

## **1603 Normative and Perceived Need for Orthodontic Treatment**

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**Objectives:** To assess the normative and the perceived need for orthodontic treatment among 12-year-old children in Hong Kong and to compare children's perceived need with the normative need assessments. **Methods:** With assistance from the Hong Kong government, a random sample of 12-year-old children was selected by a multi-stage sampling process. Sampled children were invited to a clinical examination by a trained orthodontist in their schools, and to complete a questionnaire. Orthodontic treatment need was assessed by employing the Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need (IOTN). **Results:** A total of 574 children in 18 schools were examined and completed questionnaires. The response rate was 70% (574/820). Twenty-two percent (129/574) of the examined children were found to be in grades 1 and 2 of the IOTN, which were deemed as having little or no need for treatment. On the other end of the scale, 46% (n=263/574) of the children were in grades 4 and 5, which were deemed as have a moderate or great need for orthodontic treatment need. However, only 28% (161/574) perceived themselves in need of orthodontic treatment. Perceived need for orthodontic treatment was not associated with normative assessed need ( $P>0.05$ ). **Conclusion:** Around half of the 12-year-old Hong Kong children had a normative need for orthodontic treatment. However, many of them did not perceive the need for such treatment. Differences existed between children's perceived treatment need and the normative assessments using the IOTN.

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