

# Tackling Alabama's Dental Provider Shortage: Measuring Success of a Pipeline Program to Increase Dental Workforce

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## Logic Model

- Inputs**
- Time to create lecture materials and curriculums
  - Materials/funds to print and prepare for hands-on activities
  - Feedback on the curriculum from mentors and organization instructors

- Activities**
- Created presentation slides for each population of students in different sites
  - Curated hands-on dental activities for students

- Outputs**
- Student Groups Reached: 4
  - Surveys Distributed: 87
  - Delivered oral hygiene instruction and dental career introductions to 214 students

- Outcomes**
- Goal to increase number of students interested in dental career by 50%
  - Goal to increase in the dental career perception scores by 10%

## Introduction

There is an urgent need for dental care in the state of Alabama. Increased interest and exposure in dental careers amongst Alabamian students is needed, especially in rural settings.

- Alabama is ranked 51st in the country for dental care access - ADA
- 71% of Alabama counties are face dental care shortages - ADA
- Nearly half of Alabama counties have fewer than 10 dentists - CDC
- The overall US population to dentist ratio is 1,380:1  
Alabama's overall population to dentist ratio is 4,008.38:1 - County Health Ranking

## Impact

- Created a pipeline program to increase interest in dental careers for middle school students in Alabama .
- Following the program, students showed increase in perception scores in all target domains: job prospects (5.7% increase), social influences (2.8% increase), self efficacy (4.7% increase), and nature of work (3.5% increase) (Figure 1).
- A 125% increase in the number of students interested in dental career was also observed (Figure 2).
- Project will be sustained through continued collaboration, outreach, and data collection with UAB SOD Office of Admissions

