

Oral health report shows high prevalence of gum bleeding in children



Three out of four children in Kenya suffer from gum bleeding due to poor oral hygiene practices.

These are the findings of the first ever national oral health survey to be conducted in the country. The exercise that took place between August and November 2014 saw the participation of different organizations including the Ministry of Health, the University of Nairobi's [School of Dental Sciences](#) and Wrigley East Africa.

Speaking at the launch of the report, Mr. James Macharia, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health said that the results of the survey provided the much needed information for planning and training of human resource for oral healthcare. A total 2,298 children and 1,462 adults participated in the study.

The Vice-Chancellor, UoN, Prof. Peter Mbithi, said that UoN is proud to be part of the report and that the University is committed to utilization of the finding to improve training and policy for oral health care providers in Kenya and the African region.

The report showed that despite brushing of teeth being a common practice among children, low frequency and effectiveness in brushing was to blame for high incidence of gum bleeding cases.

The national oral health survey was carried out to ascertain the burden of select oral diseases, oral health seeking behaviour, determinants of oral health, risk factors, as well as implication on oral health related quality life.