Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory:
Oral Health Projects

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Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory

- Based in the University of Glasgow
- Funded by the Scottish Government
  - generate health data
  - build understanding of the causes of poor health and health inequalities
- Related to people with learning disabilities and people with autism
Aims

• Provides data on the health and healthcare of people with learning disabilities and people with autism

• Increases the visibility of people with learning disabilities within Scotland’s routinely collected data

• Turns information into meaningful health intelligence for practitioners, policymakers and the wider community

• Informs practice and policy to benefit people with learning disabilities and with autism
Projects: Health of adults with learning disabilities

- Physical health
- Anti-psychotic prescribing
- Oral health
- Health of people with learning disabilities
- Health of people with learning disabilities and autism
- Life expectancy and causes of death
- Down syndrome survival and hospitalisation rates
Oral health projects

Collaborative working between The Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory and the Community Oral Health Group, University of Glasgow

1. Oral health of adults with intellectual disabilities: a systematic review

2. Prevalence of and factors associated with edentulousness in adults with intellectual disabilities

3. Oral health in adults with intellectual disabilities and its determinants: Secondary analysis of linked administrative and health records

4. Dental health of children with intellectual disabilities in Scotland: population data linkage studies
Oral health of adults with intellectual disabilities: a systematic review

- 33 papers included in review
  - Convenience samples, e.g. dental services and Special Olympics

- More robust research required:
  - with representative samples of adults with intellectual disabilities
  - to address the numerous confounding factors that influence oral health in this population group
Oral health of adults with intellectual disabilities: a systematic review

- Continuing high prevalence of oral disease and treatment need among adults with intellectual disabilities

- Importance of good oral hygiene and possible impact of oral disease needs higher profile than currently exists amongst care givers and professionals for adults with intellectual disabilities
Prevalence of and factors associated with edentulousness in adults with intellectual disabilities

Methods

• A cohort of adults with intellectual disabilities (16+years) in NHS GGC underwent a dental examination (n=560)

• Data on edentulousness compared with findings for 2,547 adults from same Board participating in Scottish Health Survey

Results

• Higher levels of edentulousness among those with IDs compared with SHS group within all age groups studied

• Edentulousness more likely in those with more severe IDs

• Use of antipsychotic medications associated with edentulousness
Prevalence of and factors associated with edentulousness in adults with intellectual disabilities:

Main conclusion

- Carers and caregiving organisations require a heightened awareness of importance of oral health and greater support in their role of attending to regular daily oral hygiene to reduce the likelihood of dental problems.
Oral health in adults with intellectual disabilities and its determinants: Secondary analysis of linked administrative and health records

Aims

(i) Identify indicators of oral health in ~ 4,000 population-based adults with intellectual disabilities and compare with the general population (~12,000)

(ii) Identify determinants of poor oral health in people with intellectual disabilities, focussing on:

- use of medications with anticholinergic burden and sugared liquid medicines
- long-term conditions which may be related to poor oral health

Methods

Data linkage and analysis of routinely collected primary and secondary care dental and health administrative data
Dental health of children with intellectual disabilities in Scotland: population data linkage studies:

Research Questions

• What is the dental health and dental service access needs of children with intellectual disabilities?

• Are there any disparities in dental health needs and access to dental services in children with intellectual disabilities compared with the general child population?

• Are any disparities observed across groups, eg age, genders, SES, school setting other co-existing conditions?

• Could medications that impact on dental health explain any disparities?
Dental health of children with intellectual disabilities in Scotland: Population data linkage

• Cohort analysis of linked national routine administrative population datasets: 2011-2016

• Case Group: children recorded on the ScotXed pupil census as having intellectual disabilities

• Comparator Group: children with no intellectual disabilities utilising the full ScotXed pupil census cohort
Dental health of children with intellectual disabilities in Scotland: population data linkage studies: Data Sources

• ScotXed Annual Pupil Census – includes ASN information
• NDIP National Dental Inspection Programme
• MIDAS
• Childsmile Datasets
• SMR00 – Outpatient hospital attendance
  • Attendance for dental specialties
• SMR01
  • All hospital admissions; particular interest in dental GAs
• Prescription Information System (PIS)
Conclusions from Observatory

• Adults with intellectual disabilities experience extensive health inequalities, yet their oral health has largely been overlooked by many health professionals working in the field

• Little awareness of oral health amongst clinicians and prescribers specialising in working with adults with intellectual disabilities

• Surprisingly little attention paid to oral health and its determinants in intellectual disabilities support services

• Observatory engaged in increasing the visibility and profile of oral health among relevant stakeholders

• Availability of resources to complement awareness raising will be beneficial
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