



# Disease Prevalence & Medication Persistency among Medco Members Living in Health Disparity Zones

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# Objectives

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- To estimate prevalence rates of treated hypertension, high cholesterol, and diabetes among adult Medco members residing in 'health disparity zones' within Congressional Districts 5 (Atlanta) and 30 (Dallas) using 2005-2006 claims data.
- To estimate medication persistency among the above members.
- To compare prevalence rates and medication persistency between members in the two Districts and Medco members as a whole.

# Study Populations

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## **Inclusion Criteria:**

- Medco members age  $\geq 18$  as of 1/1/2005
- had 2 rx or 45 days supply of condition defining medications between 7/05 and 12/05
- New patients were identified using claims history between 1/05 to 6/05 (look back period)
  - New to therapy: negative claims history
  - Existing therapy: claim in the look-back period
- 24-month continuous eligibility from 1/05 - 12/06

# Study Populations (cont.)

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## **Groups:**

- Medco members residing in 'health disparity zones' in Atlanta
- Medco members residing in 'health disparity zones' in Dallas
- Medco members in a probability sample representing all Medco members

Health Disparity Zones: Zip codes defined by NMHM

# Outcomes – Prevalence Rate

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- Proportion of all eligible members that have a particular condition being studied (hypertension, high cholesterol, or diabetes) in a 6-month period between 7/05 and 12/05
- The numerator is the number of members who meet the inclusion criteria for a particular condition
- The denominator is the total number of eligible members in the same period, regardless of the inclusion criteria.

# Outcomes - Persistency

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## Persistency:

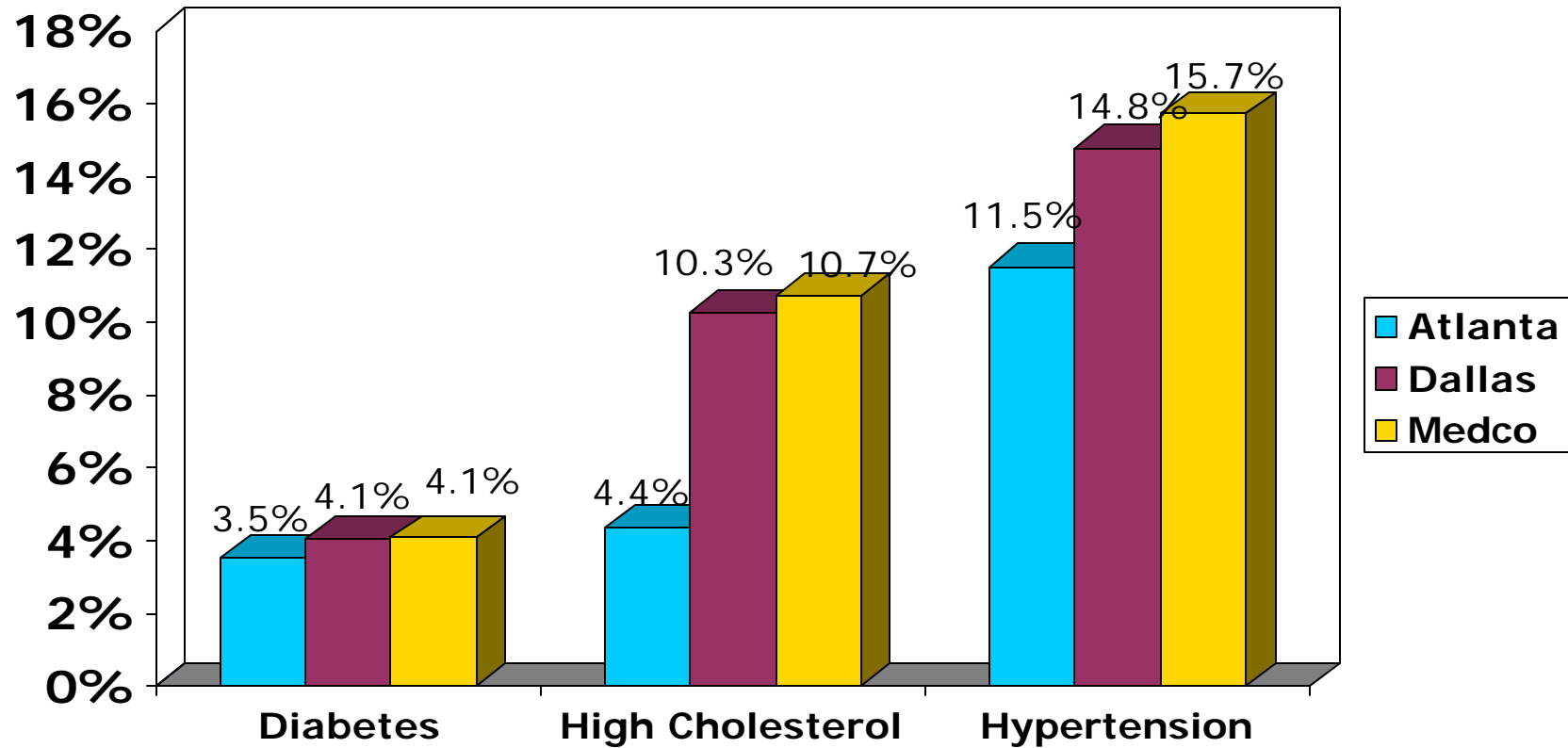
- Days without medication on hand  $\leq$  45 days
- Patients are defined as being non-persistent if they exceed a 45-day gap in therapy from medications that treat their condition.

