

BACKGROUND

- Teledentistry is a safe, effective, and efficient tool in pediatric dentistry^{1, 2}
- The purpose of this observational study was to evaluate caregiver experience and associations with health equity measures for teledentistry compared to in-person consultations

METHODS

- Caregivers of children aged 0-21 years old who attended a teledentistry synchronous video consultation or in-person clinic exam visit between July 2024 and January 2025 were administered a survey with Likert style questions within 72 hours of their visit
- Caregivers who did not speak English were excluded
- The mean scores were calculated for the survey responses
- Additional statistical analyses were conducted for demographic characteristics, including the Childhood Opportunity Index, using Fisher's Exact test, Mann-Whitney U test, and Chi-square test

RESULTS

- Surveys completed by caregivers of teledentistry visits (n=58) and in-person clinic exam (n=48)
- Caregivers in the teledentistry group showed a higher level of agreement to future video visits vs in-person caregivers (p<.05)
- Medicaid was the most common insurance type
- The patients in the teledentistry group were largely white (83%) males (59%) and the majority without an associated behavioral diagnosis (53%)
- The patients in the in-person exam group were largely white (71%) males (51%) and the majority with a behavior diagnosis (56%)
- There were no statistically significant differences associated with patient race, ethnicity, sex, age, behavioral diagnosis, or Childhood Opportunity Index score between the two groups
- Mapping data was generated for patients in both groups with further distance and travel analysis to be conducted

