

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Uma Kelekar, PhD¹; Shillpa Naavaal, MS, MPH²

PEER REVIEWED

Conclusions

Introduction

Methods

Results



The opinions expressed by authors contributing to this journal do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Public Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the authors' affiliated institutions.

Statistical analysis

Outcome and explanatory variables

Regression results

The opinions expressed by authors contributing to this journal do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Public Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the authors' affiliated institutions.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Working Adults Who Lost Work Hours for Dental Care in Past 6 Months, 2008 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), Oral Health Supplement^a

Characteristic	Hours Lost, Emergency or Unplanned Care, % (SE)			PValue ^b	Hours Lost, Routine, Planned, or Orthodontic Care, % (SE)			PValue ^b
	<1 h	≥1 h	Did Not Need This Type of Care		<1 h	≥1 h	Did Not Need This Type of Care	
Total	63.1 (0.9)	4.4 (0.2)	20.8 (0.8)	—	63.9 (0.8)	17.1 (0.6)	5.8 (0.4)	—
Sex								
Male	63.1 (1.2)	4.7 (0.4)	22.6 (1.0)	<.001	63.1 (1.1)	19.3 (0.8)	7.0 (0.6)	<.001
Female	63.2 (1.0)	4.2 (0.3)	19.4 (0.9)		64.5 (0.9)	15.4 (0.7)	4.9 (0.4)	
Age, y								
18–24	64.4 (2.9)	5.5 (1.0)	25.6 (2.8)	<.001	71.0 (2.2)	18.0 (1.9)	5.4 (1.1)	<.001
25–44	67.0 (1.1)	6.5 (0.5)	22.1 (1.0)		68.4 (1.2)	20.3 (0.9)	6.0 (0.6)	
45–64	66.4 (1.2)	3.9 (0.4)	20.5 (1.1)		63.8 (1.1)	19.6 (0.8)	6.4 (0.6)	
≥65	47.4 (1.5)	0.7 (0.2)	16.2 (1.0)		50.7 (1.5)	4.8 (0.6)	4.4 (0.6)	
Race/ethnicity								
Hispanic	62.2 (2.2)	6.3 (1.2)	21.3 (1.7)	.02	64.1 (2.2)	14.3 (1.3)	10.4 (1.5)	<.001
Non-Hispanic white	62.6 (1.1)	4.2 (0.3)	20.9 (0.9)		63.4 (0.9)	17.7 (0.7)	5.1 (0.4)	
Non-Hispanic black	65.9 (2.1)	5.6 (0.8)	19.1 (1.7)		65.3 (2.2)	16.3 (1.5)	7.9 (1.4)	
Non-Hispanic Asian, other race/ethnicity	67.4 (2.4)	1.9 (0.5)	21.0 (2.2)		68.1 (2.1)	15.5 (1.6)	5.4 (1.1)	
Education ^b								
High school education or less	58.4 (1.4)	4.8 (0.6)	17.8 (1.1)	<.001	58.7 (1.4)	12.4 (0.8)	7.9 (0.8)	<.001
More than high school education	64.4 (1.1)	4.3 (0.3)	21.6 (0.9)		65.2 (0.8)	18.4 (0.6)	5.3 (0.4)	
Annual household income ^c , \$								
<35,000	55.2 (1.7)	4.7 (0.5)	19.2 (1.6)	<.001	58.7 (1.6)	11.7 (0.9)	6.9 (0.8)	<.001
35,000–74,999	61.5 (1.2)	4.6 (0.5)	20.7 (1.1)		63.6 (1.2)	15.5 (0.9)	6.0 (0.6)	
75,000–99,000	66.8 (1.9)	3.8 (0.7)	23.3 (1.7)		70.7 (1.4)	16.8 (1.2)	4.9 (0.8)	
≥100,000	68.4 (1.6)	5.0 (0.6)	20.9 (1.3)		65.0 (1.4)	23.3 (1.1)	5.0 (0.6)	
Oral health status ^c								
Very good	67.3 (1.3)	2.2 (0.3)	21.9 (1.1)	<.001	67.9 (1.0)	17.0 (0.8)	5.1 (0.5)	<.001
Good	61.7 (1.2)	4.5 (0.4)	21.6 (1.0)		62.7 (1.0)	17.0 (0.7)	6.6 (0.6)	
Fair	58.5 (1.8)	8.8 (0.9)	16.2 (1.3)		58.3 (1.6)	18.2 (1.3)	5.6 (0.8)	
Poor	47.2 (3.5)	13.4 (2.5)	15.9 (2.5)		50.6 (3.3)	17.7 (2.5)	6.8 (1.4)	
Affordability of dental care								
Cannot afford	59.3 (2.3)	14.4 (1.8)	14.6 (1.5)	<.001	61.4 (2.2)	21.7 (1.9)	4.8 (0.9)	.03
Can afford	63.4 (0.9)	3.6 (0.2)	21.3 (0.8)		64.1 (0.7)	16.8 (0.6)	5.9 (0.4)	

Abbreviation: SE, standard error.

