

Pediatric and General Dentist Attitudes Toward Transitioning Care for Adolescents with Special Health Care Needs

Rohit Nair, BDS, MDS; Kecia Leary, DDS, MS; Heidi Steinkamp, DDS, MS, PhD; Chandler Pendleton, MS
The University of Iowa, College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics, Iowa City, IA



Introduction

14.1 million
U.S. children with Special Health Care Needs (SHCNs)[1]

2:1
Odds of having unmet oral health needs[2]

- **Health care transition** - "The purposeful, planned movement of adolescents and young adults with chronic physical and medical conditions from child-centered to adult-oriented health care systems." [3]
- **Goals of transitions:**
 - ◆ Prevention and early intervention
 - ◆ Care appropriate to age / complexity
 - ◆ Independent decision-making
- "A complex and, often, disorganized process." [4]
- **Objective:** Explore attitudes among pediatric and general dentists toward dental care transition for adolescents with special health care needs.

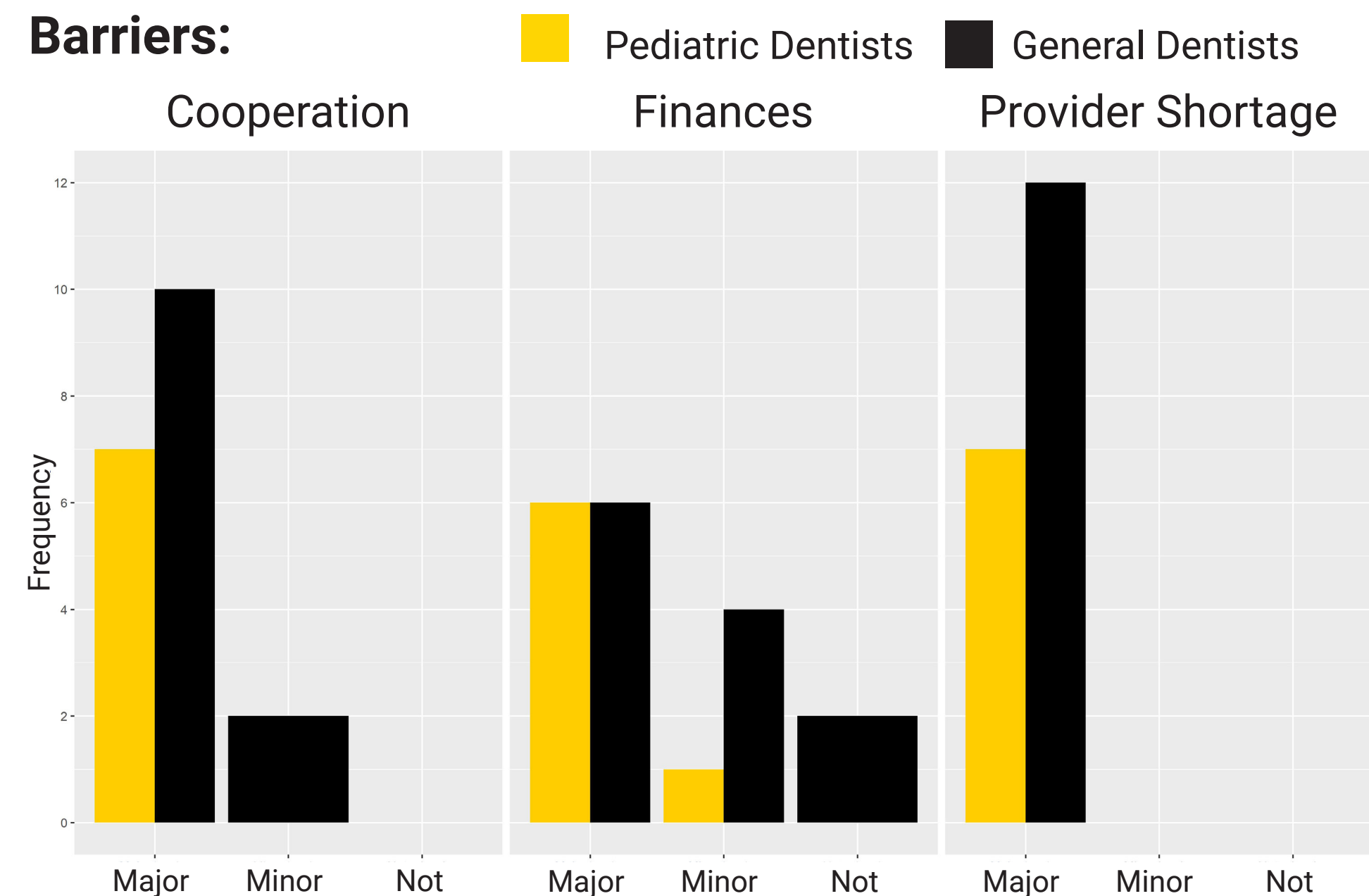
Methods

- Anonymous, 22-item Qualtrics survey was adapted from previous research.[5,6]
- Distributed via email to faculty and residents practicing pediatric or general dentistry at University of Iowa College of Dentistry.
- Statistical Analysis
 - ◆ Descriptive statistics
 - ◆ Qualitative analysis of free responses

