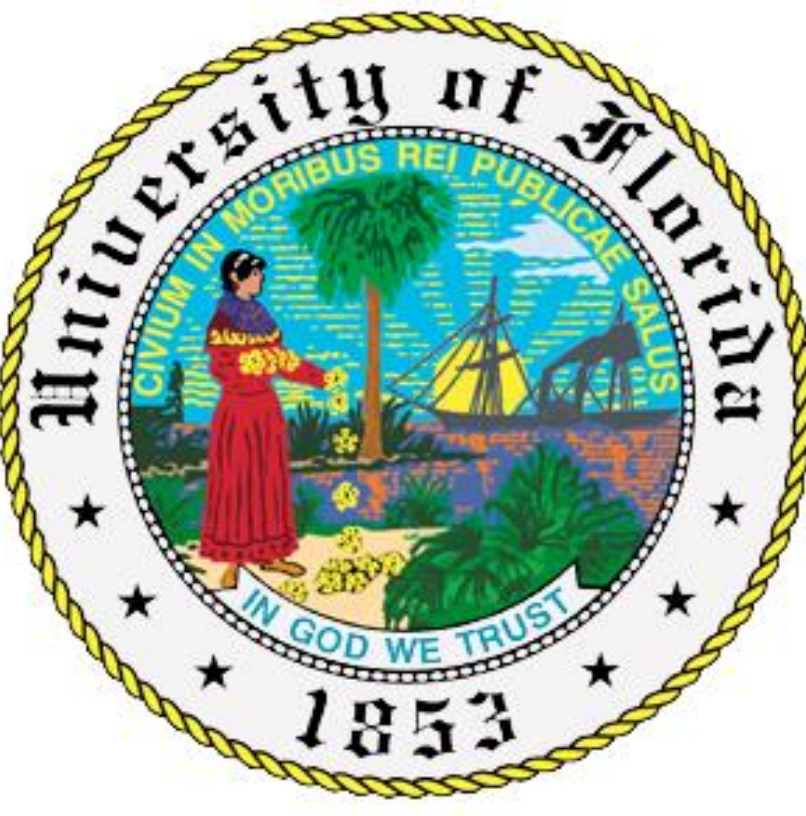# Awareness, Utilization, and Barriers of Virtual Reality in Pediatric Dentistry

Buckles A, Vasilopoulos T, Guelmann M, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

University of Florida, Dept. of Pediatric Dentistry[1] and Dept. of Anesthesiology[2], Gainesville, Florida

INTRODUCTION

- Virtual Reality (VR) application in medicine and dentistry has been shown to significantly reduce anxiety, pain, and misbehavior in children.

- Despite the preponderance of evidence of the efficacy of VR in pediatric dentistry, it remains underutilized.

OBJECTIVE

- This study aimed to evaluate current awareness, utilization, and barriers of VR application in pediatric dentistry.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- An online questionnaire (Qualtrics) was sent to Alumni of the University of Florida Pediatric Dental Residency Program.

- Participants were surveyed regarding their awareness, utilization of, and barriers to implementation of VR in pediatric dentistry.

https://www.docseducation.com/blog/imagine-pediatric-patients-crying-dentist-because-they-don't-want-leave

