

Oral health related quality of life in participants with and without periodontal disease in a population in Bellville South: a cross sectional study

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Introduction: This study constitutes the oral health component of the greater South African Flagship Projects, "Progressive research on risk factors of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in South Africa", designed to look at associations between diabetes and periodontitis. A community-based dental study has not been undertaken in South Africa in over 20 years.

Aims and Objectives: Assessment of: socio-demographic profile, Decayed, Missing and Filled Teeth score (DMFT), Bleeding on Probing score (BOP), Periodontal pocket depth score (PPD) and loss of attachment score (LOA), in an adult population in Bellville South.

Study Design: A Cross-sectional design was used.

Methods: Three hundred and sixty-eight subjects, aged between 18 – 83 years, were examined according to the criteria of WHO, Oral Health Surveys, Basic methods (5th edition).

Results: The caries experience was 87.1% with 46% prevalence of active caries. The mean DMFT was 15.2 ±SD 10.6. Furthermore, 79% experienced BOP; 59% had shallow PPD and 3% had deep PPD. In total, of 42.1% of individuals had 4 – 5 mm LOA and 6.8% recorded a LOA of 6 – 8 mm. Just over 58% currently consumed alcohol and 50.68% were smokers. Just over 15% of the participants engaged in drug abuse.

Conclusions: Dental caries and periodontal disease is ubiquitous in this community and mostly untreated. A promotive and preventive programme for this community is recommended.