

Dental Care for Young Children in the HUSKY Program

**Presentation for
Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight
February 19, 2016**



Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Project

- **Project of the Connecticut Department of Social Services**
- **Funded by four-year grant awarded by HRSA (October 2013 – September 2017)**
- **Designed and operated by the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership**
- **Evaluation Lead: Connecticut Voices for Children**

PIOHQIP Goals

- **Provide coordinated approach to oral health needs of pregnant women and infants**
- **Promote perinatal and infant/toddler oral health and eliminate barriers and disparities**
- **Improve systems of oral health care through ongoing evaluation, including statewide data collection and analysis**
- **Leverage available fiscal and other resources to maintain the Intensive Community Outreach approach and evaluation of effectiveness**

PIOHQIP Activities

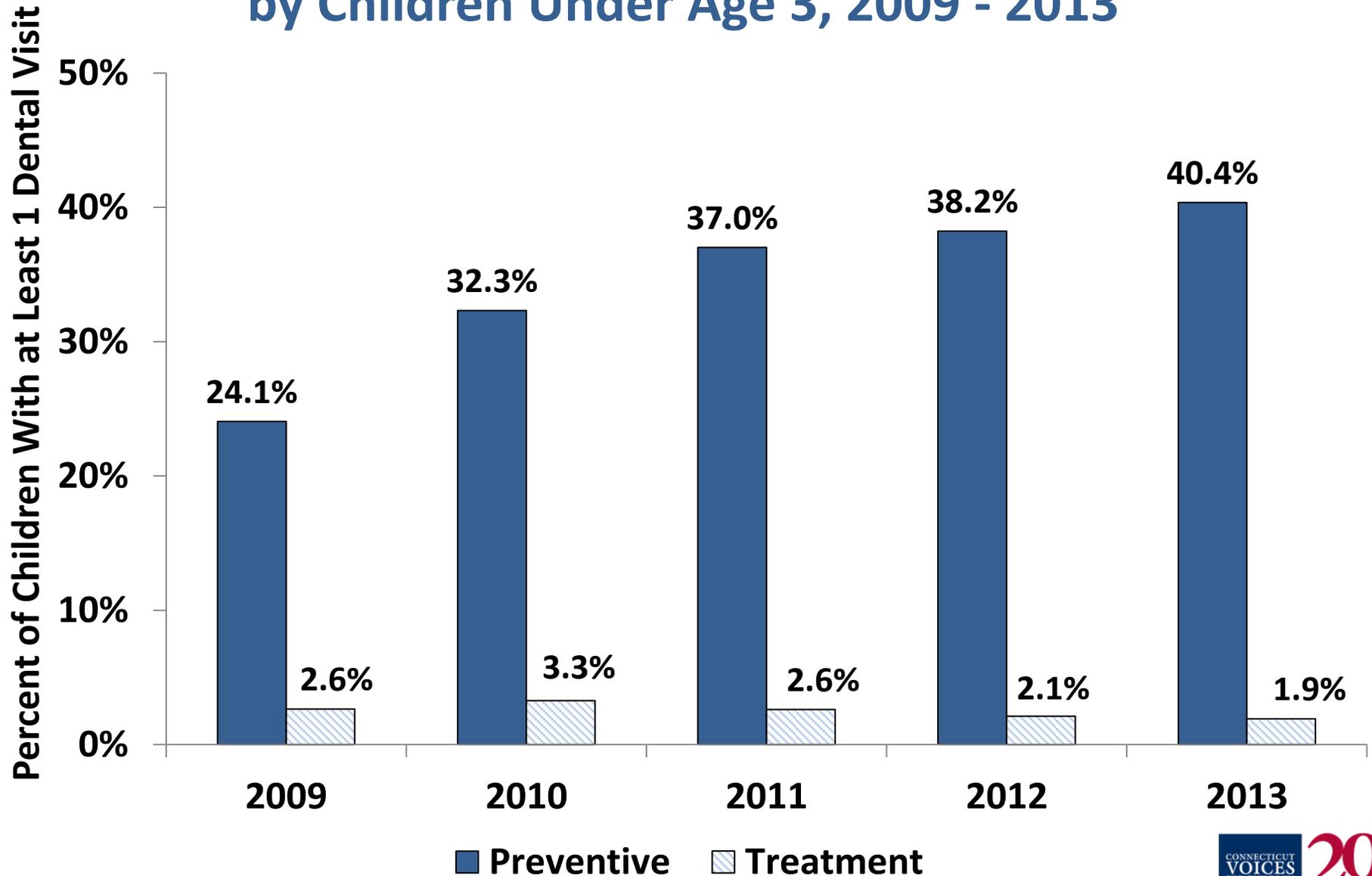
- **Conduct *Intensive Community Outreach* in towns with about 80% of HUSKY births**
- **Establish working relationships with OB/GYN offices, nurse-midwives, pediatric care offices and community agencies, such as WIC, Help Me Grow, Community Action Agencies.**
- **Reach out to pregnant women identified by Community Health Network CT**
- **Collaborate with other working groups, professional organizations, and other partners**

