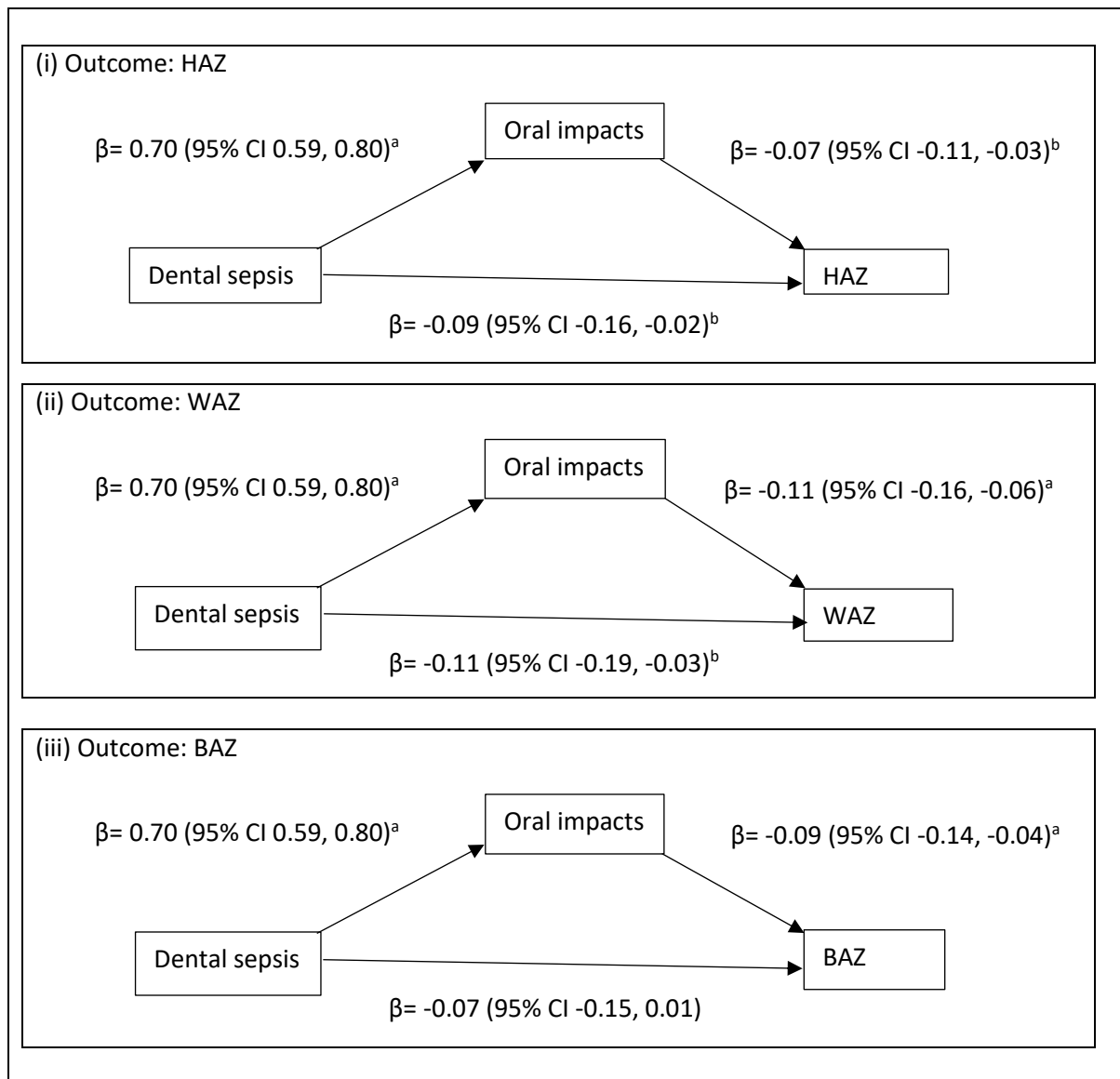


Supplementary Figure 1. Path diagram of the mediation models indicating the influence of dental caries on anthropometric outcomes: HAZ, WAZ and BAZ accounting for the mediator variable of oral impacts (SOHO-5 score). *Note.* Estimate of indirect effect: HAZ= -0.18 (-0.37, 0.00), WAZ= -0.30 (95% CI -0.05, -0.01)^b, BAZ = -0.03 (95% CI -0.05, -0.00)^c

