

Table 4 Percentage of children aged 3, 6, 9 and 12 years who were caries-free by sex and area of residence in Islamic Republic of Iran

| Age group (years) | No. sampled | % of children caries-free | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|--------------|
| | | Total | Boys | Girls | Significance | Rural | Urban | Significance |
| 3 | 750 | 48 | 42 | 53 | $P < 0.05$ | 41 | 52 | $P < 0.05$ |
| 6 | 8725 | 11 ^a | 10 | 12 | $P < 0.05$ | 11 | 11 | NS |
| 9 | 8723 | 10 ^a | 9 | 11 | $P < 0.05$ | 11 | 9 | $P < 0.05$ |
| 12 | 748 | 32 ^a | 32 | 31 | NS | 35 | 29 | $P < 0.05$ |

^aBoth permanent and deciduous dentition.
NS = not significant.