

# QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FLUORIDE VARNISH PROJECT

Denise Easter, MSN, RN, CPC

Quality Improvement Manager

Oklahoma Health Care Authority





# BACKGROUND

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- Early childhood caries - cavities
- Cavities 5x asthma and 7x hay fever
- Cavities cause health problems
- Cavities are preventable

# SOLUTION

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- Primary care clinicians apply fluoride varnish
- Varnish reduces dental decay by more than one-third
- Reimbursement for fluoride



# PROBLEM

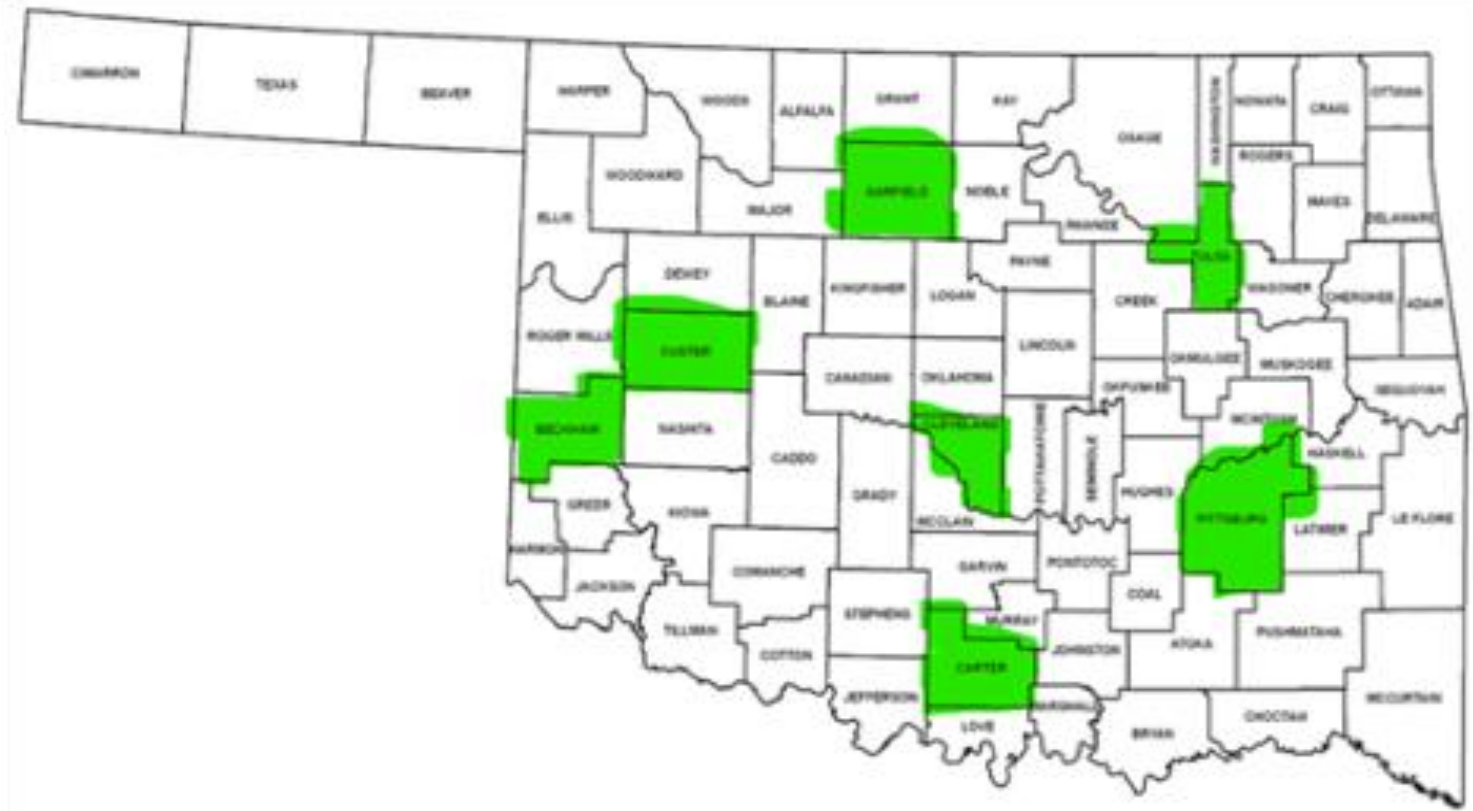
- Not being utilized
- Why?



