Prevalence of salivary Streptococcus mutans in mothers and in their preschool children.

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OBJECTIVES: To establish the prevalence and possible relationship of oral Streptococcus mutans colonization in mother-child pairs. DESIGN AND SETTING: An analytical cross-sectional study was carried out at a well-baby evaluation clinic held at the Public Dental Clinic, Varberg, Sweden. SAMPLE AND METHODS: Two hundred preschool children, 100 of which were 18 months old and the remaining 100 were 3 years old, and their mothers attended the clinic. All mothers were interviewed and their children’s medical history, oral hygiene routines and dietary habits established. All children were clinically examined. The presence and level of S. mutans was estimated in the mother-child pairs with the aid of the Strip mutans chair-side test. RESULTS: Nearly 50% of mothers exhibited high levels of salivary S. mutans, prevalence among the 18-month- and 3-year-olds was 30% and 42%, respectively. A statistically significant (P