

ABSTRACT

Background: Early childhood caries (ECC) is a devastating form of dental decay with multi factorial origin. This cross sectional study is to investigate the prevalence and dental preventive care needs of ECC in preschool children at kecamatan Gubeng Surabaya because the presence of some adequate health services in the region, so the public should be more concerned about the health. **Purpose:** To determine the prevalence of dental caries at kindergarten kecamatan Gubeng Surabaya. **Methods:** This study was a descriptive research with sectional cross approach. This study was conducted among 462 children. Cluster random sampling was applied as a sampling technique. The status of dental caries was recorded according to the World Health Organization (WHO) criteria. **Result:** The level of dental caries in kindergarten of Kecamatan Gubeng Surabaya was high. Analysis of the def-t index showed a mean value of 5.7. The most experienced of dental caries in primary dentition was maxillary first incisors. **Conclusions:** The level of dental caries in kindergarten of Kecamatan Gubeng Surabaya was high.

Keywords: dental preventive care needs; early childhood caries; preschool children