



# Access to Dental Care in Zanzibar Coastal Districts: Public Health Impact Analysis Over Three Years

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## Abstract

The Zanzibar Coastal Districts in Tanzania face significant challenges in accessing dental care, impacting public health outcomes. A mixed-method approach combining surveys, focus group discussions, and spatial analysis was employed to evaluate dental service utilization and its associated factors. Findings indicate that only 45% of the population in Zanzibar Coastal Districts visited a dentist annually, with higher utilization among urban residents compared to rural areas ( $p < 0.01$ ). Access to dental care remains suboptimal across the region, highlighting urgent needs for targeted interventions. Increased investment in dental infrastructure and community-led initiatives are recommended to improve access and promote oral health. Dental Access, Public Health, Zanzibar Coastal Districts, Utilization Patterns Treatment effect was estimated with  $\text{text}\{logit\}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta^T p X_i$ , and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan Africa, Dental Public Health, Mixed Methods, Access Disparities, Community Engagement, Oral Hygiene Education, Service Provision Models*

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