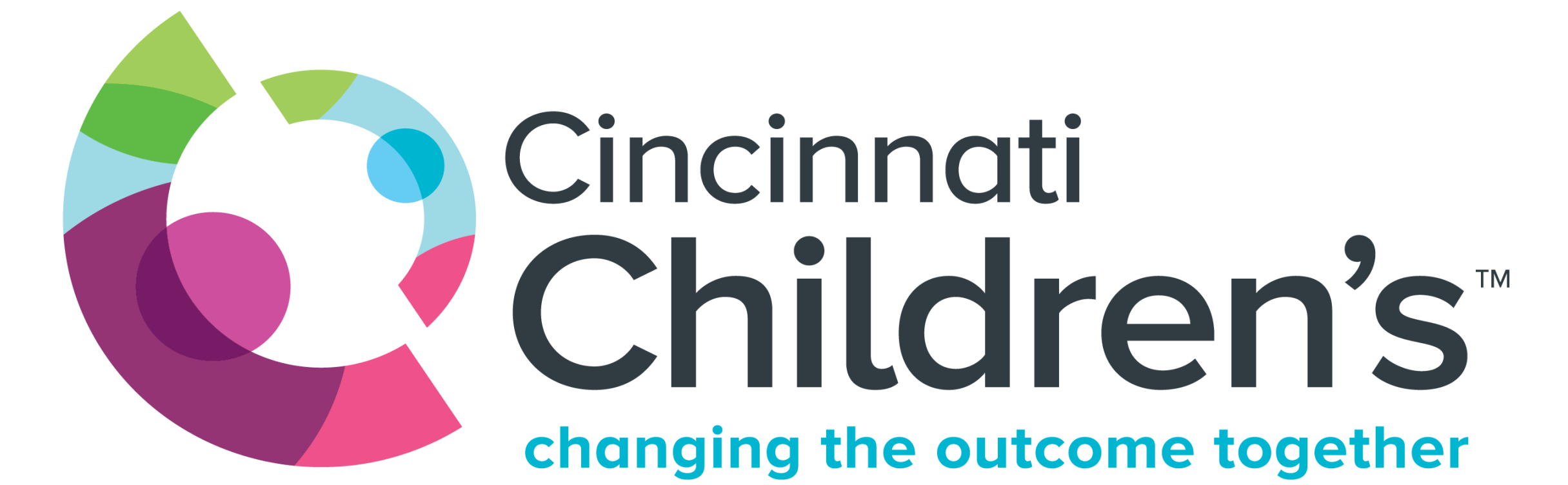


# Family's Dental Home Enrollment Predictive of Dental Home in Special Needs Adults

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## Background

In the medical field, a successful transition to adult services is characterized by:

- Young adults maintain a routine medical home with a provider who serves young adults
- Securement of adequate health insurance
- Attending preventive healthcare visits.
- Both parent and patient satisfaction and the avoidance of delayed or foregone care must be considered as key indicators of a successful transition.<sup>2</sup>

Established models for medical transition begin as early as 12 years old. For the dental field, there are no standardized models for transition for individuals with special health care needs.

Approximately 20% of individuals with special needs are have unmet dental needs.<sup>1</sup>

Barriers to successful dental transition include.

- Limited access to dentists who are willing to treat patients with SHCN
- Insurance limitations
- Additional modification to care due to medical conditions.<sup>3</sup>

Overall, the greatest reported barriers in transitioning to adult dental care are finding a general or family dentist who is comfortable caring for patients with special health care needs and one who accepts state/federal insurance (e.g. Medicaid).<sup>4</sup>

Lack of standardization can make the process even more difficult for children with SHCN and their families, leading to potential inconsistencies in care and potential gaps in treatment. Given these challenges, it is essential to explore the factors that contribute to a successful transition.

## Objective

The purpose of this study was to survey families where transition has been successful and identify positive factors.

## Methods

This IRB approved cohort study examined successful transition through a REDCAP survey asking caregivers about features that led to successful transition of their A-SHCN and accompanying process.

Participants were recruited from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics as well as community advocacy groups.

The 24 item survey contained questions about the transition process including accessibility of dental office, availability of providers, affordability of care, and appropriateness of care.

Descriptive statistics were used for screening and survey questions. Continuous variables were summarized as mean and standard deviation, and categorical variables were summarized as count and percentage. Data analyses were performed using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, North Carolina).

