

Malocclusion among 12-15-year-olds in Moshi, Tanzania, using Bjork's criteria

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Abstract:

OBJECTIVE: To assess the prevalence of malocclusion in 12-15 -year-olds in Moshi, Tanzania. **DESIGN:** Cross-sectional study. **SETTING:** Moshi Municipality, Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania. **SUBJECTS:** Two hundred and eighty nine randomly selected primary school children (153 males and 136 females) had a clinical examination for malocclusion traits done. **RESULTS:** The overall prevalence of malocclusion was 97.6%. Angle's Class II and III malocclusion occurred in 6.9% and 11% of the sample respectively. Crowding was encountered very frequently in both jaws, especially in the lower anterior segments. Anterior open bite occurred in 6.2% and the deep bite in 10.7% of the sample. There was no significant gender difference in either the overall prevalence of malocclusion or in the occurrence of the different occlusal traits. **CONCLUSION:** It was noteworthy that some of the malocclusion traits recorded were relatively minor deviations from the normal occlusion. Hence the high prevalence of malocclusion did not necessarily imply a heavy burden of need and demand for orthodontic treatment