Causal effect of poverty on dental pain among US adults

Background

It could be considered a social injustice if people suffer from dental pain merely because they are poor. Previous research has consistently shown evidence on the association between economic disadvantage and adverse oral health outcomes, including dental pain. We aimed to estimate the impact of poverty on the prevalence of dental pain among adults in the United States.

Methods

poverty level index

ratio of family income to poverty

was calculated by dividing family (or individual) income by the poverty guidelines specific to the survey year.