



Background

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recommends that every child should attend their first dental visit within six months of the eruption of the first tooth or by the age of one. This visit not only allows for early detection of tooth decay, but it also is important for educating parents about oral health care prevention and anticipatory guidance. However, many parents are still unaware as to what age a child needs to begin dental care.

Introduction

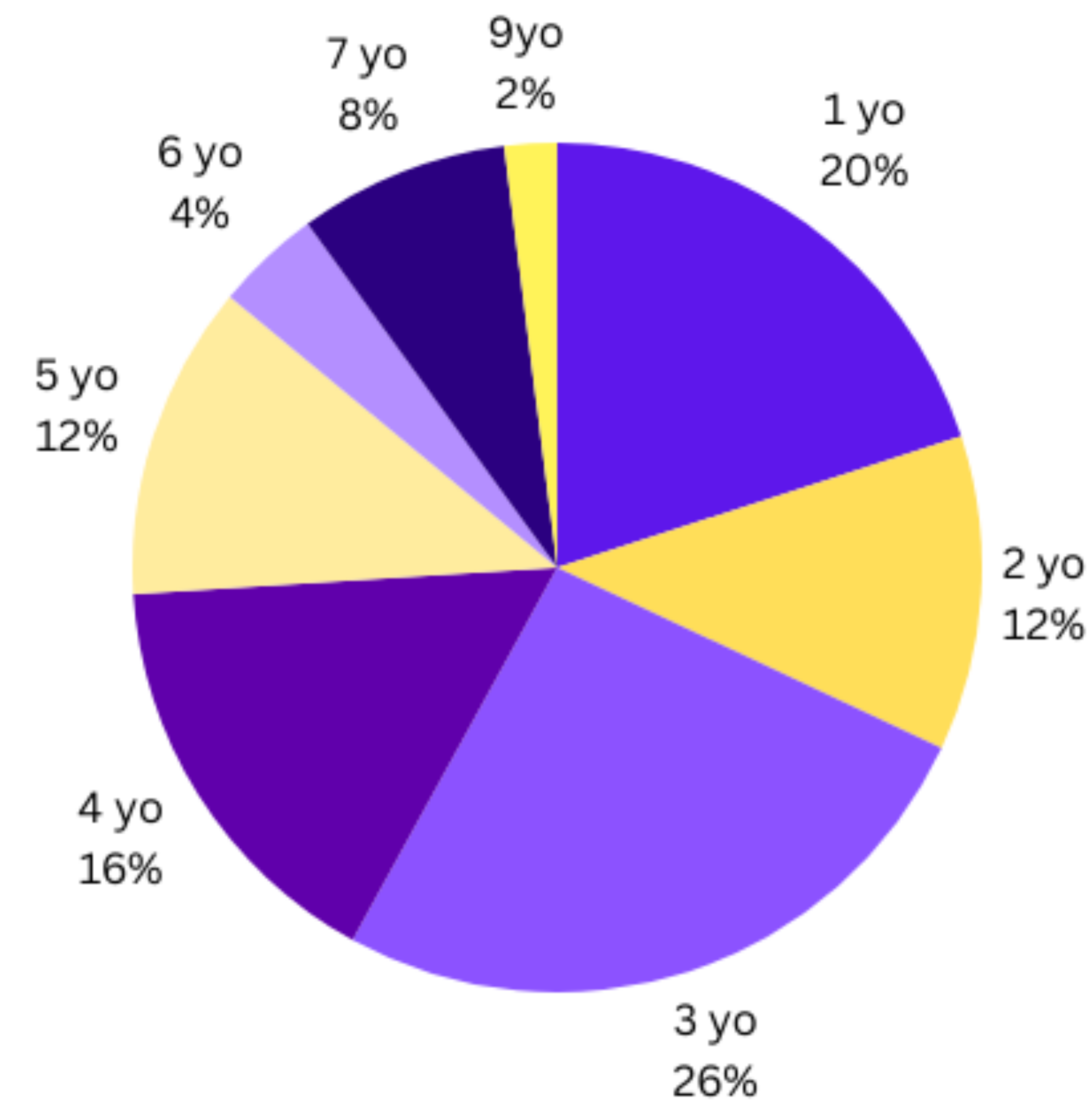
The purpose of this study was to evaluate the age and reason for the first dental visit and the parental awareness of the importance of the first dental visit for children of the Eastern North Carolina region. Parents of new patients in the pediatric dental clinic were asked to fill out surveys to evaluate their awareness of a first visit in order to understand how we can better educate parents of our community.

