



The Early Childhood Oral Health Impact Scale (ECOHIS): psychometric properties and application on preschoolers

Bianca Núbia Souza Silva¹, Lucas A. Campos^{1,2,3,4}, João Marôco⁵ and Juliana A.D.B Campos⁶

¹ Department of Morphology and children's clinics, São Paulo State University, Araraquara, São Paulo, Brazil

² Faculty of Medicine and Health Technology, Tampere, Finland

³ Department of Ear and Oral Diseases, Tampere University Hospital, Tampere, Finland

⁴ Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland

⁵ William James Center for Research, University Institute of Psychological, Social, and Life Sciences, Lisboa, Portugal

⁶ School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, São Paulo State University, Araraquara, São Paulo, Brazil

ABSTRACT

Background. The concept of oral health related to quality of life involves the impact that oral health has on an individual's well-being. The Early Childhood Oral Health Impact Scale (ECOHIS) was developed to measure the impact of oral health problems on the lives of children and their families.

Objective. To evaluate the psychometric properties of ECOHIS applied to mothers of preschool children and estimate the influence of demographic characteristics, caries experience, and plaque index on the ECOHIS score.

Methods. The fit of ECOHIS to the data was assessed by confirmatory analysis. Chi-square for degrees of freedom ratio (χ^2/df), Comparative Fit Index (CFI), Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI), and Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) were used. Reliability was estimated by the ordinal coefficients alpha (α) and omega (ω). The factorial invariance was estimated by the difference in CFI (ΔCFI). Comparisons of the ECOHIS mean scores according to the demographic characteristics, caries experience, and plaque index was performed using analysis of variance (ANOVA).

Results. A total of 371 children participated in the study. Mothers' mean age was 33.0 (SD = 7.04) years. The ECOHIS presented a good fit to the data ($\chi^2/df = 4.31$; CFI = 0.95; TLI = 0.94; RMSEA = 0.09) and a strict model invariance. Children without caries and from higher income class had lower oral health impact.

Conclusion. The data obtained with the ECOHIS were valid, reliable, and invariant. Children with caries experience and from lower income families had a greater impact of oral problems.

Submitted 20 March 2023

Accepted 14 August 2023

Published 9 October 2023

Corresponding author

Lucas A. Campos,
lucas.arraisdecampos@tuni.fi

Academic editor

Giuseppe Messina

Additional Information and
Declarations can be found on
page 10

DOI 10.7717/peerj.16035

© Copyright
2023 Silva et al.

Distributed under
Creative Commons CC-BY 4.0

OPEN ACCESS

Subjects Dentistry, Epidemiology, Pediatrics, Public Health

Keywords Oral health, Children

INTRODUCTION

Quality of life can be defined as the self-perception of general well-being, and is influenced by culture, principles, objectives, expectations, paradigms, and concerns (*WHO, 1998*). The oral health-related quality of life is a concept related to self-perceived impact of oral

health or oral disease on general well-being (*Baker, 2007*) and is a component of general quality of life, which has been extensively studied (*Chaffee et al., 2017*). Different theoretical approaches have been proposed to assess oral health-related quality of life (*Antunes et al., 2020; Barasuol et al., 2020*).

Oral diseases can negatively affect children's well-being, in addition to being painful and affecting growth, socialization, self-esteem, learning, and behavior (*Antunes, Leao & Maia, 2012; Bönecker et al., 2012*). Despite advances in understanding the importance of oral health for general well-being, oral health is usually measured quantitatively (*Locker & Allen, 2007*) based on the presence or absence of disease and its severity and consequences. The impact of such conditions on patients and their family is seldom considered (*Locker & Allen, 2007*). Thus, in the last decades, oral health measures have incorporated the assessment of the psychological, physical, and social impact of oral conditions in people's lives (*Sischo & Broder, 2011*), expanding the possibilities for investigation (*Bennadi & Reddy, 2013*).

The earlier the impact of oral diseases is measured, the greater the opportunity to intervene with educational and preventive approaches. Such interventions can be highly effective in school children, as it is during this period that physical and cognitive development occurs and several habits and values are established including those related to health and self-care (*Figueira & Leite, 2008*). However, young children are still cognitively immature, and measuring their oral health impact can be a challenge as they might have difficulties in reporting specific oral health situations, especially with regard to past events (*Rebok et al., 2001*). Thus, as the family members can be directly affected by a child's quality of life and vice-versa (*Pal, 1996*) an alternative for measuring oral health impact on children is obtaining the information through parents or legal guardians (*Filstrup et al., 2003*).

The Early Childhood Oral Health Impact Scale (ECOHIS) is one of the instruments available to assess the impact of oral health problems on preschool children and their families. It was developed by *Pahel, Rozier & Slade (2007)* in English, and later translated into Portuguese by *Tesch, Oliveira & Leão (2008)*. As the identification of oral diseases impact can encourage subsidies for the development of prevention and dental intervention strategies, this study aimed to evaluate the psychometric properties of the ECOHIS when applied to mothers of preschool children and assess the influence of demographic and oral characteristics on the ECOHIS score.

