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| Supplementary file 1: Characteristics of the participants |   |
| Variable  | N | % |   |
| **Gender** |   |   |   |
| Male | 475 | 49.8 |  |
| Female | 478 | 50.2 |  |
| **Person filling out the questionnaire** |   |   |  |
| Mother | 441 | 46.28 |  |
| Father | 405 | 42.50 |  |
| Caretaker  | 107 | 11.23 |  |
| **Socioeconomic status** |   |   |  |
| Upper middle | 271 | 28.44 |  |
| Lower middle | 459 | 48.17 |  |
| Upper lower | 223 | 23.40 |  |
| **Bottle feeding habit**  |   |   |  |
| Yes  | 16 | 1.68 |  |
| No | 936 | 98.22 |  |
| Don’t know | 1 | 0.11 |  |
| **Children who clean their teeth** |   |   |  |
| Yes | 799 | 83.84 |  |
| No | 151 | 15.85 |  |
| Don’t know | 3 | 0.32 |  |
| **Mode of brushing**  |   |   |  |
| Toothbrush | 931 | 97.70 |  |
| Others  | 2 | 0.21 |  |
| Don’t know | 20 | 2.10 |  |
| **Supervision while toothbrushing** |   |   |  |
| Child alone | 517 | 54.25 |  |
| Parents alone | 148 | 15.53 |  |
| Sometimes child, sometimes parent | 288 | 30.22 |  |
| **Age when started brushing**  |   |   |  |
| > 18 months | 189 | 19.83 |  |
| < 18 months  | 682 | 71.56 |  |
| Don’t know | 82 | 8.61 |  |
| **Use of toothpaste** |   |   |  |
| Yes  | 789 | 82.79 |  |
| No | 145 | 15.22 |  |
| Don’t know | 19 | 1.99 |  |
| **Frequency of toothbrushing**  |   |   |   |
| Every meal | 154 | 16.16 |  |
| Twice daily  | 121 | 12.70 |  |
| Once  | 643 | 67.47 |  |
| Occasionally | 22 | 2.31 |  |
| Never | 8 | 0.84 |  |
| Don’t know | 5 | 0.53 |  |
| **Frequency of use of mouth rinse** |   |   |   |
|  Every meal | 73 | 7.66 |  |
| Twice daily  | 44 | 4.62 |  |
| Once  | 255 | 26.76 |  |
| Occasionally | 86 | 9.03 |  |
| Never | 366 | 38.41 |  |
| Don’t know | 129 | 13.54 |  |
| **Use of dental floss**  |   |   |   |
| Every meal | 5 | 0.53 |  |
| Twice daily  | 14 | 1.47 |  |
| Once  | 214 | 22.46 |  |
| Occasionally | 23 | 2.41 |  |
| Never | 499 | 52.36 |  |
| Don’t know | 198 | 20.78 |  |
| **Previous dental visit** |   |   |   |
| Last 6 months | 13 | 1.36 |  |
| 6 months-1 year | 51 | 5.35 |  |
| 1-5 years | 87 | 9.13 |  |
| >5 years | 24 | 2.52 |  |
| Never | 549 | 57.61 |  |
| Don’t remember | 229 | 24.03 |  |
| **Received professional fluoride application** |   |   |   |
| Don’t remember | 6 | 0.53 |  |
| Never | 828 | 86.78 |  |
| >5 years | 68 | 7.03 |  |
| 1-5 years | 33 | 3.36 |  |
| 6 months-1 year | 3 | 0.21 |  |
| Last 6 months | 15 | 1.47 |  |
| **Frequency of snacking per day** |   |   |   |
| Never | 2 | 0.21 |  |
| Occasionally | 98 | 10.28 |  |
| 1-2 times  | 742 | 77.86 |  |
| 3-4 times | 97 | 10.18 |  |
| 5 or >5 times | 12 | 1.26 |  |
| Don’t know | 2 | 0.21 |  |
| I**ntake of sugary items** |   |   |   |
| Yes  | 149 | 15.64 |  |
| No | 803 | 84.26 |  |
| Don’t know | 1 | 0.11 |  |
| **Intake of non-sugary items** |   |   |  |
| Yes  | 777 | 81.53 |  |
| No | 174 | 18.26 |  |
| Don’t know | 1 | 0.11 |  |
| **Habit of brushing after snacking** |   |   |   |
| Always | 49 | 5.14 |  |
| Occasionally | 591 | 62.01 |  |
| Never | 183 | 19.20 |  |
| Don’t know | 130 | 13.64 |  |
| **Habit of sleeping directly after snacking** |   |   |  |
| Always | 224 | 23.51 |  |
| Occasionally | 484 | 50.79 |  |
| Never | 241 | 25.29 |  |
| Don’t know | 4 | 0.42 |  |