# ABSTRACT

## Dental Caries Prevalence by Age, Sex among Children with Special Needs at Multitalenta School, Samarinda

Silvidiana, Akhmad Azmiardi, Irfansyah Baharuddin Pakki, Ratih Wirapuspita Wisnuwardani

**Correspondence E-mail :** clv.dna@gmail.com

Background : Children with special health care needs may encounter barriers to oral hygiene and dental care. School-based screening data can describe dental caries patterns and inform local preventive services.

Objective : To estimate the prevalence of recorded =dental caries and describe its distribution by ag=e and sex among screened students at Multitalenta Elementary S/chool, Samarinda, Indonesia.

Research Methods/ Implementation Methods : This descriptive cross-sectional study used secondary da.ta from the school's 2026 student health screening records. Of 45 registered students, 44 underwent screening. Caries prevalence was calculated among examined students overall and within age groups. Sex was described as a proportion of caries cases because the numbers examined by sex were unavailable.

Results : Dental caries was recorded in 25 of 44 examined students (56,8%, reported 95% confidence interval 42,4% - 70,3%) . Age- specific prevalence was 66,7% (2/3)at 7 years, 100% (3/3) at 8 years, 50% (3/6) at 9 years, 62,5% (5/8)a%t 10 years, 70% (7/10) at 11 years, and 35,7% (5/14) at 12 hyears. Of the 25 caries c=ases, 13 (52%)were boys and 12 (48%) were girls.

Conclusion/Lesson Learned : More than half of examined students had recorded dental c=aries. The highest observed age-spesific prevalence occured among 8-year-old, although the estimate was based on only three students. Sex-specific, prevalence could not be determined.These findings provide a descriptive basis for school-based oral health planning.

Keyword : dental caries; children with special health care needs; school healthy screening,; prevalence; Indonesia