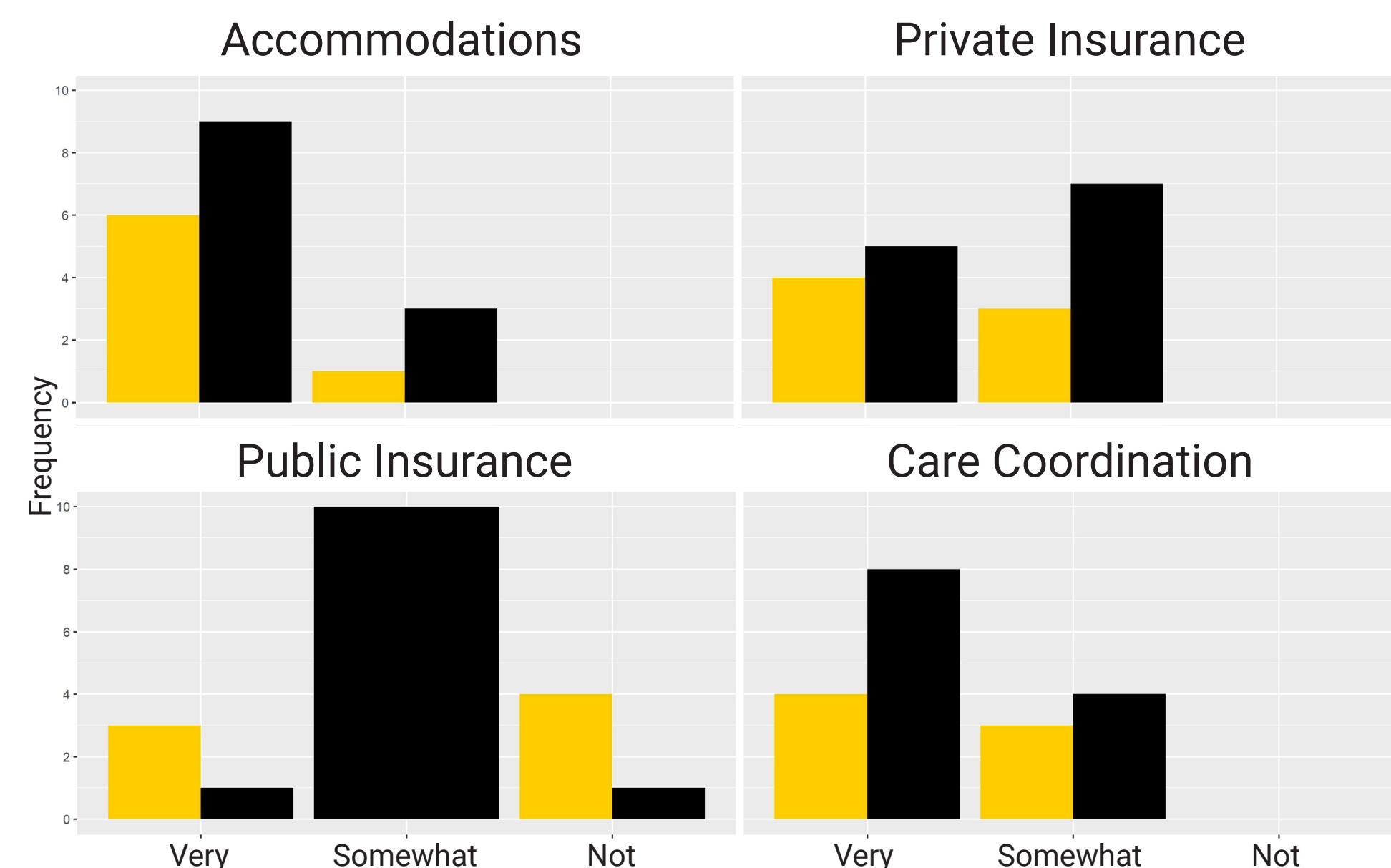
Results

- Responses from 7 Pediatric dentists; 12 General dentists.
- Key finding: Transition process must be driven by patient-specific factors rather than due to "aging out" of the pediatric dental home.

Barriers:



Enablers:



Most important quality that adolescents with SHCNs may look for in a general dentist?



Summary of Findings

- Pediatric and general dentists broadly agreed on the importance of dental care transition for patient-centered care.
- Recommendations:
 - ◆ Train personnel
 - ◆ Enhance reimbursement
 - ◆ Fund home & community-based services
 - ◆ Facilitate care coordination

References

rohit-nair@uiowa.edu



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