Advise and refer: disparities among patients receiving tobacco cessation advice from dentists

Dental Tobacco Interventions
Test for demographic disparities regarding dentists’
• **Advice** to quit smoking
• **Referral** to a cessation helpline
• **Prescribing** a cessation aid
• **Setting a quit date** with the patient

Test for disparities between types of smokers receiving dental advice
• Menthol v. non-menthol
• Nondaily v. daily
• Light daily v. non light daily
• Nondaily who smoke 10 or fewer days per month v. nondaily who smoke more often

**Data**
• Self respondents
• Had been to the dentist in the last 12 months

2As+R
- **Ask:** Do you use tobacco?
- **Advise:** Encourage the patient to quit smoking.
- **Refer:** Refer patient to quitline or to a trained professional

Importance of the dental office for tobacco cessation
- Smoking causes oral diseases and dental therapy failures
- Use of the 2As+R intervention in the Dental setting is an effective tobacco control intervention

Odds of patient reporting receiving (1) advice to quit, (2) a referral to a quitline or counseling, (3) a prescription for a tobacco cessation aid, or (4) suggestion to set a quit date from their dentist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Advise</th>
<th>Refer</th>
<th>Prescribe</th>
<th>Set Quit Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,000-$24,999</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000-$49,999</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000-$74,999</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>1.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 or older</td>
<td>0.55***</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Degree or Less</td>
<td>1.38**</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>1.99*</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>2.46*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH Black</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>2.33**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>0.7*</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH Asian</td>
<td>2.06**</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH Other</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Resident</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>0.84*</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent of a child</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% smokefree restaurant and bar state-law</td>
<td>1.25**</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokefree home rule</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudos R-squared</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>0.0208</td>
<td>0.0294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>4034</td>
<td>1238</td>
<td>1240</td>
<td>1238</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Are menthol smokers, nondaily smokers, daily smokers who smoke 1-5 cpg, or nondaily smokers who smoke 10 or fewer days per month more likely to receive (1) advice to quit, (2) a referral to a quitline or counseling, (3) a prescription for a tobacco cessation aid, or (4) suggestion to set a quit date from their dentist

- **Menthol Smoker**
  - 0.98
  - 0.87
  - 0.83

- **Nondaily smokers**
  - 0.65***
  - 0.92
  - 0.74
  - 0.87

- **Daily smoker who smokes 1-5 cigarettes per day**
  - 0.60**
  - 1.58
  - 2.11
  - 1.38

- **Nondaily smoker who smokes 10 or less days per month**
  - 0.65* **significant at p0.05**
  - 0.92
  - 0.74
  - 0.87

- **Light smoker who smokes 1-5 days per month**
  - 0.65**
  - 0.92
  - 0.74
  - 0.87

- **Nonlight smoker who smokes 10 or less days per month**
  - 0.60**
  - 1.58
  - 2.11
  - 1.38

**Results**
- Dentists less likely to **advise**
  - 65 or older
  - Hispanic
  - Female
  - Were nondaily smokers
  - Smoked 1-5 cigarettes daily
  - Smoked 10 or fewer days per month

- Dentists more likely to **advise**
  - Had a high school education or lower
  - Were Asian

**Implications**
Older smokers are
• More likely to be socially disadvantaged
• Smoke more
• Less likely to be offered cessation services

Elderly individuals are in need of tobacco cessation intervention

Dental offices can be a point of intervention

- Light and nondaily smokers
  • Often not identified as smokers by others
  • May not identify themselves as smokers

- Dentists may need to take special steps to identify light and nondaily smokers
  • Ask all patients if smoked even 1 cigarette in last 30 days

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