

CARDIOLOGY  
2025 

## What “Should” Our Congenital Heart Healthcare Workforce Look Like in 10 Years?

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Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia  
Thursday, 2/20/25, 11:15am



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# HOPE. HEAL. LEARN.

Healthcare Administration in Pediatric and Congenital Cardiovascular Disease:  
Sharing Challenges and Creating Solutions



Perelman  
School of Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania

# GOOGLE AI SEARCH: WHAT WILL LIFE BE LIKE IN 2035?



# What “Should” Our Congenital Heart Healthcare Workforce Look Like in 10 Years?

## AGENDA / SCOPE

EXCLUDE: Enhancements/efficiency creators

- e-stethoscope
- Scribes/Ambient listening

INCLUDE:

- Physicians
- Physician replacements



# What “Should” Our Congenital Heart Healthcare Workforce Look Like in 10 Years?



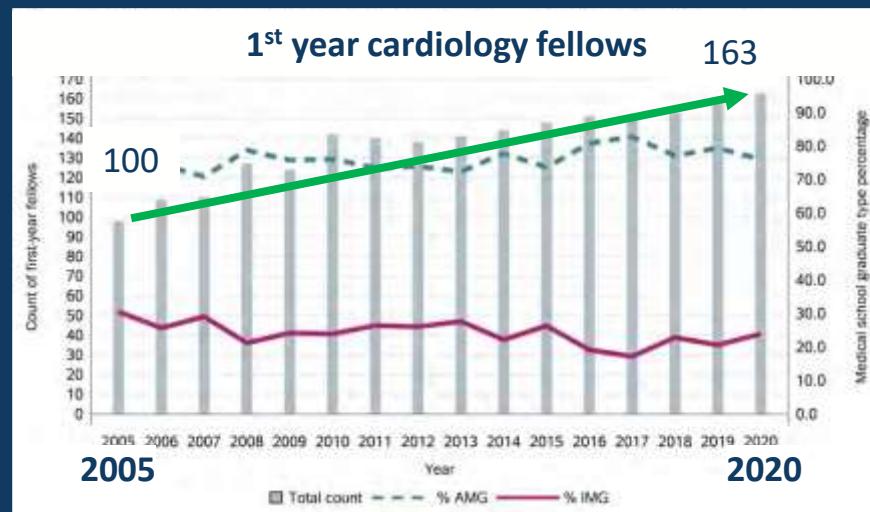
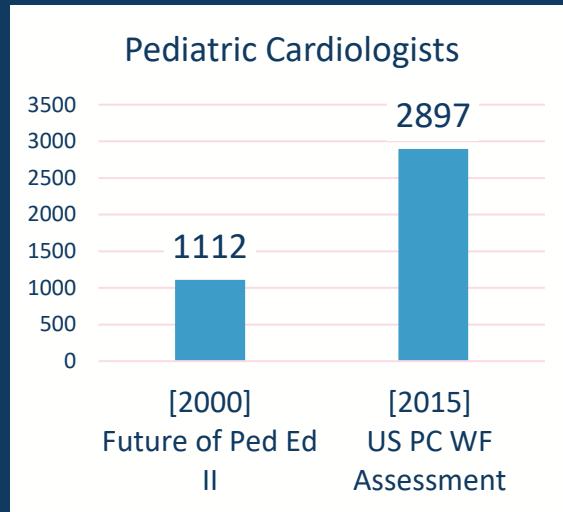
## Agenda for this talk

- PAST Where have we been?
- PRESENT Where are we now?
- FUTURE Where are we going?
- INFLUENCERS What will impact the future?
- HYPOTHETICALS What if....?
- Survey the audience ☺

## □ PAST: WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?



# PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY: PAST



- Stoddard JJ et al., for the AAP Committee on Pediatric Workforce Subcommittee on Subspecialty Workforce. Providing pediatric subspecialty care: a workforce analysis. *Pediatrics*. 2000;106: 1325–33
- Ross RD et al: The US Pediatric Cardiology 2015 workforce assessment: a survey of current training and employment patterns. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2017;69:1347–1352
- American Board of Pediatrics, *Pediatric Physicians Workforce Data Book*, 2020-2021, Chapel Hill, NC: American Board of Pediatrics, 2021.

