


EPIDEMIOLOGY (COHORT STUDY
OR CASE-CONTROL STUDY)

More teeth in more elderly: Periodontal treatment needs in Germany 1997–2030

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Abstract**Objective:** With more teeth retained for longer in an ageing population, population-wide periodontal treatment needs may increase. We assessed and projected periodontal treatment needs from 1997 to 2030 in Germany.**Methods:** Partial-mouth probing-pocket depths (PPDs) from repeated waves (1997, 2005, 2014) of the nationally representative German Oral Health Studies were transformed into full-mouth PPDs via decision-tree-based ensemble-modelling. In line with German healthcare-regulations, teeth with PPD \geq 4 mm were regarded as needing periodontal treatment. Weighted means were interpolated cross-sectionally by fitting spline-curves and then regressed longitudinally 1997–2030.**Results:** In 1997, younger adults (35–44 years old) had a mean of 7.4 teeth needing treatment (overall 93.8 million teeth); this decreased to 4.8 teeth (47.3 million teeth) in 2014. For 2030, we project 3.2 teeth (33.7 million teeth). In seniors, an increase was recorded (1997: 4.5 teeth, 33.5 million teeth; 2014: 7.5 teeth, 63.4 million teeth); this is expected to continue until 2030 (to 12.2 teeth, 140.8 million teeth). The cumulative number of teeth needing treatment increased from 2000 (355 million) to 2015 (365 million), and will increase further to 2030 (464 million).**Conclusions:** Population-wide periodontal treatment needs may increase until 2030, mainly in the elderly. Concepts for addressing, these growing needs are required.**KEYWORDS**

cross-sectional study, demography, epidemiology, health services research, periodontitis

1 | INTRODUCTION

Periodontal diseases, that is gingivitis and periodontitis, are among the most prevalent diseases of humankind, with severe periodontitis (defined as having probing-pocket depths PPDs \geq 6 mm) being the sixth most prevalent disease worldwide, affecting nearly 800 million individuals by 2016 (Kassebaum et al., 2017). Untreated periodontitis leads to tooth loss and, with it, masticatory, phonetic, aesthetic

and social impairment; periodontitis is also associated with various co-morbidities like diabetes (Tonetti, Jepsen, Jin, & Otomo-Corgel, 2017). The direct and indirect costs of periodontitis are substantial (Righolt, Jevdjevic, Marcenés, & Listl, 2018).

In many high-income countries, teeth are retained for longer given decreased rates of tooth loss in younger adults and seniors (Frencken et al., 2017). In parallel, populations are significantly ageing. In Germany, for example, today's 65-year-olds and older

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comprise 22% of the population (17.9 of 81.2 millions); in 2030, this number will be 28% (21.8 of 79.2 millions) and in 2040, even 31% (23.2 of 76.0 millions) (deStatis 2018). With more teeth retained in this growing age group, the absolute number of teeth at risk for periodontitis is increasing. Shifts in both morbidity and demography can be expected to significantly alter periodontal treatment needs. Assessing treatment needs on individual level (e.g., the mean number of teeth needing treatment in an individual) and combining these estimates with population data at different time points allows to capture both disease and population dynamics jointly. These integrated treatment needs data are relevant on multiple levels: (a) For allocating resources in both research and health services; (b) for guiding future dental education, (c) for assisting diagnostics, as knowledge on how often treatment needs are present in different age groups will improve diagnostic accuracy, (d) for dentists in developing a practice profile and business plan based on past, present and future needs for dental services.

In Germany and within the statutory insurance, which covers 89% of the population (Gesundheitsberichtserstattung 2018), treatment needs are assessed using probing-pocket depths (PPDs) (KZBV 2017); such treatment needs should not be confused with periodontitis prevalence or extent (Holtfreter et al., 2015; Page & Eke, 2007). The German Oral Health Studies (Deutsche Mundgesundheitsstudien, DMS) are nationally representative, multi-centre, cross-sectional studies, conducted in 1997, 2005 and 2014, which assessed PPDs and hence can be used to assess how treatment needs have changed with time, and to also project treatment needs in the future. We aimed to assess and project periodontal treatment needs on both individual and population level from 1997 to 2030 in Germany.

2 | MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1 | Data source and participants

Data from three waves of DMS were used; DMS III from 1997, DMS IV from 2005 and DMS V from 2014. DMS involve stratified multi-stage cross-sectional, nationwide probability samples of the civilian German population, with clinical and socio-epidemiological examinations in different age cohorts (12 years old, 35–44 years old, 65–74 years old, and for DMS V also 75–100 years old). The sampling design, data collection protocols and data availability can be found elsewhere (Jordan & Micheelis, 2016; Micheelis & Reich, 1999; Micheelis & Schiffner, 2006).

Study participants were drawn from local residents' registration offices in 90 randomly selected communities (sample points) using a cluster-random sampling stratified for regions and areas of urbanization. A disproportional sample point selection was performed with 60 study sample points in the Western federal states of Germany and 30 study sample points in the Eastern states.

For the DMS III, 3,065 participants were included (response rate of 63.6%); for DMS IV and V, these numbers were 4,631 (63.1%) and 4,609 (50.1%), respectively. Empirical non-responder analyses were

Clinical Relevance

Scientific rationale for the study: Evaluating time trends and projecting future treatment needs are relevant for clinicians and resource allocation. We assessed treatment needs in Germany, capturing both disease and population dynamics over time using nationally representative data.

Principal findings: In younger adults, periodontal treatment needs have moderately declined since 1997 and are expected to decline further in the future. In individuals aged >51 years, treatment needs may increase substantially. Given the demographic population shift, a higher overall population-level treatment need is expected in the future.

Practical implications: Health services and workforce planning should address the increasing periodontal treatment needs in Germany.

conducted to compare the socio-dental characteristics of responders with the target population according to gender, educational level, dental visiting patterns, and dental/prosthetic status. Non-response bias was found to be minimal (Supporting Information Appendix Table S1). The study was ethically approved, as were all data collection protocols. All participants completed written informed consent.

2.2 | Periodontal examinations and treatment needs

The dental examinations and the socio-scientific survey were carried out at the local sample points. To ensure reproducibility, interviewers and dental investigators were trained and calibrated by experts and multiple reliability checks were performed throughout the field phase, details can be found in Supporting Information Appendix Table S2.