# PROBLEM

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- Not being utilized
- Why?
- QI fluoride varnish project
- Data









Everyone is  
trained



Fluoride  
varnish is the  
routine



Fluoride  
varnish is  
convenient



Fluoride is  
part of  
billing









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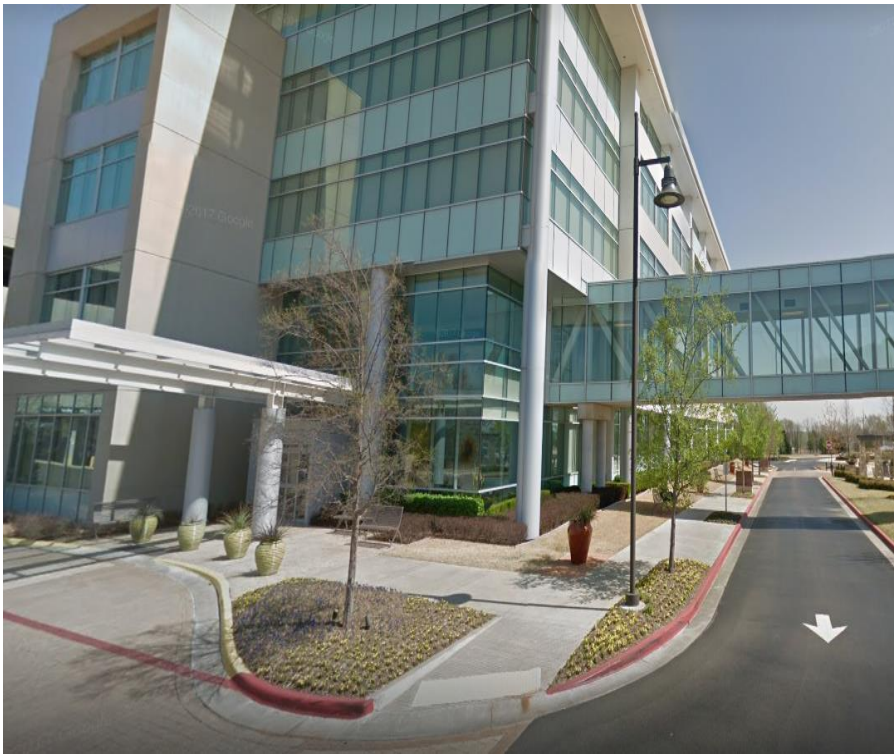


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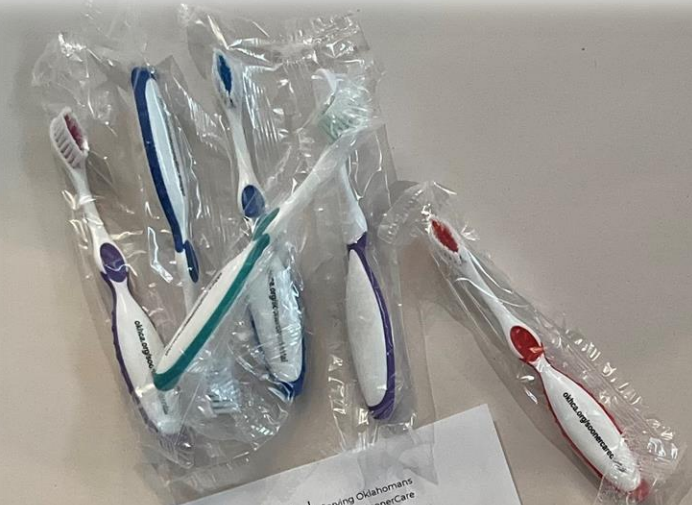



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**OKLAHOMA**  
 Health Care Authority

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OHCA Fluoride Varnish Quality Improvement Project 2022

Clinic: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fluoride (supplied by / cost): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Patient Age	Fluoride Application Tracking		Notes or Observations
		Well Child or Sick Visit	Staff (doctor, nurse, MA, etc)	

**PHONE**  
 Admin: 405-323-7700  
 Helpline: 800-987-7767

**WEBSITES**  
[oklahoma.gov/ohca](http://oklahoma.gov/ohca)  
[mysoonercare.org](http://mysoonercare.org)

**ADDRESS**  
 4340 N Lincoln Blvd  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73105

## FLUORIDE VARNISH

Early childhood caries is the most common chronic childhood condition and is largely preventable. Early childhood caries is five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever.

When used at least twice a year, fluoride varnish reduces dental decay by a third.

**The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends that primary care clinicians apply fluoride varnish to the primary teeth of children younger than 5 years old, starting at the age of primary tooth eruption.**

SoonerCare reimburses for fluoride varnish application in the medical clinic every 6 months for members ages 6 months through 5 years. Any staff member in the clinic may apply fluoride varnish.