Inclusion criteria:

- Parents of adults (aged 18 years or older) with special health care needs who had a pediatric dental provider and currently has an adult dental provider
- English-speaking

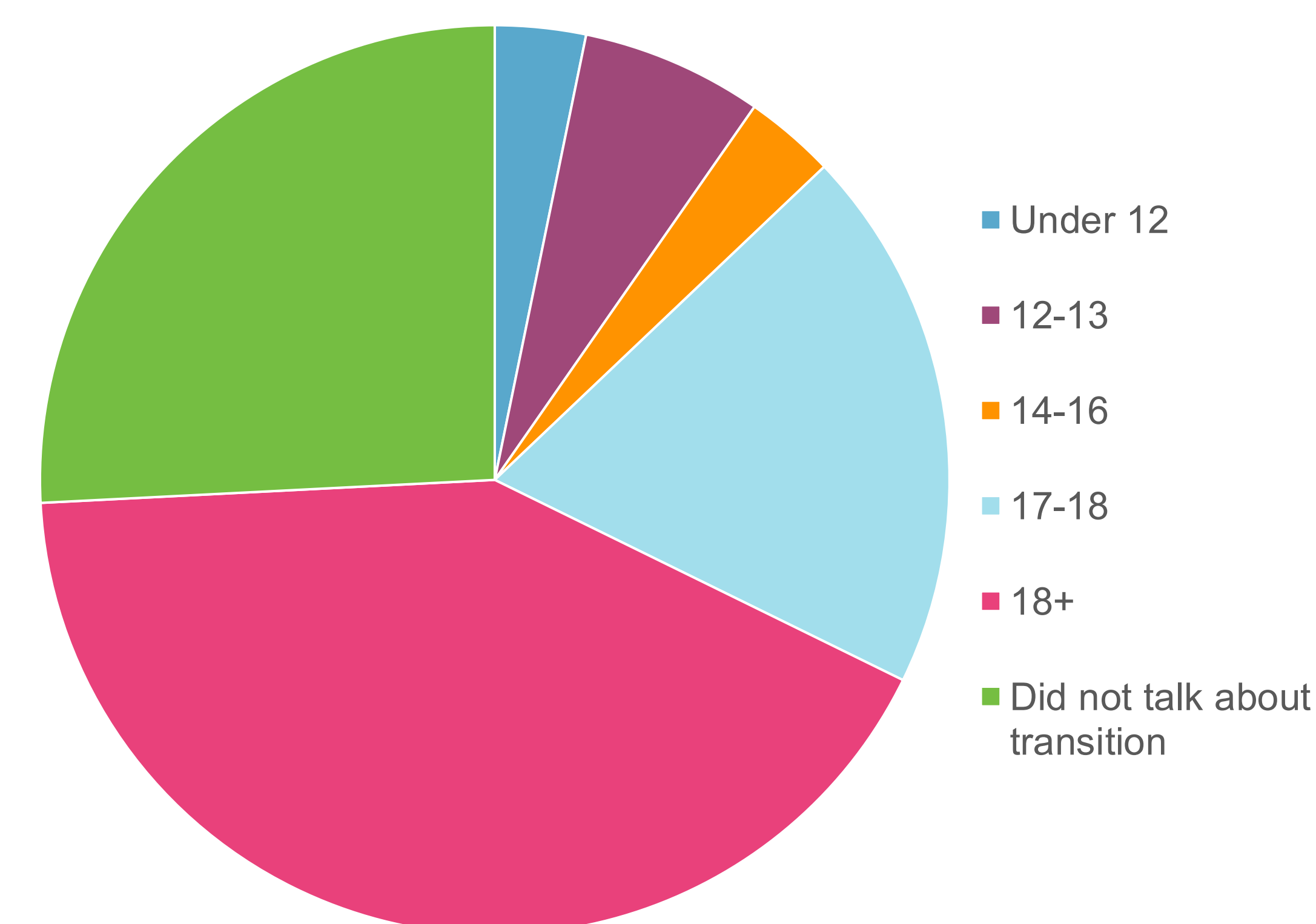
Exclusion criteria:

- Parents of adults with special health care needs that have not transitioned into adult dental care

