

**THE PREVALENCE OF DENTAL CARIES CASES AMONG PATIENTS AT
KENYATTA NATIONAL HOSPITAL DENTAL UNIT.**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Dental caries also known as tooth decay is a disease where bacteria process in the oral cavity damaging the tooth structure(enamel, dentine and cementum)irrespective of one's age or gender..Dental caries is also a disease with multifactorial causes. The prevalence and incidence of dental caries in a population is influenced by a number of risk factors such as sexes, socioeconomic status, dietary patterns and oral hygiene habits. The purpose of the study was to investigate the relationship between dental caries and awareness. The main objective of the study was to determine the prevalence of dental caries case among patients at Kenyatta National hospital, Dental clinic. The specific objectives were to determine the magnitude of dental caries among patients, to identify the contributing factors of dental caries cases among patients and to establish ways of preventing dental caries among patients. Data analysis and presentation was conducted through experience, conducting questionnaires, dialogue and examination of clinical forms available at the hospital to confirm the number of patient with dental caries. The data was analyzed by tables' .The patients attending the hospital were the study population whereby those with dental caries infection attending the health facility were the study sample. The research used a descriptive cross-sectional survey. Systematic random sampling technique in selecting Kenyatta National Hospital was used. Systematic random sampling procedure was used to pick study subjects until the desired sample size was achieved. Data was examined for completeness, coded and entered in a statistical computer programme statistical package for social science(SPSS).Descriptive statistic was used to obtain the frequencies, while chi-square was used In terms of occupation, office workers interviewed were only nine hence the least prevalence (15.2%). The highest prevalence was in Juakali workers (23.3%). A study carried out by Joyson, M. (2011) found that high percentage of caries infection is in low socio-economic population with 81.2% males 77% females. This is directly opposite to the researchers findings. According to the findings in table 4.2 the prevalence of dental caries seems to be related with social economic and demographic background of the participants as can be seen female had 58.1% chance as compared to male with 36.0%, Similarly the participants with low education background were more likely to get dental caries as can be seen in the table, The demographic table with Jua kali workers are mostly affected by caries among the respondents (29%) and office workers are the least affected (8%).To relate factors to establish association between variables . The major finding of the study was that there exists a relationship in terms of gender, age, individual teeth, education level and contribution of patients to dental caries and so it is important for dental professional and oral health officers to organize medical camps for adults and school going children in which thorough dental awareness can be activated among the people attending KNH dental unit from Nairobi and other parts throughout the country.