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Dental caries and oral hygiene prevalence among Riyadh juvenile prisoners

Mohammed Awadh Alshehri

Medical Service, Ministry of Interior, Saudi Arabia

Objective: This study was designed to determine the prevalence of dental caries and oral hygiene status in prisoners of the Juvenile Detention Center in Malaz, Riyadh and to educate the prisoners about the importance of oral hygiene.

Materials & Methods: A convenience sample of 105 prisoners aged 12-17 years were included in the study, excluded those with systemic illness and uncooperative. The participants completed a structured interview to determine health status before undergoing oral examination. Clinical examinations were performed by single trained examiner under artificial light source, using mouth mirror and standard explorer while seated on portable chair. The dental caries experience was measured using DMFT score. The OHI used the modified Massler and Schour's rate of good, fair and poor.

Results: The sample's mean age was 8.92 (SD±4.028), 74.3% prisoners in the 16-17 year age group. The majority of juveniles were imprisoned because of theft (38.1%) followed by various other reasons (32.4%). The dental caries index measured the mean DMFT of the juvenile inmate increased with age (mean DMFT score of 9.09, SD 4.388) for 78 prisoners aged 16-17 years. Likewise, 73.5% of the same age group exhibited evidence of dental erosion compared to the younger age group. More than half of the sample had poor (53.3%) oral hygiene.

Conclusion: It is concluded that the juvenile prisoners exhibited poor oral health which is attributed to their health behaviors. Thus, there is obvious need for juvenile facilities to provide better access to dental treatment and receive appropriate dental services.

Biography

Mohammed Awadh Alshehri has completed his Bachelor's degree in Dental Surgery at King Saud University College of Dentistry in 2015. He is a General Practitioner in the Dental department at Medical Service, Ministry of Interior, Saudi Arabia. He is also an active member of Saudi Dental Society since 2013.

mohammed_998877@hotmail.com

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