

SHARING STATISTICAL ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES USING DENTAL PRACTICE DATA

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Statistics education has a vital role to play in all workplaces. Operational data can be turned into valuable knowledge. Dental practices are continually collecting patient data but it is often an underutilised resource. For practices which use digital systems, a large reserve of patient information is available. With the right knowledge, practice managers can gain insight into patient demographics to guide business decisions and improve patient care. We aimed to disseminate simple techniques to use data from practice management software and provide a guide to basic statistical analysis using Microsoft Excel, statistical software and tools available in freeware such as “R”. This allowed practice owners to understand and begin to use statistics and data analytic techniques and helped promote statistical literacy in the wider society.