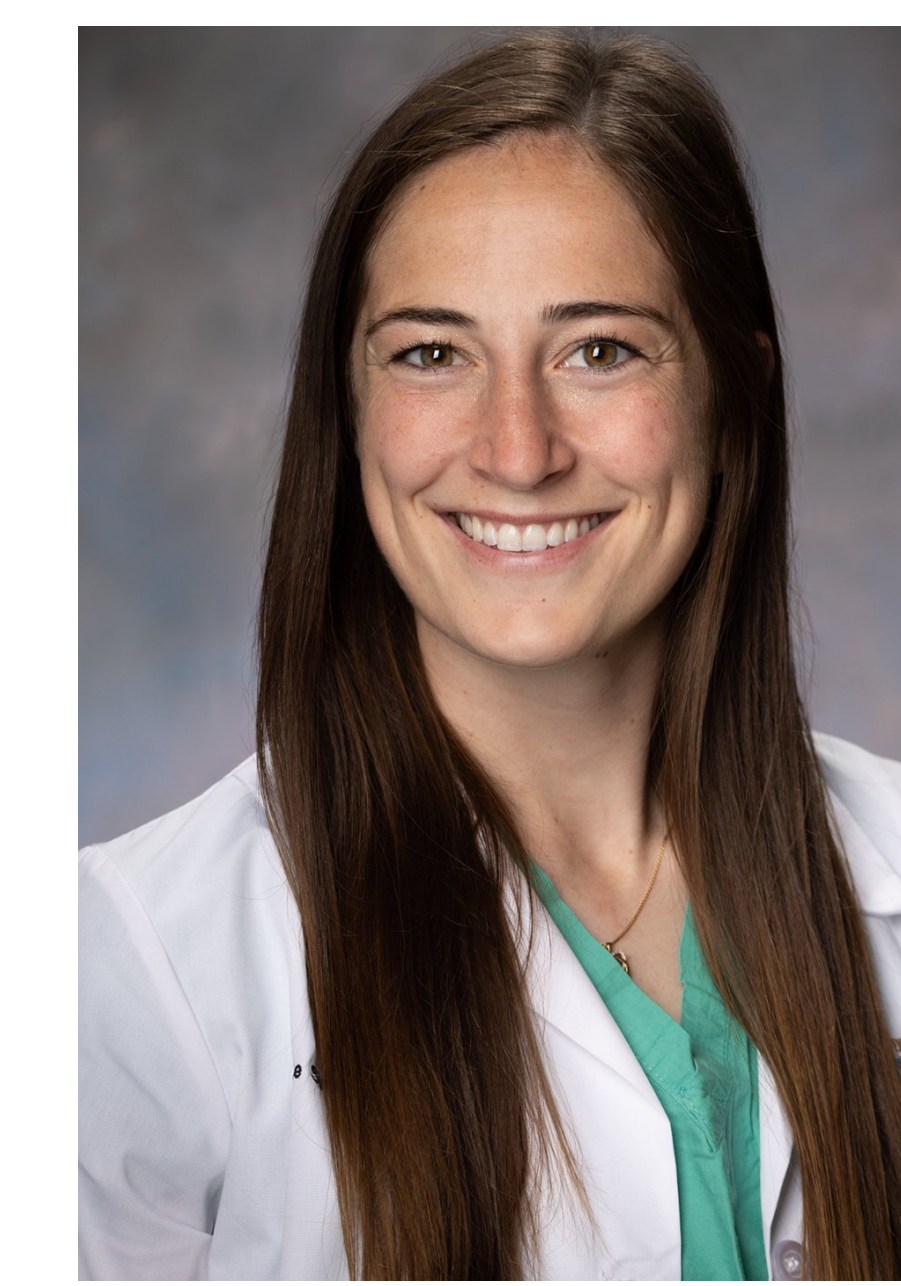


Ohio Pediatric Dentists Disproportionately Care for Medicaid Children: *A Cross-Sectional Study*

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY



NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

Introduction/Objective:

- To evaluate the number and age of children treated by Medicaid-participating dentists

Methods:

- Cross-sectional study which used dental claims from Partners for Kids between 2021 and 2022
- Children 0-18 years old
- Age, procedure code, and provider type
- Primary provider-level outcomes were:
 - Number of children treated
 - Number of children treated <3 years old
 - Number of children treated 3-6 years old
- Outcomes between general and pediatric dentists were compared using descriptive statistics and Wilcoxon rank sum tests

Results:

- 1,005 dentists treated 240,730 children
 - Mean=239 per provider
 - Effectively: 5 per week, or 1 per day
- Pediatric dentists represented 15% of providers and submitted 41% of claims
- Pediatric dentists treated disproportionately more children than general dentists
 - overall (median=100 vs. 32, $p<0.001$)
 - <3 years old (median=5 vs. 1, $p<0.001$)
 - 3-6 years old (median=12 vs. 5, $p<0.001$)

Discussion:

- A large proportion of Medicaid-enrolled children were treated by a small proportion of dentists

The most active 10% of Medicaid-participating dentists treated 62% of Medicaid-enrolled children from 2021-2022.