Video training for fluoride varnish application can be found at [oklahoma.gov/ohca/fluoride](http://oklahoma.gov/ohca/fluoride). Varnish is available in disposable, single-use packs for as little as \$1 each and may be ordered on the internet or from your medical supplier.

**SoonerCare Primary Care clinics have successfully integrated fluoride varnish into the well-child visit by using the following workflow:**

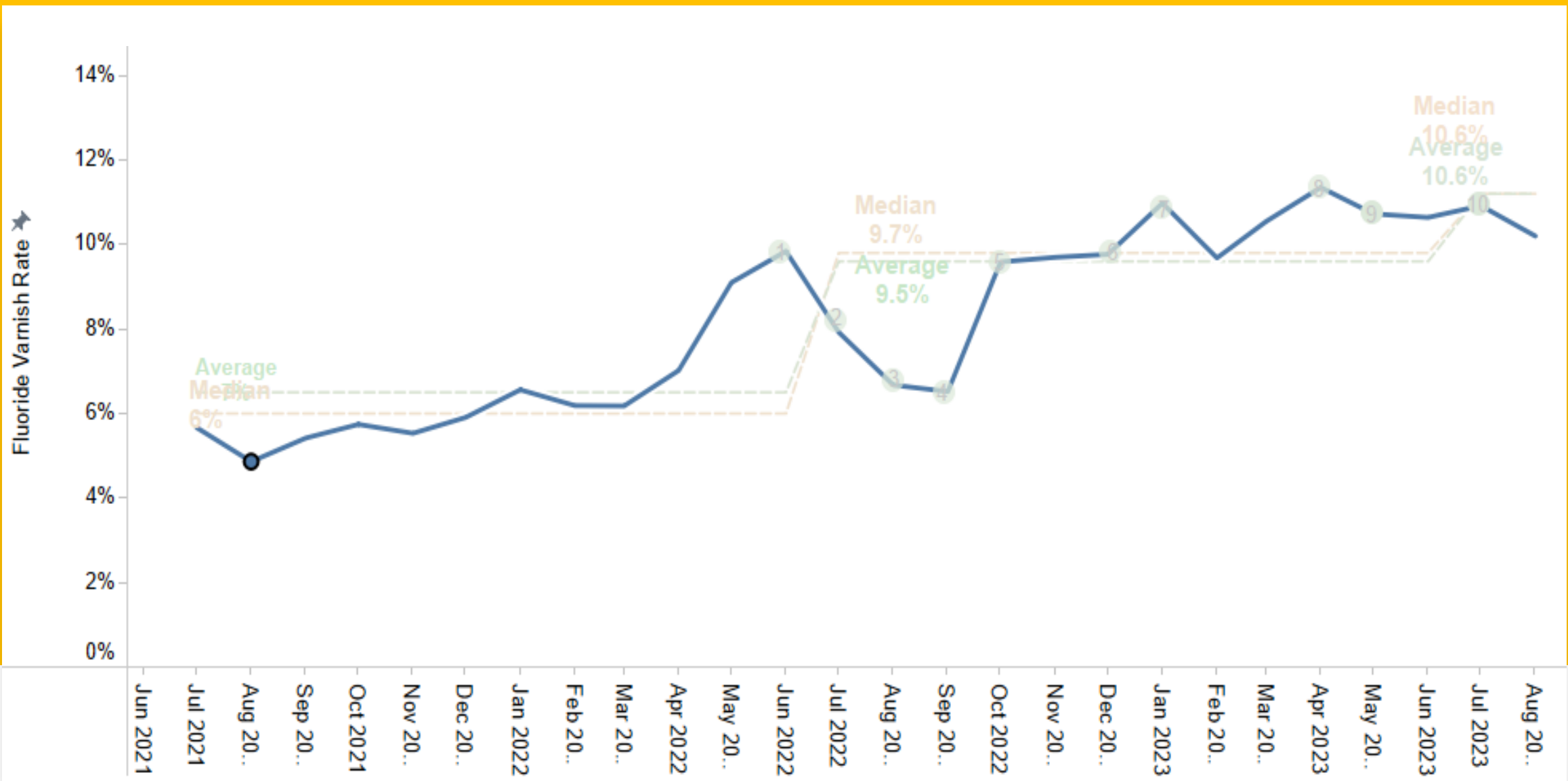
- 1. Training**  
All staff is educated on the benefits of fluoride varnish and oriented to the application.
- 2. Clinic Routine**  
Fluoride varnish is considered a routine part of the well-child check beginning at 6 months of age. Fluoride, immunizations and lab work is all done together.
- 3. Convenience**  
The fluoride applications are kept with immunization supplies, at the nurses' desk or in the exam room for easy access.
- 4. Billing**  
Fluoride varnish is added to the routine billing schedule and included with each well-child visit, needing no additional staff or time.

