

Smile Train: Barriers to Cleft Care Before, During, and After COVID-19

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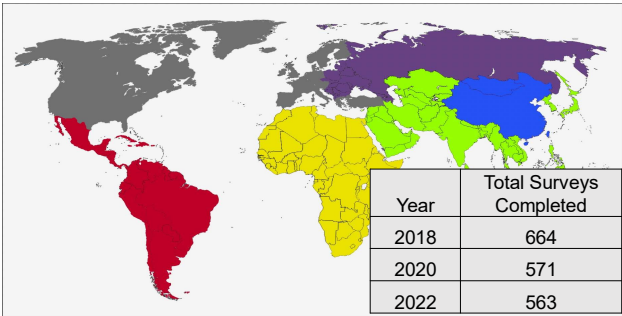
Background

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, elective procedures including cleft palate and/or lip repair were halted.
- Smile Train is dedicated to providing discounted quality cleft care for all.
- We investigated how barriers to cleft care changed before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods

- We obtained survey responses from all Smile Train Hospitals who completed the Barriers to Care Survey from 2018, 2020, and 2022.
- Responses were categorized by region.
- Barriers were categorized into themes.
- Descriptive and statistical analyses were completed for differences.

Results



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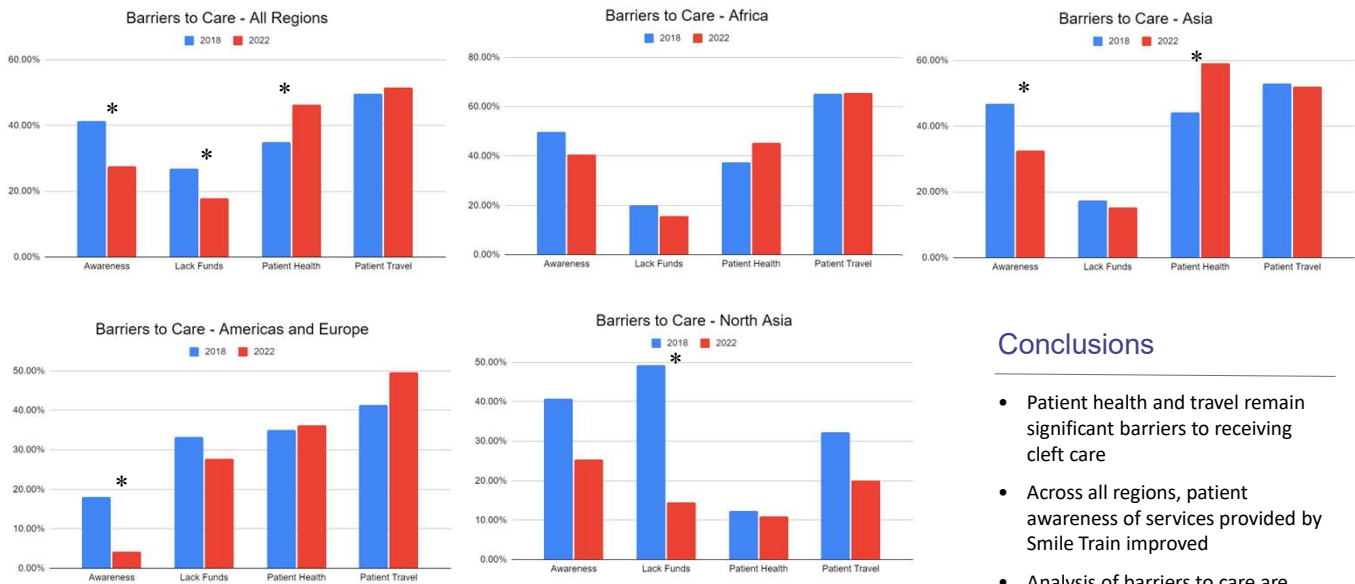


Figure 1. World map highlighting the regions from where Smile Train surveys were collected from. Figure 2. Percentage of barriers to care reported by all regions combined and individually from 2018-2022. * indicates statistical significance

Conclusions

- Patient health and travel remain significant barriers to receiving cleft care
- Across all regions, patient awareness of services provided by Smile Train improved
- Analysis of barriers to care are important to ensuring safe surgery can be made available to all