

# THE PRIVATE-OPINION EDGE OVER TIME



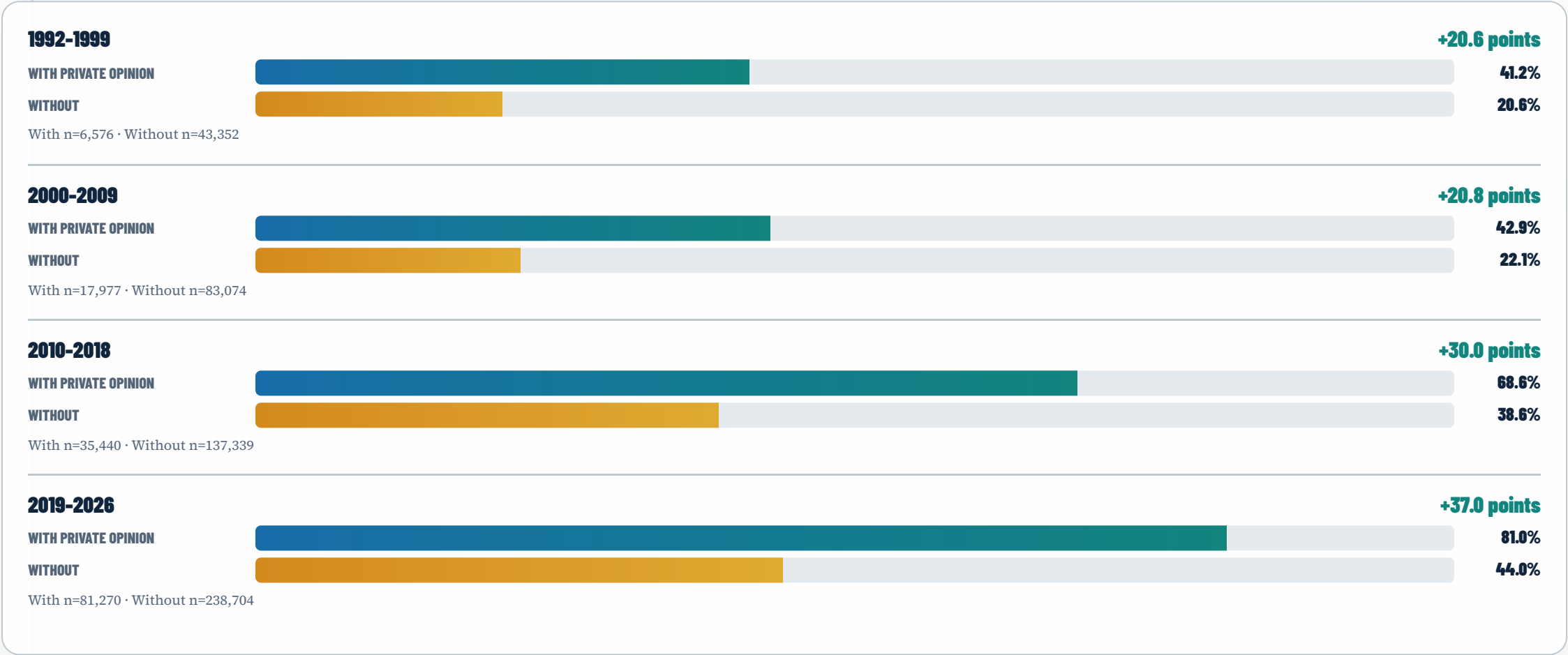
Board grant-rate association by decade, using live RateMyVSO research.

In published Board decisions across 30 diagnostic codes, decisions with a detected private medical opinion had higher observed grant rates in every period. This is an association in appealed cases, not proof that purchasing an opinion causes a grant.



POOLED SERVICE-CONNECTION ISSUES

## THE GAP WIDENED ACROSS THE PUBLISHED RECORD



WHAT THIS CAN AND CANNOT SHOW

Rates describe published BVA decisions in the included diagnostic-code cohorts. Private opinions may appear more often in stronger, better-developed, represented, or more complex appeals. The comparison does not isolate causation and does not predict an individual result.

THE PRACTICAL LESSON IS QUALITY, NOT PURCHASE

The data support careful attention to competent medical-link evidence. They do not show that any paid letter, provider, or template guarantees a favorable outcome.

**CORRELATION IS NOT CAUSATION.** The presence of a detected private opinion is associated with outcomes in Board appeals. It is not a randomized treatment effect.