



Childhood socioeconomic conditions and teeth in older adulthood: evidence from SHARE wave 5

Journal:	<i>Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology</i>
Manuscript ID	CDOE-16-477.R3
Manuscript Type:	Original Manuscript
Date Submitted by the Author:	n/a
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Keywords:	dentition, child, Tooth loss, Adults, Social inequality
Abstract:	Objectives: Dental diseases are the most common chronic diseases worldwide. Healthy teeth are vital for quality of life, particularly diet and nutrition. However, little information exists to inform health policy makers about potentially long-lasting influences of early life conditions. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relation between early life socioeconomic conditions and number of natural teeth at age 50 and above. Methods: Analyses were conducted on cross-sectional data from the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE wave 5), which includes information on 60,674 respondents aged 50 years or older from 14 European countries and Israel. Using SHARE life history information, a series of regression models (OLS, Tobit) were estimated to analyse the relationship between socioeconomic conditions in earlier life and the number of teeth at age 50+. Results: Childhood socioeconomic background was associated with the number of natural teeth at age 50 and above, even after controlling for current determinants of oral health. Respondents who had had more than 25 books in their childhood

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	<p>household had a mean 1.4 (95% CI: 1.2-1.5) more teeth than respondents with fewer books. Respondents who reported poor financial conditions during childhood had a mean 0.6 (95% CI: 0.3-0.9) fewer teeth than respondents who reported better financial conditions in childhood. Conclusion: These findings substantiate the association between socioeconomic conditions in the early years of life and tooth retention to older adulthood and highlight the long-lasting relation between childhood living conditions and oral health through the lifecourse.</p>

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48 Word count (text): 3845
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Childhood socioeconomic conditions and teeth in older adulthood: evidence from SHARE wave 5

Abstract

Objectives: Dental diseases are the most common chronic diseases worldwide. Healthy teeth are vital for quality of life, particularly diet and nutrition. However, little information exists to inform health policy makers about potentially long-lasting influences of early life conditions. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relation between early life socioeconomic conditions and number of natural teeth at age 50 and above. **Methods:** Analyses were conducted on cross-sectional data from the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE wave 5), which includes information on 60,674 respondents aged 50 years or older from 14 European countries and Israel. Using SHARE life history information, a series of regression models (OLS, Tobit) were estimated to analyse the relationship between socioeconomic conditions in earlier life and the number of teeth at age 50+. **Results:** Childhood socioeconomic background was associated with the number of natural teeth at age 50 and above, even after controlling for current determinants of oral health. Respondents who had had more than 25 books in their childhood household had a mean 1.4 (95% CI: 1.2-1.5) more teeth than respondents with fewer books. Respondents who reported poor financial conditions during childhood had a mean 0.6 (95% CI: 0.3-0.9) fewer teeth than respondents who reported better financial conditions in childhood. **Conclusion:** These findings substantiate the association between socioeconomic conditions in the early years of life and tooth retention to older adulthood and highlight the long-lasting relation between childhood living conditions and oral health through the lifecourse.

Key words: dentition, child, adult, aged, socioeconomic status, dental care

INTRODUCTION

Dental diseases are globally among the most frequent¹ and most costly² diseases to treat. Healthy teeth are important for (older) people's quality of life and wellbeing, not least due to their relevance for diet and nutrition.^{3,4} However, little information exists to inform health policy makers about potential longer-term benefits of promoting early life conditions in order to foster enduring tooth retention until old age.

Chronic diseases are increasingly being studied within a life-course framework. This particularly applies to the study of conditions such as coronary heart disease and diabetes.⁵⁻⁷ Several theoretical models have been established which describe pathways linking lifecourse exposures to later health and disease.⁸ These models postulate that exposures during a specific time window have an irreversible effect on later health (critical period model), or that exposures during developmental periods have a stronger effect than they would have at other times (sensitive period model), or that detrimental and beneficial exposures gradually accumulate throughout life (accumulation of risk model), or that one exposure leads to another exposure in a process that affects health in later life (chain of risk model).

