

# Trends In Pediatric Dental Emergency Treatment Pre Vs Post COVID-19 Lockdown

D'Andra Williams, DMD, Ritu Shah, DMD, MSc, Isamar Rivera-Ramos, DMD, PhD  
Eastman Institute for Oral Health, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY, USA

## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to analyze the type of emergency treatment provided post lockdown and to determine which factors affected prevalence. These data will be compared to previous studies to determine if new trends emerged.

**Methods:** This was a retrospective study. Data was originally collected from June 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. Data was identified using billing codes to determine which patients seen on study dates met the selection criteria. Data points collected included: gender, age, race, ethnicity, insurance type, and billing code procedure.

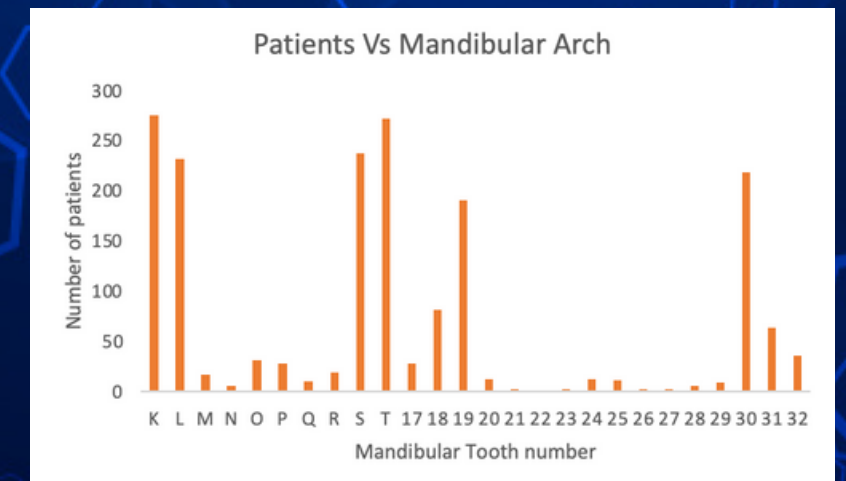
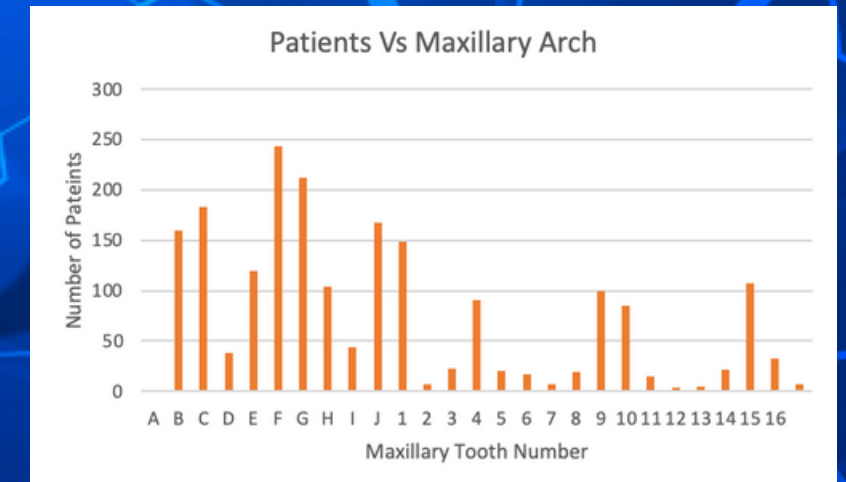
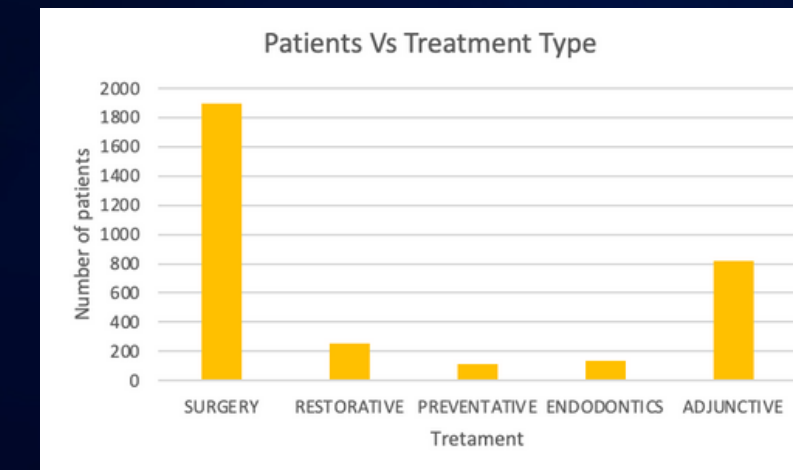
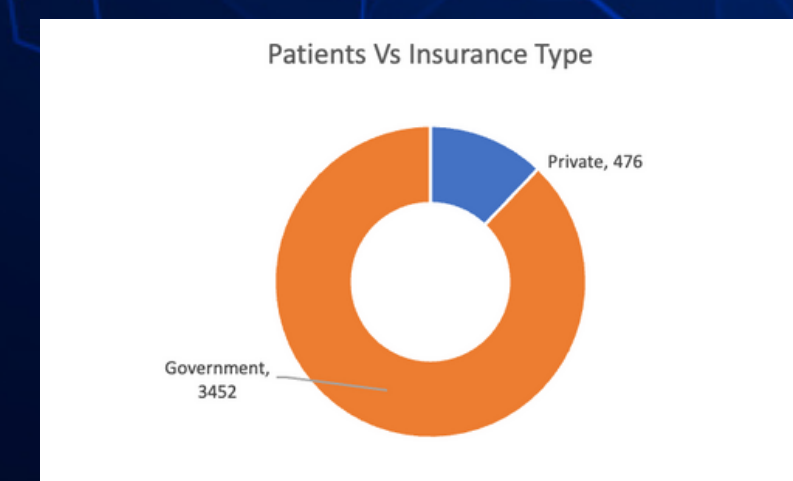
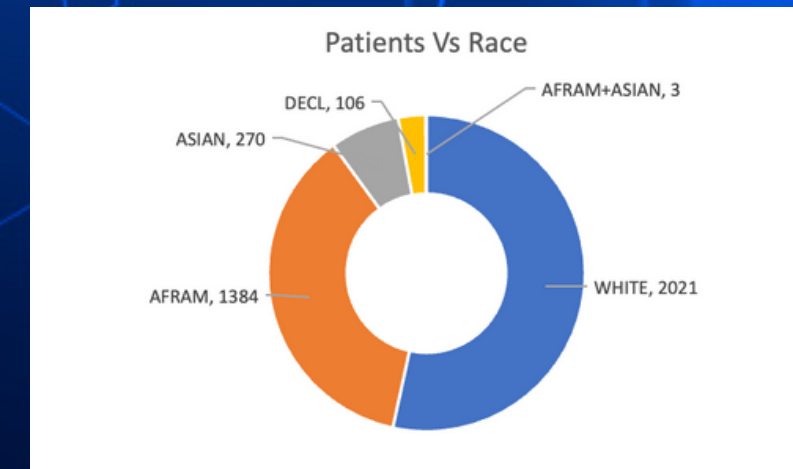
