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METADATA – CHILDREN HEALTH_ PREVENTION

Description	**Preventive dental care**: Percentage of beneficiaries of the Intermutualistic Agency who have at least 2 preventive dental visits in 2 different calendar years over a period of 3 calendar years [1].
Rationale	Children's oral health is an important component of their well-being. This includes brushing twice a day, visiting the dentist and avoiding sweets and sour drinks, especially in the evening [2]. To preserve children's oral health, the Office de la Naissance et de l'Enfance (ONE) recommends a visit to the dentist once a year from the age of 2 [3]. In Flanders, it is recommended to take a child to the dentist for the first time at the age of two [4]. In Belgium, dental treatment by a registered dentist is free until the age of 19.
Primary Data source	Intermutualistic Agency (IMA) 2012-2023
Indicator source	IMA Atlas [1]
Periodicity	Every year
Calculation, technical definitions and limitations	Preventive dental care is the prevalence of beneficiaries of the IMA who have at least 2 contacts with the dentist in 2 different years within a period of 3 calendar years (year x, year x-1, year x-2) to be broken down by age and increased allowance. The IMA database contains the Pharmanet and GZSS datasets, as well as socio-demographic data for all Belgian citizens with (compulsory) health insurance. Health insurance data cover nearly 100% of the population [1]. ***Limitations:*** The data only concern the Belgian population covered by compulsory health insurance. However, the figures are representative of the Belgian population, as 98% of Belgians are entitled to this insurance (i.e., compliant with compulsory health insurance) and have a known place of residence in the source data [1].
International comparability	- Availability: dental visits is being part of European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) - Comparability: The general coverage of the EHIS is the population aged 15 or over, unlike the IMA in which the population included is aged 0 or over. EHIS concerns self-reported data, while IMA describes the prevalence beneficiaries who have at least 2 preventive dental visits in 2 different calendar years over a period of 3 calendar years.

References

[1] Intermutualist Agency. 2022. IMA Atlas. Belgium. https://atlas.ima-aim.be/databanken/?rw=1&lang=nl

[2] Education Santé. Grande misère de la santé bucco-dentaire en Belgique - Éducation Santé. https://educationsante.be/grande-misere-de-la-sante-bucco-dentaire-en-belgique/.

[3] Office de la naissance et de l'enfance. Les dents. https://www.one.be/public/0-1-an/sante/les-dents/

[4] Solidaris-vlaanderen. 2022. Met je peuter bij de tandarst. https://www.solidaris-vlaanderen.be/blog/met-je-peuter-naar-de-tandarts