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The impact of globalization on oral health in Moorea, French Polynesia V.1

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Kenechi Elvis Obiorah¹

¹University of California, Berkeley



Kenechi Elvis Obiorah

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We are still developing and optimizing this protocol

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Abstract

A literature and art review of oral health at the time of European contact and throughout written history and a survey on the oral health quality of native Pacific Islanders today to examine the effects of globalization more specifically the introduction of highly processed carbohydrates and sugars have influenced the oral health of Indigenous Pacific Islanders.

Image Attribution

Adelina Hanere

Materials

A truck

Documentation devices

Toothbrushes

TBD

Oral health quality and hygiene practices of native Pacific Islanders on Moorea, French Polynesia

- 1 Art pieces showing oral health quality (full set of teeth) will be compiled into a digital document. A literature review of journals and papers describing oral health quality from missionary/colonists/military accounts during the early contact period in the Pacific will be compiled aswell. Information on pre-contact forms of oral health hygiene practices will also be compiled.
- 2 Older native Pacific Islander participants will be surveyed additionally about the changes they've seen in terms of oral hygiene practices and oral health to further examine globalization's effects on oral health.

A digital collection of art pieces and literature describing/showing oral health quality of Native Pacific Islanders at early contact time.

- 3 On a "food-for-thought truck" data will be collected during dental consultations by Tahitian dentists and compiled to access the oral health quality of each patient. Cavities, gum diseases, severe tooth decay/dead teeth, and gum recession are the data points. Each oral health disease will be ranked from 1 to 5. This data will be scaled to a standard oral health quality expected for each participant's age range.
- 4 Diet information will also be collected, and separated into two major categories, a more traditional diet vs a more "Western diet". Of both diets, food types are to be accessed, foods high in refined sugar, high calcium/vitamin D foods, and foods rich in fluoride.
- 5 Then oral hygiene practices will be surveyed, the western standard is to brush at least twice a day and floss at least once. Other oral hygiene practices will be surveyed aswell: the use of chewing sticks, the use of picks, and the use of salt which have all been proven beneficial for oral health.