

Dental Students' Views on Oral Healthcare Delivery and Payment Reform

Jack Cherny^{1*}, Kristen LaBruna^{1*}, Burton Edelstein DDS MPH^{1,2}, Marcie Rubin DrPH MPH MPA¹

*These two authors contributed equally to this work



¹Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, New York, New York, ²Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, New York, New York

BACKGROUND

- CDM teaches "Population Oral Health Management" to prepare students for anticipated payment and delivery changes
- Unknown are student beliefs about dental system reforms and their impact on dental careers

OBJECTIVES

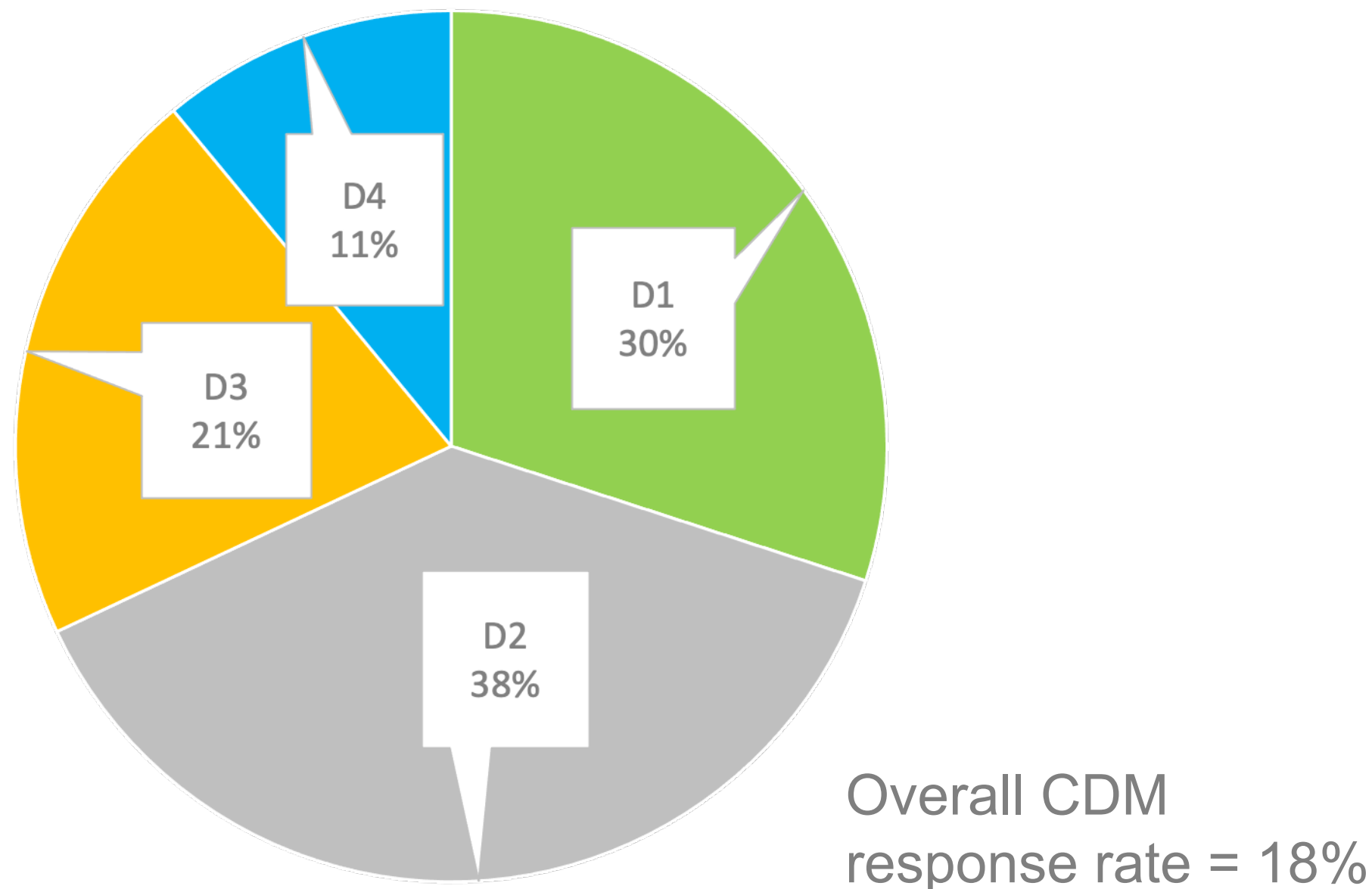
- To assess CDM students' views on:
 - Likelihood of dental system change over 10 years
 - Dentists' roles in non-clinical oral health determinants
 - Interprofessional care
 - Value-based payment
 - Alternative practice models
- To correlate these views to student socio-demographics via:
 - Descriptive Statistics
 - Chi-square Analysis
 - Fisher's Exact Test

