

PURPOSE

To evaluate oral health screening accuracy and referral effectiveness in an adolescent pregnancy clinic.

- Aim 1: Characterize patient demographics and oral health status
- Aim 2: Evaluate dental referral completion
- Aim 3: Assess screening accuracy using dental examination findings

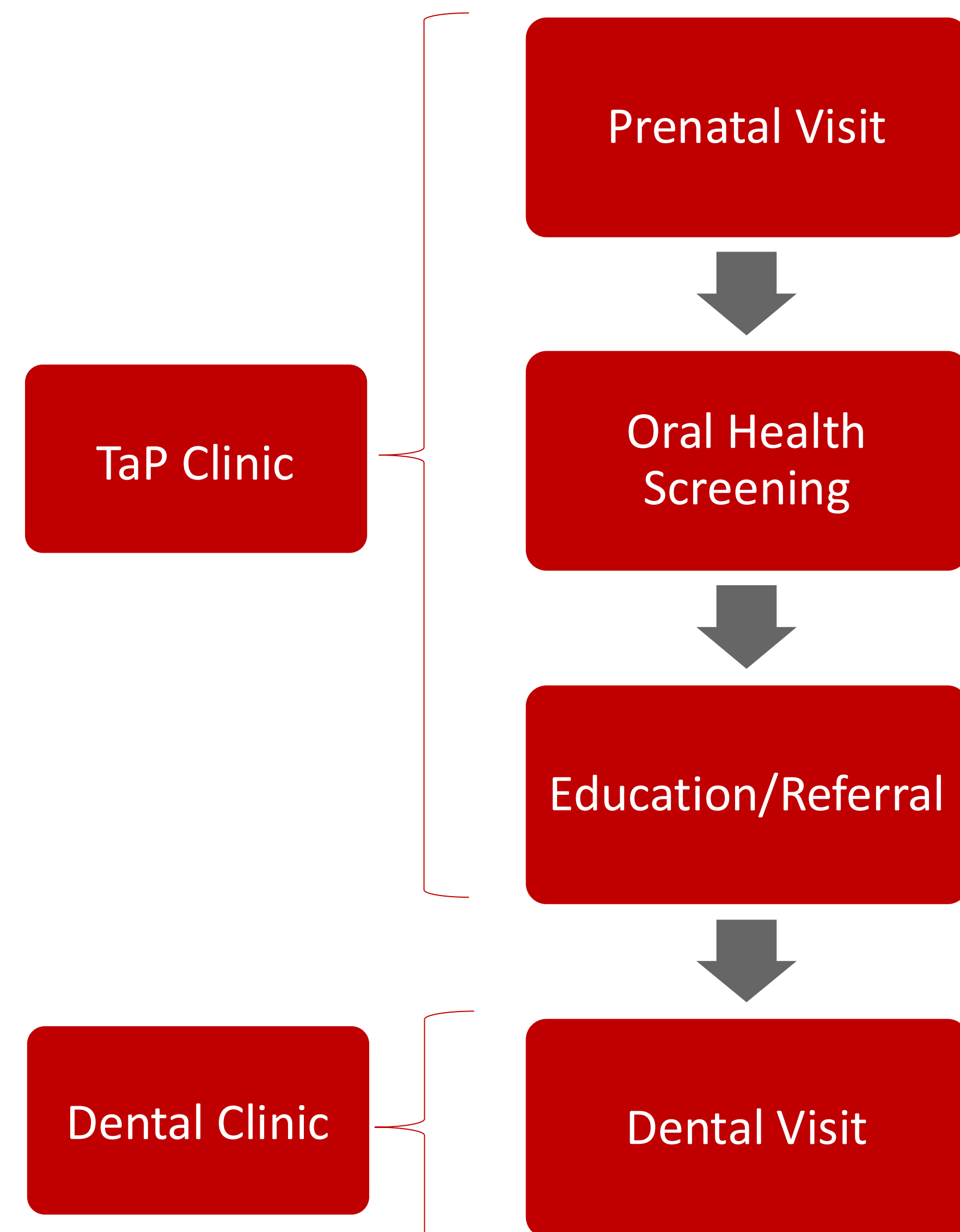
BACKGROUND

- Pregnancy increases risk of oral disease
- Poor oral health linked to adverse pregnancy outcomes
- Medical provider oral health training is inconsistent
- Dental care during pregnancy is safe
- Underutilized during pregnancy, especially among Medicaid populations
- Adolescents demonstrate lower dental care utilization

