

Clinical Oral Investigations

Dental caries experience in Indigenous children and adolescents: A systematic review and meta-analysis assessing worldwide disparities and time trends (1968–2024)

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Table S1. Search strategies for studies in databases

Database	Syntaxis	Initial search results (up to 03/09/2025)	Updated search results (03/09/2025 – 02/09/2026)
PubMed	("Indigenous peoples"[Title/Abstract] OR "indigen*"[Title/Abstract] OR "aborigin*"[Title/Abstract] OR "amerind*"[Title/Abstract] OR "indian*"[Title/Abstract] OR "tribal"[Title/Abstract] OR "ethnic groups"[Title/Abstract]) AND ("dental caries"[Title/Abstract] OR "dental health surveys"[Title/Abstract] OR "oral health"[Title/Abstract] OR "caries"[Title/Abstract] OR "cariious"[Title/Abstract] OR "dental decay"[Title/Abstract] OR "tooth decay"[Title/Abstract] OR "decayed teeth"[Title/Abstract])	1651	106
SciELO	Indigenous peoples (Title) OR indigen* (Title) OR aborigin* (Title) OR amerind* (Title) OR indian* (Title) OR tribal (Title) OR ethnic groups (Title) AND dental caries (Title) OR dental health surveys (Title) OR oral health (Title) OR caries (Title) OR carious (Title) OR dental decay (Title) OR tooth decay (Title) OR decayed teeth (Title)	8113	30
Embase	'dental caries':ab,ti OR 'dental health surveys':ab,ti OR 'oral health':ab,ti OR caries:ab,ti OR carious:ab,ti OR 'dental decay':ab,ti OR 'tooth decay':ab,ti OR 'decayed teeth':ab,ti AND 'Indigenous peoples':ab,ti OR indigen*:ab,ti OR aborigin*:ab,ti OR amerind*:ab,ti OR indian*:ab,ti OR 'ethnic group':ab,ti	1522	115
Scopus	(TITLE-ABS-KEY (Indigenous AND peoples) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (indigen*) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (aborigin*) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (amerind*) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (indian*) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (tribal) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (ethnic AND groups) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (dental AND caries) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (dental AND health AND surveys) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (oral AND health) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (caries) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (cariious) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (dental AND decay) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (tooth AND decay) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (decayed AND teeth))	7107	485

Table S2. Articles excluded and reasons for exclusion.

Authors (year)	Title	Reason for exclusion*
Aamodt et al. (2015)	Prevalence of caries and malocclusion in an Indigenous population in Chiapas, Mexico	3
Amarasena et al. (2015)	Associations with dental caries experience among a convenience sample of Aboriginal Australian adults	7
Aquino-Canchari et al. (2019)	Clinical epidemiological profile of oral health in peruvian native communities	7
Beltrán et al. (2024)	A rural teledentistry care experience: a geriatric approach to assessing oral health status and treatment needs in older adults from a Mapuche community in Chile	7
Bongo, Brustad & Jönsson (2021)	Caries experience among adults in core Sámi areas of Northern Norway	7
Brennan, Roberts-Thomson, Spencer (2007)	Oral health of Indigenous adult public dental patients in Australia	7
Cantarutti et al. (2025)	Social determinants of oral health in an Indigenous community of Chile: preliminary data of a mixed qualitative and quantitative study	7
Kapellas et al. (2014)	Periodontal disease and dental caries among Indigenous Australians living in the Northern Territory, Australia.	7
Kruger et al. (2008)	The oral health status and treatment needs of Indigenous adults in the Kimberley region of Western Australia	7
Montanha-Andrade et al. (2019)	Dental health status and its indicators in adult Brazilian Indians without exposition to drinking water fluoridation: a cross-sectional study	7
Smith et al. (2007)	Oral health in rural and remote Western Australian Indigenous communities: a two-year retrospective analysis of 999 people	7
Soares et al. (2019)	Epidemiological profile of caries and need for dental extraction in a Kaingang adult Indigenous population	7
Coelho et al. (2021)	Recommendation of tooth extraction and associated factors: cross-sectional study in the Kiriri Indigenous population	3
Macnab et al. (2008)	3-year results of a collaborative school-based oral health program in a remote First Nations community	6
Rao, Bharambe (1993)	Dental caries and periodontal diseases among urban, rural and tribal school children	5
Lin, Chu (1997)	A survey on dental caries in schoolchildren on Lanyu Island	4
Mejia, Parker, Jamieson (2010)	An introduction to oral health inequalities among Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations	1
Singh et al. (2020)	Assessment of oral health status and treatment needs among people of Foklyan area, Dharan, Nepal	4
Ribeiro et al. (2016)	Association of dental infections with systemic diseases in Brazilian Native Indigenous: a cross-sectional study	3
Arrow et al. (2022)	Atraumatic restorative treatments and oral health-related quality of life and dental anxiety in Australian Aboriginal children: A cluster-randomized trial	6
Arrow et al. (2021)	Atraumatic Restorative Treatments in Australian Aboriginal Communities: A Cluster-randomized Trial	6

Ricomini Filho et al. (2021)	Community interventions and strategies for caries control in Latin American and Caribbean countries	1
Moffatt (1995)	Current status of nutritional deficiencies in Canadian aboriginal people	2
Davies et al. (1997)	Dental caries among Australian Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal Australian-born, and overseas-born children	3
Cruz Palma et al. (2014)	Dental caries and social determinants of health in Mexico	3
Khan, Cleaton-Jones (1998)	Dental caries in African preschool children: social factors as disease markers	3
Harrison, Veronneau, Leroux (2010)	Design and implementation of a dental caries prevention trial in remote Canadian Aboriginal communities.	6
Baghdadi (2016)	Early Childhood Caries and Indigenous Children in Canada: Prevalence, Risk Factors, and Prevention Strategies	1
Ju et al. (2024)	Early Childhood Caries Intervention in Aboriginal Australian Children: A Cross-in Randomized Trial.	6
Chen et al. (2011)	Educational intervention can improve dental care knowledge in aboriginal tribal children	5
Harrison, Veronneau, Leroux (2012)	Effectiveness of maternal counseling in reducing caries in Cree children	6
Ju, Jamieson, Mejia (2016)	Estimating the effects of maternal education on child dental caries using marginal structural models: The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Australian Children	3
Agudelo-Suárez et al. (2014)	Ethnicity and self-perceived oral health in Colombia: a cross-sectional analysis	3
Ellenikiotis et al. (2015)	Examining the link between prevalence of severe early childhood caries and self-reported oral health and quality of life outcomes	1
Jamieson et al. (2019)	Follow-up of an Intervention to Reduce Dental Caries in Indigenous Australian Children: A Secondary Analysis of a Randomized Clinical Trial	6
Soares et al. (2021)	Household food insecurity, dental caries and oral-health-related quality of life in Brazilian Indigenous adults	2
Jamieson, Parker, Armfield (2007)	Indigenous child oral health at a regional and state level	5
Wang et al. (2024)	Inequalities in dental caries among Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in Australia: A literature review	1
Drummond et al. (2015)	Inequality of Experience of Dental Caries between Different Ethnic Groups of Brazilians Aged 15 to 19 Years	2
Haag et al. (2019)	Is There an Association between Breastfeeding and Dental Caries among Three-Year-Old Australian Aboriginal Children?	6
Vega Lizama, Cucina (2014)	Maize dependence or market integration? Caries prevalence among Indigenous Maya communities with maize-based versus globalized economies	5
Lemos et al. (2018)	Oral health care in the Xingu Indigenous Park, Brazil, from 2004 to 2013: an analysis based on evaluation indicators	3
Parker, Jamieson (2007)	Oral health comparisons between children attending an Aboriginal health service and a Government school dental service in a regional location	4
Brustad et al. (2020)	Oral health in the Indigenous Sámi population in Norway - the dental health in the North study	3
Arantes, Santos, Frazão (2010)	Oral health in transition: the case of Indigenous peoples from Brazil	3

Jamieson, Armfield, Roberts-Thomson (2006)	Oral health inequalities among Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in the Northern Territory of Australia	3
Haag et al. (2021)	Oral Health Inequalities among Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Children	3
Kilpatrick et al. (2012)	Oral health inequalities in a national sample of Australian children aged 2-3 and 6-7 years	3
Kapellas et at. (2021)	Oral health of aboriginal people with kidney disease living in Central Australia	3
Dowsett, Archila, Kowolik (2001)	Oral health status of an Indigenous adult population of Central America	3
Kailis, Silva (1971)	Prevalence of dental caries in Australian aboriginal children resident in Carnarvon, Western Australia	3
Do et al. (2018)	Race- and Income-Related Inequalities in Oral Health in Australian Children by Fluoridation Status	3
Jordão, Malta, Freire (2018)	Simultaneous oral health risk behaviors among adolescents: evidence from the National School-based Student Health Survey	3
Alves Filho, Santos, Vettore (2013)	Social and environmental inequities in dental caries among Indigenous population in Brazil: evidence from 2000 to 2007	1
Ferro et al. (2010)	Social differences in tooth decay occurrence in a sample of children aged 3 to 5 in north-east Italy	2
Ha et al. (2016)	Social inequality in dental caries and changes over time among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian children	5
Findlay, Janz (2012)	The health of Inuit children under age 6 in Canada	2
Schuch et al. (2017)	The magnitude of Indigenous and non-Indigenous oral health inequalities in Brazil, New Zealand and Australia	3
Moreira, Lima (2015)	The Oral Health in Brazilian Indigenous: The Presence of Permanent Teeth in Elderlies and Adults Belonging to an Indigenous Population in the Northeast, Brazil	1
Claudia et al. (2016)	The relationship between maternal smoking during pregnancy and parental-reported experience of dental caries in Indigenous Australian children	3
Silveira et al. (2015)	Tooth decay and associated factors among adolescents in the north of the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil: a hierarchical analysis	3
Ha et al. (2016)	Trends in caries experience and associated contextual factors among Indigenous children	3
Lopez et al. (2023)	Trends in social inequalities in early childhood caries using population-based clinical data	3
Neel et al. (1964)	Studies on the Xavante Indians of the Brazilian Mato Grosso	9
Donnelly et al. (1977)	Plaque, caries, periodontal diseases, and acculturation among Yanomamö Indians, Venezuela	9
Kieser, Preston (1984)	Oral health status of the Lengua Indians of Paraguay	9
Biazevic, Fantin Michel-Crosato (2005)	Oral health conditions survey among 6-to12-year-old children living in the indigenous reserve of Cacique Doble, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil	1
Diab, Lucas (2008)	Cárie dental em crianças indígenas Xakriabá	1
Ju et al. (2025)	Early childhood caries intervention in Aboriginal Australian children: Follow-up at child age 9 years	6
Garza, Miguel (2025)	Health disparities among indigenous populations in Latin America: a scoping review	2

Roman-Torres et al. (2025)	Comparison of oral conditions between the Macuxi and Yanomami indigenous ethnicities	7
Kolahdooz et al. (2025)	Oral Health Practices Among Indigenous Mothers and Young Children (0-36 Months) in Northwest Territories, Canada	1
Armas-Veja et al. (2025)	Association Between Dental Caries, Dental Biofilm, and Body Mass Index in Indigenous Children from Two Regions of Ecuador: A Cross-Sectional Study	3
Lopez et al. (2025)	Socio-Educational Factors Associated With the Caries Index in Indigenous Amazonian Nationalities	3
Jaramillo et al. (2025)	Epidemiological Profile of Oral Health Conditions in Ecuador: A Retrospective Study From 2016 to 2022	3
Cantarutti et al. (2025)	Social determinants of oral health in an indigenous community of Chile: preliminary data of a mixed qualitative and quantitative study	7
Tamchos et al. (2025)	Prevalence of early childhood caries among preschool children of tribal Leh district of Ladakh: A cross-sectional study	3
Raymundo et al. (2025)	Oral health surveys of traditional peoples and communities in Brazil: A scope review	2
Williams et al. (2025)	Relationship between Safety-net Oral Health Care Practices and Income among American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, and Hispanic/Latino Dentists	1
Singh et al. (2025)	Social inequities in early childhood caries in Australia: A population-based study on statewide public dental services data	3

The reasons for exclusion were as follows: (1) nonprimary research articles, including systematic reviews, meta-analyses, narrative reviews, editorials, commentaries, conference abstracts, and case reports; (2) studies that did not address dental caries in Indigenous populations as the primary outcome; (3) studies using non-standardized caries indices or composite measures that could not be disaggregated into dmft or DMFT values; (4) mixed-population studies that included both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants, unless they provided results stratified by ethnicity or Indigenous status; (5) studies reporting aggregate data across dentition types that combine deciduous and permanent teeth without providing individual dmft and DMFT indices; (6) intervention studies, including randomized controlled trials and quasiexperimental designs, as the research focus was observational prevalence data rather than treatment effects; (7) studies that included participants outside the 5–19 age range, unless age-stratified reporting allowed extraction of data for the target age group; (8) duplicate publications reporting identical datasets (preference was given to the most recent or methodologically comprehensive version, as the research focus was on double-counting study populations); and (9) no data interest.