Dental Care for Young Children in HUSKY A

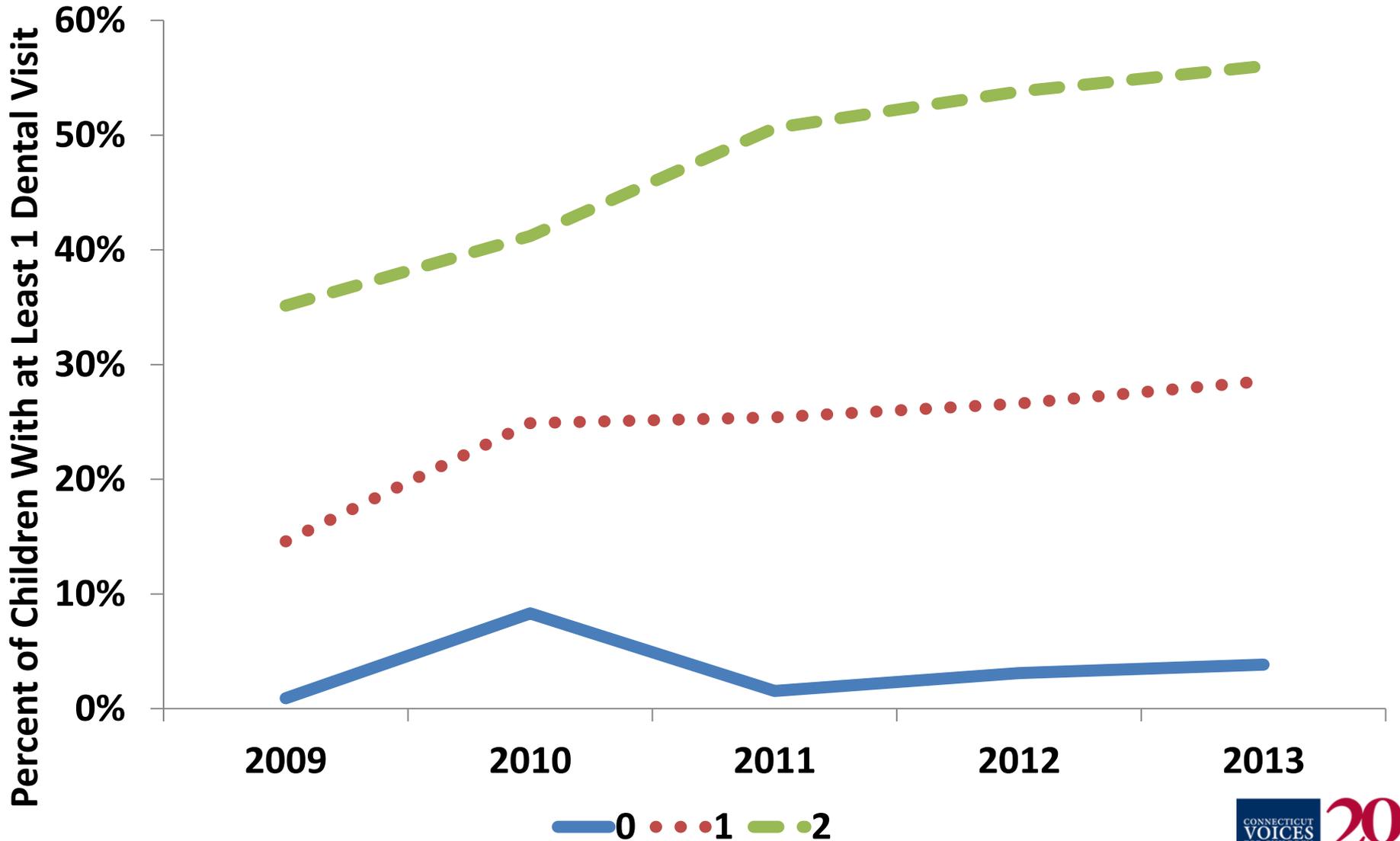
Methods

- Identified children less than 3 who were continuously enrolled in HUSKY A
- Identified children who had preventive dental care and those with treatment
- Data are intended to *supplement* DSS' CMS 416 EPSDT reporting with:
 - Differences associated with race/ethnicity
 - Differences associated with residence

