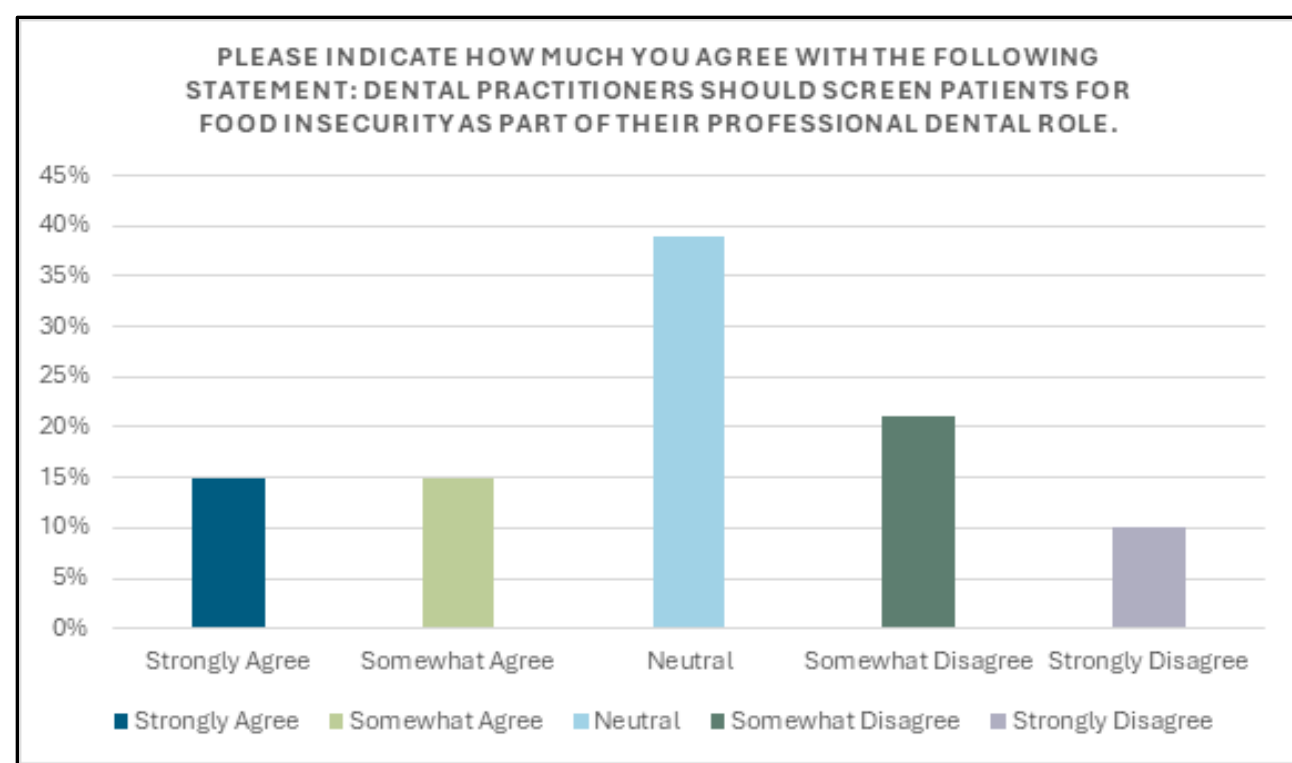


Introduction

- The Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) model includes the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks¹
- 4.2 million people in the United States in 2022 were impacted by food insecurity²
- Certain nutrients can also affect oral health, such as vitamin D deficiency leading to enamel hypoplasia and chronic periodontal disease, and vitamin C deficiency causing scorbutic gingivitis (scurvy)³