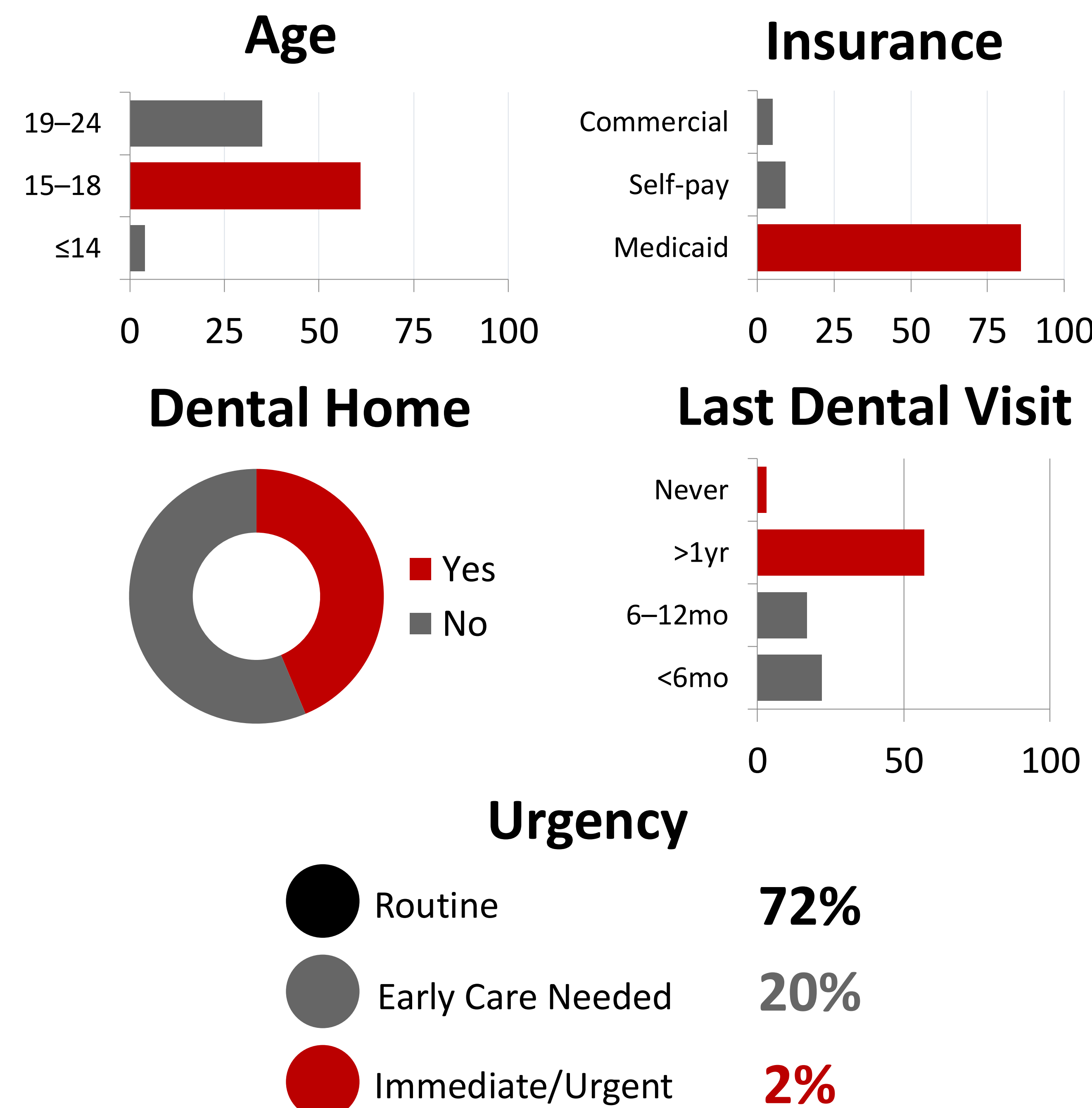