To date, there are very few population-based birth cohort studies with clinical oral health data. Existing knowledge relies mainly on findings from the following three cohorts: the Newcastle (UK) Thousand Families birth cohort of 1947, the Dunedin (NZ) Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study birth cohort of 1972-73, and the Pelotas (Brazil) birth cohorts of 1982, 1993 and 2004.⁹⁻¹² Findings from these studies highlight that socioeconomic background, early life health-related behaviours, and previous disease experience are important determinants of oral health in the first to fifth decades of life.¹²⁻¹⁵

However, the existing birth cohort studies are not yet able to follow up individuals' oral health into later adulthood (age 50 and above).¹⁶ Other studies based on cohort data that could have followed individuals into age 50+ have included relatively little detail about childhood conditions.^{17,18} The corresponding knowledge gap could be served by survey-based studies of older adults that contain information on current oral health status and, retrospectively, on circumstances in earlier life. A previous study based on

1
2 multi-country data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) highlighted
3 the important role of early life conditions, particularly childhood financial hardship; adverse life events
4 affected chewing ability in middle and later adulthood.¹⁸ While chewing ability represents a relevant
5 subjective measure of current oral health, the number of natural teeth (hereafter number of teeth)
6 provides a more comprehensive oral health measure in older age because tooth loss indicates the
7 accumulated impacts of adverse risks through the life course.¹⁹ In many high income countries, the
8 number of missing teeth has been decreasing in adults in recent years, with more people maintaining a
9 functional dentition (at least 20 remaining teeth), and the number of edentulous people showing a
10 marked decline.^{20-23,49} Nevertheless, as considerable proportions of populations aged 50+ are affected by
11 tooth loss, and missing teeth have been shown to compromise quality of life,²⁴ tooth loss still represents
12 a public health problem and is a relevant marker of oral health.²³

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The aim of this study was to determine associations between childhood conditions – particularly aspects
of socioeconomic status such as educational and financial circumstances of the family, and the number
of teeth in populations aged 50+ from 14 European countries and Israel. We hypothesized that adverse
childhood socioeconomic conditions are associated with retaining fewer natural teeth at age 50+.

METHODS

This study utilizes data from the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and
includes samples from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Israel,
Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. SHARE is a large panel
database of microdata on health, socioeconomic status and social and family networks covering countries
of the European Union and Israel.²⁵ So far, SHARE has released data from 5 waves (2004/05, 2006/07,
2008/09, 2010/11, 2013) comprising more than 220,000 interviews of about 110,000 individuals aged 50
or over. SHARE samples were drawn to be representative of the older adult population (age 50+) in each
country. Various types of survey sample design were used, such as simple random sampling in Sweden,
and multistage sampling on basis of regional population registers in Italy. The initial wave of SHARE

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2 was conducted in 2004, followed by wave 2 which collected information on respondents' chewing ability
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4 in 2006-2007. Wave 3 (SHARELIFE) was conducted in 2008-2009 and collected retrospective
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6 information about elements of respondents' lives, ranging from relationships with partners, children,
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8 housing and work history to details on health and health care. SHARE wave 4 (2010-2011) did not
9
10 include oral health outcome measures. SHARE wave 5 (release date: March 31st 2015; collected in 2013)
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12 for the first time contained information on the respondents' numbers of teeth.²⁵ Also, a novel "miniature
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14 version" of the SHARELIFE questionnaire focusing on childhood events was introduced in SHARE
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16 wave 5. Individual response rates in SHARE ranged from 55% (Netherlands) to 85% (Estonia) in
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18 longitudinal samples and from 25% (Luxembourg) to 52% (Czech Republic) in baseline/refreshment
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20 samples.
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26 This study is based on SHARE wave 5 data and information on childhood events collated at that wave.
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28 Fieldwork for SHARE wave 5 started in February 2013 and was completed in November 2013.²⁶ The
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30 target population of wave 5 were individuals born in 1962 or earlier, and persons who are a
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32 spouse/partner of a person born in 1962 or earlier, who spoke (one of) the official language(s) of the
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34 country (regardless of nationality and citizenship) and who did not live either abroad or in institutions.
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36 More detailed descriptions of the SHARE/SHARELIFE methodology are also available in the Appendix,
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38 the literature,²⁴⁻²⁸ and via www.share-project.org.
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44 Our analyses were based on SHARE wave 5 data on the number of teeth remaining for each participant.
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46 Participants were asked: "Do you still have ALL your natural teeth (except wisdom teeth)?". The
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48 interviewer informed the participant that "Normally, a person has 28 teeth and 4 wisdom teeth. We are
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50 not interested in wisdom teeth." Response options were "Yes" and "No". Participants who reported not
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52 having all natural teeth, were further questioned: "About how many natural teeth are you missing?".
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54 Respondents' number of natural teeth was derived accordingly. We used this measure as a continuous
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56 (limited) dependent variable in a series of regression models in order to detect the extent to which
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58 factors from different stages across the life course relate to the number of teeth at age 50+.
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3 Based on the rationale that early life conditions and adverse events may impact on later oral health
4 outcomes, the models were built so that they included sequential adjustment for covariates at
5 chronologically different periods of the life course, from early life to more recent determinants. Model
6 specification was informed by a recent SHARE study that examined life-course influences on chewing
7 ability at age 50+.¹⁸ Although life history information in wave 3 is slightly more detailed, SHARE wave
8 5 includes all relevant life history information for our analyses.²⁹ Only a small proportion of respondents
9 participated in both SHARE waves 3 and 5. As it provides the most consistent set of data and widest
10 possible inclusion of study participants, our main analysis uses life-history data from SHARE wave 5.
11 The two model specifications at the core of our analyses are described below.