On average, pediatric dentists treated proportionally more AND younger children.

Significant oral health care gaps exist for very young children among a subset of Medicaid-enrolled children in Ohio.

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Disclaimer: The statements in this study are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of *Partners For Kids* or Nationwide Children's Hospital.

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Number of Patients Treated by Dentist Type

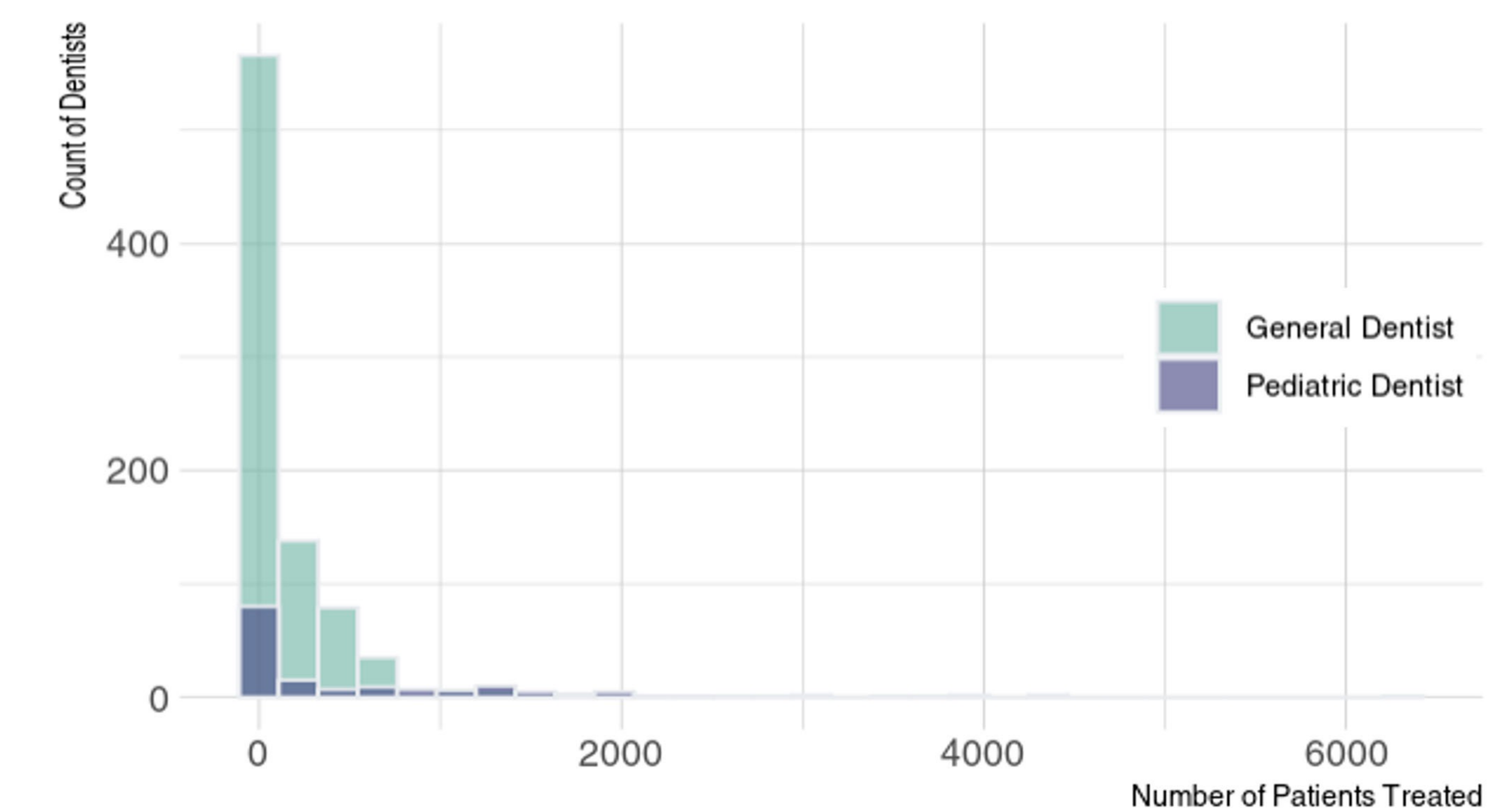


Figure 1. Histogram showing number of dentists (y-axis) who treat X number of patients (x-axis) stratified by general versus pediatric dentists.