MATERIALS & METHODS

Procedures and ethical aspects

The study was based on the ethical principal of the Resolution 466/2012 of the National Health Council. Ethical approval was provided by the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Araraquara (UNESP) (CAAE 18713419.4.0000.5426) and participants gave their written informed consent. The study design and the reporting of the results were done with the STROBE tool (Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology) (*Von Elm et al., 2007*).

Study design and sample selection

This was an observational, cross-sectional study. Preschool children (4 to 6 years old) enrolled in public educational institutions in the municipality of Araraquara-SP (Child Education and Recreation Centers-CER), and their mothers participated in the study. The Authorization to carry out the study on the CERs was obtained from the Municipal Education Secretary of the municipality.

The calculation of the minimum sample size was performed using $\beta = 20\%$, $\varepsilon = 12.5\%$, $N = 2,272$ (number of preschool children enrolled in CER) and a 41.8% caries prevalence in 5-year-old children in the State of São Paulo estimated from the Oral Health Project Brazil (*SB Brasil, 2010*). Thus, the minimum estimated sample size was 298. To compensate for a 15% loss rate, the sample was corrected to 351, which also met the demand for statistical analysis for the ECOHIS (27 parameters \times 5 subjects per parameter (*Hair et al., 2018*; $n = 135$)).

Sample characteristics

The mothers completed a demographic questionnaire about the child's sex, age and risk factors for caries and mother's age, educational level, and work activity. The economic level of family members was estimated using the Brazil Economic Classification Criterion-ABEP (*Brazilian Market Research Association (ABEP), 2019*).

Oral clinical examination

A single examiner was previously calibrated in a pilot study with 25 children, and the visible plaque index and the caries index were recorded. The dmft was recorded two times, one week apart, with a high intra-examiner reproducibility (intraclass correlation coefficient = 0.998; 95% CI [0.995–0.999]).

The oral examinations were performed with the children sitting in school chairs under natural light, using wood spatulas and gloves. To determine the bacterial plaque index, the Simplified Oral Hygiene Index (OHI-S) for children was used (*Greene & Vermillion, 1964*; *Pacheco et al., 2013*). The presence of plaque was verified on the vestibular surfaces of the upper deciduous second molars; lingual surfaces of the lower deciduous second molars; vestibular surface of the upper right central incisor; and lingual surface of the lower left central incisor. The index was calculated based on quantitative criteria, for which the tooth surfaces were divided into thirds and evaluated according to scores ranging from 0 to 3 (0: no plaque, 1: less than 1/3 of the tooth surface covered by plaque, 2: from 1/3 to 2/3 of the tooth surface covered by plaque, 3: more than two thirds of the tooth covered by plaque). The final quotation was performed by the sum of the values, divided by the number of teeth examined. Dental caries was diagnosed based on the World Health Organization (WHO) criteria using the dmft (number of decayed, missing due to caries and filled teeth in the primary dentition) (*Organização Mundial da Saúde (OMS), 1999*) the teeth will be examined by quadrants, in the following order 55 to 51; 61 to 65; 75 to 71 and 81 to 85. Dmft was dichotomized considering the absence (dmft = 0) and presence (dmft \geq 1) of caries.

Measuring instrument

In the present study, the Portuguese version of the ECOHIS proposed by [Tesch, Oliveira & Leão \(2008\)](#) was used. The scale contains thirteen items distributed in two factors. Items 1 to 9 assess the oral problems' impact on the child and items 10 to 13 assess the impact of the child's oral problems on his family. Responses are given in a 5-point Likert type scale. All items must be answered by the child's mother.

Evaluation of psychometric parameters

The sensitivity of the ECOHIS was assessed by means, medians, and standard deviations and distribution (skewness and kurtosis). The absolute values of kurtosis <7 and skewness <3 indicated no serious deviations from normal distribution ([Marôco, 2014](#)).

To test the fit of the two-factor structure of the instrument, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was performed using the Weighed Least Squares Mean and Variance Adjusted (WLSMV) estimation method. The goodness of fit was tested with the chi-square for degrees of freedom ratio (χ^2/df), the Comparative Fit Index (CFI), the Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI), and the Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) ([Marôco, 2014](#); [Byrne, 2010](#)). The factor loading (λ) was considered adequate when ≥ 0.50 and the model was considered to have a good fit when $\chi^2/df \leq 5.0$, CFI and TLI ≥ 0.90 , and RMSEA ≤ 0.10 ([Marôco, 2014](#)). The modification indices estimated from the Lagrange multiplier (ML) method were also calculated and ML values >11 were inspected.

Convergent validity was assessed based on [Fornell & Larcker \(1981\)](#), who recommended the calculation of the average variance extracted (AVE), considered adequate if ≥ 0.50 . Discriminant validity was estimated using correlational analysis to assess whether items from one factor are not strongly correlated with another factor, and considered adequate when AVE_i and $AVE_j \geq r_{ij}^2$.

The reliability of the ECOHIS was estimated from the ordinal coefficient alpha (α) and omega (ω), and satisfactory internal consistency was considered when α and $\omega \geq 0.70$ ([Marôco, 2014](#)).

The above analyses were performed with the “lavaan” ([Rosseel, 2012](#)) and “semTools” ([Jorgensen et al., 2019](#)) packages in the R program ([R core Team, 2022](#)).