Dental examinations were performed by four teams working in parallel; each team consisted of one dentist, one interviewer and one contact person. Periodontal assessment was performed according to different protocols throughout the DMS waves of which a partial-mouth recording was the common denominator with two sites (mesio-vestibular and mid-vestibular) from the following index teeth: 17, 16, 11, 44, 46 and 47. If there was a missing index tooth, we registered that and considered that in full-mouth estimations as described below. PPD was measured using a WHO probe (PCP 11.5B, HuFriedy, Tuttlingen) and was noted in 1 mm increments (hence, the threshold of treatment needs emerging was 4.0 mm in the present study, while according to German regulations it is 3.5 mm). The values were rounded mathematically. The maximum probing pressure was 0.2 N. Making contact with the tooth, the WHO periodontal probe was inserted in parallel to the tooth axis into the sulcus or pocket and the distance from the gingival margin to the sulcus base or pocket base was determined at the measurement sites per index tooth.

Our outcome parameter was the number of teeth with PPD ≥ 4 mm, these teeth are regarded in need for periodontal treatment according the German statutory healthcare, where only PPDs are used to decide periodontal treatment needs. We also determined the number of cases with ≥ 4 teeth with PPD ≥ 4 mm, as within the described German healthcare, these are considered “periodontitis patients”, who are managed within a systematic concept of treatment planning, pre-treatment phase, active periodontal treatment involving scaling and root-planing (with or without access surgery) and post-surgical control. In cases with only 1–3 teeth with PPD ≥ 4 mm, these are not managed within such systematic concept, but using scaling and root planning only (KZBV 2017).

Further recorded clinical parameters were tooth loss, caries lesions, restorations (i.e., the components of the DMFT index), prosthodontic status, and developmental and acquired dental hard tissue defects, based on 28 teeth (third molars were excluded). A paper-based questionnaire was completed by the subjects before the clinical examination, comprising questions on oral hygiene habits/prosthesis hygiene, utilization of dental services, questions on childhood and life course, smoking habits, and social demographics including education, income, place of residence and place of birth.

2.3 | Missing data

Missing predictor variables occurred very rarely (<6% of cases). We imputed missing values using k-nearest neighbour imputation (Andridge & Little, 2010) with $k = 5$ and the Euclidean distance as distance metric. Before applying k-nearest neighbour imputation, categorical features were one-hot encoded. Both categorical and numerical features were centred and scaled.

2.4 | Prediction of full-mouth recordings

For the transformation of partial-mouth to full-mouth PPD recordings, we applied a two-staged modelling approach using extreme gradient boosting, a decision-tree based ensemble method applicable for classification and regression (Chen & Guestrin, 2016). In the first step, we modelled patients as having or not having any teeth with PPD ≥ 4 mm (classification task). In the second step, we predicted the number of teeth with PPD ≥ 4 mm for each subject in the data set (regression task). The training data set constituted of 199 subjects, drawn for DMS V, for whom full-mouth and partial-mouth recordings were available. We preselected predictor variables based on domain knowledge and data availability. The following 13 variables were used: (1) Year of birth, (2) age in years, (3) sex, (4) educational level (three categories), (5) income (four categories), (6) smoking status (three categories), (7) number of missing teeth, (8) number of filled teeth, (9) number of decayed teeth, (10) number of teeth with PPD ≥ 4 mm (partial mouth, at maximum six teeth with two sites), (11) number of teeth with PPD = 4–5 mm (partial mouth), (12) number of teeth

with PPD ≥ 6 mm (partial mouth), (13) number of teeth examined for partial-mouth assessment (1 to 6, accounting for teeth missing and hence not being assessed). Model parameters were obtained by applying three-times repeated fivefold cross-validation for 24,000 parameter combinations (classification) and 100,000 parameter combinations (regression) using random search (Claesen & De Moor, 2015). The model parameters for classification were optimized for the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC); parameters for regression were optimized for root mean square error (RMSE). Using the best performing model parameter configuration, predictions for the number of teeth with PPD ≥ 4 mm were made for young adults (35–44 years old) and young seniors (65–74 years old). Details can be found in the appendix (Supporting Information Figures S1–S3). Based on these predictions, 95% confidence intervals were obtained by bootstrapping, using 10,000 bootstrap samples. Modelling, data preparation and visualization was done using the R package caret, and the Python packages Numpy, Pandas and Matplotlib.

2.5 | Cross-sectional imputation

In the three waves of the DMS, subject data were available for age cohorts 35–44 years and 65–74 years. We computed the weighted mean age for each age cohort and DMS wave, and both the mean number of teeth and cases with periodontal treatment need. For age groups not sampled by the DMS, we interpolated cross-sectionally by fitting a piecewise cubic polynomial spline (Akima, 1970). A boundary condition of zero was set for 12-year-olds.

2.6 | Longitudinal imputation

We modelled the non-linear pattern of the mean number of teeth and cases with periodontal treatment need per age group longitudinally for the period 1997 to 2030 by applying log-linearization and then fitting a linear regression model (for teeth) and a quadratic regression model (for cases). Thereafter, we applied exponentiation to reproduce the non-linear pattern. The fit of this imputation (based on partial-mouth recordings) was reasonable (Supporting Information Figure S4). Note that we aimed to assess population-level treatment needs; edentate individuals were hence included.

2.7 | Population-level estimates

Number of teeth and cases for each age group and year were combined with recorded (1997–2015) and predicted population estimates (2020–2030) to determine the overall absolute number (Statistisches Bundesamt 2012). We used the so-called G1-L1-W2 scenario prediction model, assuming that fertility will remain nearly constant at the level of 1.4 children per woman (G1), that life expectancy will moderate increase to 84.8 years for men and 88.8 for women until 2060 (L1), and that until 2021 the migration balance decreases to 200,000 persons per year, and remains constant thereafter (W2) (deStatis 2015). An alternative prediction model (V2A),

TABLE 1 Mean number of teeth with periodontal treatment needs (PPD \geq 4 mm) per individual

Strata	Age group	Category/Level	DMS III (1997)	DMS IV (2005)	DMS V (2014)
All	35 to 44-years-olds	-	7.36	6.34	4.76
	65 to 74-years-olds	-	4.54	5.99	7.52
Educational level	35 to 44-years-olds	Low	8.57	8.24	6.04
		Medium	7.10	7.21	4.6
		High	6.35	4.48	3.36
	65 to 74-years-olds	Low	3.92	5.34	7.21
		Medium	4.84	6.84	7.37
		High	7.04	8.17	8.48
Sex	35 to 44-years-olds	Male	8.59	7.72	5.26
		Female	6.20	5.60	3.46
	65 to 74-years-olds	Male	5.12	6.80	8.62
		Female	3.81	5.17	6.69
Smoking	35 to 44-years-olds	Never smoker	5.98	5.15	3.45
		Former smoker	7.01	6.53	4.42
		Current smoker	8.98	8.26	5.59
	65 to 74-years-olds	Never smoker	4.34	5.78	7.79
		Former smoker	4.99	6.63	7.69
		Current smoker	3.42	5.77	6.38

Note. Estimates are based on imputed full-mouth numbers of teeth. Edentate individuals are included.

accounting for the recently increased birth rates (to 1.5 children) and higher migration into Germany (W2015), was additionally used, but yielded very similar overall results (see Supporting Information Figures S5 and S6).