^a Sample consisted of 8,713 adults who indicated they had visited a dentist in the past 6 months. Sampling weights provided by the NHIS data set were used to generalize the estimates to the US civilian, noninstitutionalized adult population.

^b χ^2 tests were used to test for associations.

^c Less than 1% of sample had missing values for education and oral health; 8.3% of the sample had missing values for income.

The opinions expressed by authors contributing to this journal do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Public Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the authors' affiliated institutions.

Table 2. Multivariate Logistic Regression Analysis of Odds of Losing Work Time for Dental Care in the Past 6 Months Among Working Adults Aged 18 or Older, 2008 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), Oral Health Supplement^a

Variable	Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)			
	Emergency or Unplanned Care		Routine, Planned, or Orthodontic Care	
	Model 1 (n = 6,921)	Model 2 (n = 5,336)	Model 3 (n = 6,799)	Model 4 (n = 6,336)
Sex				
Male				1 [Reference]
Female	1.21 (1.07–1.36)	0.92 (0.71–1.21)	1.51 (1.20–1.90)	0.79 (0.68–0.92)
Age, y				
18–24				1 [Reference]
25–44	1.15 (0.86–1.53)	0.97 (0.61–1.53)	0.81 (0.49–1.34)	1.08 (0.80–1.46)
45–64	1.19 (0.87–1.61)	0.62 (0.39–0.98)	0.69 (0.42–1.15)	1.09 (0.81–1.47)
≥65	1.09 (0.79–1.49)	0.19 (0.09–0.39)	0.78 (0.50–1.22)	0.35 (0.24–0.50)
Race/ethnicity				
Hispanic				1 [Reference]
Non-Hispanic white	1.08 (0.86–1.37)	0.87 (0.55–1.39)	2.09 (1.40–3.11)	1.24 (0.95–1.61)
Non-Hispanic black	1.26 (0.91–1.73)	0.91 (0.54–1.54)	1.56 (0.92–2.63)	1.08 (0.77–1.51)
Non-Hispanic Asian and other race/ethnicity	1.04 (0.74–1.48)	0.38 (0.19–0.75)	1.91 (1.06–3.47)	0.99 (0.69–1.40)
Education				
High school education or less				1 [Reference]
More than high school education	0.82 (0.68–1.00)	0.92 (0.65–1.29)	1.39 (1.06–1.83)	1.14 (0.92–1.42)
Annual household income, \$				
<35,000				1 [Reference]
35,000–74,999	1.06 (0.86–1.30)	1.04 (0.71–1.53)	1.24 (0.91–1.69)	1.16 (0.92–1.46)
75,000–99,000	1.06 (0.81–1.38)	0.95 (0.57–1.60)	1.60 (1.04–2.44)	1.08 (0.83–1.40)
≥100,000	1.26 (0.95–1.67)	1.49 (0.95–2.32)	1.50 (1.00–2.25)	1.63 (1.26–2.10)
Oral health status				
Very good				1 [Reference]
Good	0.97 (0.83–1.14)	2.18 (1.51–3.16)	0.79 (0.61–1.03)	1.15 (0.99–1.33)
Fair	1.15 (0.92–1.44)	4.15 (2.70–6.39)	0.93 (0.65–1.33)	1.37 (1.09–1.73)
Poor	0.97 (0.65–1.46)	5.60 (3.25–9.63)	0.61 (0.38–0.97)	1.39 (0.93–2.06)
Affordability of dental care				
Can afford				1 [Reference]
Cannot afford	1.64 (1.24–2.15)	2.56 (1.76–3.73)	1.57 (1.01–2.43)	1.32 (1.01–1.72)

^a Sample consisted of 8,713 adults who indicated they had visited a dentist in the past 6 months. Sampling weights provided by the NHIS data set were used to generalize the estimates to the US civilian, noninstitutionalized adult population. Models 1 and 3 compared those who lost time with those who did not lose any time for dental care. Models 2 and 4 compared those who lost less than 1 work hour with those who lost 1 or more hours.