Factorial invariance

Initially, CFA was performed for each sub-sample (test sample: $n = 194$; validation sample: $n = 177$). Then, the measurement invariance of the factorial model was evaluated using multi-group analysis and CFI difference (ΔCFI). ΔCFI was calculated for the configural and metric models (ΔCFI_{M1-M0}) and for the metric and scalar models (ΔCFI_{M2-M1}). Reduction of up to 0.01 in the CFI indicated measure invariance ([Cheung & Rensvold, 2002](#)).

Mean scores of the ECOHIS

The mean scores of the items for the fitted ECOHIS model were calculated. The scores of the following subgroups were compared: sex of the child (male; female), age of the mothers (<30 years; ≥ 30 years), socioeconomic stratum D–E (mean monthly income: USD\$ 175.63); C (USD\$ 419.54–735.50); B (USD\$ 1,330.09–2,575.89); and A (USD\$

5,789.67), marital status (widowed was not considered due to the low prevalence), work activity (no; yes), caries experience (dmft = 0; dmft \geq 1), and plaque index (no participant was rated as having a poor plaque index).

To compare mean scores between subgroups, analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used and the effect size was estimated from η^2_p . The assumptions of normality and homoscedasticity were tested and confirmed for children's sex and mothers' age (skewness < 3, Kurtosis < 7, Levene's Test: $p > 0.05$). For the other variables there was heteroscedasticity (Levene's Test: $p < 0.05$), and therefore, Welch correction was performed. Multiple comparisons were performed using Tukey's or Games Howell's *post t*-test for homo or heteroscedastic data, respectively. For the significant variables, bivariate associations were assessed using the chi-square test and the prevalence (95% CI) of caries experience and plaque index were estimated.

In addition, Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) was estimated between the dmft and the ECOHIS factors' mean scores. The level of significance adopted was 5%.

RESULTS

A total of 371 children participated in the study (mean age 5.21 (SD = 0.64) years; 51.5% male). The mean age of mothers was 33 (SD = 7.04) years. Most children did not have caries and had a good plaque index. Most mothers were married and were from the economic strata B and C. The demographic information of the sample is shown in Table 1. The average dmft of the children was 1.36 (SD = 2.23).

Table 2 shows the descriptive statistics of the mothers' responses to the ECOHIS. None of the items showed an absolute value of skewness (<3) and kurtosis (<7), indicating adequate psychometric sensitivity of the items.

The ECOHIS model had a good fit to the sample ($\lambda = 0.65$ – 0.88 ; $\chi^2/df = 4.31$; CFI = 0.95; TLI = 0.94; RMSEA = 0.09) (Fig. 1). The convergent validity (AVE = 0.62–0.66), discriminant validity ($r_{ij}^2 = 0.59$) and reliability ($\alpha = 0.86$ – 0.93 ; $\omega = 0.80$ – 0.80) of the model were appropriate. The instrument also presented strong invariance between independent samples ($\Delta CFI_{M1-M0} = 0.000$; $\Delta CFI_{M2-M1} = 0.005$; $\Delta CFI_{M3-M2} = 0.004$).

Table 3 shows the mean scores for oral health impact on the child and his family according to child's sex, caries experience, and plaque index and mothers' age, marital status, work activity, and economic strata.

A significant difference in scores was found according to caries experience, plaque index and economic stratum ($p < 0.05$); children without caries and from higher income class had lower oral health impact. There was a positive and significant correlation between dmft and ECOHIS score regarding both the child ($r = 0.550$, $p < 0.001$) and the family ($r = 0.402$, $p < 0.001$).

A significant association was found between economic level and the dmft ($\chi^2 = 5.863$, $p = 0.015$) and the plaque index ($\chi^2 = 10.596$, $p < 0.001$). The prevalence of caries in children from a high economic stratum was 35.7% (95% CI [30.82–40.58]) while in those from a low economic stratum, it was 48.7% (95% CI [43.61–53.79]). The prevalence of a regular plaque index in children from the high and low economic strata was 12.1% (95% CI [8.78–15.42]) and 25.9% (95% CI [21.44–30.36]), respectively.

Table 1 Sociodemographic characteristics of study participants.

Characteristic	n (%)
Children	
Sex	
Male	191 (51.5)
Female	180 (48.5)
Caries experience	
dmft = 0	214 (57.7)
dmft > 0	157 (42.3)
Plaque index	
Regular	71 (19.1)
Good	300 (80.9)
Mothers	
Age (years)	
<30	123 (34.3)
≥30	236 (65.7)
Marital status	
Single	107 (29.4)
Married	228 (62.6)
Separate	25 (6.9)
Widow	4 (1.1)
Work activity	
No	124 (33.9)
Yes	242 (66.1)
Economic level (estimated mean family income)*	
A (U\$ 5,789.67)	15 (4.0)
B (U\$ 1,330.09–2,575.89)	167 (45.1)
C (U\$ 419.54–735.50)	166 (44.7)
D-E (U\$ 175.63)	23 (6.2)

Notes.

*Values from the Brazil Economic Classification Criterion.

