Signal-Tandmobiel® Study (STM)

**Keywords:** epidemiological study, longitudinal study, survival analysis, interval censored data, prediction models.

**Settings of the project:**

The Signal Tandmobiel® project was the result of a collaborative effort between university centers (oral health department, youth health department, Biostatistical center), school health care centers, dental association and industry. The main goal of the Signal Tandmobiel® project was the long-term follow-up of the oral health condition of schoolchildren between the ages of 7 and 12 years and the evaluation of an oral health promotion initiative. A representative sample of more than 5000 Flemish children, born in 1989, was annually screened for oral health problems and questioned about relevant oral health behaviors; they received oral health educational sessions. The collected data were used for cross-sectional and longitudinal epidemiologic analyses.

**Objectives:**

- Screening of oral health condition of Flemish children between ages of 7 and 12 years.
- Oral health promotion and education in school setting.
- Use of collected data for epidemiological purposes.

**Team:**

- Emmanuel Lesaffre (KULeuven, L-BioStat);
- Dominique Declerck (KULeuven, Dental School);
- Jackie Vanobbergen (Oral Health Promotion and Prevention, Flemish Dental Association);
- Karel Hoppenbrouwers (KULeuven, Youth health Department; Flemish Association for Youth Health Care);
- Luc Martens (UGent, Dental School);
- Peter Bottenberg (VUB, Dental School)

**Duration:** 1996 until 2002 (data collection period).

**Sponsor:** LeverElida/Unilever

**Statistical techniques used:**

- SAS was used for data management and analyses.
- R was used for statistical analyses.
- Logistic regression models were used to build prediction models.
- Survival analysis on interval censored data.
Publications and output


