

Introduction

- Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) face increased risk of oral health disparities
 - Sensory sensitivities
 - Behavioral challenges
 - Complex medical conditions
- These barriers can make daily oral hygiene routines difficult
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy:
 - Widely used for behavioral and functional support
 - May help improve health-related behaviors, including oral hygiene

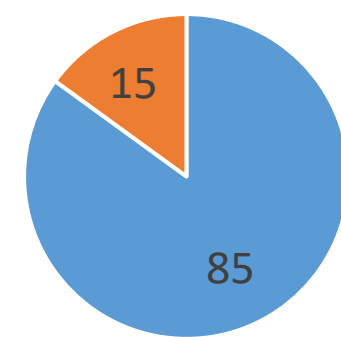
Objectives

- Evaluate caregiver perceptions of ABA therapy in CSHCN
- Assess perceived impact on:
 - Dental hygiene practices
 - Resistance or anxiety during oral care
 - Overall child progress
 - Explore caregiver satisfaction with outcomes following ABA therapy



Results

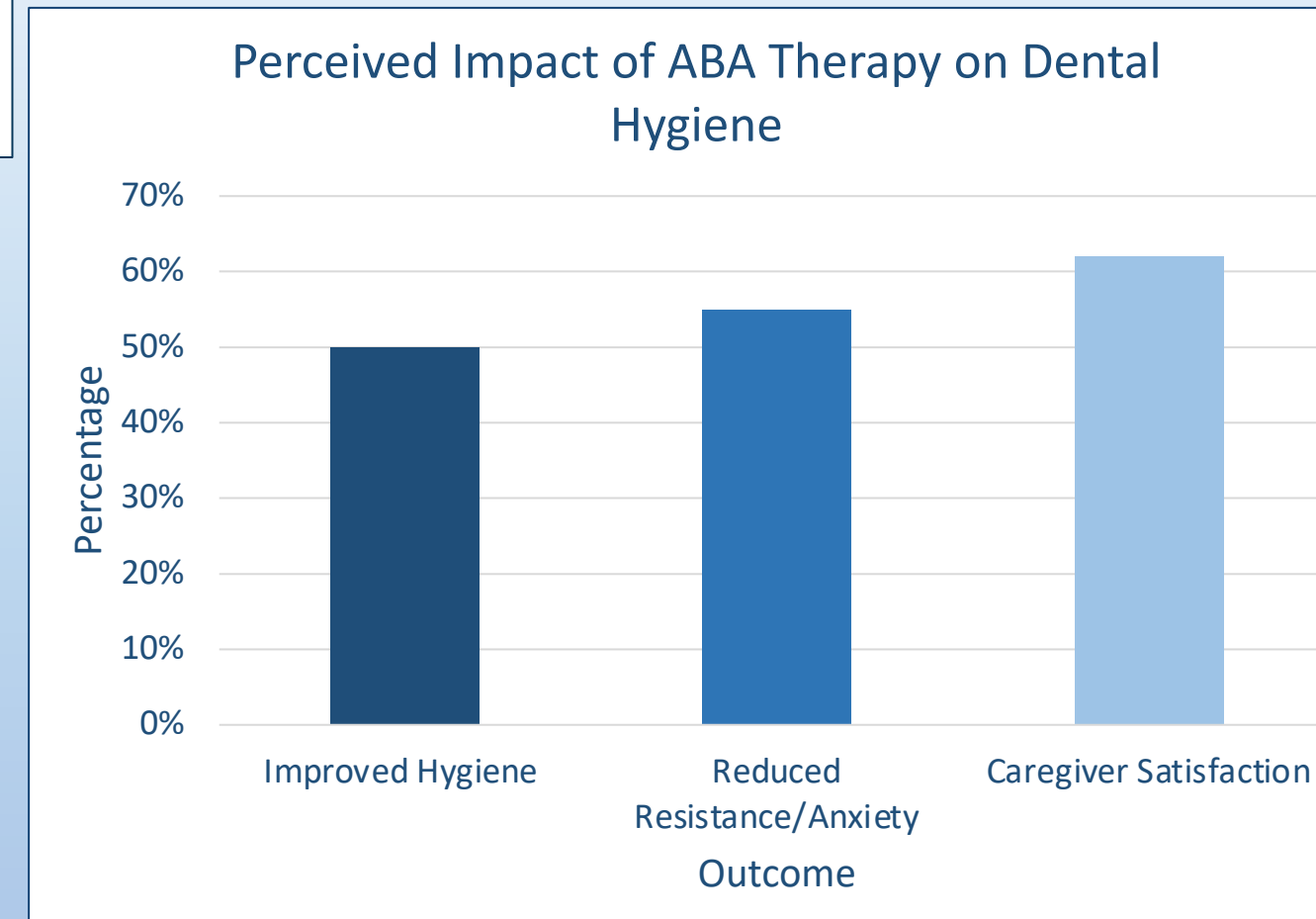
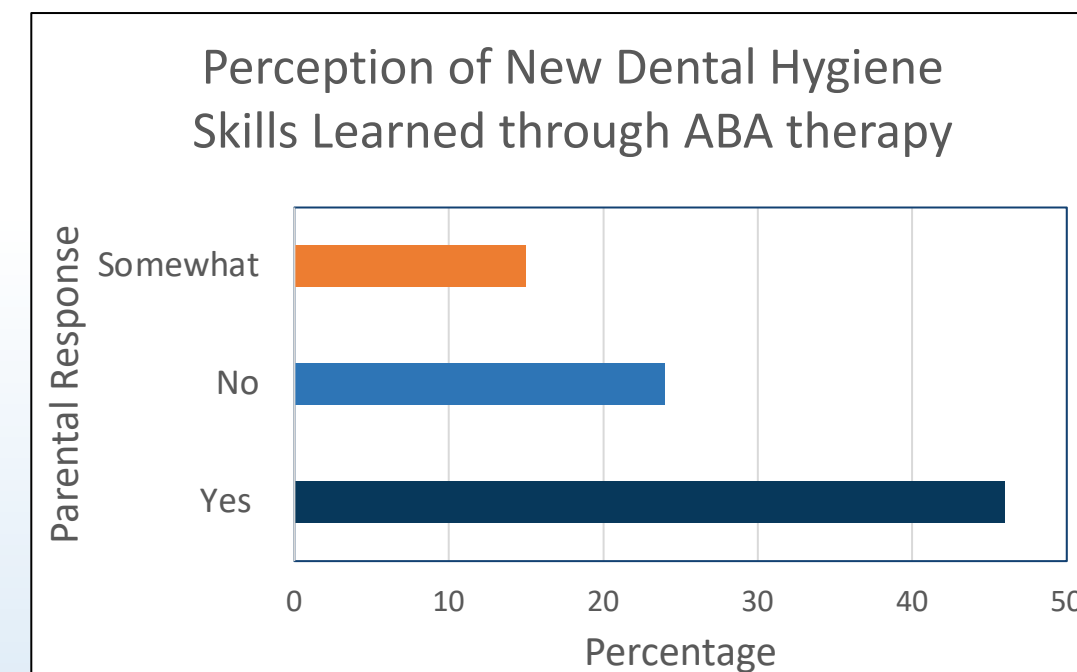
ABA Therapy Intervention