Figure 1: Caregiver Experience of Teledentistry Visits Compared to In-Person

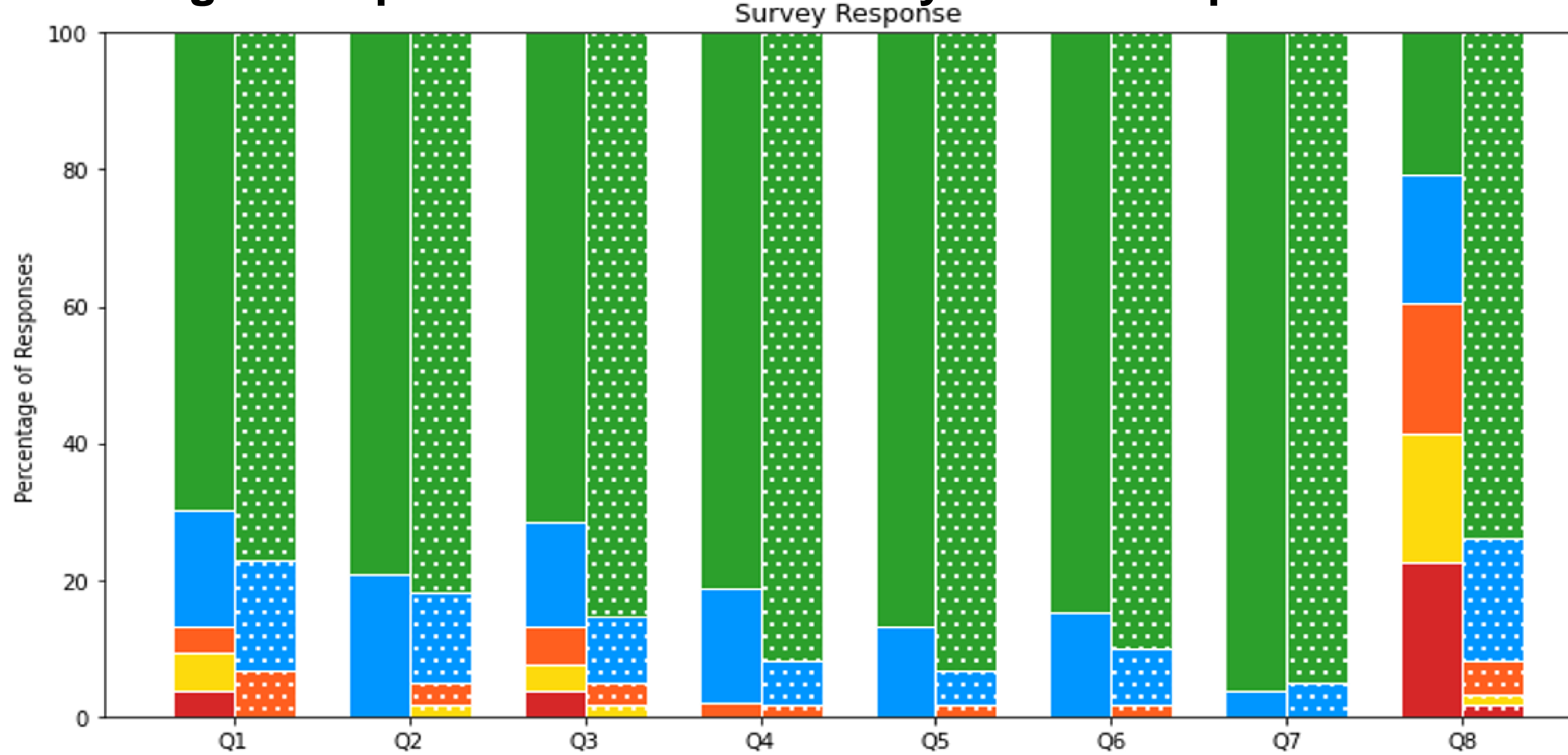


Table 1: Mean Satisfaction Score

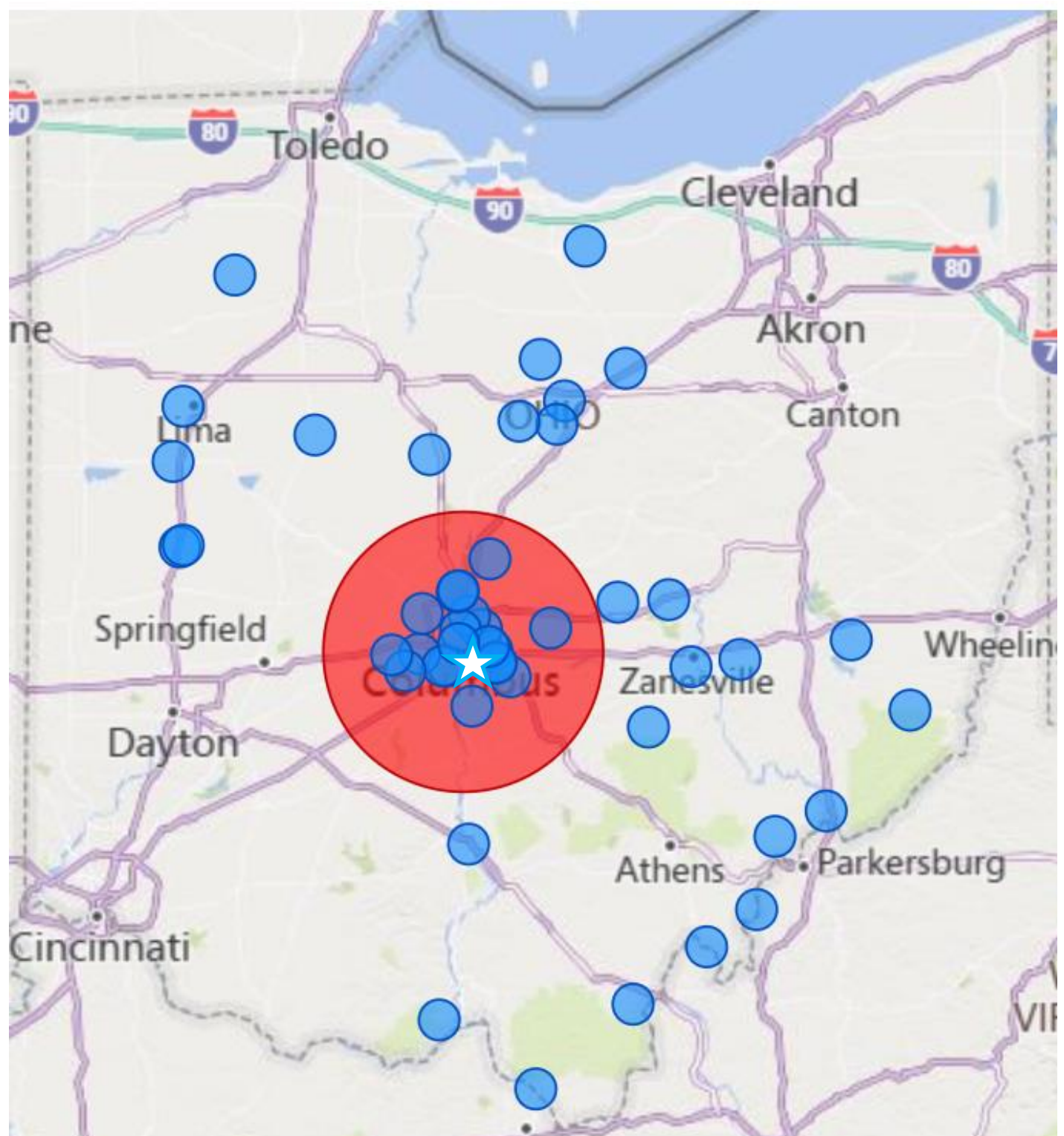
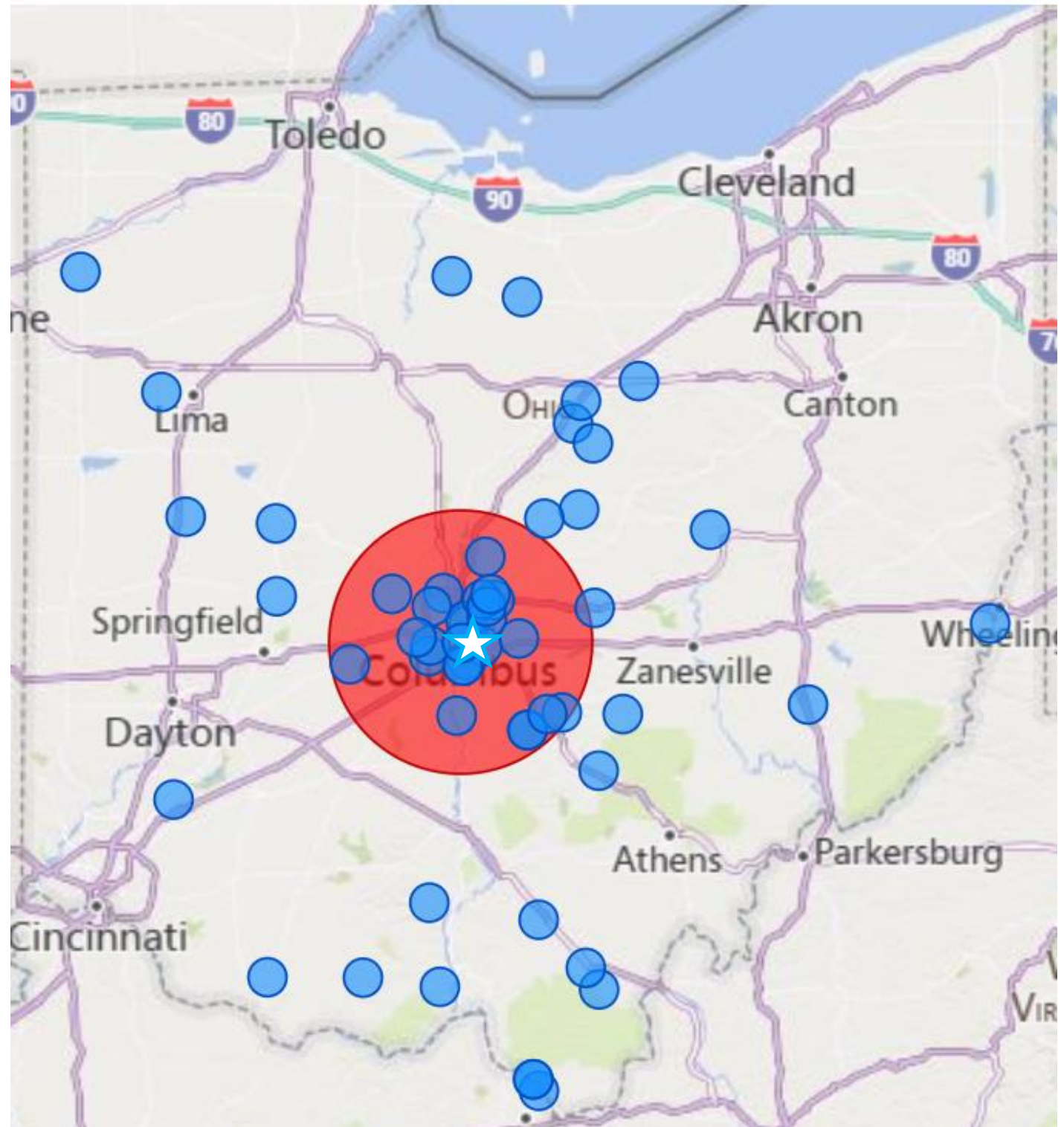
Question	In-Person	Telehealth
(Q1) It was easy to schedule my appointment.	4.41	4.71
(Q2) It was easy to check-in for my appointment (through MyChart).	4.79	4.78
(Q3) I waited an acceptable period of time for the dentist (to join my visit).	4.45	4.78
(Q4) The dentist was able to address my concerns during this visit.	4.83	4.9
(Q5) I felt included in the health care decisions.	4.87	4.91
(Q6) I understand what I need to do for my child's next visit.	4.85	4.88
(Q7) The dentist was polite and acted professionally.	4.97	4.95
(Q8) If given the option, I would use video visits for future appointments.	3	4.59

Teledentistry group caregivers showed a higher level of agreement to future video visits than those in the in-person group.

Pending further analysis, there does not appear to be a difference in the trend of travel distance for teledentistry versus in-person visits

Figure 2: Distribution of Teledentistry (Top) and In-Person (Bottom) Patient Addresses

*Dental clinic marked with star



References

- 1.Mola ME, Coğulu D, Eden E, Topaloğlu A. Is Teledentistry as Effective as Clinical Dental Diagnosis in Pediatric Patients? *Int J Paed Dentistry*. Published online December 25, 2024;ipd.13290. doi:10.1111/ipd.13290
 - 2.Irbarren S, Leary KS, Lesch A, et al. Synchronous Teledentistry in a University Pediatric Dentistry Clinic: Impact on Treatment Completion and Visit Attendance. *Pediatr Dent*. 2024;46(2):128-134.
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