# PRESENT WHERE ARE WE NOW?



# KIDS AND CARDIOLOGISTS: HERE AND NOW

- CHILDREN:
  - US child population increased from 64.2 million (1990) to 73.6 million (2021) (14% increase in 31 years)
- CARDIOLOGISTS:
  - ABP certified Pediatric Cardiologists (2023) = **3096**

- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) consensus study report, “The Pediatric Subspecialty Workforce and Its Impact on Child Health and Well-being,” Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2023 Sep 7. 4
- Simeone RM, Oster ME, Cassell CH, Armour BS, Gray DT, Honein MA. Pediatric inpatient hospital resource use for congenital heart defects. *Birth Defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol* 2014;100:934-43.
- Chowdhury D et al. Health Care Policy and CHD – 2020 Focus on Our 2030 Future: Top 10 Things to Know, Nov 29, 2022

# CURRENT STATUS: PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGISTS



• ER	4.39 per 100K children in the US
• PICU	4.06
• <b>Ped Cardiology</b>	<b>4.02</b>
• Endo	1.97
• Adol Med	1.01
• Dev Ped	0.99
• Nephro	0.94
• Rheum	0.65

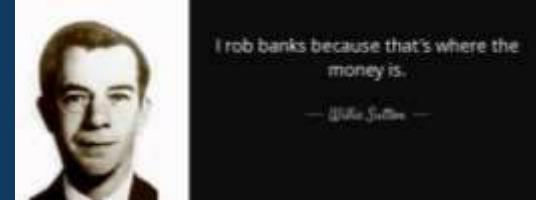


- American Board of Pediatrics, *Pediatric Physicians Workforce Data Book*, 2020-2021, Chapel Hill, NC: American Board of Pediatrics, 2021.
- 2019 US census bureau

# □ FUTURE: WHERE ARE WE GOING?



# FUTURE: WHERE ARE THE KIDS?



I rob banks because that's where the  
money is.

—Willie Sutton—

- **What will happen to the pediatric population?**
  - FUTURE projection: US Child population is anticipated to grow to 78.2 million by 2050 (6% in 29 yrs)

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) consensus study report, “The Pediatric Subspecialty Workforce and Its Impact on Child Health and Well-being,” September 2023.

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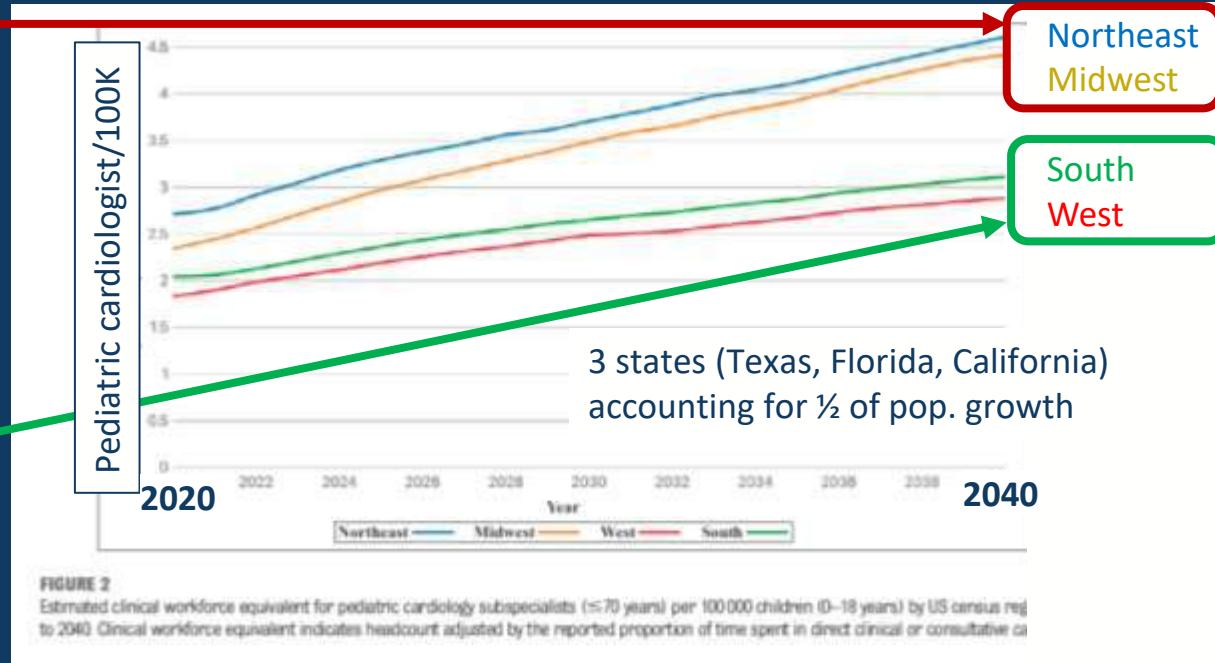
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# FUTURE: PREDICTIONS ABOUT WORKFORCE - 2040

Pediatric Cardiologists: 2020 → 2040: Headcount estimates ↑ by 83% from 2431 → 4488

Where will  
Pediatric  
cardiologists  
practice?

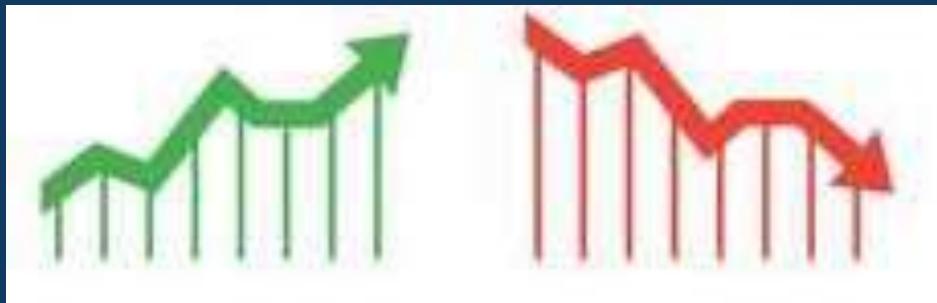
Where will  
Pediatric patients  
be?



## □ INFLUENCERS

## What will impact the future?

- What influencers will impact the future of pediatric cardiology?
- Will the impact increase or decrease the need for our profession?

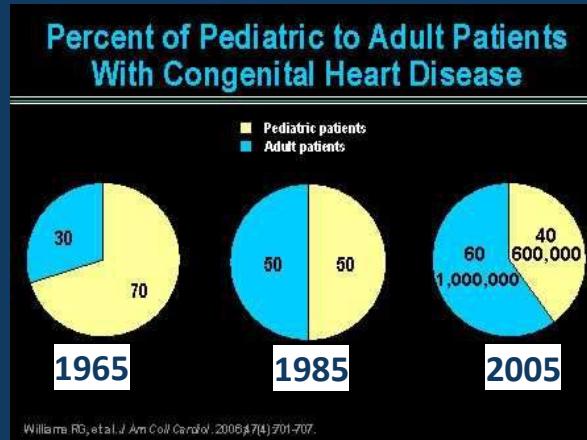
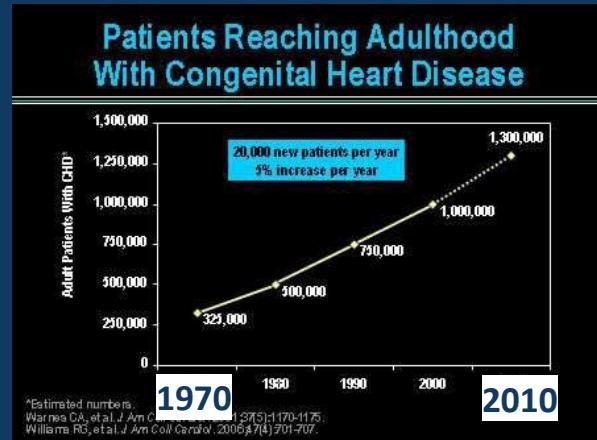


# THE FUTURE OF PEDIATRIC HEART DISEASE

- ✓ Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD)
- ✓ Pediatric Heart Failure
- ✓ “Worried Well”
- ✓ Birth / Termination Rate