Table S3. Assessment of the methodological quality of studies selected using the Joanna Briggs Institute instrument.

Authors (year)	Were the criteria for inclusion in the sample clearly defined?	Were the study subjects and the setting described in detail?	Were objective, standard criteria used for measurement of the condition?	Were confounding factors identified?	Were strategies to deal with confounding factors stated?	Was appropriate statistical analysis used?
Abdul Kadir, Adnan (1989)	Yes	No	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alves Filho, Santos, Vettore (2009)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arantes & Frazão (2016)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arantes, Jamieson & Frazão (2021)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arantes et al. (2009)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arantes, Santos, Coimbra Jr. (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arrow, (2016)	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Baldisserotto, Ferreira & Warmling (2019)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Barrett et al. (1972)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Batliner et al. (2016)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Berhan Nordin et al. (2019)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Butten et al. (2019)	Yes	Unclear	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Caires et al. (2018)	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carneiro et al. (2008)	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chang (1971)	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chinnakotla et al. (2023)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
D'Mello, et al. (2011)	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dasanayake, Caufield (2002)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Davies et al. (1997)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
de la Maza, Cueto	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Unclear
de Muñiz (1985)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
del Rio Gomez (1991)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dimitropoulos et al. (2018)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dogar et al. (2011)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Drummond et al. (2015)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Endean et al. (2004)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fischman (1974)	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Gonçalves et al. (2015)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gowda et al. (2009)	Unclear	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grim et al. (1994)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guisilini et al. (2021)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ha (2014)	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ha, Crocombe, Mejia (2014)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ha et al. (2016)	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hagens et al. (2023)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Hallett, O'Rourke (2002)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hirata et al. (1997)	Yes	No	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hirooka et al. (2014)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Homan, Davies (1973)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Hopcraft, Chow (2007)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jamieson, Armfield, Roberts-Thomson (2007)	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jamieson, Armfield, Roberts-Thomson (2007)	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jamieson, Roberts-Thomson, Sayers (2010)	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jamieson et al. (2013)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Jamieson, Sayers, Roberts-Thomson (2013)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jayashantha & Johnson (2016)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jamieson et al. (2021)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jamieson, Armfield, Roberts-Thomson (2006)	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jamieson et al. (2010)	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jayashantha & Johnson (2016)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Unclear	Yes
John et al. (2015)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Johnson et al. (2014)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jones et al. (1992)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kadir et al. (1990)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kailis (1979)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Koike et al. (2024)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Kroon et al. (2019)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kruger, Dyson, Tennant (2005)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kumar et al. (2013)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Lalloo et al. (2016)	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lawrence et al. (2009)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lee et al. (2022)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lemos et al. (2018)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mauricio & Moreira (2014)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Mauricio, Fávaro, Moreira (2024)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medina et al. (2008)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Miranda, Souza, Leal (2018)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Miyazaki, Takehara (1988)	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nascimento, Scabar (2008)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Niendorff, Jones (2000)	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oliveira et al. (2024)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peressini et al. (2004)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peressini et al. (2004)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Phipps et al. (2012)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Poni et al. (2023)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prasai Dixit et al. (2013)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quintero De La Hoz (2022)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Rigonatto, Antunes, Frazão (2001)	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sampaio et al. (2010)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Schamschula et al. (1980)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Schroth, Moore, Brothwell (2005)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Schuluter, Lee (2016)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Seow et al. (1996)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Seow et al. (1999)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shen et al. (2015)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shi et al. (2018)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ship (1966)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Simangwa et al. (2018)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Singh et al. (2011)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Smith et al. (2015)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
So et al. (2017)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Tsai & Lawrence (2022)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yerex et al. (2025)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zander et al. (2013)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zeng et al. (2005)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table S4. Summary of the assessment of the methodological quality of studies selected using the Joanna Briggs Institute instrument.

Criterion	Yes	No	Unclear
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Clearly defined inclusion criteria?	88 (92.6)	-	7 (7.4)
Subjects and scenarios described in detail?	76 (80.0)	17 (17.9)	2 (2.1)
Objective criteria used for measurement?	56 (57.9)	24 (25.3)	16 (16.8)
Confounding factors identified?	95 (100.0)	-	-
Strategies for dealing with stated confounders?	79 (83.2)	2 (2.1)	14 (14.7)
Appropriate statistical analysis used?	94 (98.9)	-	1 (1.1)

Table S5. Sensitivity analysis performed by removing studies one by one from the pooled analysis of the dmft index (deciduous dentition) of Indigenous children.

Study omitted	Estimate	Lower CI	Upper CI
Tsai et al. (2021)	3.7479455	3.5794649	3.9164262
Lemos et al. (2018) ¹	3.7682073	3.5986779	3.9377365
Lemos et al. (2018) ²	3.7421670	3.5738411	3.9104927
Guisilini et al. (2021)	3.7567160	3.5877154	3.9257166
Ha et al. (2016) ³	3.7199647	3.5525560	3.8873732
Ha et al. (2016) ⁴	3.7540123	3.5853038	3.9227209
Ha et al. (2014)	3.7418222	3.5734181	3.9102266
Baldisserotto et al. (2019)	3.7098308	3.5427387	3.8769231
Gonçalves et al. (2015)	3.7602723	3.5919337	3.9286108
Arantes et al. (2021)	3.7317953	3.5640321	3.8995583
Ha (2014)	3.7806895	3.6118271	3.9495516
Lee et al. (2022)	3.7466271	3.5784173	3.9148369
Jamieson et al. (2010)	3.7610779	3.5920367	3.9301190
Smith et al. (2015)	3.7705863	3.6014206	3.9397519
Kailis (1979)	3.6961772	3.5310402	3.8613141
Miranda et al. (2018)	3.7604001	3.5910168	3.9297836
Sampaio et al. (2010)	3.7213910	3.5536940	3.8890877
Hopcraft et al. (2007)	3.7772274	3.6083295	3.9461250
Kroon et al. (2019) ⁵	3.7486608	3.5800345	3.9172873
Kroon et al. (2019) ⁶	3.7550778	3.5863681	3.9237876
Kroon et al. (2019) ⁷	3.7717757	3.6007638	3.9427876
Kroon et al. (2019) ⁸	3.7641780	3.5935855	3.9347703
Kroon et al. (2019) ⁹	3.7615583	3.5913844	3.9317322
Rigonatto et al. (2001)	3.7730739	3.6022518	3.9438963
Gowda et al. (2009)	3.7692759	3.5982690	3.9402828
Seow et al. (1996)	3.7637932	3.5935009	3.9340856
Arantes et al. (2001)	3.7054381	3.5390897	3.8717866
Lawrence et al. (2009) ¹⁰	3.7486455	3.5800097	3.9172812
Lawrence et al. (2009) ¹¹	3.7672613	3.5976491	3.9368737
Lawrence et al. (2009) ¹²	3.7453108	3.5773425	3.9132791
Dogar et al. (2011)	3.7365034	3.5685196	3.9044871
Singh et al. (2011)	3.7437625	3.5765421	3.9109831
Hagens et al. (2023)	3.7626994	3.5944757	3.9309230
Kruger et al. (2005)	3.7359257	3.5678298	3.9040217
Peressini et al. (2004) ¹³	3.7285075	3.5609517	3.8960633
Peressini et al. (2004) ¹⁴	3.7347183	3.5668731	3.9025633
Oliveira et al. (2024)	3.7301323	3.5621903	3.8980744
Butten et al. (2019)	3.7377746	3.5694914	3.9060576
Alves Filho et al. (2009)	3.7281921	3.5604019	3.8959823
Phipps et al. (2012)	3.7436402	3.5753160	3.9119642
Grim et al. (1994)	3.7201560	3.5526066	3.8877053
Batliner et al. (2016)	3.7254448	3.5578067	3.8930829
Jamieson et al. (2007) ¹⁵	3.7706444	3.5994620	3.9418271
Jamieson et al. (2007) ¹⁶	3.7719798	3.6129735	3.9309862
Jamieson et al. (2007) ¹⁷	3.7635841	3.5934494	3.9337189

Jamieson et al. (2007) ¹⁸	3.7575908	3.5879998	3.9271817
Jamieson et al. (2007) ¹⁹	3.7637932	3.5935009	3.9340856
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²⁰	3.7539349	3.5850880	3.9227817
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²¹	3.7344551	3.5663929	3.9025173
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²²	3.7718480	3.6026533	3.9410424
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²³	3.7666709	3.5975688	3.9357729
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²⁴	3.7542596	3.5857589	3.9227605
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²⁵	3.7470877	3.5787814	3.9153941
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²⁶	3.8265741	3.5805304	4.0726180
Chang (1971)	3.7579124	3.5872965	3.9285281
Arrow (2016)	3.7322226	3.5644016	3.9000437
Hallett et al. (2002)	3.6974697	3.5313876	3.8635521
Jones et al. (1992)	3.7343750	3.5662560	3.9024940
Hirooka et al. (2014)	3.7636845	3.5944335	3.9329357
Chinnakotla et al. (2023)	3.7604353	3.5918002	3.9290705
Schroth et al. (2005)	3.7657330	3.5969951	3.9344707
Kumar et al. (2013)	3.7540503	3.5851586	3.9229417
Zeng et al. (2005)	3.7705739	3.6018353	3.9393122
Combined	3.7495509	3.5822018	3.916000

Note: (1) year of data collection: 2007; (2) year of data collection: 2013; (3) period of data collection: 2000-2002; (4) period of data collection: 2007-2010; (5) year of data collection: 2004; (6) year of data collection: 2012; (7) year of data collection: 2015; (8) year of data collection: 2016; (9) year of data collection: 2016; (10) period of data collection: 2003-2004; (11) period of data collection: 2004-2005; (12) period of data collection: 2005-2006; (13) 7 years; (14) 3-5 years; (15) year of data collection: 1989; (16) year of data collection: 1990; (17) year of data collection: 1991; (18) year of data collection: 1992; (19) year of data collection: 1993; (20) year of data collection: 1994; (21) year of data collection: 1995; (22) year of data collection: 1996; (23) year of data collection: 1997; (24) year of data collection: 1998; (25) year of data collection: 1999; (26) year of data collection: 2000.

Table S6. Sensitivity analysis performed by removing studies one by one from the pooled analysis of the DMFT index (permanent dentition) of Indigenous children and adolescents.

