

BACKGROUND

What is Smokeless Tobacco (SLT)?

- A nicotine-containing substance that is VERY addictive and causes HARMFUL oral health effects



Figure 1

FDA. (n.d.). *Smokeless Tobacco Products*. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Retrieved April 20, 2022, from <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/products-ingredients-components/smokeless-tobacco-products-including-dip-snuff-snus-and-chewing-tobacco>.

- ❖ Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) is still a **public health concern** as it is understudied
- ❖ Limited research on the demographics of the population currently using it
- ❖ A need for dental practitioners to promote SLT awareness

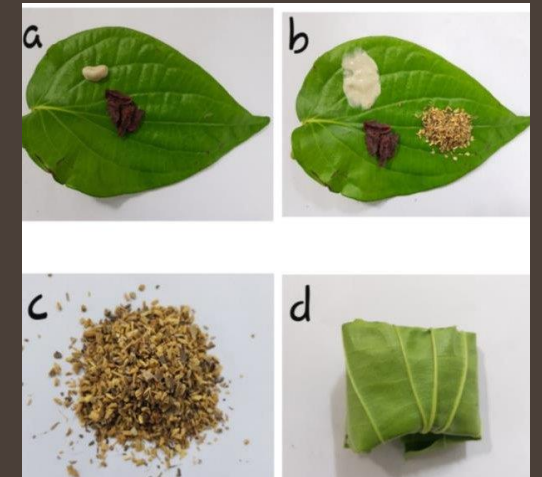


Figure 2

Viswambharan, V. (n.d.). *Commonly Used Smokeless Tobacco Chewing Forms*. Research Gate. Retrieved April 20, 2022, from https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Commonly-used-smokeless-tobacco-chewing-forms-a-betel-leaf-betel-nut-slaked-lime-b_fig1_340174826.

METHODS

Active dental practitioners were recruited via South Texas Oral Health Network (STOHN) newsletter

- 6-question REDCAP Quick-poll was released
- (n=8) of completed surveys
- Anonymous responses

The survey assessed the dental practitioner's knowledge of:

- Smokeless tobacco prevalence among their patient population
- If they provide educational guidance to the patients about smokeless tobacco

Smokeless Tobacco Quick Poll

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Smokeless tobacco is a nicotine-containing substance that is very addictive and can cause serious oral health effects such as pre-cancerous lesions, gum disease, caries, and oral cancer. Smokeless tobacco is under-studied when compared to all other tobacco products. San Antonio has a multicultural population and would benefit from a study to understand the attitudes and behaviors of dental practitioners regarding smokeless tobacco cessation. Dental professionals, as primary healthcare providers are uniquely positioned to advocate for the cessation of smokeless tobacco products. The dental office would be an excellent place to introduce cessation practice and be able to track improvements in patients' oral health. Dental practitioners are being asked to participate in a quick poll to assess smokeless tobacco prevalence in their patient's population, if and how they educate the patients regarding smokeless tobacco.

Do you ask your patients about any smokeless tobacco use? Never
 Sometimes
 Often
 Always

Within the last 30 days, what percentage of your patients reported use of smokeless tobacco? 0-10%
 11-20%
 21-30%
 31-50%
 Over 50%

Of your patients who use smokeless tobacco, do you believe they are aware of the oral health effects? Yes
 No
 Not Sure

Of the types of smokeless tobacco, which ones are you most aware of? (Check all that apply)

- Chewing tobacco (loose-leaf, plug, or twist)
- Snuff tobacco (moist, dry, or in packets)
- Dip tobacco
- Dissolvable tobacco (Lozenges, Orbs, Sticks, or Strips)
- Paan / Betel quid / Gutkha areca nut
- None of the above
- Other, please describe

Other type of smokeless tobacco: _____

Would you be comfortable providing smokeless cessation in your practice? Very comfortable
 Somewhat comfortable
 Not at all comfortable