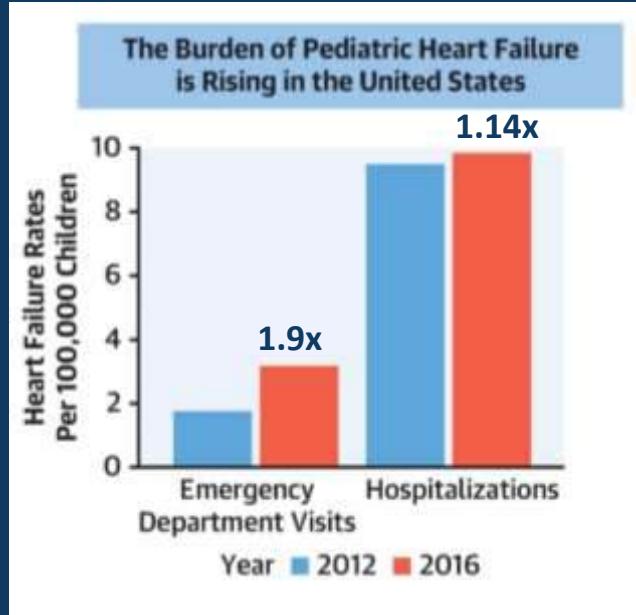
# TIPPING POINT: ADULT CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE



Pediatric patients  
Adult patients

- 40K children are born each year in the United States with some form of CHD
- Most children born with CHD now survive into adulthood,
- In 2005, more adults are living with CHD than children estimated 2 to 3 million people are alive with CHD

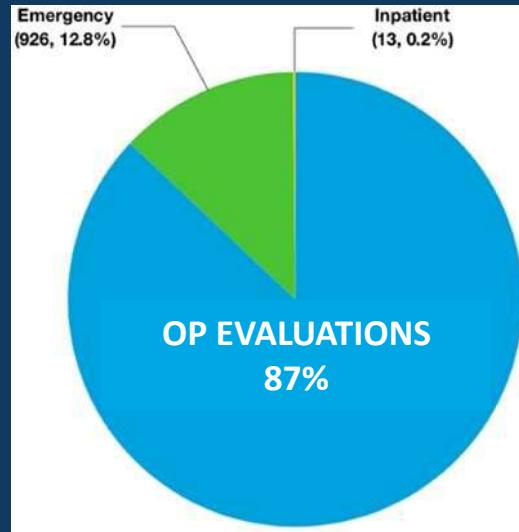
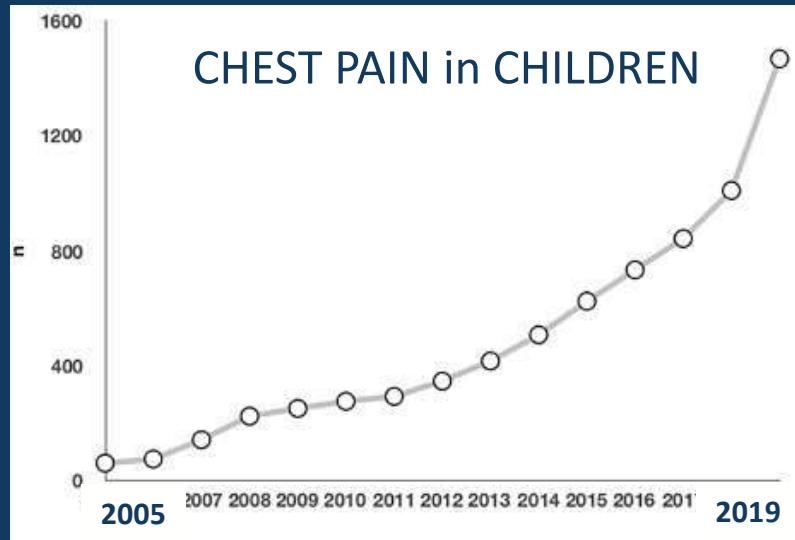
# PEDIATRIC HEART FAILURE



- Burden of pediatric HF continues to increase
- A commensurate increase in pediatric cardiology workforce will be needed

Amdani, S, Marino, B, Rossano, J. et al. Burden of Pediatric Heart Failure in the United States. *JACC*. 2022 May, 79 (19) 1917–1928. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacc.2022.03.336>

# THE 'WORRIED WELL'



Chest pain, palpitations, syncope, dizziness evaluations are increasing = Worried well?  
Anxiety, deconditioning, obesity...