DISCUSSION

The present study confirmed the validity and reliability of the data collected with the ECOHIS. The adequate fit of the original ECOHIS two-factor model to the data collaborates with findings from different contexts (*Buldur & Güvendi, 2020; Zaror et al., 2018; Randrianarivony, Ravelomanantsoa & Razanamihaja, 2020*) indicating a certain stability of the instrument.

The ECOHIS allows measuring the impact of oral problems on children and their families, which goes beyond the oral problem itself. Perception construction occurs through subjective processes and, therefore, it is a multidimensional experience (*Campos, Bonafé & Maroco, 2018*). The assessment of the mothers' perception is relevant for an integrated and comprehensive understanding of the oral health impact on children. With such information, actions can be developed considering the subject as a whole and the targeted allocation of resources (*Vieira-Andrade et al., 2015*).

Table 2 Descriptive statistics of the ECOHIS item responses.

Item	Mean	Median	Standard deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis	Minimum	Maximum
it1. Has your child ever had pain in the teeth, mouth or jaws (bones of the mouth)?	1.91	2	0.97	0.62	-0.72	1	5
it2. Has your child ever had difficulty drinking hot or cold drinks due to problems with teeth or dental treatments?	1.49	1	0.80	1.39	0.62	1	4
it3. Has your child ever had trouble eating certain foods due to problems with teeth or dental treatments?	1.50	1	0.86	1.63	1.78	1	5
it4. Has your child ever had difficulty pronouncing any words due to problems with teeth or dental treatments?	1.35	1	0.79	2.34	4.87	1	5
it5. Has your child ever missed daycare, kindergarten or school due to problems with teeth or dental treatments?	1.27	1	0.66	2.33	4.39	1	4
it6. Has your child ever had trouble sleeping due to problems with teeth or dental treatments?	1.27	1	0.70	2.52	5.24	1	4
it7. Has your child ever been irritated by problems with teeth or dental treatments?	1.36	1	0.77	2.18	4.19	1	5
it8. Has your child ever avoided smiling or laughing due to problems with teeth or dental treatments?	1.34	1	0.77	2.55	6.52	1	5
it9. Has your child ever avoided talking due to problems with teeth or dental treatments?	1.33	1	0.72	2.49	6.65	1	5
it10. Have you or someone else in the family ever been upset because of problems with your child's teeth or dental treatments?	1.40	1	0.89	2.37	5.20	1	5
it11. Have you or someone else in the family ever felt guilty because of problems with your child's teeth or dental treatments?	1.55	1	1.04	1.82	2.30	1	5
it12. Have you or someone else in the family missed work due to problems with your child's teeth or dental treatments?	1.31	1	0.72	2.46	5.83	1	5
it13. Has your child ever had problems with his teeth or had dental treatments that have had a financial impact on your family?	1.32	1	0.74	2.50	5.86	1	5

Although the ECOHIS has been used in Brazil, (*Pahel, Rozier & Slade, 2007; Tesch, Oliveira & Leão, 2008; Nora et al., 2018*) the validity and reliability were never tested, raising questions about the quality of the evidence and consequently the conclusions obtained by the studies. In addition, few studies have applied confirmatory factor analysis for data validation (*Buldur & Güvendi, 2020; Zaror et al., 2018; Randrianarivony, Ravelomanantsoa & Razanamihaja, 2020*) a methodology strongly advised to obtain psychometric data of confirmed quality.

Moreover, no study to date has confirmed the ECOHIS invariance in independent samples to verify that the instrument's model is maintained in different samples from the same population (*Millsap & Yun-Tein, 2004*). The present study, which presented the model's strong invariance, has no similar published study to be compared.

The selection of an instrument to be used in children should consider the developmental phase of the children (*Tesch, Oliveira & Leao, 2007*). Young children have a perception of health and disease built according to their cognitive ability. According to *Rebok et al. (2001)*