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22 **Model A** accounted for childhood influences, that is socioeconomic position (SEP) and cognitive skills.
23 More specifically, the model included the following explanatory variables:

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26 *Number of rooms per household member at age 10 years* (count variable): SEP determinant;

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28 *Having more than 25 books in the household at age 10 years* (yes/no): proxy for scholarly
29 circumstances in household and SEP determinant;

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32 *Childhood maths skills at age 10 years* (much worse; worse; similar to; better than; or much better
33 than that of peers). This parameter may partly reflect cognitive ability and also represents skills
34 which are important for the formation of oral health literacy;

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38 *Financial situation of family from birth to age 15 years* (pretty well off; about average; poor; it
39 varied): SEP determinant depicting wealth and monetary circumstances.

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44 **Model B** additionally controlled for the following parameters which represent conditions at the time of
45 interview (age 50+):

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48 *Equivalentized income* (tertiles within each country's distribution of equivalentized household income;
49 OECD square root approach³⁰): indicates the respondents' current relative SEP within country of
50 residence. Based on the assumption that an individual's wellbeing depends mostly on relative rather
51 than absolute income, it also allows for inter-country comparisons;

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56 *Current dental attendance* (yes/no): measures whether the respondent had visited a dentist within the
57 past 12 months;

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2 *Self-rated general health* (poor; fair; good; very good; or excellent). We included this global rating
3 of general health, as there is strong evidence on the associations between general and oral health,³¹⁻³³
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5 *Grip strength* (of the dominant hand, in kilograms), in order to depict the current level of functioning
6 ability and lack of frailty. This may be relevant for activities such as oral hygiene.³⁴
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11 All models were adjusted for respondents' age and sex, and included country dummies (in the sense of
12 country fixed effects) in order to control for demographic and cross-country influences, and a control
13 variable for whether respondents were born before or after 1946, in order to check for any influence of
14 World War II. To further test the robustness of associations between childhood socioeconomic position
15 and the number of teeth at age 50+, we included educational attainment according to the International
16 Standard Classification of Education as an explanatory SEP determinant in addition to (and also as an
17 alternative to) income.³⁵
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26 Based on the specifications described above, linear regression analysis was carried out modelling the
27 average number of teeth conditional on covariates. Linear regressions may yield inconsistent results if
28 the dependent variable is bounded from above or below, such as the number of teeth, and is therefore a
29 non-linear function of the covariates.³⁶ Moreover, predicted values can lie outside the feasible interval
30 [0,28]. As previously shown for the distribution of the number of natural teeth in SHARE wave 5, the
31 most frequent values are the extremes (zero and 28 teeth, respectively; also see figure 1).²⁵ Therefore, as
32 an alternative model specification, two-limit Tobit regressions were estimated with "oral health" as a
33 latent dependent variable and the observable counterpart, number of teeth, being censored at a lower
34 bound of 0 teeth and at an upper bound of 28 teeth. The two-limit Tobit model assumes that oral health
35 also differs among study participants at the lower and upper bounds and that covariates are related to
36 these unobservable differences in the same way that they are related to the observable differences. Under
37 this assumption, the Tobit model conceptually takes into account unobserved variation in oral health
38 status that could not be captured in standard linear or negative binomial regression analysis.³⁶
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53 All data analyses were carried out in STATA/SE 12.0 (StataCorp, USA). Heteroscedasticity-consistent
54 (robust) standard errors were used throughout. As a further robustness check, the linear regression
55 analysis was re-run using calibrated weights to obtain population-representative estimates.
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RESULTS

Figure 1 depicts the distribution of the outcome variable (number of observations per number of teeth) for all countries together and for each country individually. With an average of more than 20 remaining teeth, the highest mean numbers of remaining teeth were found for Sweden, Denmark, and Switzerland. The lowest mean numbers of remaining teeth were found for Estonia and Slovenia (average of 16 or fewer remaining teeth).

