

Are IGs Necessary?

EXPERIMENT

- Analyzed 125 IGs with 2931 profiles on 105 resources
- Classified profiled data elements as base FHIR or novel
- Observed which resources and elements were profiled

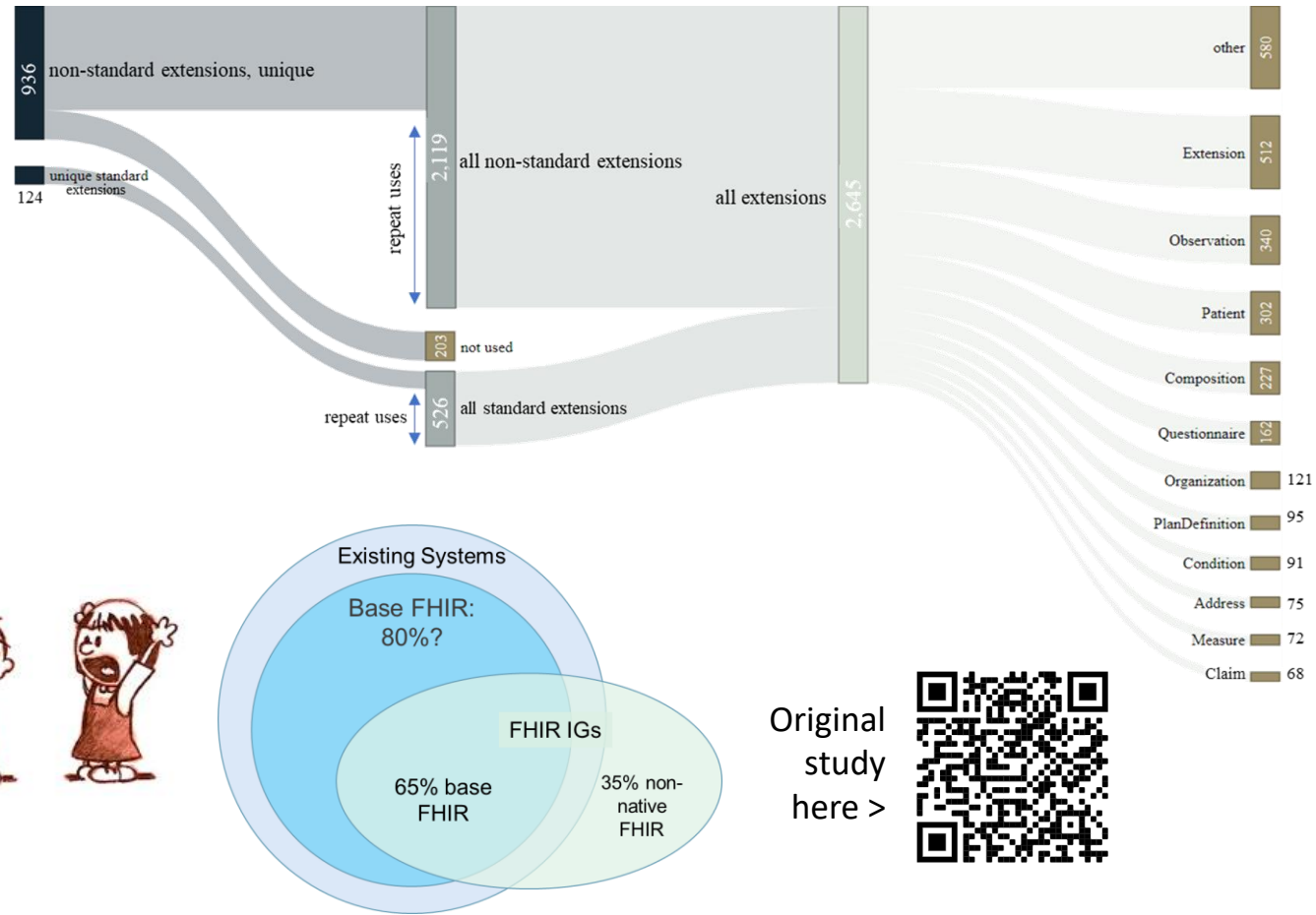
FINDINGS

- Base FHIR to novel element ratio was 65/35, not 80/20
- Half of all profiles were on Extension and Observation
- Only 1/5 of extensions were FHIR standard extensions
- Slicing more common than extensions -- with no reusability
- Observation is a hot mess - IGs added method details, measurement circumstances, confidence, risk prediction, prognosis, and follow-up actions

CONCLUSIONS

- Profiles are necessary because FHIR doesn't cover the data elements necessary for use cases represented in current IGs
- The main areas of divergence and variation are custom extensions, slicing, and profiling the Observation resource

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Original study here >



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish curated registry of reusable items with a 6-month publication cycle, decoupled from FHIR
- Mine extensions defined in IGs for new base FHIR elements
- Fix Observation (but how? it is normative!)