

Introduction

E-cigarettes are popular worldwide products especially for young people. Although it is steadily increasing among undergraduate students, health students will play a fundamental role in providing information about potential risks to their patients. Since there is a lack of information on what dental students learn about the adverse effects of e-cigarettes, this study aimed to map the knowledge of dental students on the potential carcinogenic effects resulting from the use of these devices.

Methods

A cross-sectional study was carried out including dental students from the University of Brasilia, Brazil. The questionnaire was administered anonymously to the students via email and social networks. A total of 303 dental students was eligible to respond to the questionnaire. From these, 184 (60.72%) responded to the questionnaire. Descriptive and analytical statistics were performed using proportions and mean values with 95% confidence intervals. The Chi-square test was applied to identify statistically significant differences between quantitative variables.

Results

Characteristics	Variables	n	% (95%CI)
Sex	Male	53	28.80 (22.75–35.73)
	Female	131	71.20 (64.27–77.25)
Age (years)	≤19	52	28.26 (22.25–35.16)
	20 – 25	118	64.13 (56.98–70.71)
	26 – 29	10	5.43 (2.97–9.71)
	≥30	4	2.17 (0.84–5.45)
Undergraduate Semester (Dentistry)	1	20	10.86 (7.14–16.19)
	2	21	11.41 (7.58–16.82)
	3	22	11.95 (8.03–17.44)
	4	22	11.95 (8.03–17.44)
	5	35	19.02 (14.01–25.30)
	6	22	11.95 (8.03–17.44)
	7	14	7.60 (4.58–12.36)
	8	10	5.43 (2.97–9.71)
	9	8	4.34 (2.21–8.34)
	10	10	5.43 (2.97–9.71)
Family Income (minimum wage)*	Less than 1	5	2.71 (1.16–6.20)
	1	14	7.60 (4.58–12.36)
	2 a 4	62	33.69 (27.26–40.80)
	5 or more	103	55.97 (48.76–62.96)

*Considering the Brazilian minimum wage

Table 1. Descriptive analysis of individual variables (n = 184).

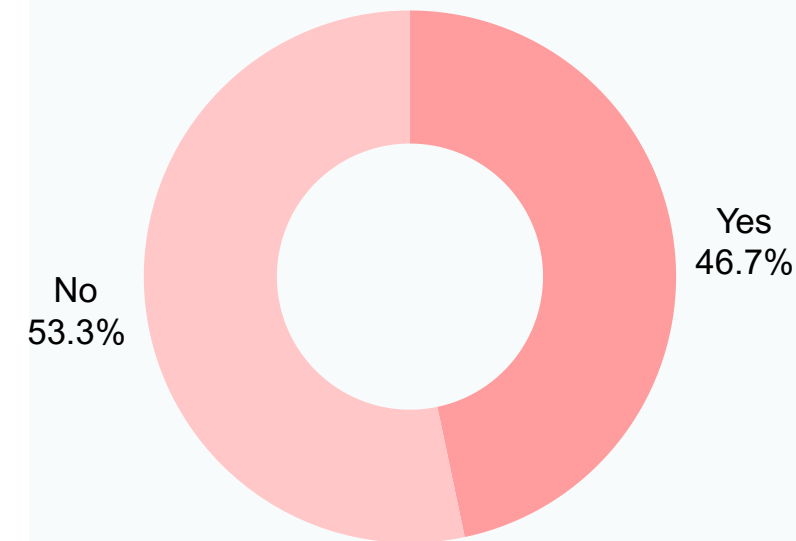
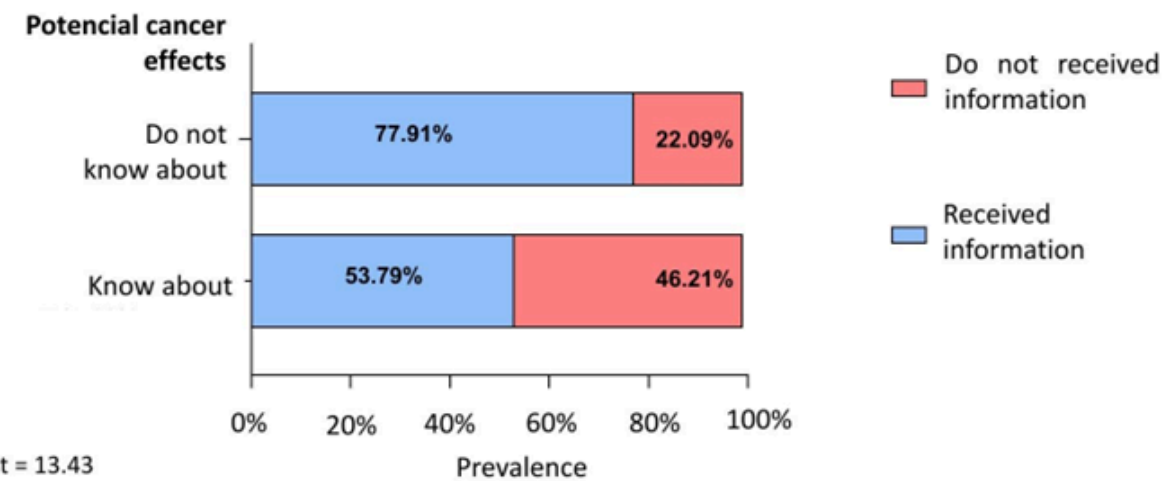


Figure 1. During your undergraduate studies, did you receive any information about the effects of electronic cigarettes?



Chi-square test = 13.43
p = 0.0002***

Graphpad Prism, version 9.5.0
(California, USA)

Figure 2. Knowledge about potential cancer effects caused by e-cigarettes.

Discussion

The positive association between knowledge about the development of cancer in users exposed to e-cigarettes may be attributed to advertisements related to nicotine, which are well known by the population. This may also be related to the content of the lectures from the School of Dentistry.

However, almost half of the reported sample never had information about e-cigarettes during their undergraduate studies. Thus, it is necessary to implement educational strategies in health courses to promote the students as health educators.

References