MATERIALS & METHODS

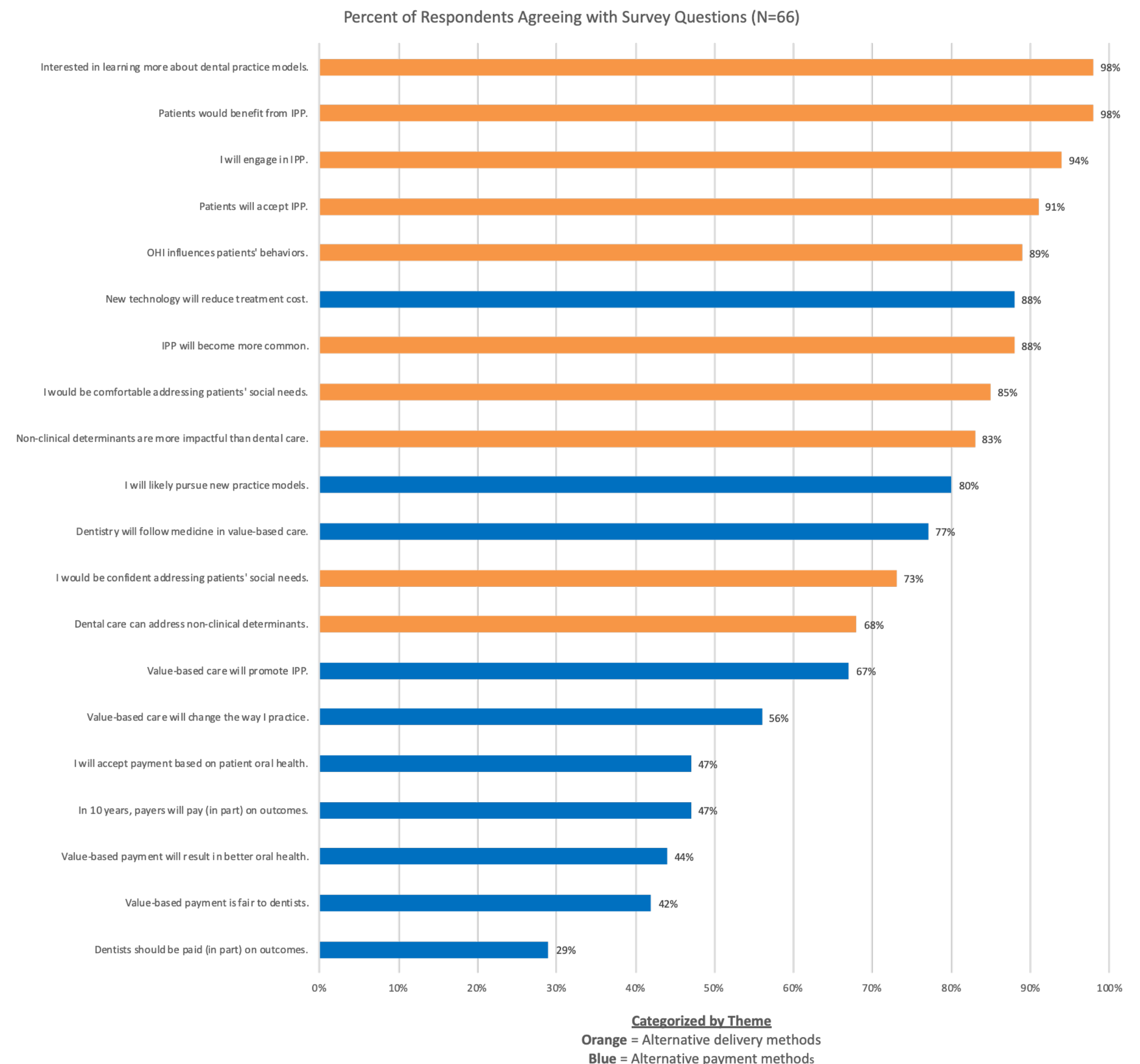
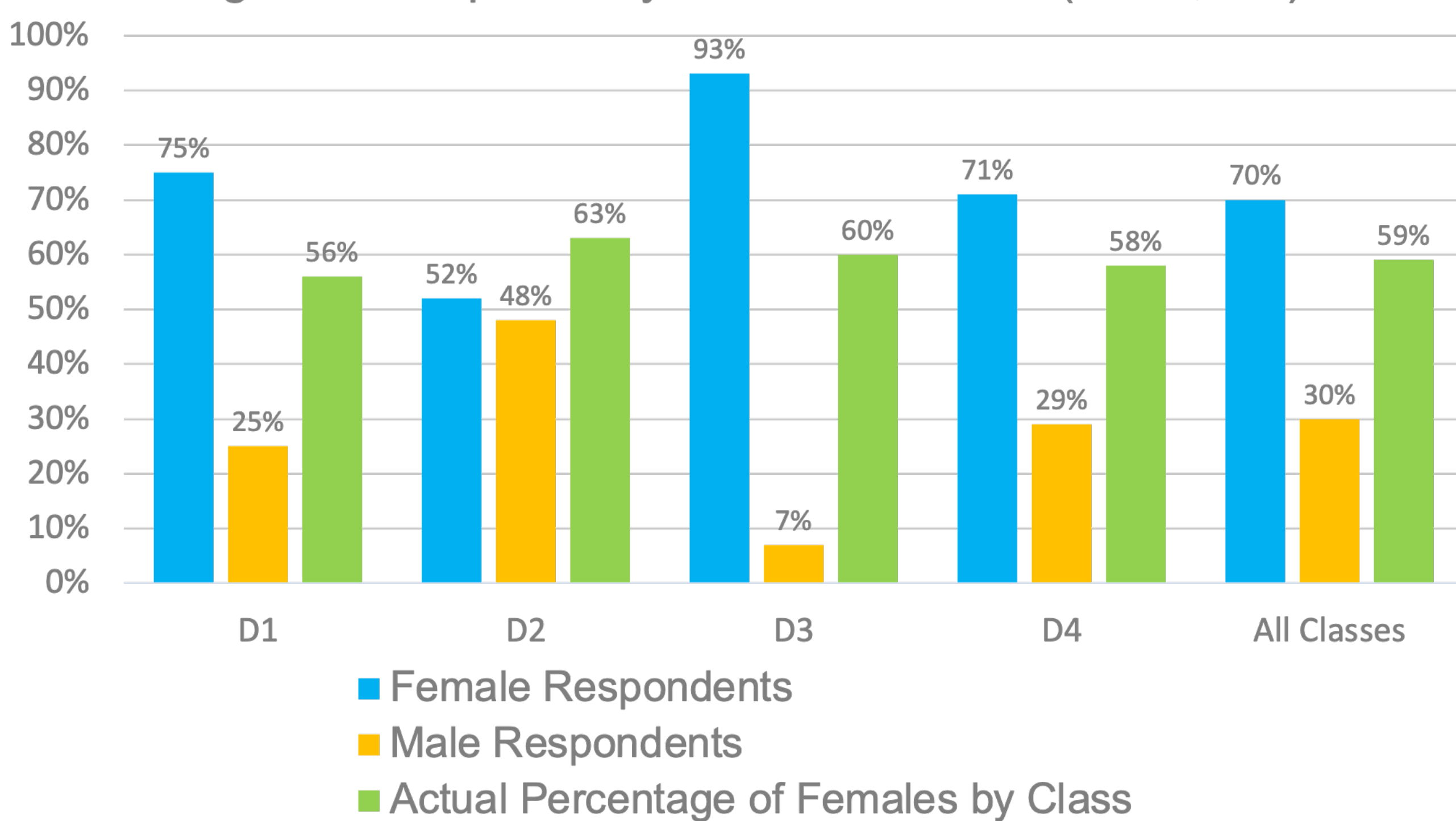
- Online Qualtrics survey sent to CDM students at the beginning of the fall semester of 2021 consisting of:
 - Socio-demographic questions
 - Informative vignettes
 - 4-point Likert scale questions
- Survey divided into four principles:
 - Health Determinants and Interprofessional Care
 - Change Drivers of Healthcare
 - Delivery Change of Oral Healthcare
 - Payment Change of Oral Healthcare

