

ABSTRACT

Background: Dental caries is a multifactorial disease that is still prevalent in the general population, not only in adults but also in children. There are 3 basic components that cause dental caries, the host (tooth), environment (saliva and substrat), and agent (cariogenic microorganisms), and also time. Dental caries in children or Early Childhood Caries (ECC) could be influenced by family factors, especially the mother. This research was conducted in Kecamatan Gubeng Surabaya because of the presence of some adequate health services in the region, So that the public should be more concerned about the health. **Aim:** To determine the distribution and frequency of dental caries in mother-child pairs in kindergarten of Kecamatan Gubeng Surabaya. **Methods:** This study was an analytic-observational research. A cross-sectional study was conducted among 161 mother-child pairs. Cluster random sampling was applied as a sampling technique. The instrument of this study is dental diagnostic set. Caries indexes deft and DMFT were analyzed for deciduous and permanent dentitions, respectively, according to criteria proposed by the World Health Organization. **Result:** Analysis of the DMFT index showed a mean value of 5.9 for mothers. Analysis of deft index showed a mean vallue of 5.2 for children. No significant correlation was found between mother and child caries experience ($p = 0.118$). **Conclusions:** The level of dental caries in mother-child pairs in kindergarten of Kecamatan Gubeng Surabaya was high. The most experienced of dental caries in primary dentition was maxillary first incisors, whereas in permanent dentition was mandibular first permanent molars.

Keywords: dental caries; early childhood caries; mother-child pairs; distribution and frequency.