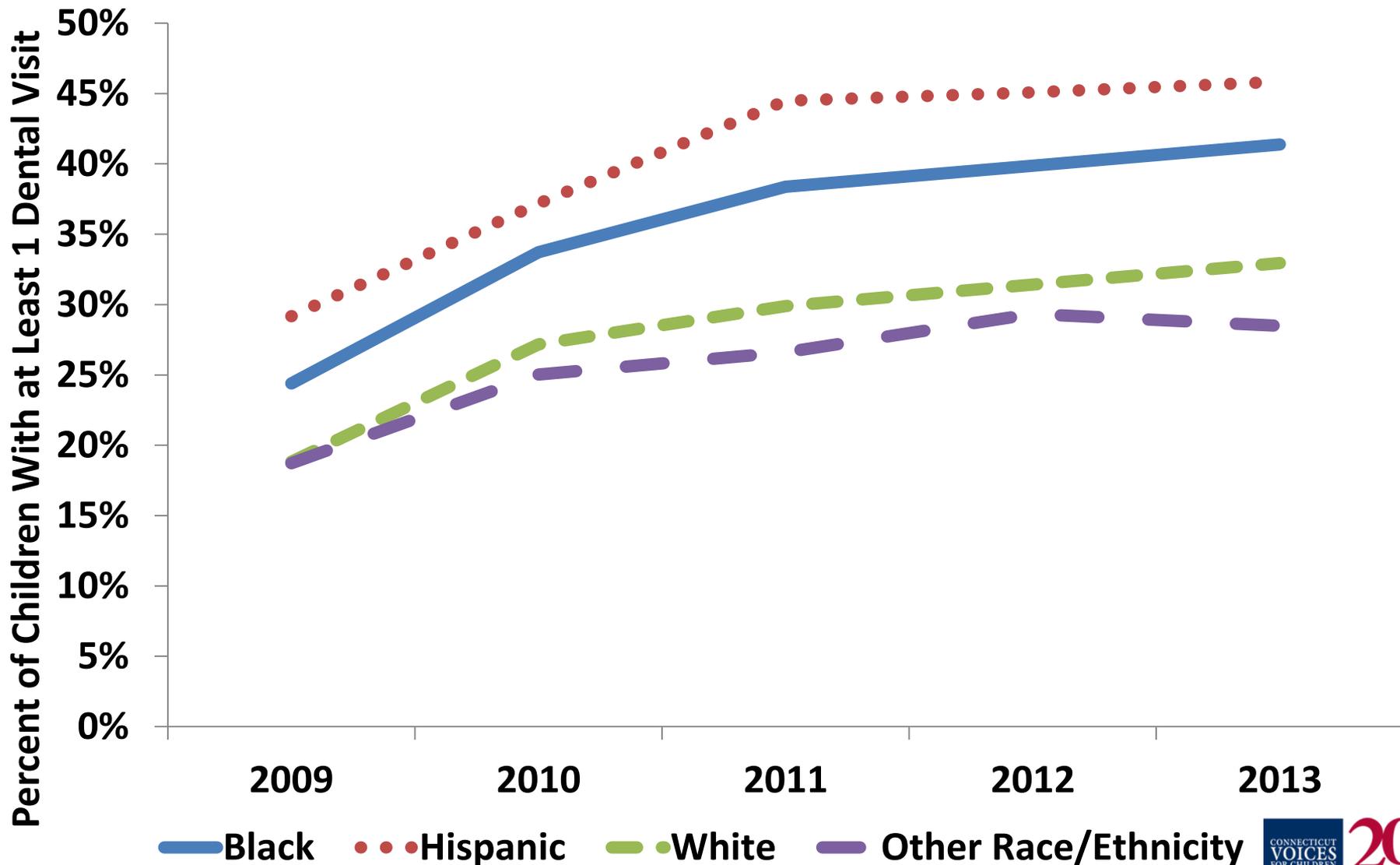
Preventive and Treatment Dental Utilization by Children Under Age 3, 2009 - 2013