3 | RESULTS

The characteristics of the three waves of the DMS are displayed in Table 1. The mean number of teeth with periodontal treatment needs has decreased steadily in adults (35–44 years old) between 1997 (7.36 teeth) and 2014 (4.76 teeth). Projected on all individuals in this age group, a decrease from 93.8 million teeth in 1997 to 47.3 million teeth in 2014 was noted. We expect a further decrease in the mean number of teeth in need of treatment in 2030 (to 3.15) (Figure 1a,b), which means a decrease to 33.7 million teeth in all individuals of this age group (Table 2). In contrast, seniors bear an increasing number of teeth per individual (1997: 4.54, 2014: 7.52 teeth) (Figure 1a,b). Projected to all individuals in this age group, an increase from 33.5 million teeth in 1997 to 63.4 million teeth in 2014 was estimated (Table 2). We expect a further increase in the mean number of teeth in need of treatment in 2030 (to 12.23), which means an increase to 140.9 million teeth in all individuals of this age group (Figure 1a,b, Table 2). Thus, treatment needs have decreased in those aged 51 years or below, and increased in groups older than that; this development is expected to continue to 2030. The cumulative number of teeth in need of treatment has increased from 2000

(355.2 million) to 2015 (364.5 million), and is expected to increase further to 2030 (464.4 million) (Figure 1c).

The prevalence of cases in need of periodontal treatment in adults (35–44 years old) has decreased steadily between 1997 (74%) and 2014 (37%) (Figure 2a,b), or 9.4 million cases in 1997 and 3.7 million cases in 2014 (Table 2). We expect a further decrease in the prevalence of cases in need of periodontal treatment in 2030 (to 22%), which means a decrease to 2.4 million cases in this age group. In contrast, the prevalence of cases in seniors has increased (1997: 56% 2014: 80%) (Figure 2a,b). Projected on all individuals in this age group, this was an increase from 4.1 million cases in 1997 to 6.8 million in 2014 (Table 2). We expect a minimal decrease to 76% in 2030 (or 8.8 million cases). The cumulative number of cases in need of treatment has decreased from 2000 (39.2 million) to 2015 (34.9 million), and is expected to decrease further to 2030 (30.9 million) (Figure 2c).

4 | DISCUSSION

In Germany, as in many high-income countries, populations are rapidly ageing; individuals aged 60 years or above are the only growing age group, while younger age groups shrink (deStatis 2018). Combining these population data with epidemiological data allows to quantify and contrast overall treatment needs in a country over time. The data from the present study will inform dental services planning in Germany.

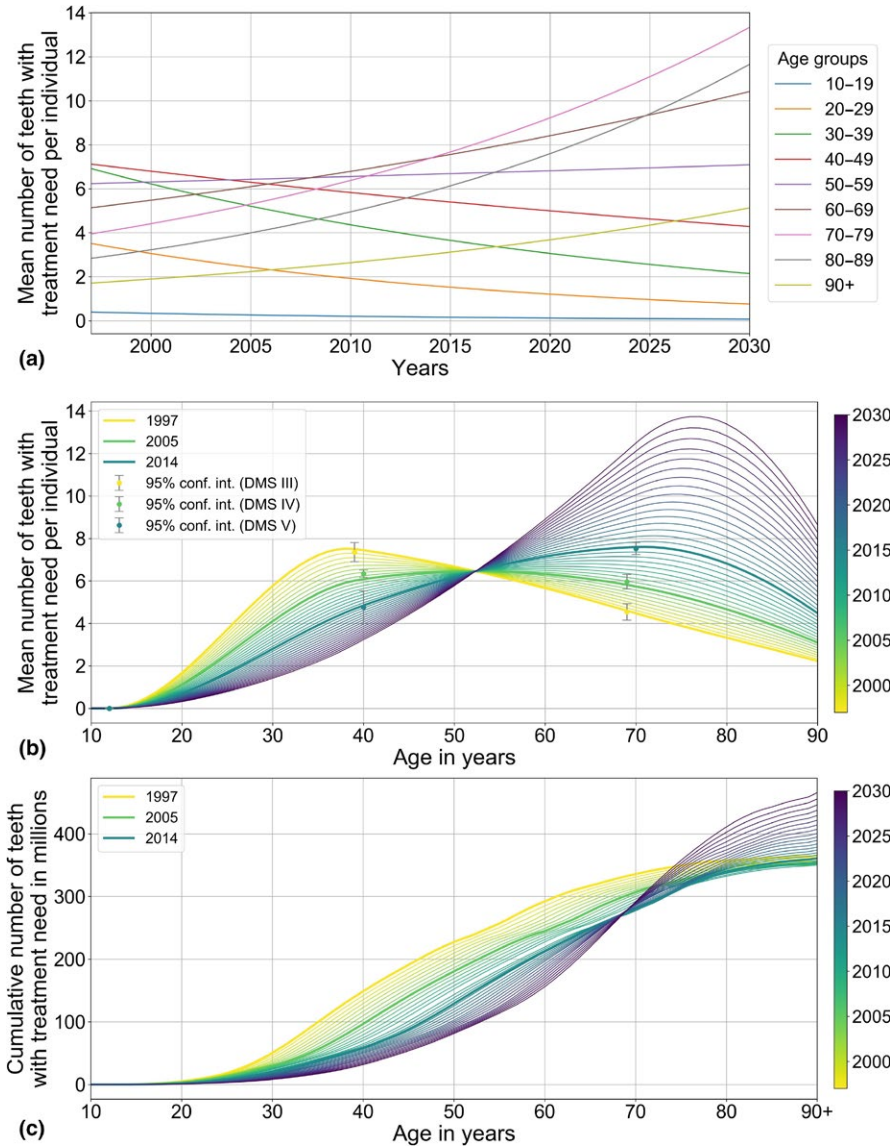


FIGURE 1 Number of teeth in need for periodontal treatment (PPD ≥ 4 mm). Estimates are based on imputed full-mouth numbers of teeth. Edentate individuals are included. (a) Mean number of teeth with treatment need in different age groups between 1997 and 2030. (b) Mean number of teeth with treatment need at different ages in different years between 1997 and 2030. (c) The cumulative number of teeth (in millions) with treatment need between 1997 and 2030