Chen L et al. Front. Cardiovasc. Med., 01 March 2021 The Causes of Chest Pain in Children and the Criteria for Targeted Myocardial Enzyme Testing in Identifying the Causes of Chest Pain in Children

# BIRTH RATE: THEN, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

## U.S. Birth Rate 1950-2025



- US Birth rate has been declining for decades
- One would expect to see a commensurate decline in pediatric heart disease

- United Nations projects that while the decline is projected to be stabilize
- Its still a declining birth rate

<https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/usa/united-states/birth-rate>  
Data Source: [United Nations - World Population Prospects](#)

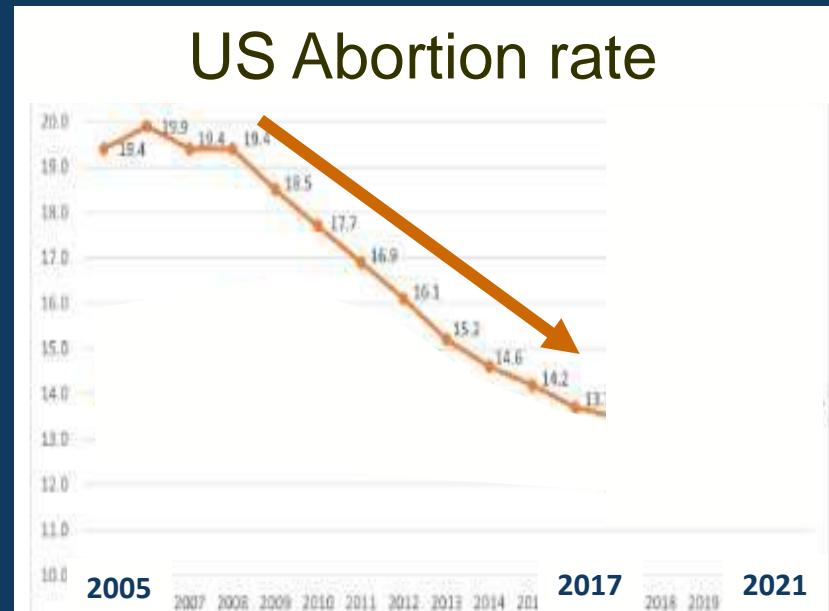
# TERMINATION RATE IMPACTS CARDIOLOGY WORKFORCE NEEDS

2007 until 2017

- Termination rates have been steadily declining

2017 – 2021

- Termination rate have been increasing ↑ slightly
- Slight ↓ CHD



<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiZmQ4NzdlMjYtM2UwYy00NjJLTk0NjUtZDI3YTc0MDZkZTlwiidCI6IjQxOGUyODQxLTAxMjgtNGRkNS05YjZjLTQ3ZmM1YTlhMWJkZSJ9>

# ❑ FUTURE HYPOTHETICALLY...



# THOUGHT EXPERIMENT #1

## What if there was a nation-wide ban on abortions?



Dobb's decision – What would be the impact on pediatric cardiology resource allocation?

- 53.7% ↑ in single-ventricle cardiac defects
- + 9 cases per 100,000 live births

