

The Center for Demographic & Social Analysis

Presents

Stephanie Reich

Associate Professor of Education, UC Irvine

PAINFUL VISITS: DISPARITIES IN PARENTS' EXPERIENCES IN THE DENTAL OFFICE

Although Disparities in oral health care have persisted in the US, even with efforts to increase access and dental health literacy. Research on pediatric dental disparities focuses on structural (e.g., transportation, dentist availability), attitudinal (e.g., devaluing baby-teeth, home remedies), and behavioral (e.g., bottle at night, diet) barriers, with little attention paid to the experiences families have in the clinic and how the quality of these interactions might impact their likelihood of returning or taking other children for dental care. To explore how experiences may serve as barriers and facilitators to oral health care for low-income children, four focus groups (n=33) in English and Spanish were conducted with caregivers of preschool-aged children. From these groups, a survey was drafted and another 1184 caregivers were interviewed in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Thematic coding of focus groups found little support for typically reported barriers to pediatric oral healthcare utilization (e.g., transportation, cost, knowledge). Instead, caregivers reported negative experiences (e.g., restraint, separation) to be barriers. Parents in our survey study similarly reported negative experiences. Using a mixed-method design, we discovered that our local children are having very negative experiences at the dentist, especially if they are not affluent or white.

Click link for [Stephanie Reich](#) information

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

12:30 pm - 1:30 p.m.

SSPB-Room 4250

Light Lunch for Early Arrivals