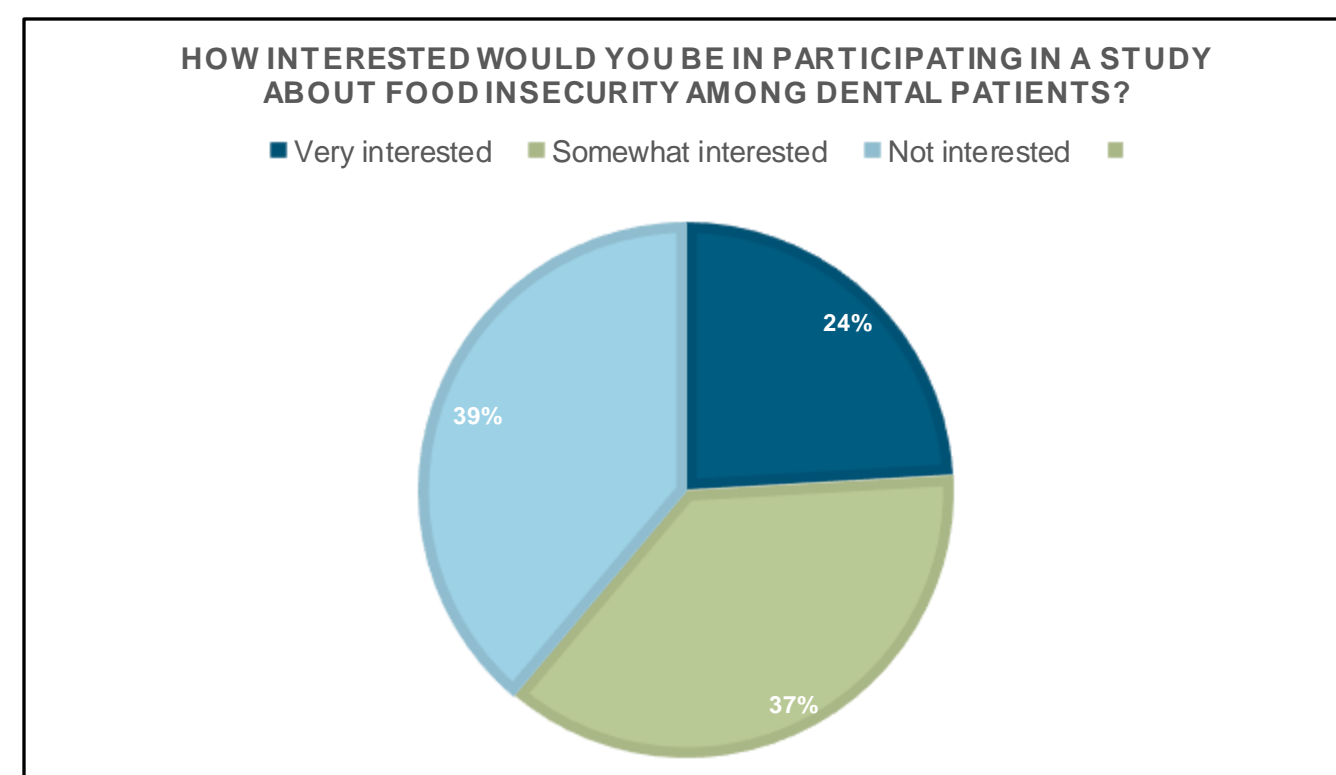
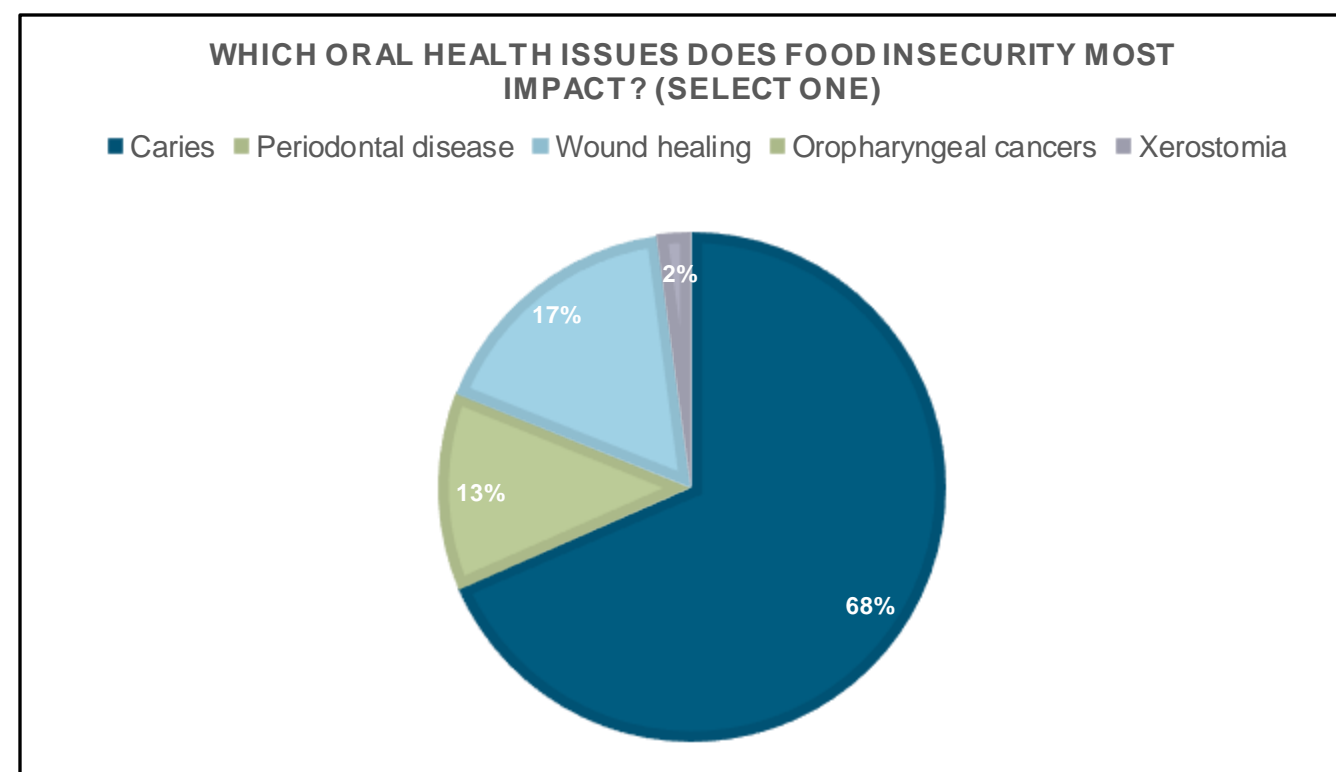
Methods

