Food Insecurity (FI) is a household-level economic and social condition characterized by limited access to nutritious food. This study investigates dental practitioners’ knowledge of food insecurity assessment and treatment in practices.

A brief 5-question food insecurity short survey (“Quick-Poll”) was conducted through the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN). A total of 322 dental practitioners who are members of the National Dental PBRN responded.

- There is an impactful division in food insecurity screening in dental settings.
- Caries was selected as the primary oral health issue influenced by FI.
- Lack of comfort and knowledge in directing FI patients to appropriate resources.

The results emphasize the significance of FI as a concern within professional dental environments.

Next steps include future research, including a PBRN clinical study on interventions for oral health improvements in food-insecure patients.

Mixed opinions about screening for FI in dental practices and acknowledgment of FI’s has a substantial impact on oral health.

### Quick Poll Results

1. Please indicate how much you agree with the following statement: Dental practitioners should screen patients for food insecurity as part of the professional dental role.
2. On a scale of 1 (very impactful) to 10 (not impactful at all), what impact do you feel food insecurity has on a person’s oral health?
3. Which oral health issues does food insecurity most impact?
4. On a scale of 1 (very comfortable) to 10 (not comfortable at all), how comfortable would you feel directing a patient to resources that support people with food insecurity in your local community, such as information on a local food bank or providing information on receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits?
5. How interested would you be in participating in a study about food insecurity among dental patients?

The Quick Poll on FI was constructed with five questions:

1. Please indicate how much you agree with the following statement: Dental practitioners should screen patients for food insecurity as part of the professional dental role.
2. On a scale of 1 (very impactful) to 10 (not impactful at all), what impact do you feel food insecurity has on a person’s oral health?
3. Which oral health issues does food insecurity most impact?
4. On a scale of 1 (very comfortable) to 10 (not comfortable at all), how comfortable would you feel directing a patient to resources that support people with food insecurity in your local community, such as information on a local food bank or providing information on receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits?
5. How interested would you be in participating in a study about food insecurity among dental patients?