



# **GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES MASTERS IN CLINICAL INVESTIGATION PROGRAM**

## **MSCI THESIS DEFENSE**

**ANDRIANA FOILES SIFUENTES**

MENTOR: Kate Lapane, PhD  
Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:00 p.m.  
Via Zoom Meeting

### **English Language Proficiency and Complete Tooth Loss among Older Adults in the United States**

**Objectives:** To provide contemporary, national population-based estimates of complete tooth loss of older adults by English language proficiency.

**Methods:** We conducted a cross-sectional analysis of the 2017 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey among participants  $\geq 50$  years of age ( $n=10,452$ , weighted= $111,895,290$ ).

**Results:** The prevalence of complete tooth loss was higher among those with limited English proficiency (Spanish speaking: 13.7%; Other languages: 16.9%) than those proficient in English (Spanish speaking: 5.0%; Other languages: 6.0%). After adjusting for education, complete tooth loss was less common among participants for whom Spanish was their primary, with limited English proficiency relative to English only (adjusted odds ratio: 0.56; 95% confidence interval: 0.42-0.76). Among those without complete tooth loss, dental visit in the past year were less common among participants with primary languages other than English as compared to those who only speak English.

**Discussion:** Research is needed to examine the relationship of aging, oral health, and access to care.

#### **Mentor(s)**

Kate Lapane, PhD

#### **Dissertation Exam Committee**

Jennifer Tjia, MD, MSCE (Chair)

Sharina Person, PhD

William Jesdale, PhD

Kate Lapane, PhD