

Impact of Title VII Funding on Community Health Center Staffing and the National Health Service Corps

AAMC Workforce Meeting

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Objective

- **To examine the association between physicians' exposure to HRSA Title VII Section 747 Primary Care Training Grants during medical school and residency, and subsequent work in a community health center or the National Health Service Corps**

Federally Qualified Health Centers

- **2004 -- 6,651 FTE physicians
809 vacancies**

National Health Service Corps

- **2006 – 1,200 physicians
4,200 vacancies**

Method/Data

- **HRSA's Bureau of Health Professions—Title VII physician training grants files**
 - **3 relevant grant categories:**
 - **Pre-doctoral Education**
 - **Academic Administrative Unit (AAU)**
 - **Residency Training**
- **AMA “megafile”**
 - **2004 AMA Masterfile allopathic and most osteopathic physicians (N = 936,178)**
 - **Medicare UPIN numbers and residency information**

Identifying Physicians Working in CHCs

CMS Outpatient File

- Medicare outpatient facility claims 2001-2003
primary care services
- Claims linked to individual physician

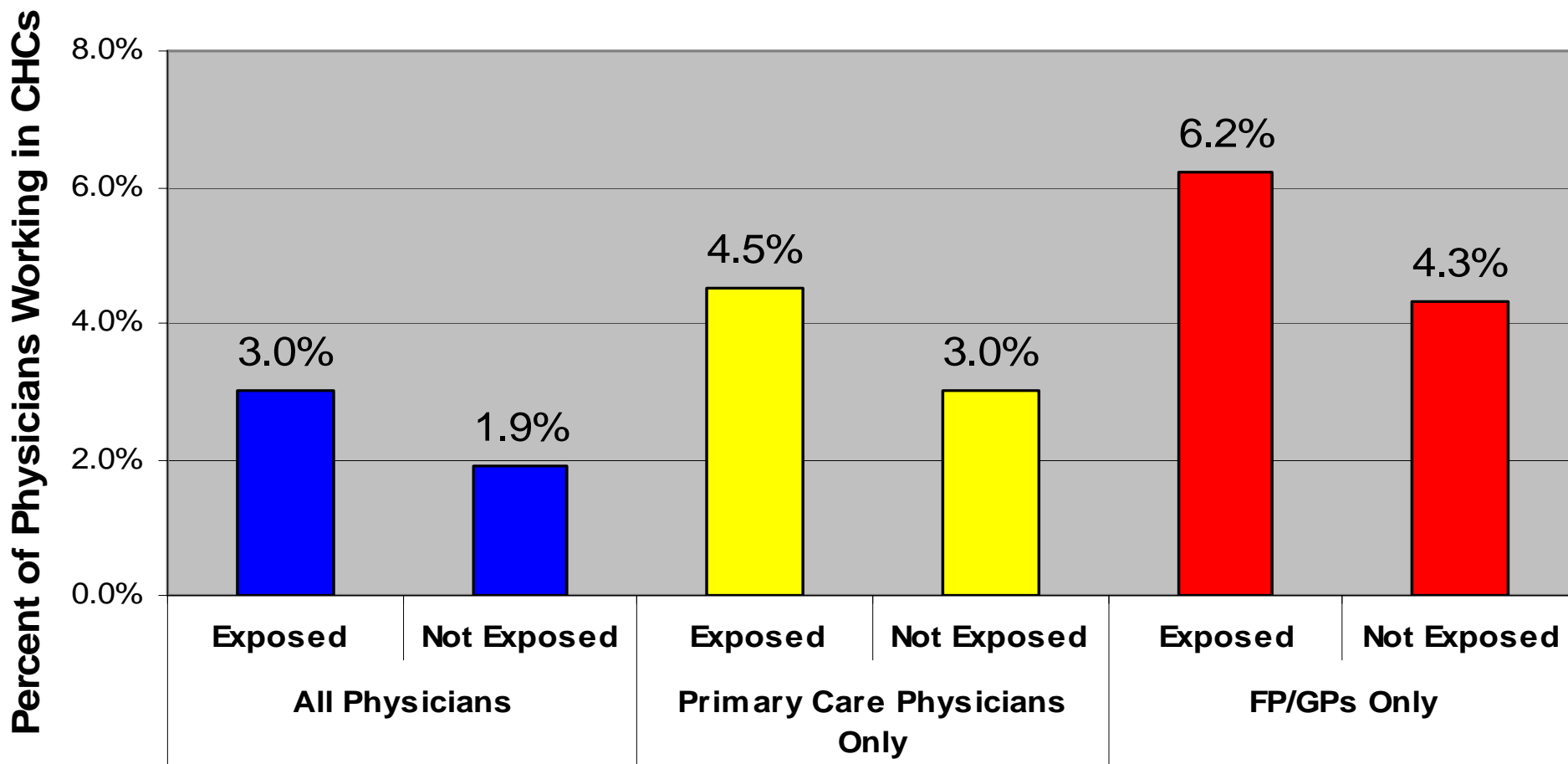
Bureau of Health Professions

- Database of physicians who served in the NHSC
from 1978 - 2004

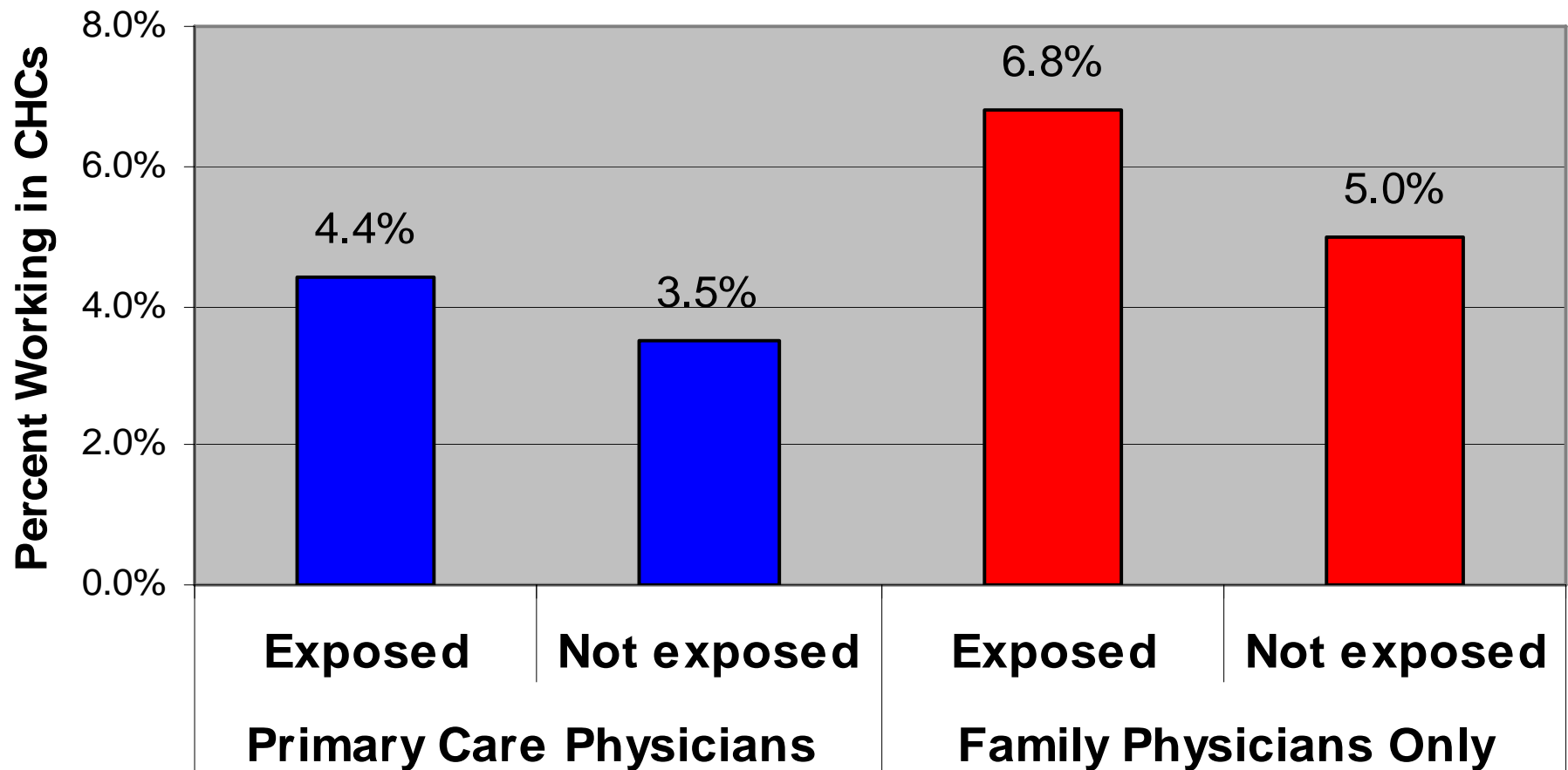
Analysis

- Compared proportions of “exposed” physicians and “not-exposed” physicians
 - that worked in an CHC (2001-2003)
 - that worked in the NHSC (1978-2004)
- Looked separately at medical school and residency exposure
- Logistic regression to examine the independent contribution of Title VII exposure during medical school and residency on CHC and NHSC staffing

