

## Factors associated with dental attendance and tooth brushing among adolescents in Amara city

**Sami .k. Jabar**  
**Medical College**  
**University of Misan**  
**Fadel. H. al-lami**  
**Amara technical institu**

**Abstract** Sample of 610 adolescents from varying social background by combining a questionnaire with clinical examination. Tooth brushing was found to be an integral part of tooth personal hygiene and grooming behavior. The subject was influence by family. The lack of dental knowledge, the belief that tooth loss is an inevitable part of ageing together with lack of faith in the ability of tooth brush to preserve the dentition with socioeconomic level of family could well explain why dental attendance and tooth brushing Is not strongly health-related. The study shows that females are more using tooth brushing than males and there is strong relations between attendance dental clinics, tooth brushing with socioeconomic Level of families

**1- Aims of study**

1-1.To investigate factors and motives thought to influence the practice of regular oral hygiene in adolescents.

1-2. To find the reasons of irregular attendance for adolescents to the dental clinic for checking or treatment.

**Materials and methods**

**2-1. study site**

The study was conducted during years 2007-2009 in selected intermediate schools of Amara city.

**2-2. Data collection**

The data was collected from questionnaire paper. Which include following items?

1. Name
2. Age
3. Sex
4. Teeth brushing  Regular  Irregular  
Never brush
5. Attendance dental clinic Regular  Irregular  
Never attend
6. Education level of family  University   
Institution  than institution
7. Economic level of family Very good  Good   
Bad

8. Number of family members 1-3 members 4-6 members  More
9. General health condition Very good  Good   
Bad

### **2-3 Statistical analysis**

The analysis was based on data collected from surveying study. Chi square, Percentage are most used in tables and figures.

### **3- The results**

The sample consists of 610 adolescents students of intermediate school of Amara city conducted through 2007-2009 years.

Table- 1. Shows adolescents involved in the surveying study that the males more than the females. (57.4 % males, 42.6 % females).

Gender	Males		Females	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total No.	350	57.4	260	42.6

Table-2. Relationships of gender with tooth brushing (Regular, Irregular, Never brush).

Tooth brush	Males		Females	
	No.	%	No.	%
Regular	100	39.2	155	60.8
Irregular	230	71.9	90	28.1
Never brush	20	57.1	15	42.9

\*Chi-square =61.86 P<0.01 High significant

The table shows high significant relations between gender and tooth brushing. The females are more regular tooth brushing (60.8 %) than males (39.2 %).

**4- Discussion** The Girls were more likely to visit frequently the dentist than did boys and were more likely to consult the dentist because of symptoms. These results, though not new (Dasanayake *et al.*, 2002; Yu SM *et al.*, 2001). Considerably more adolescents in this study population have never visited a dentist or have attended more than one year ago than what has been reported previously for a US American adolescent population (Yu SM *et al.*, 2001). The percentage of subjects who reported their last dental visit being due to symptoms appears to be comparable with that reported for US American and Scottish adolescent populations (Atwood, 1993). This result in agreement with our study which reported the girls are more teeth brushing and dental attendance than boys (Females 60.8%, males

39.2%). Our results corroborate previous reports on the role of social inequalities in dental attendance patterns among adolescents (Okullo, 2004). This result strengthens the idea that free access to health care does not guarantee dental care provision among the young (Chile, 1985; Resultados, 2000) show that dental attendance patterns are strongly associated with social position even in a population that is offered public dental care free of charge for those in the lower end of the .

social hierarchy. However, this may in part reflect the effect of additional factors such as negative beliefs about dentists (Skaret *et al.*, 2000) lack of knowledge, and cultural and parental values about the importance of oral health (Scott *et al.*, 2002), this is in agreement with our study which shows adolescents parents whom finished university the adolescents more regular to attendance dental clinic

(Rose, 1992) reported that economic barriers may prevent a large portion of Chilean adolescents with tangible dental care needs from seeking professional help. These agree with our result that adolescents with good economic level are more regular for dental attendance (46%). Personal hygiene habits are first established within the family and this study has shown a clear relationship between regular tooth brushing and the characteristics of the family .For example, there is support for (Blinkhorn, 1976).conclusion that children from small families are more likely to brush more frequently than those from large. He attributed this to the possibility that mothers of large families may have less time

to devote to supervising brushing, but this study suggests that other factors may also play a part. Mothers of large families were shown themselves to have a poor dental status and to be more frequently edentulous (Blinkhorn, 1976). These results agree with our study that's shows regular tooth brush in families with 1-3 members (66.8%) (Blinkhorn, 1976).

There was less evidence from this study that adolescents brush their teeth for health reasons .although those who brushed regularly were more likely regular dental visits. Their attitudes towards dentists and dental treatment were little different from those who did not visit, (Todd *et al.*, 1980) this is in accordance with our results (67.2%).

## **5 Conclusions:**

5-1-The result of the study demonstrate the existence of gender, as well as considerable socioeconomic and behavioral differences in the frequency of, and reasons for dental visits in this adolescent population.

5-2-Self-perceived oral health status is strongly associated with the frequency of dental visits and the reasons for attendance.

