



Assessing General Dentists' Knowledge, Practice, and Attitudes Towards Oral Piercings

Khan F¹, Vasilopoulos T², Adewumi A¹, Carey T¹

Department of Pediatric Dentistry¹, Department of Anesthesiology², University of Florida College of Dentistry, Gainesville, FL



Introduction

- ✓ The frequency of oral piercings are increasing, and the associated stigmas are decreasing.
- ✓ Oral piercings are commonly obtained for cultural and esthetic reasons and there are few studies on this topic in the United States

Purpose

- ✓ The aim of this study was to assess general dentists' knowledge, practice, and treatment recommendations for patients with oral piercings in a clinical setting.

Methods

- ✓ General dentists affiliated with the AAPD were emailed a twenty-one-question survey which took about 5-10 minutes to complete. The survey included: 10 demographic questions, 7 questions assessing attitudes and perceptions using a 5-point Likert Scale, and 4 questions regarding treatment and recommendations. Statistical significance was set a priori at $p < 0.05$.
- ✓ Fischer 's analysis was used to analyze data.

Results

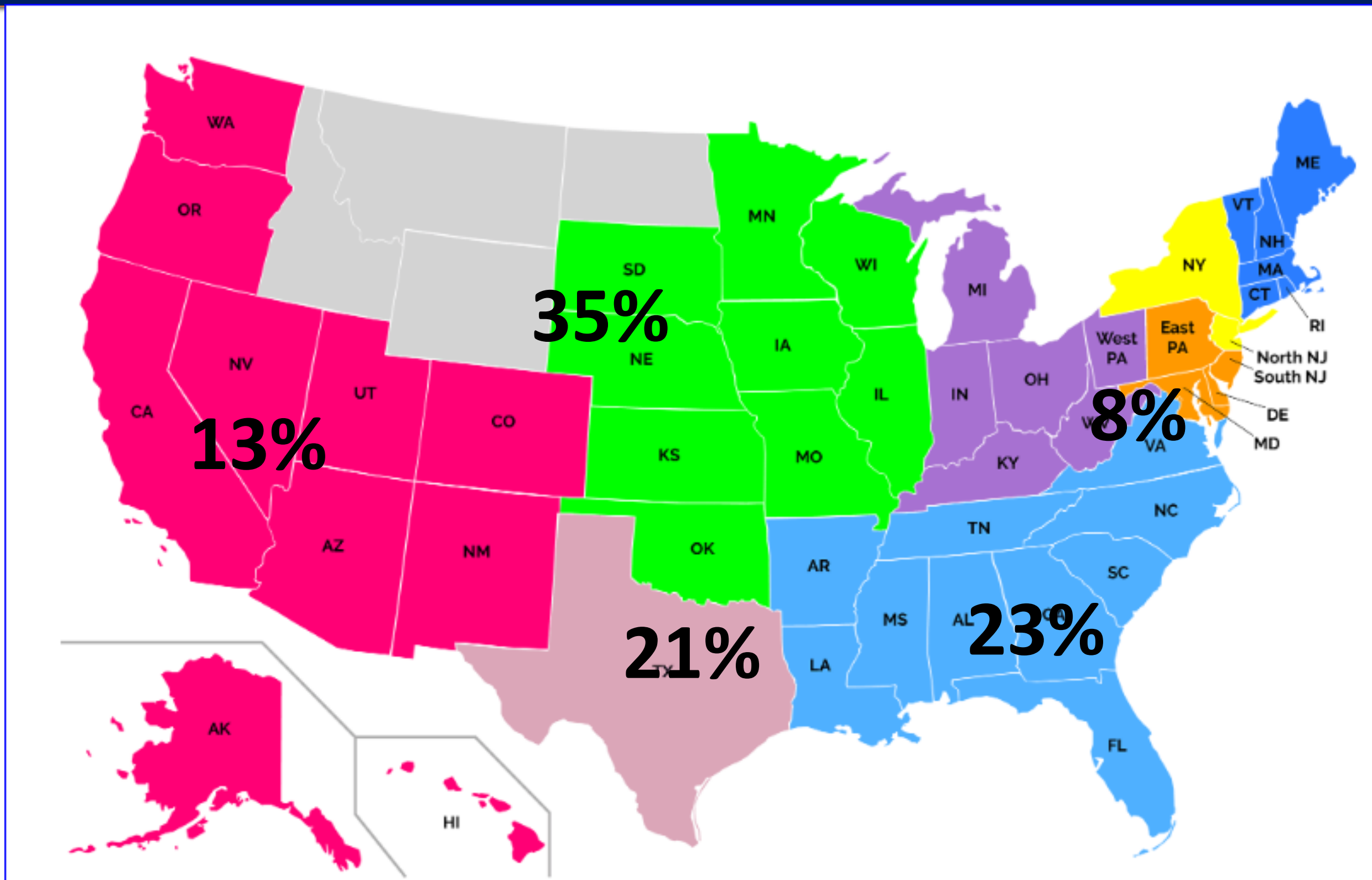


