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## BACKGROUND

Fiji, a country in the South Pacific, is an archipelago of more than 300 islands. The current population of Fiji is 909,292 as of June 20, 2022, based on interpolation of the latest United Nations data. Its major islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, contain most of the population. Ovalau is the sixth largest island in Fiji. The island covers a total area of 106.4 square kilometers and has a population of around 9,100. It is known as the old capital of Fiji and now called the Heritage site of Fiji.

## INTRODUCTION

- Oral health plays an important role in overall health of a person. Peterson PE in 2013 stated that regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background, dental caries is of the most common chronic diseases impacting people
- In 2004 Jamieson et al revealed that the high caries prevalence and severity were associated with infrequent brushing, snacking on sugar-containing foods, infrequent dental visit, and having last visited a dentist because of pain.
- Fiji national oral health survey in 2004 show an alarming rate of dental disease. 88.3% of dental caries in primary teeth of 6 year olds and 79.3% in all other age group.

## OBJECTIVES

- To identify the demographic pattern of dental caries
- To identify and compare the caries risk status of primary schools in Ovalau with primary schools of other divisions in Fiji
- To identify the DMFT status of primary school children in Ovalau.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study design will be a retrospective quantitative analysis of secondary data of all children attending primary schools at Ovalau Island in 2019. This includes 13 primary schools.

Project Proposal → CHHREC → MOH → Data Collection & Analysis → Presentation → Publication

## School visit activities



Fig 1. Students receiving free toothbrushes sponsored by Colgate Palmolive



Fig.2. Treatment setting



Fig 3. School toothbrushing drills

## PROPOSED INTERVENTION PLANS

- Strengthen MCH and ANC program
- Improve and reinforce public awareness
- Improve school health program
- Water fluoridation

## CONCLUSION

The project is still in progress and the result is yet to be obtained.

However, it is anticipated that dental caries will be observed in all ethnic groups, with the strongest association among the i-Taukei children since Ovalau is mostly populated with i-Taukeis.

The school health program employs the same strategy all over the nation therefore the result of this study may show similar result with the other schools.

## REFERENCES



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