Would you be interested in a study about smokeless tobacco cessation? Yes
 No

RESULTS

Figure 1: Ask about patient SLT use

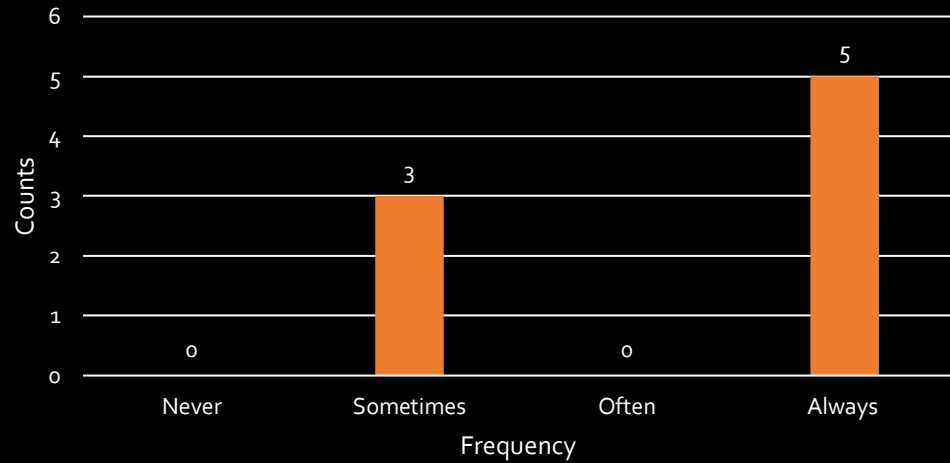


Figure 2: Last 30 days, Reported Use of SLT

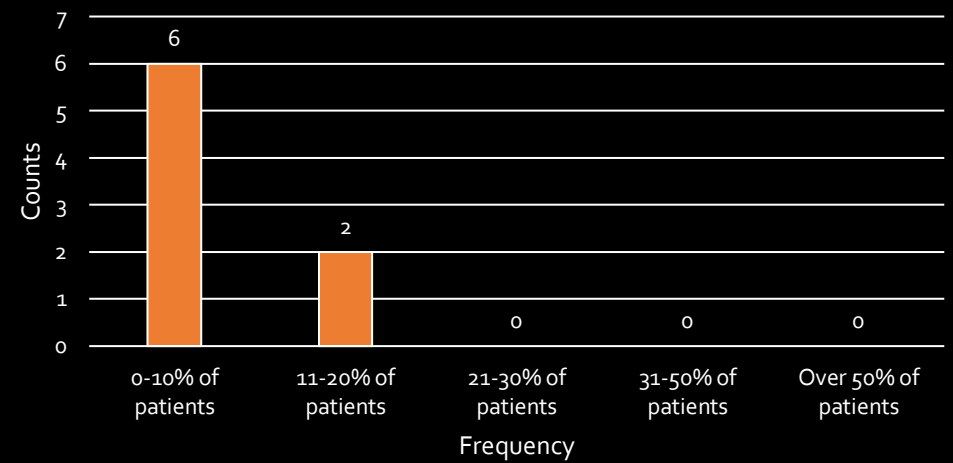


Figure 3: Patients Aware of Oral Health Effects

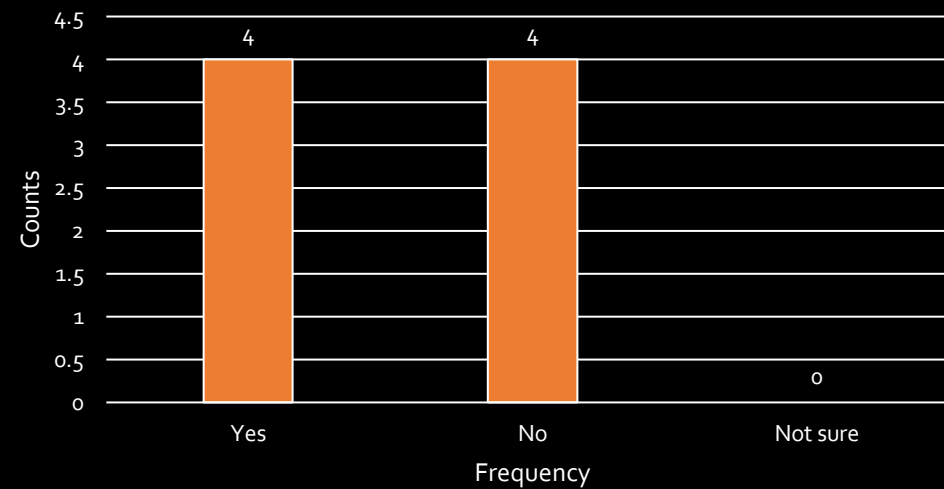


Figure 4: Types of SLT

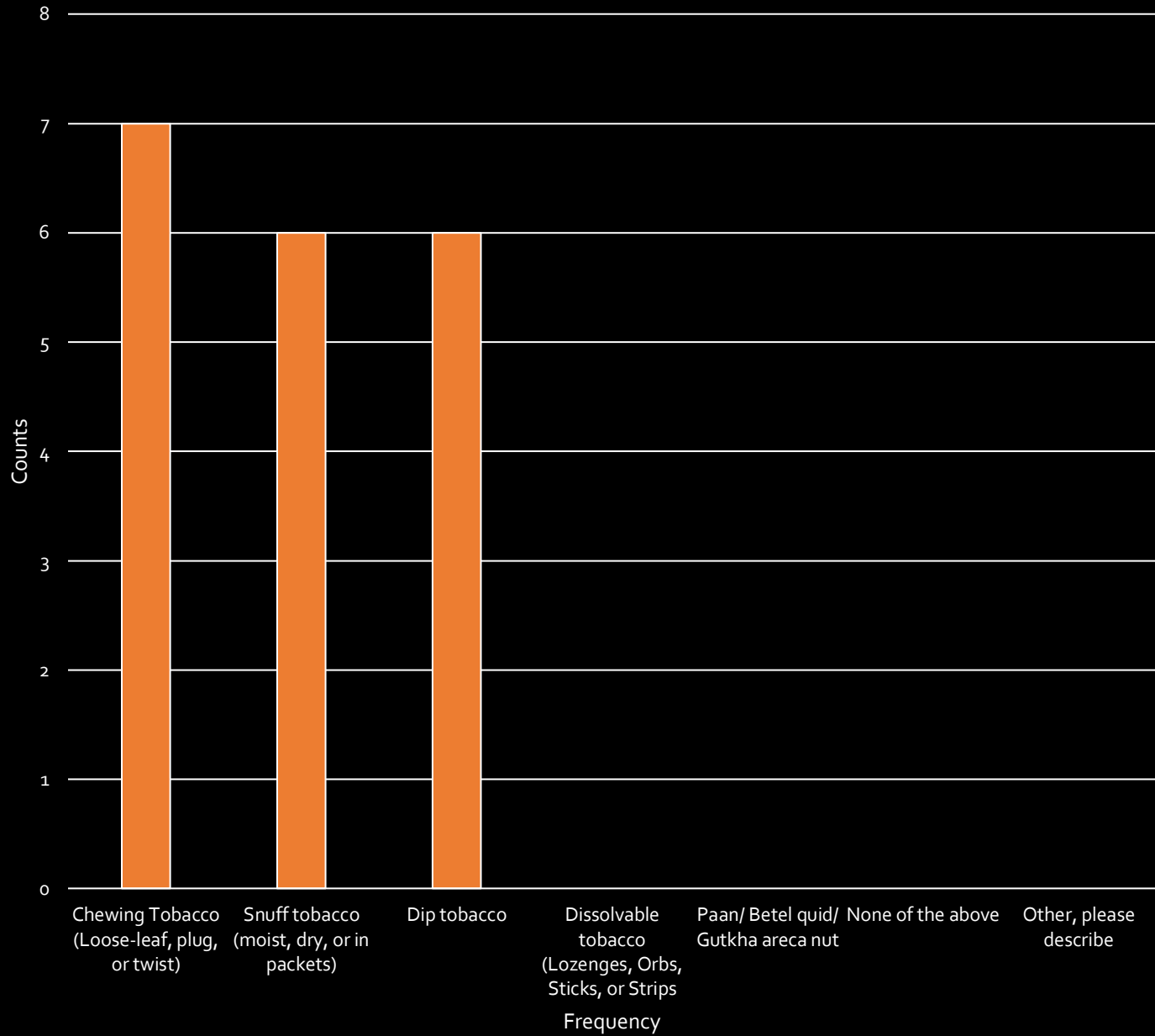


Figure 5: Comfort Providing Smokeless Cessation

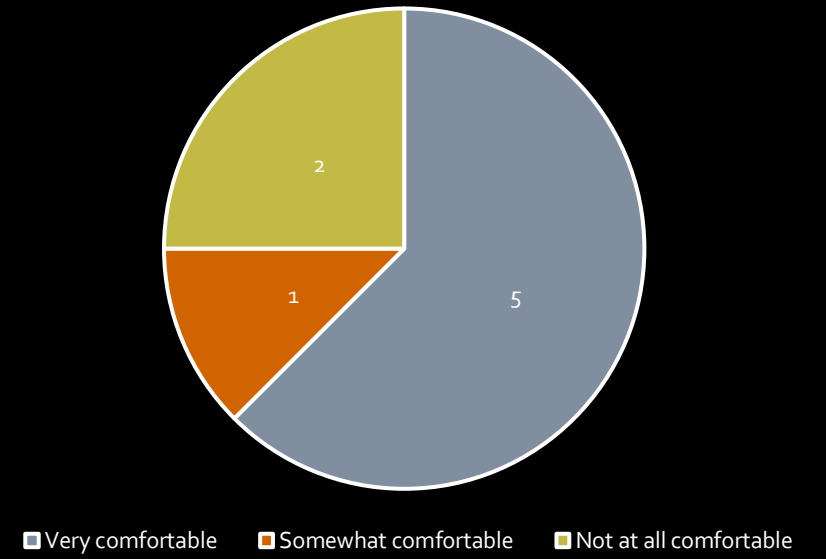
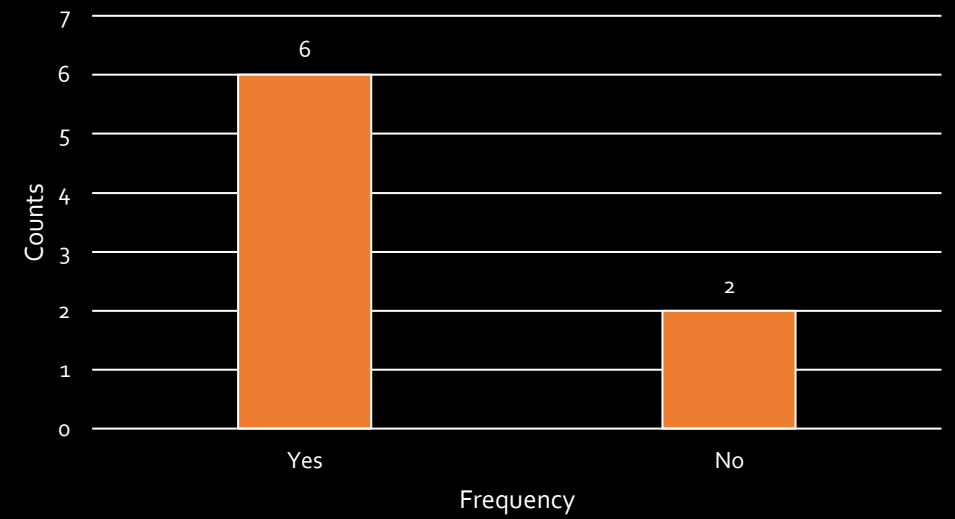


Figure 6: Interest in SLT Cessation



CONCLUSIONS

Smokeless tobacco is understudied compared to all other tobacco products



Some dental practitioners prioritize monitoring the usage of SLT more compared to others



There is an interest in advocating for a SLT cessation program for patients



Next step: Conducting a Needs Assessment in the community

According to the United States Census Bureau

White

- 71.9%

Hispanic or Latino

- 64.7%

Black or African American

- 6.8%

Asian

- 3.0%

American Indian and Alaska Native

- 0.7%

Two or more races

- 10.1%

Foreign born population

- 14.0%

CITATIONS

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Figure 1: FDA. (n.d.). *Smokeless Tobacco Products*. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Retrieved April 20, 2022, from [https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/products-ingredients-components/smokeless-tobacco-products-including-dip-snuff-snus-and-chewing-tobacco.](https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/products-ingredients-components/smokeless-tobacco-products-including-dip-snuff-snus-and-chewing-tobacco)

Figure 2: Vishwambhara, V. (n.d.). *Commonly Used Smokeless Tobacco Chewing Forms*. Research Gate. Retrieved April 20, 2022, from [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Commonly-used-smokeless-tobacco-chewing-forms-a-betel-leaf-betel-nut-slaked-lime-b_fig1_340174826.](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Commonly-used-smokeless-tobacco-chewing-forms-a-betel-leaf-betel-nut-slaked-lime-b_fig1_340174826)

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