THE TEACHING OF STATISTICS IN THE STATE DENTISTRY SCHOOLS OF SÃO PAULO (UNESP, USP, AND UNICAMP)

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Statistical knowledge is fundamental for a better understanding of scientific reports. The purpose of the present study was to evaluate the teaching of Statistics at the State Dentistry Schools of São Paulo. A form containing questions about teaching of Statistics was sent to the Coordination of the State Dentistry Schools. The State Schools comprise altogether ten Dentistry courses. All courses participated in the research. Biostatistics classes are mandatory in all courses, and their total scheduled teaching time varies from 45 to 90 hours. In most Schools, the classes are taught at the beginning of the Dentistry course. The program content of the discipline varies from school to school, however they agree in many topics. The careful integration of the discipline in the curriculum and the increase of the total scheduled teaching time will better prepare dental professionals by improving their capacity for critical appraisal of scientific papers.