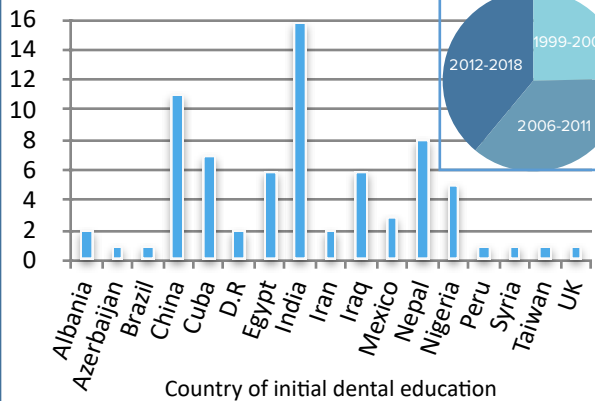
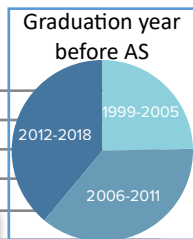


Understanding Dental Public Health Education from A Global Dental Student's Perspective

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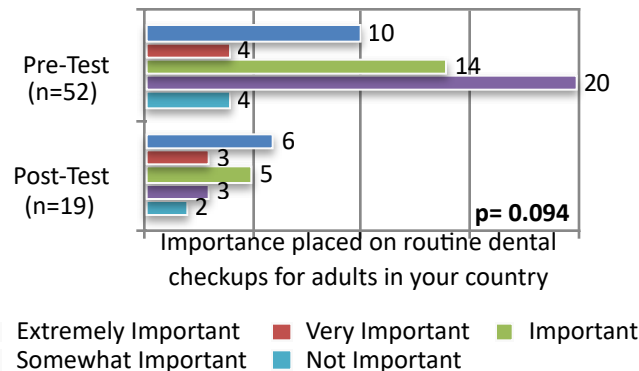
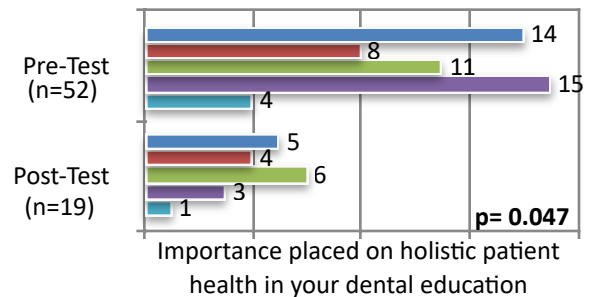
Introduction

The objective of this pilot study was to assess the change, if any, in attitude and knowledge of Advanced Standing (AS) DMD students at Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine (GSDM) who are internationally educated dentists enrolled in the two-year DMD program. Two surveys were sent-one before beginning their program (Pre-Test) and one after completion of their first year (Post-Test). The survey questions focused on assessment of the participants' attitudes towards patient education, holistic care, preventive dentistry, and pediatric dentistry². The goal was to be able to compare and contrast the frequency and the importance of preventive practices like fluoride varnish and sealant application in different countries compared to the United States¹.



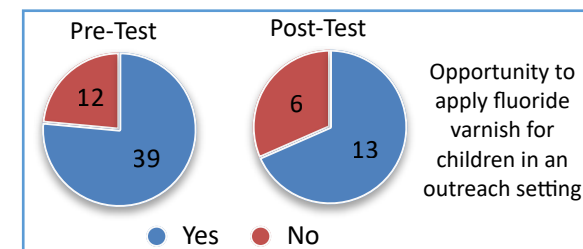
Results

- The survey demonstrated that there was a statistically significant change in the attitude towards public health of the AS class as a whole after going through dental school in the US ($p < 0.05$) with regards to:
 - Importance of patient education and holistic patient care
 - Importance of fluoride and sealants
 - Importance of routine dental screenings for adults
 - Importance of routine dental screenings for children
- Some results analyzed using the Mann Whitney U test analysis of a few key questions are discussed below:



Discussion

The goal of this study was to analyze a change, if any, in attitude and knowledge of Advanced Standing students at GSDM. Participants were lost to follow-up as a result of non-response due to the impact of Covid-19 and closure of the school. Changes to curriculum were made as a response to Covid-19 which impacted outreach opportunities available. The survey was designed to be anonymous, and participant tracking was disabled. In the next step of the study, the goal is to track individual changes in attitudes, not as a whole. After Covid-19, the plan is to administer physical in-class surveys for a better response.



Conclusion

The results demonstrated that the participants' knowledge, and attitudes towards public health and patient education changed significantly after going through the two-year Advanced Standing DMD program in the United States.

Citations

- Ahamed, Shabeer et al. "Evaluation of the Oral Health Knowledge, Attitude and Behavior of the Preclinical and Clinical Dental Students." *Journal of international oral health : JIOH* vol. 7,6 (2015): 65-70.
- Margaret M. Walsh, Effects of school-based dental health education on knowledge, attitudes and behavior of adolescents in San Francisco, *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology*, 10.1111/j.1600-0528.1985.tb00430.x, 13, 3, (143-147), (2006).