

US AND THE WORLD ORAL HEALTH INDICATORS

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PURPOSE:

The study compares major oral health (OH) indicators between the United States (US) and the World.

METHODS

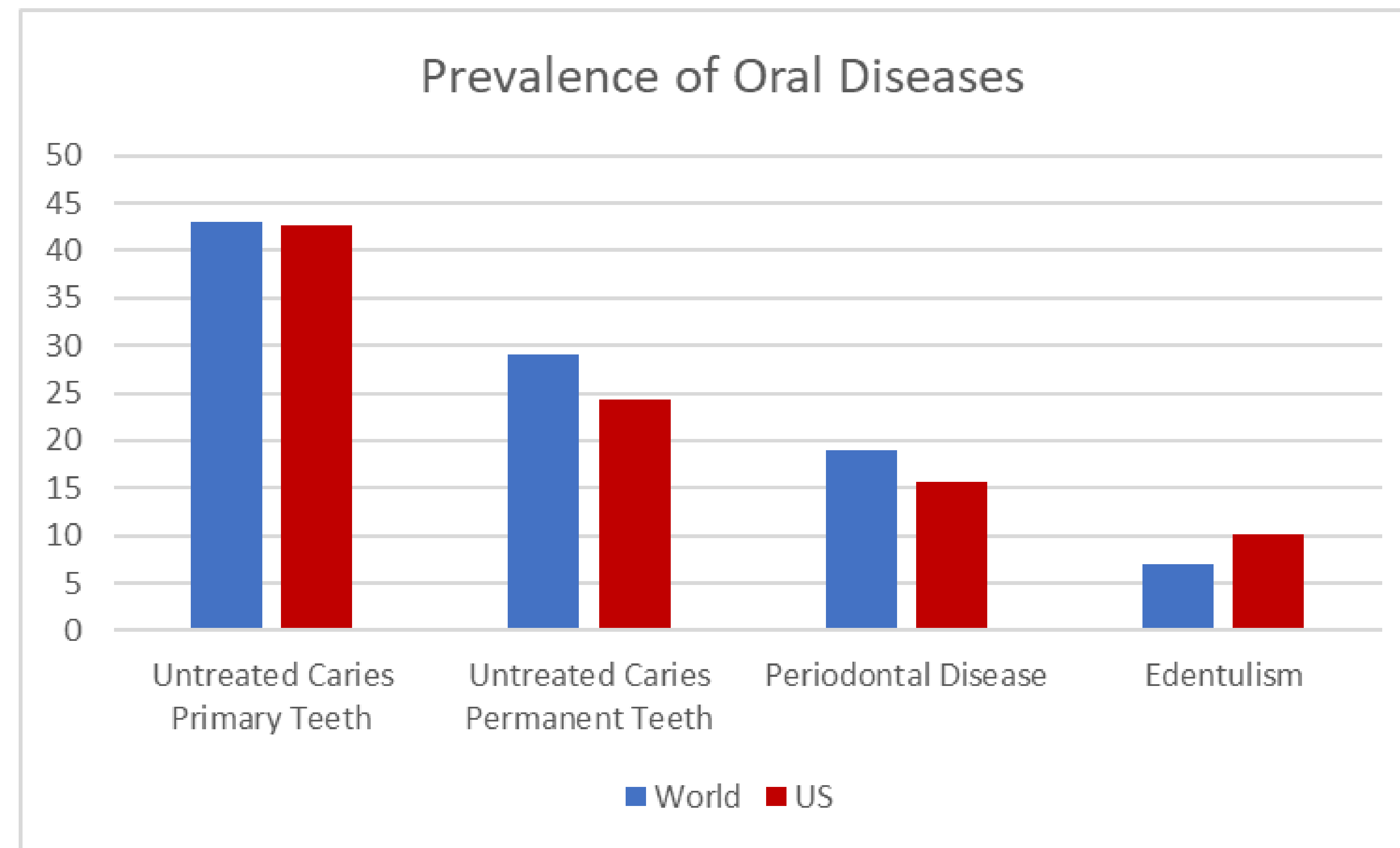
Statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO) and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) databases were compared regarding the prevalence of oral diseases (i.e., caries, periodontal disease, edentulism, and cancer), risk factors of oral diseases, and OH access to care parameters (i.e., dentists per capita and annual expenditure).