TABLE 2 Mean number of teeth with periodontal treatment needs (PPD ≥ 4 mm) and cases (individuals >3 teeth with PPD ≥ 4 mm) in the different waves of the DMS, and projected until 2030

DMS	Age group	Individuals in million	Teeth per individual	Teeth in million	Cases (%)	Cases in million
DMS III (1997)	35 to 44-years-old	12.745	7.36	93.8	74	9.432
	65 to 74-years-old	7.390	4.54	33.5	56	4.138
DMS IV (2005)	35 to 44-years-old	13.881	6.34	88.0	65	9.023
	65 to 74-years-old	9.134	5.96	54.4	67	6.120
DMS V (2014)	35 to 44-years-old	9.943	4.76	47.3	37	3.679
	65 to 74-years-old	8.435	7.52	63.4	80	6.748
2030	35 to 44-years-old	10.690	3.15	33.7	22	2.352
	65 to 74-years-old	11.520	12.23	140.9	76	8.758

Note. Estimates are based on imputed full-mouth numbers of teeth. Edentate individuals are included.

Based on our findings, periodontal treatment needs have dramatically decreased in the younger age group, and will have nearly halved by 2030 compared to 1997. This younger group seems to

benefit from various underlying trends; for example, these individuals have a higher education (deStatis 2017), enter adulthood with substantially fewer restorations (Jordan & Micheelis, 2016), they

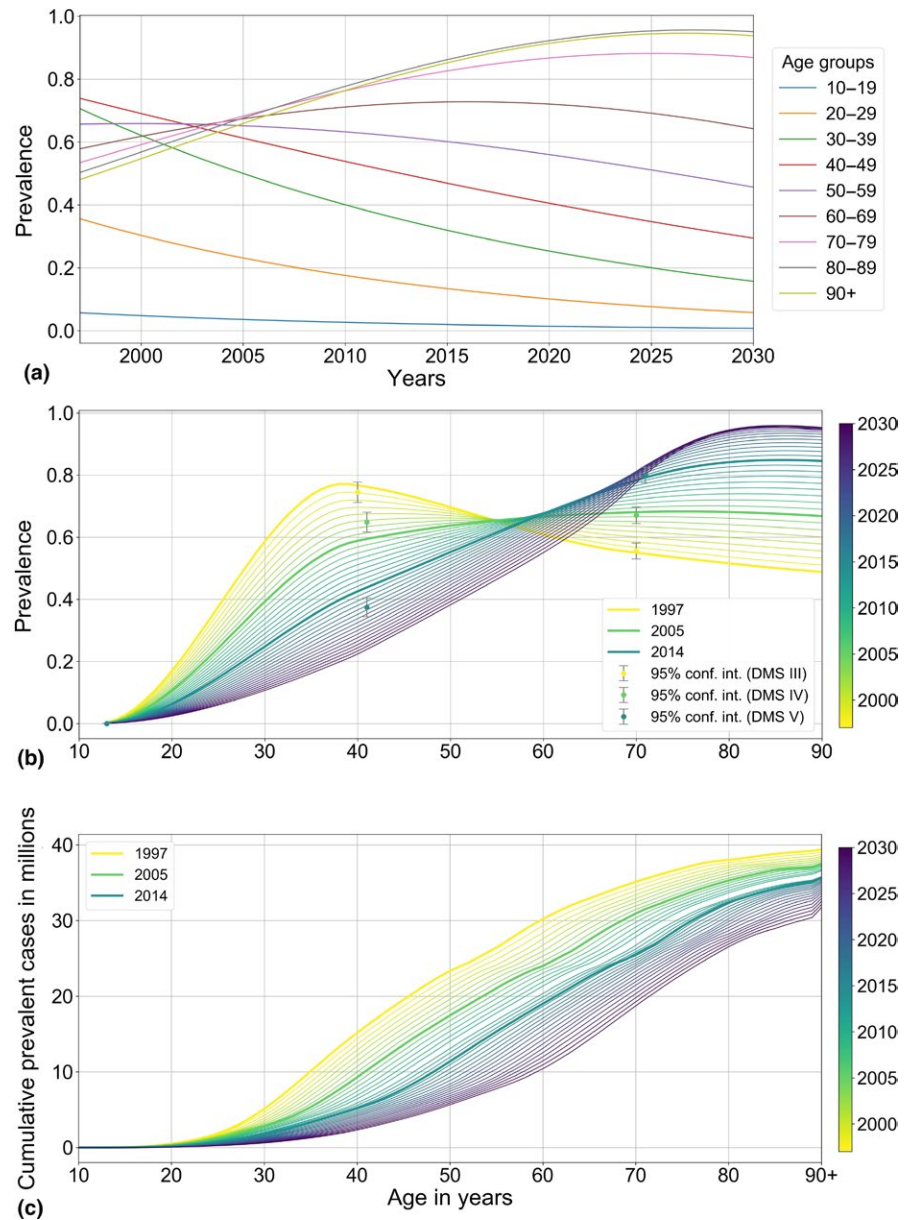


FIGURE 2 Prevalence and prevalent cases in need for periodontal treatment (>3 teeth with PPD \geq 4 mm). Estimates are based on imputed full-mouth numbers of teeth. Edentate individuals are included. (a) Prevalence in different age groups between 1997 and 2030. (b) Prevalence at different ages in different years between 1997 and 2030. (c) The cumulative number of prevalent cases (in millions) between 1997 and 2030

smoke less often (deStatis 2017), show a higher oral health awareness and better oral hygiene, and many attend the dentist more regularly (Jordan & Micheelis, 2016). In parallel, the growing group of elderly retains an increasing number of teeth at risk for periodontal disease. Based on our results, the mean number of teeth with PPD \geq 4 mm in seniors (aged 65–74 years) in Germany has nearly doubled since 1997 and is expected to nearly triple in total until 2030. This increase in the number of teeth with PPD \geq 4 mm in the elderly has also been observed in the SHIP studies, where the 75 + -year-old subjects had 1.5 teeth with treatment needs in 1997–2001, and 2.5 teeth in 2008–2012 (Schutzhold et al., 2015). Given the described demographic shifts, the population-level number of teeth with periodontal treatment needs in this age group in Germany will nearly quadruple. The cumulative number of teeth (i.e., the sum of teeth with treatment needs in the whole German population) in Germany has increased by 25% between 1997 and 2014, and will

increase further until 2030 (by then 29% compared with 1997). In parallel, the number of adult cases with treatment needs has nearly halved since 1997 and will halve once more until 2030; the contrary is the case in the elderly, where a large part shows treatment needs already today. Given that the total number of cases with treatment needs is not expected to increase, a smaller number of individuals will carry an increasing burden in the future.