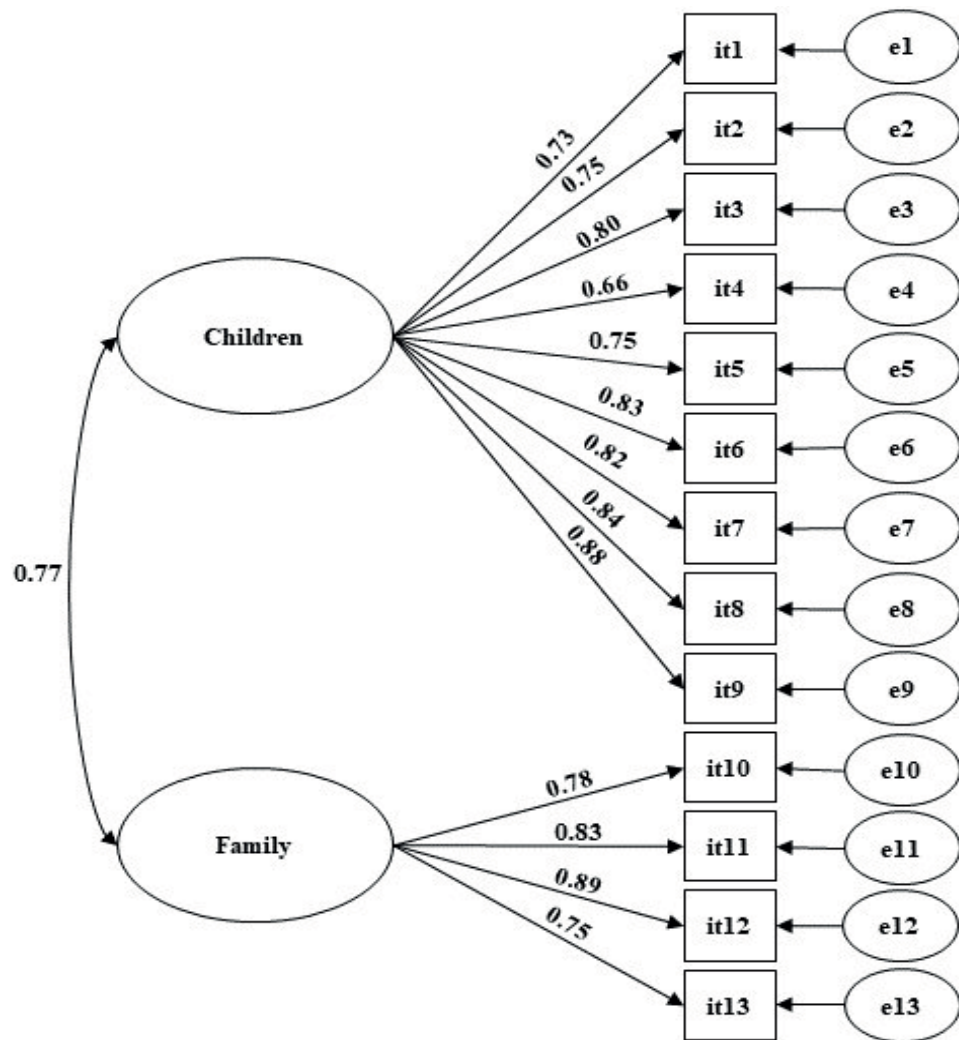


Figure 1 Factorial model of the Early Childhood Oral Health Impact Scale (ECOHIS) adjusted for a sample of mothers of preschool children ($n = 371$).

Full-size [DOI: 10.7717/peerj.16035/fig-1](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.16035/fig-1)

children under 6 years of age have difficulty in remembering events that occurred more than 24 h before, unless it is a common and essential event in their lives. Therefore, the effect of oral health events on children are better obtained through guardians.

The filling of the ECOHIS by the mothers was based on standardization requirement and on previous studies showing that women are the primary caregivers for children, although some changes in social roles and family dynamics have taken place in recent years (*Borsa & MLT, 2011; Wilson et al., 2014*). *Wilson et al. (2014)* highlight that the mother has a strong affective connection with her child, playing an important role in the development of habits and behaviors, including oral health promotion of children.

Children from higher income families had a lower oral health impact, which may be related to these children also being less affected by caries and having lower plaque index. These findings are consistent with studies by *Buldur & Güvendi (2020)* who found lower

Table 3 Comparison of the mean scores of the Early Childhood Oral Health Impact Scale (ECOHIS) according to children's sex, caries experience, and plaque index and mothers' age, marital status, work activity and economic stratum.

Characteristic	n	Mean ± SD	ANOVA		
			F*	p	η_p^2
Children					
Sex					
Male	191	1.38 ± 0.47			
Female	180	1.44 ± 0.56	1.61	0.206	0.004
Caries Experience					
dmft = 0	214	1.16 ± 0.28			
dmft > 0	157	1.76 ± 0.56	149.50**	<0.001	0.32
Plaque index					
Good	300	1.30 ± 0.40			
Regular	71	1.90 ± 0.66	54.21**	<0.001	0.21
Mothers					
age (years)					
<30	123	1.44 ± 0.53			
≥30	236	1.37 ± 0.49	1.40	0.238	0.04
Marital status					
Single	107	1.49 ± 0.61			
Married	228	1.38 ± 0.48			
Separated	25	1.42 ± 0.38	1.85**	0.183	0.12
Work activity					
No	124	1.45 ± 0.60			
Yes	242	1.39 ± 0.46	0.96**	0.328	0.003
Economic stratum					
C/D/E	189	1.49 ± 0.58 ^a			
B	166	1.34 ± 0.44 ^b			
A	16	1.20 ± 0.29 ^b	7.20**	0.002	0.28

Notes.

*ANOVA.

^{a,b,c}Different letters indicate statistical differences.

**Welch's F-statistic.

ECOHIS scores in children from higher income families. *Abanto et al. (2018)* reported that family income plays a protective role on the lives of preschool children. Families with more financial resources generally have better oral hygiene habits and greater access to preventive oral health care, leading to a lower oral health impact on children and their families (*Talekar et al., 2005; Polk, Weyant & Manz, 2010*) as found in the present study.

Although the prevalence of caries has declined in recent decades, it is still quite prevalent in low-income populations especially in 2- to 5-year-olds (*American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), 2014*). Our results showed that caries experience had an impact on children's lives, which corroborates finding of other studies (*Biazevic et al., 2008; Bekes et al., 2019*). The functional changes that accompany caries disease include difficulty in chewing and speech impairment, in addition to psychological impairment, difficulty

sleeping, and irritability (Bönecker *et al.*, 2012). In addition, children's oral health impact had a positive and significant relationship with the impact on the family, as the responsibility for the children's health is generally assumed by the guardians, who often lose workdays, spend time and money on dental treatment (Gift, Reisine & Larach, 1992) and have to deal with a child in pain.