Study omitted	Estimate	Lower CI	Upper CI
Lemos et al. (2018) ¹	2.3520885	2.1679816	2.5361953
Lemos et al. (2018) ²	2.3896277	2.2048340	2.5744214
Ha et al. (2016) ³	2.3446584	2.1610169	2.5282998
Ha et al. (2016) ⁴	2.3322995	2.1493874	2.5152118
Ha et al. (2014)	2.3834155	2.1965220	2.5703089
Baldisserotto et al. (2019) ⁵	2.3497198	2.1653478	2.5340917
Gonçalves et al. (2015)	2.3958299	2.2119648	2.5796950
Arantes et al. (2021) ⁶	2.3850045	2.1999614	2.5700476
Arantes et al. (2016)	2.3090146	2.1265631	2.4914660
Ha (2014)	2.3544819	2.1700237	2.5389404
Maurício et al. (2014) ⁷	2.3685069	2.1838183	2.5531955
Jamieson et al. (2010)	2.3839214	2.1975925	2.5702503
Kailis (1979)	2.3569674	2.1724591	2.5414755
Miranda et al. (2018) ⁸	2.3865113	2.2014995	2.5715232
Arantes et al. (2009) ⁹	2.3867466	2.2002399	2.5732532
Sampaio et al (2010) ¹⁰	2.3957369	2.2113717	2.5801020
Hopcraft (2007) ¹¹	2.3378515	2.1536753	2.5220277
Kroon et al. (2019) ¹²	2.3772352	2.1921551	2.5623152
Kroon et al. (2019) ¹³	2.3125310	2.1391482	2.4859138
Kroon et al. (2019) ¹⁴	2.3876829	2.2013252	2.5740407
Kroon et al. (2019) ¹⁵	2.3881443	2.2002509	2.5760374
Kroon et al. (2019) ¹⁶	2.3814435	2.1956954	2.5671914
Rigonatto et al. (2001) ¹⁷	2.3801041	2.1937215	2.5664864
Gowda et al. (2009)	2.3802729	2.1943204	2.5662253
Medina et al. (2008)	2.3736560	2.1886368	2.5586755
Kadir et al. (1990)	2.3876367	2.2026186	2.5726547
Arantes et al. (2001) ¹⁸	2.3836262	2.1972828	2.5699694
Barrett et al. (1972) ¹⁹	2.3424385	2.1581743	2.5267026
Hagens et al. (2023)	2.3812902	2.1955409	2.5670395
Miyazaki et al. (1988) ²⁰	2.3833282	2.1965206	2.5701358
Alves Filho et al. (2009) ²¹	2.3393862	2.1558275	2.5229449
Niendorff et al.(2000) ²²	2.3890061	2.2019620	2.5760503
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²³	2.3269455	2.1433294	2.5105617
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²⁴	2.3320777	2.1480050	2.5161505
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²⁵	2.3782287	2.1928644	2.5635929
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²⁶	2.3766081	2.1914349	2.5617814
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²⁷	2.3833783	2.1959069	2.5708497
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²⁸	2.2997639	2.1169400	2.4825876
Jamieson et al. (2007) ²⁹	2.3687644	2.1839824	2.5535462
Jamieson et al. (2007) ³⁰	2.3802400	2.1948662	2.5656140
Jamieson et al. (2007) ³¹	2.3818772	2.1969700	2.5667844
Jamieson et al. (2007) ³²	2.3832111	2.1984580	2.5679641
Jamieson et al. (2007) ³³	2.3790884	2.1942778	2.5638990
Jamieson et al. (2007) ³⁴	2.3655047	2.1808112	2.5501986
Chang (1971)	2.3575342	2.1730416	2.5420265

Arrow (2016)	2.3540392	2.1697695	2.5383091
John et al. (2015)	2.3818886	2.1971378	2.5666397
Shen et al. (2015)	2.3813276	2.1966515	2.5660038
Kumar et al. (2013)	2.3430750	2.1590104	2.5271399
Batliner et al. (2016)	2.3549619	2.1706951	2.5392287
Lemos et al. (2018) ³⁵	2.3608208	2.1763024	2.5453393
Lemos et al. (2018) ³⁶	2.3534400	2.1689913	2.5378890
Baldisserotto et al. (2019) ³⁷	2.3422749	2.1587768	2.5257730
Arantes et al. (2021) ³⁸	2.3284760	2.1451080	2.5118439
Maurício et al. (2014) ³⁹	2.3439810	2.1597767	2.5281854
Jamieson et al. (2013)	2.3783796	2.1936817	2.5630774
Miranda et al. (2018) ⁴⁰	2.3424554	2.1586192	2.5262916
Arantes et al. (2009) ⁴¹	2.3486388	2.1646073	2.5326705
Sampaio et al (2010) ⁴²	2.3766131	2.1914361	2.5617902
Hopcraft (2007) ⁴³	2.3716593	2.1866617	2.5566568
Rigonatto et al. (2001) ⁴⁴	2.3878407	2.1964326	2.5792491
Jamieson et al. (2010)	2.4038353	2.2023001	2.6053705
Quintero De La Hoz (2022)	2.4200914	2.1837358	2.6564472
Arantes et al. (2001) ⁴⁵	2.3902097	2.2053771	2.5750422
Barrett et al. (1972) ⁴⁶	2.3946211	2.2100017	2.5792403
Peressini et al. (2004)	2.3125310	2.1391482	2.4859138
Miyazaki et al. (1988) ⁴⁷	2.3530097	2.1694312	2.5365880
Alves Filho et al. (2009) ⁴⁸	2.2639151	2.1024001	2.4254301
Niendorff et al. (2000) ⁴⁹	2.3748188	2.1872346	2.5624030
Grim et al. (1994)	2.2916789	2.1101954	2.4731622
Jamieson et al. (2013)	2.3444555	2.1601930	2.5287180
Combined	2.363214	2.1798814	2.5465466

Note: (1) year of data collection: 2007 / 12 years; (2) year of data collection: 2013 / 12 years; (3) period of data collection: 2000-2002; (4) period of data collection: 2007-2010; (5) 12 years; (6) 12 years; (7) 10-12 years; (8) 5-12 years; (9) 6-12 years; (10) 12 years; (11) 5-12 years; (12) year of data collection: 2004; (13) year of data collection: 2012; (14) year of data collection: 2015; (15) year of data collection: 2016; (16) year of data collection: 2017; (17) 5-13 years; (18) 6-12 years; (19) 5-10 years; (20) 10-12 years; (21) 5-10 and 12 years; (22) 5-13 years; (23) year of data collection: 1989; (24) year of data collection: 1990; (25) year of data collection: 1991; (26) year of data collection: 1992; (27) year of data collection: 1993; (28) year of data collection: 1994; (29) year of data collection: 1995; (30) year of data collection: 1996; (31) year of data collection: 1997; (32) year of data collection; 1998; (33) year of data collection: 1999; (34) year of data collection: 2000; (35) year of data collection: 2007 / 15-19 years; (36) year of data collection: 2013 / 15-19 years; (37) 15-19 years; (38) 13-19 years; (39) 13-14 years; (40) 15-19 years; (41) 13-19 years; (42) 15-19 years; (43) 13-15 years; (44) 14-19 years; (45) 13-19 years; (46) 10-19 years; (47) 13-15 years; (48) 15-19 years; (49) 14-19 years.

Table S7. Egger test results for the included studies on the dmft index (deciduous dentition) in Indigenous children.

Egger's test for small-study effects:							
Regress standard normal deviate of intervention							
effect estimate against its standard error							
Number of studies = 63				Root MSE		= 7.815	
Std_Eff	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P> t 		[95% conf. interval]	
slope	2.717123	.0428317	63.44	0.000		2.631476	2.802771
bias	4.05357	1.063929	3.81	0.000		1.926111	6.181028
Test of H0: no small-study effects				P = 0.000			

Table S8. Results of the Egger test for the included studies on the DMFT index (permanent dentition) of Indigenous children and adolescents.

Egger's test for small-study effects:							
Regress standard normal deviate of intervention							
effect estimate against its standard error							
Number of studies = 71				Root MSE		= 15.58	
Std_Eff	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P> t 		[95% conf. interval]	
slope	1.160299	.0839986	13.81	0.000		.9927267	1.327872
bias	6.898948	2.207043	3.13	0.003		2.496017	11.30188
Test of H0: no small-study effects				P = 0.003			

Figure S1. Forest plot of the mean dmft index (deciduous dentition) among Indigenous children.

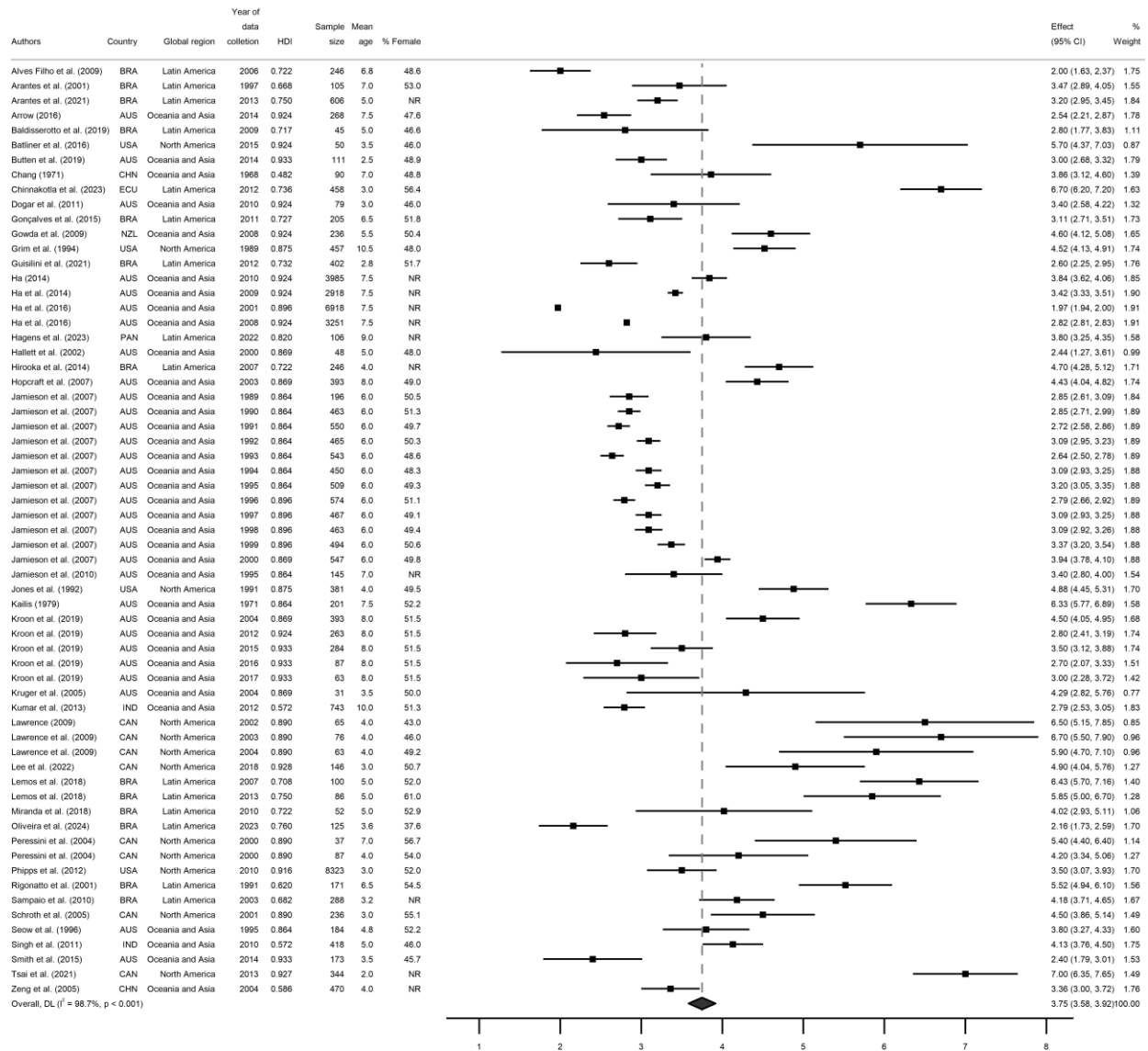


Figure S2. Forest plot of the mean dmft index (deciduous dentition) among Indigenous children by age group.