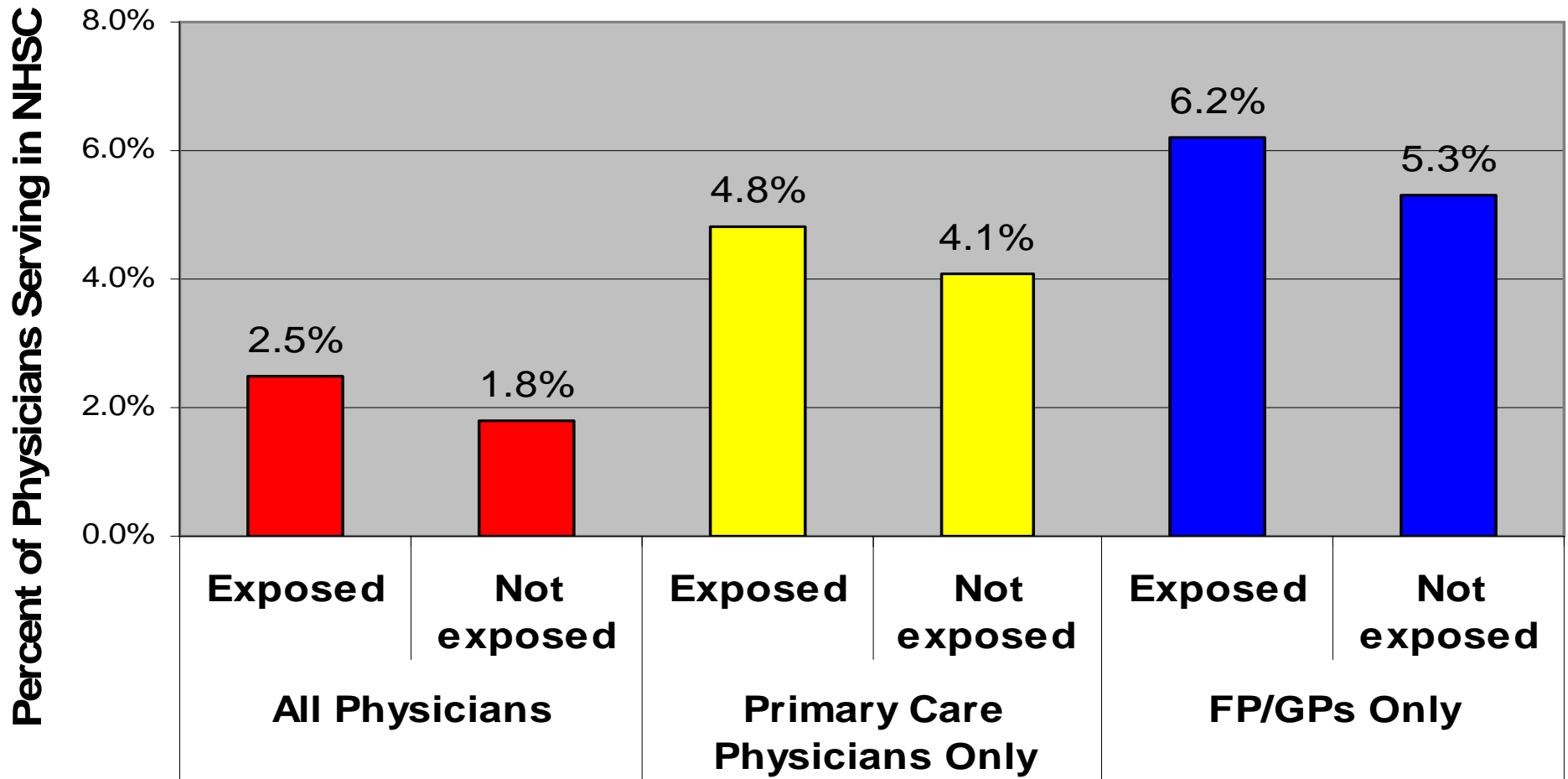
Effects of Medical School Title VII Exposure on CHC Staffing, 2001-3