Methods

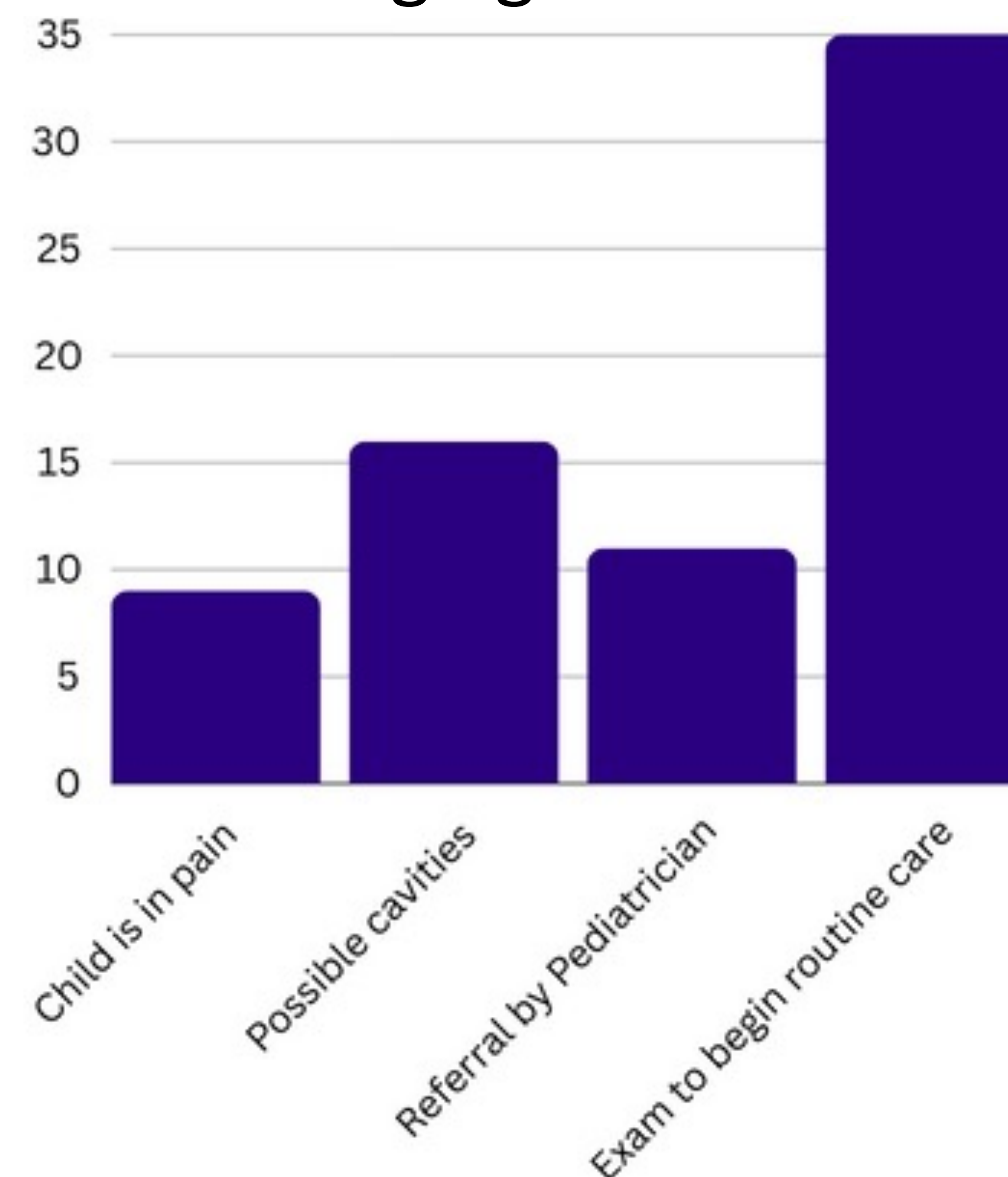
A cross-sectional study was completed with IRB approval. 50 surveys were collected via an iPad from the parents of new patients who visited East Carolina School of Dental Medicine for a new patient exam. REDCap was used to store and report the collected data from the surveys

Results

Age of Patient at First Dental Visit



Reasons for Bringing Child to the Dentist



I believe that child's first dental visit should be at what age?

3-5 years of age (60%)

Reasons for not visiting the dentist at an early age?

My child will not cooperate so they will not be able to accept the treatment (76%)

I believe that my child's first dental visit will have significant impact in determining their future dental attitude.

Agree (100%)

My own dental experiences have influenced my decisions in regard to my child.

Yes (86%)

Conclusions

Parents are not aware of the importance of establishing dental care early as the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends. It is important to promote early dental visits, and one way this may be improved is by educating pediatricians on the importance of infant oral health and a dental home.

References

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