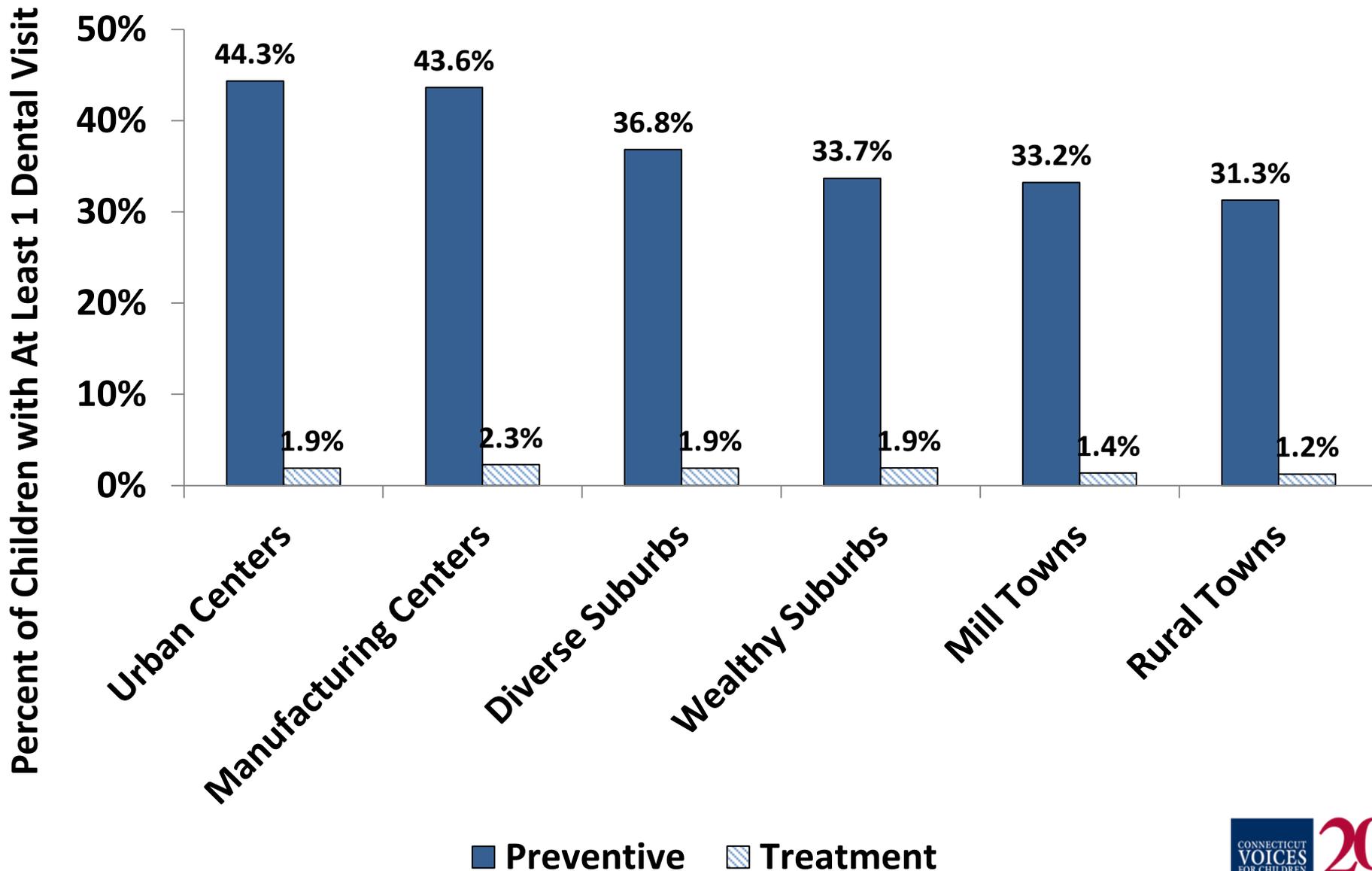
Preventive Dental Utilization by Age for Children Under Age 3, 2009-2013



Preventive Dental Utilization by Race/Ethnicity for Children Under Age 3, 2009-2013



Preventive and Treatment Dental Utilization by Health Reference Group for Children Under Age 3, 2013



Summary of Findings

Utilization of preventive services increased steadily from 24% (2009) to 40% (2013):

- **Increased for both one- and two-year olds**
- **Increased for all cities and towns; however, rates were highest in urban centers and lowest in rural towns**
- **Increased for all racial/ethnic groups; however, differences between groups were evident and not consistent with differences for older children and adults**

Oral Health Care for Young Children: Services Delivered by Pediatric Primary Care Providers