Table 1 presents average numbers of natural teeth by the various independent variables used in subsequent analyses. The number of teeth varied comparably little with respect to the demographic characteristics (age and sex). Respondents who had more than 25 books in their childhood household had an average of 21 teeth while respondents with fewer books had on average 17 teeth. The average number of teeth differed by childhood financial situation. There were also differences with regard to the average number of rooms per person in the childhood household and the reported level of maths skills in childhood. Respondents with dental attendance during the previous year had 21 teeth; whereas those without recent dental attendance had on average 15 teeth. The number of teeth also varied by current general health status, grip strength, and current income.

Table 2a shows the outcome of linear regressions on the self-reported number of teeth. Model A (left panel) includes only early life determinants as explanatory variables and indicates that respondents with more than 25 books in the childhood household had significantly more teeth than respondents with 25 or fewer books. Relative to respondents who were well off financially in childhood, those who reported their childhood financial situation as poor and those who had a varying childhood financial situation had fewer teeth. The mean number of teeth was greater per additional room per person in the childhood

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2 household. Relative to the lowest category of childhood maths skills (“much worse than peers”),
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4 respondents had significantly more teeth if their childhood maths skills were “better“ or “much better”
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6 than their peers.
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10 After introducing current independent variables at age 50+ (Model B, right panel), these showed
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12 stronger associations than early life variables, for which the size of the estimates was considerably
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14 lower. Respondents with more than 25 books in the childhood household had significantly more teeth
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16 than those with 25 or fewer books. Relative to respondents who were “pretty well off financially” in
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18 childhood, those who described their childhood financial situation as poor had significantly fewer teeth.
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20 The mean number of teeth was significantly greater per additional room per person in the childhood
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22 household. Respondents who reported recent dental attendance at age 50+ had significantly more teeth
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24 than respondents who did not. There was a gradient in the number of teeth and general health. Relative
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26 to those with poor general health status, those with excellent general health had significantly more teeth
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28 remaining by age 50+. The number of teeth differed significantly by grip strength in the dominant hand.
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30 Relative to respondents from the lowest income tertile, persons from the highest income tertile had
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32 significantly more teeth.
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39 Table 2b shows the findings from the Tobit regression analysis (partial effects, valued at the sample
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41 means of the covariates). The outcomes were similar to those from the linear regressions, with only
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43 small differences in the statistical significance level and the size of parameter estimates. Differences in
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45 statistical significance level occurred only for one of the parameter estimates for childhood financial
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47 situation (significant parameter estimate for the comparison of “it varied” vs. “pretty well off” in the
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49 Tobit but not in the linear regression model) and for one of the parameter estimates for childhood maths
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51 skills (significant parameter estimate for the comparison of “much better than peers” vs. “much worse
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53 than peers” in the linear but not in the Tobit regression model). Inclusion of educational attainment as an
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55 explanatory variable in addition to (and as an alternative to) income yielded similar results with regard
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2 to the parameter estimates for childhood socioeconomic position.
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5 The re-run of the linear regression analysis using calibrated weights to obtain population-representative
6 estimates yielded very similar findings (results available upon request).
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10 11 DISCUSSION 12

