THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

PURPOSE

- To compare demographic and treatment data between children treated at hospital dental clinic (HDC) and school-based dental clinic (SBC)
- To determine if a school-based program is an effective model for delivering dental care and addressing health disparities

METHODS

Study design

- 17-month retrospective chart review (5/3/2023-9/30/2024) for patients treated at HDC and SBC
- Matched controls of children with caries based on age, sex, insurance status, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis, and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) diagnosis

Statistical tests

- Chi-squared test (race, ethnicity, language, insurance, caries, behavioral diagnoses, cooperation)
- Wilcoxon rank sum test (age, no show rate, number of visits)
- 2-sample t-test (referrals, treatment plans completed)
- Significance at p = 0.05

RESULTS

Descriptive Data for Entire Sample (HDC N = 31,547 and SBC N = 1,348)

- SBC treated proportionally more patients from racial minorities, patients with either Medicaid coverage or no coverage, and patients with caries or incipient caries at first exam visit
- HDC treated more Latino/Hispanic patients, non-English-speaking families, patients with ASD
- No difference: median patient age, proportion of patients with ADHD Ο

Matched Controls Data (N = 556)

- SBC patients had more visits on average, more treatment plans completed, more procedures completed
- SBC patients had better cooperation (Frankl 3 or 4 vs Frankl 1 or 2)
- SBC patients had no procedures under nitrous oxide and fewer referrals for general anesthesia
- No difference: Referrals to sedation

Closing Health Equity Gaps in a School-Based Dental Program

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The school-based model treated proportionally more underserved patients (racial minorities and patients without private dental insurance)

Patients served by the school-based model completed more treatment plans, and with less nitrous oxide or general anesthesia

School-based dentistry is an effective model for delivering dental care and addressing oral health equity

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