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**The Effects of Childhood Dental Trauma Upon Adult Dental Attendance. K. HOWE\*, A. KOERBER, S. FADAVI, I. PUNWANI (University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, Chicago, (IL).**

**Purpose:** Dental anxiety is a primary reason for infrequent adult dental visits. The objective of this study is to determine the effects memories of childhood dental trauma have upon adult dental attendance. **Methods:** A survey was sent to 412 randomly selected employees and 607 randomly selected undergraduate students at an urban, mid-western university. A questionnaire was sent to subjects through the mail that included the Corah Dental Anxiety Scale (CDAS), age, gender, frequency of adult dental visits, and memories of a traumatic dental visit as a child. **Results:** 49% of UIC employees and 33% of UIC students returned completed surveys. Females had a higher response rate (T-test, staff  $p=0.031$ , student  $p=0.004$ ) and had more overall dental anxiety. Subjects who had a memory of a traumatic dental visit as a child were significantly more anxious (T-test,  $p=0.003$ ). Anxiety lowered the frequency of dental visits (Spearman correlation,  $p<0.001$ ), yet memories of a traumatic dental visit had no association with frequency of adult dental visits (Mann Whitney U,  $p=0.130$ ). **Conclusions:** The results of this study indicate that adult dental attendance is not significantly associated with memories of traumatic childhood visits. Memories of childhood dental trauma were found to be correlated with adult dental anxiety, and unless this anxiety is overcome with frequent dental visits and interactions, it may result in eventual dental avoidance.