

Exploring Connections to Value-Based Care in Dental Education

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Research Objective

- Value-based care (VBC) in dentistry is an emerging model of both care delivery and financing that focuses on oral health outcomes vs. specific services provided.¹ This transformation can create improvements in patient health and wellbeing along with demonstrated cost savings.
- Dental schools have the opportunity to shift the mindset of new clinicians toward value-based approaches while also embracing VBC in patient clinics as a financial model of sustainability.

Study Design

- A survey was disseminated to clinical deans from all 68 US dental schools evaluating their current approaches to value-based designs both in educational frameworks and clinical patient care.
- Respondents were asked to assess the future state of clinical competency while offering their perspectives on facilitators and barriers to VBC within their institutions.

Principal Findings

65% of respondents acknowledged VBC was not currently included in didactic curriculum.

Almost 25% of schools are considering VBC within their dental clinics.

Improving oral health and overall health are priority areas for both student education and care.

More than 30% of respondents reported student requirements as biggest drivers of change.

Results

Figure 1

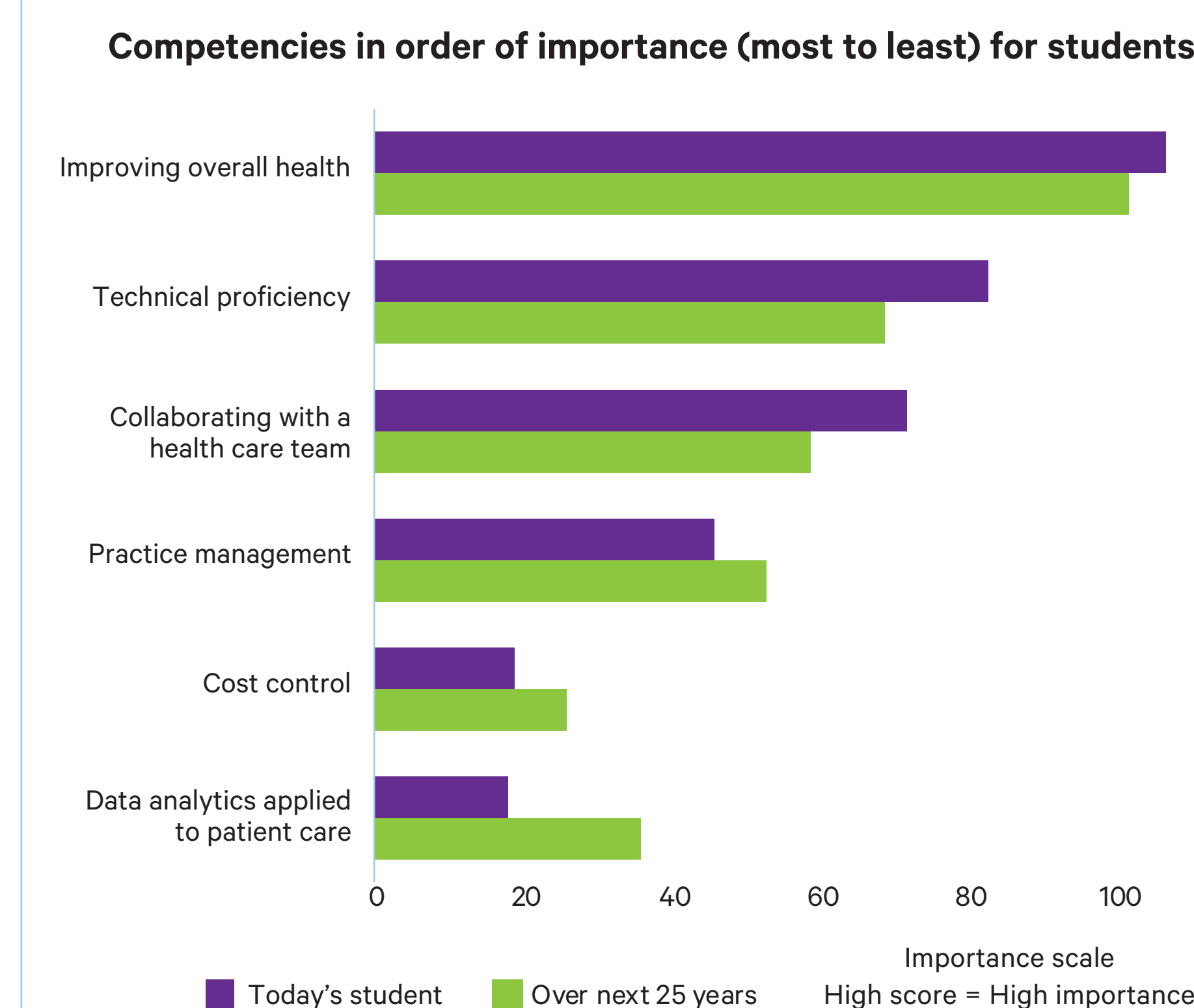


Figure 2

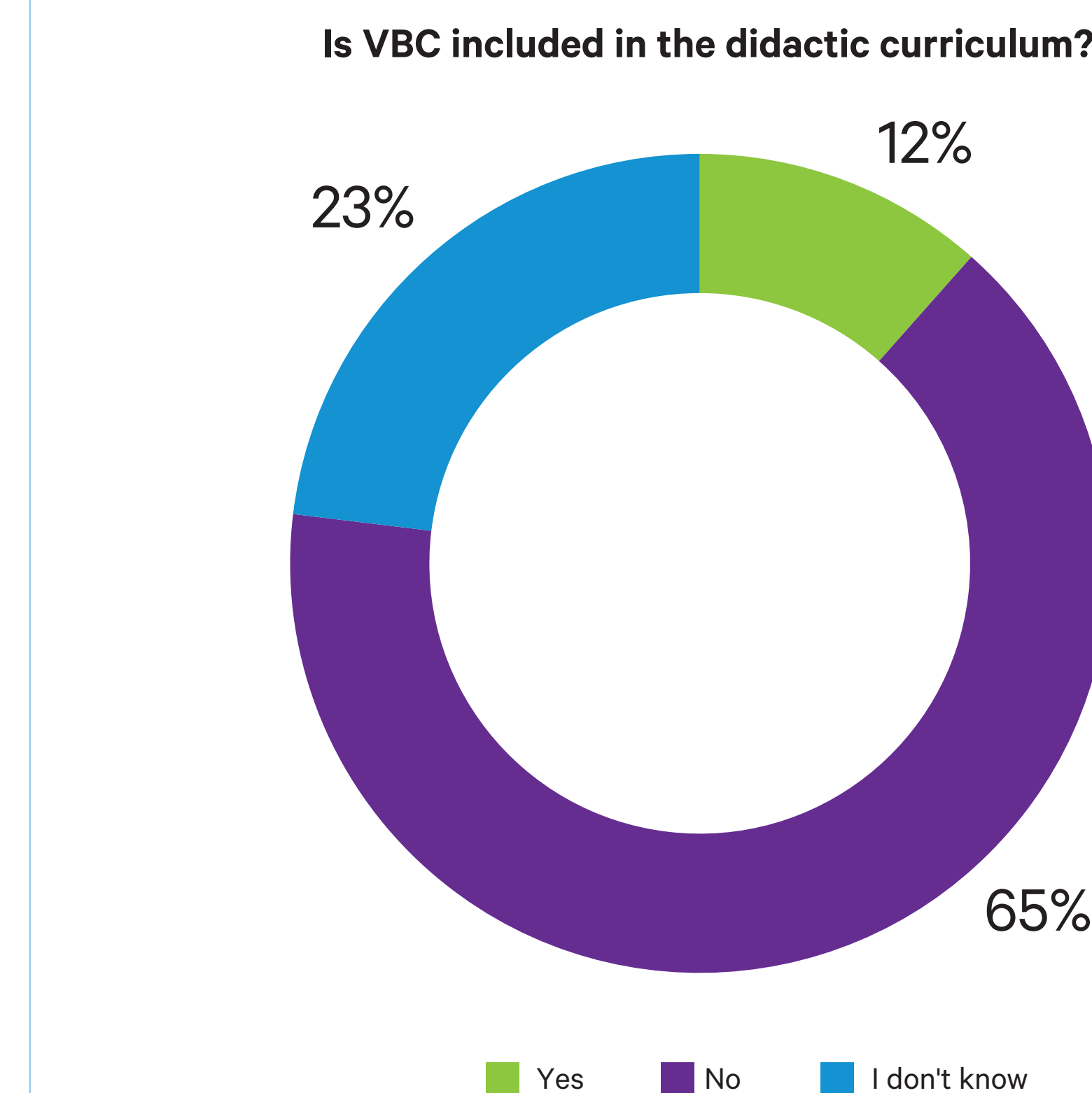


Figure 3

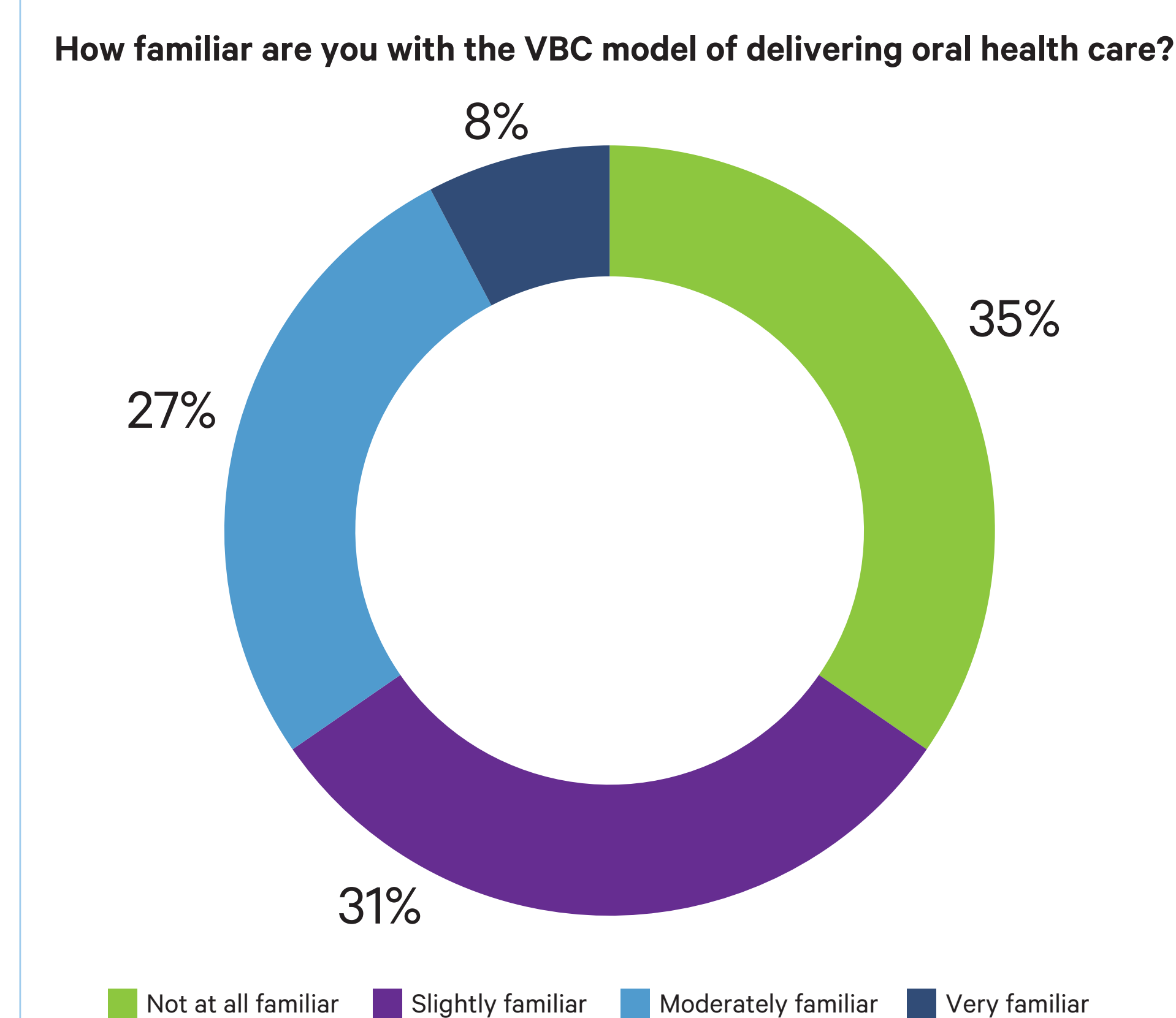
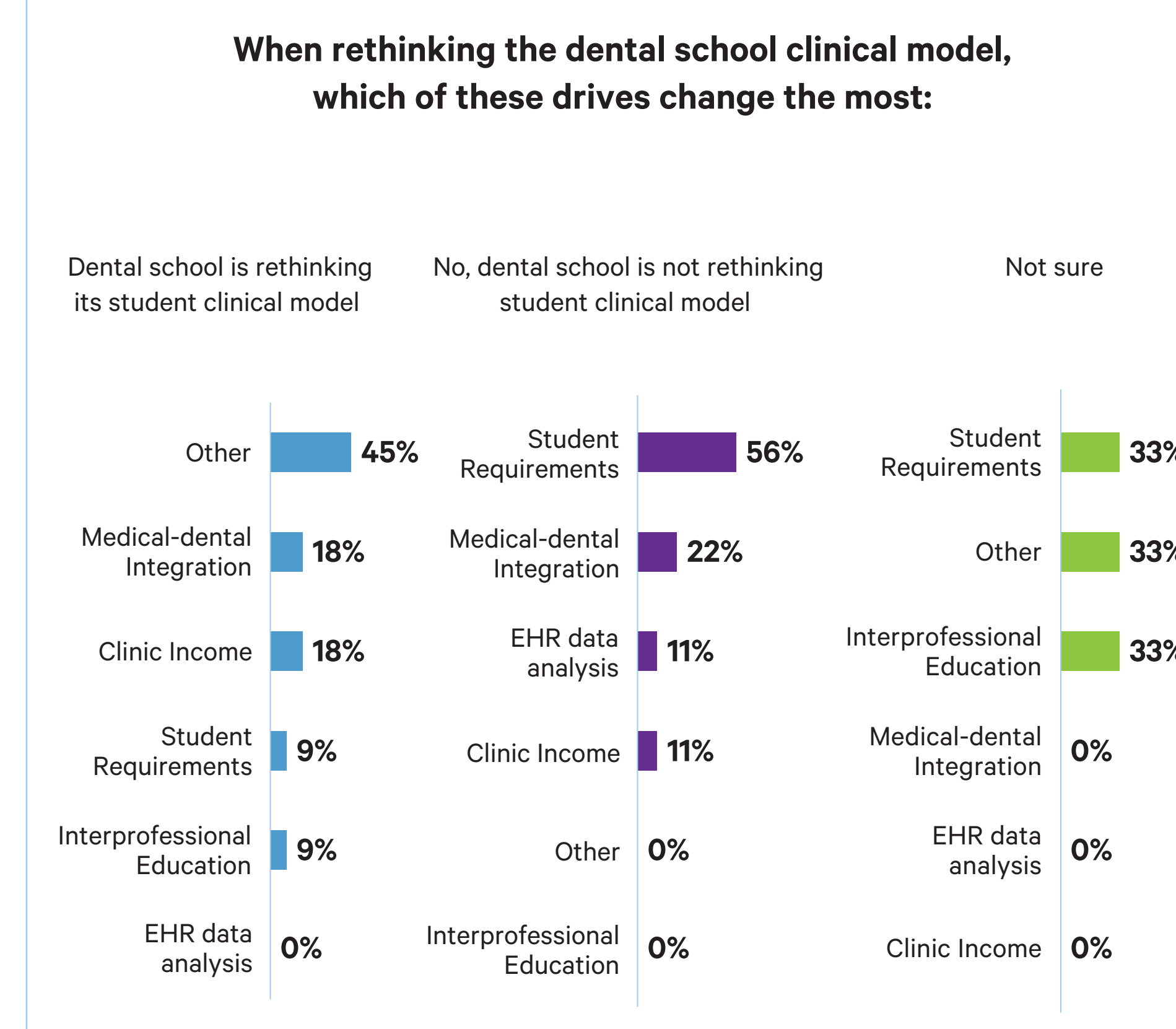


