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Abstract

NOMURA, Lincon Hideo; BASTOS, João Luiz Dornelles and PERES, Marco Aurélio. Dental pain prevalence and association with dental caries and socioeconomic status in schoolchildren, Southern Brazil, 2002. *Braz. oral res.* [online]. 2004, vol.18, n.2, pp. 134-140. ISSN 1806-8324. doi: 10.1590/S1806-83242004000200008.

The objective of this study was to assess the relation between dental pain, dental caries and socioeconomic status among 12- and 13-year-old schoolchildren enrolled in a public school in Florianópolis, SC, Brazil in 2002. This study was a cross-sectional study involving 181 schoolchildren. Dental pain experience was the dependend variable analyzed. Socioeconomic data of the children's families were obtained through a questionnaire. Dental caries experience was registered according to the DMFT index (WHO, 1997). The field workteam consisted of an examiner and a recorder. The statistical analysis was performed using the chi-square test and the non-conditional multiple logistic regression. The response rate was 93.4%. The intraexaminer agreement measured on a tooth by tooth basis was high (kappa \geq 0.73). Dental pain prevalence was 33.7% (Cl_{95%} 26.0-42.0). The multiple regression



analysis, adjusted by sex and other variables, showed that children with DMFT > 1 presented 2.9 (OR Cl_{95%} 1.4-6.1, p < 0.01) more chances of having dental pain when compared with those with DMFT \leq 1. Children whose mother's schooling level was equal or less than 4 years presented 2.5 (OR Cl_{95%} 1.2-5.6, p = 0.02) more chances of having dental pain when compared with others whose mothers had more than 5 years of schooling and, finally, children whose family income was up to U\$ 67.00 showed 3.2 (OR Cl_{95%} 1.2-8.4, p = 0.02) more chances of having dental pain when compared with the ones whose families had higher income. High levels of caries attack, low mother schooling level and low family income were associated to dental pain.

Keywords : Toothache; Epidemiology; Prevalence; Socioeconomic factors.

<u>abstract in portuguese</u>
• <u>text in english</u>
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