Our findings have implications on various levels. First, periodontal treatment needs will be increasingly age-specific; nearly all individuals aged 65–80 years will show some periodontal treatment needs by 2030, while few adult subjects (35–44 years old) will. Periodontal management concepts including disease detection (screening) and treatment should account for that. Second, in the elderly, the treatment needs per patient will increase (we estimate, in mean, 12 teeth with treatment needs in those aged 65–74 years; this number will be even higher in those aged >75 years). Considering that the 75-year-olds in 2030 are

the 42-year-olds of 1997, who showed 11.7 filled and 3.9 missing teeth at that age already (Jordan & Micheelis, 2016), managing these patients will be complex and involve periodontal, restorative and treatments. In the very old, a substantial number of individuals will additionally require long-term care; providing conventional dental and periodontal treatment will be a challenge for these individuals. Nevertheless, managing dental diseases in this group will remain mandatory when considering possible co-morbidities and sequels of poor oral health due to missing teeth, untreated carious lesions, ill-fitting dentures and periodontitis, like diabetes, malnutrition or pneumonia (Schwendicke, Stolpe, & Müller, 2017; Tonetti, Bottenberg et al., 2017). Third, the estimated needs and the resulting demand will need to be addressed by the future dental workforce. Pregraduate curricula of periodontology and postgraduate specialization programs may need to be adopted in scope and breadth accordingly. Also, long-term systematic management of periodontal disease should be implemented within the statutory insurance (currently, supportive periodontal therapy is not covered). Moreover, it should be considered that PPD may not be the only relevant measure to estimate treatment needs; in elderly populations, periodontal attachment loss has been shown to be experienced through recession rather than pocketing (Schutzhold et al., 2015), and ageing has not necessarily been found to come with increased PPDs (but often with increased attachment loss) (Renvert, Persson, & Persson, 2013).

This study and the underlying data have a number of strengths. First, a novel approach of cross-sectionally and longitudinally imputing data allowed to identify trends across age groups and cohorts, and thus helps to understand patterns of disease dynamics and resulting treatment needs which have so far not been described. Second, by combining data on periodontitis with data on population, we were able to more comprehensively evaluate the combined effects of disease and population dynamics. Third, nationally representative data were used.

Several limitations apply, too. First, we used partial-mouth recordings to transform them into full-mouth data, as only full-mouth data are useful for estimating treatment needs in a way that allows health services planning. Transformation was based on a subsample of the DMS V, where 199 patients had been examined full-mouth. We used Extreme Gradient Boosting to determine this transformation, and validated our findings against simple transformations (Jordan & Micheelis, 2016). Our transformation might not hold perfectly true for the samples in the DMS III and IV, and we were unable to validate our estimates here. However, it was reassuring to find the trends—reduced treatment need in younger and increased need in older individuals—to be reflected by data from another large German study (Schutzhold et al., 2015). Second, our projection to 2030 can only limitedly account for unknown secular health trends and how these will change in the future. For example, the DMS found self-efficacy, oral hygiene and dental services utilization in seniors to increase or improve with time, for example. Also, the improved periodontal health in younger adults may well continue into older age at some point, compensating for the fact that more units are at risk there. In this case, elderly would have more teeth, which remain nevertheless healthier than in the past. The

Jönköping studies, which find that—similar to Germany—the number of retained teeth has considerably increased over the last three decades in the 70- to 80-year-olds, report such trend reversal in the elderly population (Norderyd et al., 2015). Also, our projection approach built on only one covariate, the year of birth of an individual (in different age groups), assuming past changes in the number of teeth per individual continuing to some degree in the future. An alternative would have been to use a multivariate regression model for prediction. We have done so in a previous study to predict tooth loss in 2030, but found that a model based on a reasonable set of socio-economic and health-related predictors does not necessarily account for large parts of the observed variance, while the year of birth and the age of the individuals were the covariates with the most predictive power. Additional analyses performed on the present data using multivariable linear regression modelling (see Supporting Information Appendix Table S3, Figure S7) confirmed this; the explanatory value of all used variables remained limited at 22%. Third, our data do not allow to monitor the severity of the disease; no stratification into teeth with moderate (PPD = 4–5 mm) or severe (PPD \geq 6 mm) periodontitis was made, with teeth with PPD \geq 6 mm possibly requiring surgical treatment more often. Also, it was not possible to stratify treatment needs into different treatment phases (active/supportive treatment). However, as surgical treatment is very rarely provided under the statutory insurance and supportive therapy is not at all covered, such stratification was not needed for the purpose of our study. Last, we once more highlight that our study evaluated treatment needs under the perspectives of German healthcare, that is solely based on PPDs. Of course, PPD do not necessarily reflect attachment loss; in case of overgrowth it overestimates, while in the elderly PPD plateaus and thus underestimates (Billings et al., 2018; Schutzhold et al., 2015). In many settings, attachment loss rather than PPD may be used to decide on treatment needs and resulting demands, and even in Germany, periodontal therapy may be provided to teeth not falling into our case definition outside of the statutory insurance setting (i.e., patients would pay privately for such therapy). Also, the proportion of treated cases remains unclear. For example, in a treated case, a PPD of 4 mm may reflect an acceptable endpoint of treatment which does not generate further treatment need. While it was not possible to capture this aspect, future evaluations should attempt to consider this when assessing treatment needs.

5 | CONCLUSIONS

Based on the present study, periodontal treatment needs have moderately declined in younger adults since 1997 and are expected to decline further in the future. In individuals aged $>$ 51 years, treatment needs have increased and may continue to do so. Given the demographic population shift, population-wide cumulative treatment needs may increase until 2030. Health services and workforce planning should address these increasing needs (in oftentimes highly vulnerable populations) in Germany in the future.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have stated explicitly that there are no conflict of interests in connection with this article.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of the article.

