

Self-reported

HALITOSIS (bad breath)

in HK adolescents: Prevalence and association with socio-demographic characteristics and self-rated health



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Background

Halitosis or bad breath is an understudied dental public health problem with adverse effects on social and mental health.



Objectives

- To assess the prevalence of self-reported halitosis in HK Chinese adolescents
- To investigate the association of halitosis with socio-demographic characteristics and self-rated health

Methods

- **Data source:** Hong Kong Student Obesity Surveillance (HKSOS) project.
- **33692 secondary school** participants in 2006-2007 completed questionnaire (mean age 14.8, 44.9% boys)
- **Question:** Health problems in past 30 days including **halitosis**.
- **Data Analysis:** Chi-Squared test for bivariate associations and logistic regression to calculate adjusted odds ratios(AOR).

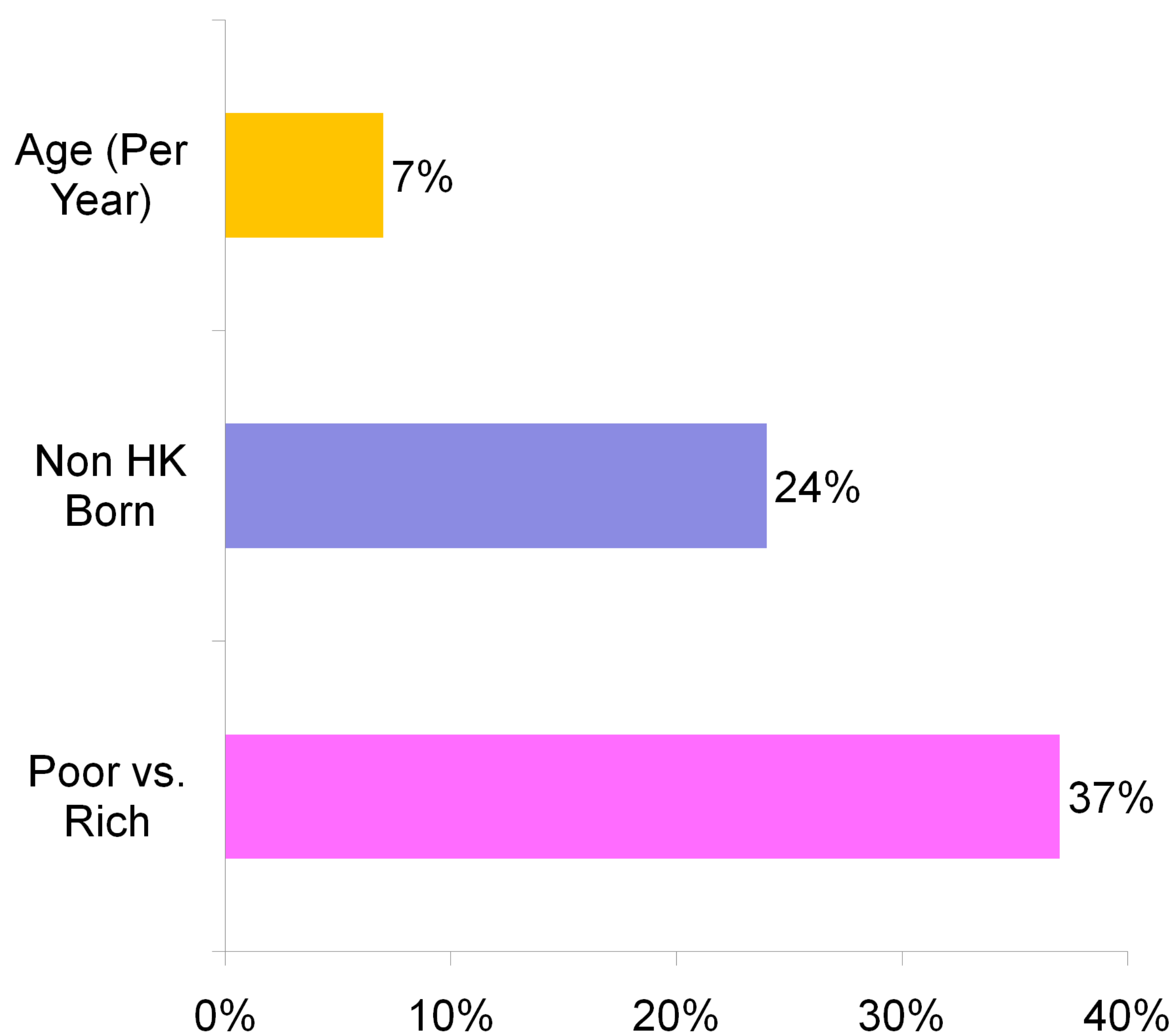
Socio-demographic Factors assessed:

- Place of birth
- Age (continuous variable)
- Sex
- Highest parental education
- Family structure
- Perceived family affluence

Results

✓ **1 in 20** Hong Kong Chinese adolescents reported **HALITOSIS**.

✓ Figure 1: Graph illustrating **EXCESS RISK** of halitosis with different socio-demographic factors



✓ Adolescents who reported **HALITOSIS** were **2** times as likely to report **poor or very poor self-rated health**.



Conclusion

- 5% of HK adolescents reported halitosis in past 30 days.
- Halitosis is associated with disadvantaged socio-demographic characteristics and poor self-rated health
- More detailed investigation on the risk factors and effects on HK adolescents are required.



Funding

University Research Committee, Strategic Research Theme on Public Health, University of Hong Kong