

Abstract Proposal for Academy for Sports Dentistry Annual Symposium:

Preparedness level of middle and high school athletic trainers in the state of north carolina in immediately managing dental and orofacial injuries. Companioni SM*, Groody JT*, Duqum IS. (UNC Adams School of Dentistry, Chapel Hill, NC)

Research supported by the Dental Foundation of North Carolina.

Purpose: According to the 2017-2018 High School Athletics Participation Survey, 7,980,886 high school students participate in athletics. Although participation in high school sports provides healthy benefits to athletes, it puts them at risk for an array of injuries, including dental and orofacial trauma. In the event of injury during an athletic event, the athletic trainer is typically the first to respond to and manage those injuries. However, the preparedness of athletic trainers to manage dental and orofacial trauma has not been validated in previous studies.

Methods: After receiving IRB approval (18-3163) middle and high school athletic trainers in North Carolina were contacted with an electronic questionnaire using the Qualtrics secure web application. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data.

Results: 28 participants have completed the survey to date. 32% have not received any professional training regarding dental and orofacial trauma management. Among all participants, the preparedness level ranged from 43% to 100%, depending on the type of injury.

Conclusions: Based on the results of the survey, the preparedness of middle and high school athletic trainers greatly varies. Standardization and improvement of education is pertinent to the prevention and treatment of trauma in these athletes.