Disparities Among Races in Dental Care
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HYPOTHESIS

African Americans and Hispanics are more likely to receive less dental care compared to whites.

SAMPLE

Connecticut Health Survey

- Geographic Coverage: New York City
- Time Period: June 2012-February 2013
- Mode of Data collection: Telephone survey
- Sample Size: 5,447 completed surveys
- 4,608 surveys were regarding adults 18 or older
- 839 surveys were regarding children

INTRODUCTION

- This research seeks to examine race differences in access to dental care and the role that financial constraints play in explaining such differences.
- The need for medical and dental care is extremely important, especially for children because health problems while young can lead to major and costly health problems in the future.
- Approximately 90% of Whites, Asians, multiracial and Native American children were in excellent or very good health. Compared with 79% of Blacks and 65% of Latino children (Flores, 2008)

Why is Dental Care important?

- Unmet dental needs are detrimental to physical well-being
- Dental care provides more than just physical well-being. Preventative care is imperative to live a healthy lifestyle in the future.

More than one in three Americans say:

- They think a little bleeding from brushing is normal (33%), yet it’s not. It could be a sign of gum disease or something even worse.
- They are unaware that periodontal disease needs to be treated and cannot be left alone (33%)
- They don’t know that poor oral health has been associated with serious health conditions such as stroke, heart disease and diabetes (37%)
- (“National public opinion survey reveals findings on oral health-care perceptions”)

MAIN FINDINGS

Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and Other/Multiracial are all less likely than whites to visit the dentist

RESULTS

Table 2: Variations of Races and Dental Visits: Logistic Regression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>B Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>-.375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>-.276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>-.695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Multiracial</td>
<td>-1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult gender</td>
<td>.118*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult insured</td>
<td>1.220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Graduate</td>
<td>1.128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Age</td>
<td>-.026*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>