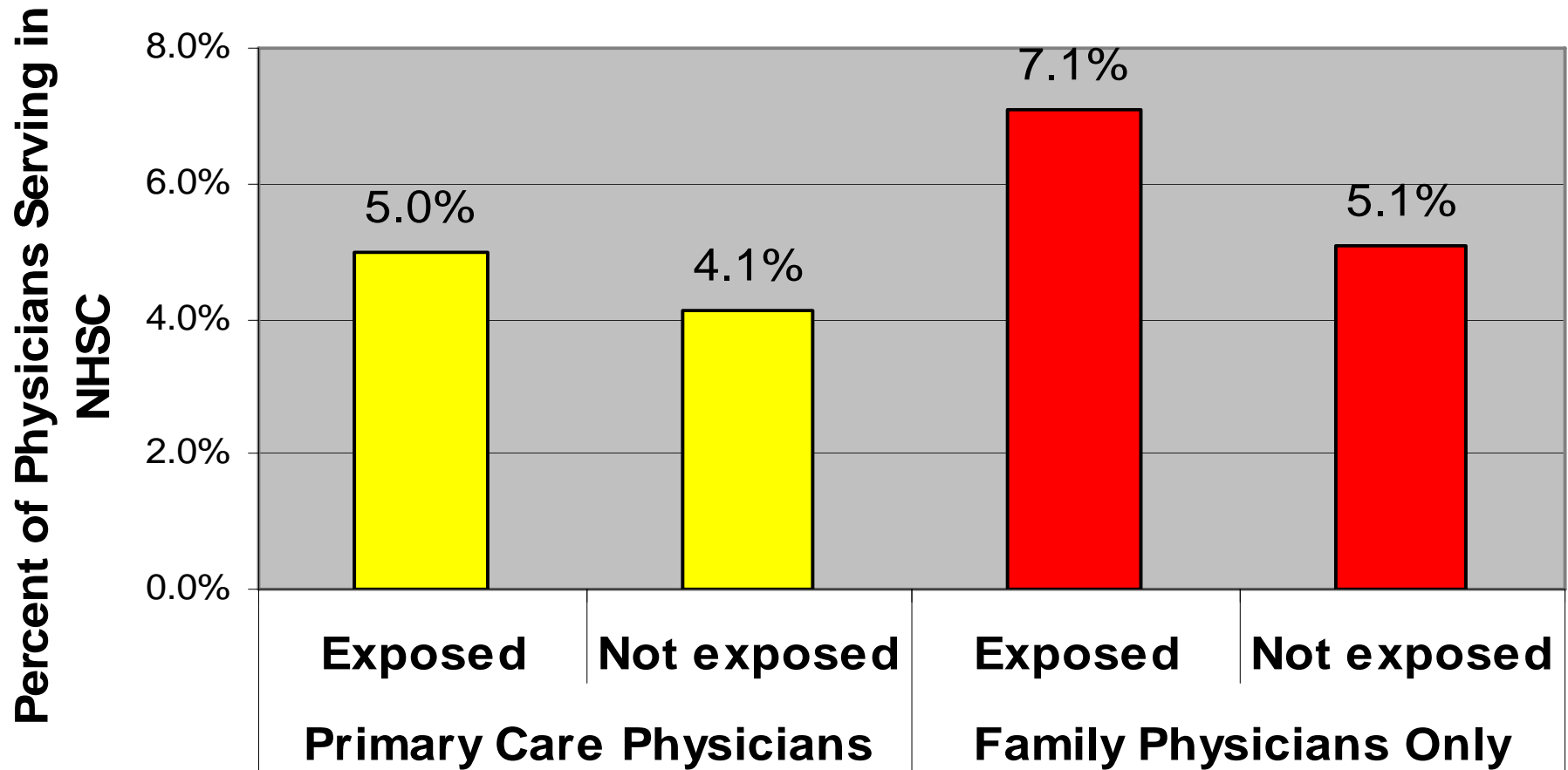
Effect of Title VII During Residency on CHC Staffing, 2001-2003



Effect of Title VII During Medical School on NHSC Participation



Effect of Title VII Exposure During Residency on NHSC Participation



Limitations

- Cross-sectional study shows association
- Medicare claims data to identify CHC physicians
- Osteopathic physicians – 40% no GME data
- Other loan repayment, scholarships

Conservative Estimates

- CHC work cross-sectional
- FQHCs only
- “Exposed to Title VII funds” definition
- Pediatricians not well-represented – Medicare

Conclusions

- **Physician exposure to Title 7 Section 747 grants during medical school and primary care residency is associated with subsequent work in CHCs and NHSC.**
- **Recent reductions in Title VII Section 747 program funding may exacerbate the difficulties CHCs and underserved areas are facing in trying to recruit physicians.**
- **2,210 fewer physicians – more than double the current vacancy rate for all physicians at CHCs.**