Figure 1. Change in Dental Career Interest After Pipeline Program

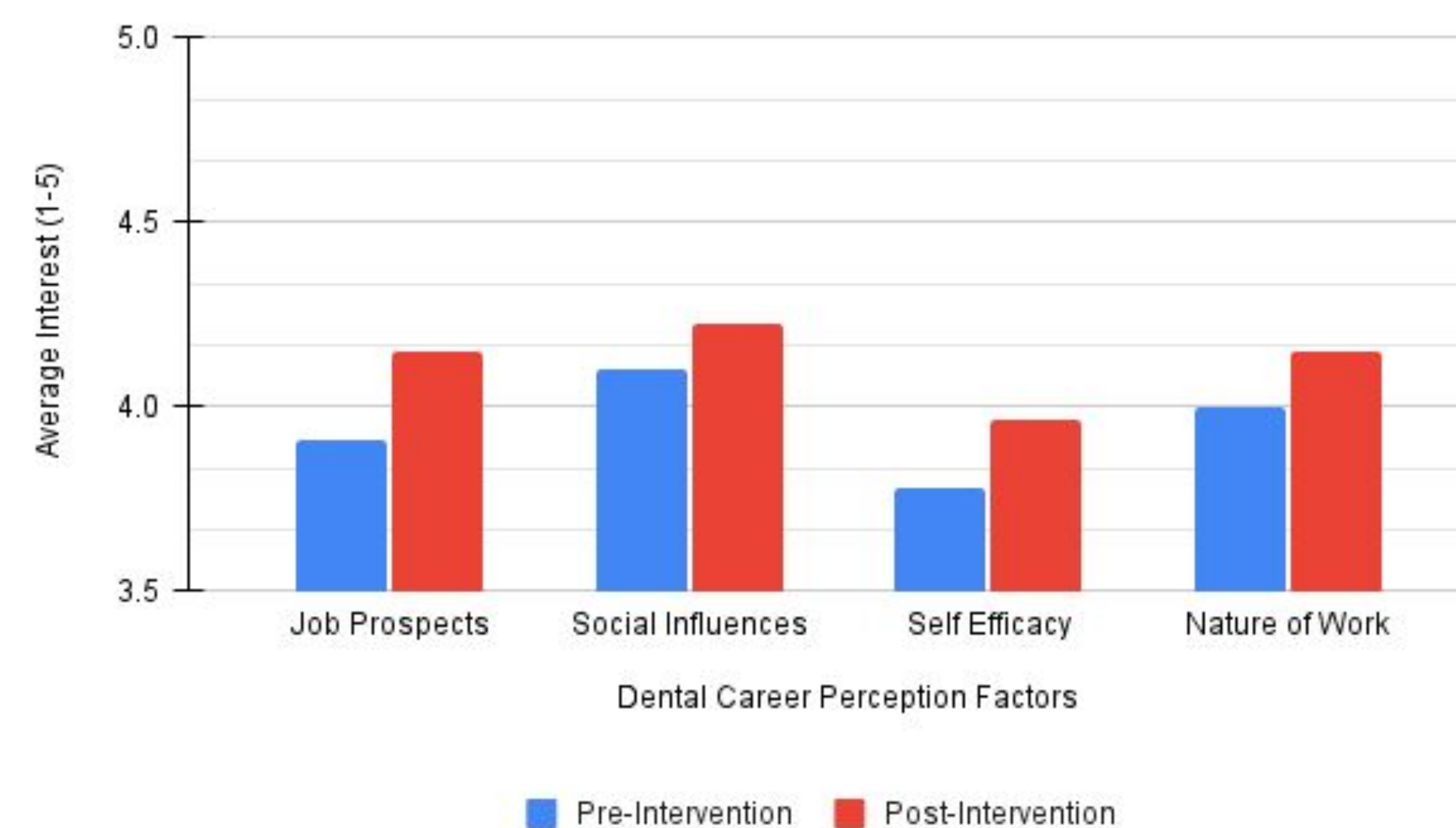
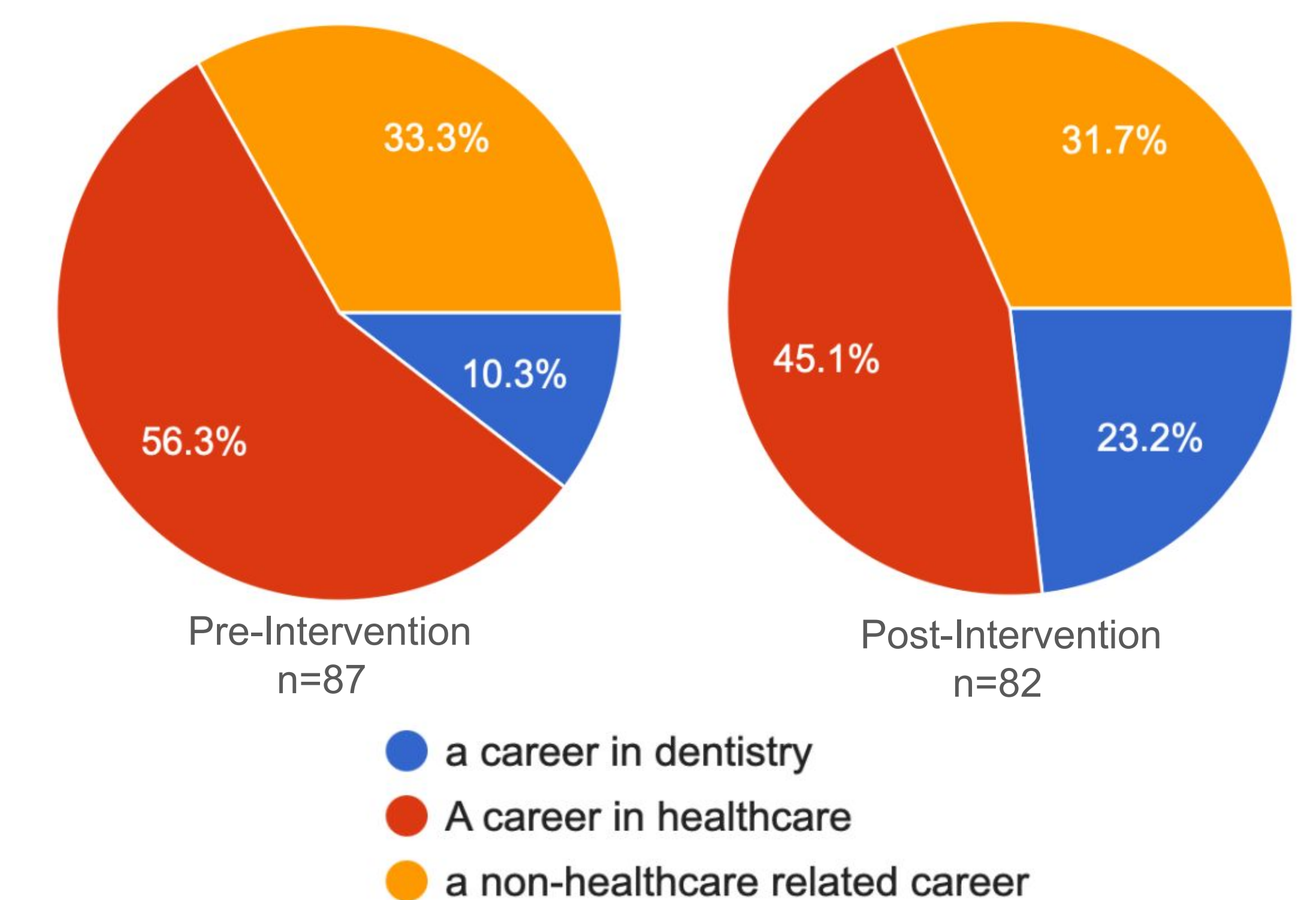


Figure 2. Change in Dental Career Interest



## Critical Assessment

We experienced challenges establishing connections with schools in rural areas. Through facilitated connections provided by our mentors and directors, we were able to reach out to various schools, student organizations, and nonprofits. This experience highlighted the difficulty in accessing rural communities due to limited connections. Maintaining ongoing outreach efforts and preserving established connections will be critical to overcome such barrier.



Local YMCA Oral Hygiene Instruction presentation