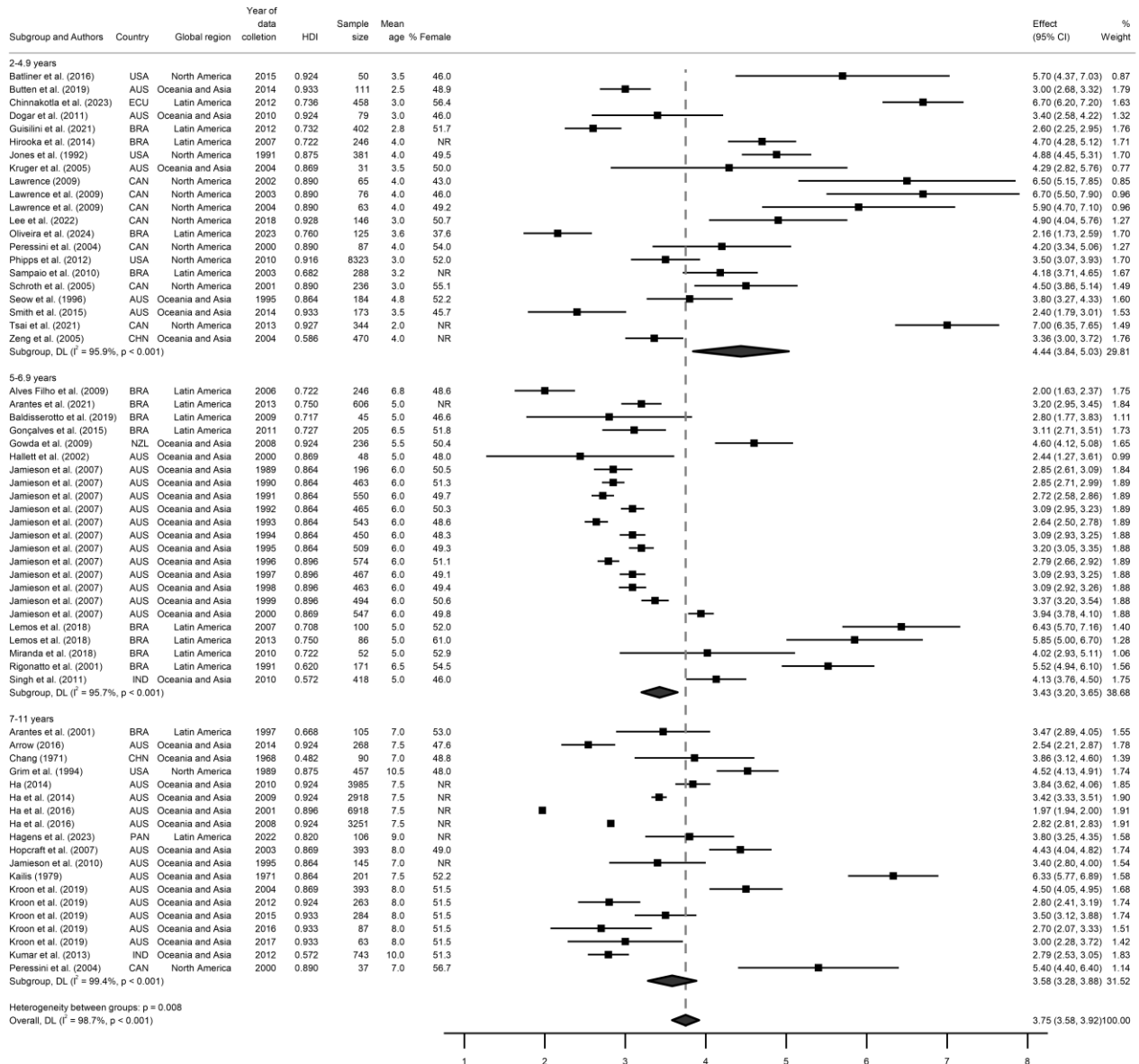


Figure S3. Forest plot of the mean dmft index (deciduous dentition) among Indigenous children by the percentage of female individuals.

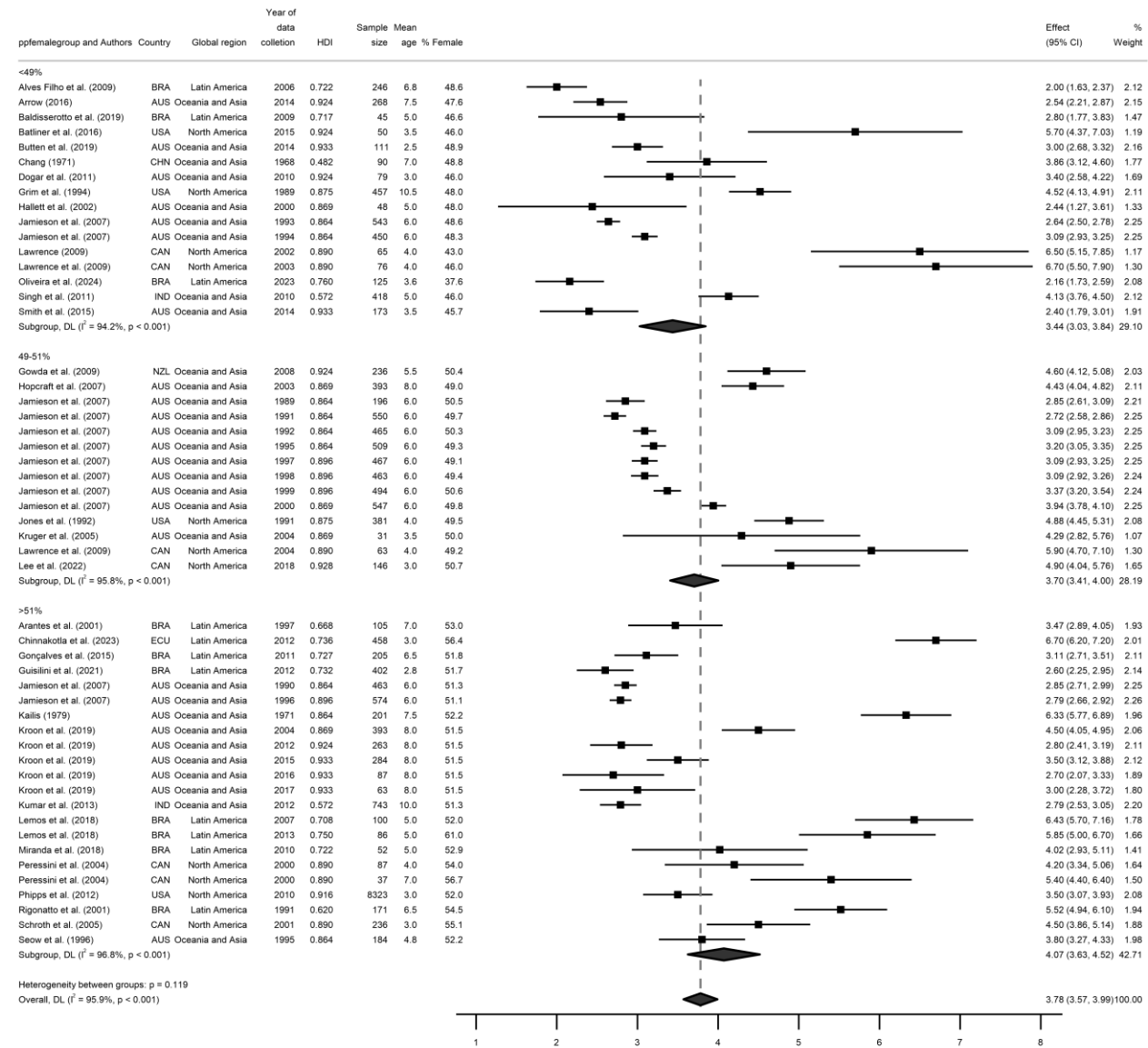


Figure S4. Forest plot of the mean dmft index (deciduous dentition) among Indigenous children by country.

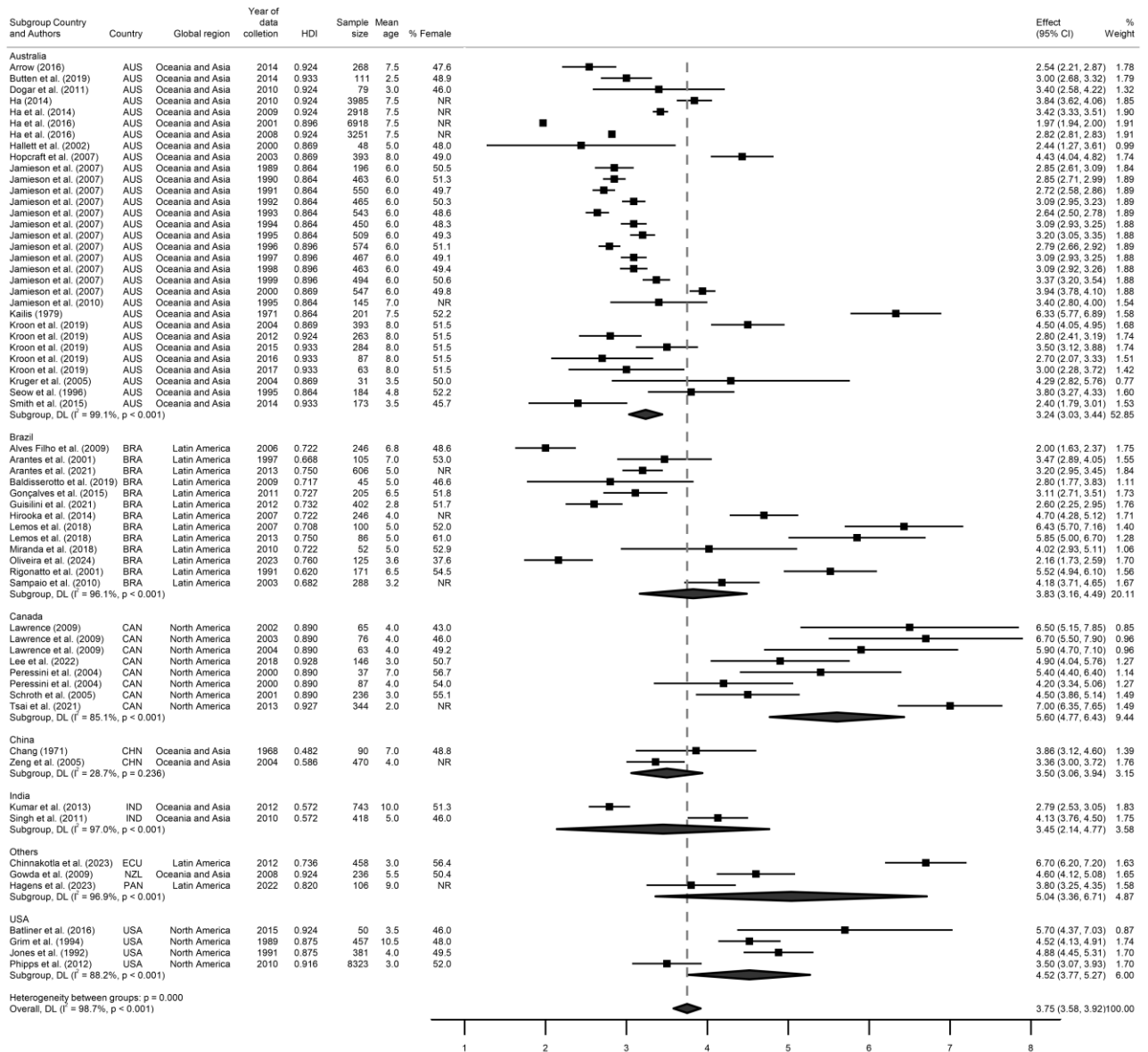


Figure S5. Forest plot of the mean dmft index (deciduous dentition) among Indigenous children by global region.