Mean Age of Patients by Dentist Type

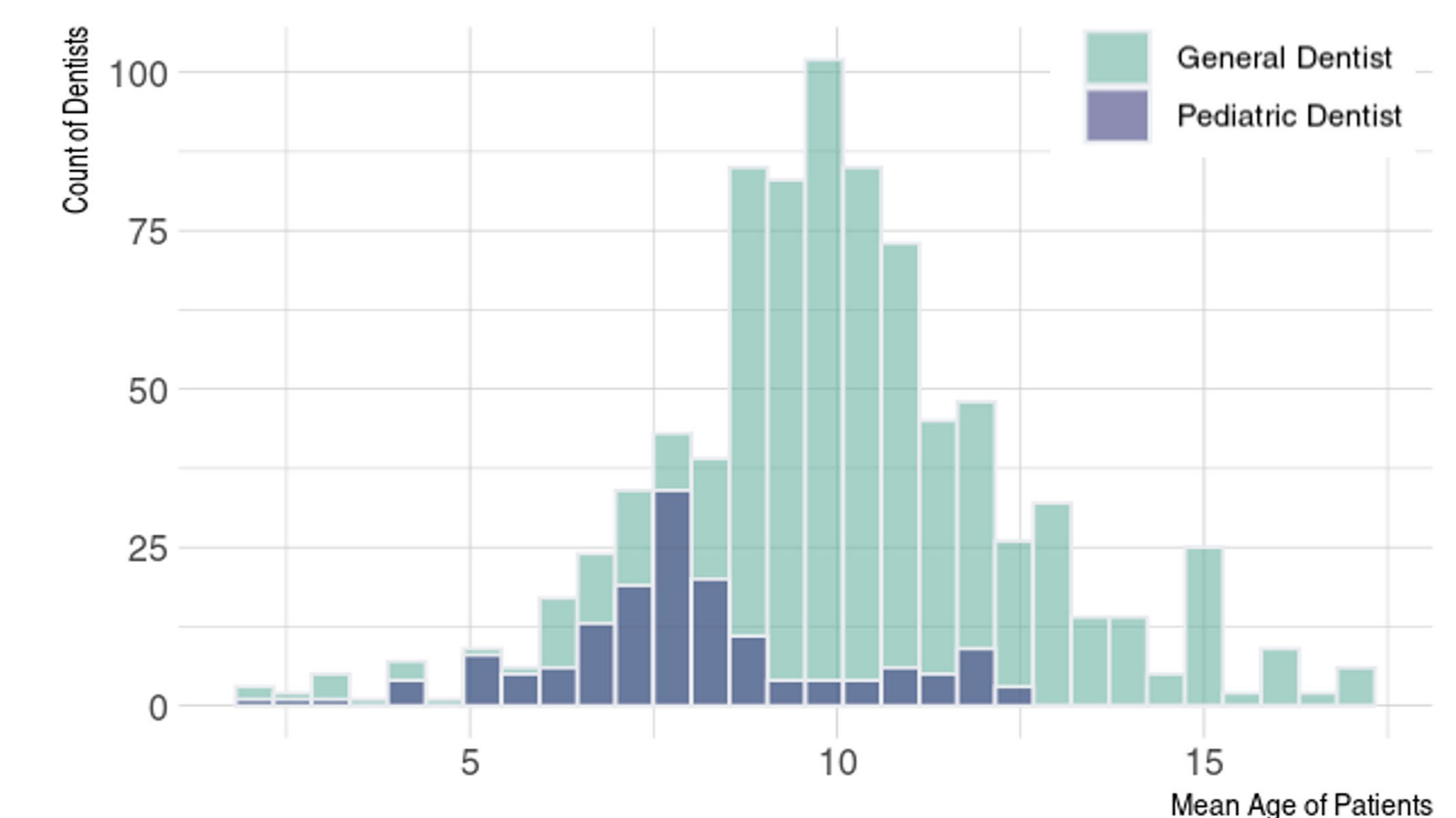


Figure 2. Histogram showing number of dentists (y-axis) who treat patients with mean age equal to X (x-axis) stratified by general versus pediatric dentists.