

Impact of Earlier Ophthalmology Clerkships on Medical Student Match Rates in Ophthalmology

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Introduction

- Ophthalmology has been known to be one of the more competitive specialties to match into with an average match rate of 74% from 2008-2017¹
- The structure of each medical school clerkship curriculum varies in timing, length and availability of clinical rotations

Aims and Objectives

- The aim of this study is to identify how significant the structural design of clinical ophthalmology clerkships plays in its correlation with students matching into ophthalmology residencies
- We hope to propose changes to future clinical clerkship schedules for optimal match success

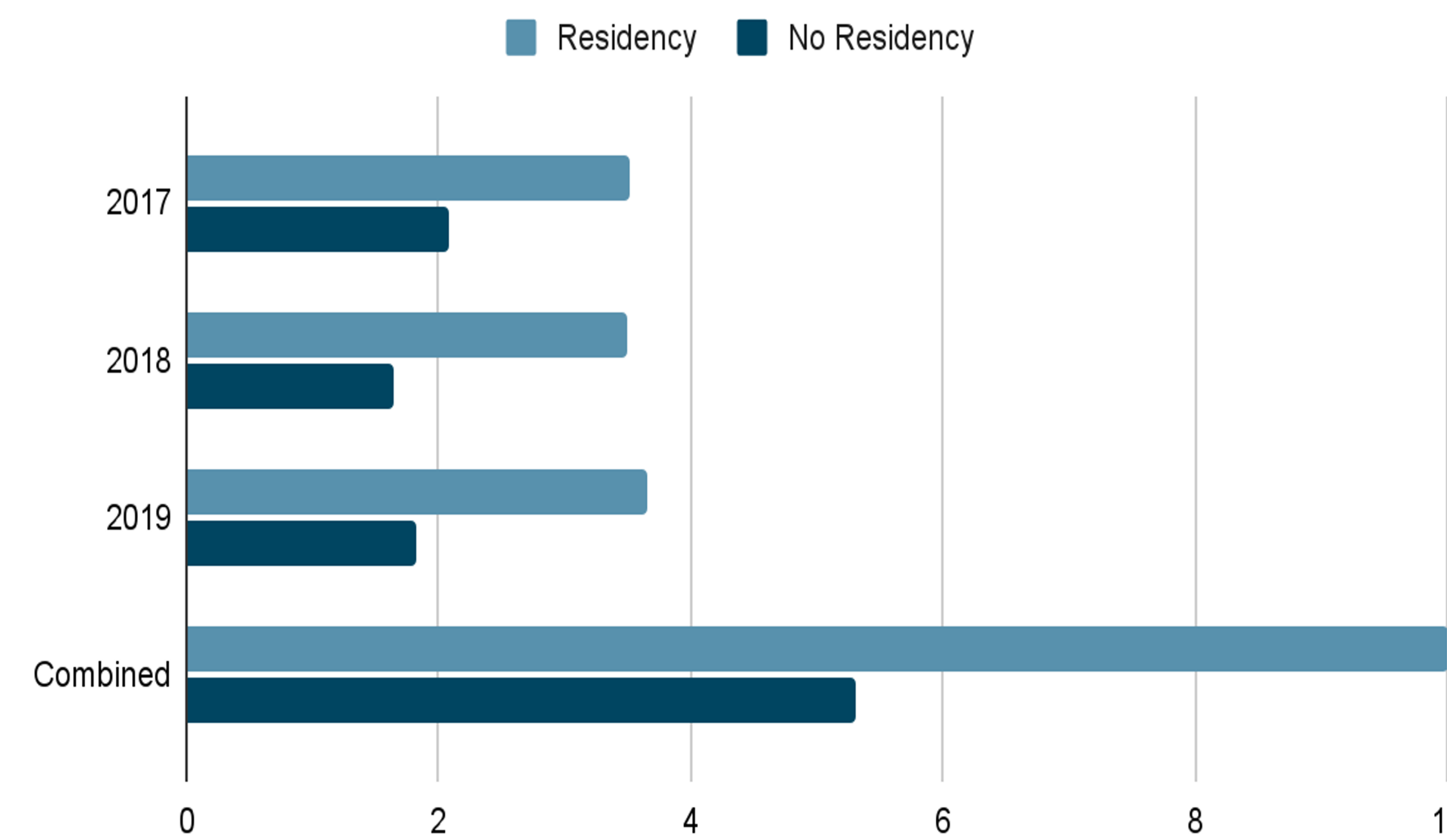
Methods

- A list of all accredited allopathic medical schools from the AAMC website was obtained
- Publicly accessible information on each school's website was reviewed and the following information was collected: elective vs mandatory ophthalmology clerkships, length, year offered, and associated ophthalmology residency programs
- Public match data of each school between 2017 and 2019 was collected and a two sample T-tests was performed for qualifying schools

