

# Dental Health Status In Ghanaian Children

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# Aim

§ To investigate oral health status in rural school children of Ghana



# Objectives

- § To improve the oral health in children  
and
- § To promote dental health education

# Method

- § Examination of the dentition was carried out by 2 examiners (Our Lady of Fatima) and 2 examiners (Akosombo Complex School) with a mouth mirror and a probe in the classroom.
- § The decayed, missing and filling teeth (DMFT), the periodontal status and any other findings were recorded.

# Study Design

- § Our Lady of Fatima Girls School- Agomanya  
(rural Ghana)
- § 3 age groups selected - 6-8 yrs
  - 10-12 yrs
  - 14-16 yrs
- § Mouth mirror
- § probe
- § 2 examiners

# Study Design

- § Akosombo Complex School  
(rural Ghana)
- § 3 age groups selected - 6-8 yrs
  - 10-12 yrs
  - 14-16 yrs
- § Mouth mirror
- § probe
- § 2 examiners

# Results- Agomanya

Agomanya (All Girls)	6-8 yrs n= 46	10-12 yrs n= 30	14-16yrs n= 24
Decayed	20	1	3
Missing	2	1	1
Filled	0	1	0
Periodontal	9	4	6
Other	Traumatic occ (1) CI III (1) UL3 impacted(1)	Fractured UL1 (1) retained ULB (1)	none

# Results- Akosombo

Akosombo Complex School	6-8 yrs n= 20 M= 13 F= 7	10-12 yrs n= 23 M= 10 F= 13	14-16yrs n= 18 M = 5 F = 13
Decayed	2	3	1
Missing	0	1	1
Filled	0	0	0
Periodontal	1	8	3
Other	Impacted tooth (1)	Impacted teeth (2)	Impacted (1) fracture UL1 (1)

# Data Analysis

- § Decay greater in the 6-8 yr olds in Agomanya than the older age group.
- § Periodontal disease was higher in the 6-8 yr old age group in Agomanya
- § Decay greater in the 6-8 yr old in Agomanya than in Akosombo Complex School
- § Only one child had seen a dentist before for a filling.
- § Other Findings – traumatic occlusion, CI III malocclusion, palatally impacted canine, fractured upper incisor and retained decid. tooth (of these, only one child would be referred to an Orthodontist)

# Conclusion

§ The 6-8 yr old at Agomanya were boarders and the other age group were not.

Decay and Periodontal disease is greater in the 6-8 yr olds in Agomanya than Akosombo Complex and also compared to the older age group.

§ The factors that maybe responsible for the increase in decay could be dietary habits, supervision and tooth brushing/ technique.

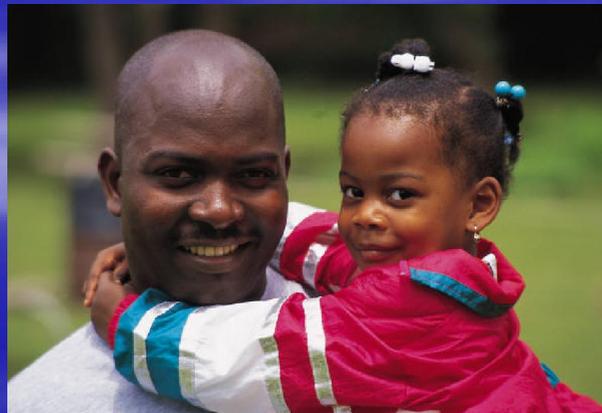
# Action

§ The children who need dental treatment will be seen at Akosombo Hospital by Dr Clayton in the near future and if necessary referred to a specialist



# Further Suggestions

- § Investigate the Dietary Habits between the Boarders and Non-Boarders
- § Promote dental health by educating/interactive oral hygiene lessons with teachers



Thank you