

### **An Oral Health Survey for Newly Admitted Undergraduate Students in Hong Kong**

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**Aim:** To describe the tooth status, periodontal status, oral health believes of students in a university in Hong Kong.

**Method:** This cross-sectional survey recruited a sample of newly admitted students in a Hong Kong university. Tooth and periodontal status was assessed using WHO criteria – DMFT and CPI index (World Health Organisation. Oral health surveys basic methods. 4th ed. Geneva: World Health Organisation, 1997). Questionnaire was used to study oral health believes.

**Results:** There were 913 participants. Mean DMFT score was  $1.08 \pm 1.80$  (mean $\pm$ SD). Majority (88%) had at least one sextant with CPI = 2 or above. One third of participants believed drinking herbal tea could prevent tooth decay and gum disease. This belief was positively correlated with maximum CPI score ( $B = 0.079$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ), but not their mean DMFT or DT scores ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** Caries experience among the Hong Kong university students was low. Many had calculus. Misconception on oral disease prevention was common.