

INTRODUCTION

- The University of Florida (UF)/Naples Children and Education Foundation (NCEF) Pediatric Dental Clinic in Naples, Florida had waiting lists of one year for general anesthesia (GA) or conscious sedation (CS) based dental care prior to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Historically, a significant number of patients experience dental emergencies while on these clinic waiting lists.
- The UF/NCEF Pediatric Dental Clinic ceased GA and CS services from March 16 to June 16, 2020 due to Covid-19. During the shutdown, only emergency dental services were provided to patients in the dental clinic, without sedation.

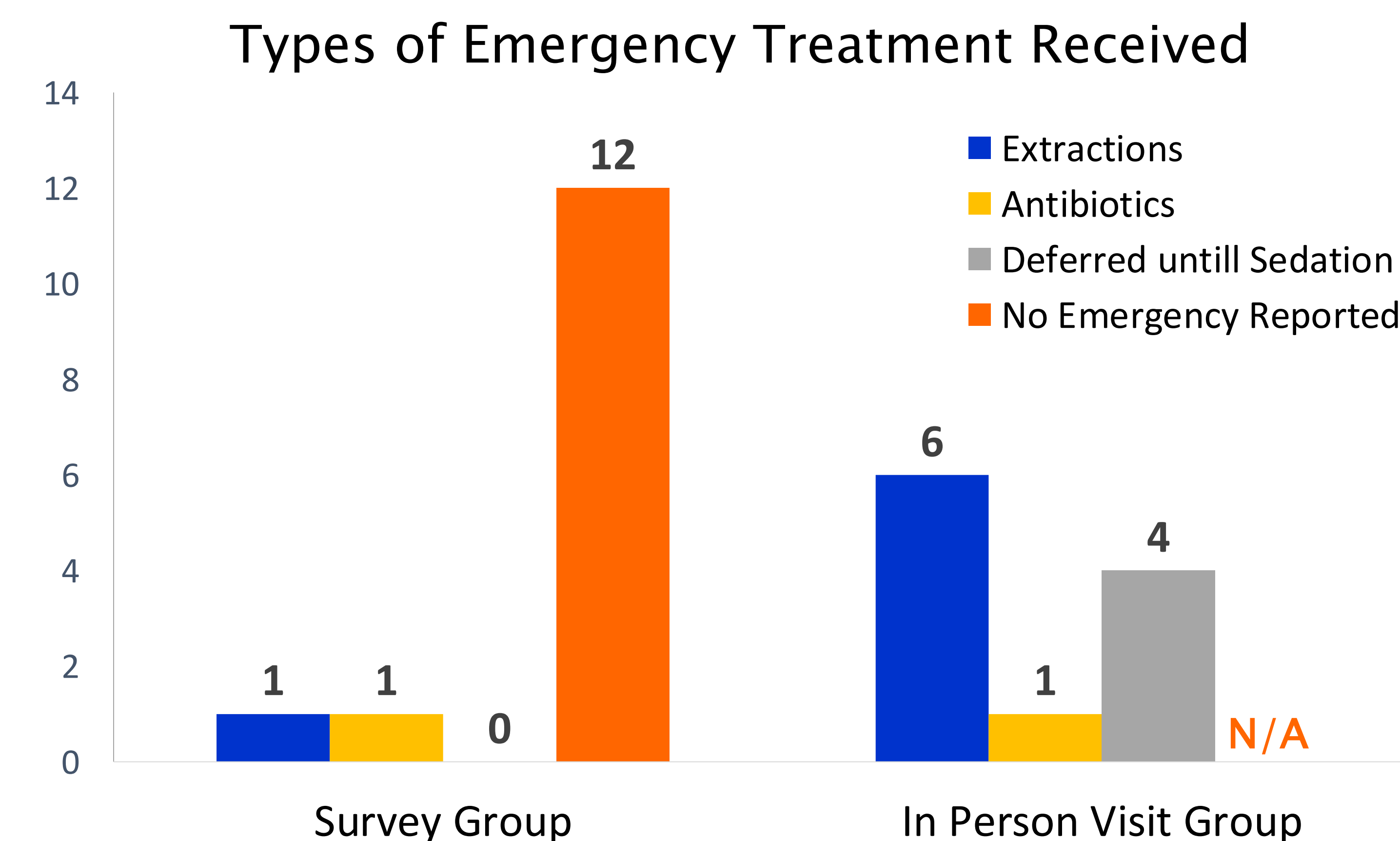
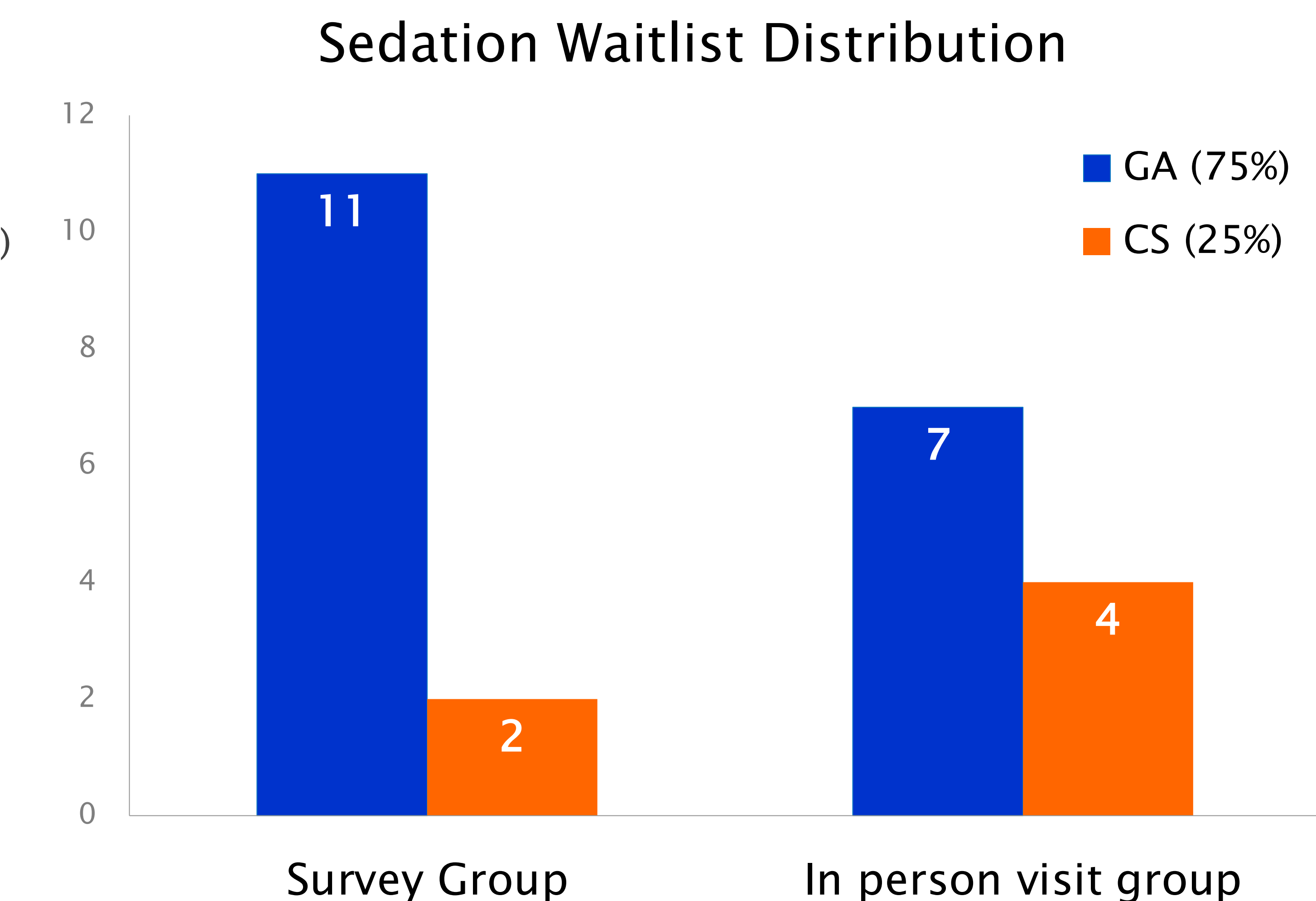
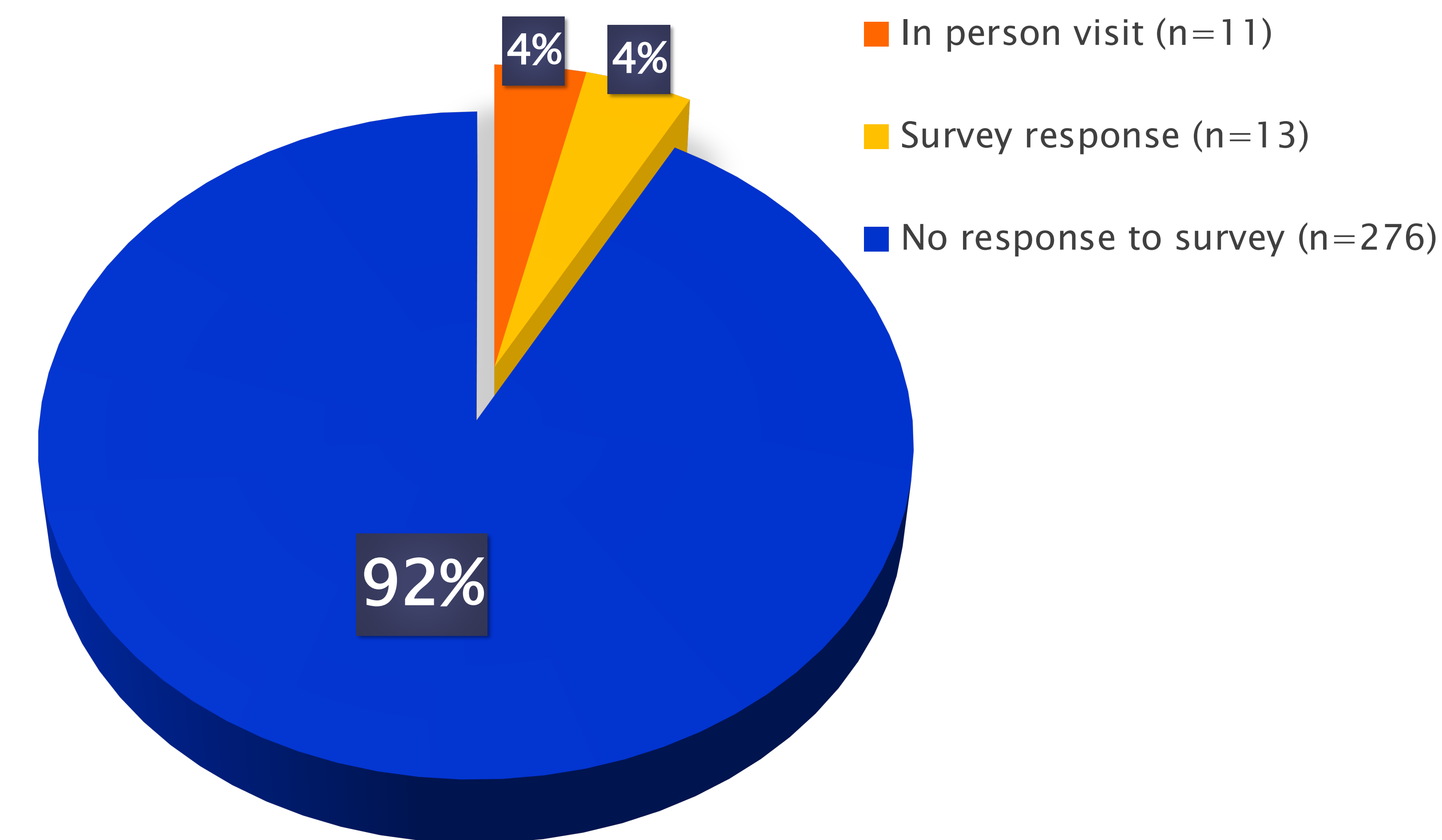
OBJECTIVE

Examine the impact of Covid-19 shutdown on emergencies among patients on the waiting list for GA or CS based treatment of dental caries at the UF/NCEF Pediatric Dental Clinic.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- A retrospective chart review was conducted for patients on the sedation waitlists in the one year prior to March 20, 2020.
- Those on the waitlist who did not have record of an in-person visit or telehealth visit during the shutdown were mailed surveys regarding their experience during that time.
- Inclusion criteria:** Patients age 0-12 years old on the sedation waitlists in the one year prior to March 16, 2020 who had an in person or telehealth visit for a dental emergency; or those who agreed to participate via returned survey.
- Exclusion criteria:** Medically compromised patients; patients with dental visits related to trauma, eruption/exfoliation, or orthodontic treatment.
- Data collected:** Age, gender, type of insurance, type of sedation waitlist, time elapsed since last visit to our clinic, history of SDF application, in-person or telehealth visit for emergency dental care, types of emergency treatment received, whether the problem was resolved, and reason to not seek dental care during the shutdown.

RESULTS



CONCLUSIONS

- Based on the small sample size from the target population, it is difficult to evaluate the impact of the pandemic shutdown on dental emergencies among patients on sedation waitlists.
- Further studies are needed to investigate the patients that did not respond to mailed surveys.

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