(^ap<0.001, ^bp<0.01, ^cp<0.05; structural equation modelling)



Supplementary Figure 2. Path diagram of the mediation models indicating the influence of dental sepsis on anthropometric outcomes: HAZ, WAZ and BAZ accounting for the mediator variable of oral impacts (SOHO-5 score). *Note.* Estimate of indirect effect: HAZ= -0.05 (-0.08, -0.02)^b, WAZ= -0.07 (95% CI -0.11, -0.04)^a, BAZ = -0.06 (95% CI -0.10, -0.03)^b

(^a $p < 0.001$, ^b $p < 0.01$, ^c $p < 0.05$; structural equation modelling)

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1: Association between dental decay and HAZ, WAZ and BAZ and the potential role of oral impacts (N= 715)

Outcomes	Variables	Categories	Model 1 Regression coefficient (95% CI)	Model 2 Regression coefficient (95% CI)	Model 3 Regression coefficient (95% CI)
HAZ	Dental decay* (ref: decay- free)	Mild	-0.30 (-0.55,0.05) ^c	-0.11 (-0.35, 0.12)	-0.12 (-0.36, 0.12)
		Moderate	-0.49 (-0.77, -0.24) ^a	-0.19 (-0.43, 0.05)	-0.19 (-0.46, 0.07)
		Severe	-1.11 (-1.42, -0.79) ^a	-0.48 (-0.80, -0.16) ^b	-0.49 (-0.84, -0.14) ^b
WAZ	Dental decay* (ref: decay- free)	Mild	-0.48 (-0.78, -0.18) ^b	-0.24 (-0.52, 0.03)	-0.22 (-0.51, 0.07)
		Moderate	-0.73 (-1.03, -0.43) ^a	-0.36 (-0.64, -0.07) ^c	-0.32 (-0.62, -0.01) ^c
		Severe	-1.42(-1.80, -1.04) ^a	-0.67 (-1.05, -0.29) ^b	-0.62 (-1.03, -0.21) ^b
BAZ	Dental decay* (ref: decay- free)	Mild	-0.41 (-0.71, -0.11) ^b	-0.25 (-0.54, 0.04)	-0.21 (-0.51, 0.09)
		Moderate	-0.62 (-0.92, -0.32) ^a	-0.36 (-0.66, -0.06) ^c	-0.30 (-0.62, 0.02)
		Severe	-1.05 (-1.42, -0.67) ^a	-0.53 (-0.93, -0.14) ^b	-0.45 (-0.88, -0.03) ^c

Model 1: Unadjusted analysis (outcome+ dental decay)

Model 2: Model 1 + socio-economic variables (maternal education+ family income) +setting+ birth weight, childhood disease

Model 3: Model 2 + oral impacts (Dichotomized SOHO-5)

^ap<0.001; multiple linear regression

^bp<0.01; multiple linear regression

^cp<0.05; multiple linear regression

* Active dental decay (only d+D component of the dmft+DMFT)

Supplementary Table 2 (a): Association between dental caries and HAZ, WAZ and BAZ and the potential role of eating difficulty (Coefficients with 95% CIs) (N= 715)

Outcomes	Exposure	Categories	Model 1 Regression coefficient (95% CI)	Model 2 Regression coefficient (95% CI)	Model 3 Regression coefficient (95% CI)
HAZ	Dental caries (ref: caries- free)	Mild	-0.22 (-0.49,0.04)	-0.07 (-0.32,0.17)	-0.09 (-0.36, 0.18)
		Moderate	-0.54 (-0.79, -0.29) ^a	-0.24 (-0.48, 0.00)	-0.26 (-0.56, 0.03)
		Severe	-0.97 (-1.26, -0.67) ^a	-0.40 (-0.69, -0.10) ^b	-0.41 (-0.76, -0.07) ^c
WAZ	Dental caries (ref: caries- free)	Mild	-0.34 (-0.65, -0.03)	-0.16 (-0.45, 0.13)	-0.08 (-0.39, 0.24)
		Moderate	-0.80 (-1.10, -0.50) ^a	-0.43 (-0.72, -0.15) ^b	-0.30 (-0.65, 0.04)
		Severe	-1.27(-1.62, -0.92) ^a	-0.59 (-0.94, -0.24) ^b	-0.44 (-0.85, 0.03) ^c
BAZ	Dental caries (ref: caries- free)	Mild	-0.28 (-0.60, 0.03) ^b	-0.16 (-0.46, 0.14)	-0.02 (-0.35, 0.31)
		Moderate	-0.68 (-0.98, -0.38) ^a	-0.43 (-0.72, -0.13) ^b	-0.21 (-0.57, 0.15)
		Severe	-0.96 (-1.31, -0.61) ^a	-0.50 (-0.87, -0.13) ^b	-0.26 (-0.68, 0.16)

