

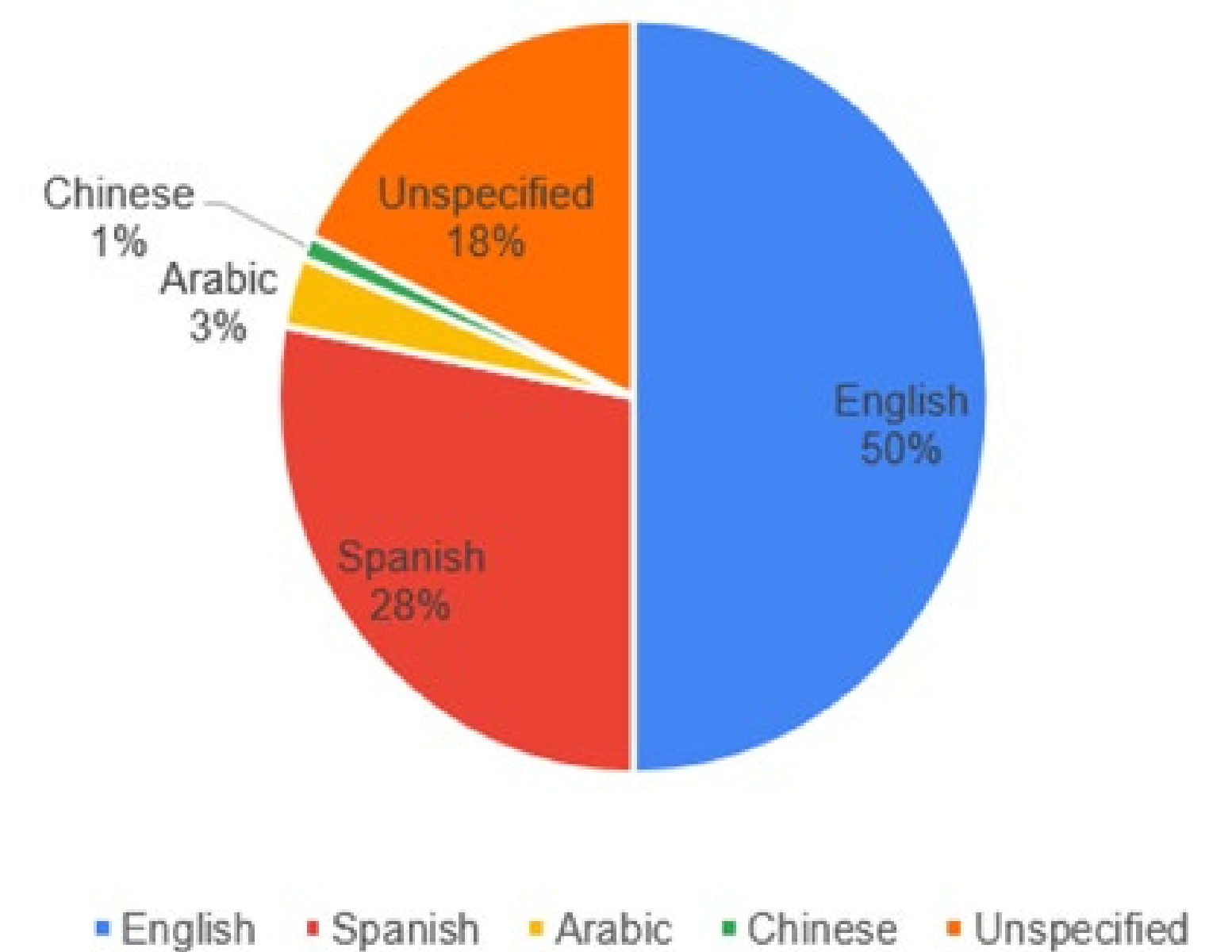
## INTRODUCTION

- Children from households where a language other than English was the primary language experienced disparities in:
  - (1) access to care
  - (2) prevention education, anticipatory guidance services
  - (3) overall health.
- There is limited research on the relationship between primary caregiver's acculturation and oral health outcomes.
- Objective: To explore primary caregiver's acculturation and the correlation with their child's decayed missing filled teeth (dmft) scores and caries risk factors using preferred language as a proxy for acculturation.