# Characteristics of Study Population

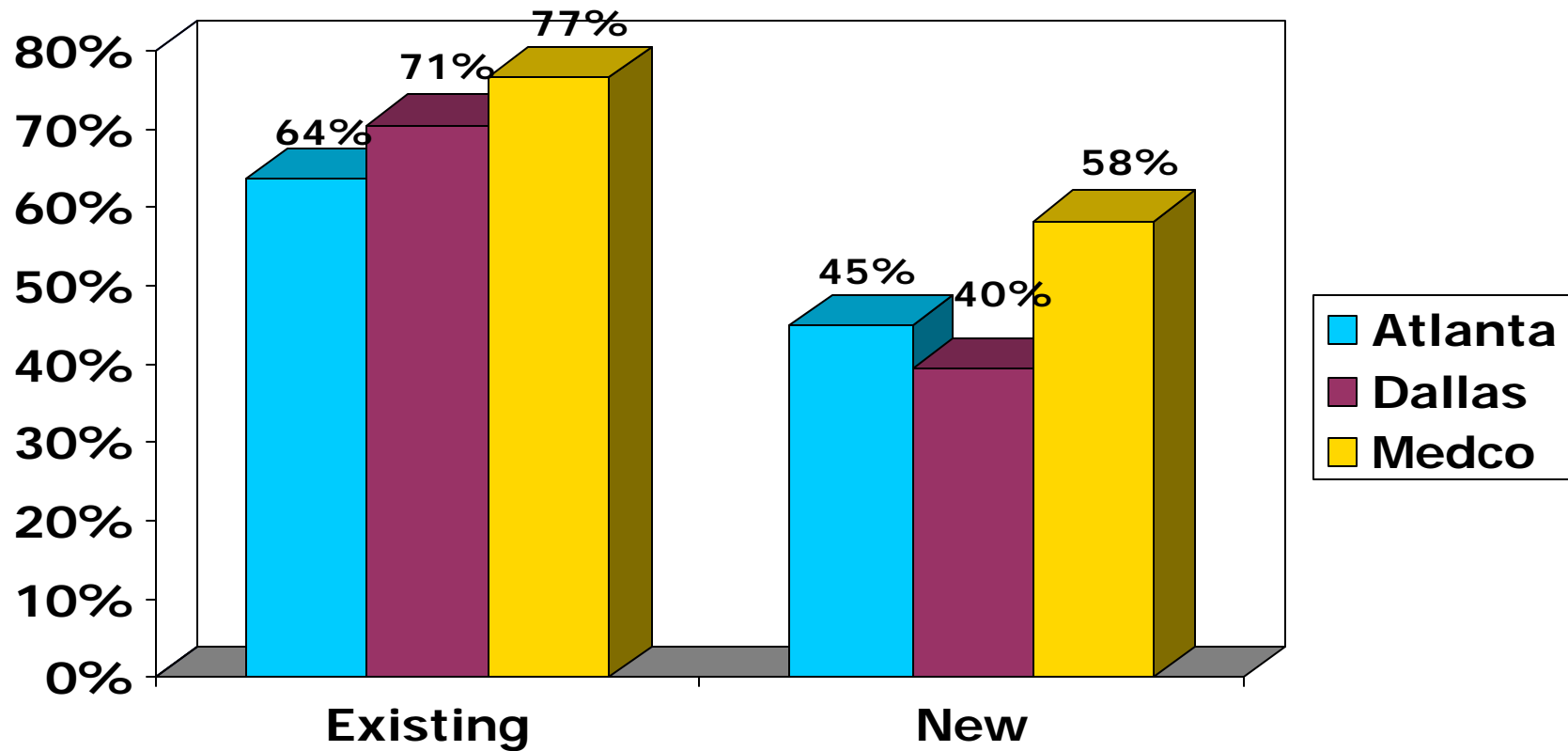
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	<b>Atlanta</b>	<b>Dallas</b>	<b>Medco Sample</b>
# Members (2 year continuous eligibility)	20,477	35,968	2,021,698
Average Age	50	47	49
% Female	52%	52%	51%

