**Oral health problems facing refugees in Europe: a scoping review**

**Heba M. Al-Ibrahim and Eiad Zinah**

1Department of orthodontics, Damascus University, Damascus, Syria.

2Dental Public Health Department, University College London, London, UK.

**Abstract:**

Introduction: Europe has been experiencing a flow of refugees and asylum seekers driven by conflicts or poverty. Their oral health is often neglected despite its clear impact on quality of life.

Objective: To explore the status of oral health among refugees and asylum seekers groups by examining the

available literature and to determine which evidence exists regarding the problems they face in terms of oral

health.

Methods: The current paper followed PRISMA guidelines. A scoping review methodology was followed to retrieve 2911 records from five databases and grey literature. Twelve articles met the following inclusion criteria: experimental research concentrated on the oral and dental health of refugees and/or asylum seekers between 1995 and 2020 in English. Analysis was both descriptive and thematic, whilst a critical appraisal was applied using the Critical Appraisal Skills Program (CASP).

Results: Seven studies (58,3%) were quantitative, while five studies (41,6%) were qualitative. In general, the quality of most of the studies (83.3%) was good. Limited access to oral health care services was shown with a higher prevalence of oral diseases compared to the native populations of the host countries. Approaches to improve oral health have been implemented in some studies and have shown positive outcomes.

Conclusions: Oral health care strategies should consider the oral health problems facing refugees in Europe, and oral health promotion campaigns are essential to give adequate guidance on how to access oral health care in the host countries.

Keywords: Oral health, Dental caries, Periodontal disease, Refugees, Asylum seekers, Europe

**Biography of presenting author**

Dr. Al-Ibrahim studied Dentistry at the University of Aleppo, Syria and graduated as BDS in 2015. She received her MSC degree in orthodontics in 2021 at Damascus University with an honor degree (98.1%). She has worked as a clinician and a researcher for six years. She has published four research articles in indexed journals.

**Details of presenting author to be mentioned in the certificate:**

Name: Heba M. Al-Ibrahim

Affiliation: Damascus University

Country: Syria

**Other Details:**

Presentation Category: Poster Presentation

Session Name: Dental and Oral Health

Email: ortho.hiba.alibrahim991@hotmail.com

Alternative email: ortho.hiba.alibrahim991@gmail.com

Contact Number: 00963994475217

Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/heba-alibrahim-479165115/>

Recent Photograph

