

A Survey of SDF Training Among Graduating Dental Students

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Introduction

Pediatric dentistry residency programs in the US seem to be moving toward increased utilization of nonsurgical approaches like Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF). Although only 26% of respondents reported using SDF in their clinics in 2015, 100% reported using it in 2020¹

In a survey of public hospital dental practitioners in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on the Knowledge on and Attitude toward Silver Diamine Fluoride among Saudi Dental Practitioners a high number have experienced the application of SDF, in their practice (<40%), or dental school (34.5%). ²

Objective

To assess knowledge level and training of Silver Diamine Fluoride SDF among graduating dental students at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine (TUSDM) and Riyadh Elm University (REU)

Methods

Literature Review → Survey Development → Content & Face Validity Testing → Survey Distribution → Data Analysis

Study Population: Graduating dental students at (TUSDM) and (REU) were surveyed on knowledge and training on SDF.

Statistical Analysis

A chi-square test and Fisher’s exact tests were applied to find the significant differences between categorical variables.

A non-parametric tests of the Mann-Whitney U test and Kruskal-Wallis tests were applied to compare the median across two or more categories.

A p<0.05 was considered significant for all the statistical tests.

Results

Table 1 Demographics of study participants (N=116)

Characteristics	Participants	Percentage (%)
Dental school	TUSDM	41.4%
	REU	58.6%
Gender	Male	39.7%
	Female	60.3%

Figure 1: Comparison of the correct answers on three categories (Indications of SDF / Contraindications of SDF / Risk for SDF)