**6- Suggestion:**

The findings of this study indicate that a major impact on dental attendance patterns requires political decisions aiming to reduce socioeconomic inequalities

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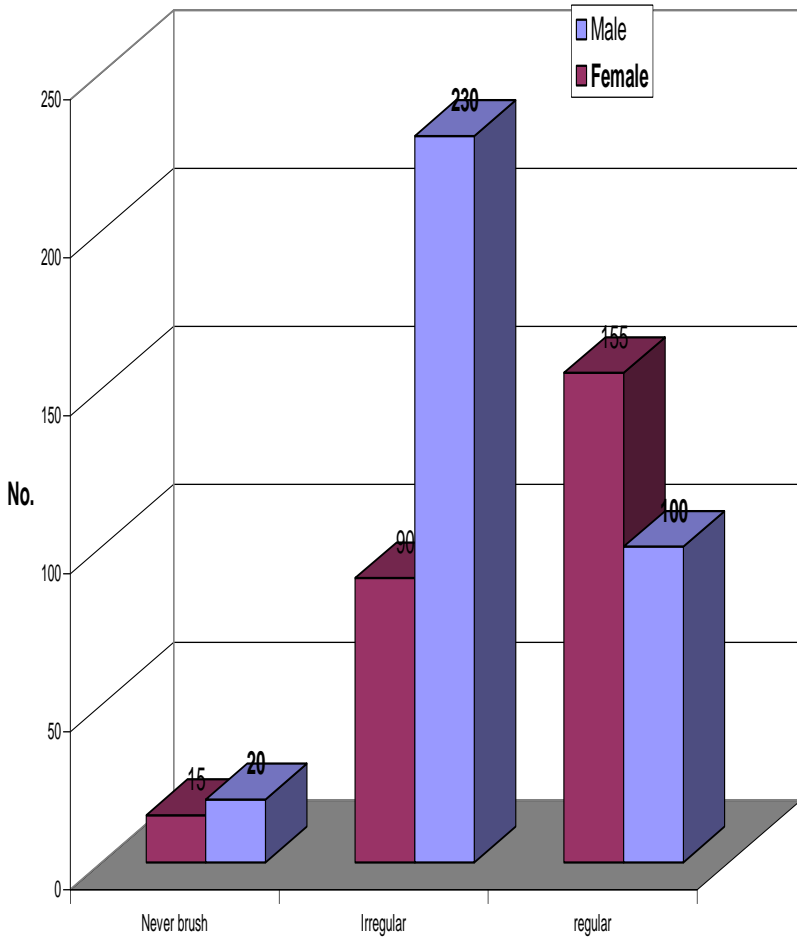


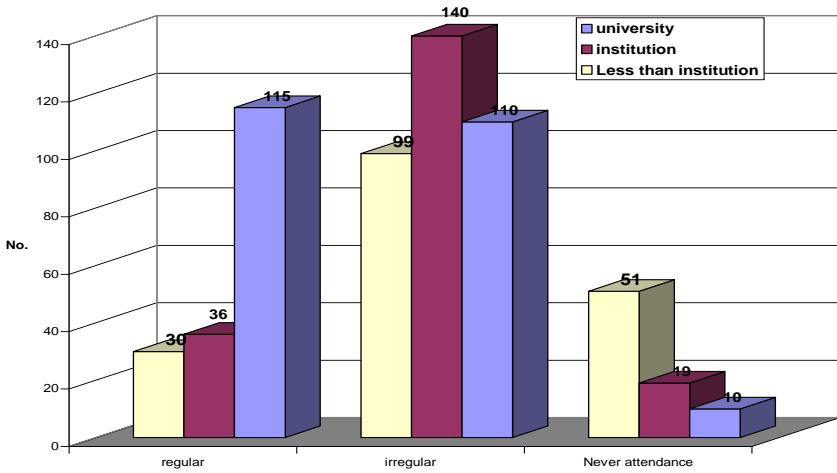
Figure - 1. Explain that females more regular tooth brushing than males (155/100) also the figure shows that males more irregular and never tooth brushing.

Table -3. Relationships between social position in relation to attendance to dental clinic.

<b>Education level</b>	<b>Attendance clinic</b>			<b>Total</b>
	<b>Regular</b>	<b>Irregular</b>	<b>Never attendance</b>	
<b>University</b>	115	110	10	235
<b>Institution</b>	36	140	19	195
<b>Less than institution</b>	30	99	51	180
<b>Total</b>	181	349	80	610

\*Chi-square=107.3 P<0.01 High significant high significant relation Between education level and clinic attendance .

Figure -2. Relation between education level and attendance of dental clinic.



The families with high education level are more frequency attendance to dental clinic.

Table -4. Relation between tooth brush, clinical attendance and number of family members

Toothbrush & clinic attendance	Family(1-3) members		Family(4-6) member		Family members more than 6	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>Regular</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>16.5</b>
<b>Irregular</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>11.5</b>
<b>Never brush</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26.4</b>

\*Chi-square=41.76 P<0.01 High significant  
Shows the families with (1-3) members are more regular (66.8 %) and irregular(59%)for tooth brush and dental clinic attendance than

Families with (4-6) members (16.8 %)(29.5 %).

The study shows that families with very good economic level were 26.2%and good economic were 46%

The study shows and bad economic level were 27.8 %. that adolescents with very good general health condition were 67.2 % and with good general were 29.5 % and with bad general condition were 3.3 %.

العوامل المتعلقة بزيارة عيادات الأسنان وتنظيف الأسنان بين  
المراهقين في مدينة العمارة

سامي خلف جبار  
كلية الطب - جامعة ميسان  
فاضل حنون اللامي  
المعهد التقني في العمارة

**الخلاصة :** شملت الدراسة الحالية ٦١٠ من طلاب المدارس المتوسطة في مركز محافظة ميسان ومن طبقات اجتماعية مختلفة شملت الدراسة استطلاع على الورق مع الفحص العيادي ووجد أن استخدام فرشاة الأسنان جزء من الصحة العامة كما وجد في الدراسة الحالية أن مراجعة عيادة الأسنان واستخدام فرشاة الأسنان يتأثر بالوضع الثقافي والعلمي للعائلة وكذلك بالوضع المادي , لوحظ في الاستطلاع أن الطالبات أكثر عناية بصحة الفم ومراجعة عيادات الأسنان من الطلاب.