
Profile of dental prophylaxes rendered by pediatric dentists in New England. S.M. Hashim Nainar and Deborah A. Redford-Badwal. University of Michigan School of Dentistry and University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine.

The objectives of this anonymous mail survey were to obtain information on dental prophylaxes provided by pediatric dentists in New England. The questionnaire survey was mailed in September, 2001 to all 217 American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry members in private practice in the six New England States. An addressed and stamped return envelope was provided to facilitate the response. 149 questionnaires (69%) were returned within a six week period. Almost all of the respondents (93%) recommended dental prophylaxis on a routine basis for their recall patients. The proportion of respondents who considered the following indications for recommending dental prophylaxis was: Plaque, stain and/or calculus removal: 99 percent; Caries prevention: 75 percent; Prior to topical fluoride application: 82 percent; Prior to sealant application: 58 percent; and Behavioral modification: 68 percent. In accordance with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's definition of dental prophylaxis, majority of the respondents (62%) defined it as referring to rubber cup pumice prophylaxis as well as toothbrush prophylaxis. However, only a minority of the respondents (26%) had modified their clinical practice to perform toothbrush prophylaxis in lieu of rubber cup pumice prophylaxis. In conclusion, this survey demonstrated that the provision of dental prophylaxis to New England children by their pediatric dentists during recall visits was more of a standardized procedure rather than an evidence-based one.