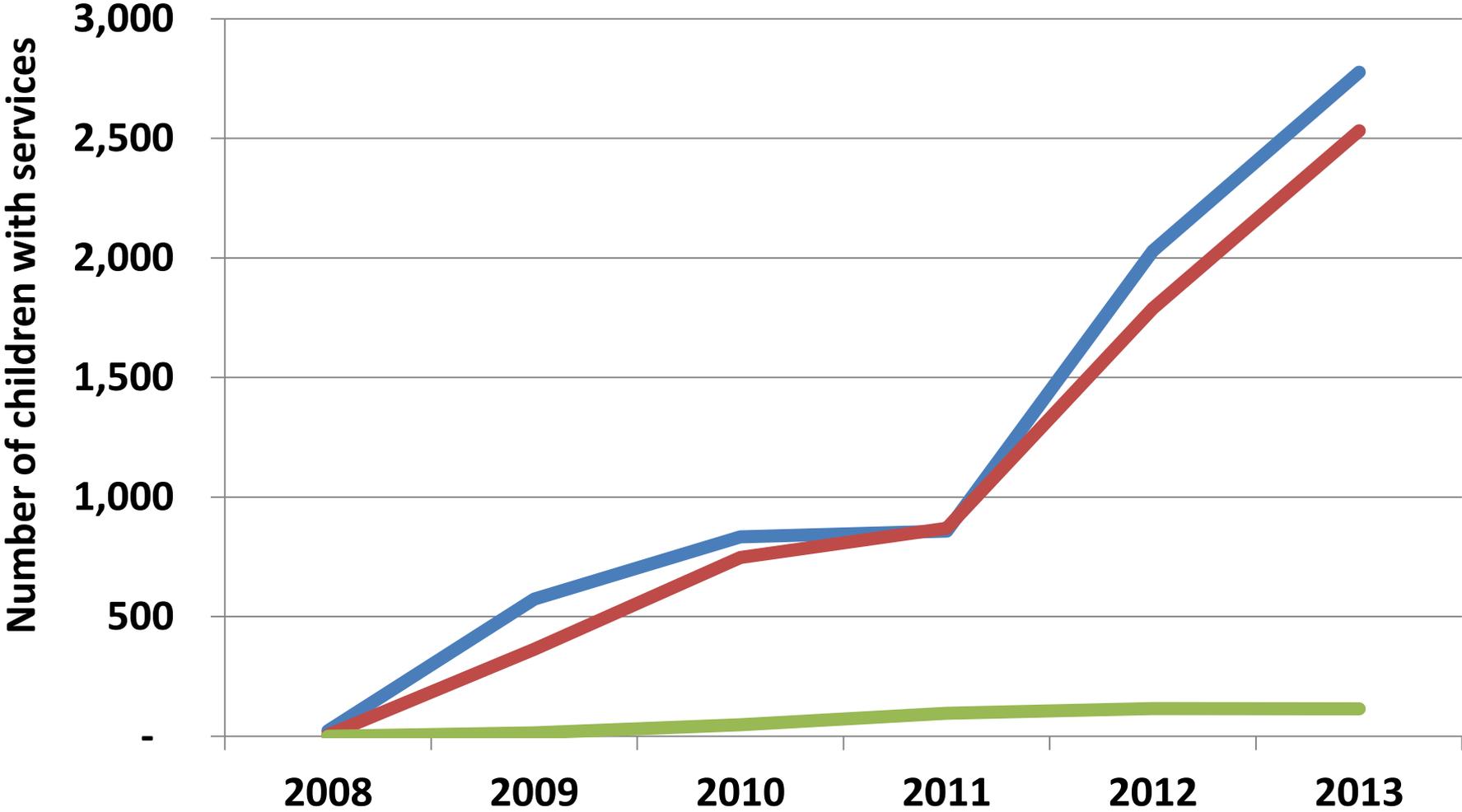
Connecticut's ABC Program

- Dental codes added to Medicaid Physician Fee Schedule, effective November 2008
- Training conducted by UCHC School of Dental Medicine and CME partners
- After completing training and certification for ABC Program, pediatric care providers can bill Medicaid for:
 - Oral evaluation for patient under 3 and counseling with care giver (CDT code D0145; \$25)
 - Topical fluoride varnish application for moderate to high caries risk patients (CDG code D1206; \$10)

