

Gender Differences in Pediatric Dentists Career Satisfaction: A National Survey

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Objective:

The purpose of the study was to determine career satisfaction differences between male and female pediatric dentists.

Methods:

A survey was sent electronically via REDCap to 6,349 active AAPD pediatric dentists. Survey consisted of 29 demographic and practice characteristics and 38 career satisfaction questions based on the 5-point Professional Satisfaction and Dentists' Satisfaction Scales. Bivariate analyses were conducted using a contingency table, chi-square test, and Mann-Whitney U test to detect the difference between male and female pediatric dentists, and a linear model was used to evaluate the association between overall professional satisfaction and its related factors including personal and professional characteristics, and work environment factors.

Results:

674 surveys were returned (11% response rate). When compared to their counterparts, male pediatric dentists were more likely to be older (53.4 ± 13.9 vs. 43.7 ± 10.4 years; $p < 0.001$), Caucasian (88.1% vs. 71.2%; $p < 0.001$), married (91.1% vs. 85.2%; $p = 0.018$), have children (86.2% vs. 73.4%; $p < 0.001$) and a spouse/partner spending more time on common household tasks (50.5% vs. 12.1%; $p < 0.001$), as well as be practice owner/partner (63.4% vs. 50.6%; $p = 0.002$) and treat more patients weekly (126.5 ± 82.7 vs. 110.2 ± 67.4 per 100.0; $p = 0.012$). Female pediatric dentists had significantly lower career satisfaction mean ranking scores than males ($345.3 \pm 3.15 \pm 1.37$ vs. $316.0 \pm 2.91 \pm 1.45$; $p = 0.024$). In addition, they were less satisfied with job/ professional satisfaction, income professional time, delivery of care, practice management, staff, respect, and well-being ($p < 0.05$ in each instance). Conversely, male pediatric dentists reported greater satisfaction regarding time for personal life ($p < 0.001$). No significant differences between genders were found regarding community size, primary practice setting, AAPD practice region, patient relations and Covid-19 impact (all $p > 0.05$). The stepwise multiple regression analysis indicated the three most important predictors of overall professional satisfaction were well-being, respect, and patient relations after adjusting for gender and age.

Conclusion:

Overall, male pediatric dentists are more satisfied with their career than their female counterparts.