

Letter to the Editor

Adverse Birth Outcomes And Oral Health

Dear Editor

We would like to congratulate Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology for the publication of the article 'Adverse birth outcomes and childhood caries: a cohort study' by Nirunsittirat et al.¹

Indeed, it is vital to improve the understanding of early child's oral health determinants and consequent identification of interventions and behaviors that can be modified with health promotion activities since birth. Authors have suggested that proper fetal growth and adequate development in the first two years of life are determinants of health, not only at childhood but also in later life^{2,3}.

David Barker's studies conducted in the 1980s have suggested that the events of the intrauterine period or during early childhood have long-term effects on morbidity and mortality from chronic diseases⁴.

On the other hand, the Life-Course Theory⁵ emphasizes the infancy period, based on the accumulation of environmental, social, and behavioral risks in life, without disregarding Barker's premises, to strengthen the interaction between biological and social factors of the different stages of life, more than the current adult lifestyle.

However, little research has been carried out focusing on these ideas to determine children's oral health. There is a scarcity of longitudinal studies, such as population-based cohort studies, that aim to understand the determination of the oral health-

disease process and the complex interaction between social environment and biological and behavioral aspects. The study published by this important journal has contributed to bring this issue to the agenda.

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