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Systematic Review of Evidence of Interventions Addressing Disparities in Oral Health for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities¹: Year 2

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Background
Oral health status and treatment for individuals with intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) is a significant public health disparity. The population with I/DD experience poorer oral hygiene, higher prevalence and greater severity of periodontal disease, as well as a higher incidence of untreated caries. In year 1 of the systematic review, the literature was searched and screened for inclusion in the review and data extraction. The objective of year 2 of the systematic review is to examine the literature in depth.

Methods
Key Questions
KQ1: What effective interventions/strategies exist to improve access to oral health care for the I/DD population?
KQ2: What effect do interventions that support good oral health behaviors have on improved oral health care for the I/DD population?

A robust search of on-line data bases such as PubMed, along with gray literature sites, was conducted. The search included any literature from 1990 to 2013 with an oral health intervention and the population of interest. Title and abstract review excluded over 4,400 articles. Full text review using PICO framework excluded an additional 275.

Summary
Once inclusion/exclusion criteria were applied, oral health interventions were grouped into four topic areas to facilitate review and structured extraction of data. Interventions and Outcomes varied significantly across topic areas. Less than half received a quality rating of “good” by clinical expert reviewers, emphasizing a need to build the evidence base.

Identification of Effectiveness

Data extraction was conducted using an electronic repository, the Systematic Review Data Repository (SRDR). The study team tailored the extraction tool to address specific Key Questions. Study Quality is being assessed in a 2 phase process, examining the consistency of findings, effect size, and whether expert opinion was used.

Identification of Effectiveness

Study Designs by Topic

27% of all studies were RCT/RCT w/Cross-over

Sample Size by Topic

Range: 11-6600, Mean: 175, Median: 70.3

Study Quality

Overall 46% of studies were rated as "good."

Quality review was based on a series of questions relating to study and sample design, proper measurement, validity of variables, data analysis, bias and relevance to clinical practice.