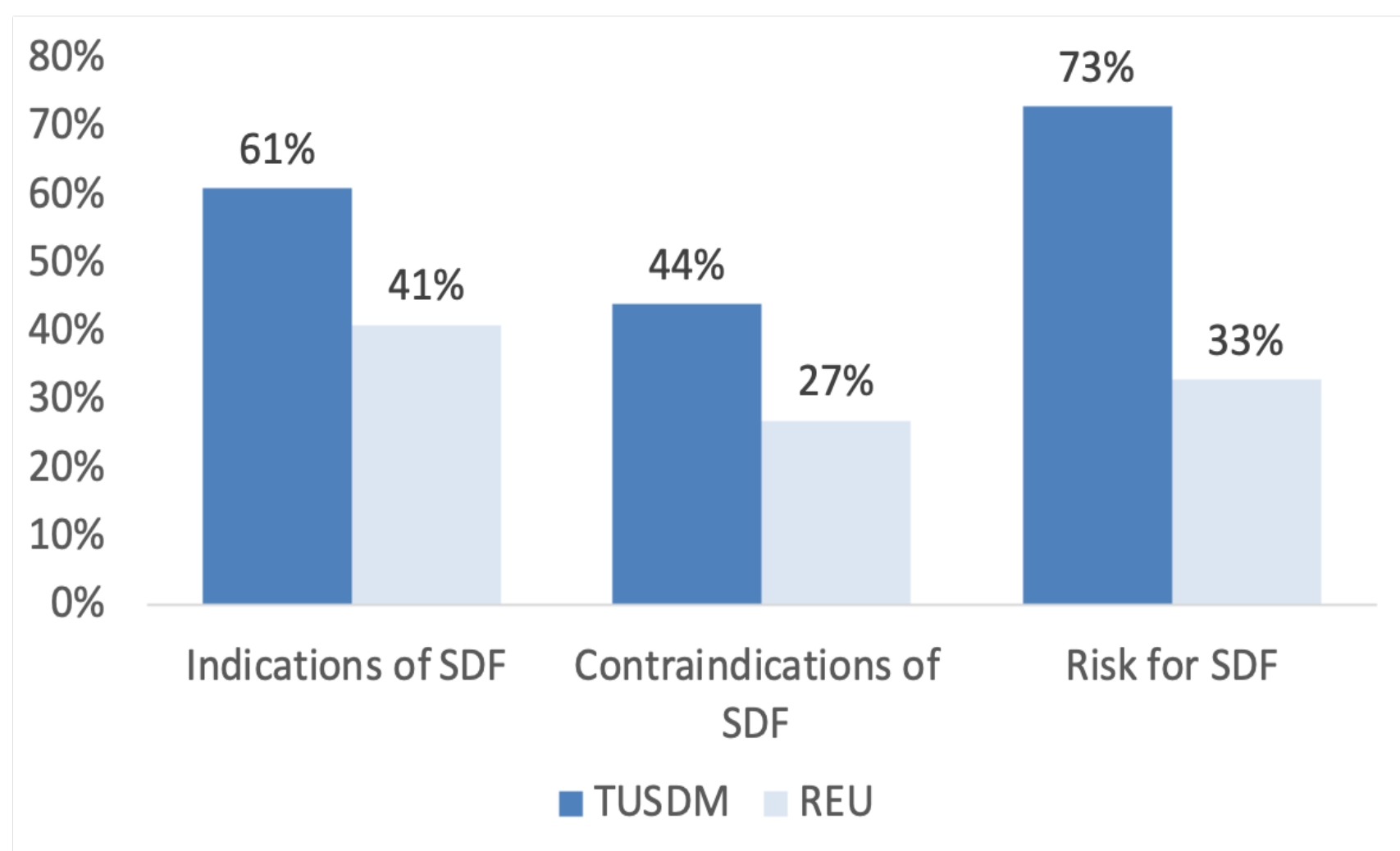


Figure 2: Comparison Of SDF inclusion in dental curriculum and training on three categories (Didactic only, Clinical only, Clinical and didactic)

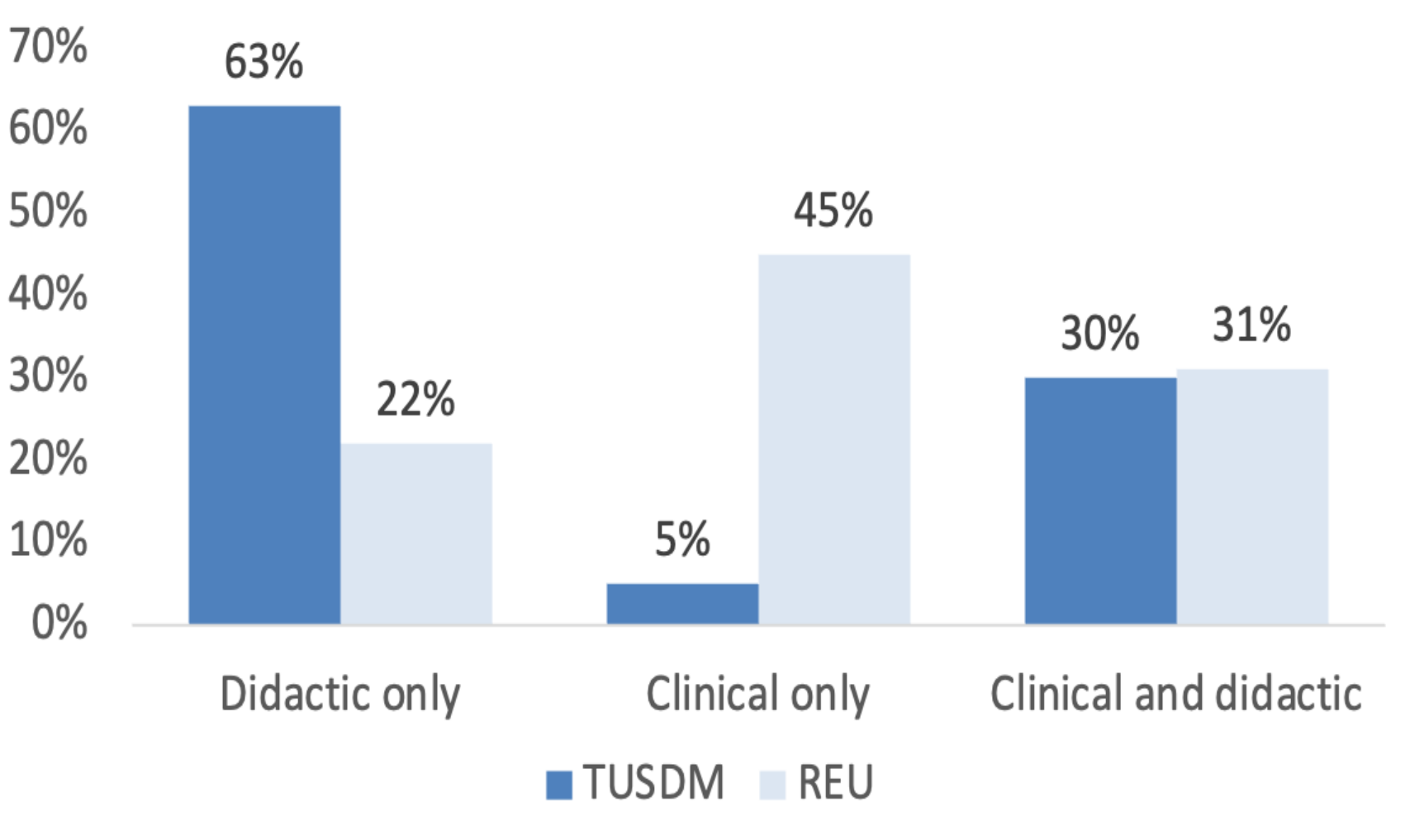


Figure 3: Comparison Of SDF training on primary and permanent teeth on 4 categories (Didactic training on primary teeth and permanent teeth, Clinical training on primary teeth and permanent teeth)

