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# Assessing Participants' Feedback to Dental Screenings and Hygiene Care Provided by City Tech's Dental Hygiene Students

Alona Abdullaieva, Wen Wen Dong, Yujing Mei and Professor Susan Davide RDH, MS, MEd and Professor Audra Haynes RDH, MPH (Mentors)  
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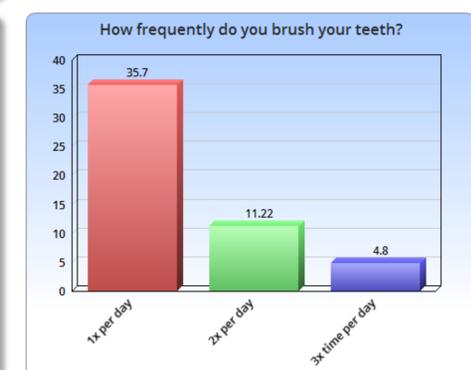
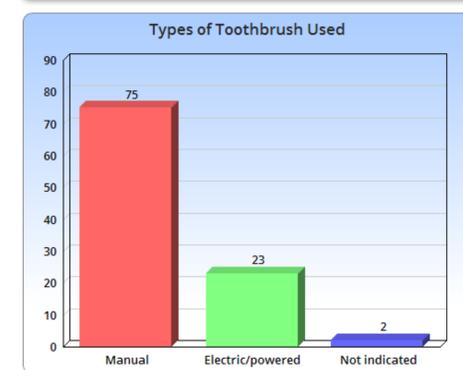
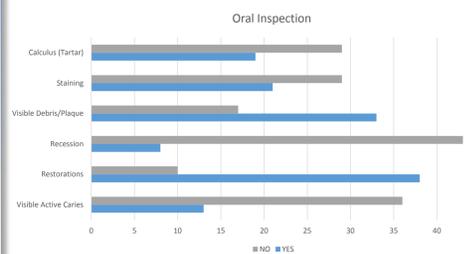
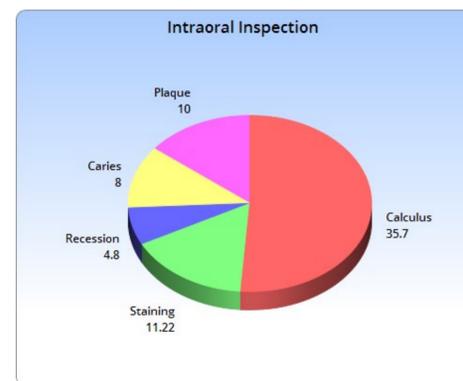
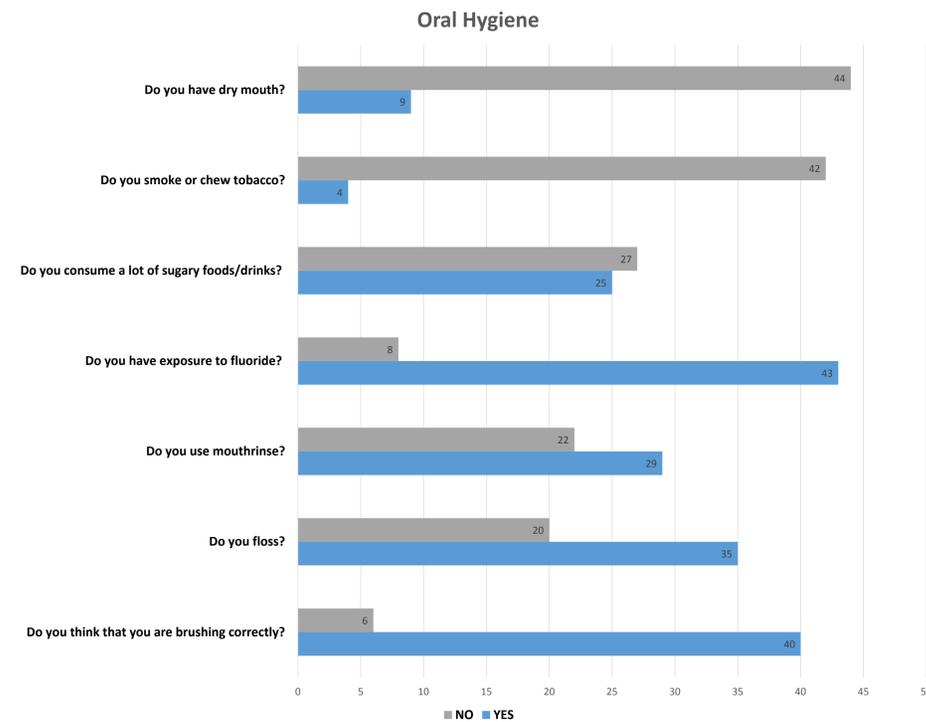
## Purpose

This study is a continuum of the initial dental screenings provided at the CUNY Graduate Center's Wellness Fair in spring 2018. A new cohort of dental hygiene students provided this second annual dental screenings in April 2019. In addition to the dental screenings, each participant was asked questions related to their oral hygiene and dental hygiene students conducted an intra-oral inspection. Following the dental screening those participants who made an appointment received complimentary care at NYCCT's Department of Dental Hygiene Clinic. This study will further continue to allow Dental Hygiene faculty and students to improve accessibility and strategies to increase public awareness of services, access to care and patient recruitment opportunities. CUNY Human Subject Research Exempt Status granted by the University Integrated Institutional Review Board (IRB); file #2018-1000.

## Materials & Methods

Dental hygiene students and faculty performed in excess of 62 dental screenings. Participants filled out a consent form prior to being screened that included information such as name, date of birth, phone number, address, email address and some general questions pertaining to their most recent dental exam, their current oral home care and whether they have dental insurance. Following IRB approval, this data was analyzed to determine the participants' demographics, oral healthcare history and intra-oral inspection.

**This highlighted area is RESULTS**



## Fall 2019

Of the four participants surveyed who completed their dental treatment, 100% stated that they were satisfied with the services that they received, would return to the clinic in the future and would recommend NYCCT's Dental Hygiene program's clinic to their friends and family. All surveyed respondents stated that they made their dental hygiene appointment as a result of attending the free dental screening at the CUNY Wellness Festival.

According to the information collected at the Wellness Fair, most of the participants were between ages 30 and 39, which is 52% out of the total amount of participants. 34% were age 20 to 29, and 23% were age 40 to 49, the rest were 50+ years old.

78% of the participants are insured.

43% of participants had their most recent dental visit within the past year (2018), 25% this year and 24% prior to 2017.

According to the research most of the participants brush twice a day and believe that they brush correctly. However, during Phase II of the research, it was evident that all the 4 participants received an adult referral form for the treatment of more than 3 caries lesions. It made us come to the realization that patients' perception is not the same as the patients' reality. And we must devote more time to patients' education during dental hygiene visits.

## Conclusions

The remaining participants from the CUNY Wellness Festival Dental Screening were contacted and offered complimentary dental hygiene services at NYCCT's dental hygiene clinic. Patients will be treated over the remainder of the Fall 2019 Semester and throughout the Spring 2020 semester. As part of our ongoing research, we have determined that many of the dental screening participants have dental insurance coverage. However, the greater part of the population does not practice routine dental prophylaxis which is recommended at 6 month intervals. Therefore we are considering to host a dental screening and a tooth brush sale at NYCCT in January/February of 2020. It is essential to increase awareness among NYCCT students, faculty and staff, to free dental hygiene care. As dental health professionals, we strive to improve patients' understanding of dental hygiene care importance. We believe that our research will contribute to patients' oral health education.

## Acknowledgements:

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