

RESEARCH ON THE ORAL HEALTH CONDITION IN INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN OF THE COUNTY OF SIBIU

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Abstract: The paper presents a study of the oro-dental health condition in children from state institutions compared to those from typical family environments. These children came for consultation and dental treatments between 2003 and 2007.

Keywords: health condition, children

Rezumat: Lucrarea prezintă un studiu al stării de sănătate oro-dentară la copiii proveniți din instituțiile statului comparativ cu cei ce provin din medii familiale tipice. Acești copii s-au prezentat pentru consultații și tratamente stomatologice în perioada 2003-2007.

Cuvinte cheie: starea de sănătate, copii

INTRODUCTION

The profession of dentist also brings us into contact with young patients who are usually brought to treatment by families, but also with children from state institutions who come for treatments attended by qualified personnel.

Untreated dental problems can sometimes have serious consequences not only on the oral cavity but also on the entire body. In oral diseases, the quality of life is significantly reduced due to the experienced pain, and therefore, children are reluctant towards preventive actions of oro-dental diseases.(1,2,5)

The oro-dental health condition of institutionalised children is not properly monitored because the fact that they come from families in difficulty represents a disadvantage in terms of proper hygiene habits.(3,4)

From the total number of children cared after in state institutions (1646 on the 31st of December 2006), 1068 children are from the county of Sibiu (484 children, representing about 45%, are from urban areas and 584 children, representing about 55%, are from rural areas). From this number, 47% are children from Sibiu, Mediaș, Copșa Mică, Șura Mare, Cîsnădie, Dumbrăveni, Agnita, Bazna.Roșia. (Source: ADPDC Sibiu)

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The paper presents a study of the oro-dental health condition in children from state institutions compared to those from typical family environments.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

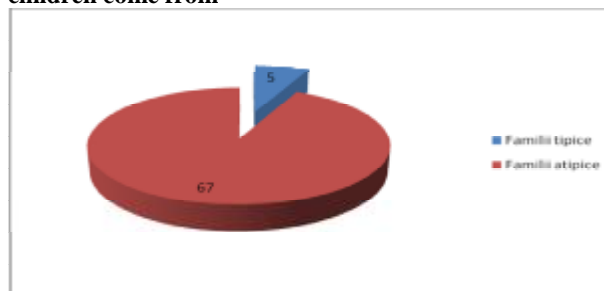
The target group is made up of a number of 72

institutionalized children and the reference group is made up of 68 children from typical families, children who came for consultation and treatment between 2003 and 2007.

Graphical representation according to the type of family from which institutionalized children come from

- typical families
- atypical families

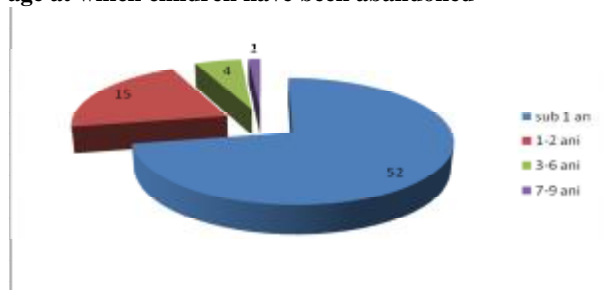
Picture no. 1. Graphical representation according to the type of family from which institutionalized children come from



Graphical distribution depending on the age at which children have been abandoned

- under 1 year
- between 1 and 2 years

Picture no. 2. Graphical distribution depending on the age at which children have been abandoned



Graphical representation of the number of abandoned children according to the causes of abandonment

- poverty
- lack of housing
- lack of sexual education
- lack of family or partner support

- child's health problems
- mother's health condition

Picture no. 3. Graphical representation of the number of abandoned children according to the causes of abandonment