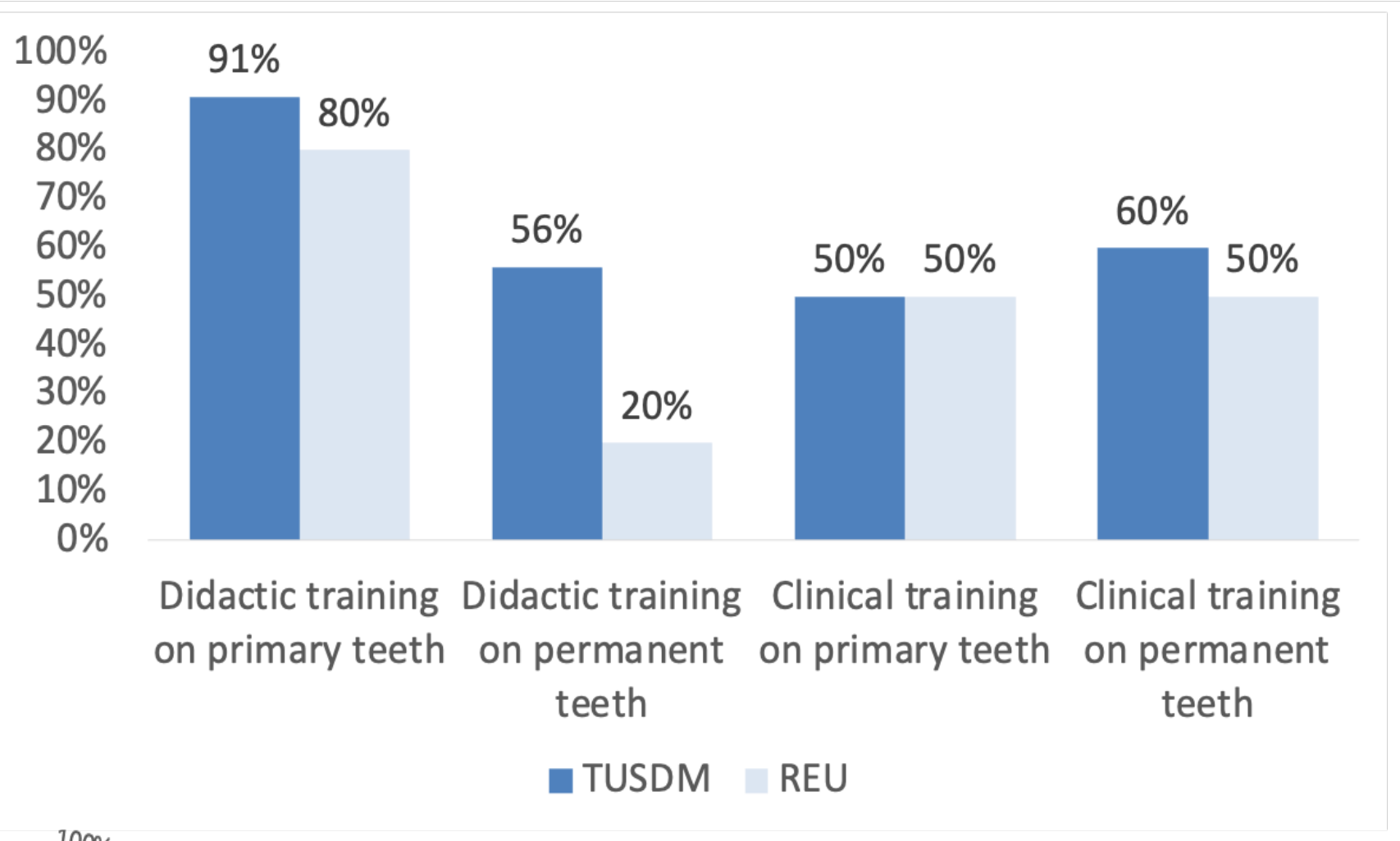


Figure 4: Participants responds to (I received sufficient training on SDF in my current program)