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14 Based on unique data from SHARE wave 5, the number of natural teeth at age 50+ was associated with
15 the financial situation in childhood, the number of books, and the number of rooms per person in the
16 childhood household. These findings held robustly after inclusion of oral health determinants (at age
17 50+); dental attendance at age 50+ was the single most important explanatory variable for the number of
18 teeth at age 50+; the number of teeth also differed by general health status and grip strength, and it was
19 also positively associated with contemporary income level.
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29 Some limitations of our study should be noted. Data collected on childhood circumstances, current health
30 status and dental visits may be subject to information bias. In particular, life-history data came from a
31 retrospective survey which may be subject to recall bias. We cannot fully rule out such influences but
32 previous evidence suggests that SHARE study participants remember circumstances in early life
33 reasonably well.³⁷ It was previously shown that important SHARELIFE data components are strongly
34 consistent with information reported at the time of occurrence of the events, with less than 10% recall
35 errors over all events.³⁸ The validity of the SHARE measure for self-reported tooth count could not be
36 assessed across countries due to lack of clinical data availability. Previous evidence suggests reasonable
37 accuracy for the self-reported number of teeth in population surveys and close agreement between
38 clinically recorded and self-reported number of teeth.³⁹⁻⁴³ In the present study, however, participants were
39 not asked directly to count their natural teeth. Information on number of teeth was derived from a
40 question about whether or not having all teeth followed by a question about how many teeth were
41 missing. To date, the oral health components in SHARE have not been systematically validated.
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2 Moreover, our empirical models could account only for influences for which data were available. Some
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4 caution should therefore be applied when interpreting parameter estimates because only a limited amount
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6 of variation could be explained by the available variables, and it is acknowledged that the number of
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8 teeth at age 50+ may also be determined by factors that could not be controlled for in this study. For
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10 example, SHARE contains no information on oral health in childhood. As such it is not possible to
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12 determine potential associations between childhood oral health and oral health at age 50+. Another
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14 caveat is that the retrospective life history element in SHARE wave 5 contained limited information on
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16 respondents' living conditions between childhood and current age (50+). Even though childhood
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18 socioeconomic conditions could shape the formation of oral health behaviours throughout the entire life
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20 course and the present study could control for potential continuity of socioeconomic position from
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22 childhood into adulthood, other life-course events or circumstances after childhood may have
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24 independent impacts on retaining teeth into older adulthood.⁴⁴ Therefore, the reported associations
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26 between the number of teeth and independent variables which represent oral health risk proxies should
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28 not be interpreted as causal. Causal inference was beyond the scope of the present study and we did not
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30 seek to relate our findings to theoretical models which describe pathways linking life-course exposures to
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32 later health and disease. Notwithstanding these limitations, SHARE wave 5 data provide a novel and
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34 unique resource for studying early life socioeconomic conditions in relation to oral health in older
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36 adulthood. There currently is no comparable data source available with large-scale life history
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38 information from multiple countries and information on the number of teeth in older adulthood.
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48 The findings of this study add to the previous empirical evidence on the impact of childhood
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50 socioeconomic conditions on oral health in later life.^{12-19,45} Our analyses included different measures for
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52 childhood socioeconomic position. Poor or unstable financial conditions in the childhood household had
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54 a negative impact on number of natural teeth remaining by age 50+. Various pathways could be
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56 proposed to explain the role of financial conditions in childhood. **On the one hand, unfavourable**
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2 financial circumstances in early life could imply limited capacity to afford dental care and hence lead to
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4 restrictions in access to dental care. Yet it is important to be aware of differences between countries in
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6 oral health care systems. For example, Sweden and Denmark have been having free dental care systems
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8 for decades. As such it seems unlikely that children's access to care would have largely been affected by
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10 affordability of care in these countries. On the other hand, financial poverty in childhood may have
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12 imposed constraints on family life which may in turn impact on a number of more direct risks such as
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14 diet quality, psychosocial stress, or oral health behaviours; other issues in life may have been perceived
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16 to be of more immediate existential relevance than paying attention to oral health.
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21 The number of books in the childhood household also showed a consistently significant association with
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23 number of natural teeth remaining by later adulthood. A book-oriented scholarly culture at home may be
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25 relevant for the formation of health literacy, general attitudes to health, and associated health
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27 behaviors.⁴⁶
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31 These findings are novel in that they refer to a longer time perspective to understanding life-course
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33 differences in oral health than possible heretofore on the basis of longitudinal (birth-cohort) and
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35 retrospective (life history) studies.⁸ So far, existing birth cohort studies collecting oral health
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37 information have not had sufficient time to follow up individuals into later adulthood. Moreover,
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39 previous evidence from European retrospective survey data on life history has been restricted to using a
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41 binary measure of chewing ability as an oral health proxy.¹⁸ In contrast, the present paper draws on a
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43 more detailed and clinically relevant oral health outcome measure – the number of teeth.
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49 The findings from the Tobit models were similar to the corresponding linear regression estimates.
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51 Interestingly, however, there was a difference in significance for two parameter estimates. The Tobit
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53 model, but not the linear regression model, indicated that varying childhood financial condition was
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55 significantly associated with number of teeth at age 50+. On the other hand, only the linear regression
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57 model, but not the Tobit model, indicated that the highest level of childhood maths skills were
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1 significantly associated with number of teeth at age 50+. In other words, the linear regression model
2 gave more emphasis to the role of cognitive ability in childhood and skills relevant for formation of oral
3 health literacy, whereas the Tobit model gave more emphasis to the role of wealth and monetary
4 health literacy, whereas the Tobit model gave more emphasis to the role of wealth and monetary
5 circumstances in early life years. By and large, however, the results of both model specifications support
6 the view that various dimensions of childhood conditions, particularly SEP, are associated with oral
7 health in middle and later adulthood. This information is necessary for health policy-makers to
8 understand the benefits of promoting a healthy early life environment on long-term tooth retention and
9 the associated quality of life and wellbeing among older populations. For example, investments into
10 integrated school campaigns may promote better oral health behaviours in the long run, irrespective of
11 children's socioeconomic background, and hence pay off across all of life.
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27 Given the limitations of the present study, it would be premature to attempt to interpret the findings as
28 proof in support of or against any of the previously proposed theoretical life-course models (critical
29 period model, sensitive period model, accumulation of risk model, chain of risk model).⁸ However, the
30 findings emphasize that early life conditions, particularly SEP, are important for later oral health, so they
31 underline the relevance of future life-course analyses for understanding oral health. Future research is
32 also warranted to examine the precise properties of the oral health measures in SHARE, particularly
33 with regard to the validity of the number of (missing) teeth variable and in terms of cross-country
34 comparability.
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47 In conclusion, the study highlights the relevance of childhood socioeconomic conditions for tooth
48 retention into older adulthood. This may be important information for health policy makers to better
49 understand the benefits of promoting adequate early life conditions on long-term tooth retention and
50 associated influences on quality of life and wellbeing of older populations. The need for public health
51 interventions focusing on early life circumstances^{47,48} and their importance for maintaining good oral
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2 health throughout the entire life course is emphasized.
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10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 **Acknowledgements** 18