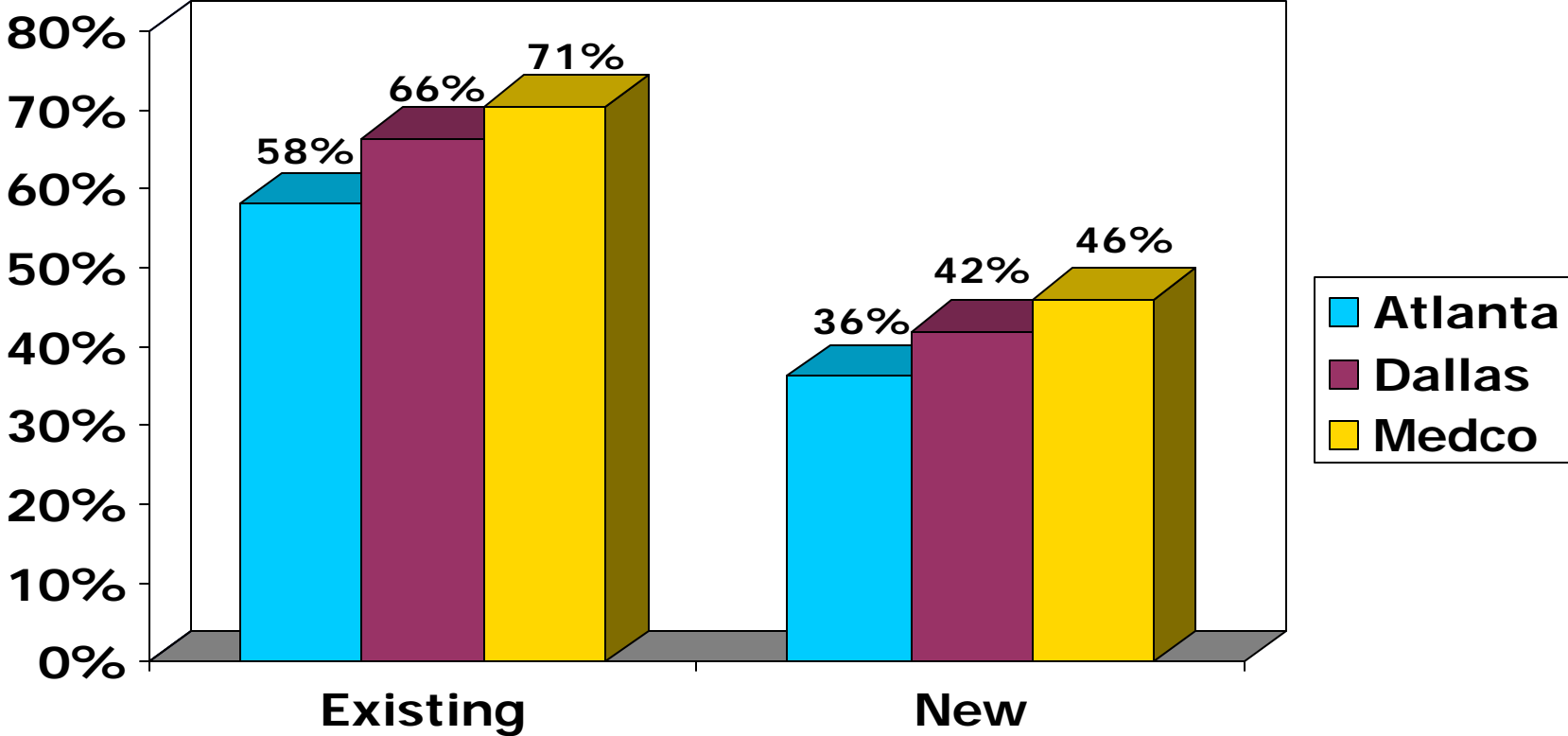
# Age Sex Adjusted Treated Prevalence Rates