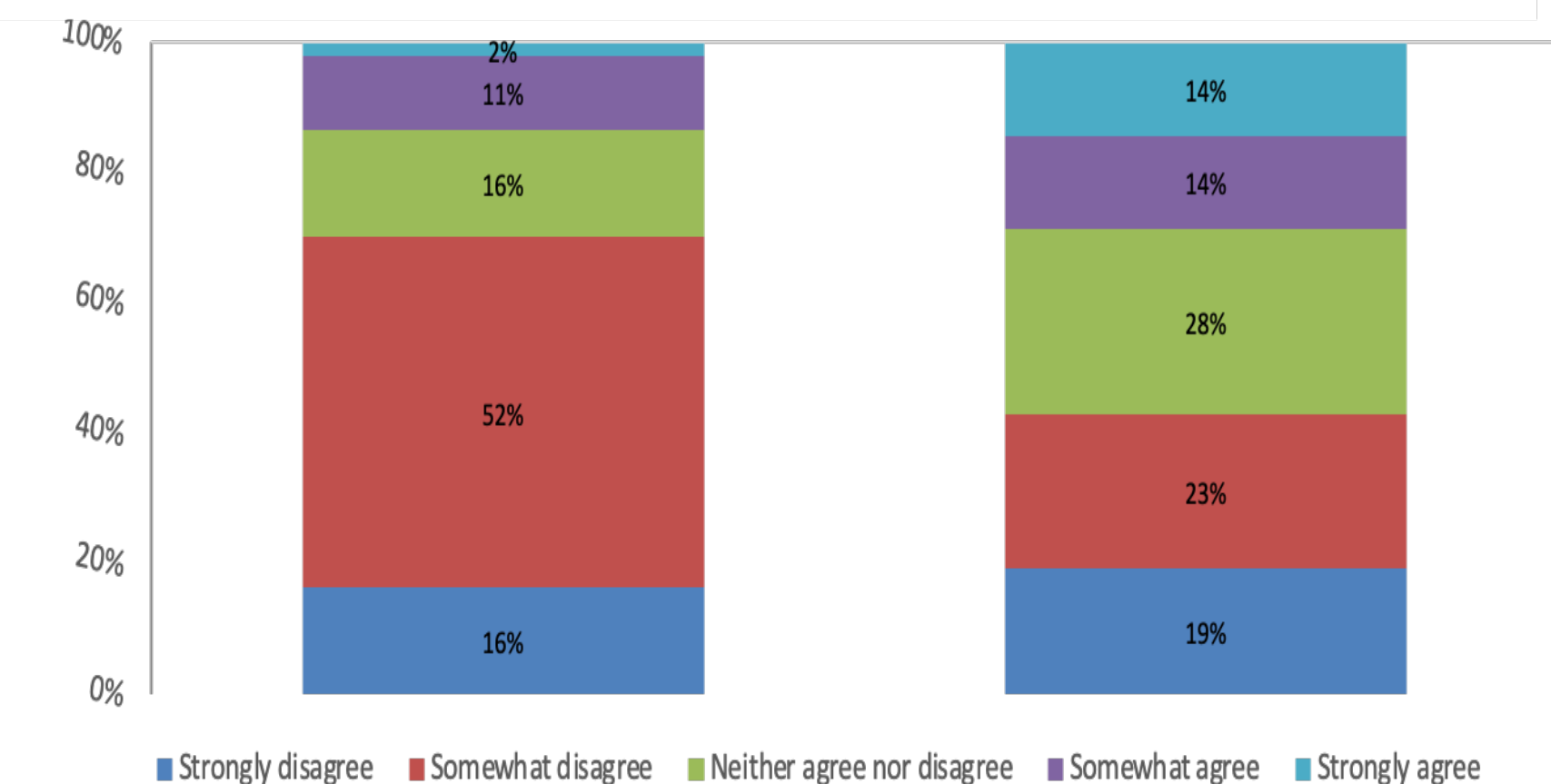
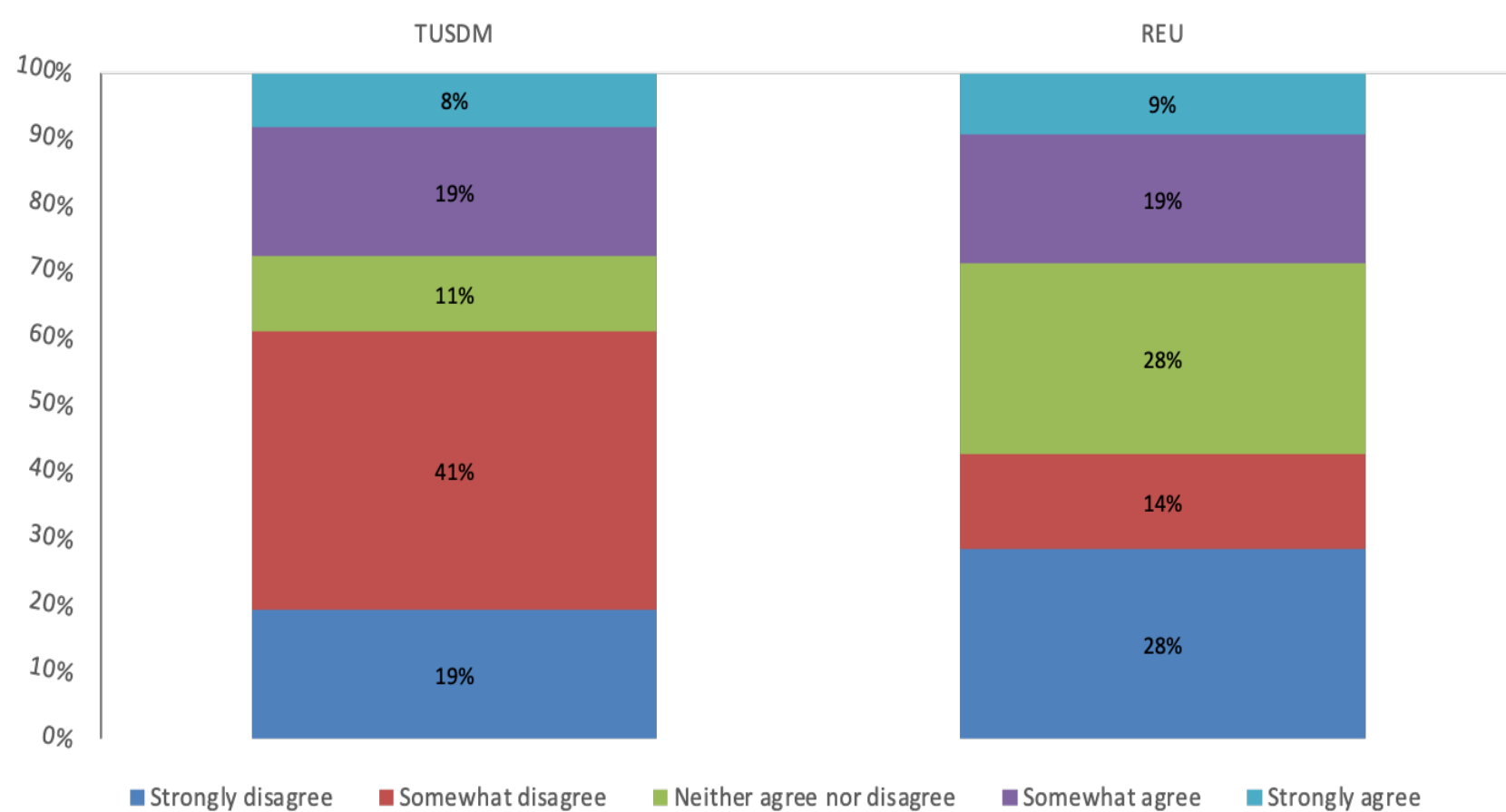


Figure 5: Participants responds to (I am confident providing SDF as a treatment)



- TUSDM participants had more knowledge of indications, contraindications, and risks of SDF than REU (Figure1)
- TUSDM participants had significantly more didactic training, and REU had significantly more clinical training (Figure 2)
- TUSDM participants had significantly more didactic training on permanent teeth. (Figure 3)
- Most of TUSDM participants stated that they had not received sufficient training on SDF. However, REU participants were found to have discrepancies in agreeing and disagreeing on receiving sufficient training. (Figure 4)
- Most of TUSDM participants stated that they are not confident in providing SDF as a treatment. In the other hand, REU participants were found to have discrepancies in agreeing and disagreeing on receiving sufficient training. (Figure 5)

Conclusion

TUSDM participants had higher knowledge and didactic training although they were not satisfied on SDF training received. In contrast, REU participants were found to have lower knowledge and didactic training, but they were more confident in providing SDF.

Acknowledgement

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Reference

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2. Alajlan, Ghadah et al. “Knowledge on and Attitude toward Silver Diamine Fluoride among Saudi Dental Practitioners in Riyadh Public Hospitals.” Clinical, cosmetic and investigational dentistry vol. 12 399-407. 30 Sep. 2020, doi:10.2147/CCIDE.S270562