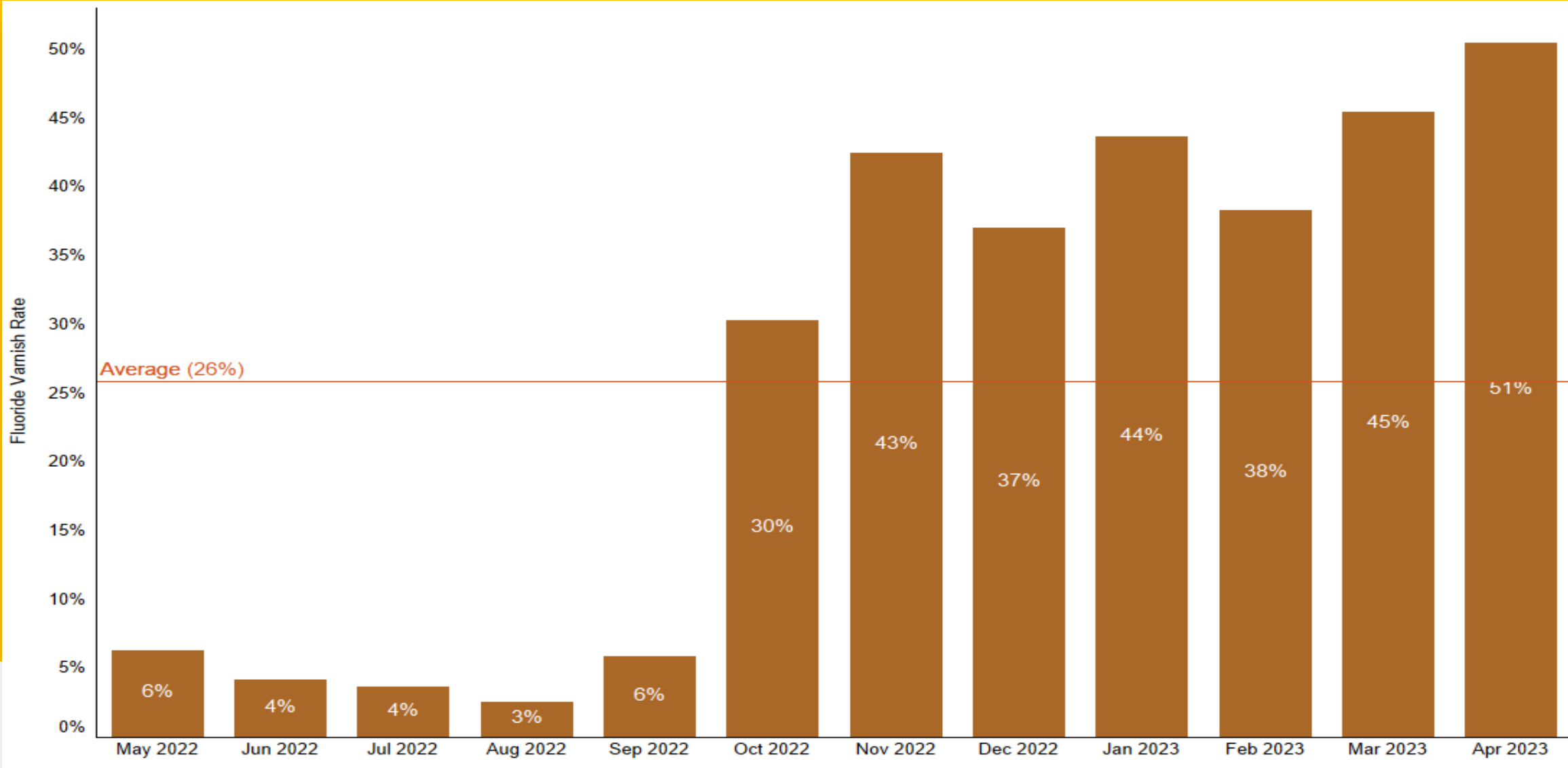
By adding these four simple steps to the clinic workflow, fluoride varnish is included in the routine billing schedule and included with the well-child visit, needing no additional staff or time, and is a reimbursable service.

