

### OBJECTIVES

The aim of this observational study is to understand how a child's social determinants of health may predict urgent care utilization patterns in an urban university-based pediatric dental clinic.

### METHODS

- Caregivers of children who were not patients of record presenting to the UIC pediatric dental urgent care clinic were recruited.
- Caregivers unable to read/write in English and children with SHCN were not eligible for inclusion.
- Caregivers completed a survey including: AHC Health-Related Social Needs assessment, demographic information, child's pain assessment (Wong-Baker Faces Pain Scale), and dental diagnosis at the urgent care visit.

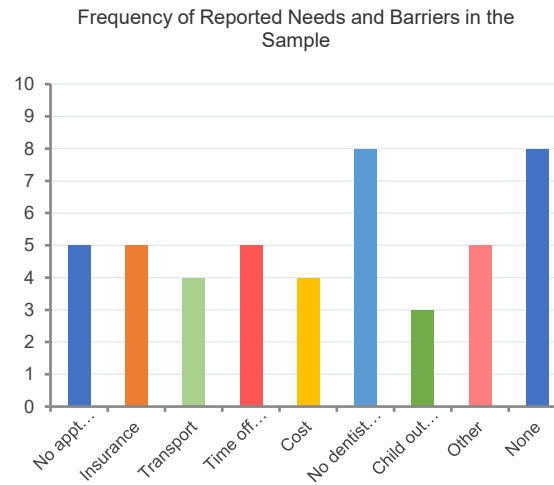


Wong-Baker FACES® Pain Rating Scale: 0 (No Hurt) → 2 → 4 → 6 → 8 → 10 (Hurts Worst)

### RESULTS

- Most families (86.21%) reported at least one challenge to obtaining care
- ~50% cited the greatest barrier was not having a dentist close to home
- 44% of caregivers experienced at least one barrier to SDOH
  - 1 out of 5 caregivers worried about having enough food
- Obtaining routine care was NOT associated with urgent care or ER utilization
- ~40% of patients reported moderate to high pain scores (Wong Baker Scale)
- No significant associations between having routine care and use of urgent care, ER visits, or combined urgent/ER visits (p-value = 0.37)
- Access to routine preventive care did not protect against urgent care utilization outside of a patient's dental home
- Patients frequently answered "other" on the SDOH survey, indicating a gap in assessing caregivers' needs and health determinants

### RESULTS (cont.)



Statistic	DF	Value	Prob
Chi-Square	6	6.7840	0.3413
Likelihood Ratio Chi-Square	6	8.8287	0.1834
Mantel-Haenszel Chi-Square	1	1.9364	0.1641
Phi Coefficient		0.5013	
Contingency Coefficient		0.4481	
Cramer's V		0.5013	

Urgent Care Utilization and SDOH Impact (n=25)

### CONCLUSIONS

- Access to dental care (proximity to a dentist and ability to afford care) were among the most frequently reported barriers to seeking care.
- Urgent care utilization patterns are likely driven by cumulative barriers rather than individual determinants.
- Integrating SDOH screening into urgent care settings could help address unmet needs, improve follow-up, and reduce repeat emergency or urgent visits.

### APPROVAL & FUNDING

IRB Protocol: 2025-0385  
Funding: N/A

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research received shared service support in part by UIC's Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Institute of Health.

### REFERENCES

