
Oral Health Status of Chinese-American Children. S. FADAVI*, R. VERGOTINE, J. M. SOH, I. PUNWANI, A. KOERBER, N.S. GURU (Univ. of IL at Chicago, Dept. of Pediatric Dentistry).

Objectives: Although oral health of children in the United States has improved significantly in recent years, such improvement has not been reflected in the oral health of vulnerable populations, who continue to be at risk for oral disease. The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence of dental caries in Chinese American children who reside in the Chicagoland area and compare this data with the existing data of Illinois epidemiology of oral diseases, which has been already published. Therefore, it was hypothesized that the oral health status of Chinese-American children residing in the Chicago area are similar to those reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health study during 1993 - 1994. This study was approved by IRB of the University of Illinois at Chicago (#H-89-198). **Methods:** A total of 313 children ages 3 to 17 years old were screened for dental caries. Four examiners were calibrated and performed the screening procedures using standard method of WHO and the National Institute of Dental Research (NIDR) protocol for diagnosis of dental caries. **Results:** Overall 58% of these children demonstrated dental caries. This study revealed evidence of untreated dental caries on the permanent teeth of 40% of children (n=156) compared to 15% of Illinois 1993-1994 findings. The difference is statistically significant ($p=0.05$). **Conclusion:** We concluded that untreated permanent teeth dental caries in Chinese-American children is more prevalent than those of children of the same age group residing in the State of Illinois.