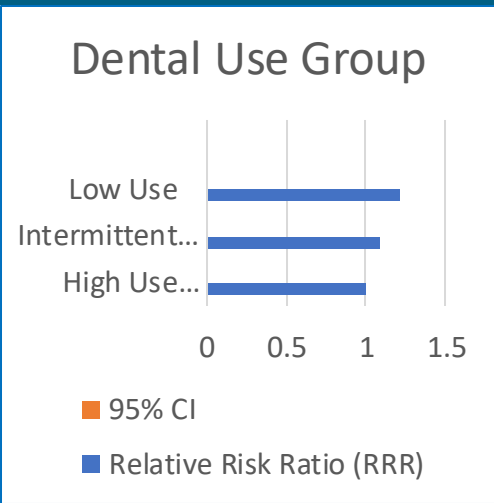


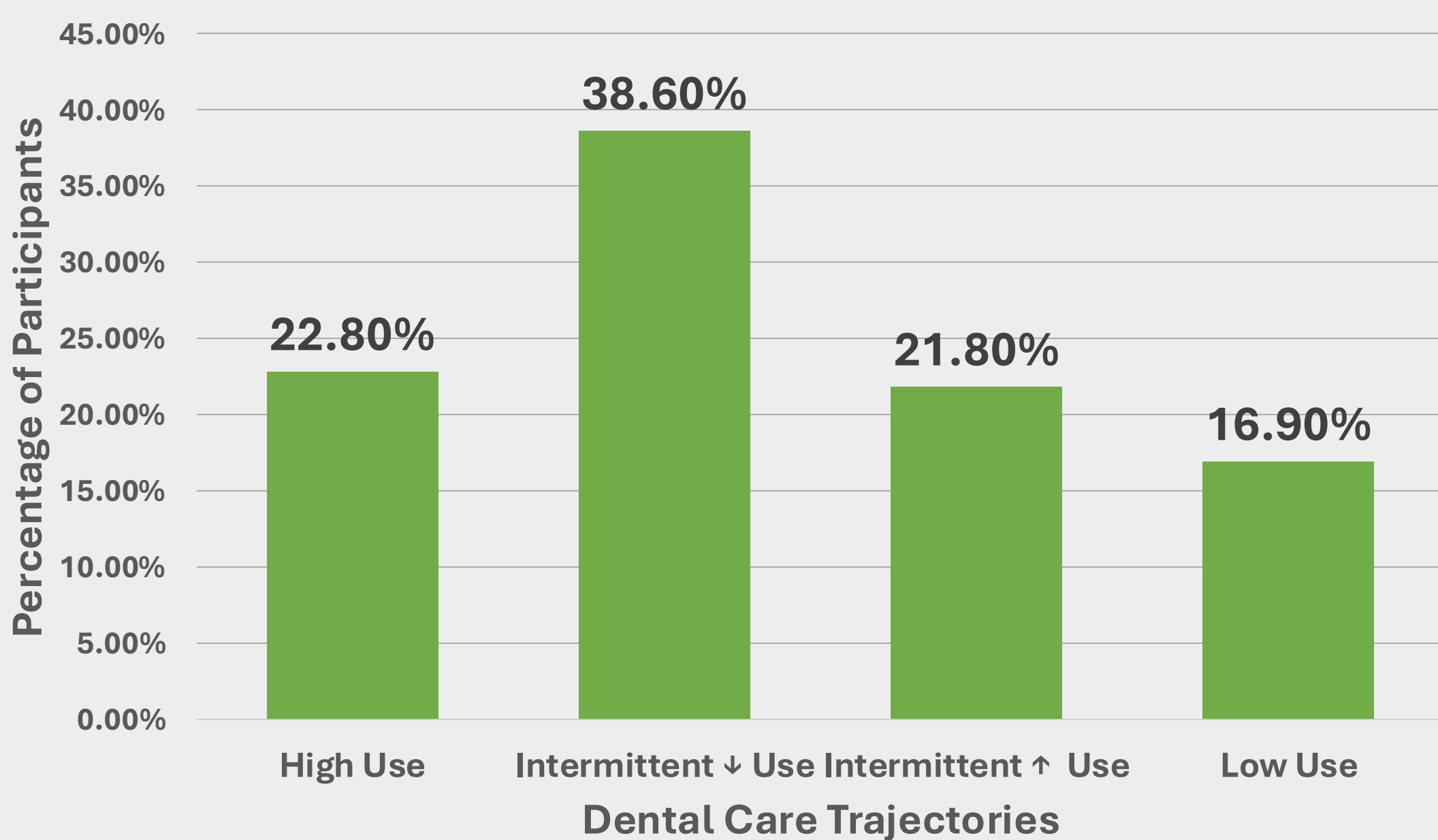
Early-Life Violent Victimization and Dental Care Use from Adolescence Through Adulthood

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Background	Methods	Results	Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study examined the relationship between early-life violent victimization and dental care utilization patterns from adolescence to middle adulthood (ages 11-43). Addressing the effects of violent victimization through trauma-informed care and targeted interventions may improve dental care access and mitigate disparities over the life course. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Data was collected from Waves 1-5 of a longitudinal study. The relationship between <u>violent experiences in adolescence and dental care use patterns</u> were assessed. Adjusting for things like demographic, socioeconomic, and health-related covariates. From that, <u>4 groups</u> were created: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -High Dental Care use -Intermittent Decreasing -Intermittent Increasing -Low Dental Care use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adolescents who experienced more violent victimization were more likely to have irregular or low dental care use as they got older Higher victimization increased the likelihood of being in the intermittent use group (RRR = 1.09, 95% CI 1.02-1.41) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The findings reveal that <u>increased exposure to violence</u> in adolescence is associated with <u>lower and less frequent patterns of dental care use</u> over the life-course. Considering the benefits of persistent dental care use for better oral health, these findings point to lower dental care use as a potential mechanism linking violence exposure and oral health.

Early-life violent victimization is a **risk factor** for less regular dental care use over the life course.

Dental Care Use Patterns



Researchers found **four main patterns** of how people used dental care over time:

- High use (22.8%)** - went to the dentist regularly.
- Intermittent decreasing use (38.6%)** - started off going to the dentist but went less over time.
- Intermittent increasing use (21.8%)** - didn't go to the dentist much at first but started going more often later on.
- Low use (16.9%)** - rarely went to the dentist at all.

The study also found that teens who experienced **more violent events** (like being physically hurt or threatened) were **more likely** to end up in the groups that **went to the dentist irregularly or rarely**, compared to those who kept up with regular dental visits.

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