RESULTS
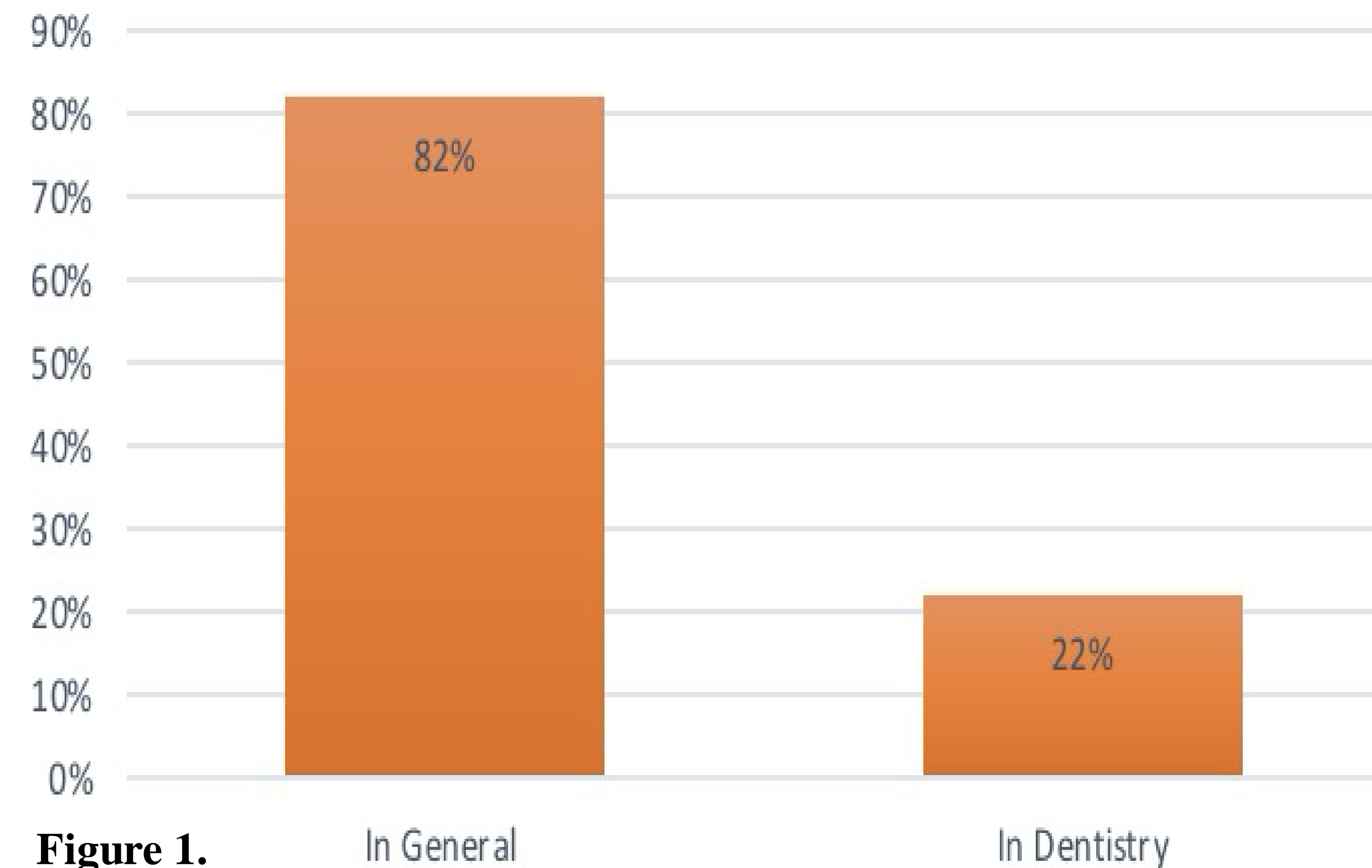

AWARENESS OF VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY

Figure 1.