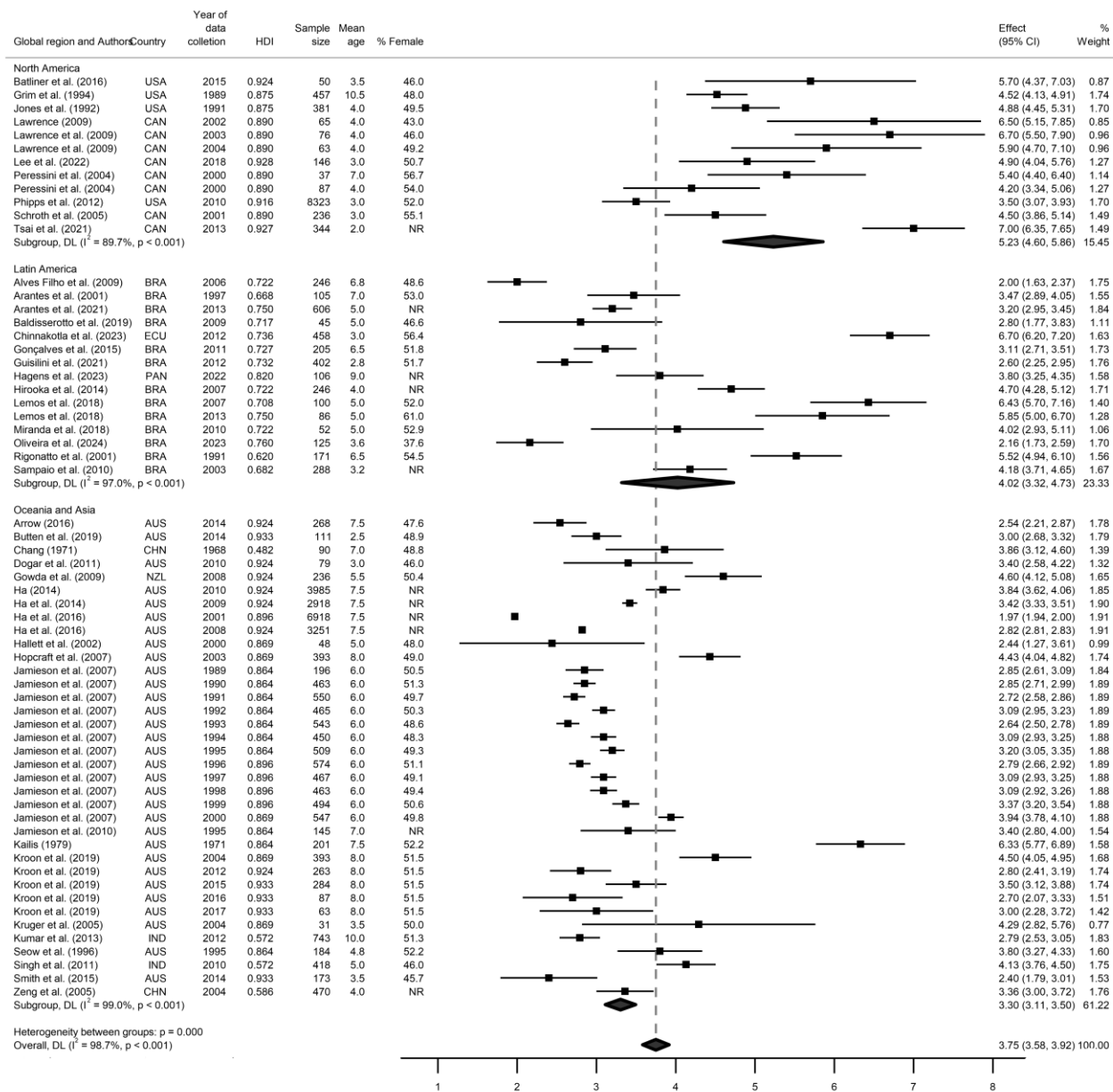


Figure S6. Forest plot of the mean dmft index (deciduous dentition) among Indigenous children by HDI.

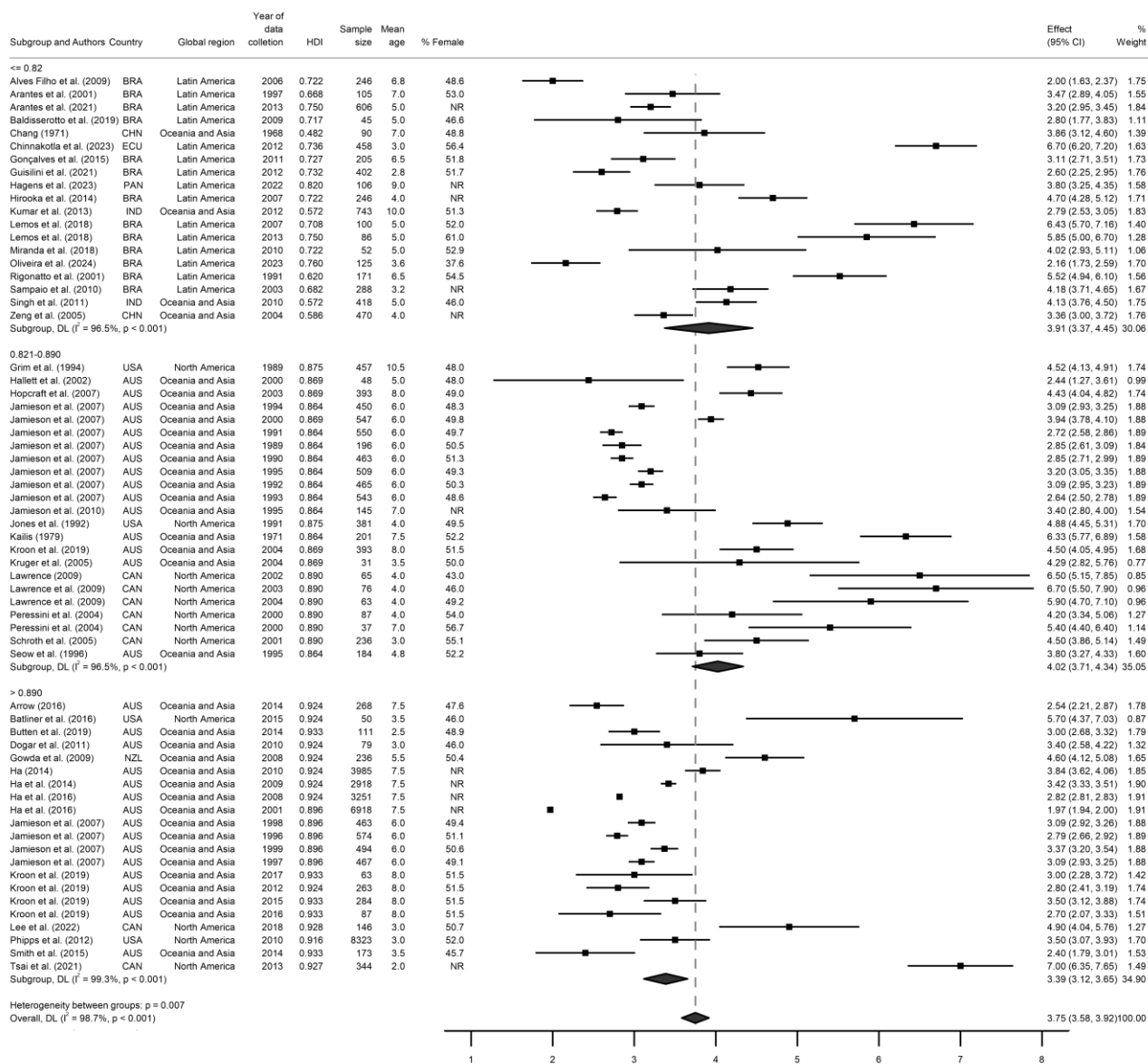


Figure S7. Forest plot of the mean dmft index (deciduous dentition) among Indigenous children by the data collection period.

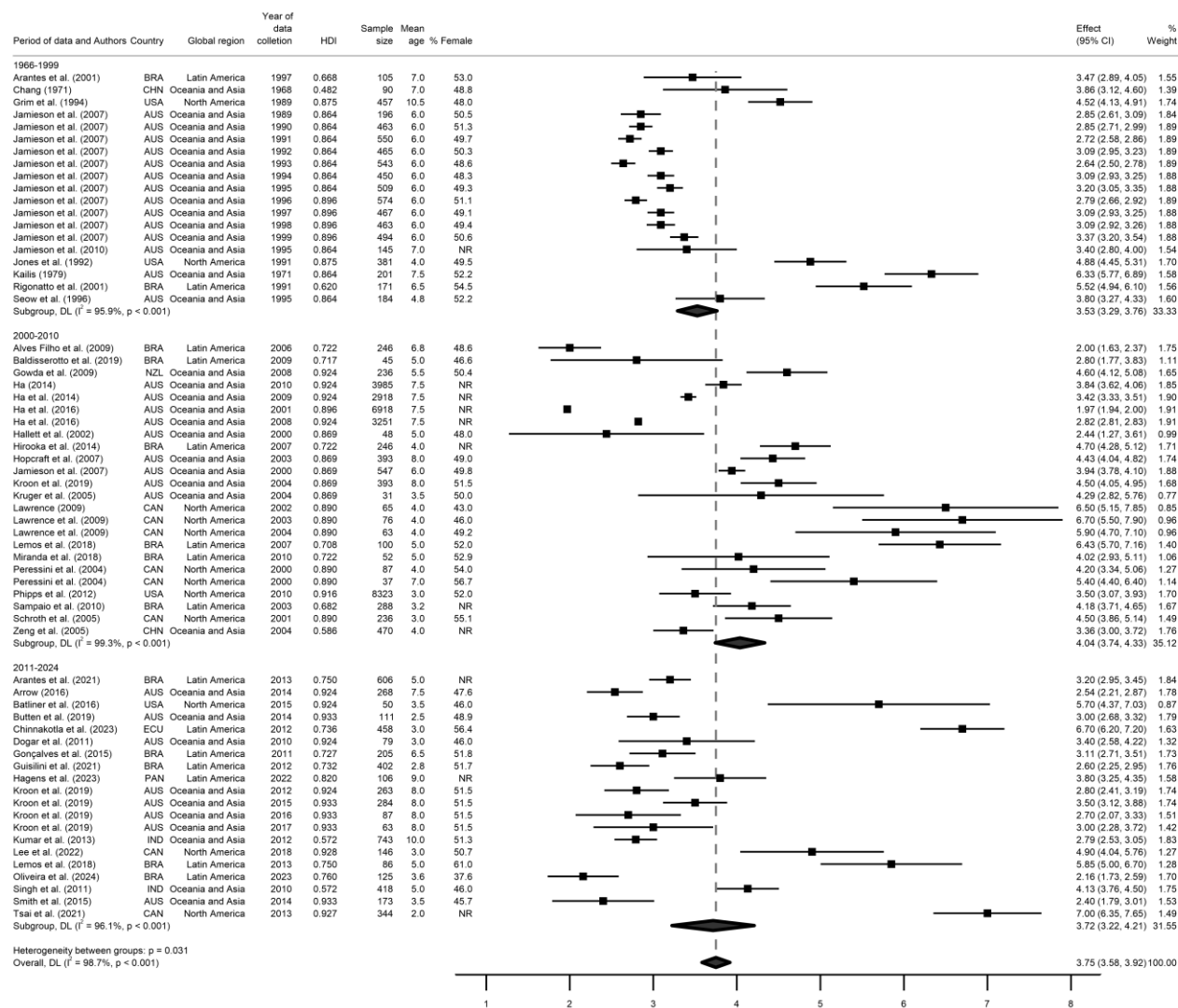


Figure S8. Sensitivity analysis performed by removing studies one by one from the pooled analysis of the dmft index (deciduous dentition) of Indigenous children.

