

Abundant Opportunities to Improve Infection Control Training and Assessment in Dentistry

Sarah Stream (1), Muhammad Salman Ashraf (1, 2), Charles Craft (3), Margaret Drake (1), Dan German (1), Richard Hankins (1, 2),

Lacey Pavlovsky (1), Kate Tyner (1), and Nicolás Cortés-Penfield (1, 2)

(1) Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion program, Nebraska Medicine, Omaha, NE, (2) Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, (3) Office of Oral Health and Dentistry, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Lincoln, NE

BACKGROUND

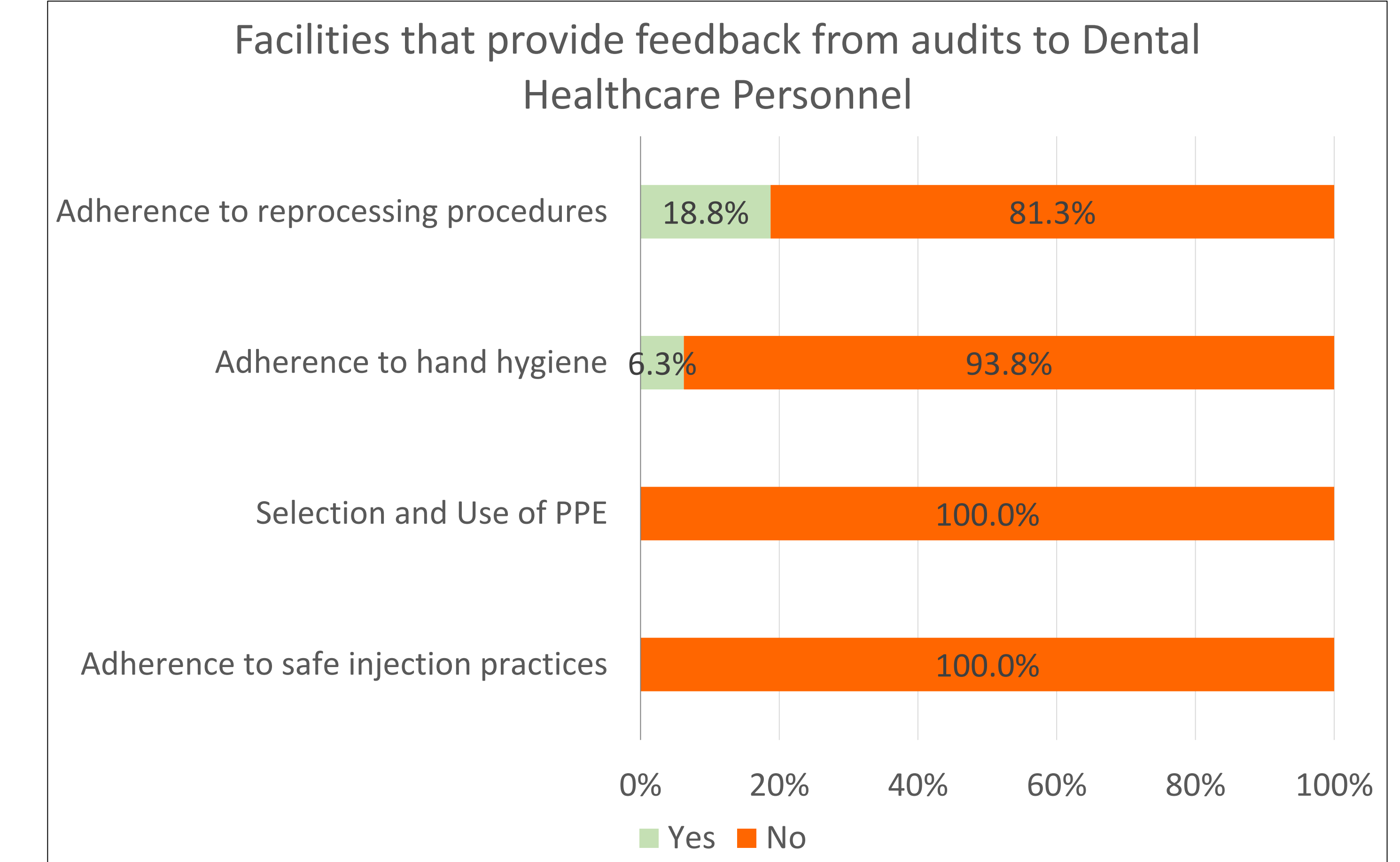
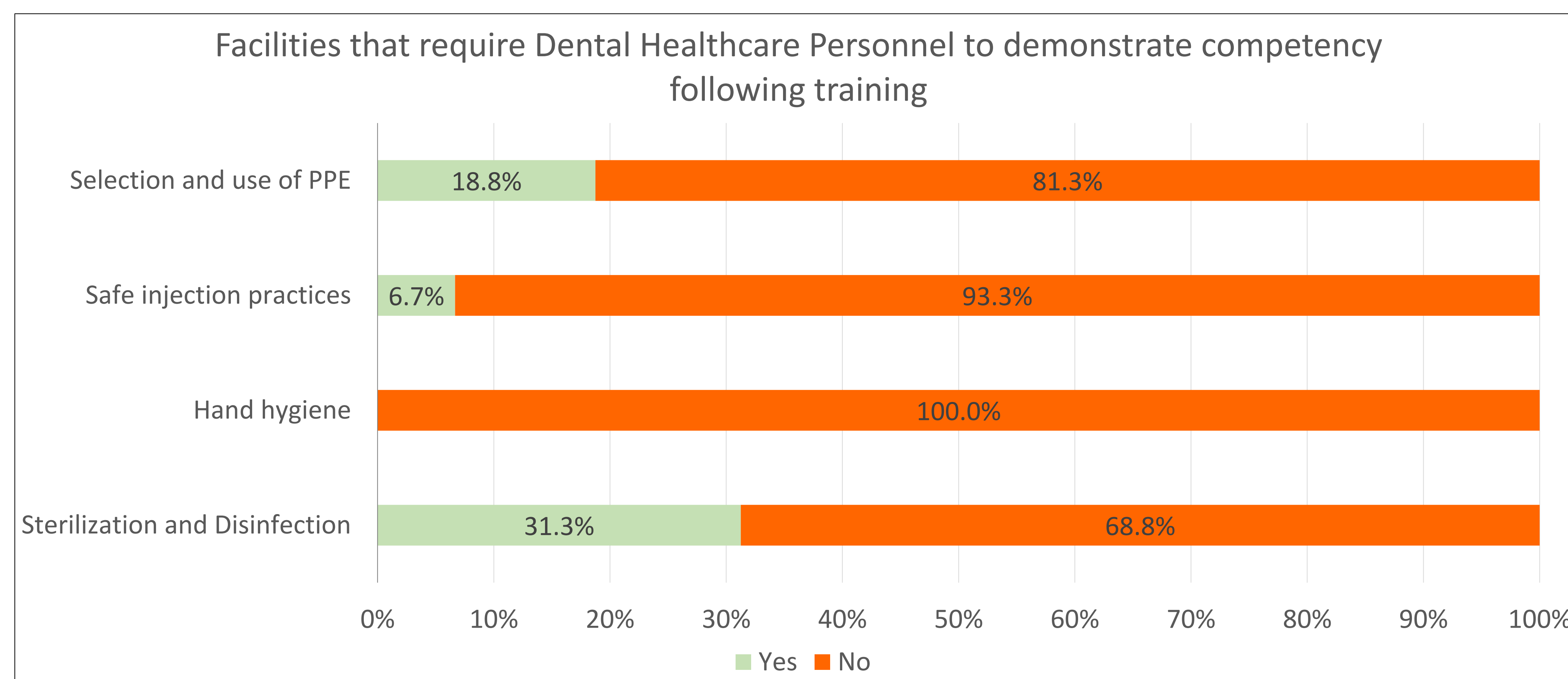
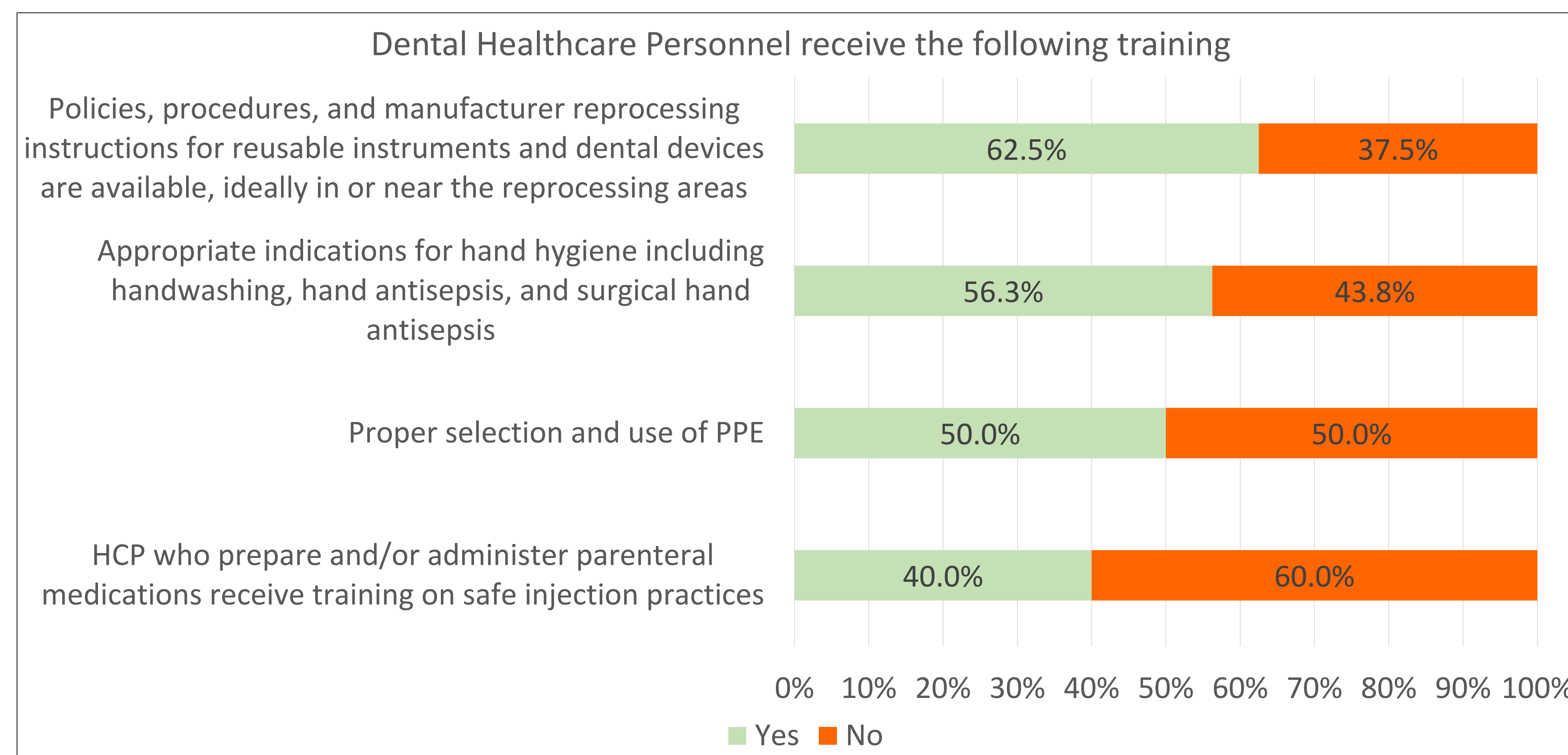
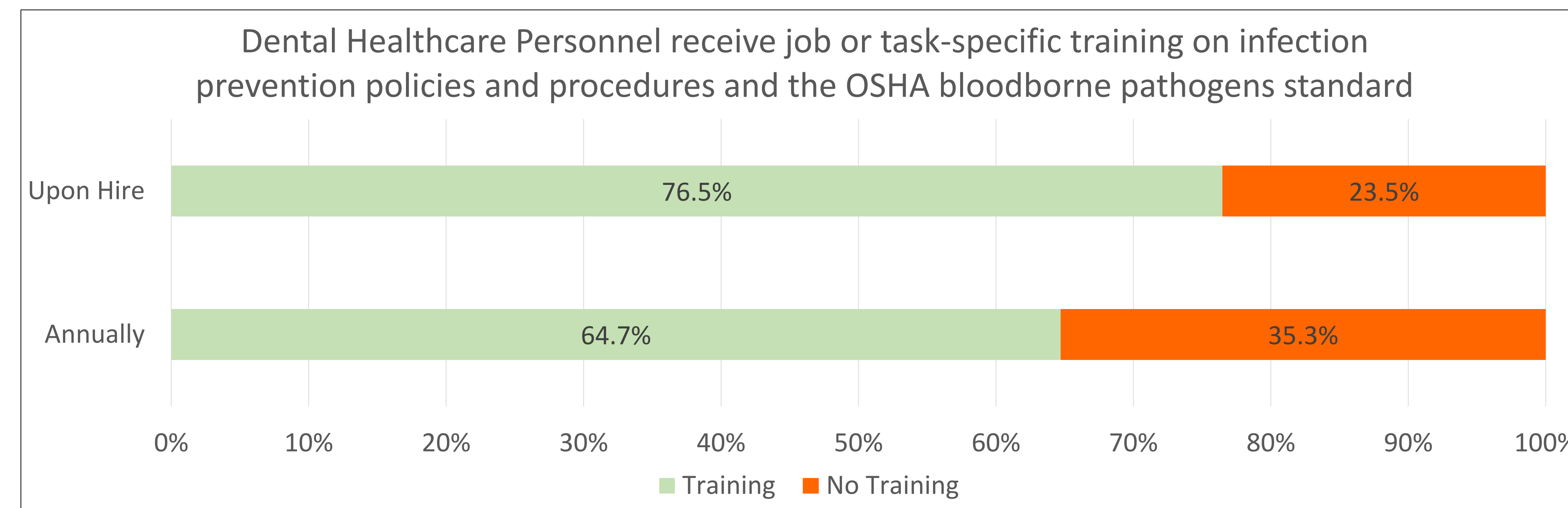
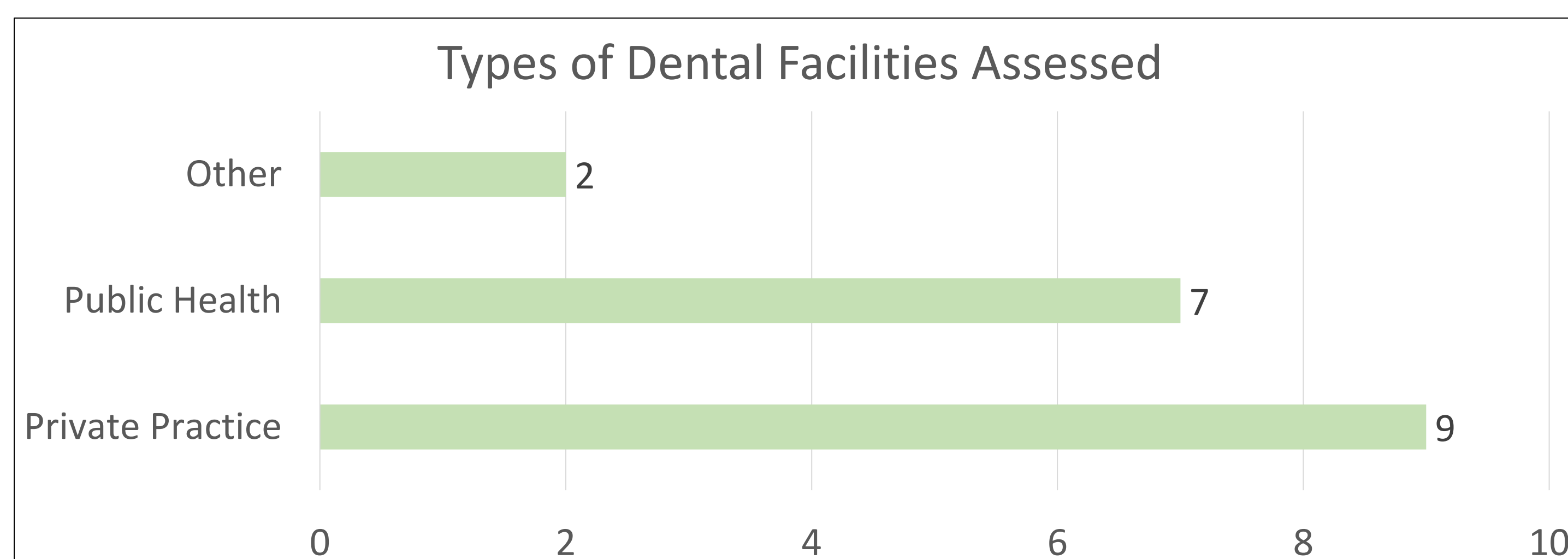
- The Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program (ICAP) is a grant funded program supported by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- ICAP offers free, voluntary infection control consultations to Nebraska healthcare facilities, performing in-person assessments upon request using an adaptation of the CDC's "Basic Expectations of Safe Care" infection prevention checklist

