

# Dental Education for Children and Adolescents in Dondon, Haiti to Prevent Systemic Illness

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## Background

- Developing world gets burdened by oral diseases especially periodontal disease.
- Poverty, poor living conditions, ignorance, lack of government funding make it worse.
- In Haiti, dental care is almost non-existent among children and adolescents. 1 dentist serve for every 35,000 Haitians.
- Periodontal diseases are strongly linked to stroke, heart diseases, cancer and pregnancy related outcomes.

## Aims

Our goal is to educate children and adolescents about dental hygiene principles to help them prevent dental decay and other periodontal diseases.

## Procedure

- We conducted an initial survey to gather their baseline knowledge.
- We provided health education conferences about dental hygiene for children and adolescents in different school settings.
- They learned proper brushing techniques, use of appropriate tooth brushes, introduced the principles of dental floss.
- Dental kits containing toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss given to children and adolescents.

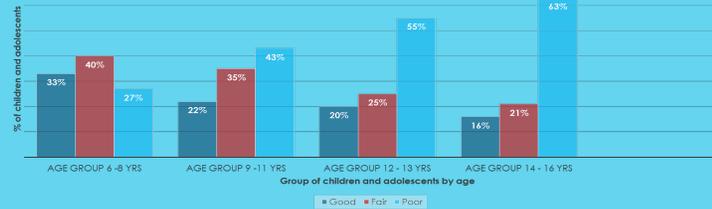


## Children practicing tooth brushing skills

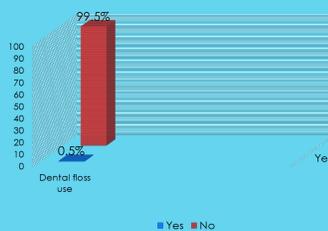


## Survey Findings

How is your own dental health?  
n=650



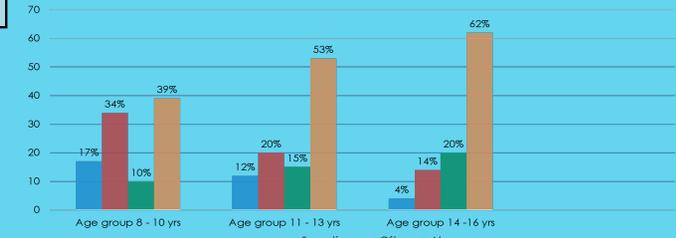
Have you ever used dental floss?



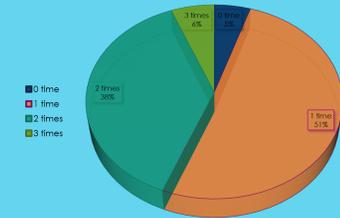
Have you ever been seen by a dentist?



How often do you have toothache?



HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH A DAY?



## Conclusions

Our data showed that there is a significant gap in knowledge about dental health existed in our population. Our population were enthusiastic and attended the education sessions to learn about their dental hygiene. Therefore, through community education, knowledge can be improved to prevent the periodontal diseases.

## Future Plans

We are going to conduct a post-intervention survey to determine if our education dental program is successful improving dental health in Dondon. We plan on continuing this work and expanding the dental education program to more schools throughout all Haiti.

## References

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