

Latino Parental Perception of Preschool Children’s Oral Health

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INTRODUCTION

- Analyzing parental perception (PP) of their child’s oral health may help the dental community understand behaviors affecting minority populations utilizing oral health care services ¹
- Contemporary treatment planning in pediatric dentistry requires attempted understanding of the complex social, psychological and cultural influences on children and parents. ^{1,2}
- Pediatric dentists play a role in counseling parents on preventative strategies and should attempt to understand parental attitudes and cultural influences to improve outcomes³
- Though it is understood that caries disproportionately affects minority populations⁴ there is limited evidence on how Latino parental perception of oral health is associated with diagnostic values.

PURPOSE

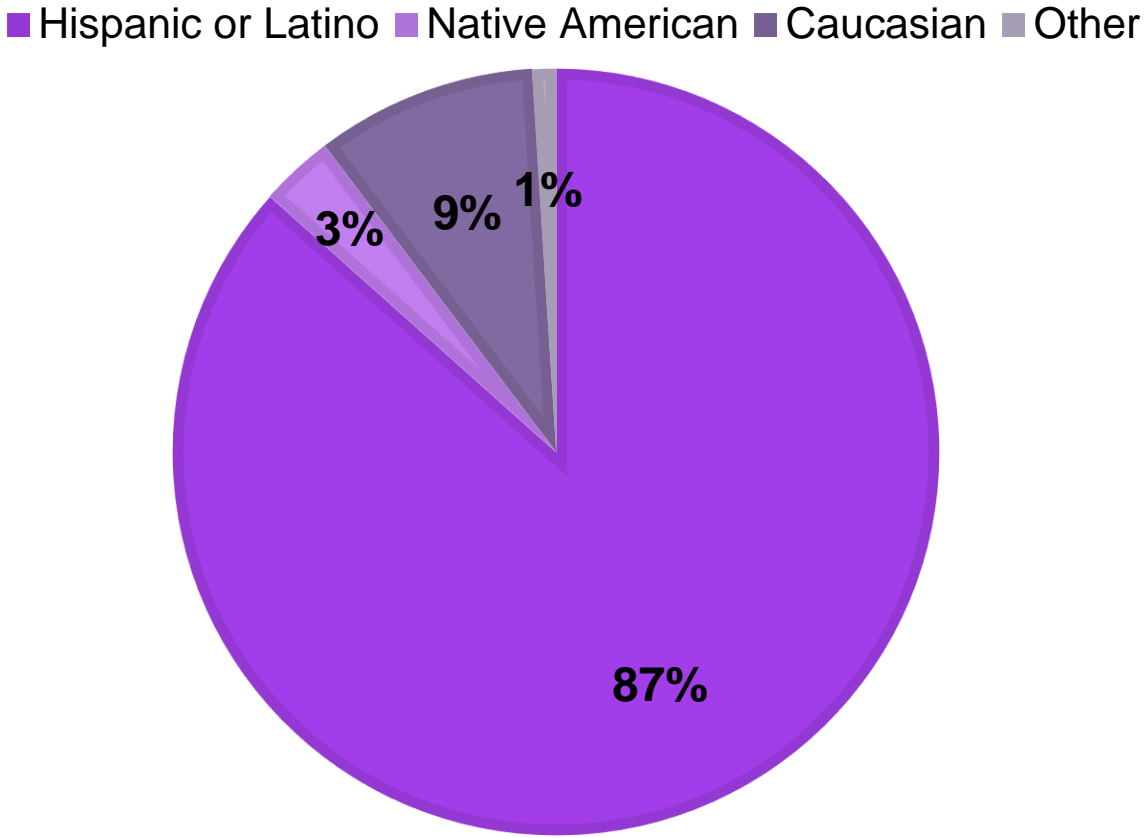
- Evaluate Latino PP of their child’s oral health
- Compare PP to provider diagnosed caries risk and presence of active caries

METHODS

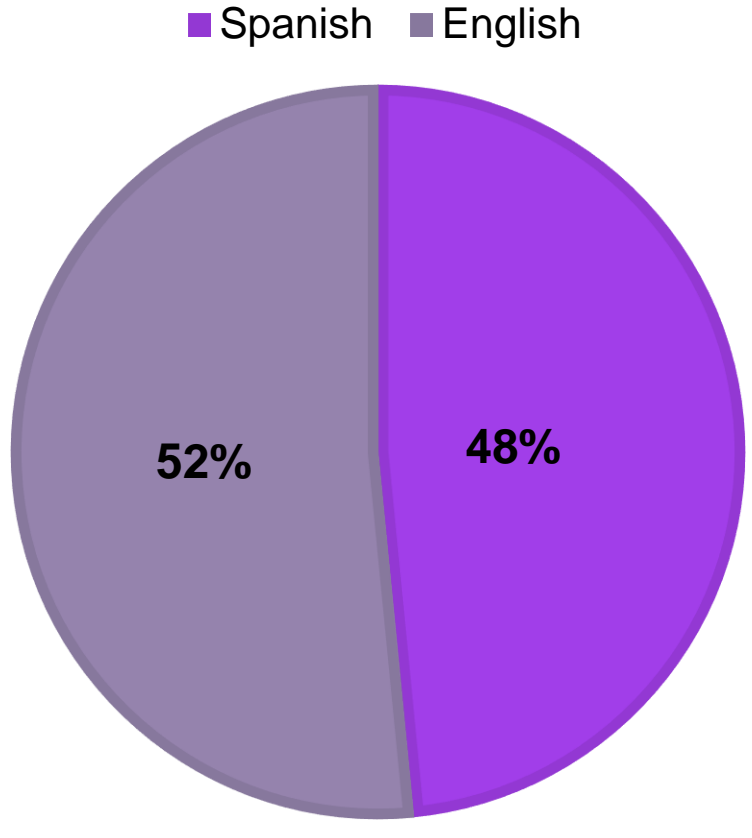
- Questionnaires were provided to parents of children aged 2 to 5 years old presenting for recall or new patient examinations
- Parents of patients of ASA I and ASA II status were surveyed
- Surveys consisted of 9 questions evaluating PP of their child’s caries risk, their race, family immigration history and language preferences
- Data was evaluated using chi-squared test, t-test/ANOVA and a Pearson correlation analysis

