

## Brazilian Oral Research

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### Abstract













[BARRETTO, Eliane Paula Reis](#); [FERREIRA, Efigênia Ferreira e](#) and [PORDEUS, Isabela Almeida](#). Determinant factors of toothache in 8- and 9-year-old schoolchildren, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil. *Braz. oral res.* [online]. 2009, vol.23, n.2, pp. 124-130. ISSN . doi: 10.1590/S1806-83242009000200006.

A cross-sectional study was carried out to determine the prevalence, severity and impact of toothache among schoolchildren associated with socio-demographic variables (gender, degree of maternal schooling, economic group, and oral health status). Six hundred and one 8- and 9-year-old children were randomly selected from schools in Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil. After formal authorization was obtained from their parents, the children were interviewed and clinically examined by a single examiner. The Chi squared test was applied and the odds ratio obtained. The prevalence of toothache was 45.9% (276/601), of which 15.6% (94/601) had occurred during the previous month. Among the children who had experienced pain, 39.4% (109/276) classified its severity as intense or very intense. Nearly 35% (96/276) were awoken by the pain, and 63.8% (176/276) were unable to carry out daily tasks as a result. The prevalence of pain was greater among children from less privileged economic groups, in which the mothers' level of schooling was lower (0-7 years of formal study) and who showed poorer conditions of oral health, determined by the presence of dental and periodontal pathology ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). Gender did not influence either the experience of toothache or its severity and impact. The prevalence of toothache found in the age group between 8 and 9 years is very high and associated to social determinants and poorer conditions of oral health.

Keywords : Child; Toothache; Socioeconomic factors.

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*Sociedade Brasileira de Pesquisa Odontológica*

Av. Lineu Prestes, 2227  
 Caixa Postal 8216  
 05508-900 S 鋼 Paulo SP - Brazil  
 Tel./Fax: +55 11 3091-7810



[bor@sbpgo.org.br](mailto:bor@sbpgo.org.br)