

Supplementary Table 2: List of excluded articles

Article	Reason for exclusion
MacIntyre, U.E. and Du Plessis, J.B., 2006. Dietary intakes and caries experience in children in Limpopo Province, South Africa. SADJ: journal of the South African Dental Association= tydskrif van die Suid-Afrikaanse Tandheelkundige Vereniging, 61(2), pp.58-63.	Wrong population
Sullivan, Å., Granath, L. and Widenheim, J., 1989. Correlation between child caries incidence and S. mutans/lactobacilli in saliva after correction for confounding factors. Community dentistry and oral epidemiology, 17(5), pp.240-244.	Wrong population
Thekiso, M., Yengopal, V., Rudolph, M.J. and Bhayat, A., 2012. Caries status among children in the West Rand District of Gauteng Province, South Africa. SADJ: journal of the South African Dental Association= tydskrif van die Suid-Afrikaanse Tandheelkundige Vereniging, 67(7), pp.318-320.	No Risk factors
Matejka, J., Sinwel, R., Cleaton-Jones, P., Williams, S., Hargreaves, J.A., Fatti, L.P. and Docrat, M., 1989. Dental caries at five and twelve years in a South African Indian community: a longitudinal study. International journal of epidemiology, 18(2), pp.423-426.	No Risk factors
du Plessis, J.B., 2000. The oral health status in Mahonisi: a community with very low levels of dental caries. SADJ: journal of the South African Dental Association= tydskrif van die Suid-Afrikaanse Tandheelkundige Vereniging, 55(6), pp.308-312.	No Risk factors
Moola, R.J., 1988. Prevalence of dental caries in preschool and primary school children in Mamre. South African Medical Journal, 74(7), pp.344-346.	No Risk factors
MacKeown, J.M., Cleaton-Jones, P.E. and Perdraut, G.G., 1996. Energy and macronutrient intake of one-year-old South African urban children: The Birth to Ten (BTT) Study. Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology, 10(2), pp.150-160.	No dmft scores
Richardson, B.D., Rantsho, J.M. and Pieters, L., 1978. Total sucrose intake and dental caries in Black and White South African children of 1-6 years. Part I: Sucrose intake.	No dmft scores
MacKeown, J.M. and Faber, M., 2002. Urbanisation and cariogenic food habits among 4–24-month-old black South African children in rural and urban areas. Public health nutrition, 5(6), pp.719-726.	No dmft scores
Walker, A.R.P. and Cleaton-Jones, P.E., 1975. Dental caries and sugar intake. The Lancet, 306(7938), p.765.	Letter
Molete, M., 2018. Children's oral health in South Africa: Time for action. South African Journal of Child Health, 12(4), pp.133-133.	Letter
Naidoo, S. and Myburgh, N., 2007. Nutrition, oral health and the young child. Maternal & child nutrition, 3(4), pp.312-321.	Review
Marshall, T.A., 2014. Low intake of sugars may reduce risk of dental caries. Journal of Evidence Based Dental Practice, 14(2), pp.56-58.	Review

Gordon N. Oral health care for children attending a malnutrition clinic in South Africa. <i>Int J Dent Hyg.</i> 2007 Aug;5(3):180-6. doi: 10.1111/j.1601-5037.2007.00261.x. PMID: 17615028.	Wrong population
Cleaton-Jones P, Williams S, Fatti P. Surveillance of primary dentition caries in Germiston, South Africa, 1981-97. <i>Community Dent Oral Epidemiol.</i> 2000 Aug;28(4):267-73. doi: 10.1034/j.1600-0528.2000.280404.x. PMID: 10901405.	Wrong outcome
Mohamed N, Barnes JM. Early childhood caries and dental treatment need in low socio-economic communities in Cape Town, South Africa. <i>Health SA.</i> 2018 Jul 12;23:1039. doi: 10.4102/hsag.v23i0.1039. PMID: 31934368; PMCID: PMC6917374.	No Risk factors
Marx J, Pretorius E. Asthma--a risk factor for dental caries. <i>SADJ.</i> 2004 Sep;59(8):323, 325-6. PMID: 15559914.	Review
Caries risk prediction--the way of the future.	Review
Li Y, Navia JM, Caufield PW. Colonization by mutans streptococci in the mouths of 3- and 4-year-old Chinese children with or without enamel hypoplasia. <i>Arch Oral Biol.</i> 1994 Dec;39(12):1057-62. doi: 10.1016/0003-9969(94)90058-2. PMID: 7717887.	Wrong population
Lalloo R, Myburgh NG, Hobdell MH. Dental caries, socio-economic development and national oral health policies. <i>Int Dent J.</i> 1999 Aug;49(4):196-202. doi: 10.1111/j.1875-595x.1999.tb00522.x. PMID: 10858754.	Review
Nqco CB, Yengopal V, Rudolph MJ, Thekiso M, Joosab Z. Dental caries prevalence in children attending special needs schools in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa. <i>SADJ.</i> 2012 Aug;67(7):308-13. PMID: 23951782.	Wrong population
Virtanen JI, Bloigu RS, Larmas MA. Effect of early or late eruption of permanent teeth on caries susceptibility. <i>J Dent.</i> 1996 Jul;24(4):245-50. doi: 10.1016/0300-5712(95)00078-x. PMID: 8783528.	Wrong population
Linke HA, Kuyinu EO, Ogundare B, Imam MM, Khan SH, Olawoye OO, LeGeros RZ. Microbiological composition of whole saliva and caries experience in minority populations. <i>Dent Clin North Am.</i> 2003 Jan;47(1):67-85, ix. doi: 10.1016/s0011-8532(02)00060-5. PMID: 12519006.	Wrong population
Coogan MM, Mackeown JM, Galpin JS, Fatti LP. Microbiological impressions of teeth, saliva and dietary fibre can predict caries activity. <i>J Dent.</i> 2008 Nov;36(11):892-9. doi: 10.1016/j.jdent.2008.07.004. Epub 2008 Aug 28. PMID: 18760520.	Wrong population
Walker AR. Nutritional and dental implications of high and low intakes of sugar. <i>Int J Food Sci Nutr.</i> 1995 May;46(2):161-9. doi: 10.3109/09637489509012545. PMID: 7621089.	Review