

1691 Perceived Stress in First-Year Dental Undergraduates in Western Australia

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Objective: This study aimed to identify the correlates of perceived stress (PS) in a sample of first-year dental undergraduates in Western Australia.

Methods: All dental undergraduates who just completed the first-year study at the University of Western Australia (UWA) in 2005 were invited to participate (n=46). Each completed a supervised questionnaire.

Results: The participation rate was 87.0%. Those first-year dental undergraduates who were male ($p=0.053$, $B=4.223$, 95% CI=-0.063, 8.509), smoked tobacco at present ($p=0.038$, $B=7.392$, 95% CI=0.447, 14.337), perceived being intimidated by tutors/lecturers in previous month ($p<0.001$, $B=9.262$, 95% CI=4.431, 14.093), or who felt less satisfied with their decision to study dentistry ($p=0.005$, $B=-4.005$, 95% CI=-6.686, -1.323), reported higher total scores for PS.

Conclusions: PS in first-year dental undergraduates in UWA is related to a wide range of factors. Future investigations need to identify a range of strategies for managing PS from the students' and tutors' perspectives.

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