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Table S2: Reliability

Table S3: Intra- and inter-rater-reliability of investigators (pooled data)									
	DMS III (1997)			DMS IV (2005)			DMS V(2014)		
	investigators (mean)	expert (mean)	Correlation ¹	Investigators (mean)	Expert (mean)	Correlation ²	Investigators (mean)	Expert (mean)	Correlation ³
Attachment level	1,125	1,084	0,97	3,27	2,93	0,840	3,47	3,11	0,74

¹Kendall's tau b, ²Pearson-r, ³ICC

Note that only whole mm (1.0 mm) had been used in DMS. While the reliability values are not fully comparable given different metrics (which cannot be recalculated given the original data for DMS III and IV not being fully available any longer due to data protection reasons), reliability decreased with time due to a number of reasons: First, the number of examiners was larger in DMS IV and V compared with III. Second, the epidemiologic spectrum was larger in IV/V than III – the severity and extent seen in more recent populations was more variable than was the case in DMS III.

Partial to full mouth transformation

The best binary classification model, with respect to AUC metric, trained on a data set of 199 subjects and validated using three-times repeated five-fold cross-validation, resulted in a AUC of 0.92 and a classification accuracy of 0.86 (Fig. S1). Sensitivity, the proportion of positives that are correctly identified as such, was 0.95, and specificity, the proportion of negatives that are correctly identified as such, was 0.64 (Fig. S2). The decision cutoff value was inferred by maximizing the F1-score, which corresponds to the harmonic mean of precision and sensitivity, and was set to 0.535. The ten most important variables for the classification task were (1) the number of missing teeth, (2) the number of teeth with PPD ≥ 4 mm (partial mouth), (3) the number of teeth surveyed for partial mouth assessment, (4) the number of teeth with PPD 4-5 mm, (5) the DMFT, (6) the number of decayed teeth, (7) year of birth, (8) sex, (9) age in years, and (10) educational level.

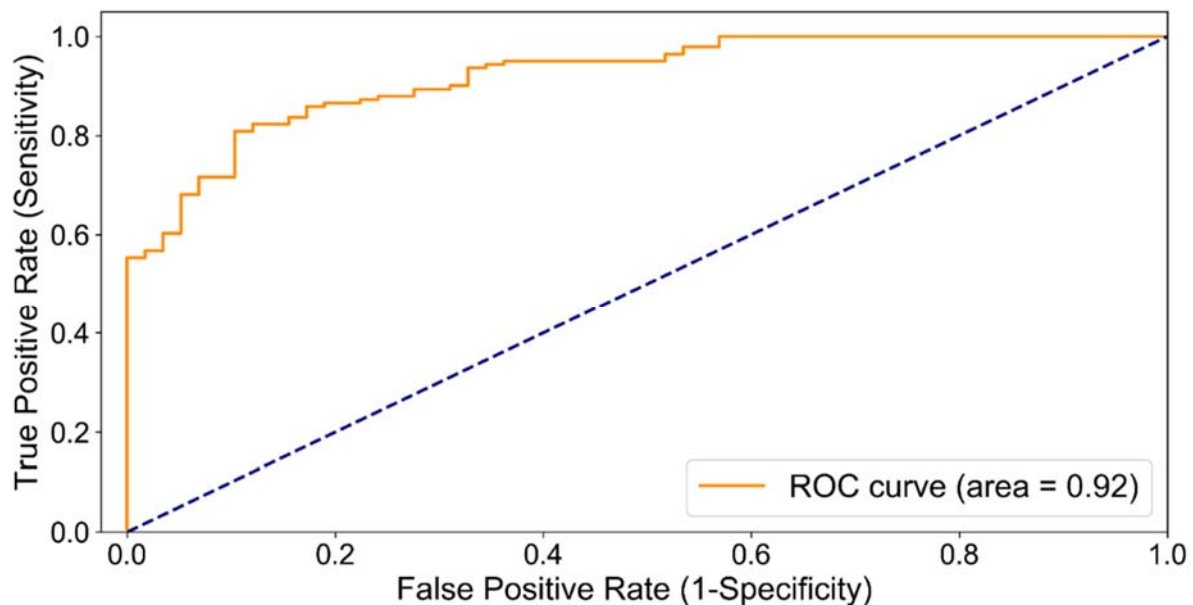


Figure S1: The receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve demonstrates the model's ability to discriminate between two classes. The closer the ROC curve is to the upper left corner, the higher the overall accuracy of the binary classifier. A model with perfect discrimination power has an area under the curve (AUC) of 1. The ROC curve of a random guess model would plot along a diagonal line (blue dashed line, AUC of 0.5).

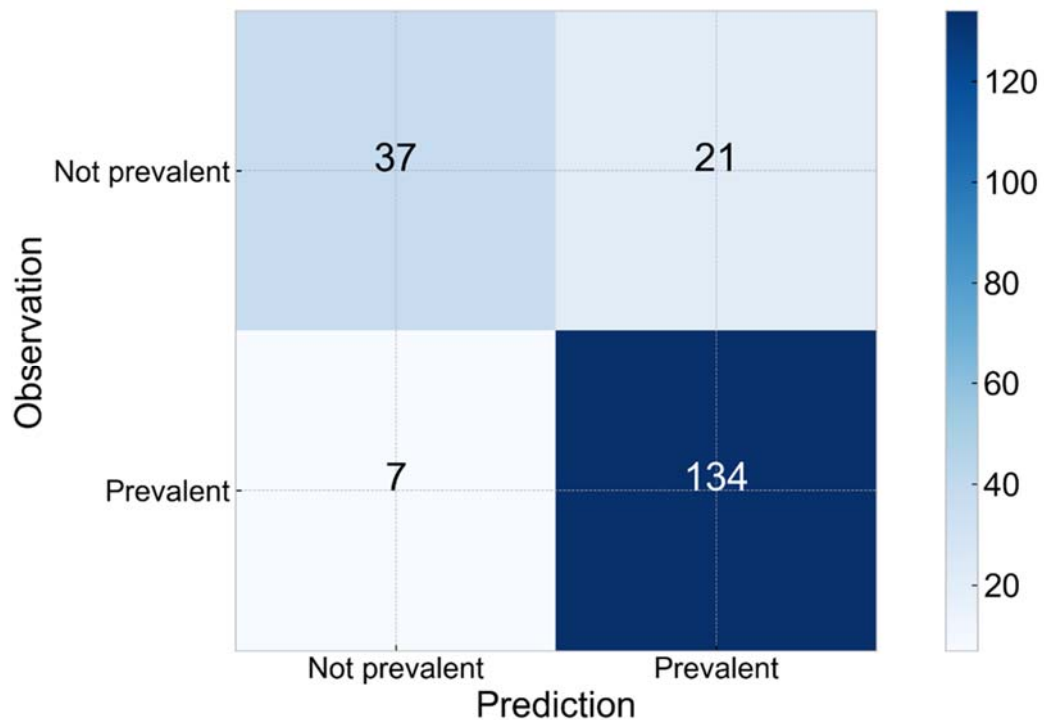


Figure S2: The two-by-two confusion matrix shows all four possible outcomes of the binary classification model. If the observation is positive and the prediction is positive, it is counted as a true positive (lower right corner), whereas is it is counted as a false negative if the classification is negative (lower left corner). If the observation is negative and it is predicted as negative, it is counted as a true negative (upper left corner), whereas is counted as a false positive if the prediction is positive (upper right corner).