Children with a good plaque index showed lower ECOHIS scores, as also reported by Bekes *et al.* (2019) in a sample of German preschool children. This is directly due to the relationship between the presence of dental biofilm and the increased risk of developing oral diseases such as dental caries and periodontal diseases (Chapple *et al.*, 2017).

The ECOHIS scores were not affected by children's sex and mothers' age, marital status, and works status. The results are consistent with the need to promote adequate and universal health-related preventive actions. The restricted sample used in the study may represent a limitation to the generalization of our findings to children of other ages, private schools, or their regions of the country. In addition, the cross-sectional study design does not allow cause and effect inferences.

This study presents information relevant to health professionals by providing the validity and reliability estimates of data obtained with the ECOHIS and by exploring the impact of oral problems on preschool children and their families. The findings can guide the development of comprehensive educational and preventive actions and treatment strategies, underscoring the need to prioritize public health programs in economically vulnerable groups.

These results may be important both for the development of future research protocols and for directing clinical interventions that use the investigated variables, opening the possibility of a more integral and comprehensive care of dental patients in a way that is centered on the patients' well-being, which will certainly enrich the decision-making process, and may also improve the individual's adherence to treatment and their awareness of their health.

CONCLUSIONS

The data obtained with the ECOHIS from mothers of preschool children were valid, reliable, and invariant between independent samples. The economic stratum, the caries experience, and the level of plaque had a significant impact on children and their families.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DECLARATIONS

Funding

This study was supported by the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior–Brasil (CAPES)–grant Code 001 and the São Paulo Research Foundation (Fapesp) (Proceedings # 2019/17200-9 and # 2019/24424-0). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Grant Disclosures

The following grant information was disclosed by the authors:

Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior–Brasil (CAPES): Code 001.

São Paulo Research Foundation (Fapesp): 2019/17200-9, 2019/24424-0.

Competing Interests

The authors declare there are no competing interests.

Author Contributions

- Bianca Núbia Souza Silva conceived and designed the experiments, performed the experiments, analyzed the data, prepared figures and/or tables, authored or reviewed drafts of the article, and approved the final draft.
- Lucas A. Campos conceived and designed the experiments, performed the experiments, analyzed the data, prepared figures and/or tables, authored or reviewed drafts of the article, and approved the final draft.
- João Marôco conceived and designed the experiments, analyzed the data, authored or reviewed drafts of the article, and approved the final draft.
- Juliana A.D.B Campos conceived and designed the experiments, analyzed the data, prepared figures and/or tables, authored or reviewed drafts of the article, and approved the final draft.

Human Ethics

The following information was supplied relating to ethical approvals (i.e., approving body and any reference numbers):

Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Araraquara (UNESP)

Data Availability

The following information was supplied regarding data availability:

The raw data are available in the [Supplemental Files](#).

Supplemental Information

Supplemental information for this article can be found online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.7717/peerj.16035#supplemental-information>.

REFERENCES

- Abanto J, Panico C, Bönecker M, Frazão P. 2018.** Impact of demographic and clinical variables on the oral health-related quality of life among five-year-old children: a population-based study using self-reports. *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* **28**(1):43–51 DOI [10.1111/ipd.12300](https://doi.org/10.1111/ipd.12300).
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). 2014.** *Pediatric Dentistry Journal* **36**:1–140 (6 reference manual).

