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Self-Perceived Oral Health and Related Factors Among Visually Impaired Adolescents of Mashhad

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The present study aimed to identify factors associated with self-perceived oral health (SPOH) in Iranian visually impaired (VI) adolescents aged 10-19.

Methods and Materials: This cross-sectional study was conducted on 90 VI adolescents of Mashhad, Iran, in 2023. We collected socio-demographic information and details about oral health behavior, SPOH, and self-perceived general health (SPGH) through a questionnaire. Furthermore, we used the DMFT index to determine the oral health status. The data were analyzed using a chi-square test and binary logistic regression.

Results: The prevalence of poor SPOH and SPGH were 67.8% and 85.6%, respectively. We found positive correlations between poor SPOH and various factors, including poor SPGH (p = 0.002), exposure to second-hand smoke (p= 0.01), irregular toothbrushing (p = 0.048), last dental appointment within the past year (p=0.033), poor SPGH, and high DMFT index (p = 0.002).

Conclusion and Discussion: SPOH could serve as an indicator to assess an individual's oral health behavior and treatment needs. We also revealed an association between poor SPOH and poor SPGH, highlighting the importance of giving more attention to oral health to increase general health.

Keywords: Adolescent, Iran, Visually impaired persons

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