**Decayed-Missing-Filled Teeth index (DMFT):** An irreversible index used to measure past and present caries experience of a population with permanent teeth. D indicates a carious tooth; M indicates a tooth missing because of caries; F indicates a filled tooth.

The deft index, a variation of the DMFT, is used to measure observable caries experience in primary teeth. The d and f symbols are the same as in the DMFT. However, e indicates need for extraction, and missing teeth are not considered. A tooth that meets the criteria for both d and f is considered one decayed tooth. The deft does not take into account teeth that have been extracted or exfoliated because of past caries experiences.

**Root Caries Index (RCI):** A method for reporting root caries that measures the severity of disease and delineates the true intraoral population at risk (the denominator).

### Procedures for use

1. DMFT count = \( \frac{\text{Total DMFT}}{\text{Number of people examined}} \)
   (indicates number of teeth with history of decay)

2. Total deft = \( \frac{\text{Total DMFT}}{\text{Number of children examined}} \)
   (indicates observable caries experience)

3. FNM = \( \frac{F}{\text{Total DMFT}} \)
   (indicates treatment required for decay (filling needs met))

4. Percent of decayed teeth = \( \frac{\text{Total DMFT}}{\text{Number of people examined}} \)
   (indicates the treatment required for unmet filling needs)

5. Percent of missing teeth = \( \frac{M}{\text{Total DMFT}} \)
   (indicates the number of teeth lost by decay)

6. Average D, M, or F individual = \( \frac{D, M, \text{ or } F}{\text{Number of people examined}} \)

Only root surfaces exposed to the oral environment are at risk; the data are recorded as follows:

\[
\frac{(R-D) + (R-F) \times 100}{(R-D) + (R-F) + (R-N)} = \text{RCI}
\]

- **R - D** = Root surface with decay
- **R - F** = Root surface that is filled
- **R - N** = Root surface that is sound

Scoring is relatively straightforward. Four surfaces of the root are evaluated: mesial, distal, facial, and lingual.

### Interpretation

General: indicates cumulative caries experience, total DMF score difficult to determine, specific treatment needs or experiences.

Rests upon the assumption that gingival recession is a necessary antecedent condition before root canes can develop and that gingival recession must be evident at the time of examination.