

AAPD Member Self-Reported Early Childhood Caries Management in Pre-Cooperative Children

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Background

- Nearly 1-in-5 children under age 5 experience dental decay (Hill 2019)
- Restorative treatment of Early Childhood Caries (ECC) has high recurrence rates because it doesn't address behavioral etiology (AAPD OHP 2021)
- AAPD guidelines promote chronic disease management (CDM) to halt disease progression

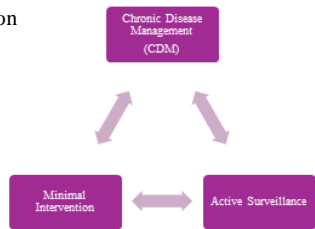


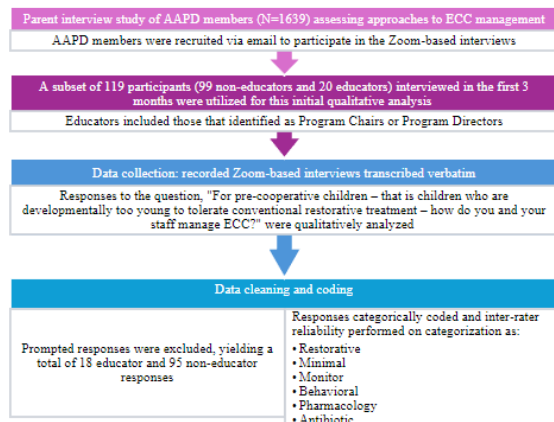
Fig. 1. ECC Management Promoted by AAPD

Purpose

To evaluate the ways in which American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) members report managing ECC:

- types and frequency of techniques self-reported
- which techniques come first to mind to providers (i.e., the order in which techniques are reported)
- how provider or population demographics relate to modalities of treatment mentioned

Methods



Findings

- 80% reported using restorative approaches to ECC management
- Among CDM approaches: 77% use Pharmacological; 39% Behavioral; 38% Minimally Invasive; and 36% Monitoring
- Among Behavioral Responses:
 - 18% mentioned Behavioral first
 - 61% did not mention Behavioral
 - Educators did not mention Behavioral more than non-educators
 - Newer dentists – less than 11 years and more recent graduates – mention Behavioral more than older dentists (46% v 32%)
 - Dentists who treat more patients on public insurance (>50% Medicaid or CHIP) cited Behavioral (45% v 25%)

Fig. 2. Management Techniques Reported (in any order)

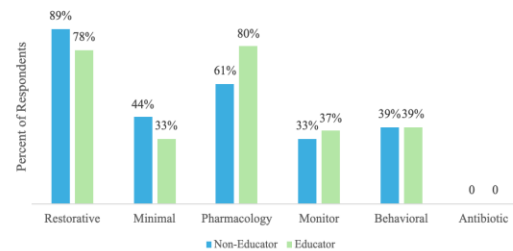


Fig. 3. Management Techniques Reported First

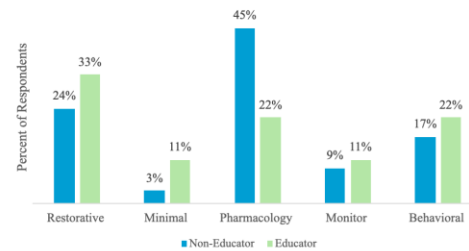
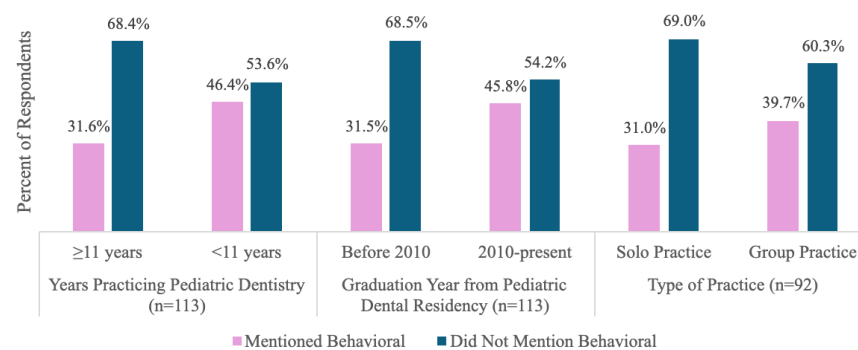


Fig. 4. Provider & Practice Demographics



Findings (continued)

Fig. 5. Commercial Insurance vs. Public Insurance

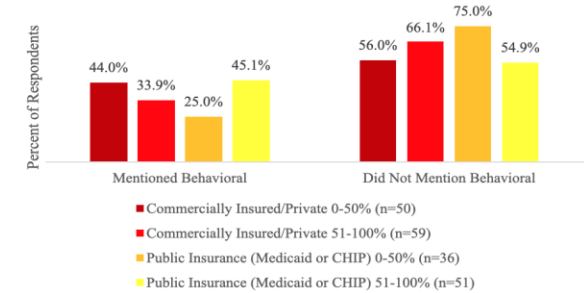
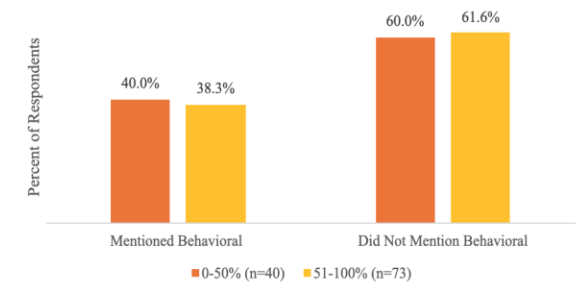


Fig. 6. Treating Children Under 6 Years Old with Any Caries Experience



Limitations

- Small subset of population and likely most eager candidates interviewed as these were respondents interviewed within the first 3 months of the study
- Respondents not asked to rank their responses to open-ended question; ranking is inferred from order stated during response

Conclusions

- Most AAPD members in this sample population use Restorative approaches for ECC
- Among CDM approaches, most use Pharmacologic approaches and fewer use Behavioral, Minimally Invasive, and Monitoring
- Given the chronic nature of this behaviorally-mediated disease, an emphasis on behavioral and monitoring approaches to manage ECC should be promoted
- Future studies should analyze additional provider demographics, patient demographics and practice demographics as well as analysis of a larger sample of respondents.