RESULTS

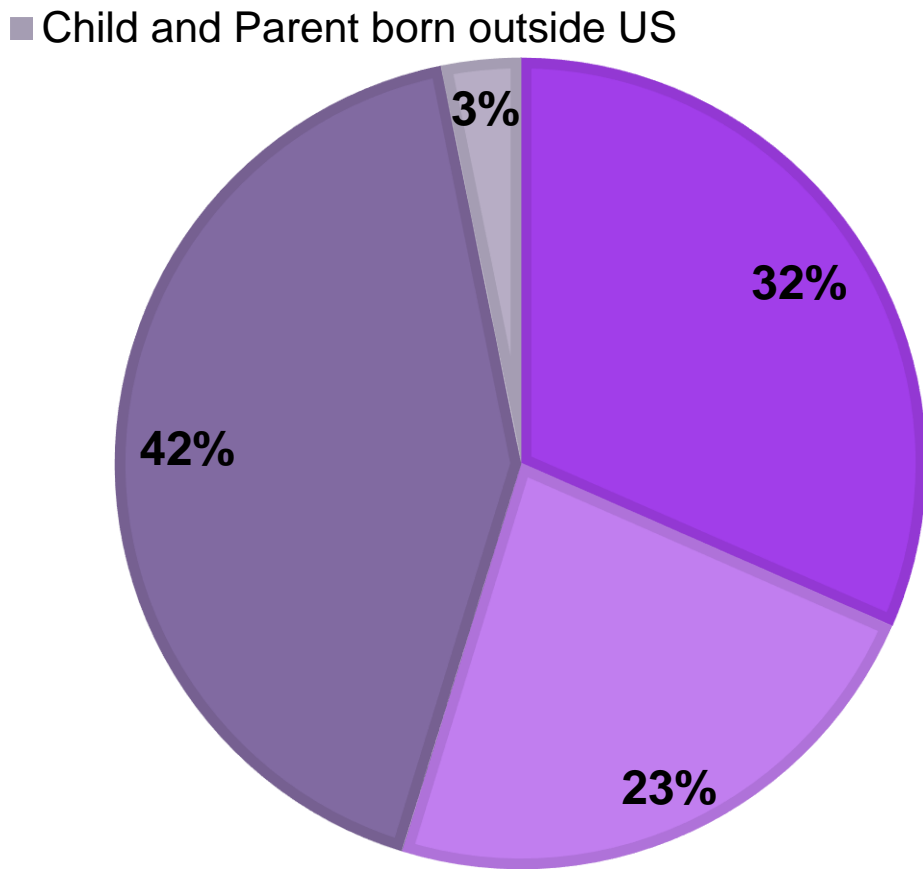
RACE AND ETHNICITY



LANGUAGE PREFERENCE



IMMIGRATION HISTORY OF PARENTS



PP OF HEALTH AND CARIES DIAGNOSIS

	No caries(%)	Active Caries(%)	
n	33	64	
PP of Caries Risk			P=0.003
Low	17 (51.5)	13 (20.3)	
Moderate	14 (42.4)	36 (56.2)	
High	2 (6.1)	15 (23.4)	
PP that patient has Caries			P<0.001
Very Low	17 (51.5)	5 (7.8)	
Low	9 (27.3)	16 (25.0)	
Moderate	6 (18.2)	18 (28.1)	
High	0 (0.0)	8 (12.5)	
Very High	1 (3.0)	17 (26.6)	

RESULTS

- A total of 97 surveys were completed
- Provider diagnosed caries risk was associated with:
 - PP of the risk their child had caries ($P=0.012$)
 - PP that their child will need treatment ($P=0.019$)
- Provider diagnosis of active caries was associated with:
 - PP that child is at higher caries risk ($P=0.003$)
 - PP of presence of active caries ($P<.001$)
 - PP of their child being at higher risk of needing treatment ($P<.001$)

CONCLUSIONS

- Latino parents of preschool children surveyed are accurately assessing their child’s caries risk, need for treatment and oral health
- Correct PP of oral health in the Latino population surveyed was not associated with language spoken or immigration history
- Continued research is needed to determine barriers between parental knowledge of poor oral health and implementation of preventative measures

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