## METHODS

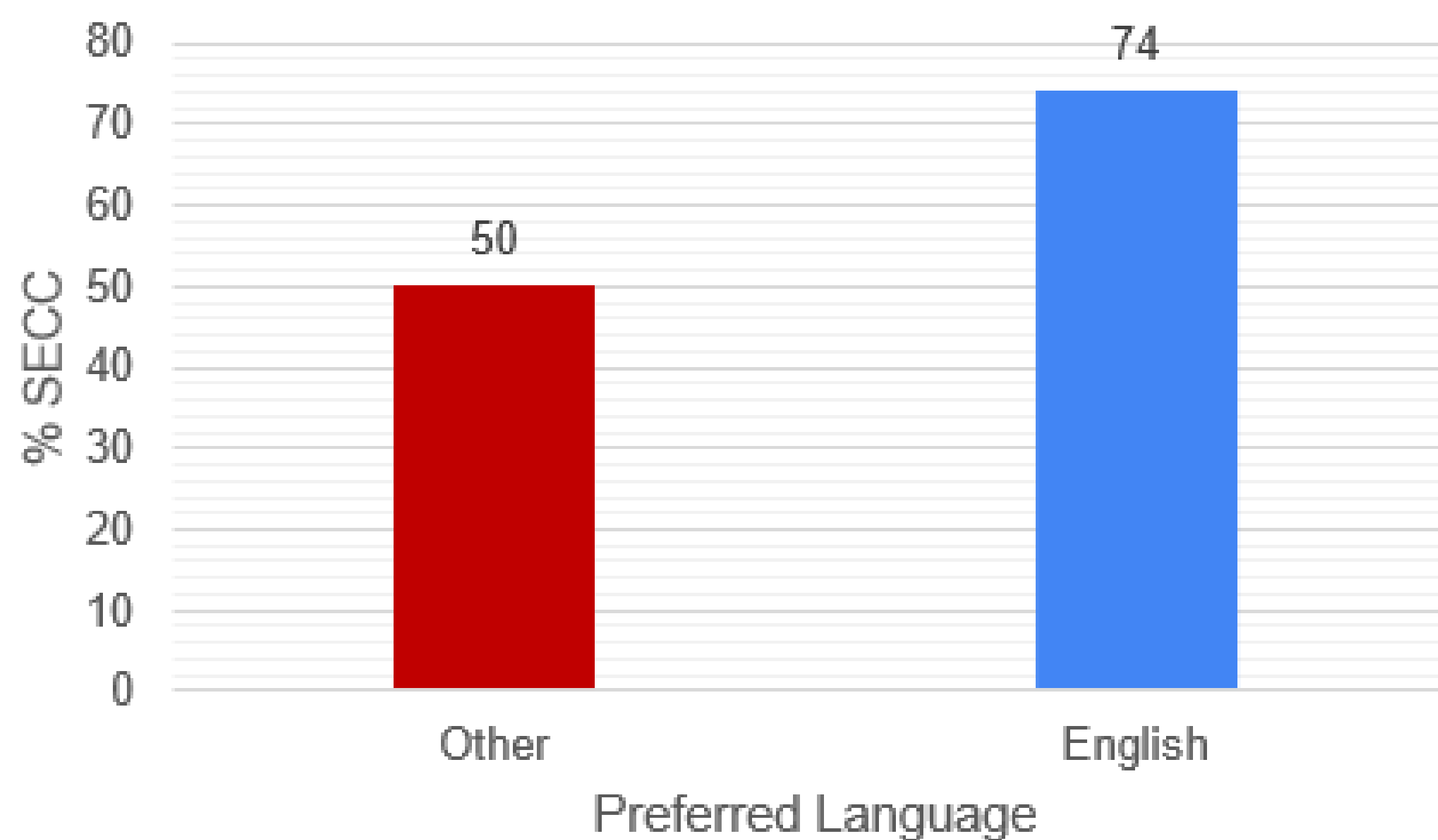
- Reviewed records of 100 participants, ages 2 to 8 years old, from community dental clinic within large academic medical center in Washington Heights.
- Two groups (n=50 each) compared; control group of primary caregivers who spoke English and study group of primary caregivers whose preferred language was non-English.
- Data included child demographics, dmft score, and caries risk factors.
- Modified definition of severe early childhood caries (SECC) where number of cavities was greater than child's age utilized.
- Multivariable analysis conducted using Fisher's Exact Test and Kruskal Wallis Test to examine association of dmft scores and caries risk factors for the two groups.
- Pearson correlation between continuous age and dmft scores was calculated with 95% confidence interval.