19
20 The authors received no financial support and declare no potential conflicts of interest with respect to
21 the authorship and/or publication of this article. This paper uses data from SHARE Wave 5 release 1.0.0,
22 as of March 31st 2015 (DOI: 10.6103/SHARE.w5.100) or SHARE Wave 4 release 1.1.1, as of March
23 28th 2013 (DOI: 10.6103/SHARE.w4.111) or SHARE Waves 1 and 2 release 2.6.0, as of November
24 29th 2013 (DOI: 10.6103/SHARE.w1.260 and 10.6103/SHARE.w2.260) or SHARELIFE release 1.0.0,
25 as of November 24th 2010 (DOI: 10.6103/SHARE.w3.100). The SHARE data collection has been
26 primarily funded by the European Commission through the 5th Framework Programme (project QLK6-
27 CT-2001-00360 in the thematic programme Quality of Life), through the 6th Framework Programme
28 (projects SHARE-I3, RII-CT-2006-062193, COMPARE, CIT5- CT-2005-028857, and SHARELIFE,
29 CIT4-CT-2006-028812) and through the 7th Framework Programme (SHARE-PREP, N° 211909,
30 SHARE-LEAP, N° 227822 and SHARE M4, N° 261982). Additional funding from the U.S. National
31 Institute on Aging (U01 AG09740-13S2, P01 AG005842, P01 AG08291, P30 AG12815, R21
32 AG025169, Y1-AG-4553-01, IAG BSR06-11 and OGHA 04-064) and the German Ministry of
33 Education and Research as well as from various national sources is gratefully acknowledged (see
34 www.share-project.org for a full list of funding institutions)
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5 **Table legends**
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7 **Table 1:** Mean number of natural teeth by covariates
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9 **Table 2a:** Outcome of multivariable linear regressions for the number of natural teeth
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11 **Table 2b:** Outcome of Tobit regressions for the number of natural teeth (partial effects, valued at the sample
12 means of the covariates)
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Table 1: Mean number of natural teeth by covariates

