

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

LET'S TALK ABOUT

# SEX + GENDER

Exploring the role of sex and gender on health research



## CHR D 2020: Abstract Submission Form

### Submitter Name

Hamideh Alai-Towfigh

### Email

alaitowh@myumanitoba.ca

### Title

Canadian Dentists' Views on the First Dental Visit and Early Childhood Oral Health

### Background

Caries is the most common chronic disease in children. Early dental visits set children on the proper trajectory for a lifetime of optimal oral health.

### Objective

The purpose was to undertake secondary analysis of data obtained from a national survey of Canadian dentists to determine their knowledge, attitudes and behaviors relating to the first dental visit.

### Methods

In 2013, the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) surveyed general and pediatric dentists regarding their knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of the timing of the first dental visit and early childhood oral health. Demographic and practice characteristics were collected. Analyses included descriptive and bivariate statistics. A  $p$ -value  $\leq 0.05$  was significant.

### Results

Overall, 2,504 dentists participated (17.0% response rate), 58.5 % male, 20.6±12.8 years in practice, 96.6 % general dentists, and 49.5% practicing in a metropolitan centre. On average, dentists recommended a first visit by 20.4 ±10.8 months. Only 45.6% recommended a first visit  $\leq 12$  months of age. The majority of respondents (59.5%) knew the age being recommended for a first dental visit by professional dental organizations. A vast majority (74.2 %) had seen a patient who was less than 12 months of age, but did not typically see a child this young (82.3 %). Almost all respondents (94.8%) actively discussed early childhood dental care with their patients and also provided parents with information on how to care for their child's teeth. Analysis is ongoing and will investigate provider characteristics associated with seeing children by the first birthday milestone.

### Conclusion

Many dentists do not recommend first visits by 12 months of age despite it being the CDA's position. Data can assist in informing targeted educational campaign on early childhood oral health to dentists. This study will also serve as a baseline for future investigations into changes in dentists' practice behaviors.

**Theme:**

Clinical

**Do you have a table/figure to upload?**

No

**Are you willing to participate in Goodbear's Den?**

Yes

**Presenter Status:**

Residents

**What was your role in the project?**

Analyze Data

## Authors

Name	Email	Role	Profession
Hamideh Alai-Towfigh	alaitowh@myumanitoba.ca	Presenting Author	Graduate
Robert J Schroth	robert.schroth@umanitoba.ca	Co Author	Full Professor