- Antunes LAA, Leao AT, Maia LC. 2012.** The impact of dental trauma on quality of life of children and adolescents: a critical review and measurement instruments. *Ciencia & Saude Coletiva* 17(12):3417 DOI 10.1590/S1413-81232012001200026.
- Antunes LAA, Lemos HM, Milani AJ, Guimaraes LS, Kuchler EC, Antunes LS. 2020.** Does traumatic dental injury impact oral health-related to quality of life of children and adolescents? Systematic review and meta-analysis. *International Journal of Dental Hygiene* 18(2):142–162 DOI 10.1111/idh.12425.
- Brazilian Market Research Association (ABEP). 2019.** Brazilian Economic Classification Criteria (Brazilian Criteria).
- Baker S. 2007.** Testing a conceptual model of oral health: a structural equation modeling approach. *Journal of Dental Research* 86(8):708–712 DOI 10.1177/154405910708600804.
- Barasuol JC, Santos PS, Moccelini BS, Magno MB, Bolan M, Martins-Junior PA, Maia LC, Cardoso M. 2020.** Association between dental pain and oral health-related quality of life in children and adolescents: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology* 48(4):257–263 DOI 10.1111/cdoe.12535.
- Bekes K, Omara M, Safar S, Stamm T. 2019.** The German version of early childhood oral health impact scale (ECOHIS-G): translation, reliability, and validity. *Clinical Oral Investigations* 23(12):4449–454 DOI 10.1007/s00784-019-02893-1.
- Bennadi D, Reddy C. 2013.** Oral health related quality of life. *Journal of International Society of Preventive & Community Dentistry* 3(1):1 DOI 10.4103/2231-0762.115700.
- Biazevic MGH, Rissotto RR, Michel-Crosato E, Mendes LA, Mendes MOA. 2008.** Relationship between oral health and its impact on quality of life among adolescents. *Brazilian Oral Research* 22(1):36–42 DOI 10.1590/S1806-83242008000100007.
- Bönecker M, Abanto J, Tello G, Oliveira LB. 2012.** Impact of dental caries on preschool children's quality of life: an update. *Brazilian Oral Research* 26(SPE1):3–7.
- Borsa JC, MLT N. 2011.** Psychosocial aspects of parenting: men and women's role in nuclear families. *Revista Psicologia Argumento* 29(64):31–39.
- Buldur B, Güvendi ON. 2020.** Conceptual modelling of the factors affecting oral health-related quality of life in children: a path analysis. *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* 30(2):181–192 DOI 10.1111/ipd.12583.
- Byrne BM. 2010.** *Structural equation modeling with AMOS: basic concepts, applications, and programming (multivariate applications series. vol. 396.* New York: Taylor & Francis Group, 7384.
- Campos JADB, Bonafé FSS, Maroco J. 2018.** Dor referida: uma breve discussão sobre a percepção da dor. *Psicologia, Saúde & Doenças* 19(1):26–33.
- Chaffee BW, Rodrigues PH, Kramer PF, Vítolo MR, Feldens CA. 2017.** Oral health-related quality-of-life scores differ by socioeconomic status and caries experience. *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology* 45(3):216–224 DOI 10.1111/cdoe.12279.
- Chapple IL, Bouchard P, Cagetti MG, Campus G, Carra MC, Cocco F, Bibali L, Hujuel P, Laine ML, Lingstrom P, Manton DJ, Montero E, Pitts N, Rangé H, Schueter N, Teughels W, Twetman S, Loveren CV, Weijden FV, Vieira AR, Schulte AG. 2017.** Interaction of lifestyle, behaviour or systemic diseases with dental caries and

- periodontal diseases: consensus report of group 2 of the joint EFP/ORCA workshop on the boundaries between caries and periodontal diseases. *Journal of Clinical Periodontology* **44**(Suppl 18):S39–S51 DOI [10.1111/jcpe.12685](https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpe.12685).
- Cheung GW, Rensvold RB. 2002.** Evaluating goodness-of-fit indexes for testing measurement invariance. *Structural Equation Modeling* **9**(2):233–255 DOI [10.1207/S15328007SEM0902_5](https://doi.org/10.1207/S15328007SEM0902_5).
- Figueira T, Leite I. 2008.** Oral health perceptions, knowledge and practices among primary schoolchildren. *RGO* **56**(1):27–32.
- Filstrup SL, Briskie D, Fonseca MDa, Lawrence L, Wandera A, Inglehart MR. 2003.** Early childhood caries and quality of life: child and parent perspectives. *Pediatric Dentistry* **25**(5):431–440.
- Fornell C, Larcker DF. 1981.** Evaluating structural equation models with unobservable variables and measurement error. *Journal of Marketing Research* **18**(1):39–50 DOI [10.1177/002224378101800104](https://doi.org/10.1177/002224378101800104).
- Gift HC, Reisine ST, Larach DC. 1992.** The social impact of dental problems and visits. *American Journal of Public Health* **82**(12):1663–1668 DOI [10.2105/AJPH.82.12.1663](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.82.12.1663).
- Greene JC, Vermillion JR. 1964.** The simplified oral hygiene index. *Journal of the American Dental Association* **68**:7–13 DOI [10.14219/jada.archive.1964.0034](https://doi.org/10.14219/jada.archive.1964.0034).
- Hair JF, Black WC, Babin B, Anderson RE. 2019.** *Multivariate data analysis*. Hampshire: Cengage Learning.
- Jorgensen TD, Pornprasertmanit S, Schoemann AM, Rosseel Y, Miller P, Quick C. 2019.** Package ‘semTools’.
- Locker D, Allen F. 2007.** What do measures of ‘oral health-related quality of life’ measure?. *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology* **35**(6):401–411 DOI [10.1111/j.1600-0528.2007.00418.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0528.2007.00418.x).
- Marôco J. 2014.** *Análise de Equações Estruturais*. 2 edition. Pêro Pinheiro: Report Number 432p.
- Millsap RE, Yun-Tein J. 2004.** Assessing factorial invariance in ordered-categorical measures. *Multivariate Behavioral Research* **39**(3):479–515 DOI [10.1207/S15327906MBR3903_4](https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327906MBR3903_4).
- Nora AD, Rodrigues CS, Rocha RO, Soares FZM, Braga MM, Lenzi TL. 2018.** Is caries associated with negative impact on oral health-related quality of life of pre-school children? A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Pediatric Dentistry* **40**(7):403–411.
- Pacheco KTDS, Silva ZMD, Junior MFS, Esposti CDD, Carvalho RBD. 2013.** Comparative analysis of two indices of oral hygiene. *Arquivos em Odontologia* **49**(3):122–125.
- Pahel BT, Rozier RG, Slade GD. 2007.** Parental perceptions of children’s oral health: the Early Childhood Oral Health Impact Scale (ECOHIS). *Health and Quality of Life Outcomes* **5**(1):6 DOI [10.1186/1477-7525-5-6](https://doi.org/10.1186/1477-7525-5-6).
- Pal DK. 1996.** Quality of life assessment in children: a review of conceptual and methodological issues in multidimensional health status measures. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* **50**(4):391–396 DOI [10.1136/jech.50.4.391](https://doi.org/10.1136/jech.50.4.391).
- Organização Mundial da Saúde (OMS). 1999.** *Levantamentos básicos em saúde bucal*. 4a edition. São Paulo: Editora Santos.

