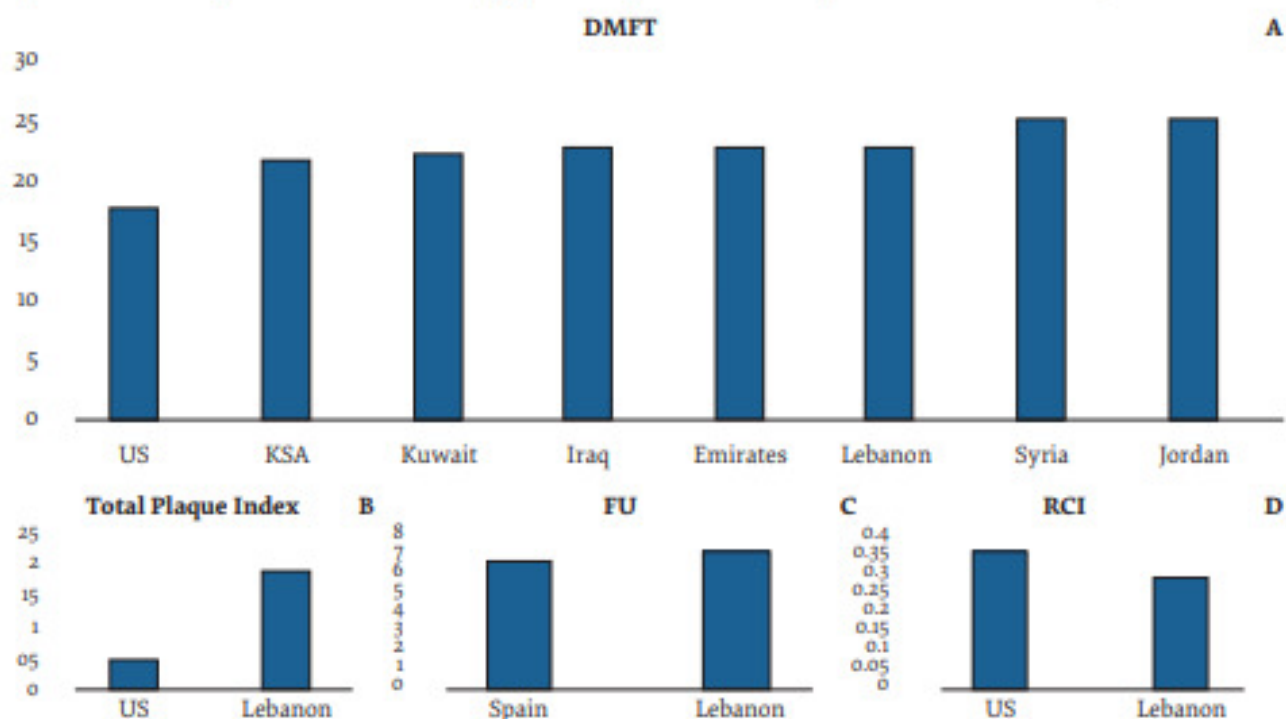


Figure 1 Comparison of the investigated DMFT (A), Plaque Index (B), FUs (C) and RCI (D) with published outcomes from similar communities of different countries, benchmarked against US scores except for the FUs (C) where the optimal comparison was with data in Spain because of similar assessment of this variable, although the removable dentures were not included in the Spanish score, which would have been otherwise higher. Note that DMFT scores are lower in the USA than any scores available from Arab countries, probably because of greater access to dental services that would prevent dental problems and allow seniors to retain healthy teeth for a longer time. DMFT = decayed, missing and filled teeth; FU = functional units; RCI = Root Caries Index.



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