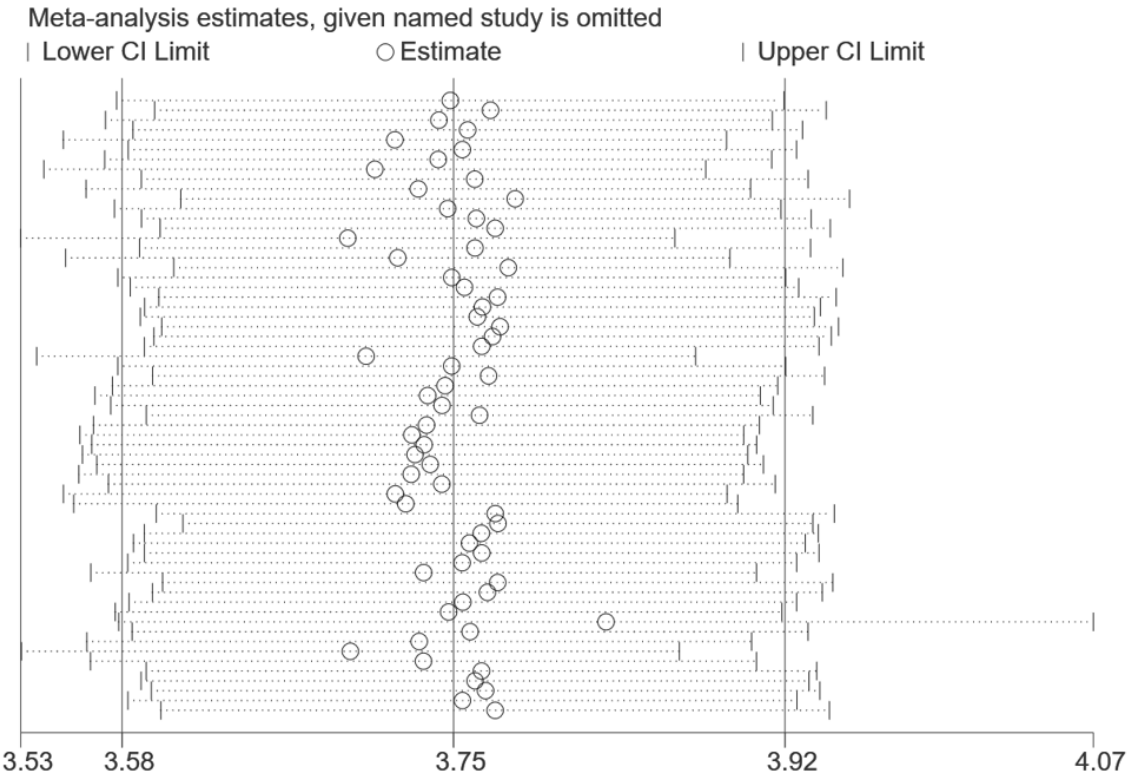


Figure S9. Funnel plot of the dmft index (deciduous dentition) of Indigenous children.

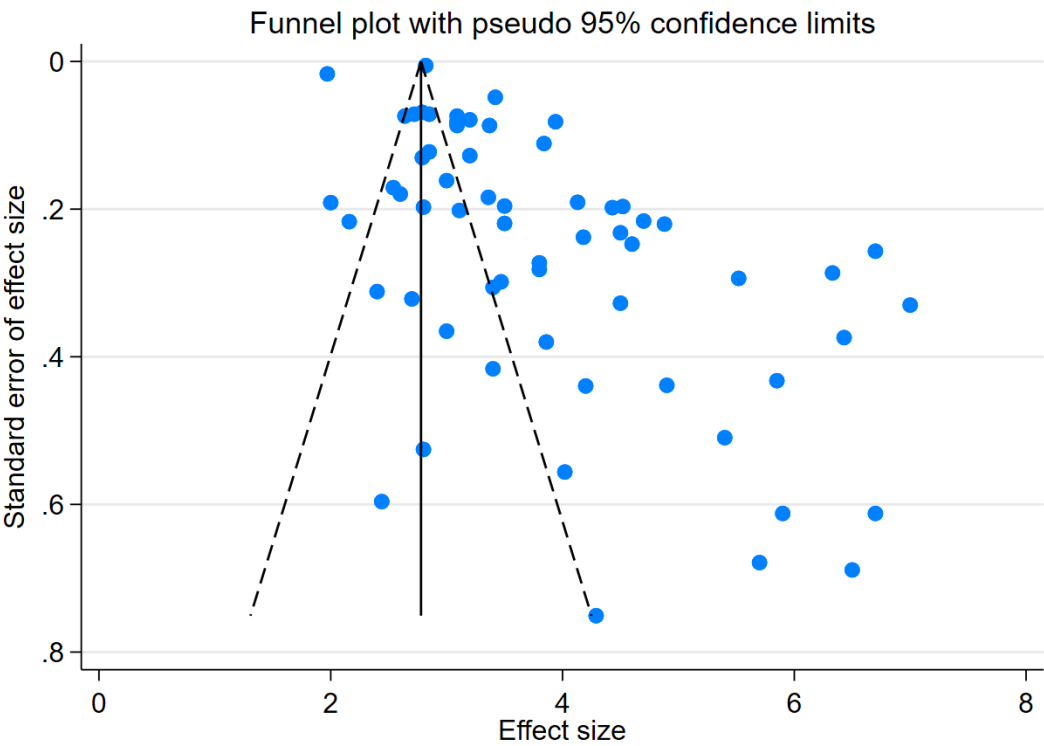


Figure S10. Forest plot of the mean DMFT index (permanent dentition) among Indigenous children and adolescents.

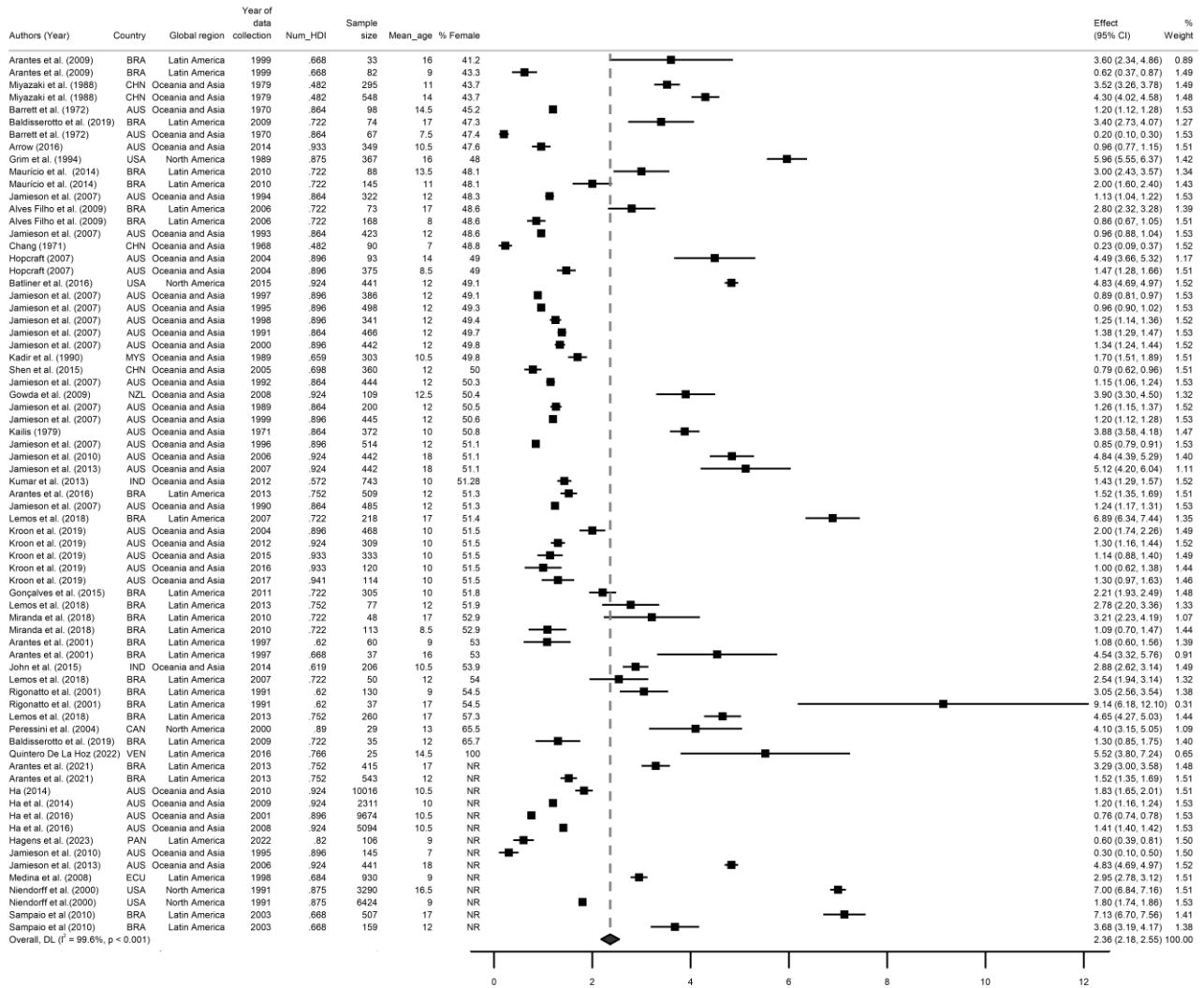


Figure S11. Forest plot of the mean DMFT index (permanent dentition) among Indigenous children and adolescents by age group.

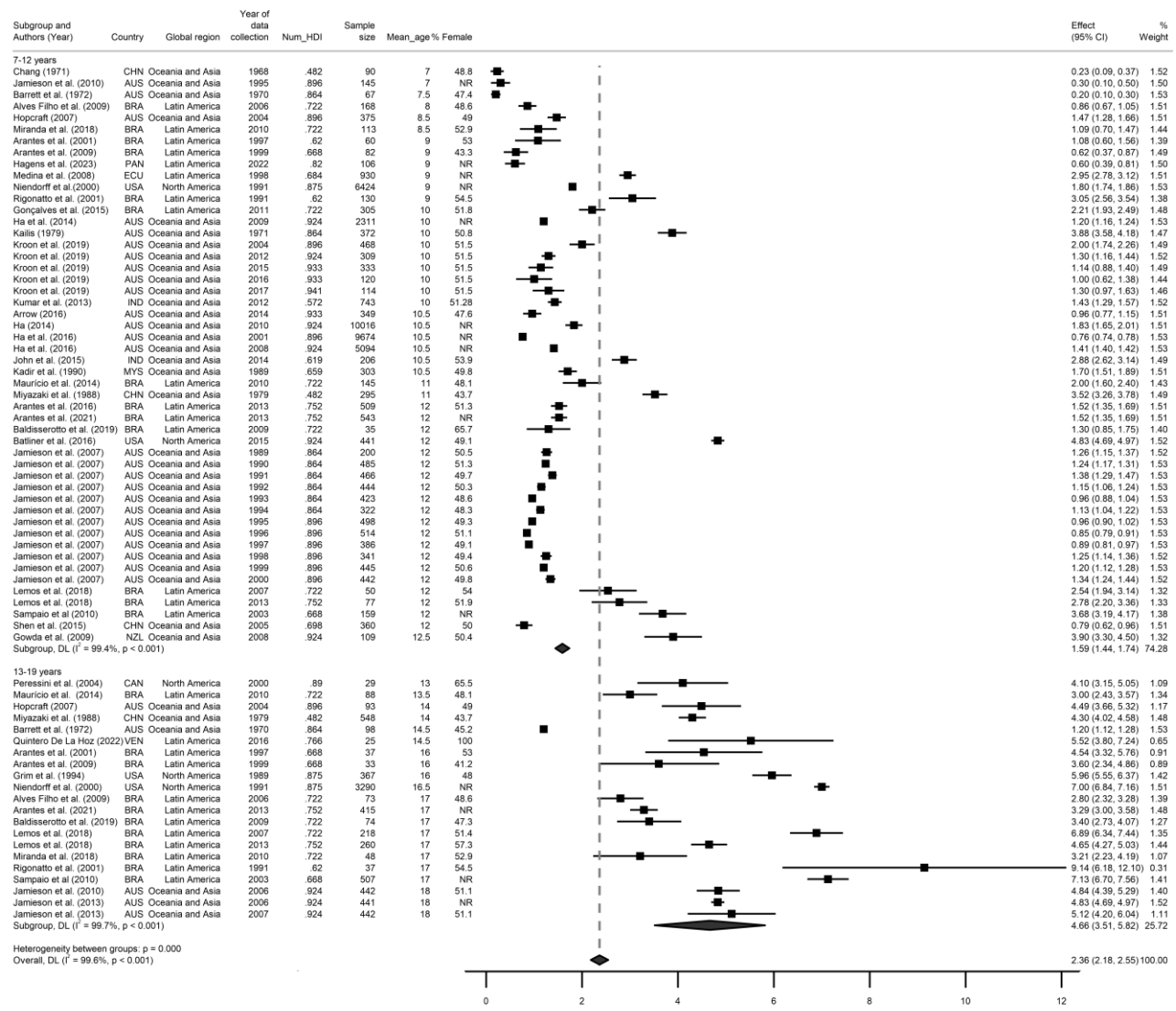


Figure S12. Forest plot of the mean DMFT index (permanent dentition) among Indigenous children and adolescents by the percentage of female individuals.