The best regression model, with respect to RMSE metric, trained on a data set of 199 patients (Fig. S3) and validated using three-times repeated five-fold cross-validation, resulted in a mean cross-validation RMSE of 3.9. The ten most important variables for the regression task were (1) the number of teeth with PPD 4-5 mm (partial mouth), (2) the number of teeth with PPD \geq 4 mm, (3) the number of missing teeth, (4) year of birth, (5) the DMFT, (6) the number of filled teeth, (7) age in years, (8) the number of teeth surveyed for partial mouth assessment, (9) educational level, and (10) sex. For the final predictions set we combined the classification and regression model.

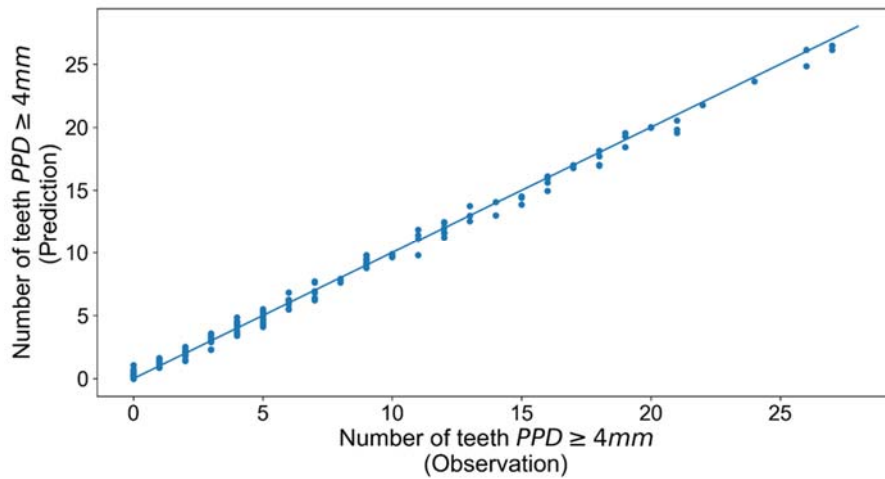


Figure S3: In-sample prediction (n=199) for the number of teeth with PPD ≥ 4 mm.

Longitudinal imputation

We applied log-linearization to model the non-linear pattern of the mean number of teeth with periodontal treatment need per age group along the longitudinal axis (1997 to 2030). The approximation of the mean number of teeth with periodontal treatment need with a linear function yields a reasonable fit (Fig. S4). The imputed values for the years 1997, 2005 and 2014 (the years of DMS studies) are all within the corresponding 95% confidence intervals.

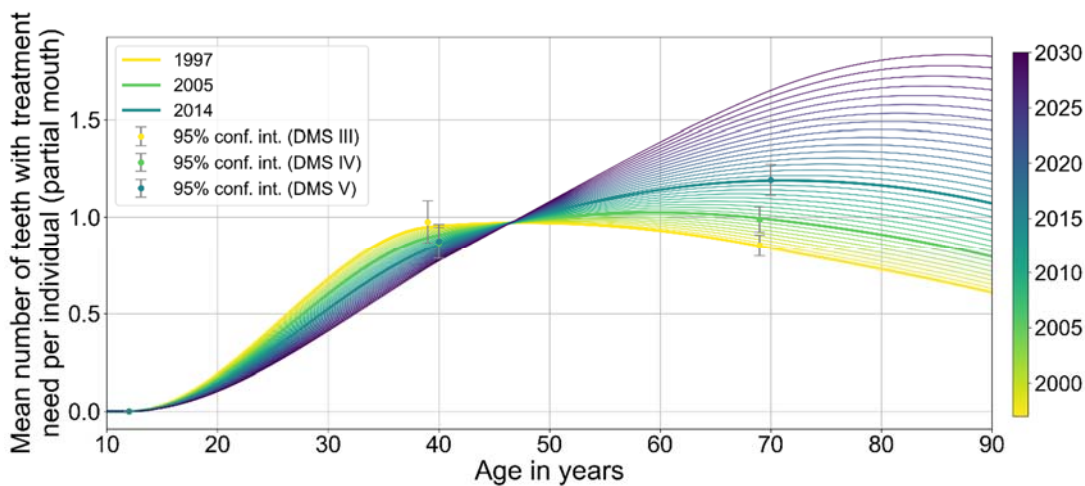


Figure S4: Mean number of teeth with treatment need at different ages in different years between 1997 and 2030 according to partial mouth assessment (6 teeth, 2 sites). For 12-years old and younger we manually set the mean number of teeth with periodontal treatment to zero. Edentate individuals are included.

Alternative prediction models for population

As described, a second population prediction model was used to evaluate the impact of this model on our future estimates.

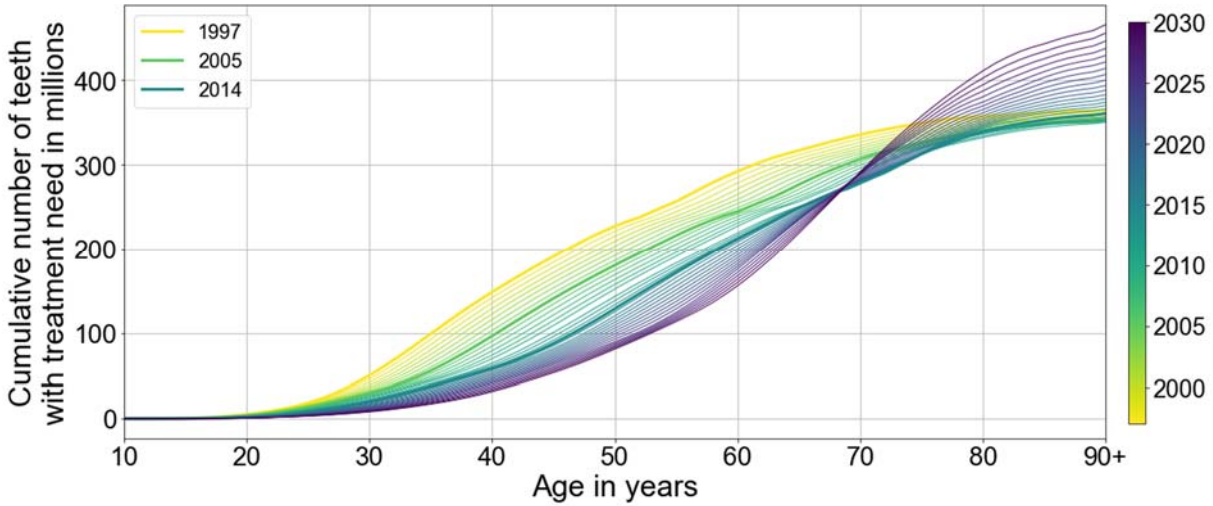


Figure S5: Number of teeth with treatment needs when using an alternative population prediction model. Only minimal deviations from our base-case were found.