Model 1: Unadjusted analysis

Model 2: Model 1 + socio-economic variables (maternal education+ family income)+ setting+ birth weight, childhood disease;

Model 3: Model 2 + prevalence of eating difficulty

^ap<0.001; multiple linear regression

^bp<0.01; multiple linear regression

^cp<0.05; multiple linear regression

Supplementary Table 2 (b) Association between dental sepsis and HAZ, WAZ and BAZ and the potential role of eating difficulty (Coefficients with 95% CIs) (N= 715)

Outcomes	Exposure	Categories	Model 1 Regression coefficient (95% CI)	Model 2 Regression coefficient (95% CI)	Model 3 Regression coefficient (95% CI)
HAZ	Dental sepsis (ref: no sepsis: pufa+PUFA=0)	pufa+PUFA \geq 1	-0.60 (-0.79, -0.40) ^a	-0.23 (-0.42, -0.03) ^c	-0.22 (-0.44, -0.00) ^c
WAZ	Dental sepsis (ref: pufa+PUFA=0)	pufa+PUFA \geq 1	-0.78 (-1.02, -0.55) ^a	-0.33(-0.56, -0.10) ^b	-0.22 (-0.48, 0.03)
BAZ	Dental sepsis (ref: pufa+PUFA=0)	pufa+PUFA \geq 1	-0.60 (-0.84, -0.37) ^a	-0.29 (-0.53, -0.05) ^c	-0.12 (-0.38, 0.14)

Model 1: Unadjusted analysis

Model 2: Model 1 + socio-economic variables (maternal education+ family income)+ setting+ birth weight, childhood disease;

Model 3: Model 2 + prevalence of eating difficulty

^ap<0.001; multiple linear regression

^bp<0.01; multiple linear regression

^cp<0.05; multiple linear regression

Supplementary Table 3: The role of eating difficulty as a mediator on the association between dental caries and sepsis and HAZ, WAZ and BAZ (Coefficients with 95% CIs for direct, indirect and total influence)

		Outcomes					
		HAZ	%	WAZ	%	BAZ	%
		Coefficient (95% CI)		Coefficient (95% CI)		Coefficient (95% CI)	
Dental caries	Direct	-0.07 (-0.11, -0.03) ^a	64.1	-0.08 (-0.13, -0.04) ^a	56.1	-0.05 (-0.10, -0.01) ^c	47.9
	Indirect via oral impacts	-0.04 (-0.06, -0.02) ^a	35.9	-0.06 (-0.09, -0.04) ^a	43.9	-0.06 (-0.09, -0.03) ^a	52.1
	Total	-0.11 (-0.15, -0.08) ^a		-0.15 (-0.19, -0.11) ^a		-0.11 (-0.15, -0.07) ^a	
Dental sepsis	Direct	-0.09 (-0.16, -0.02) ^b	44.7	-0.06 (-0.14, 0.01)	35.1	-0.03 (-0.11, 0.05)	23.9
	Indirect via oral impacts	-0.05 (-0.08, -0.02) ^b	55.3	-0.12 (-0.16, -0.08) ^a	64.9	-0.10 (-0.14, -0.06) ^a	76.1
	Total	-0.14 (-0.20, -0.08) ^a		-0.18 (-0.26, -0.11) ^a		-0.14 (-0.21, -0.06) ^a	

(^ap<0.001, ^bp<0.01, ^cp<0.05; Structural Equation Models)