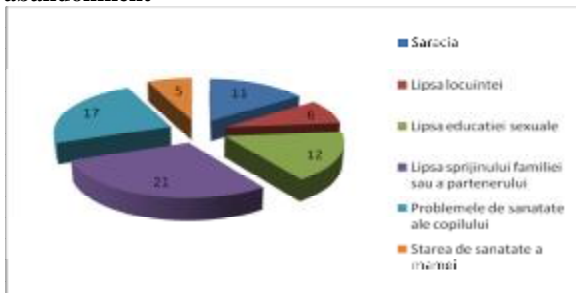


Diagram regarding the knowledge of oral hygiene basics in children of the target group

- know the hygiene basics
- do not know hygiene basics

Picture no. 4. Diagram regarding the knowledge of oral hygiene basics in children of the target group

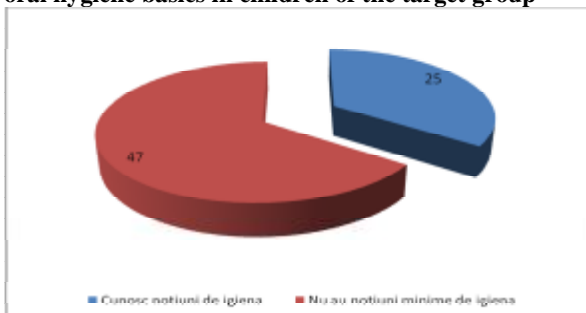
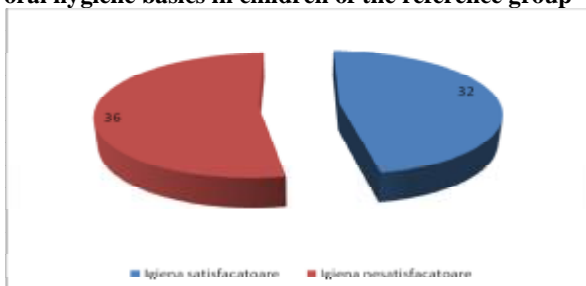


Diagram regarding the knowledge of oral hygiene basics in children of the reference group

- satisfactory hygiene
- unsatisfactory hygiene

Picture no. 5. Diagram regarding the knowledge of oral hygiene basics in children of the reference group



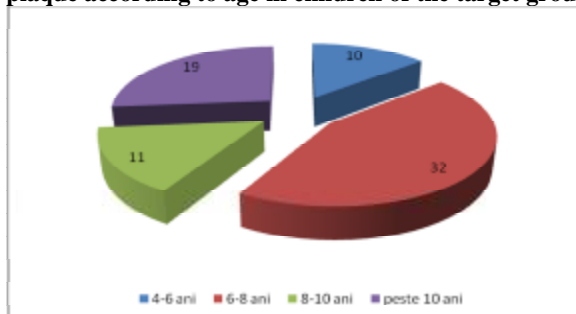
Graphical representation of bacterial plaque according to age in children of the target group

- 4-6 years...
- over 10 years

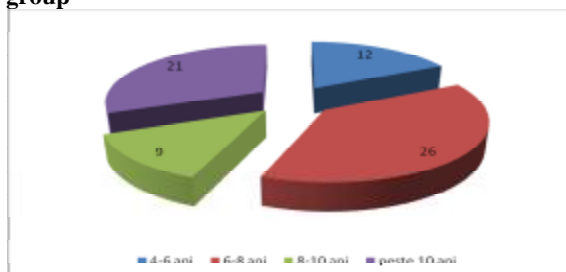
Graphical representation of bacterial plaque according to age in children of the reference group

- 4-6 years...
- over 10 years

Picture no. 6. Graphical representation of bacterial plaque according to age in children of the target group



Picture no. 7. Graphical representation of bacterial plaque according to age in children of the reference group



CONCLUSIONS

1. The majority of institutionalized children come from atypical family environments.
2. The children have been abandoned at a very early age, the majority of them being abandoned until the age of one.
3. The most frequent cause of abandonment is the lack of family support, followed by poverty but also the lack of sexual education of the youth.
4. Over 70% of the institutionalized children and more than 50% of the children from the reference group considered in the study, do not know oral hygiene basics.
5. Both in institutionalized children and in those from the reference group the bacterial plaque is most commonly present around the age of school enrollment.

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