Figure 4



References

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- CODA: Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs (ada.org)
- Wajji MF, Karimbux NY, Spielman AI. Person-Centered Care: Opportunities and Challenges for Academic Dental Institutions and Programs. *J Dent Educ.* 2017 Nov;81(11):1265-1272. doi: 10.21815/JDE.017084. PMID: 29093139.

Implications for Policy and Practice

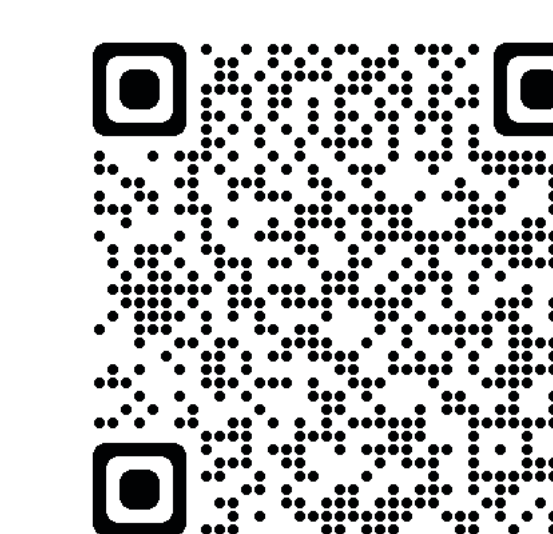
- Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) standards already emphasize elements of VBC such as patient-centeredness, interprofessionalism, a continual commitment to improvement, and use of technology to support provision of care that integrates research and patient values.^{2,3}
- Responses indicate VBC lacks recognition and clear understanding across respondents representing U.S. dental schools. However, respondents place high value in preparing students for clinical practice and this plus awareness of importance of oral health to overall health, interprofessional education, and person-centered approaches to care demonstrate fertile ground for change.
- Further, 50% of respondents indicate desire for a new clinic model for community-based care programs.

Conclusion

- While VBC is not yet broadly adopted within dental schools, many acknowledge the opportunity to align with VBC concepts when considering patient care and student experience.
- VBC remains an area of exploration for schools of dentistry both through financing clinical care and influencing didactic curriculum.

For More Information

Including Oral Health in VBC:



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