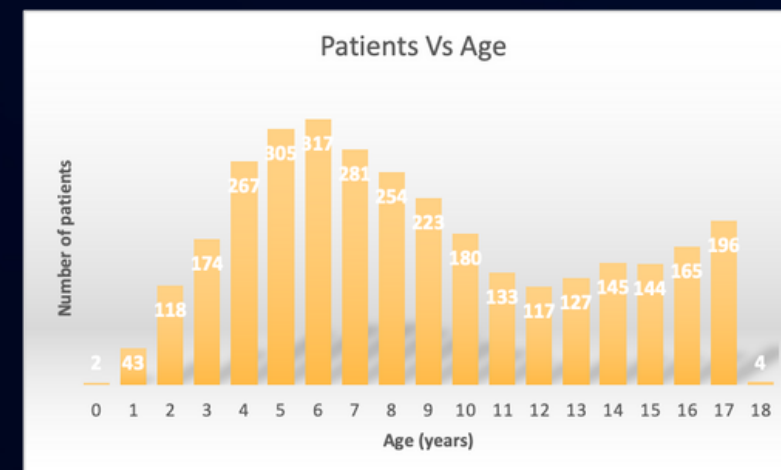
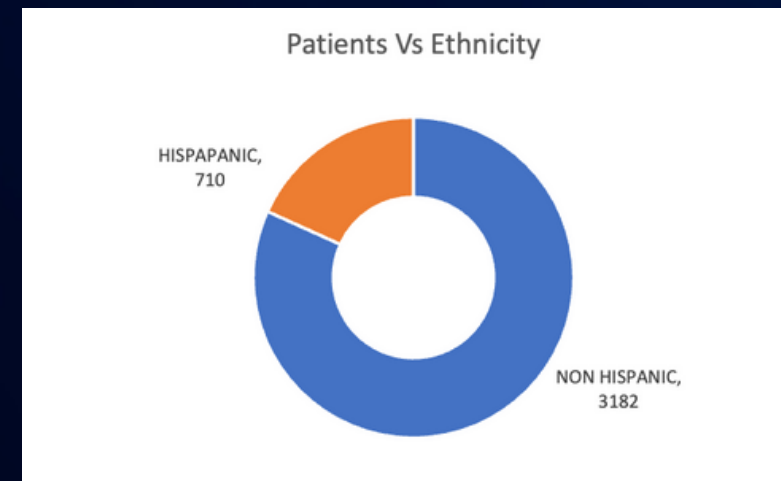
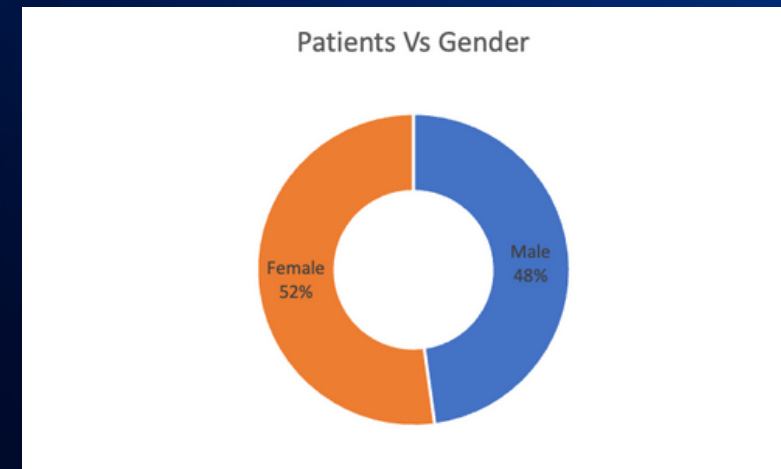
**Results:** Sex distribution was almost equal among emergency visit patients. 52% were female and 48% were male. Most of the patients seen were between the ages of 0 and 6 years old (38.4%). Caucasians (53.4%) and African Americans (36.6 %) were the most commonly reported races, and 18.2% of the patients identified as Hispanic ethnicity. Government issued insurance covered 87.9% of patients. while, surgical procedures represented 58.5% of all provided treatments.

**Conclusions:** Emergency visits were equally distributed by sex. Government issued insurance was heavily represented in the study population. The majority of patients receiving treatments came from early childhood. This agrees with the higher frequency of treatment for primary teeth. Surgery was the most provided treatment post lockdown.

## BACKGROUND

The World Health Organization declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020. COVID-19 caused a permanent change to people's daily activity and behavior. Dental care routines were affected greatly by the global lockdown and dentists presented the highest risk exposure among healthcare professionals (7). Dental emergencies during the COVID-19 lockdown were defined as oral/dental conditions which could be life-threatening, such as needing immediate treatment to alleviate bleeding, pain, or infection (9). An increase in the number of emergency visits coincided with the end of the lockdown in mid-June of 2020. Trends associated with emergency treatment were analyzed and compared to past studies done on these trends pre COVID-19.

## RESULTS



## CONCLUSIONS

- Trends were similar pre and post lockdown
- Ages 5, 6, and 7 years had the highest incidence of emergency visits
- Both males and females were equally treated
- Extraction was the most common emergency treatment
- Most patients had government insurance
- No significant difference between number of Caucasian and African-American patients seen
- Most patients identified as Non- Hispanic