Methods

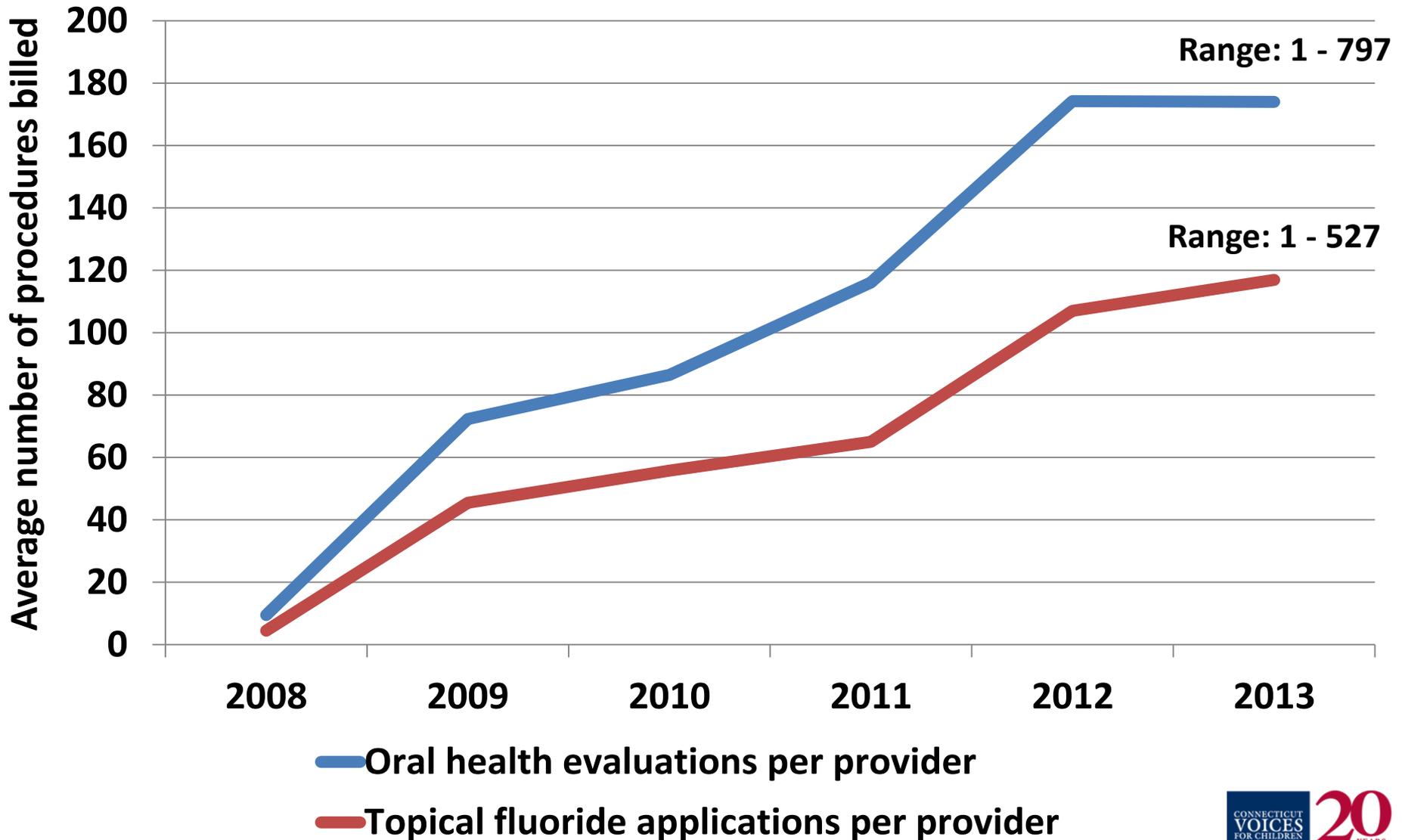
- Identified children up to age 6 who were ever enrolled in HUSKY A
- Identified children who had oral health evaluation (D0145) and topical therapeutic fluoride varnish application (D1206) delivered by pediatric primary care providers (non-dental)
- Adds to EPSDT CMS 416 reporting with the addition of data on provider participation

Young Children with Oral Health Evaluations Delivered by Pediatric Care Providers



— Age 1 and under — Age 2 to 3 — Age 4 to 6

Pediatric Care Provider Participation: Two in 2008 → 48 in 2013



Summary of Findings

- **Increased number of children with oral health services from primary care providers**
- **Increased number of oral health services delivered**
- **Increased number of pediatric providers participated; however, not all trained providers deliver services and participation varies widely among those who provide oral health care**

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