct categories
    - Diagnostic/Preventive, Restorative/Extractions, Management of the Developing Occlusion, Pulpal Therapy

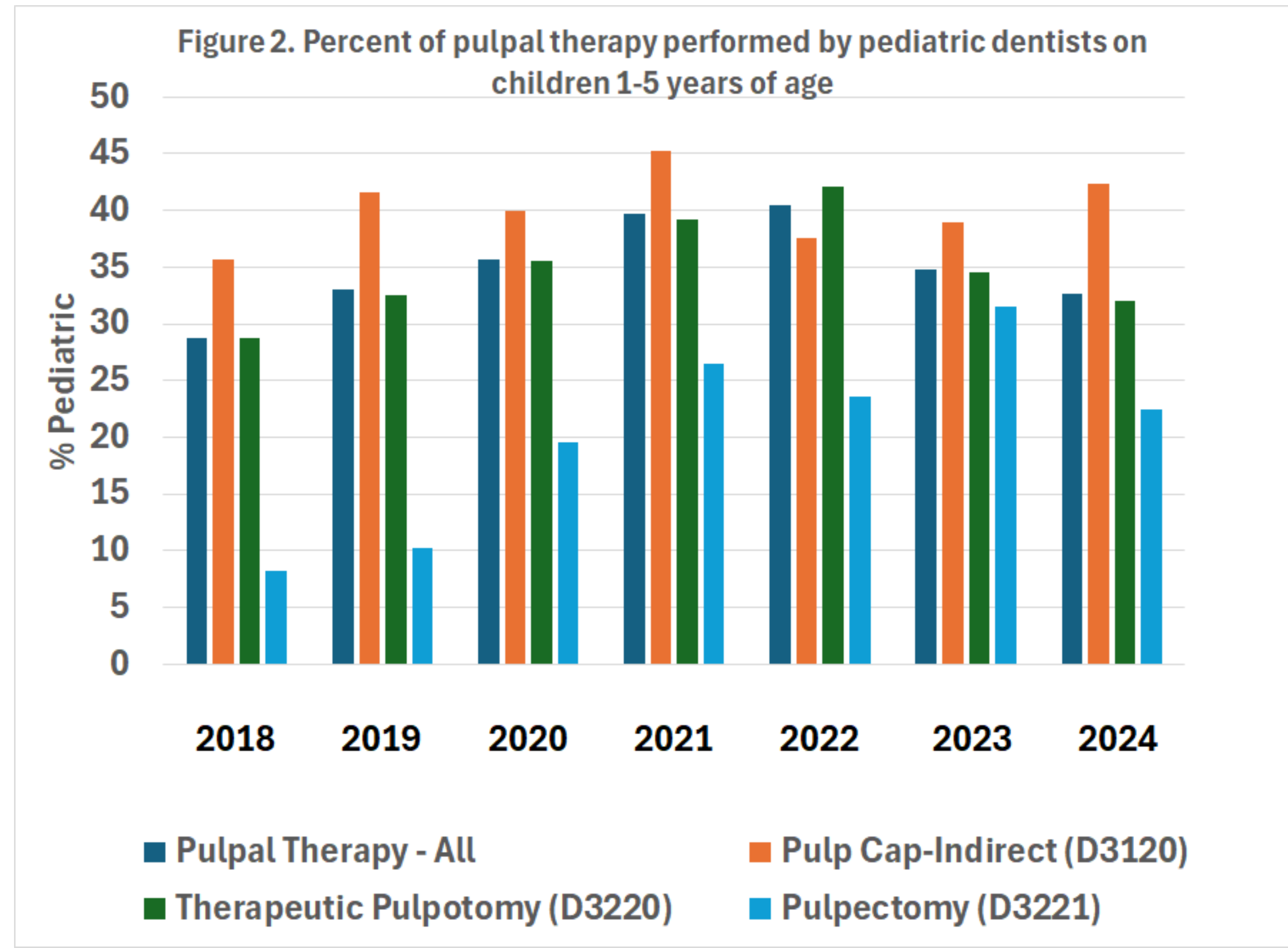
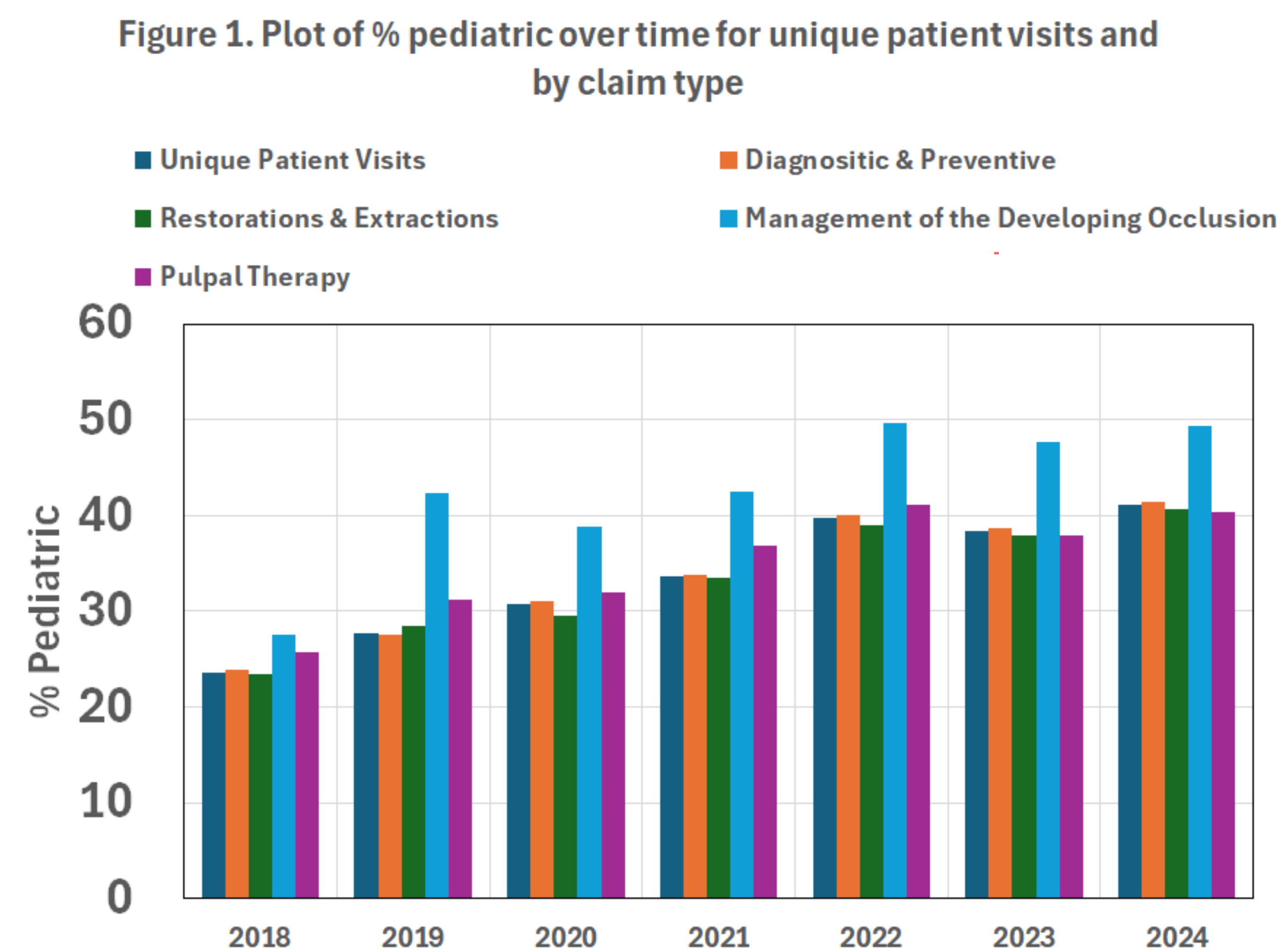
## RESULTS

- 5.14 million patient visits included across all study years for patients aged 1-11 years
- In 2018 23.6% of all unique patient visits for children aged 1-11 were with pediatric dentists and this increased to 41.1% by the end of 2024 (OR range: 0.44-0.81, p<0.001).
- Management of the developing occlusion by pediatric dentists and for all ages in this study increased from 27.6% to 49.4% (OR range: 0.39-0.60, p<0.001).
- Percent of pulpectomies performed by pediatric dentists increased from 8.2% to 22.4% (NS)

## DISCUSSION / CONCLUSION

- Data shows a general upward trend in proportion of patients treated by pediatric dentists.
- There are 17 times more general dentists than pediatric dentists yet over 40% of all children 1-11 seen by pediatric dentists.<sup>6</sup>
- Nearly half of all space maintenance performed by pediatric dentists.
- A 173% relative increase of pulpectomies performed on children 1-5 years of age, which may be due to 2020 AAPD support of LSTR, which is coded as pulpectomy.<sup>7</sup>

## FIGURES



## OBJECTIVES

- To evaluate whether there have been significant changes to proportional visits between pediatric and general dentists.
- To further explore if there are trends or shifts in the types of procedures being performed.

## REFERENCES





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