

Dental Indices

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Lecture Outline:

- Definition of an Index
- The purposes of an Index
- Properties of an Ideal Index
- Types of indices
- Recommended method of performance of an index

Index:

A numerical value describing the relative status of a population on a graduated scale with definite upper and lower limits, which is designed to permit and facilitate comparison with other populations classified by the same criteria and methods

The purposes of an index

- To make accurate assessment of the extent and severity of the disease and to compare the disease status among individuals and communities
- To find out etiological and predisposing factors for the diseases
- For planning of oral health policy
- To assess the efficiency of measures undertaken to overcome the disease may be preventive or curative.

Ideal properties of an index

- **Clarity:** Simplicity -The index should be easily to apply.
Objectivity - The index criteria should be unambiguous.
- **Validity:** It should measure what it is intended to measure
- **Reliability:** measure consistently at different times and under a variety of conditions, by the same person or different persons
- **Quantifiability:** It should be amenable to statistical analysis
- **Sensitivity:**
- **Acceptability:**

Classification of indices:

□ Direction in which their scores can fluctuate:

1. Irreversible index: DMF
2. Reversible index: GI
3. Composite index: PDI

□ The extent to which areas of oral cavity are measured:

1. Full mouth index: Dean fluorosis index (DFI)
2. Simplified index: Calculus surface index (CSI)

Classification of indices:

□ The entity which they measure:

1. Disease index: DMF
2. Treatment index : DMF
3. Symptom index : Papilla Bleeding Index (PBI)

□ The special categories:

1. Simple index: the presence or absence of a condition. e.g. an index which measures the presence of plaque without evaluating its effects on the dental caries.
2. Cumulative index: measures all the evidence of a condition (past and present). E.g. DMFT

Recommended method of performance of an index

- Explain procedure to patient.
- Drape patient.
- Give patient protective eyewear.
- Wash hands.
- Don PPE. (Personal protective equipment)
- Adjust Position of patient in dental chair.
- Adjust dental light for maximum illumination.
- Apply lubricant gel to patient lips.
- Dry teeth with compressed air using recommended sequence.
- Carry out the index.