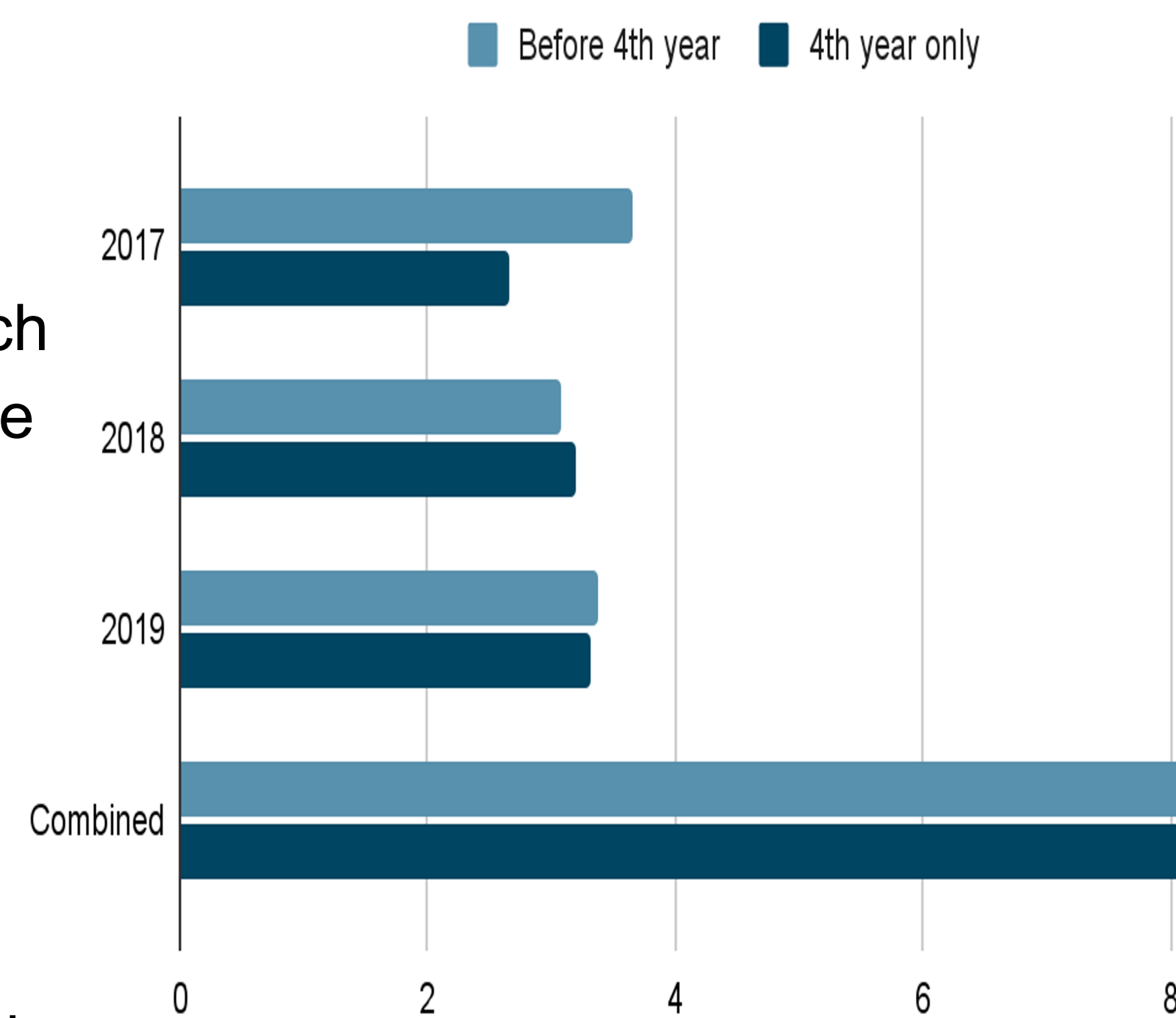
Results

- A total of 151 US-medical schools were found on the AAMC website
- Of these schools, 93 (62%) had both publicly available curriculum information and match data for analysis between 2017-2019
- There was no correlation between earlier ophthalmology clerkships to an increased number ($P \leq 0.61$), or percentage ($P \leq 0.12$), of students matching into ophthalmology
- There was a correlation between increased number of ophthalmology matches with an associated residency program ($P \leq 0.01$)