**SoonerCare**  
<http://oklahoma.gov/ohca/procedures>

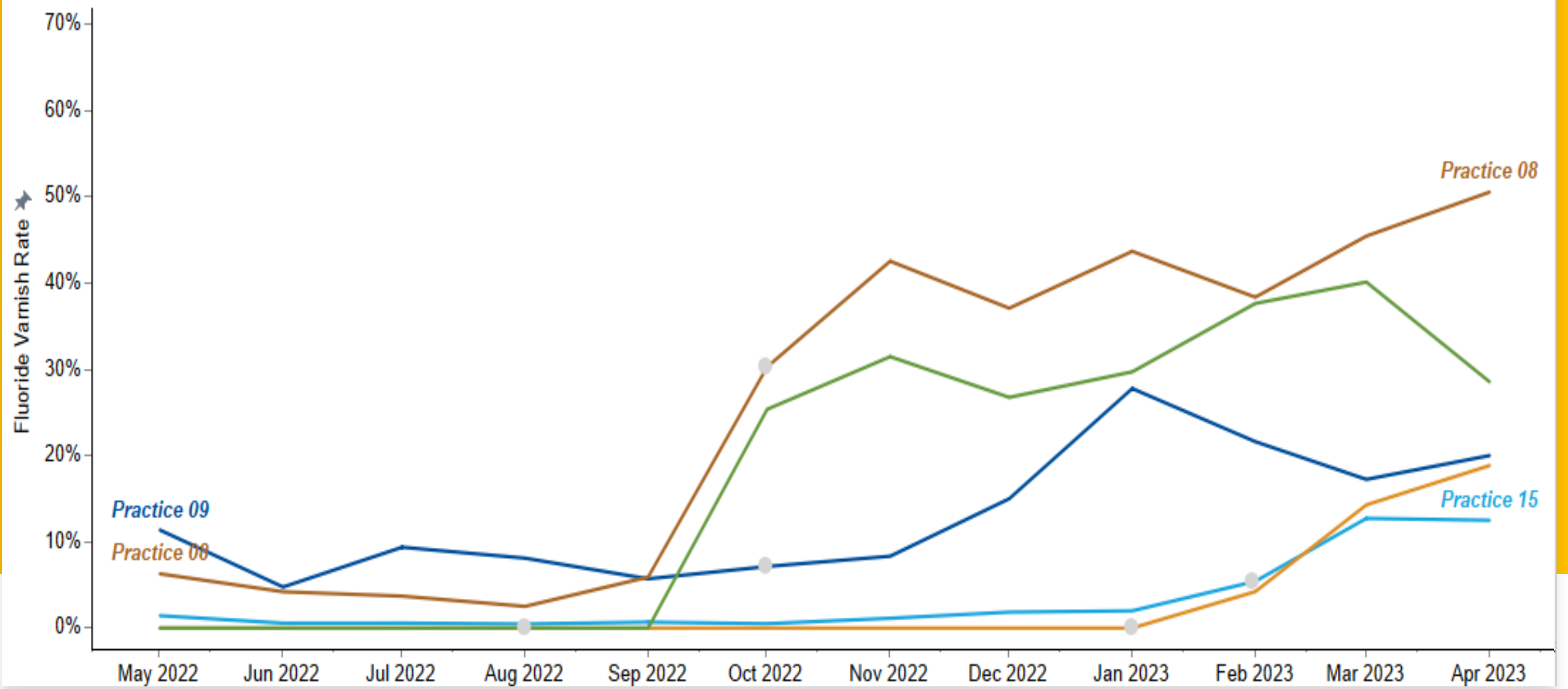
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). Fluoride varnish application in the medical clinic for children ages 6 months through 5 years. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 2015;313(2):200-204. doi:10.1001/jama.2014.11816











# COMMON QUESTIONS

- What if the child gets fluoride varnish at the dentist and at the well-child visit?
- Who can apply the fluoride varnish?
- Do we need a certification to apply the fluoride varnish?
- Why not refer the child to a dentist?

- [www.Oklahoma.gov/ohca](http://www.Oklahoma.gov/ohca)
- [www.SmilesForLifeOralHealth.org](http://www.SmilesForLifeOralHealth.org)
- [denise.easter@okhca.org](mailto:denise.easter@okhca.org)



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## GET IN TOUCH

4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

[oklahoma.gov/ohca](http://oklahoma.gov/ohca)  
[MySoonerCare.org](http://MySoonerCare.org)

Agency: 405-522-7300  
Helpline: 800-987-7767

