

I. Masterarbeit

Abstract

Objective: (1) To determine the participation rate for a free dental check-up for toddlers and to identify socioeconomic factors associated with attendance. (2) To verify the association between attendance at the free toddler check-up and caries experience as well as degree of treatment by the time of Kindergarten check-up.

Basic research design: Retrospective cohort study including all children born between July 1st 2013 and July 15th 2014 and living in Zurich from 23 to 36 months old. Some of these children had a dental examination at a public dental clinic in Kindergarten.

Methods: Socioeconomic data were extracted from official school records and dental health data from public dental clinic records. Logistic regression with generalized linear models was used to determine the factors associated with attendance at the toddler check-up (mean age 2.4 years) and dental health at Kindergarten check-up (mean age 5.3 years).

Results: Participation rate for the toddler check-up was 54% (n=2360/4376). Attendance was negatively associated with non-Swiss origin of the primary caretaker, presence of siblings, very high income, low amount of savings and living in certain areas of Zurich. Factors negatively associated with attendance were similar to those associated with caries experience (except for very high income). Having had a toddler check-up was not significantly associated with caries prevalence by the time of Kindergarten check-up (OR 0.87, 95% CI 0.71-1.05), but was positively associated with degree of treatment at this stage (1.56, 95% CI 1.32-1.84).

Conclusions: More effort should be put into reaching groups with high caries risk and improving the effect of the toddler check-up.