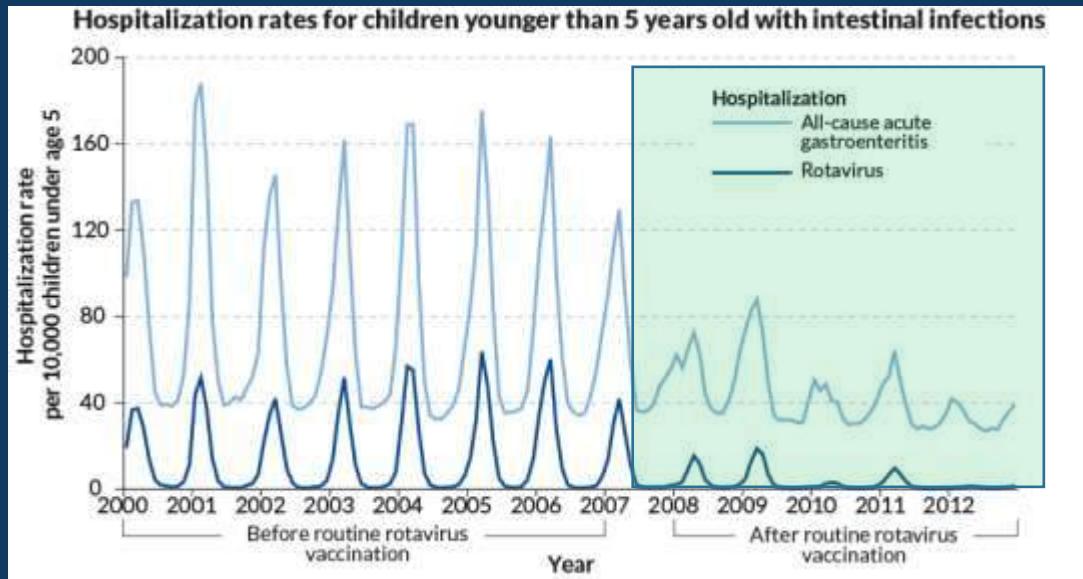
This increase would result in

- + 531 neonatal heart surgeries
- + 16 heart transplants, 77 ECMO utilizations

Miller HE, et al, OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY VOL. 142, NO. 3, SEPTEMBER 2023 Abortion Bans and Resource Utilization for Congenital Heart Disease A Decision Analysis

# THOUGHT EXPERIMENT #2 WHAT IF WE “CURED” PEDIATRIC HEART DISEASE?

- Vaccine for viral myocarditis?
- Far-fetched?
- Remember Rotavirus?

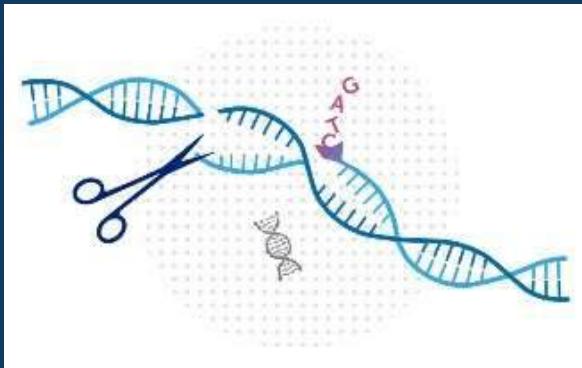


E. LESHEM *ET AL*, Acute Gastroenteritis Hospitalizations Among US Children Following Implementation of the Rotavirus Vaccine  
JAMA. 2015;313(22):2282-2284

# THOUGHT EXPERIMENT #2A

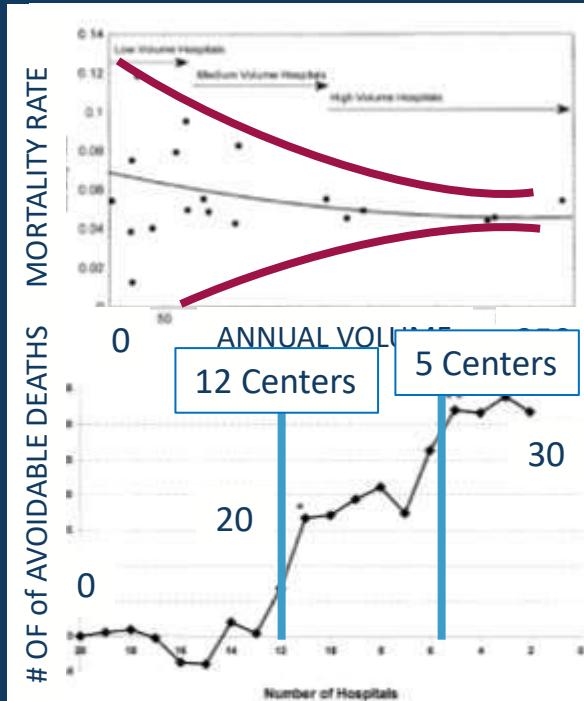
## WHAT IF WE “CURED” PEDIATRIC HEART DISEASE?

