ABSTRACT

The objectives are to assess dental students’ considerations concerning their future service to underserved populations, (a) knowledge about the dental therapist model, (b) attitudes related to dental therapists’ contributions to increasing access to dental care in Michigan, (c) acceptance of dental therapists, and (d) the relationships between the year in dental school and previous college community college education.

AIMS

This study was determined to be exempt from Institutional Review Board (IRB) oversight by the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. (HUM0018735)

Responses: 170 students from a Michigan dental school participated in the study. See Table 1 for more information!

Procedure: Anonymous surveys were administered to students as paper-pencil surveys or as anonymous web-based Qualtrics surveys.

RESULTS

The first objective was to assess dental students’ considerations concerning their future service to underserved populations. Table 1 shows responses to these considerations. Majority agreed (96%) strongly that they will treat patients covered by Medicaid (61.2%), children covered by the Healthy Kids Program (80.5%), patients with special healthcare needs (70.8%) and from underserved backgrounds (64.6%).

The second objective was to assess dental students’ knowledge about the dental therapist model. Table 2 shows responses to these considerations. Majority agreed (92%) strongly that they were well informed about the dental therapist model in Michigan and the U.S. specifically.

The third objective was to assess dental students’ attitudes related to dental therapists’ contributions to increasing access to dental care in Michigan. Table 3 shows responses to these considerations. Majority agreed (87%) strongly that DTs will contribute to access to dental care in Michigan.

The fourth objective was to assess dental students’ acceptance of dental therapists. Table 4 shows responses to these considerations. Majority agreed (84%) strongly that they were well informed about the DTs. Majority agreed (87%) strongly that DTs will reduce income for the practice in the future.

The fifth objective was to assess dental students’ negative consideration related to dental therapists. Table 5 shows responses to these considerations. Majority agreed (87%) strongly that DTs will reduce income for the practice in the future.

METHODS

Attendance: The majority agreed (96%) strongly that they will treat patients covered by Medicaid (61.2%), children covered by the Healthy Kids Program (80.5%), patients with special healthcare needs (70.8%) and from underserved backgrounds (64.6%).

New dental practice: Majority agreed (92%) strongly that they were well informed about the dental therapist model in Michigan and the U.S. specifically.

New dental practice: Majority agreed (87%) strongly that DTs will contribute to access to dental care in Michigan.

New dental practice: Majority agreed (84%) strongly that they were well informed about the DTs. Majority agreed (87%) strongly that DTs will reduce income for the practice in the future.

New dental practice: Majority agreed (87%) strongly that DTs will reduce income for the practice in the future.

DISCUSSIONS & CONCLUSIONS

These data show that dental students in the state of Michigan were not optimally informed about the dental therapist model.

REFERENCES


Acknowledgements & Funding

Pathways Program

Poster # 33