- Polk DE, Weyant RJ, Manz MC. 2010.** Socioeconomic factors in adolescents' oral health: are they mediated by oral hygiene behaviors or preventive interventions?. *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology* **38**(1):1–9 DOI [10.1111/j.1600-0528.2009.00499.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0528.2009.00499.x).
- R Core Team. 2022.** R: a language and environment for statistical computing. Vienna, Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. Available at <https://www.R-project.org/> (accessed on 02 November 2022).
- Randrianarivony J, Ravelomanantsoa JJ, Razanamihaja N. 2020.** Evaluation of the reliability and validity of the Early Childhood Oral Health Impact Scale (ECOHS) questionnaire translated into Malagasy. *Health Qual Life Outcomes* **18**(1):39 DOI [10.1186/s12955-020-01296-1](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12955-020-01296-1).
- Rebok G, Riley A, Forrest C, Starfield B, Green B, Robertson J, Tambor E. 2001.** Elementary school-aged children's reports of their health: a cognitive interviewing study. *Quality of Life Research* **10**(1):59–70 DOI [10.1023/A:1016693417166](https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1016693417166).
- Rosseel Y. 2012.** Lavaan: an R package for structural equation modeling and more. Version 0.5–12 (BETA). *Journal of Statistical Software* **48**(2):1–36.
- SB Brasil. 2010.** National Research on Oral Health: main results/Ministério da Saúde. In: *Secretaria de Atenção à Saúde. Secretaria de Vigilância em Saúde*. Brasília: Ministério da Saúde.
- Sischo L, Broder H. 2011.** Oral health-related quality of life: what, why, how, and future implications. *Journal of Dental Research* **90**(11):1264–1270 DOI [10.1177/0022034511399918](https://doi.org/10.1177/0022034511399918).
- Talekar BS, Rozier RG, Slade GD, Ennett ST. 2005.** Parental perceptions of their preschool-aged children's oral health. *The Journal of the American Dental Association* **136**(3):364–372 DOI [10.14219/jada.archive.2005.0179](https://doi.org/10.14219/jada.archive.2005.0179).
- Tesch FC, Oliveira BHD, Leão A. 2008.** Semantic equivalence of the Brazilian version of the early childhood oral health impact scale. *Cadernos de Saude Publica* **24**(8):1897–909 DOI [10.1590/S0102-311X2008000800018](https://doi.org/10.1590/S0102-311X2008000800018).
- Tesch FC, Oliveira B, Leao A. 2007.** Measuring the impact of oral health problems on children's quality of life: conceptual and methodological issues. *Cadernos de Saude Publica* **23**(11):2555–2564 DOI [10.1590/S0102-311X2007001100003](https://doi.org/10.1590/S0102-311X2007001100003).
- Vieira-Andrade RG, Martins-Júnior PA, Corrêa-Faria P, Marques LS, Paiva SM, Ramos-Jorge ML. 2015.** Impact of oral mucosal conditions on oral health-related quality of life in preschool children: a hierarchical approach. *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* **25**(2):117–126 DOI [10.1111/ipd.12107](https://doi.org/10.1111/ipd.12107).
- Von Elm E, Altman DG, Egger M, Pocock SJ, Gøtzsche PC, Vandenbroucke JP. 2007.** The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies. *Annals of Internal Medicine* **147**(8):573–577 DOI [10.7326/0003-4819-147-8-200710160-00010](https://doi.org/10.7326/0003-4819-147-8-200710160-00010).
- WHO. 1998.** Development of the World Health Organization WHOQOL-BREF quality of life assessment. *Psychological Medicine* **28**(3):551–558 DOI [10.1017/S0033291798006667](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291798006667).
- Wilson A, Brega AG, Batliner TS, Henderson W, Campagna EJ, Fehring K, Gallegos F, Daniels D, Albino J. 2014.** Assessment of parental oral health knowledge and

behaviors among American Indians of a Northern Plains tribe. *Journal of Public Health Dentistry* 74(2):159–167 DOI [10.1111/jphd.12040](https://doi.org/10.1111/jphd.12040).

Zaror C, Atala-Acevedo C, Espinoza-Espinoza G, Muñoz Millán P, Muñoz S, Martínez-Zapata MJ, Ferrer M. 2018. Cross-cultural adaptation and psychometric evaluation of the early childhood oral health impact scale (ECOHIS) in Chilean population. *Health and Quality of Life Outcomes* 16(1):232 DOI [10.1186/s12955-018-1057-x](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12955-018-1057-x).