

Table 4 Estimates of selected oral health status indicators by educational level (n= 352)

Oral health status indicator	Illiterate (n = 73)		Basic literacy (n = 30)		Primary (n = 129)		Complementary (n = 57)		Secondary (n = 36)		College (n = 27)		P*
	n	Mean (SD)	n	Mean (SD)	n	Mean (SD)	n	Mean (SD)	n	Mean (SD)	n	Mean (SD)	
PSR	19	3.68 (4.60)	11	4.18 (4.94)	39	4.54 (4.54)	22	5.77 (7.07)	15	3.27 (5.78)	22	6.27 (7.11)	0.6600
RCP ^a	19	0.40 (0.45)	11	0.53 (0.44)	39	0.33 (0.34)	23	0.49 (0.44)	15	0.03 (0.10)	22	0.09 (0.15)	0.0001
Roots exposed	19	4.00 (4.68)	11	5.82 (5.69)	39	5.08 (3.33)	23	5.83 (4.12)	15	3.67 (4.84)	22	4.64 (4.45)	0.1600
Roots decayed/ filled ^b	19	2.42 (3.44)	11	3.64 (5.24)	39	2.23 (3.06)	23	2.65 (3.32)	15	0.13 (0.52)	22	0.55 (0.91)	0.0004
FU ^c	73	6.75 (4.86)	30	6.40 (5.21)	129	7.50 (5.13)	57	7.16 (5.67)	36	7.89 (4.89)	27	10.70 (4.47)	0.0160
D	25	3.52 (4.61)	13	2.85 (2.70)	54	2.96 (3.49)	28	3.50 (4.93)	16	1.75 (2.27)	23	1.57 (1.90)	0.5400
M	25	14.92 (9.83)	13	16.08 (9.15)	54	15.28 (9.43)	28	12.64 (9.67)	16	8.25 (9.15)	23	6.57 (7.24)	0.0001
F	25	3.28 (4.61)	13	3.08 (3.93)	54	3.20 (5.44)	28	2.61 (3.92)	16	5.75 (4.12)	23	7.30 (5.42)	0.0029
DMFT ^d	25	21.72 (6.30)	13	22.00 (5.63)	54	21.44 (6.56)	28	18.75 (8.36)	16	15.75 (7.13)	23	15.43 (6.14)	0.0016
Total Plaque Index	25	2.09 (0.84)	14	2.18 (0.76)	57	1.99 (0.79)	28	2.10 (0.85)	23	1.70 (0.68)	25	1.73 (0.87)	0.2100
Upper anterior ^e	25	3.36 (2.63)	13	3.38 (2.50)	54	3.43 (2.59)	28	3.93 (2.64)	16	4.56 (2.39)	23	5.52 (1.38)	0.0030
Upper posterior ^f	25	3.12 (2.68)	13	3.31 (3.57)	54	3.09 (2.90)	28	4.11 (3.02)	16	5.38 (2.94)	23	6.13 (2.62)	0.0008
Lower anterior	25	3.44 (2.62)	13	3.38 (2.40)	54	3.54 (2.73)	28	4.11 (2.75)	16	5.19 (1.64)	23	4.78 (2.17)	0.0920
Lower posterior ^g	25	3.52 (3.10)	13	3.00 (2.94)	54	3.39 (3.06)	28	4.07 (3.30)	16	5.94 (3.77)	23	6.09 (2.86)	0.0030

*Kruskal- Wallis test

Post hoc results:

^aSSD between (1) college attendees and all the others except illiterate and participants with secondary education; and (2) participants with secondary education and all others except college attendees.^bSSD between college attendees and all other groups except participants with secondary education.^cSSD between the illiterate college groups.^dSSD between illiterate participants and those who reached primary and college educational levels.^eSSD between illiterate seniors and those with primary education.

D = decayed; DMFT = decayed, missing and filled teeth; F = filled; FU = functional units; M = missing; PSR = Periodontal Screening and Recording; RCI = Root Caries Index; SD = standard deviation; SSD = statistically significant difference.