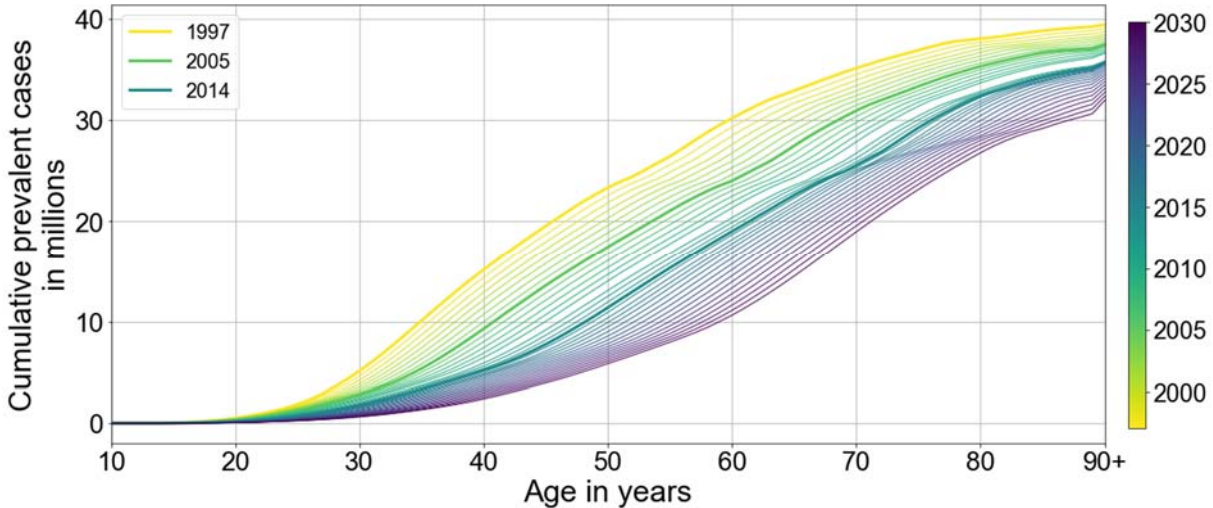


Figure S6: Number of teeth with treatment needs when using an alternative population prediction model. Only minimal deviations from our base-case were found.

Parametric approach

To evaluate the possible applicability of a model-based prediction approach, we submitted the data to linear regression modelling. Given that the predictive value remained limited ($R^2=0.22$, Table S3), prediction making based on such approach is unlikely to be more accurate than the applied non-parametric approach.

Table S3: An ordinary least regression model (OLS) was used to identify significant predictors of the number of teeth with treatment need. The number of more or less teeth (coeff) with treatment needs and the standard error (std error) is given. Bold indicates statistically significant associations.

Parameter	Coeff (teeth)	std err
Intercept	-1,1744	0,934
DMS IV (ref III)	-0,3328	0,084
DMS V (ref III)	-0,7871	0,09
Age 65-74-years (ref. 35-44 years)	2,6828	0,105
Female (ref. male)	-0,507	0,071
High education (ref. low)	-0,5318	0,092
Medium education (ref. low)	-0,1474	0,088
Toothbrushing once weekly (Ref. no toothbrushing)	0,611	1,123
Toothbrushing 2 or more times daily (Ref. no toothbrushing)	0,7416	0,929
Several times per week (Ref. no toothbrushing)	1,0506	0,971
Once daily (Ref. no toothbrushing)	0,9904	0,929

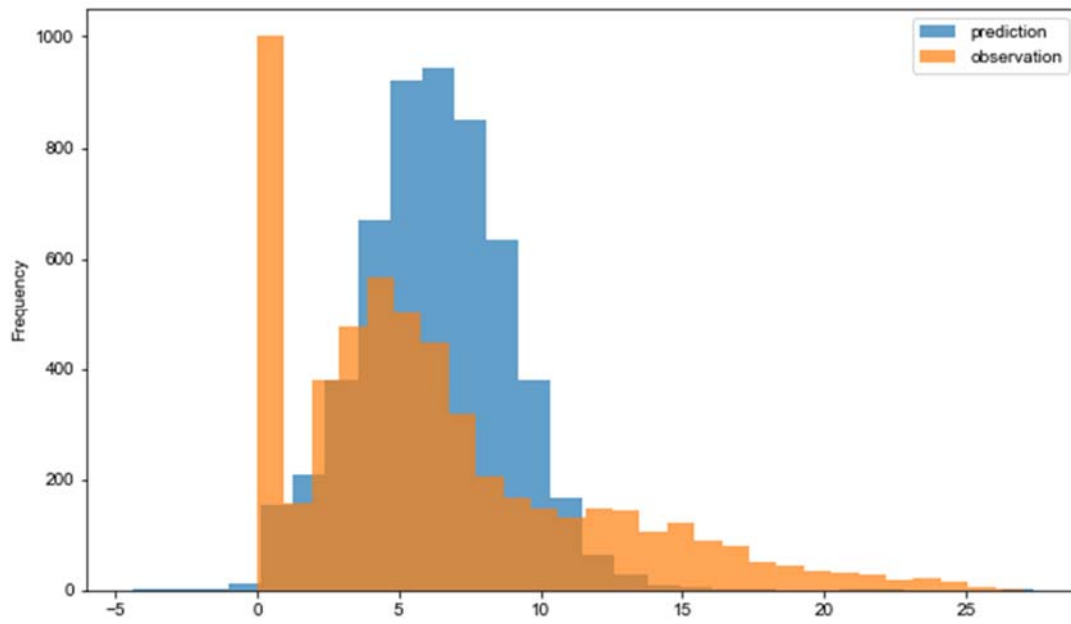


Figure S7: Fit of observed and predicted data according to OLS. Making predictions based on such model is likely to not be more accurate than using the non-parametric approach applied in our study.