# Medication Persistence by New/Existing Status After 10-Month Follow-Up - Diabetes

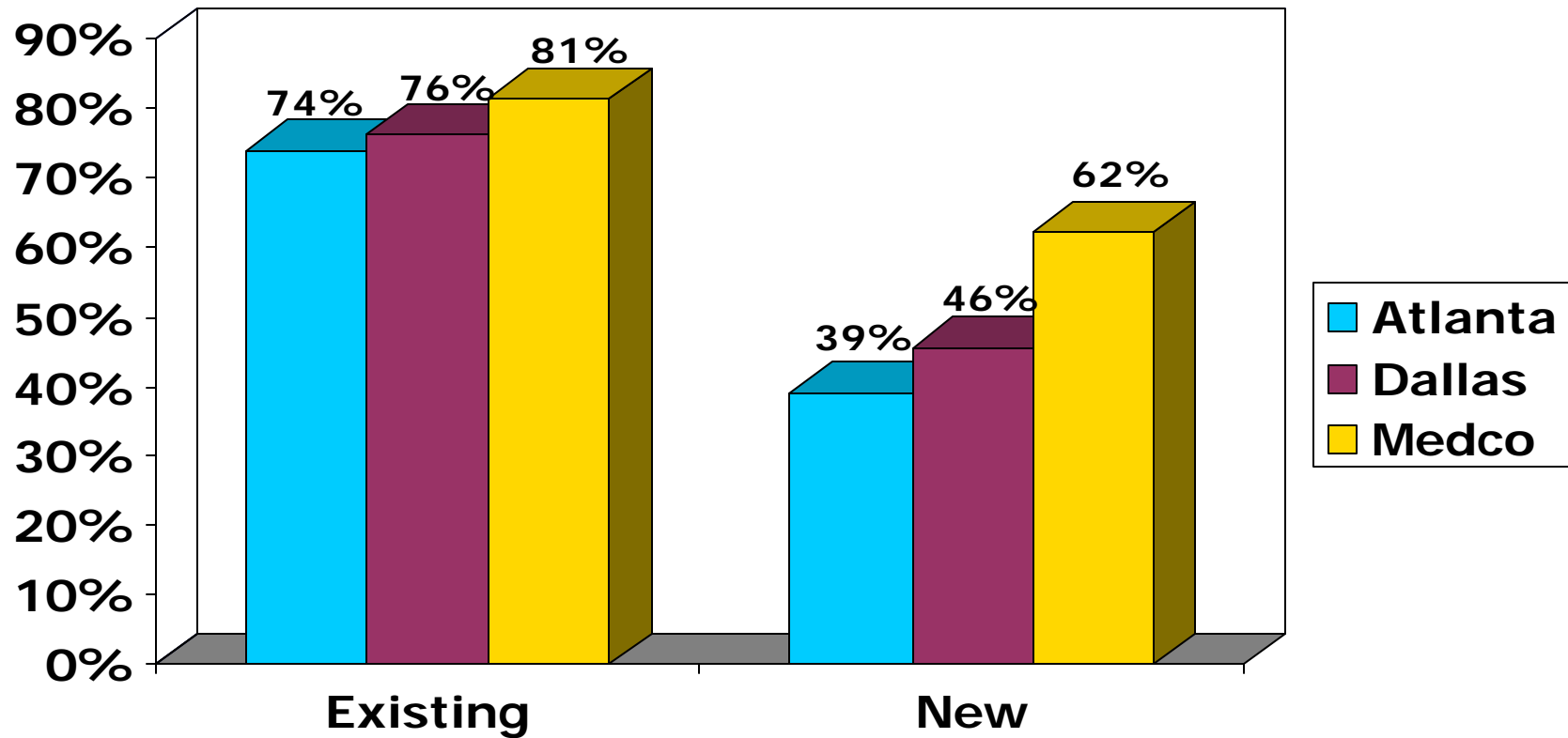


# Medication Persistency by New/Existing Status After 10-Month Follow-Up – High Cholesterol



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# Medication Persistency by New/Existing Status After 10-Month Follow-Up - Hypertension



# Summary

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- Members living in the health disparity zones in Atlanta and Dallas have lower persistency than average for medications used to treat diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol
- Members who are new to therapy are the most at risk for being non-persistent and medications for the treatment of high cholesterol show the highest rates of non-persistency
- Factors other than access to health care may be important in describing health disparities observed in the U.S.