ORAL HYGIENE KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, PRACTICES AND CARIES EXPERIENCE AMONG FEMALE STUDENTS IN MAKUENI DISTRICT. A

SUMMARY
Background
Dental Caries is a major global concern due to its high prevalence and contribution to tooth loss in both children and adults. There is still inadequate information on caries experience and oral hygiene practices among the people from developing countries and Kenya in particular.

Objective
To describe the level of knowledge, attitude, oral hygiene practices and caries experience among female secondary school students.

Study design
This will be a descriptive cross sectional study using school based study groups.

Setting
The study will be conducted in Makueni girls' high school, located in the remote parts of Makueni district.

Material and Methods
A sample of two hundred and seventeen randomly selected students will be interviewed on their knowledge of oral hygiene, attitude towards oral hygiene and oral hygiene practices using self-administered questionnaires. They will then be examined for the presence of dental caries and teeth filled or extracted due to caries and the findings recorded in a WHO clinical examination form.

Data analysis
All collected data will be analyzed using SPSS whereby caries experience will be computed. The results will be presented in form of tables, pie charts and bar graphs.

Benefits of the study
The results obtained will be used to make the necessary recommendations, aimed at enhancing the level of knowledge, attitude and oral health practices among this group of students, in order to decrease their caries experience. It will also be Partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of BDS.