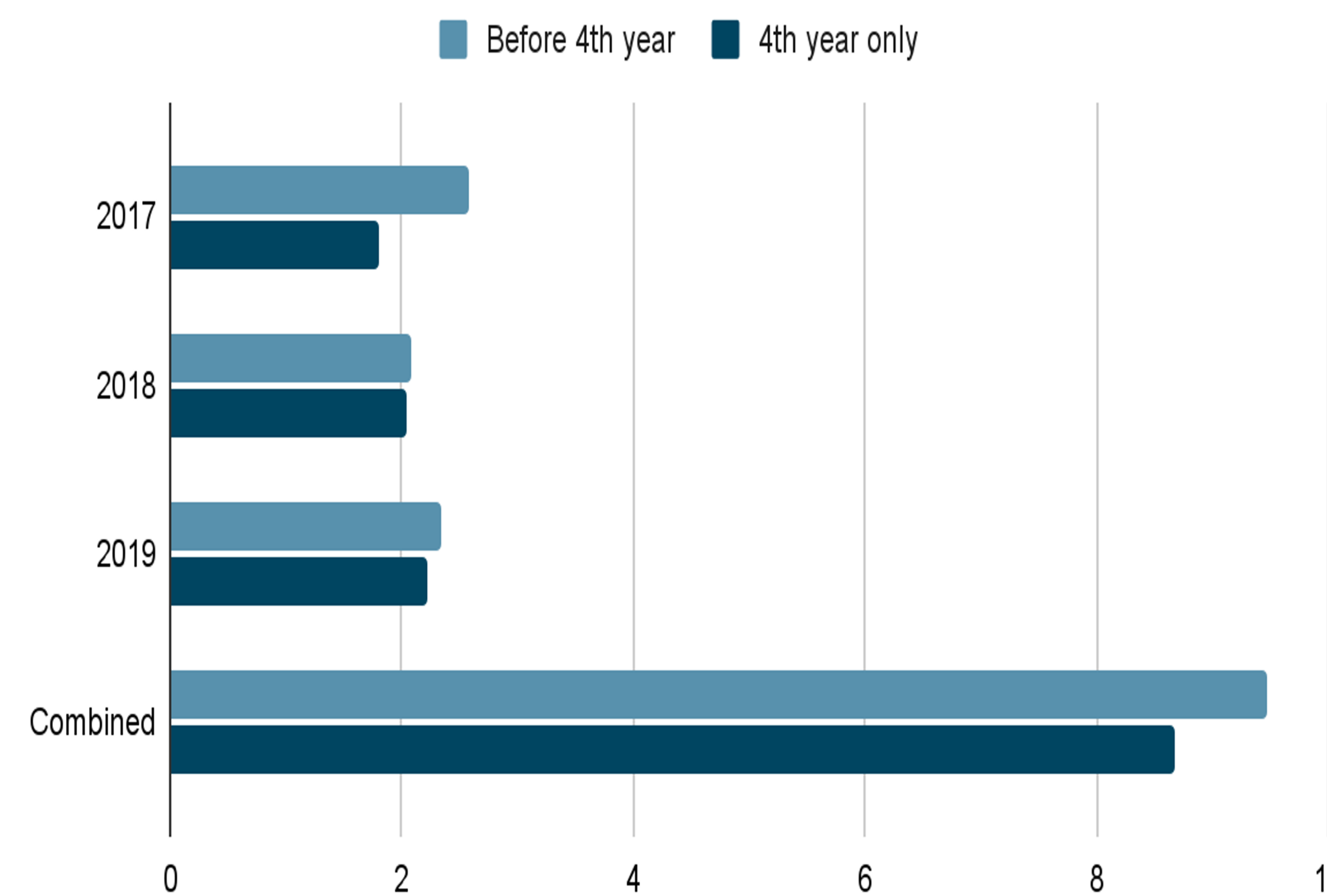
Average Number of Students Matching into Ophthalmology Based on Associated Residency



Average Number of Students Matching into Ophthalmology Based on Earliest Availability of Clerkship Offered



Average Percentage of Students Matching into Ophthalmology Based on Earliest Availability of Clerkship Offered



Discussion

- The results indicate that medical school clerkship curriculums may be a confounding variable for medical student match success
- Medical schools should consider making changes to their curriculum to match the goals of their program's mission and values
- Limitations to this study include the lack of available curriculum and/or match data for all US-medical schools, reducing the power of this study

Conclusion

- Earlier clinical exposure to ophthalmology did not correlate with increased match rates into ophthalmology
- Associated residency programs may contribute to the success of students matching into ophthalmology
- Match rates are multifactorial and should be further explored per specialty
- Future studies should try to expand the amount of data analyzed to increase the power of the study and eliminate potential biases

Acknowledgements

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References

1. Siatkowski RM, Mian SI, Culican SM, et al. Probability of Success in the Ophthalmology Residency Match: Three-Year Outcomes Analysis of San Francisco Matching Program Data. *J Acad Ophthalmol.* 2018;10(1):e150-e157. doi:10.1055/s-0038-1673675