Figure 1. Dental School Regions Represented in Study

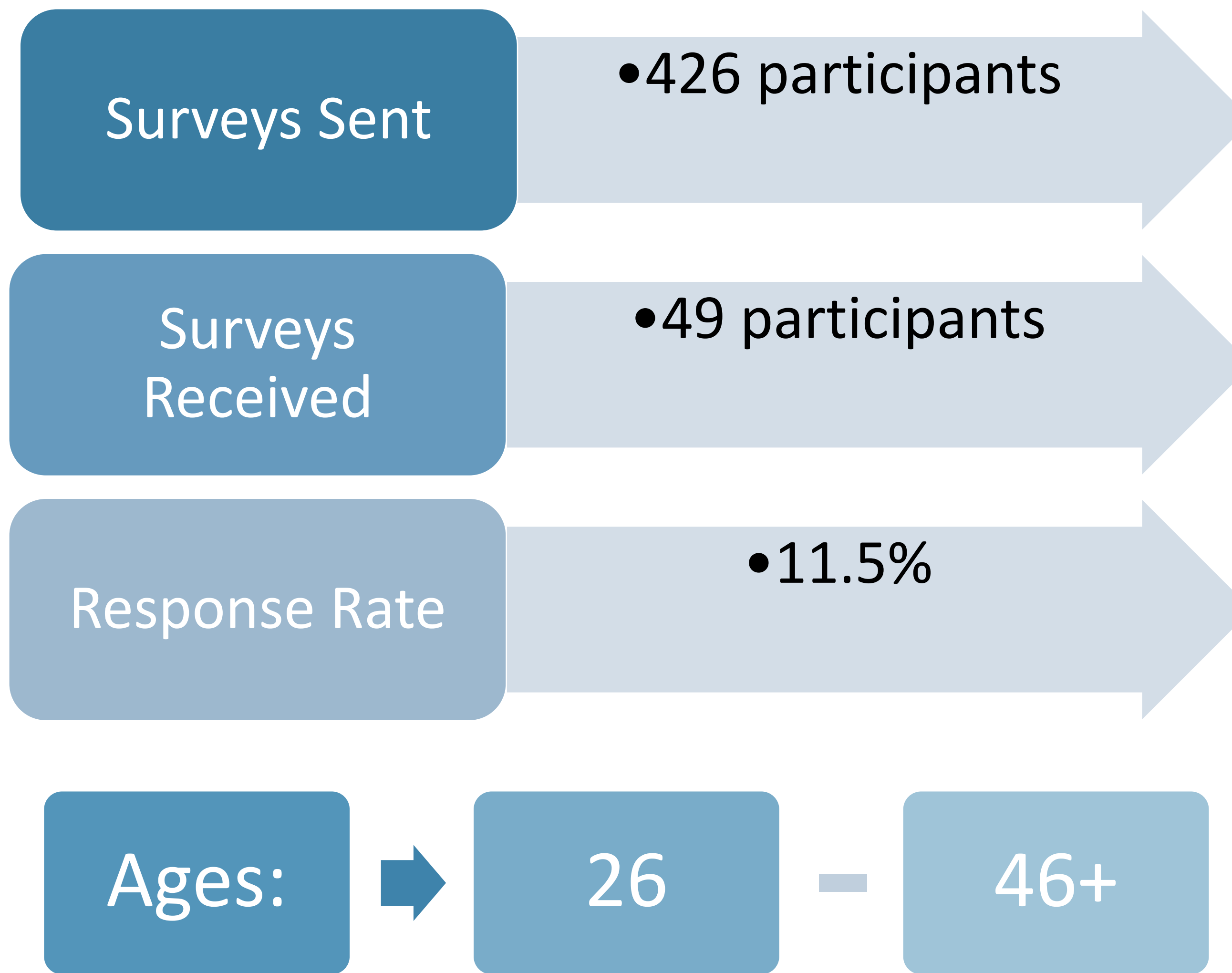


Figure 2. Survey Response Rate and Ages Represented

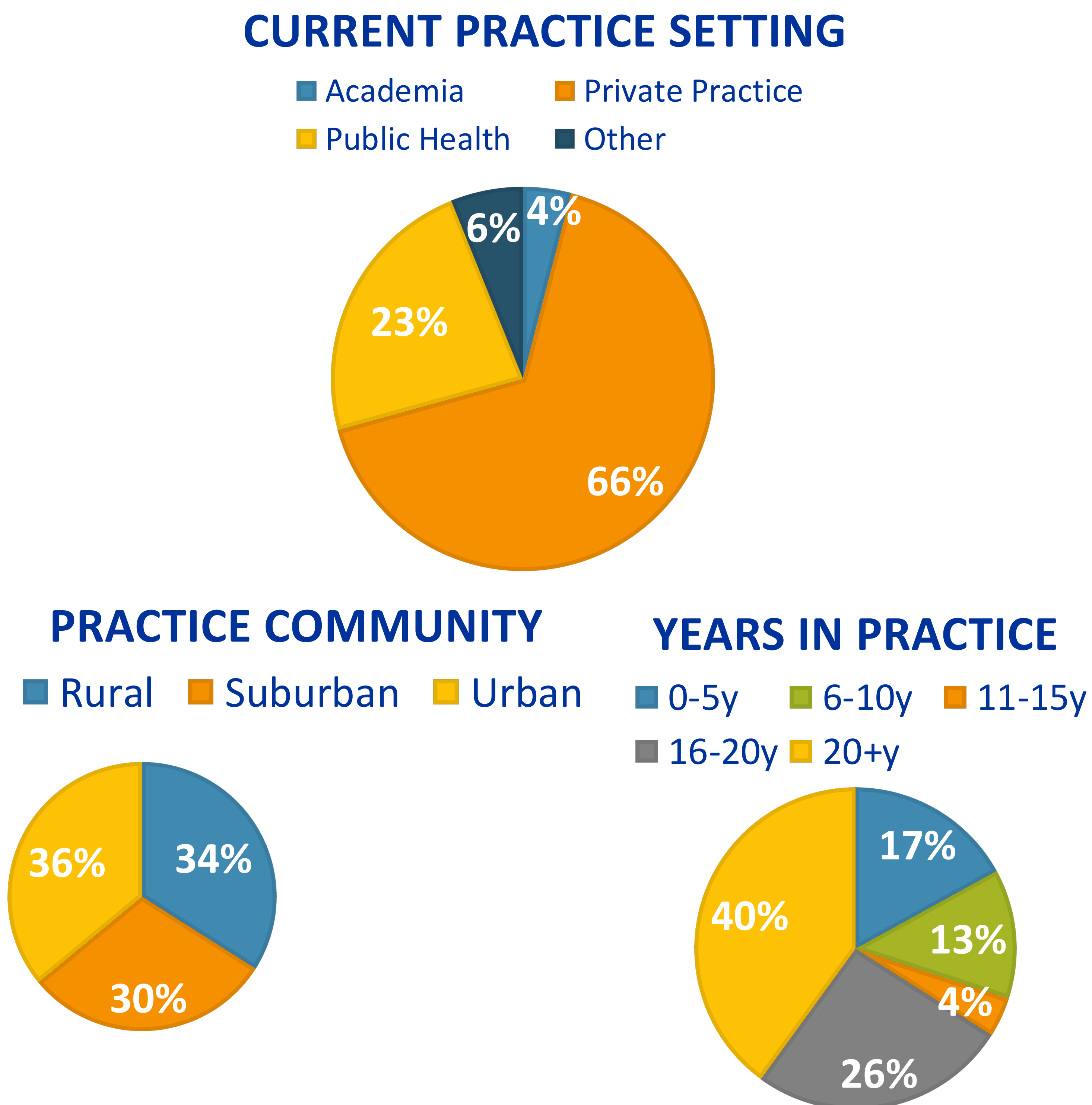


Figure 3. Demographic Data

Results

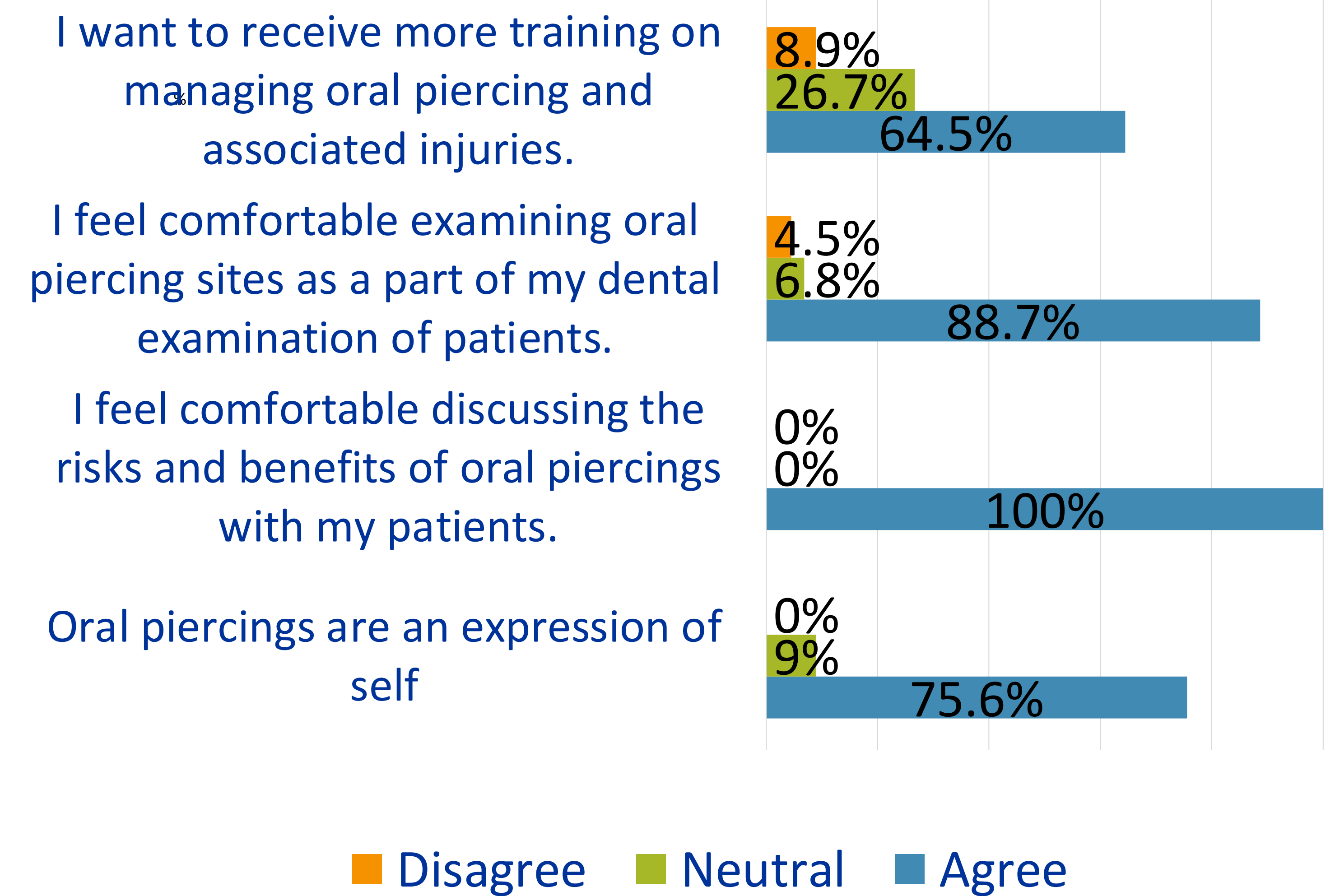


Figure 4. Provider Attitudes Towards Oral Piercings

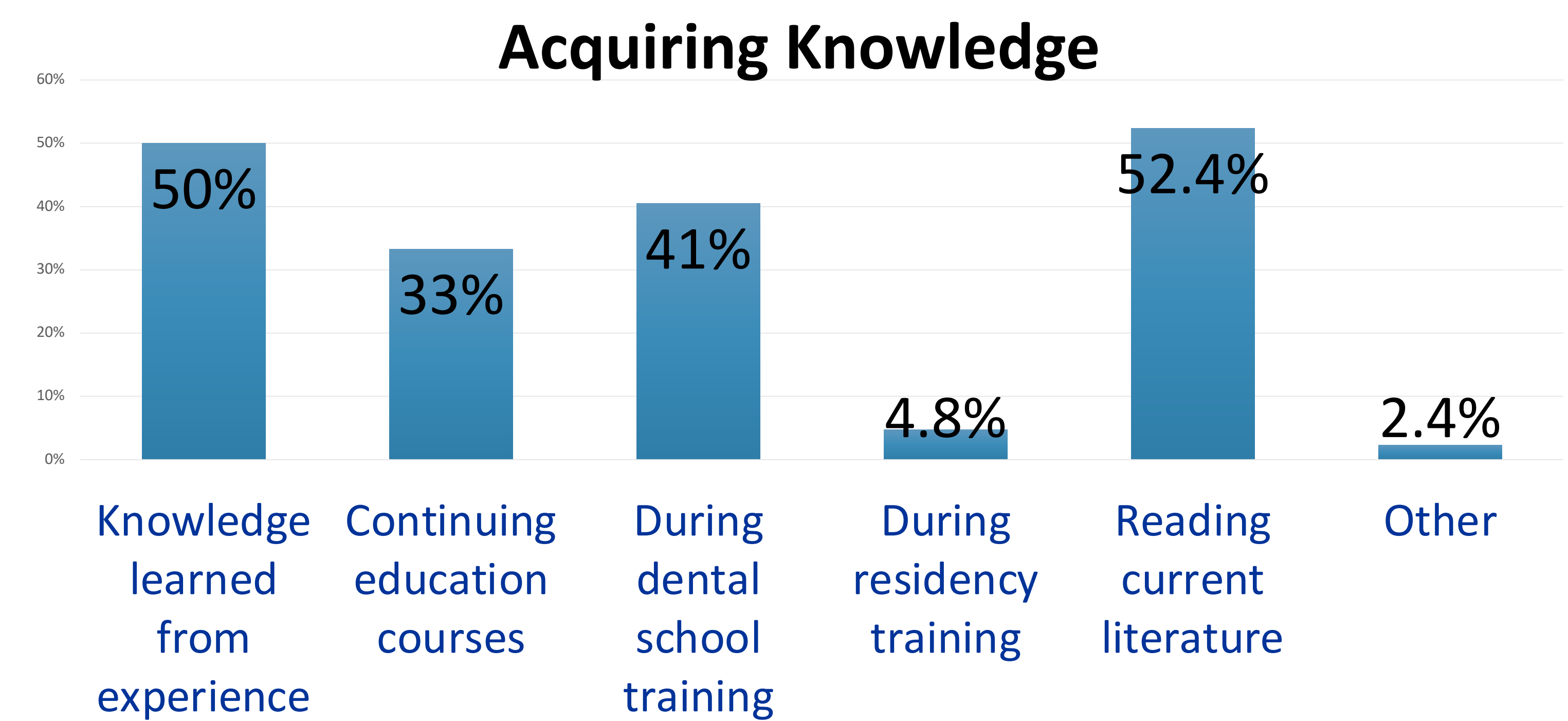


Figure 5. Where Providers have Acquired their Knowledge

Conclusions

- ✓ Although the survey response rate was low, results indicate that providers are now recognizing oral piercings as a form of self-expression.
- ✓ Despite dental school curricula's paucity on this topic, providers acquired knowledge from other sources enabling them to comfortably manage and treat patients with oral piercings in their practice.