	Number of teeth Mean (std.dev.)	N
Age		
...50 to 65 years old	18.4 (10.1)	25,081
...66 to 80 years old	18.4 (10.2)	23,570
...80 years and older	18.3 (10.2)	7,269
Sex		
...women	18.5 (10.2)	30,852
...men	18.3 (10.1)	25,068
Number of books in childhood household		
...25 or fewer	16.9 (10.4)	24,206
...26 or more	20.8 (9.1)	18,231
Childhood financial situation...		
...pretty well off	20.3 (9.5)	5,430
... about average	19.2 (9.8)	25,874
... poor	16.0 (10.5)	10,737
... it varied	18.2 (10.2)	790
# rooms per person in childhood household		
...fewer than 1	18.2 (10.1)	36,474
...1 or more	21.1 (9.0)	6,029
Childhood math skills were ...		
...much worse than peers	16.9 (10.5)	807
...worse than peers	17.8 (10.3)	4,716
...similar to peers	18.5 (10.1)	23,033
...better than peers	19.2 (9.8)	9,577
...much better than peers	19.3 (9.7)	4,190
Recent dental attendance (age 50+)		
...yes	21.0 (8.4)	32,282
...no	14.8 (11.1)	23,638
Current general health (age 50+) is ...		
...poor	13.1 (10.7)	4,328
...fair	15.4 (10.5)	14,590
...good	18.8 (9.8)	21,336
...very good	21.9 (8.5)	10,558
...excellent	22.8 (8.1)	5,108
Grip strength (in kg; dominant hand; age 50+)		
...less than 25 kg	15.9 (10.9)	15,674
...25 to less than 40kg	18.9 (9.9)	25,384
...40kg or more	20.2 (9.1)	14,862
Equivalentized income (age 50+)		
...1 st tertile (within-country income)	16.2 (10.6)	18,829
...2 nd tertile (within-country income)	18.8 (9.9)	17,375
...3 rd tertile (within-country income)	20.2 (9.4)	19,716
Educational attainment (ISCED scores)		
...(pre-)primary (ISCED scores 0 and 1)	18.3 (10.1)	8,260
...secondary (ISCED scores 2 and 3)	18.5 (10.1)	32,139
... post-secondary (ISCED scores 4-6)	18.3 (10.1)	15,521

Table 2a: Outcome of multivariable linear regressions for the number of natural teeth (regression coefficients)

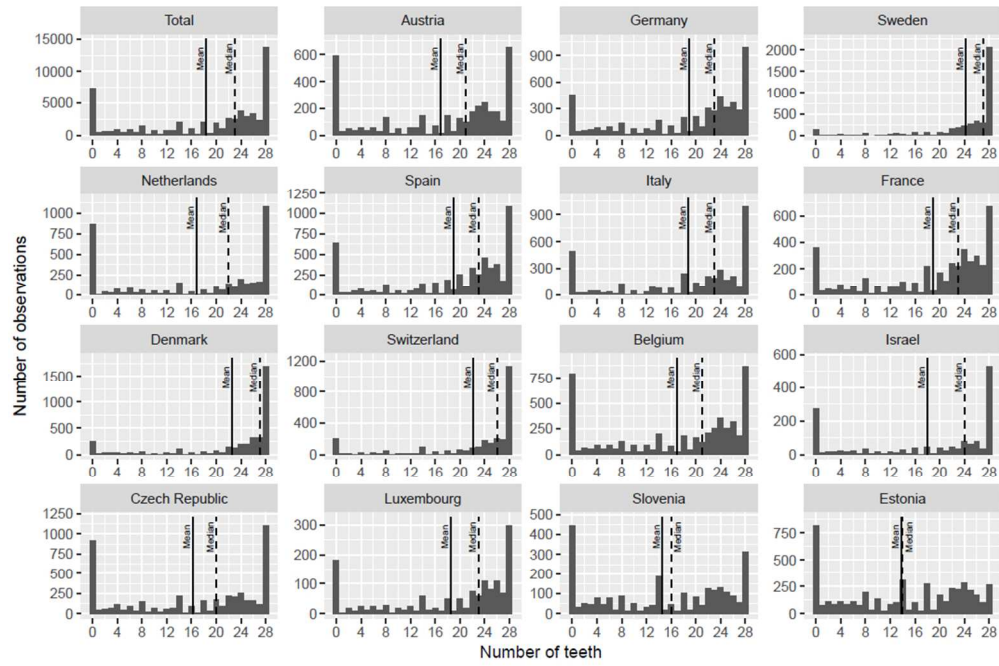
	Model A		Model B	
≤ 25 books in childhood household	(ref.)		(ref.)	
> 25 books in childhood household	2.10***	[1.91,2.29]	1.36***	[1.17,1.54]
Childhood financial situation...	(ref.)		(ref.)	
...pretty well off	(ref.)		(ref.)	
...about average	-0.22	[-0.48,0.04]	-0.09	[-0.34,0.16]
...poor	-1.03***	[-1.35,-0.71]	-0.56***	[-0.86,-0.25]
...it varied	-0.70*	[-1.37,-0.03]	-0.49	[-1.13,0.15]
# rooms per person in childhood household	1.01***	[0.77,1.24]	0.71***	[0.50,0.93]
Childhood math skills...	(ref.)		(ref.)	
...much worse than peers	(ref.)		(ref.)	
...worse than peers	1.11**	[0.39,1.84]	0.55	[-0.15,1.25]
...similar to peers	1.59***	[0.90,2.28]	0.74*	[0.08,1.41]
...better than peers	2.10***	[1.40,2.81]	0.93**	[0.25,1.61]
...much better than peers	1.98***	[1.24,2.71]	0.74*	[0.04,1.44]
No recent dental attendance (50+)			(ref.)	
Recent dental attendance (50+)			4.29***	[4.09,4.48]
General health			(ref.)	
...poor			(ref.)	
...fair			1.26***	[0.89,1.63]
...good			2.74***	[2.37,3.11]
...very good			4.13***	[3.73,4.52]
...excellent			3.99***	[3.56,4.42]
Grip strength (in kg; dominant hand)			0.08***	[0.07,0.09]
Income			(ref.)	
...lower tertile			(ref.)	
...middle tertile			1.00***	[0.78,1.21]
...upper tertile			1.23***	[1.02,1.44]
R-squared	0.2154		0.2840	
F-statistics	521.84		574.52	
Prob > F	<0.001		<0.001	
Number of observations	41,560		41,560	