Preferred Language Distribution



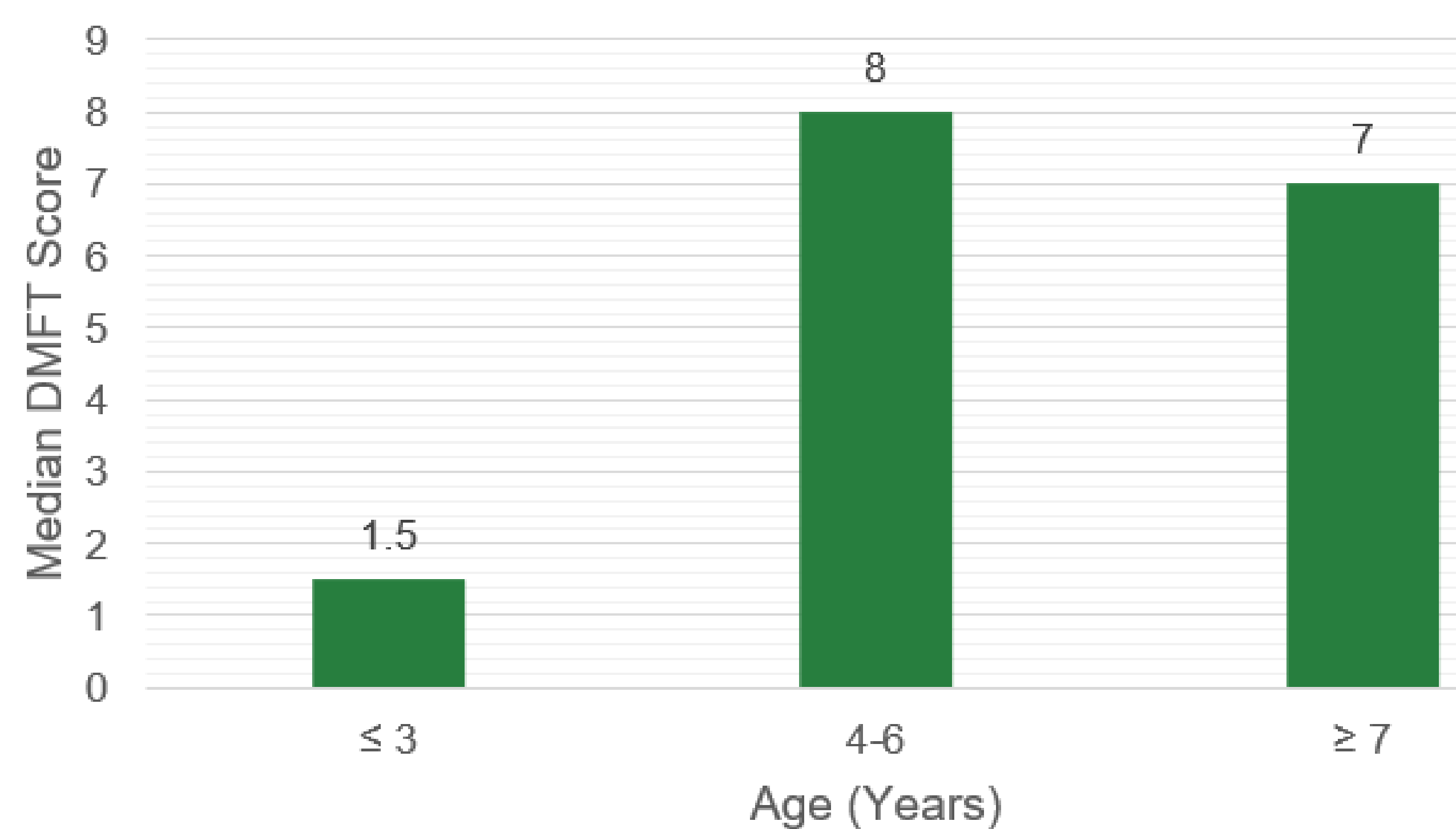
## RESULTS

Percent SECC by Preferred Language



On average, fewer children with primary caregivers whose primary language was non-English were classified as having SECC than those with primary caregivers whose primary language was "English" (50% vs 74%, p=0.023).

Median DMFT score by Age



Positive correlation between age group and median dmft score (p=0.025) with the group of patients age 4-6 years old having the highest median dmft score and the group of patients ≤3 years old having the lowest median dmft score (Pearson correlation of 0.21, 95% CI: 0.01, 0.39)

## CONCLUSION

- Age, sex, and insurance status did not differ significantly by language preference.
- Primary caregiver acculturation using 'preferred language' was not associated with caries prevalence in children.
- Fewer children with caregivers whose language was Other classified as having m-SECC
- Positive correlation between age group and median dmft score

## LIMITATIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Limitations: Small sample size
- Future Directions: Examining primary caregivers requiring interpreters and caries prevalence

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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