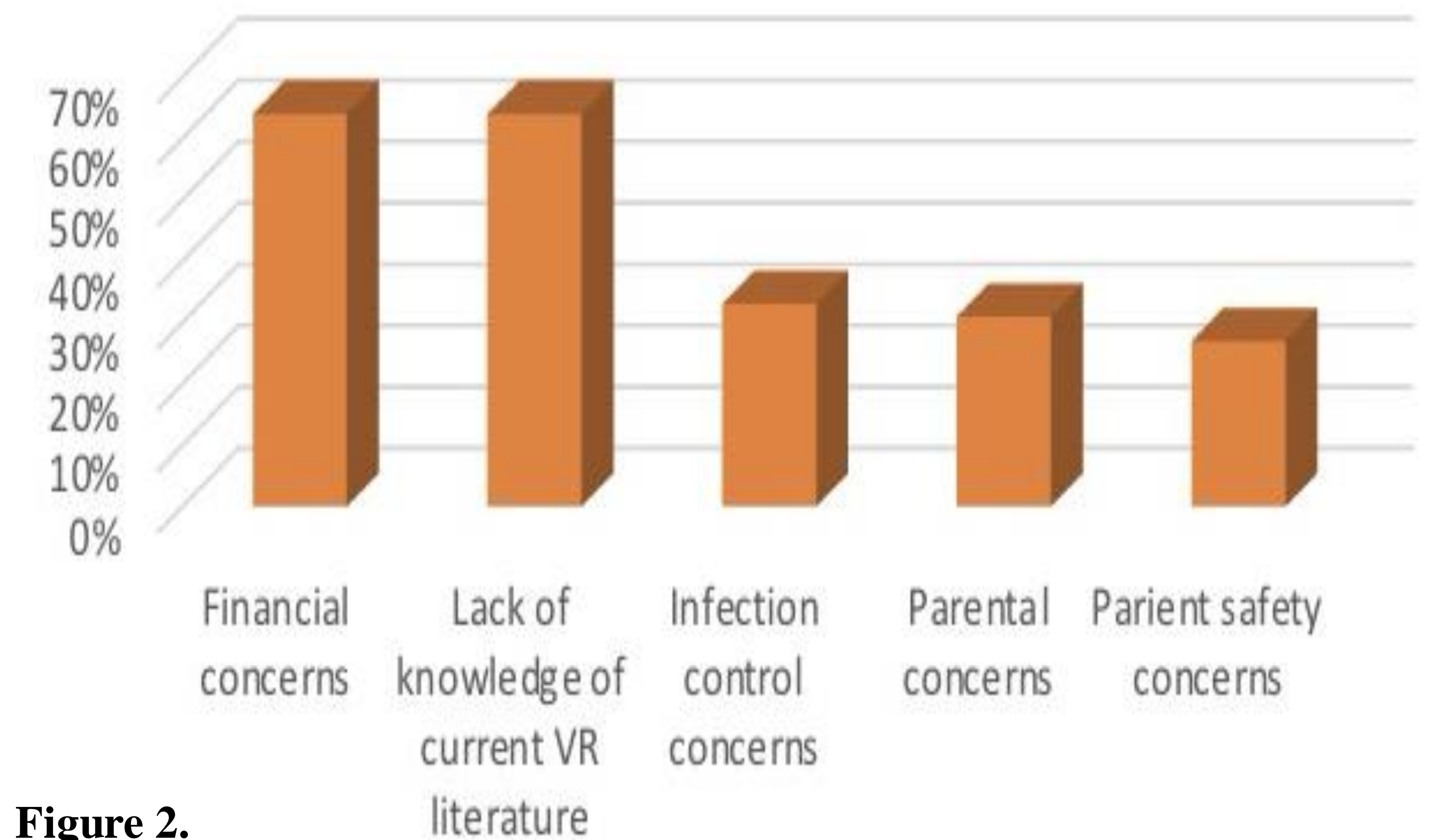**BARRIERS TO VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION**

Figure 2.

- Of the 57 respondents 82% reported awareness of VR technology, however, only 22% acknowledged familiarity with VR platforms available for clinical use in pediatric dentistry. **Figure 1.**

- Of the respondents, 64% reported lack of knowledge of current literature, and financial concerns as barriers to VR implementation. Additional barriers included infection control concerns (33%), parental concerns (31%), and patient safety concerns (27%). **Figure 2.**

- None of the respondents reported currently offering VR in their practice.

CONCLUSIONS

- Despite the wide knowledge of VR technology, only a small percentage of respondents reported awareness of its application in pediatric dentistry, resulting in its continued underutilization.

- Lacking knowledge of VR literature, specifically as applied to pediatric dentistry, along with cost concerns, presents the greatest challenge to overcoming barriers to implementing VR in pediatric dentistry.

- Bridging the gap between VR technology and pediatric dentistry is most effectively accomplished through more education - dental school, residency programs, and continuing education.