

Table 2 Distribution of caries, severe caries and gingivitis among Tehran schoolchildren aged 9–13 years according to age, sex and oral hygiene behaviour, 2008

Factor	Total No.	Caries (tDMFT ≥ 1)			Severe caries (tDMFT > 4)			Gingivitis		
		No.	%	P ^a	No.	%	P ^a	No.	%	P ^a
Total	1271	1066	83.8		706	55.5		1115	87.7	
Sex										
Male	637	508	79.7	< 0.01*	320	50.3	< 0.01*	554	87.0	0.01*
Female	634	558	88.0		386	61.0		561	88.4	
Age (years)										
9	246	227	92.2		110	44.7		210	85.3	
10	268	220	82.0		187	69.7		218	81.3	
11	240	201	83.7	0.01*	133	55.4	0.03*	219	91.2	0.01*
12	270	217	80.4		120	44.4		239	88.5	
13	247	201	81.3		156	63.1		229	92.7	
No. of visits to dentist										
Once/year	239	196	82.0		122	51.0		191	79.9	
Twice/year	185	142	76.7		97	52.4		162	87.5	
When I have toothache	612	536	87.6	0.05*	372	60.8	< 0.01*	562	91.8	0.85
Never	235	192	81.7		115	48.9		200	85.1	
Reason for last visit to dentist										
Toothache	756	650	85.9		438	57.9		691	91.4	
Check-up	293	244	83.3	< 0.01*	155	52.9	0.03*	239	81.5	0.80
Not visited	222	172	77.4		113	50.9		185	83.3	
Reason for not visiting dentist										
Parents did not think problem was serious enough	329	298	90.5		200	60.7		311	94.5	
I did not think problem was serious enough	324	252	77.7		148	45.6		278	85.8	
Afraid of dentists/ the treatment	144	121	84.0		76	52.8		127	88.1	
Parents did not have time	140	104	74.2	< 0.01*	81	57.9	0.10	130	92.8	0.01*
Parents do not know any dentist	135	119	88.1		74	54.8		119	88.1	
Parents do not have money	103	92	89.3		69	66.9		91	88.3	
None	58	44	75.8		32	55.1		28	48.2	
All of the above	38	36	94.7		26	68.4		31	81.5	
Frequency of tooth brushing										
Never	64	62	96.8		60	93.7		60	93.7	
2–3 times/ month	78	68	87.1		48	61.5		61	78.2	
Once a week	147	139	94.5		118	80.3		131	89.1	
2–3 times/week	270	235	87.0	< 0.01*	169	62.5	< 0.01*	248	91.8	< 0.01*
Once/day	325	249	76.6		139	42.7		303	93.2	
2+ times/day	387	313	80.8		172	44.4		312	80.6	

Table 2 Distribution of caries, severe caries and gingivitis among Tehran schoolchildren aged 9–13 years according to age, sex and oral hygiene behaviour, 2008 (concluded)

Factor	Total No.	Caries (tDMFT ≥ 1)			Severe caries (tDMFT > 4)			Gingivitis		
		No.	%	P ^a	No.	%	P ^a	No.	%	P ^a
Who taught you how to brush?										
Teacher	138	125	90.5		84	60.9		125	90.5	
Classmate, school manager	14	13	92.9		7	50.0		14	100	
Dentist	158	127	80.3		75	47.5		105	66.4	
School health educator	604	457	75.6	0.11	301	49.8	0.01*	537	88.9	0.57
No-one	307	301	98.0		209	68.0		294	95.7	
Parents	17	15	88.2		14	82.4		16	94.1	
Dentist & school health educator ^b	6	2	33.3		1	16.6		2	33.3	
All but dentist & health educator ^b	27	26	96.2		15	55.5		22	81.4	
Do you use fluoride in any form apart from toothpaste (tablet, mouth rinse)? ^c										
No	1123	938	83.5		642	57.1		999	88.9	
Yes and right	96	82	85.4	0.11	35	36.4	0.52	70	72.9	0.17
Yes and wrong	51	46	90.1		29	56.8		46	90.1	
Tablet	1	0	0.0		0	0.0		0	0.0	
Dental flossing frequency										
Never	633	524	82.8		356	56.2		597	94.3	
2–3 times/month	96	78	81.2		49	51.0		93	96.8	
Once a week	97	80	82.5		41	42.3		91	93.8	
2–3 times/week	37	27	73.0	0.06	19	51.4	0.03*	22	59.4	0.02*
Once a day	210	181	86.2		112	53.3		155	73.8	
2+ times/day	85	71	83.5		52	61.2		52	61.1	
Do not know what floss is	113	105	92.9		77	68.1		105	92.9	
Do you use the mouth rinse that school provided? ^d										
Yes	189	131	69.3		44	23.3		105	55.5	
No	193	151	78.2		74	38.3		163	84.4	
They did not give us this year	286	238	83.2	< 0.01*	133	46.5	< 0.01*	253	88.4	0.06
It is finished and I did not substitute it	603	546	90.5		455	75.4		594	98.5	
It is finished and I substitute it	0	0	0.0		0	0.0		0	0.0	

^aStatistically significant at P ≤ 0.05.

^bFisher's exact test was administered for the cells with less than 5 participants.

^cThis choice was added due to the children choosing more than one choice in replying to this question.

^dThis question was open ended in order to evaluate the application method of fluoride. The answers were read by a dentist and coded as: No = did not use fluoride in any form other than toothpaste; Yes and right = used fluoride and applied it appropriately; and Yes and wrong = used fluoride but the application method was inappropriate.

^eThe Iranian Ministry of health provides primary schools with mouth rinse each year.

tDMFT = total decayed, missing and filled teeth