- The study was conducted in collaboration with the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN), comprised of active community dental practitioners
- A "Quick Poll," survey was used to gather insights from dental practitioners on food insecurity screening and its impact on oral health.
- The Quick Poll was sent to all U.S. members of the Network, with 332 respondents completing it.



Results

- Mixed opinions about screening for food insecurity in dental practices.
- Acknowledged food insecurity's substantial impact on oral health.
- Identified dental caries as the primary oral health issue influenced by food insecurity
- Comfortable directing patients with food insecurity to resources.
- Mixed interest in future food insecurity studies. This brief Quick Poll provides the first insight into professional dental practitioners' views on food insecurity-related issues.



Conclusion

- The results provided insights into dental practitioners' understanding of food insecurity in clinical settings
- Addressing food insecurity in dental practices is crucial, emphasizing the need for enhanced training for dental practitioners
- This study's findings can guide future research on food insecurity among dental practitioners and its impact on oral health
- Future research, including Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) studies, can focus on interventions to enhance oral health among food-insecure patients
- There is significant potential for educational initiatives and research to enhance the oral health outcomes of food-insecure patients



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3. Santin G, Martins C, Pordeus I, Calixto Fraiz F, Ferreira FM. Food Insecurity and Oral Health: A Systematic Review. *Pesquisa Brasileira em Odontopediatria e Clínica Integrada*. 01/01 2014;2014:335-346. doi:10.4034/PBOCI.2014.144.08