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0966 Impact of Children's Dental Aesthetics on the Family

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OBJECTIVES: To assess the impact of children's oral health on the family, and its associations to dental aesthetics. **METHODS:** A random sample of 549 families of 12-year-old Hong Kong children participated in the study. Primary-care-givers completed a questionnaire incorporating the 14-item Family Impact Scale (Locker et al. , 2002) and were asked about their overall satisfaction with their child's dental appearance. **RESULTS:** Five hundred and twenty-one of the questionnaires were usable (95%, 521/549). Impact of children's oral health on the family was immense: 49% (254) of the respondents reported that it affected their family in one or more ways, 33% (174) claimed it affected parent/family activities, 33% (173) reported that it affected parental emotions, 23% (120) reported it caused family conflicts and 16% (82) that it caused financial hardships. Forty-five percent of the parents were not satisfied with their children's dental aesthetics and predominantly because of the shape/ alignment of teeth (34%, 179). Dissatisfaction with shape/ alignment of teeth was associated with overall family impact ($P<0.001$), parent/family activities ($P<0.05$), parental emotions ($P<0.05$), family conflicts ($P<0.05$). **CONCLUSION:** Children's oral health has substantial impact on family life, and dental aesthetics is associated with such family impact.

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