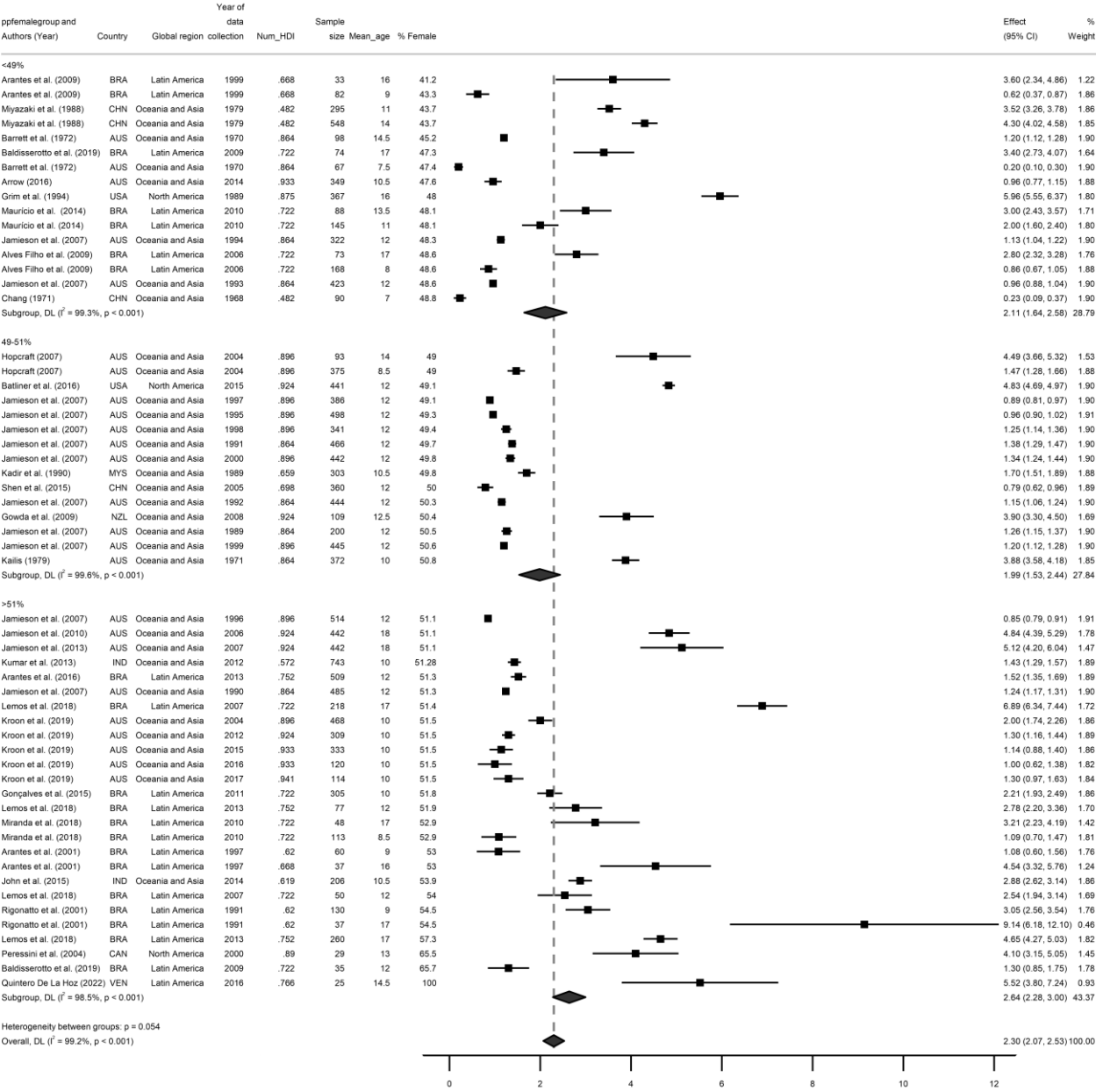


Figure S13. Forest plot of the mean DMFT index (permanent dentition) among Indigenous children and adolescents by country.

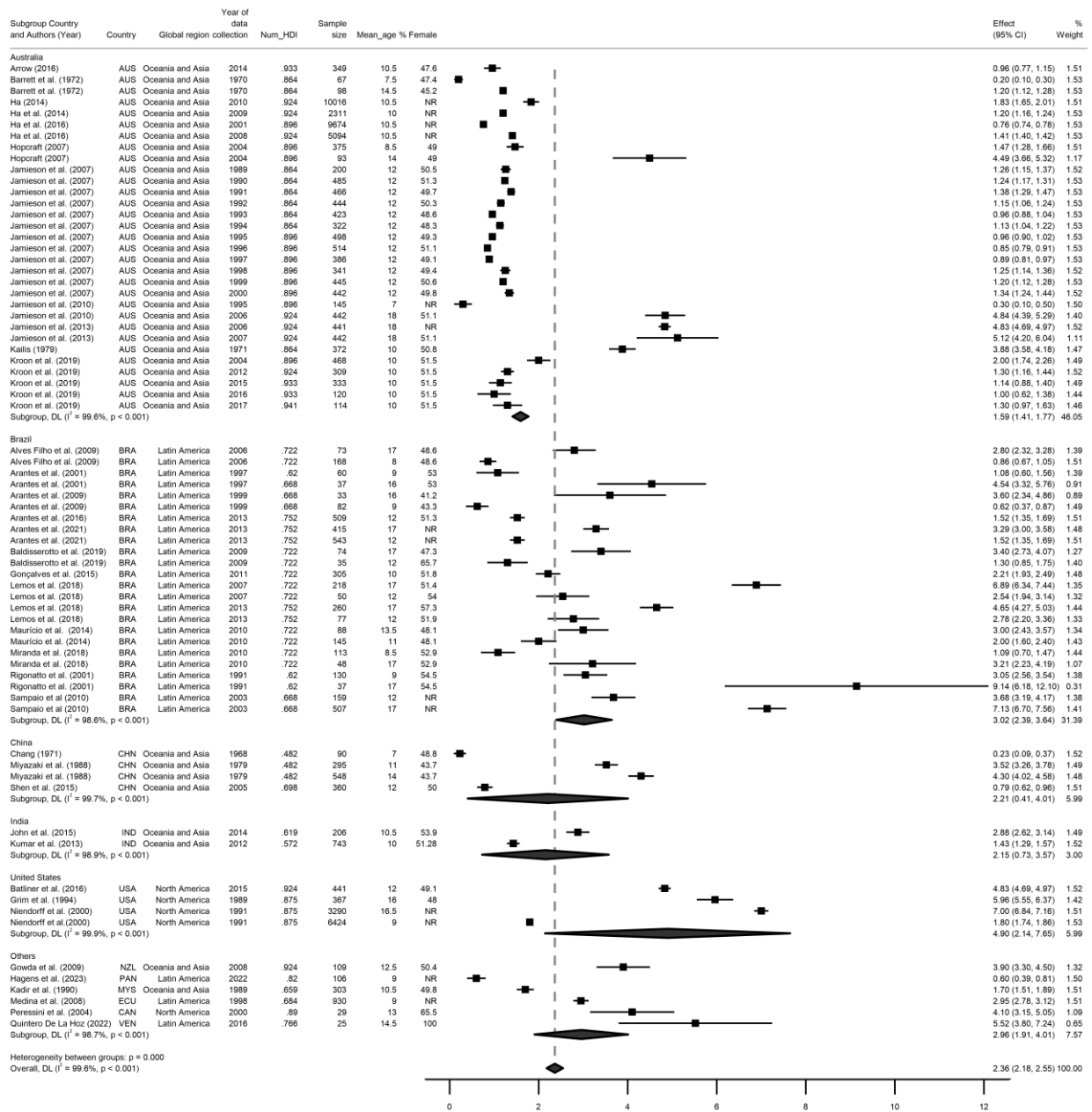


Figure S14. Forest plot of the mean DMFT index (permanent dentition) among Indigenous children and adolescents by global region.

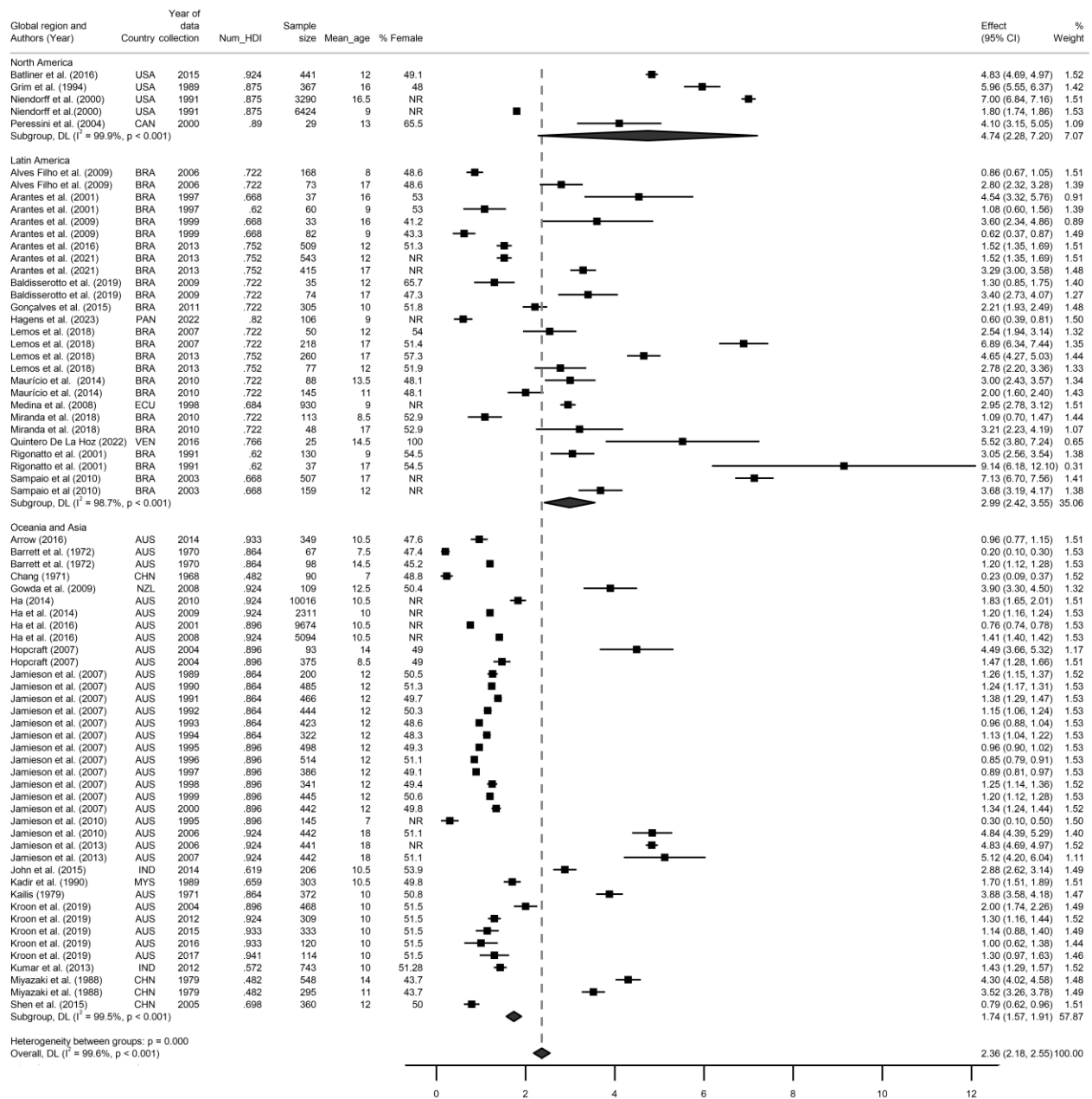


Figure S15. Forest plot of the mean DMFT index (permanent dentition) among Indigenous children and adolescents by HDI.