Model A accounted for childhood influences, i.e. socioeconomic position (SEP) and cognitive skills; Model B additionally controlled for parameters which represent conditions at the time of interview (age 50+); 95% confidence intervals in parentheses; * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001; all models include control variables for age, sex, country dummies and a control variable for being born before the year 1946 or thereafter.

Table 2b: Outcome of Tobit regressions for the number of natural teeth (partial effects, valued at the sample means of the covariates)

	Model A		Model B	
≤ 25 books in childhood household	(ref.)		(ref.)	
> 25 books in childhood household	2.80***	[2.61,2.99]	1.25***	[1.07,1.42]
Childhood financial situation...				
...pretty well off	(ref.)		(ref.)	
...about average	-0.06	[-0.34,0.21]	-0.19	[-0.44,0.05]
...poor	-1.42***	[-1.74,-1.10]	-0.61***	[-0.90,-0.33]
...it varied	-1.08**	[-1.75,-0.42]	-0.65*	[-1.25,-0.05]
# rooms per person in childhood household	1.34***	[1.06,1.61]	0.78***	[0.56,0.99]
Childhood math skills...				
...much worse than peers	(ref.)		(ref.)	
...worse than peers	1.06**	[-0.36,1.75]	0.57	[-0.07,1.21]
...similar to peers	1.27***	[0.62,1.93]	0.72*	[0.11,1.32]
...better than peers	1.61***	[0.94,2.28]	0.83**	[0.22,1.45]
...much better than peers	1.35***	[0.65,2.04]	0.59	[-0.05,1.23]
No recent dental attendance (50+)			(ref.)	
Recent dental attendance (50+)			3.75***	[3.57,3.92]
General health				
...poor			(ref.)	
...fair			1.00***	[0.66,1.33]
...good			2.23***	[1.90,2.56]
...very good			3.70***	[3.34,4.06]
...excellent			3.69***	[3.28,4.10]
Grip strength (in kg; dominant hand)			0.07***	[0.06,0.08]
Income				
...lower tertile			(ref.)	
...middle tertile			0.91***	[0.71,1.11]
...upper tertile			1.22***	[1.03,1.42]
Number of observations	41,560		41,560	

Model A accounted for childhood influences, i.e. socioeconomic position (SEP) and cognitive skills; Model B additionally controlled for parameters which represent conditions at the time of interview (age 50+); 95% confidence intervals in parentheses; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$; all models include control variables for age, sex, country dummies and a control variable for being born before the year 1946 or thereafter; obs. summary: 5183 left-censored observations at number of teeth ≤ 0 , 25953 uncensored observations, 10424 right-censored observations at number of teeth ≥ 28 .



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