METHODS

- NE ICAP conducted on-site assessments and observations of infection prevention and control programs in 18 dental facilities
- Fourteen assessments were conducted in 2018-2019 and four from April to June 2021; assessments were suspended during the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic

RESULTS

- Nine private practices, seven public health facilities, and two other dental facilities were assessed
- 24% of facilities provided no Infection Control (IC) training to employees upon hire and 35% did not provide annual refresher trainings
- When facilities did offer training, key subjects were frequently omitted, including safe injection practices (omitted in 60%), protective personal equipment (PPE) selection and use (50%), hand hygiene (44%), and sterilization and disinfection procedures (38%)
- Few facilities required employees to demonstrate competency in sterilization and disinfection (31%), PPE selection (19%), safe infection practices (7%) or hand hygiene (0%)
- Few facilities performed audits with feedback regarding adherence to proper procedures for sterilization and disinfection (19%), hand hygiene (6%), PPE selection and safe infection practices (0% each)



Conclusion

- Key gaps in dental IC programs included failures to assess employee competency regarding IC procedures and failures to engage in audit and feedback processes to ensure adherence to IC measures
- Most dental facilities offered employees IC trainings, but these were often neither routine nor comprehensive

DISCLOSURE

- The authors of this study have no relevant conflicts of interest to disclose related to the content of this poster

REFERENCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2003). Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Settings
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Contact Information:
Sarah Stream, MPH, CDIPC, CDA, FADAA
Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-8173
sstream@nebraskamed.com