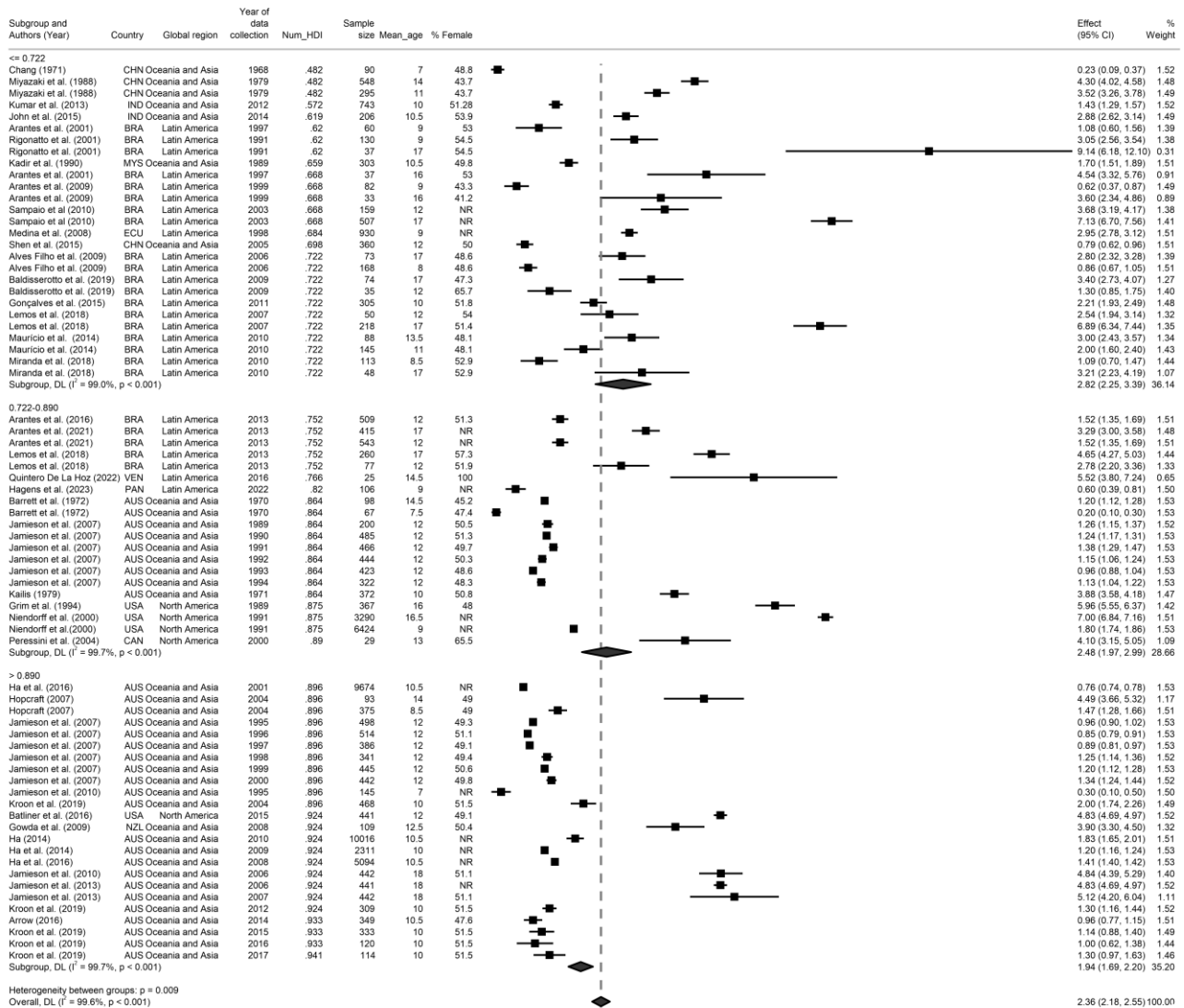


Figure S16. Forest plot of the mean DMFT index (permanent dentition) among Indigenous children and adolescents by the data collection period.

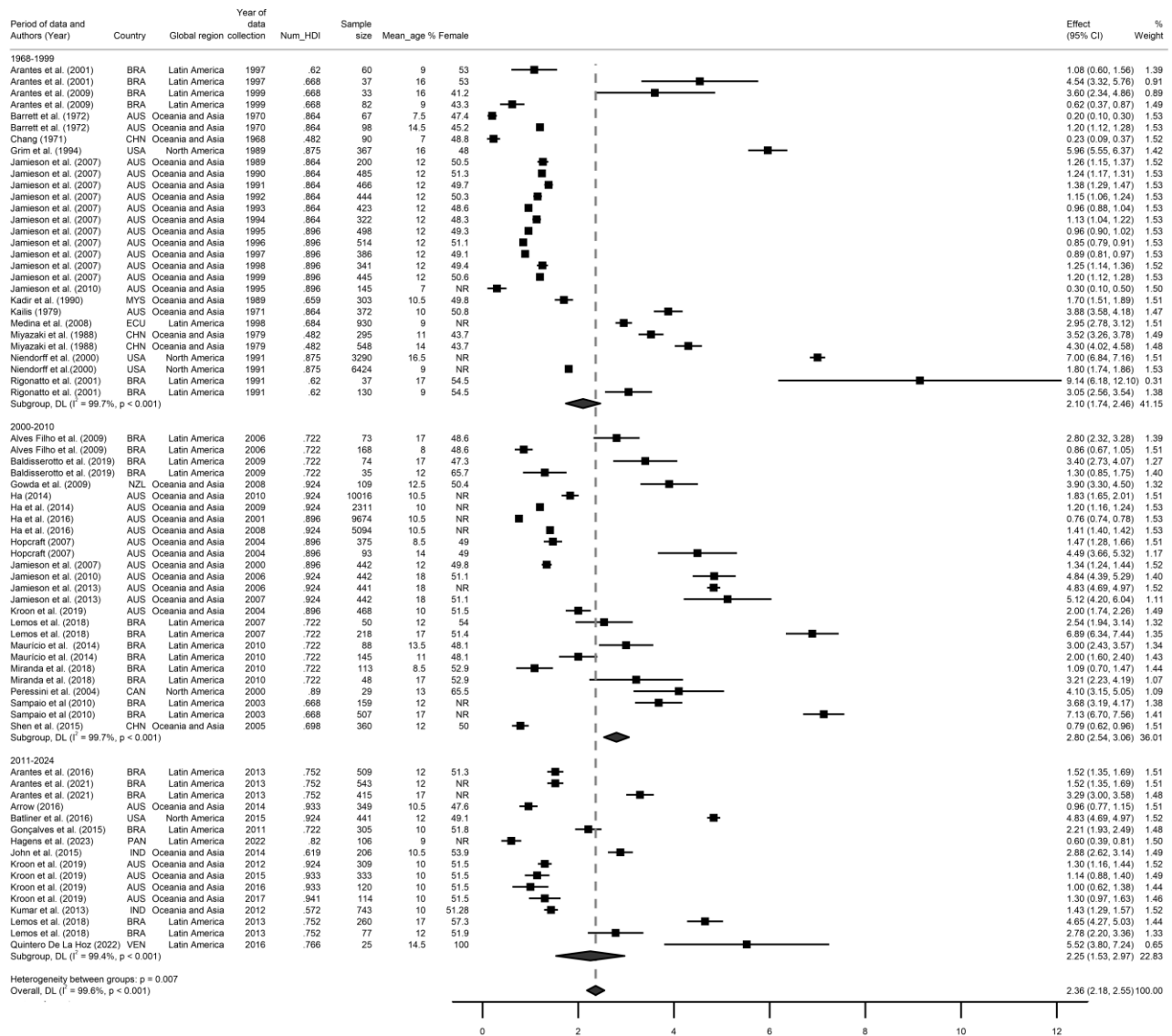


Figure S17. Sensitivity analysis performed by removing studies one by one from the pooled analysis of the DMFT index (permanent dentition) of Indigenous children and adolescents.

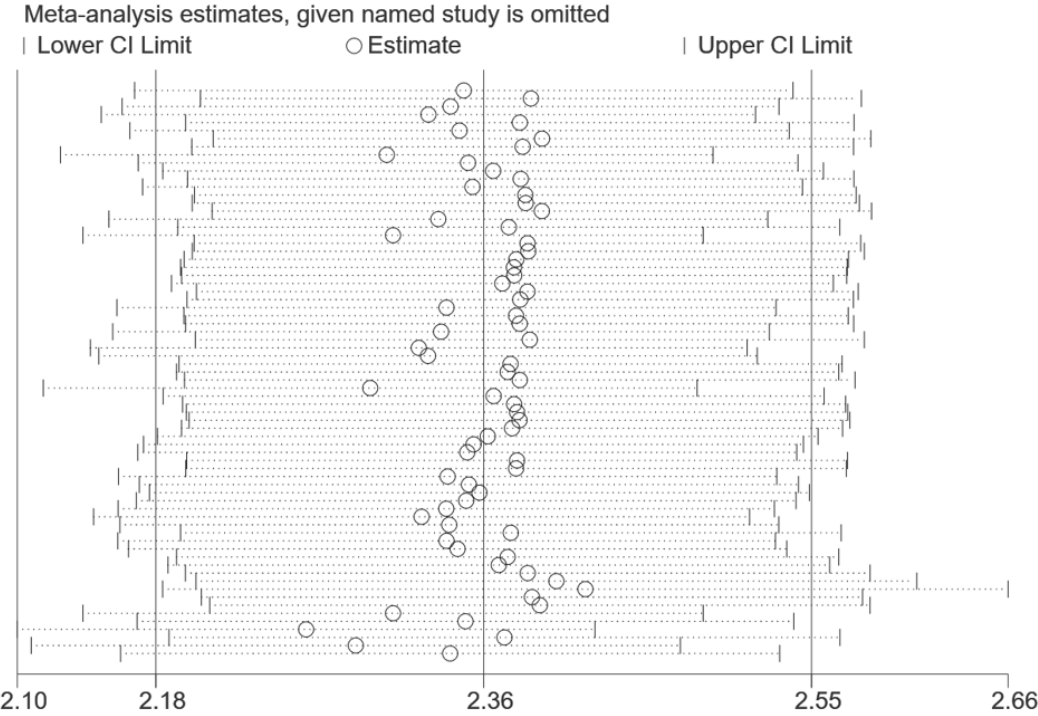


Figure S18. Funnel plot of the DMFT index (permanent dentition) of Indigenous children and adolescents.