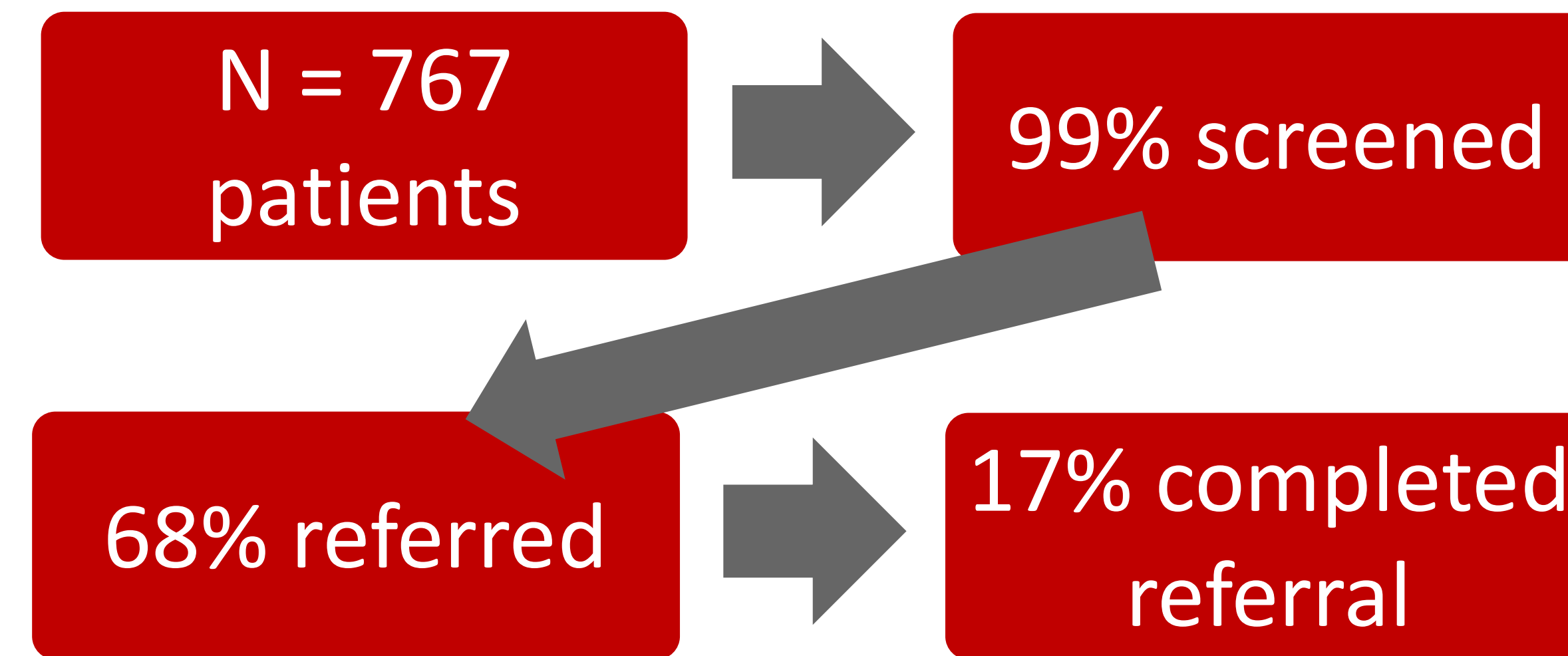
METHODS