RESULTS

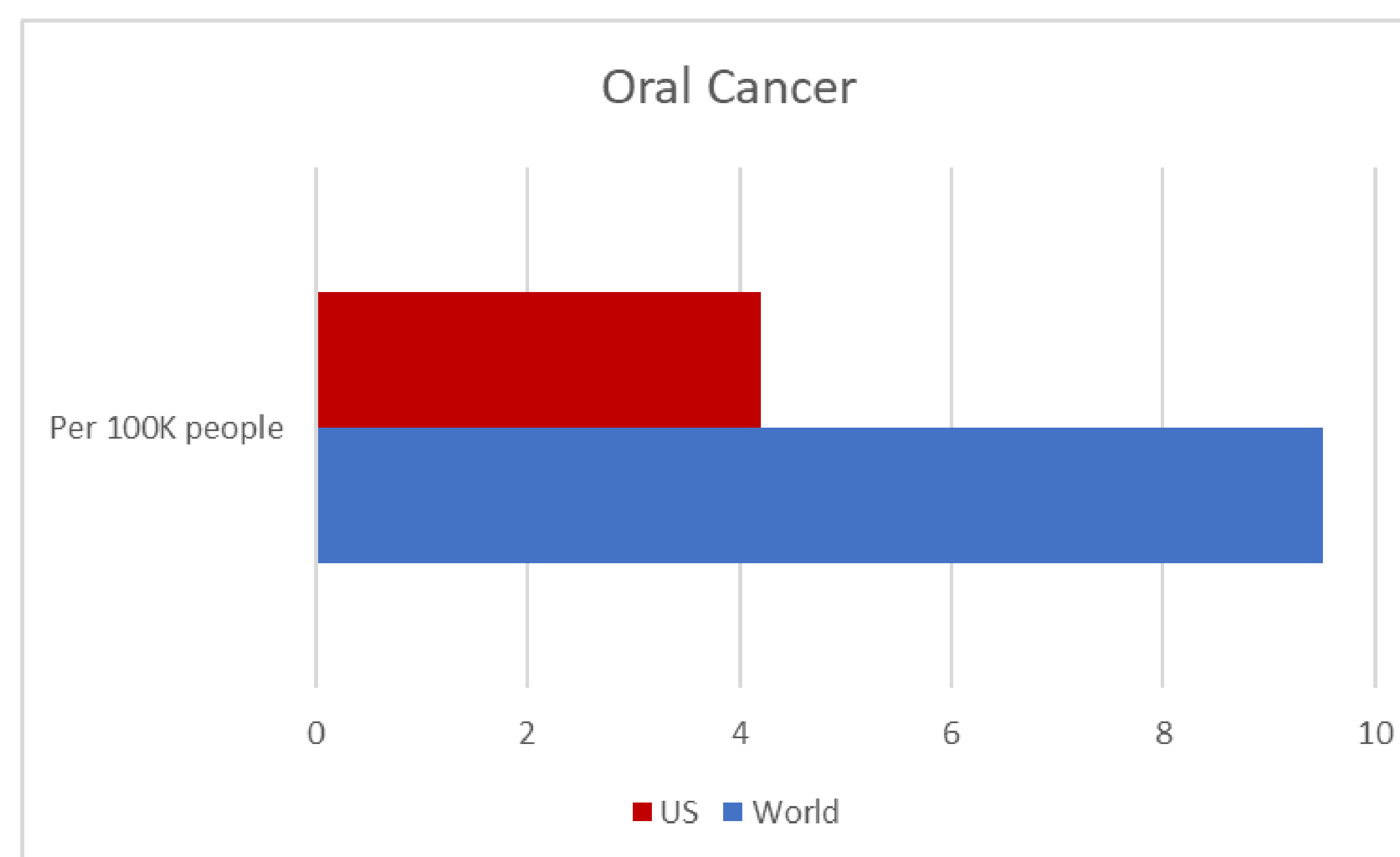
Oral diseases are the most common diseases worldwide, affecting 3.5 billion people.



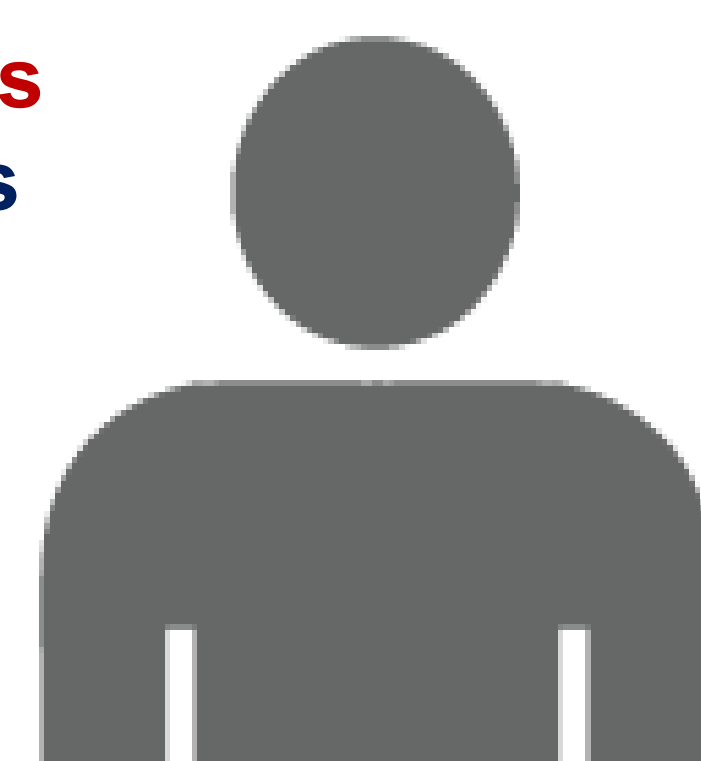
Untreated caries is the most prevalent oral disease reaching 42.6% in the US and 43% globally in primary teeth and 24.3% in the US and 29% in adult dentition. Periodontal disease prevalence is 15.7% in the US and 19% worldwide, and edentulism is 10.2% in the US and 7% globally.



Oral cancer, per 100,000 people, affects 4.2 people in the US (6 M, 2.6 F) and 9.5 (13.1 M, 5 F) worldwide.



6 US males
13.1 World males



2.6 US females
5 World females

Sugar consumption, the leading risk factor for caries, greatly surpassed the WHO-recommended daily dose by both groups. Within patients with oral cancer, tobacco use is comparable in the US and globally, 23.4% and 22.3%, respectively; and alcohol consumption is 10% in the US and 5.8%.



OH workforce plays a role in access to care.



6.1 dentists/10,000 people in the US

3.28 dentists/10,000 people worldwide



The per capita yearly expenditure in oral health also reveals discrepancies, \$405 in the US against \$50 globally.

CONCLUSION

Despite the differences in workforce and health expenditures, global and US-specific OH indicators were comparable. US Public Health measures should prioritize lowering the prevalence of OH diseases in the population.