

Association and socioeconomic status and caries among Chinese preschool children: A cross-sectional national study



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Abstract

Objectives: To assess the association between child caries status and socioeconomic status (SES) in China. **Methods:** Data from the 4th National Oral Health Survey of China, which was done in 2015. The sampling process was conducted by a multistage stratified cluster method, comprising of 40,360 children aged 3-5 years. Caries indicators included untreated caries, dental pain and dmft (number of decayed, missing and filled teeth). SES was measured by parental education level and household income. The bivariate association between the participants' characteristics and dmft was analyzed using non-parametric tests, while the untreated caries and dental pain were analyzed using Pearson's chi-square tests. Negative binomial regression and Poisson regression models were used to analyze association between SES and oral health by regulating confounders. **Results:** There were significant associations between SES and all oral health indicators ($p < 0.05$). And the trends of oral health for different SES remained significant. The prevalence of untreated caries, dental pain and dmft of children from the lowest parental education were 1.19, 1.10 and 1.19 times higher than those from the highest parental education. And the prevalence of untreated caries, dental pain and dmft of children from the lowest household income families were 1.12, 1.11 and 1.24 times higher than those from the highest household income families. **Conclusions:** There were consistently wide socioeconomic inequalities in child oral health in China, posing challenges for designing public health strategies and social policies.



Biography:

Xiaojuan Zeng has completed her PhD at the age of 45 years from University College London. He is the director of department of dental public health. He has published more than 37 papers in dental public health and science of dentistry.

Speaker Publications:

1. "Laser therapy versus topical desensitizing agents in the management of dentine hypersensitivity: A meta-analysis."; *Oral Diseases*, February 2020
2. "Effectiveness of fluoride varnish on caries in the first molars of primary schoolchildren: a 3-year longitudinal study in Guangxi Province, China"; *International Dental Journal*, volume-70, Issue 2, pg-108-115
3. "The association between dental caries and television viewing among Chinese adolescents in Guangxi, China"; *BMC Oral Health*, Issue 138, 2014
4. "Relationship between dental status and Oral Impacts on Daily Performances in older Southern Chinese people." *Journal of Public Health Dental*, volume-70, Issue 2, pages-101-107, 2010
5. "Dental caries experience of preschool children from different ethnic groups in Guangxi Province in China." *Journal of Oral Health and Preventative Dentistry*, vol-3, Issue 1, pages-25-31

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