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Association between dental caries and obesity among Brazilian schoolchildren*Piovesan, E.T.A.,^{1,2*} Bernabé, E.,¹ Marcenes, W.³**¹King's College London, UK; ²Universidade de Brasília, Brazil; ³Affordable Health Initiative, UK***Background:**

Childhood obesity and dental caries are common childhood conditions. The nature of their relationship is still a matter of debate, given that they both share common risk factors.

Objectives:

To report preliminary data analysis of the association between dental caries and being overweight/obese (OWOB) among low-income Brazilian schoolchildren.

Methods:

This was a cross-sectional baseline analysis of the Affordable Health study in Distrito Federal, Brazil (n=391 6-10-year-old schoolchildren). Clinical data included oral health and anthropometric measurements. Schoolchildren were classified into OWOB, using their body mass index z-score, according to the 2007 World Health Organization (WHO) growth reference standards. Caries assessment was carried out following the 2013 WHO examination protocol and diagnostic criteria. Demographic data was collected via parental questionnaires. Data analyses included descriptive statistics and logistic regression statistical tests. Further data analysis will include a hierarchical logistic regression modelling.

Results:

30.1% of schoolchildren were OWOB, 14.5% had dental caries experience (DMFT) and the mean DMFT score was 0.21. In regression models adjusted for age, gender and family head education, neither having dental caries experience (Odds Ratio: 1, 95%CI: 0.54-1.87) nor having untreated dental caries (OR: 0.81, 95% CI: 0.40-1.64) were associated with being OWOB.

Conclusion:

This study found no association between dental caries experience and being overweight/obese among 6-10-year-old schoolchildren living in a deprived area of Brazil.

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