

Review of: "Socioeconomic and behavioural determinants of oral health in 6- and 7-year-old schoolchildren from Palermo (Sicily)"

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The article "Socioeconomic and behavioral determinants of oral health in 6- and 7-year-old schoolchildren from Palermo (Sicily)" presents important results obtained through a methodology consistent to the World Health Organization guidelines for oral health surveys.

The article provides very useful information on the oral health status of 6-7 years old schoolchildren, in an important urban center in Italy such as Palermo. Moreover, the authors provide epidemiological data that was not available to the scientific community so far, that will be a sure reference for future investigations.

In particular, the evaluations on the socio-economic determinants of oral health should be emphasized, specifically regarding the parental educational level, the family employment status and, last but not least, the area of residence, as significant socio-economic risk factors.

Notably, more than one in four children have untreated caries; the fact that the caries experience is a condition affecting almost 66% of the involved population, where only 10% sees the treatment need satisfied, is an extremely alarming circumstance that can also be used at policy level for health promotion campaigns and primary and secondary caries prevention in a territorial, but also at a national level.

This article certainly constitutes a point of reference in the epidemiological data on Italian pediatric population oral health, which could support oral health promotion initiatives and monitoring over time.