

Oral Healthcare Screening and Health Survey of Children in a Community in Taipei

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BACKGROUND

The dental caries prevalence in Taiwan is always a major problem. According to the surveillance held by Department of Health in 2005, the dental caries prevalence of 4-6 years old children was higher than 70%. The purposes of this study were to investigate the association of dental caries with dietary and dental hygiene habits in the community which Taiwan Adventist Hospital located in.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In total, 2425 children aged under primary school participated in this study. Each school child received an oral health examination screening and then a questionnaire including demography characteristics, oral healthcare behavior, and dietary habits was delivered to parents. The statistics was calculated with Chi-square test and Fisher's exact probability test to evaluate the correlation.

RESULTS

The dental caries prevalence in the community was 68.13%, with no significantly different in gender. The return rate of the questionnaire was 67.1%. According to the statistics, the caries prevalence was associated to the educational level of the parents ($p < 0.001$). We also found that the caries prevalence was associated with the children who regularly have snacks and drinks ($p < 0.001$). After the oral examination screening,

CONCLUSION

Because the children's dietary and dental hygiene habits depend on caregivers, the main caregiver's oral health awareness deeply affects children's habits. We should provide more correct knowledge and concepts to schools, families, and communities. Dental health promotion should target on the relationships among health, behaviors, and environment



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HOSPITAL



Dental caries(DFMT) / Questionnaire				
Content	No DFMT(%)	With DFMT(%)	Value	Prob.
Dental caries	773 (31.87)	1,652 (68.13)		
Gender			0.2663	0.6058
Male	406 (31.38)	888 (68.62)		
Female	364 (32.36)	761 (67.64)		
Mother's Nationality			6.6359	0.0362
Taiwan	657 (31.89)	1,403 (68.11)		
China	14 (18.92)	60 (81.08)		
Others	16 (25.40)	47 (74.60)		
Mother's Age			0.578	0.749
< 35歲	147 (31.41)	321 (68.59)		
35-40歲	227 (33.14)	458 (66.86)		
> 40歲	80 (31.01)	178 (68.99)		
Mother's Education			33.4591	< 0.0001
Under High School	78 (20.47)	303 (79.53)		
College	381 (35.47)	693 (64.53)		
Master or Above	66 (39.76)	100 (60.24)		
Father's Age			5.0166	0.0814
< 35歲	55 (33.95)	107 (66.05)		
35-40歲	217 (35.11)	401 (64.89)		
> 40歲	188 (29.33)	453 (70.67)		
Father's Education			26.3187	< 0.0001
Under High School	64 (20.71)	245 (79.29)		
College	321 (33.51)	635 (66.49)		
Master or Above	136 (38.75)	215 (61.25)		
Dental Routine Check			38.2127	< 0.0001
Half Year	207 (26.99)	560 (73.01)		
Per Year	103 (29.34)	248 (70.66)		
No	214 (43.23)	281 (56.77)		
Dental Floss (Child)			0.3864	0.5342
Yes	79 (33.91)	154 (66.09)		
No	444 (31.85)	950 (68.15)		
Dental Floss (Parents)			3.9042	0.0482
Yes	307 (34.19)	591 (65.81)		
No	216 (29.59)	514 (70.41)		
Further Check After This Questionnaire			104.655	< 0.0001
Yes	365 (26.86)	994 (73.14)		
No	152 (59.38)	104 (40.63)		
Milk / Milk Products			38.564	< 0.0001
Nearly None	15 (25.86)	43 (74.14)		
1-3 Times / Week	117 (24.27)	365 (75.73)		
4-6 Times / Week	121 (29.02)	296 (70.98)		
>7 Times / Week	267 (40.70)	389 (59.30)		
Vegetables			7.5951	0.0552
Nearly None	11 (23.91)	35 (76.09)		
1-3 Times / Week	107 (28.08)	274 (71.92)		
4-6 Times / Week	190 (32.65)	392 (67.35)		
>7 Times / Week	213 (35.62)	385 (64.38)		
Potato Chips/ Cookies			14.4508	0.0024
Nearly None	257 (37.30)	432 (62.70)		
1-3 Times / Week	226 (28.25)	574 (71.75)		
4-6 Times / Week	27 (28.72)	67 (71.28)		
>7 Times / Week	6 (33.33)	12 (66.67)		
Coke, Soda			27.5382	< 0.0001
Nearly None	388 (36.64)	671 (63.36)		
1-3 Times / Week	126 (24.32)	392 (75.68)		
4-6 Times / Week	4 (16.67)	20 (83.33)		
>7 Times / Week	1 (16.67)	5 (83.33)		
Snack Foods Between Meals			7.286	0.0069
Yes	392 (30.75)	883 (69.25)		
No	124 (38.63)	197 (61.37)		
Drink Water, Rinse Mouth, Brush Teeth After Meals			12.5817	0.083
None	71 (30.34)	163 (69.66)		
Drink Water	243 (33.94)	473 (66.06)		
Rinse Mouth	54 (26.09)	153 (73.91)		
Brush Teeth	20 (27.78)	52 (72.22)		
Water + Rinse	45 (29.80)	106 (70.20)		
Water + Brush	17 (48.57)	18 (51.43)		
Rinse + Brush	7 (31.82)	15 (68.18)		
All	23 (41.82)	32 (58.18)		