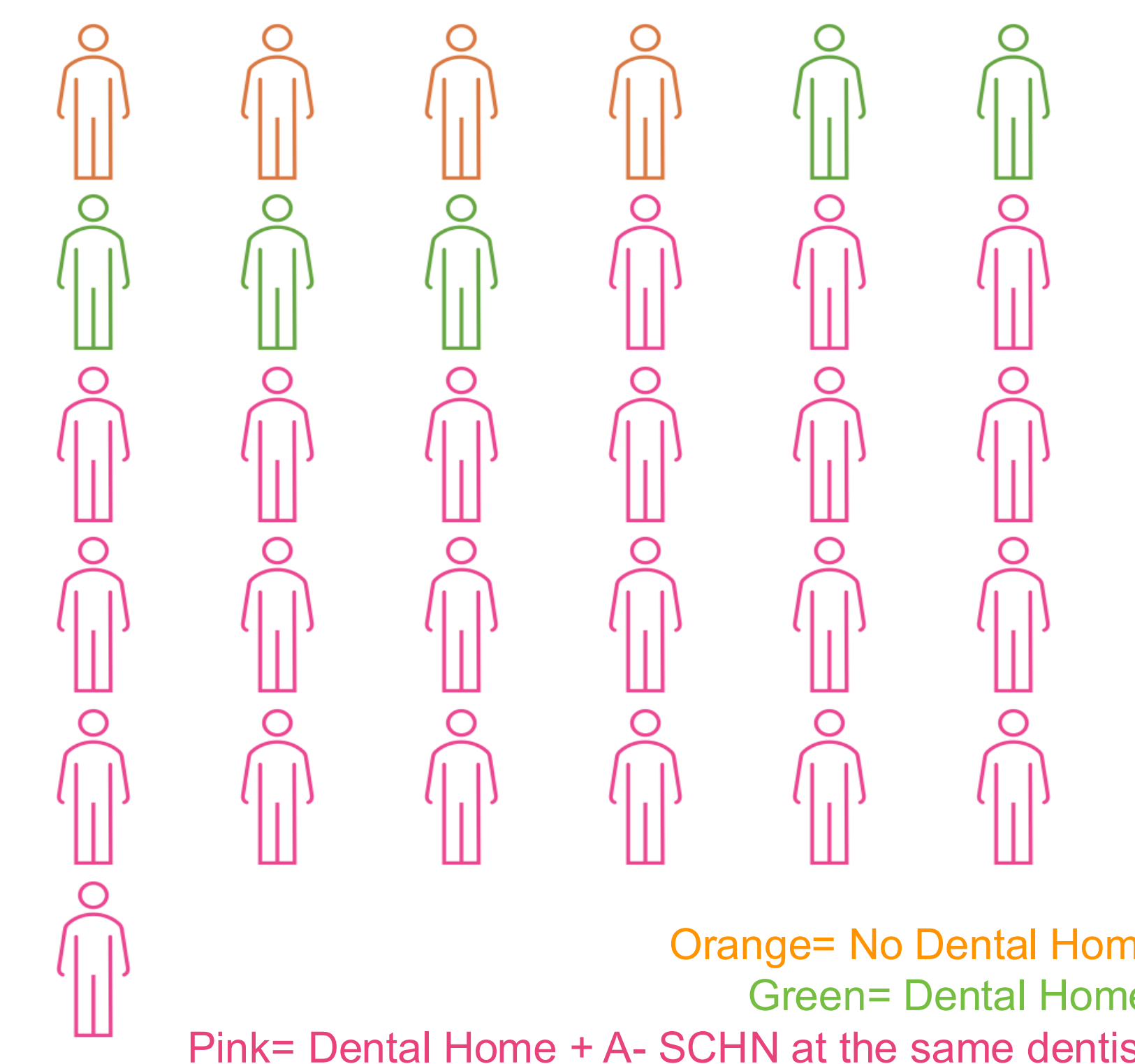
Examples of Survey Questions:



## Age of Transition Discussion



## Caregiver's Dental Home



## Results

A total of 91 families responded to pre-screen questions, However, data collected from 31 qualifying caregiver-child dyads representing 34% of the total respondents.

The most common reason for failing pre-screen was unsuccessful transition.

The mean age of A-SHCN was 25.5±7.9 years. 83.9% had public insurance and 41.9% were on parent's insurance.

Overall, 81.5% of subjects went to the same dentist as their caregiver, with 96.8% being driven by caregivers or family members.

Main features of successful transition included:

- Dentist knowledge level (80%)
- Dentist's comfort with patient (88%)
- Insurance coverage (68%)

## Conclusion

This study demonstrates a positive downstream effect of A-SHCN caregivers' having a dental home on their child's access with 81.5% of A-SHCN going to same dentist as their caregivers.

Caregivers were critical in transportation, as 96.8% drove their A-SHCN.

## References

