

Dental Care for Gender Non-Conforming Individuals Madeline Zerial

Big Question:

How can the dental community better care for people who are transgender and/ or gender non-conforming?

Intro:

- I want to be a dentist and I want to care about my patients well
- People who are transgender and/or non-binary are less likely to get the care they need
- I want to change that. This research is to look for disparities in care and how to combat them

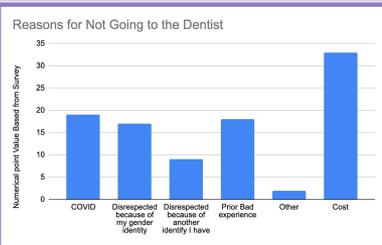
Background:

- Non-Binary: Someone who does not identify as male or female
- Transgender: Someone who identifies differently than their sex given at birth

Methods:

- Literary Review
- Surveys

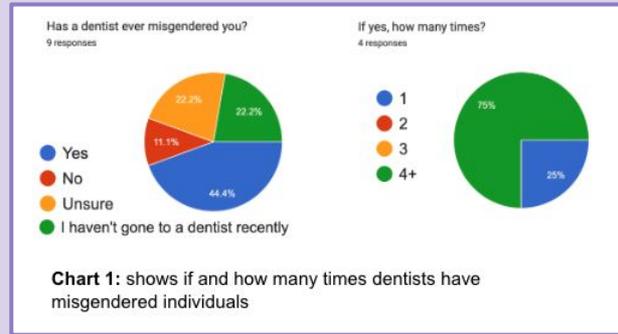
Survey Results:



Graph 1: shows reasons as to why people feel uncomfortable at the dentist office

Results:

- Asking patients to identify their name and pronouns help lessen anxiety and stress in a patient
- More dentists compared to general health care providers don't ask preferred name or pronouns when interacting with patients
- About half the time dentists misgender patients
- Most of the time, health care workers in general misgender patients multiple times



Quotes: regarding feelings after mistreatment and personal stories

- "I felt like a number, and not an individual"
- Frustrated, annoyed, mad, terrible, sad, disrespected
- "When I asked the front desk to change my preferred name they did, but the dentist did not use these"
- "After I legally changed my name I switched dentist so I didn't have to deal with it"
- "I had to fight to get my preferred name in the system even after 9+ months in the hospital"

Discussion:

- Why is this happening?
 - Dentists aren't seen as the face of healthcare, so not as many resources
 - "They only care about teeth right?"
- What can we do about it?
 - See action plan below

Conclusions:

- Dentists see patients often (2x/year)
- Can see changes faster than other health care professionals
- There needs to be a change within dental offices for gender non-conforming individuals to feel safe

Action Plan:

- In the process of making an distributing a brochure to give to dental offices informing offices about the disparities at hand

Resources Used:



Contact Information:

