

# The level of preparedness of parents regarding traumatic dental Injury's in Children



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## INTRODUCTION

- Traumatic dental injuries are common in school children, with 25% of all school children likely to experience at least one. Luxation injuries are common in primary teeth, while crown fractures are common in permanent teeth. Immediate treatment is important as these injuries can have irreparable effects on the tooth.
- Children spend a significant amount of their time at home, which means that parents are often the first responders to a child's dental trauma. While parents may be close by during leisurely activities or sports, they may feel overwhelmed and unsure about how to respond to a dental injury.
- The time of treatment after a dental injury is crucial for the survival of the tooth. Therefore, parents play an important role in ensuring that their child receives the best possible treatment.
- Parents can greatly increase the prognosis of their child's tooth after an injury by knowing how to respond correctly. This emphasizes the importance of education for parents on the appropriate actions to take in the event of a dental injury.

## PURPOSE

- To analyze the socio-economic and educational dynamics of parents and how it impacts their readiness for a traumatic dental injury. .
- To determine if prior exposure to a TDI influences preparedness for a potential injury.
- To assess whether the age of the parent dictates preparedness for a TDI.
- To observe the marital status of parents and its effects on managing a TDI.
- To determine which demographics of parents are most and least prepared for a TDI.
- To determine if further education is needed to better prepare parents and caretakers on how to effectively handle a TDI..

