

## **REPORT ON ORAL HEALTH IN KENYA**

The Ministry of Health has released Kenya's first-ever oral health survey report 2015, pinpointing dental health issues affecting the population. This survey was conducted in conjunction with The University of Nairobi School of Dental Sciences and the Wrigley Company (EA)

The survey comes at a time when the country has been conducting health surveys for various diseases including malaria and tuberculosis.

The survey further revealed that children aged five years had a dental caries prevalence of 46.3 per cent while the overall fluorosis (the coloration of teeth due to water having higher levels of fluorine) among children was 41.7 per cent. In addition, the proportion of children who had never visited a dentist was 46.7 per cent.

Kenya's Oral Health Survey has revealed that three out of four children in Kenya suffer from gum bleeding due to poor oral hygiene practices.

The survey also showed that prevalence of gum bleeding among adults was equally high at 98.1 %. Only 72.3 % of the adults interviewed had visited a dentist before and 83 % had a dental related problem while 3.3 % had gone for routine dental checkup. Almost all (99.9 %) reported having one form of dental related problem in the previous year.

Findings from the survey, which was released at the weekend show that low frequency and effectiveness in brushing teeth is to blame for the high incidence of gum bleeding cases.

The survey was conducted between August and November 2014. A total of 2,298 children and 1,462 adults participated in the study.