

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Matt Niner
+1.703.299.8084
media@iadr.org

***Journal of Dental Research* Publishes Study Analyzing the Worldwide Economic Effects of Oral Health Conditions**

Alexandria, VA – The International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (IADR) and the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR) have announced the publication of [a study in *Journal of Dental Research*](#) that examines the overall effects of oral health on global, regional, and national economies.

The recent WHO Oral Health Resolution and the subsequent WHO Global Oral Health Action Plan highlight the key relevance of providing information on the economic impacts of oral conditions. The purpose of this study was to provide updated estimates for the global, regional and country-level economic impacts of oral conditions in 2019. Extending previously established methods, dental expenditures (costs for treatments) and productivity losses for five oral conditions (caries in deciduous & permanent teeth, periodontitis, edentulism, other oral diseases) were estimated for the year 2019.

“These findings demonstrate the enormous global economic burden that arises from oral diseases due to the costs of treatment and losses in productivity,” said JDR Editor-in-Chief Nick Jakubovics. “Oral diseases must be included in the upcoming United Nations High-Level Meetings on Non-Communicable Diseases and Universal Health Coverage.”


The estimated total worldwide economic impacts of dental diseases in 2019 were \$710B, whereof \$387B (\$327B-\$404B) due to direct costs and \$323B (\$186B-\$460B) due to productivity losses for the five main oral conditions. Low Income countries spent an average of \$0.52 (\$0.22-\$0.96) per capita on dental care, while High Income countries spent an average of \$260 (\$257-\$268) per capita – a 500-fold difference. These findings suggest that the prevention and treatment of oral diseases continue to substantiate an enormous economic burden to individuals and society.

The comprehensiveness of estimates supersedes that of previous work as the primary information on direct costs was identified for a higher number of countries. The need for more and better routine reporting and monitoring of the economic impact of oral conditions is emphasized, particularly for the WHO Eastern Mediterranean and African regions. The relevance of such information is also highlighted by its inclusion in the first-ever WHO Global Oral Health Status Report and Global Strategy on Oral health 2023-2030. Given the persistently high economic burden of oral conditions, there is a key role for better prioritization of cost-efficient oral health programs as well as needs-responsive capacity planning.

About the *Journal of Dental Research*

The IADR/AADOCR *Journal of Dental Research* (JDR) is a multidisciplinary journal dedicated to the dissemination of new knowledge in all sciences relevant to dentistry and the oral cavity and associated

T +1.703.548.0066
F +1.703.548.1883
1619 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3406, USA
www.iadr.org • www.aadocr.org



structures in health and disease. The *JDR* Editor-in-Chief is Nicholas Jakubovics, Newcastle University, England. Follow the *JDR* on Twitter at [@JDentRes](https://twitter.com/JDentRes).

About IADR

The International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (IADR) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to drive dental, oral, and craniofacial research for health and well-being worldwide. IADR represents the individual scientists, clinician-scientists, dental professionals, and students based in academic, government, non-profit, and private-sector institutions who share our mission. Learn more at www.iadr.org.

About AADOCR

The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to drive dental, oral, and craniofacial research to advance health and well-being. AADOCR represents the individual scientists, clinician-scientists, dental professionals, and students based in academic, government, non-profit, and private-sector institutions who share our mission. AADOCR is the largest division of IADR. Learn more at www.aadocr.org.