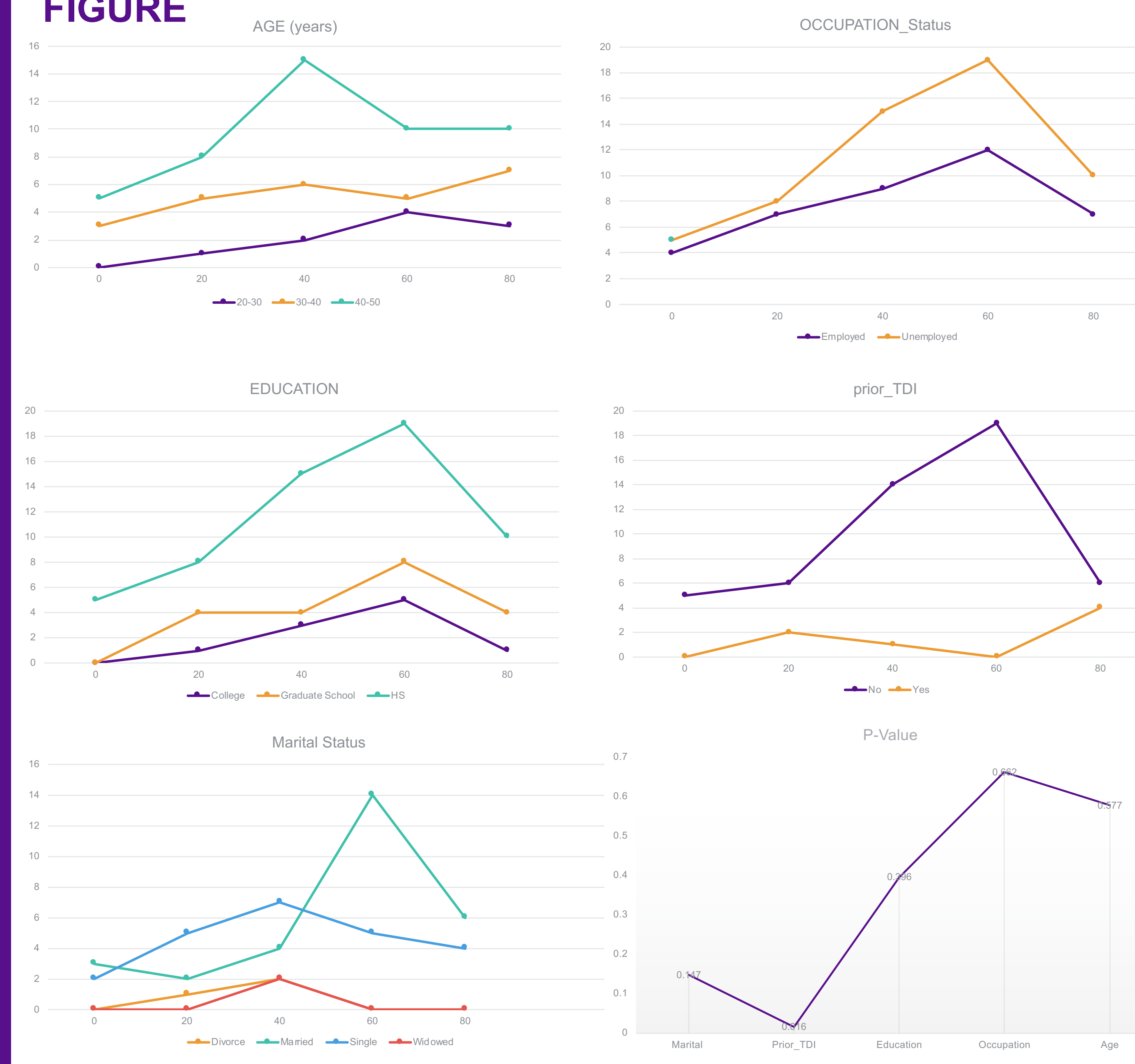
## METHOD

- A total of 58 surveys were collected from the parent/caregivers of patients who presented to St. Joseph's Dental clinic for a periodic or restorative appointment.
  - The first part of survey will pertain to the demographics of the surveyor, prompting for: Age, Education status, Marital Status, Current status of Occupation
  - The second part will involve two scenario and five questions in total. A photo of a TDI will be displayed in each scenario, followed by questions regarding recommended plan of action
- Inclusion Criteria**
- Biological parents or legal guardians of pediatric dental patients ages 2 – 12 years being seen at St. Joseph Dental Clinic.
  - Able to read and write in either Spanish or English
  - Able and willing to consent to take part in this study
- Exclusion Criteria**
- Biological parents or legal guardians of dental patients not in the age range of 2 to 12 years of age.
  - Caregivers who are unable to read or write in English or Spanish.
  - Caregivers less than 18 years of age.
  - First time patients of the dental clinic

## RESULTS

- It appears that the variable of parents who've previously encountered a child-related TDI was the most statistically significant in terms of preparedness for a TDI in children, with a P-value below 0.05. This suggests that parents who have experienced a child-related TDI may be more prepared or aware of how to handle such situations in the future.
- The second most statistically significant variable was marital status, with parents in active marriages scoring higher in preparedness compared to those who were not. This may suggest that having a partner or spouse to share responsibilities and concerns with can lead to better preparedness for child-related TDIs.
- However, the data did not show any correlation between education level, employment, or age and preparedness for child-related TDIs. This suggests that these factors may not be as important in determining preparedness for such situations.
- It's important to note that statistical significance does not necessarily imply practical significance, and further research may be needed to determine the practical implications of these findings.

## FIGURE



## CONCLUSIONS

- Age, occupation, and education were not found to be significant factors in determining the level of preparedness in parents for child-related traumatic dental injuries (TDIs), due to low statistical significance.
- A lower-than-anticipated study population size, as well as selection bias, may have impacted the significance of the data recorded. Therefore, caution should be taken when generalizing these results to larger populations.
- Parents who had experienced a prior TDI in their child showed a higher level of knowledge towards treating a TDI, indicating that personal experience can play a significant role in preparedness for such situations.
- Based on the results, additional education on traumatic dental injuries in children is recommended for surveyors of this study to increase overall preparedness among parents.
- Further analysis is needed to determine the level of preparedness of parents on a larger scale, as well as to explore additional factors that may impact preparedness for child-related TDIs.

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