Design: Retrospective cohort study (2021–2025)
Setting: Teen and Adolescent Pregnancy (TaP) clinic at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH)
Population: Adolescents (ages 10-23) in the TaP clinic
Data Source: Electronic health record (Epic) from TaP clinic and dental clinic.
Medical Provider Training: Smiles for Life Oral Health Curriculum
Gold Standard: Dental examination findings from dental clinic
Outcomes measured:

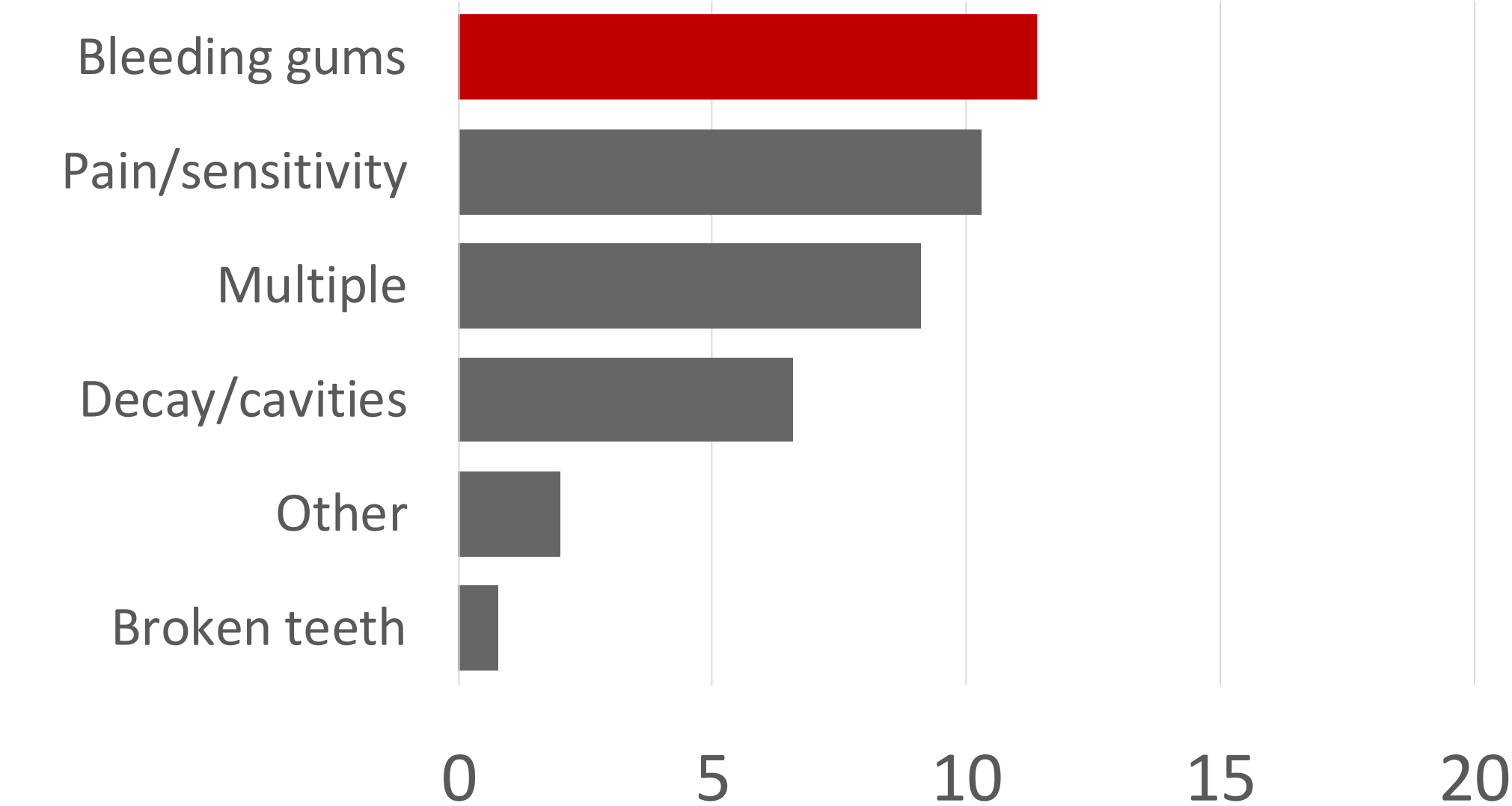
- Patient demographics
- Dental referral status
- Oral health findings



