



## Introduction

Athletic trainers (AT) provide medical care to athletes which includes the prevention and treatment of sports related injuries. Most injuries associated with sports are musculoskeletal but other types of trauma, including dental trauma can occur. The incidence of athletic-related dental trauma is related to the type of sport and the use of mouthguards. There are many studies that evaluate the proper prevention and management of athletic-related dental injuries, but there are none that assess the knowledge-base of ATs to treat them. The purpose of this study was to assess the knowledge that athletic trainers possess with regards to the treatment of dental trauma.

## Methods

A Qualtrics survey was created and shared across three professional group Facebook pages for athletic trainers. The invitation and link were shared twice over three weeks. The survey queried for respondent characteristics and presented four dental trauma cases to assess the AT's knowledge to appropriately diagnose and manage athletic dental injuries. Recorded data was not identifiable.



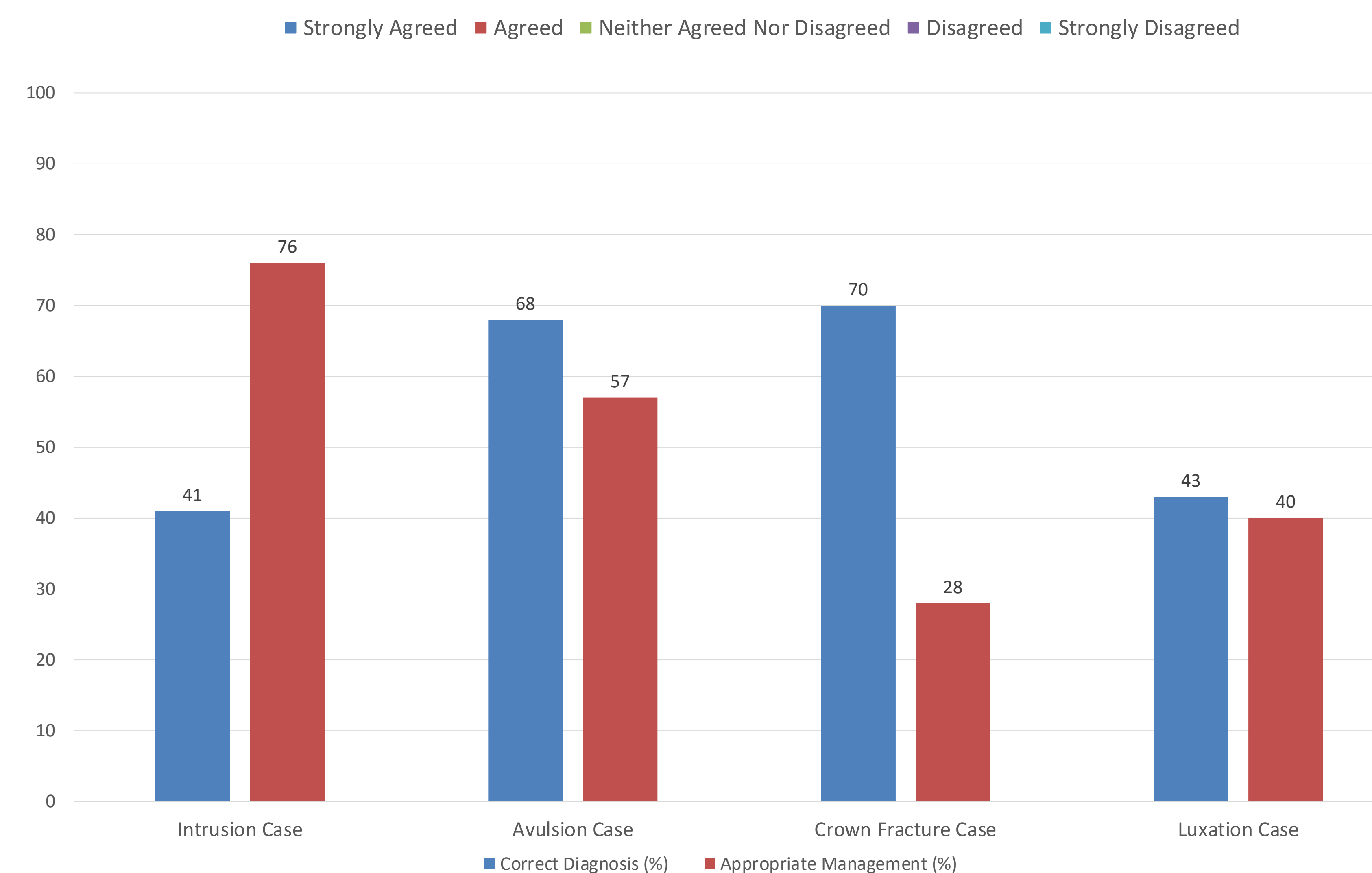
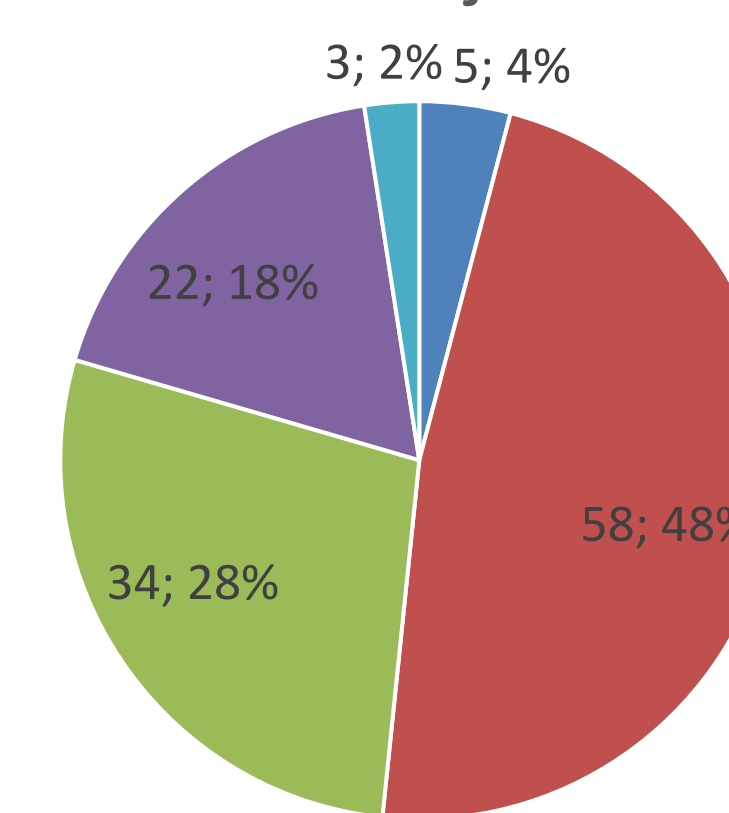
## Results

