

## Common dental indices used in oral health surveys

### Dental index

### Procedures for use

### Interpretation

#### DENTAL CARIES INDICES

**Decayed-Missing-Filled Teeth index (DMFT):** an irreversible index used to measure past and present caries experience of a population with permanent teeth. D indicates a carious tooth; M indicates a tooth missing because of caries; F indicates a filled tooth

The deft index, a variation of the DMFT, is used to measure observable caries experience in primary teeth. The d and f symbols are the same as in the DMFT. However, e indicates need for extraction, and missing teeth are not considered. A tooth that meets the criteria for both d and f is considered one decayed tooth. The deft does not take into account teeth that have been extracted or exfoliated because of past caries experiences

**Root Caries Index (RCI):** a method for reporting root caries that measures the severity of disease and delineates the true intraoral population at risk the denominator)

Count and record that D, M, and F teeth in each member of the sample or population.

Analyze the scores by using the following formula.

$$1. \text{ DMFT count} = \frac{\text{Total DMFT}}{\text{Number of people examined}}$$

(indicates number of teeth with history of decay)

$$\text{Total deft} = \frac{\text{Total DMFT}}{\text{Number of children examined}}$$

( indicates observable caries experience)

$$2. \text{ FNM} = \frac{F}{\text{Total DMFT}}$$

indicates treatment required for decay (filling needs met)

$$3. \text{ Percent of decayed teeth} = \frac{\text{Total DMFT}}{\text{Total DMFT}}$$

(indicates the treatment required for unmet filling needs)

$$4. \text{ Percent of missing teeth} = \frac{M}{\text{Total DMFT}}$$

(indicates the number of teeth lost by decay)

$$5. \text{ Average D, M, or F individual} = \frac{D \text{ or } M \text{ or } F}{\text{Number of people examined}}$$

Only root surfaces exposed to the oral environment are at risk; the data are recorded as follows:

$$\frac{(R-D) + (R-F)}{(R-D) + (R-F) + (R-N)} \times 100 = \text{RCI}$$

- R - D = Root surface with decay
- R - F = Root surface that is filled
- R - N = Root surface that is sound

Scoring is relatively straightforward. Four surfaces of the root are evaluated: mesial, distal, facial, and lingual. If multiple type of surface is recorded for the tooth.

General: indicates cumulative caries experience, total DMF score difficult to determine, specific treatment needs or experiences

Rests upon the assumption that gingival recession is a necessary antecedent condition before root canes can develop and that gingival recession must be evident at the time of examination