■ Yes ■ No

Sample size: 69 caregivers

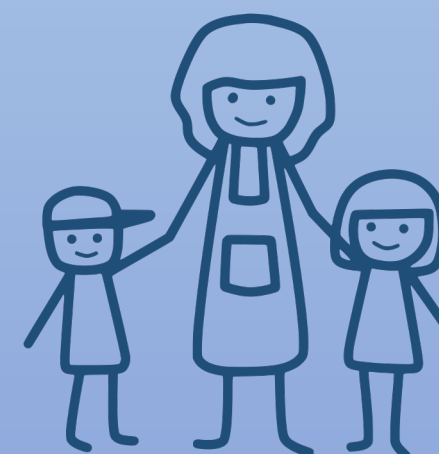
50.7% of caregivers reported improved dental hygiene practices ($P < .01$)



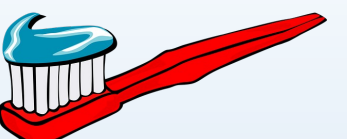
“What strategies from ABA therapy has been the most effective?”

Photos & Videos
Practicing with toys

Consistency
Rewards
Timers



Methods

- A cross-sectional survey was administered to parents or primary caregivers of CSHCN presenting for dental appointments at the NCF Pediatric Dental Clinic over a six-month period
- The survey included **15 items** assessing:
 - Oral hygiene practices 
 - ABA therapy involvement
 - Child behavior during oral hygiene routines
 - Caregiver perceptions of change since initiation of ABA therapy

Conclusion

- **ABA therapy is perceived by caregivers as beneficial for improving dental hygiene behaviors in CSHCN**
- Reductions in resistance and anxiety support improved cooperation with oral care
- Interdisciplinary approaches with ABA therapy may enhance oral health outcomes

References

Alamri H. Oral Care for Children with Special Healthcare Needs in Dentistry: A Literature Review. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*. 2022; 11(19):5557.