- Only completed surveys were included in the results
- 122 surveys were completed

Table 1. Respondent Characteristics

Age	20-35	36-50	51-65	> 65	
	73	33	14	2	
Years of experience	0-5	6-10	11-15	> 15	
	42	29	13	38	
Highest education level	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctorate	Other	
	44	71	5	2	
Primary Work Setting	Middle School	High School	College	Professional	Other
	4	89	15	2	12

Graph 1. Respondents reporting confidence to treating dental injuries.



## Discussion and Conclusions

Management of dental injuries is not required content in all athletic trainers' foundational education (CAATE, 2022). The National Athletic Trainers' Association published a professional position statement related to identification and management of dental injuries in sport (Goule et al., 2016). The results of this work showed that there are many athletic trainers accurately diagnosing and managing dental injuries, but there are many who do not. This is significant because timely and efficient management of dental injuries, specifically avulsions, are vital for saving a tooth. Continuing education should be provided by to athletics personnel (ATs and coaches) by dental professionals. Interprofessional collaborations between a university's Dental School and Athletic Training Education program, for example, could narrow this knowledge gap for athletic trainers and also prove beneficial to engaging dental professionals as integral members of the sports medicine team.

## References

- Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), 2020 Standards
- Gould, Trenton E., et al. "National Athletic Trainers' Association position statement: preventing and managing sport-related dental and oral injuries." *Journal of athletic training* 51.10 (2016): 821-839.