RESULTS

Higher Participation by D1/D2 than D3/D4 (N=66)



Higher Participation by Female Students (N=66,364)



D1 students are significantly more likely than D2,3,4 to disagree that:

- Dentists should be paid, at least in part, based on patient oral health outcomes (*Fisher's exact test yields p=0.037*)
- This change will happen within 10 years ($\chi^2 (1, N=41)=4.19, p=0.041$)
- That this change will improve patients' oral health outcomes ($\chi^2 (1, N=64)=4.16, p=0.041$)

DISCUSSION

- Students agree more with anticipated delivery changes than financing changes
- No significant findings by age, sex, prior-CDM experience, post-CDM career aspirations, or specialty interest
- CDM's educational experience in Years 2, 3, and 4 correlates with greater agreement that value-based payments will evolve and will benefit patients

CONCLUSIONS

- Students are more positive about anticipated interprofessional practice than structural or financial changes to care
- Students are skeptical about value-based payment
- D2, 3, and 4 students are more attuned to likely changes in delivery and payment than D1 students

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Jack Cherny was supported by Columbia University College of Dental Medicine and funded by the Summer Research Fellowship
- Kristen LaBruna was supported by Columbia University College of Dental Medicine and funded by Dr. Leavitt Summer Research Fellowship

REFERENCES

- Grytten J "Payment systems and incentives in dentistry" <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27807881/> Accessed June 26, 2021
- IHI Triple Aim Initiative- The Best Care for the Whole Population at the Lowest Cost <http://www.ihi.org/Engage/Initiatives/TripleAim/Pages/default.aspx> Accessed June 26, 2021
- Leadbeatter D et al "How are the social determinant of health being taught in dental education?" <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jdd.12487> Accessed June 26, 2021
- Patric D et al "Reducing Oral Health Disparities: A focus on social and cultural determinants" <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/1472-6831-6-S1-S4> Accessed June 26, 2021
- Rubin M, Edelstein B "Perspectives on evolving dental care payment and delivery models" [https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177\(15\)00875-2/fulltext#secsectitle0105](https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(15)00875-2/fulltext#secsectitle0105) Accessed June 26, 2021

