

Differences in pediatric caries risk by childcare setting among an urban safety net population

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Introduction

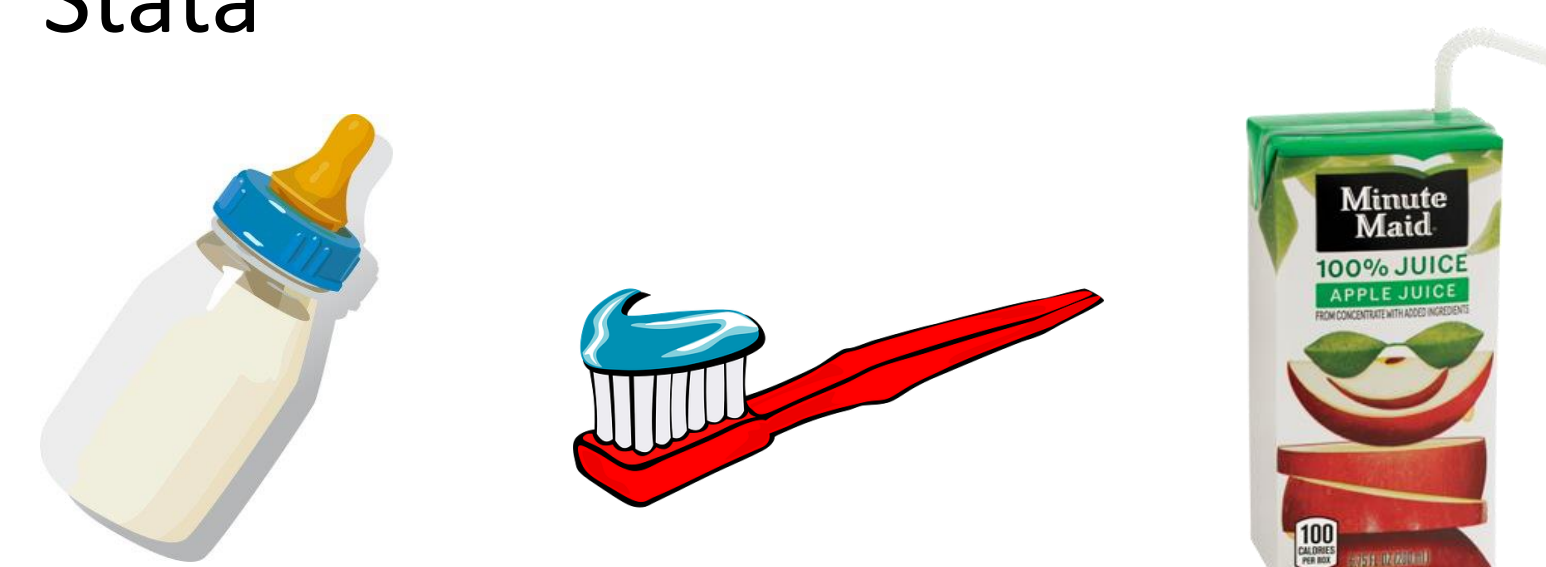
- Children aged <4 either stay at home with a parent or legal guardian, or in the care of a trained caregiver (e.g. at daycare or preschool, or with a babysitter)
- According to a study in 2017 [1], parents may not understand the importance of oral healthcare, as they are not trained in childcare to the same extent as professional child caregivers are, so this can pose a higher caries risk
- Children in low SES families are at higher caries risk due to diet and inadequate education [3]
- *Hypothesis:* Children who attend daycare or preschool or live with a trained caregiver may receive a better diet and/or oral hygiene, and thereby have a lower caries risk

Objectives

1. Assess the **caries risk** of low SES children aged 0-4 who go to daycare and/or have a babysitter compared to those who stay at home with their parent/guardian
2. Assess for differences in **diet** and **oral hygiene** among the above population of children with respect to type of childcare

