

INTRODUCTION

What was the oral health condition among the citizens of Hong Kong ? What were the factors affecting their oral health condition ? What are the relevant information that can be harnessed to reflect upon, whether there is room for improvement, to better the oral health of the Hong Kong population ?

The Oral Health Survey 2001 was undertaken with these questions in mind, and efforts were geared at collecting information to address these questions. The survey was built on the contemporary knowledge and evidence on tooth decay and gum disease, which were described in **Section 1**.

To allow comparison with past surveys conducted locally and surveys of other countries, it was necessary to apply internationally adopted indicators to measure tooth decay and gum disease. The Oral Health Survey 2001 followed the recommendations by the World Health Organization, and the indices used for measurement of tooth decay and gum disease were described in **Section 2**.

The survey was carried out through a series of field activities over a one year period in the year 2001. The survey findings on the 5-year old children, 12-year old students, 35 to 44-year old adults, 65 to 74-year old non-institutionalized older persons (NOP), and the 65-year old and above institutionalized older persons (IOP), can be found in **Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7**, respectively.

Section 8 provides an overview of the whole survey, by comparing some of the key modalities with those of other countries and also with previous local data, to ascertain any change in the oral health conditions among the Hong Kong population over the years. Attempts were also made in the overview section to predict future trends of changes in oral health, identify inadequacies and threats, and identify opportunities to better the oral health of the Hong Kong population.

This report had been penned in such a way that professional knowledge in dentistry would not be a prerequisite to comprehension of the report. In the event of uncertainties regarding some of the terms used, it may be helpful to refer to the **Glossary** section. Exact figures and percentages were presented in Tables or Figures, and individual Tables or Figures can be easily traceable from the **List of Tables** and **List of Figures**.

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Readers who wish to have a cursory view of the whole report may focus on the **Green Text Boxes**, which show the highlights of the survey findings. The **Green Text Box** at the end of each section, i.e. from Section 3 to Section 7, contains the **Section Summary** for each index age group.

Important reminders and points to note are shown in the **Blue Text Boxes** found throughout the report.

For more information

Information related to oral health, and any new information from the Oral Health Survey 2001, may be browsed from the Oral Health Education Unit web site at : <http://www.toothclub.gov.hk>