**SUMMARY**

**Introduction and goals:** Disabled children seem predisposed to oral pathologies, but many barriers hinder their access to adequate oral care. Our aim was to describe the socio-demographic characteristics, the level of oral hygiene pertaining to cavities and periodontal diseases in disabled children, and to evaluate their dental care requirements.

**Methodology:** This cross-sectional study went from October 2015 through May 2016, in two institutions in Yaounde, specialized in the management and promotion of disabled persons. Our subjects were aged 3 to 18 years, with an identified handicap for each. The written consents of the parents were gotten. Socio-demographic data and nature of disability were obtained. Then, a complete dental examination was performed. A p-value less than 0.05 was considered as significant.

**Results:** Our sample comprised 242 subjects. Mental retardation, Cerebral palsy and Visual deficiency were the most frequent handicaps: 25.2%, 15.3% and 14.5% respectively. Parodontopathies were found in 83.1% of cases, mostly gingivitis 72.6%. Tooth decay in 77.7% of patients with a DMF index of 3.51. Emergency requirements for dental care were evaluated as follows: 130 teeth to be extracted then replaced, and 83 teeth to undergo endodontic treatment.

**Conclusion:** Disabled children in our context, have significant poor level of oral hygiene as their attendance of oral health services is low. Extra efforts are mandatory at various levels in order to improve preventive and curative dental care in this social category.

**Key words;** Oral hygiene, dental cavities, periodontal diseases, clinical forms, disabled children.