CRISPR



<https://innovativegenomics.org/news/crispr-clinical-trials-2024/>

# THOUGHT EXPERIMENT #3: CARE CONSOLIDATION



Thought experiment: If you REDUCE the # of Centers, you can reduce the # of avoidable congenital heart surgery deaths?

*What if we went to sleep and woke up in Canada?*

- Higher volume centers have lower mortality
- Regionalization – ‘Centers of Excellence’
- One Model of regionalization would be a  
**SINGLE PAYOR MODEL**

Can Regionalization Decrease the Number of Deaths for Children Who Undergo Cardiac Surgery? A Theoretical Analysis  
Ruey-Kang R. Chang, MD, MPH\*, and Thomas S. Klitzner, MD, PhD† PEDIATRICS Vol. 109 No. 2 February 2002

# FUTURE: NEW CARE MODELS



Vervoort et al. Global Access to Comprehensive Care for Paediatric and Congenital Heart Disease Dominique, CJC Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease, vol 2 2023

Dorfman TL et al, Strategies to maintain a family-centered care approach in the era of COVID-19: Experiences of a Canadian pediatric cardiology program, Progress in Pediatric Cardiology, Volume 61, 2021, 101370, ISSN 1058-9813,  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppedcard.2021.101370>.

# NON-TRADITIONAL CARE TEAMS

- Can Amazon Care do what we do?



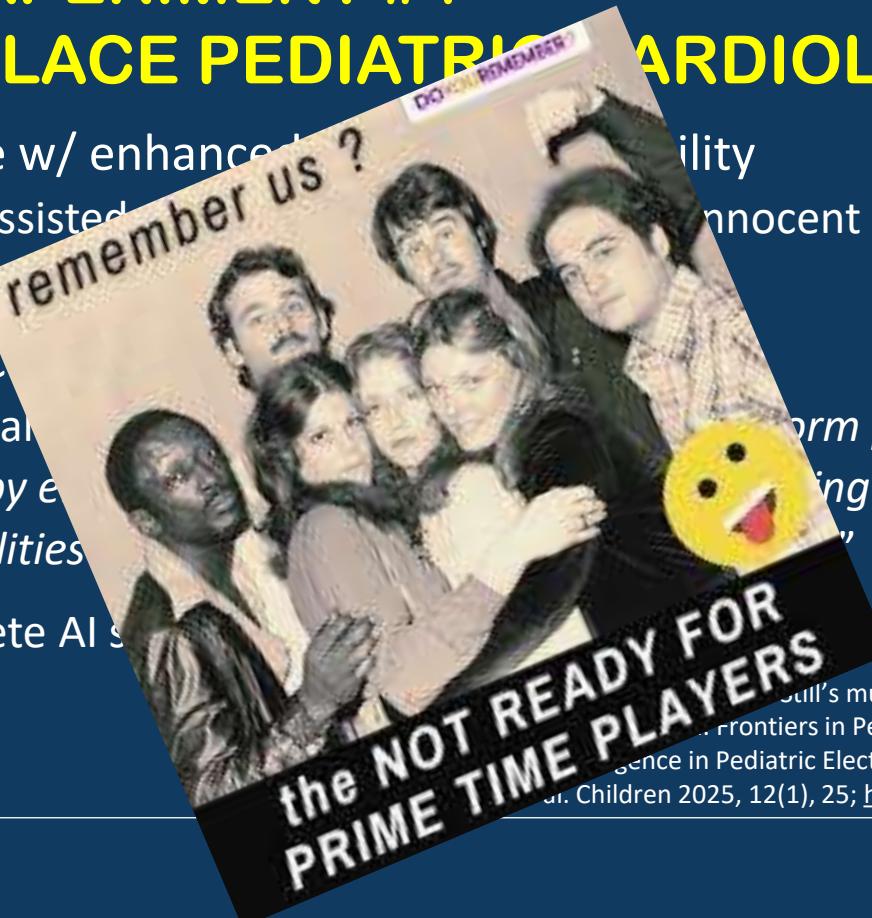
What's the difference between a hospital and a bottling factory?

