Factors Affecting Utilization of Dental Services Among African Immigrants in Iowa City

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Introduction

African immigrants in the U.S. face barriers in accessing dental care. Major challenges include:

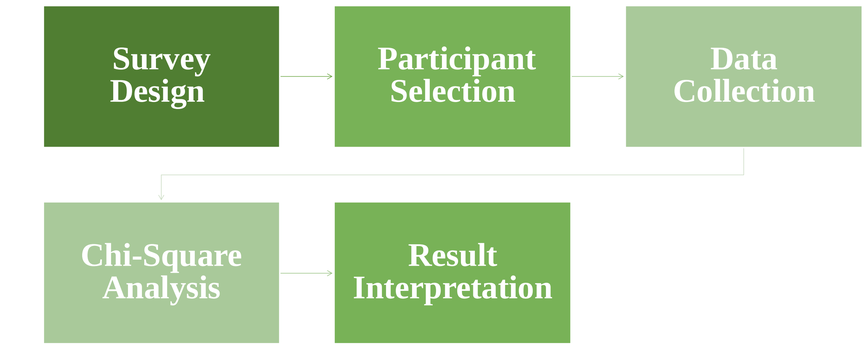
- Socioeconomic limitations
- Low oral health literacy
- Limited accessibility to dental services

This study aims to:

- Identify key factors affecting dental service utilization.
- Propose solutions to improve access.

Methodology

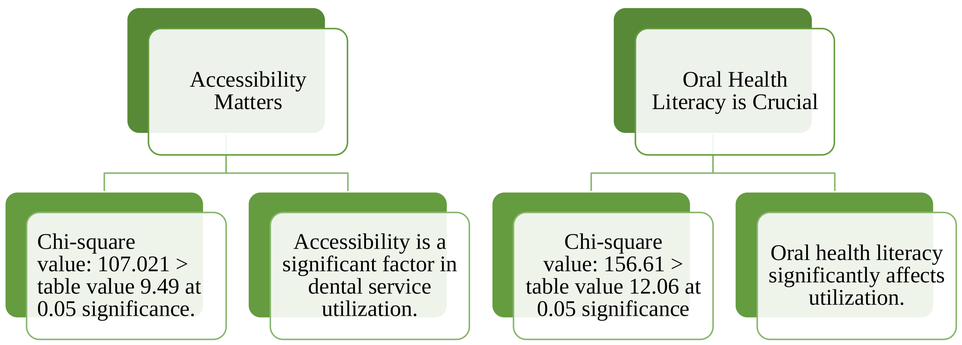
- **Study Design:** Exploratory survey research on dental service utilization.
- **Sampling Technique:** Non-probability, convenience, and purposive sampling (N=35).
- **Data Collection:** Structured survey questionnaire targeting accessibility and oral health literacy.
- **Statistical Analysis:** Descriptive and inferential analysis using the **Chi-square test**.
- **Significance Level:** Hypothesis tested at **0.05 level of significance**.
- **Key Variables:** Independent – accessibility & literacy; Dependent – dental service utilization.







Result



Acknowledgements

❖ Thank you to Delta Dental of IOWA foundation and Catherine McAuley Centre.
❖ Thank you to my mentor, Dr. Olayinka Adekugbe.
❖ Thank you to the whole team at the Oral Health program.

Recommendation

- **Community Engagement** – Partner with local organizations to increase awareness.
- **Multilingual Education** – Provide oral health materials in native languages.
- **Mobile Dental Clinics** – Offer screenings in accessible locations.
- **Workshops on Oral Health Literacy** – Educate on preventive care and insurance.
- **Dental Professional Collaboration** – Engage providers for culturally competent care.
- **Policy Advocacy** – Support initiatives for expanded dental access.

Conclusion

Improving access and oral health literacy is key to equitable dental care.

Addressing barriers through targeted interventions can bridge gaps in care.

Community-driven initiatives, such as outreach programs and education, can enhance oral health outcomes.

Policy changes supporting increased accessibility will further improve dental service utilization.