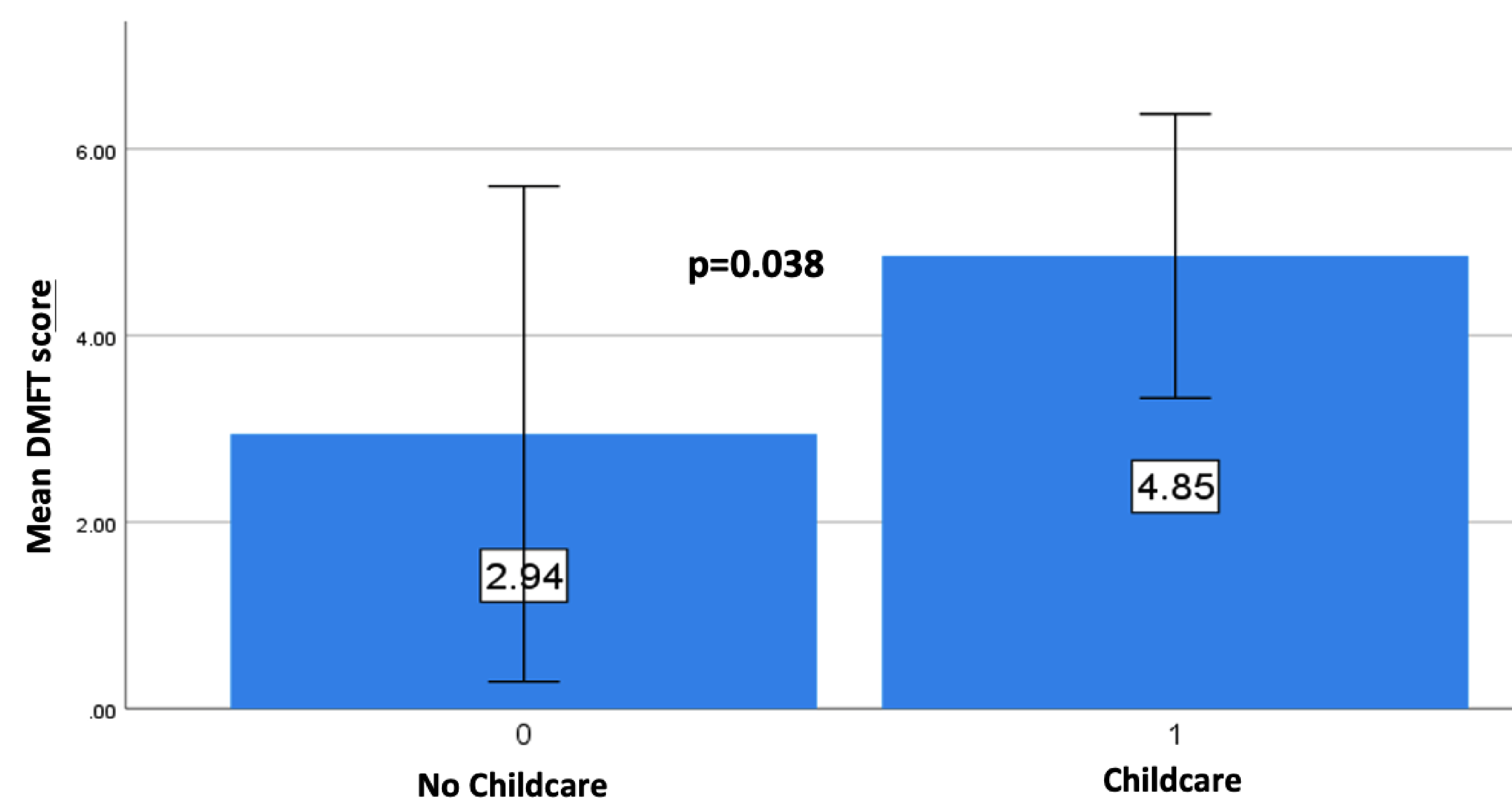
Methods

- 7 question survey was distributed to parents of patients aged 0-4 at a pediatric dental clinic in an urban safety net medical center
- DMFT (decayed, missing, filled teeth) score was abstracted from respondents' electronic medical record
- Statistical analysis conducted using Stata



Results

Childcare: Trained caregiver, daycare and/or preschool
No Childcare: Parent/guardian only



Results

- 60 surveys were collected
- Having childcare (daycare or babysitting) was associated with an increased odds of having high caries risk (DMFT ≥ 1): OR 3.385 (p = 0.038, CI 1.068-10.727)
- The mean DMFT score was 65% higher in children who had childcare (4.85 vs 2.94), but this relationship was not significant (RR 1.65, p = 0.522)
- The association between DMFT score and having childcare (daycare or babysitting) was not significant when adjusted for other variables (race, age, juice intake, and milk intake): RR 1.028 (p = 0.799)
- However, age was strongly associated with having childcare (RR 7.088, p = 0.003) and the association between older age and high caries risk had an OR of 2.5 (though this relationship was not statistically significant, p = 0.098)
- Juice intake was also associated with age (p < 0.05)

Conclusion

- Our study showed that childcare was associated with an increased odds of having high caries risk, but this relationship may be confounded by variables such as *age* (childcare group was older) and *juice intake* (increased in older kids)

References

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