
Occlusion and Caries Distribution in a 2-17 Year African-American Population. ELIZABETH B. BORTELL, D. D. S*, GEORGE P. THOMAS, D.D.S. Howard University College of Dentistry.

120 African-American children between the ages of two and seventeen were examined for evaluation of the molar and canine classification, the degree of overjet and overbite, the prevalence of crowding, dental midline discrepancies, open bit, crossbite, as well as the caries index. Children with systemic disorders affecting the dentition, and children with a history of orthodontic treatment were excluded. The purpose of this study was to determine the most common occlusal relationships and the caries index of a group of African-American children, and to determine if any differences exist in prevalence between dentition and gender groups. The data was categorized into primary, mixed, and permanent dentitions. 63.9% of the primary and mixed groups presented with mesial step occlusion, 34.7% exhibited flush terminal plane, and only 1.49% had distal step occlusion. 87% of the permanent and mixed dentition groups presented with Angle class I molar relationship, 7.8% with class II, and 5.2% with class III. Differences in the prevalence of crowding, anterior open bite, crossbite, dental midline deviation, and degree of overjet and overbite were seen among dentition groups, but not gender groups. However, differences in the prevalence of carious and filled teeth were seen between gender groups.