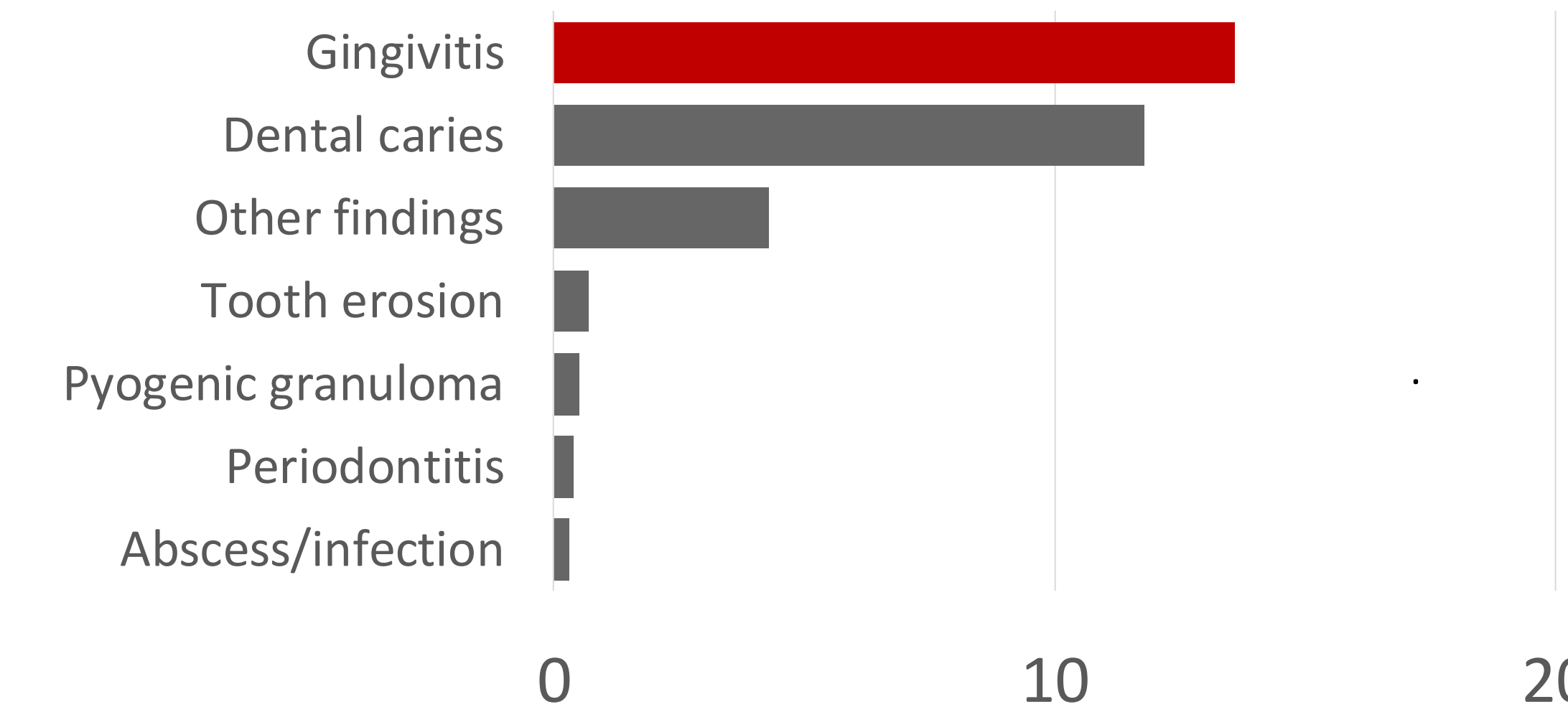
RESULTS



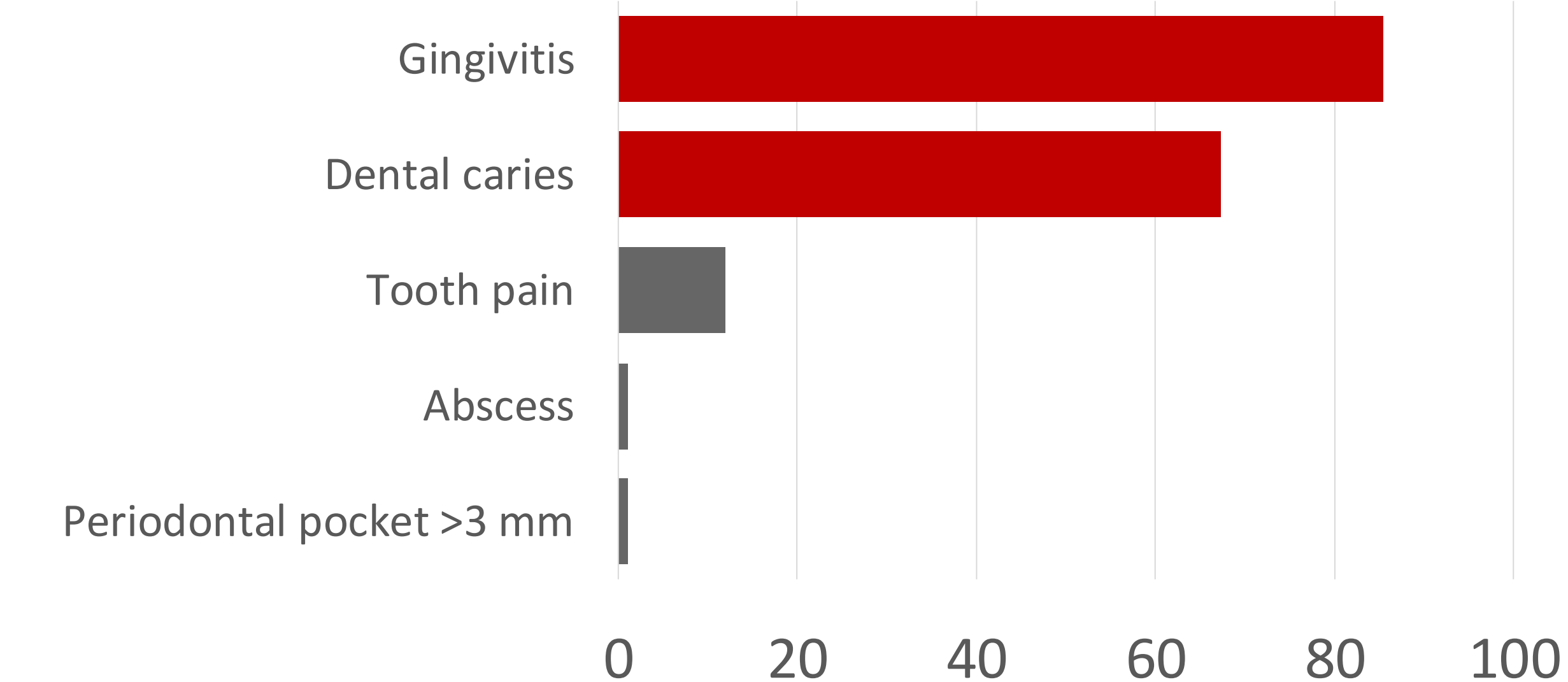
Patient-Reported Oral Health



Medical Provider Findings



Dental Examination Findings



DISCUSSION

- Screening was highly implemented (>99%), with 68% requiring referral.
- Many patients reported **limited access to dental care**, including no dental home and infrequent dental visits.
- Only **17% completed a dental visit**, highlighting a gap between referral and care.
- Positive oral health screening was strongly associated with referral completion** (OR 3.34, 95% CI: 1.76–6.38, p < 0.001).
- Findings suggest that **clinical identification of need may improve follow-through**, but overall completion remains low.
- Results should be interpreted in the context of **selection bias**, as dental findings were only available for patients who completed visits.

CONCLUSIONS

- Oral health screening in prenatal care is **feasible and identifies unmet need**.
- Referral completion remains low**, despite high screening rates.
- Positive screening is associated with improved follow-through**, suggesting value in clinical identification.

REFERENCES

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- Deepak V, Page KR, Weng X, Macera LM. Dental screening and referral during prenatal care: a quality improvement initiative. *J Public Health Dent*. 2023.
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