Alec Morton, 2009

*Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*  
Volume 62 Number 10 October 2024 | Health Exec | Legal News  
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.b2727>

# THOUGHT EXPERIMENT #4 CAN WE REPLACE PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGISTS?

- E-Stethoscope w/ enhanced AI
  - Computer assisted diagnosis with 90% sensitivity
- Automated ECG analysis
  - D. Leone et al. *Frontiers in Pediatric Cardiology by electronic screening of abnormalities*
- Families complete AI self-assessments

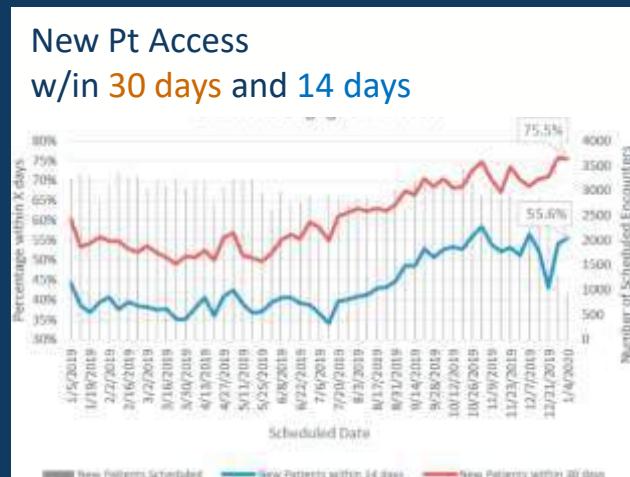


# ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS: WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE?

Can APPs be an integral part of an Outpatient Cardiology program?

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh: APP program

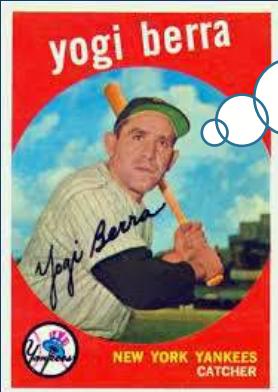
- Subspecialty fellowship programs:
  - Curriculum/training, Boot camp, critical situations, assignment of a mentor, \*feedback loops
- Work measured by RVUS (previously attributed to MD)
- Evidence based clinical pathways



Comunale M, Lerch W, Reynolds B, Integrating Advanced Practice Providers into value based care strategies: One organization's journey to achieve success through interprofessional collaboration, Journal of Interprofessional Education & Practice <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xjep.2020.100384>

# THANK YOU!

“It's tough to make predictions,  
especially about  
the *future*”



A GOOD HOCKEY PLAYER PLAYS WHERE THE PUCK IS. A GREAT HOCKEY PLAYER PLAYS WHERE THE PUCK IS GOING TO BE.

—Wayne Gretzky



# MENTIMETER

WIFI:

Card2025

PW:

Chop2025

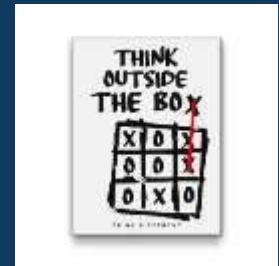


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# SURVEY: QUESTION #1

Who SHOULD be the KEY players in 10 years?



- Retail Health Clinics (Walmart, Walgreens, CVS)
- AI Assisted technology: e-stethoscope/AI-ECG
- AI-Generated Clinical assessment by patients/families
- Advanced Practice Providers
- More Pediatric Cardiologists



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## Who SHOULD be the KEY players in 10 years?

- 1st | Retail Health Clinics  
(Walmart, Amazon, CVS)
- 2nd | AI-Assisted technology  
(e-Stethoscope, AI-ECG)
- 3rd | AI-Generated Clinical  
Assessment by Families
- 4th | Advanced Practice  
Providers
- 5th | More Pediatric  
Cardiologists

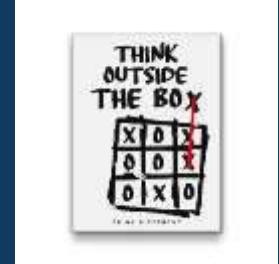


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# SURVEY: QUESTION #2

Who WILL be the KEY players in 10 years?



- Retail Health Clinics (Walmart, Walgreens, CVS)
- AI Assisted technology: e-stethoscope/AI-ECG
- AI-Generated Clinical assessment by patients/families
- Advanced Practice Providers
- More Pediatric Cardiologists



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# CARDIOLOGY 2025

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