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

Christine J. Clifford  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

Alexandra Bonardi  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

Matthew Holder  
*American Academy of Developmental Medicine & Dentistry*

---

Follow this and additional works at: [https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/shriver_pp](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/shriver_pp)

Part of the [Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/shriver_pp), [Dental Public Health and Education Commons](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/shriver_pp), [Health Services Research Commons](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/shriver_pp), and the [Mental Disorders Commons](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/shriver_pp)

Repository Citation

[https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/shriver_pp/56](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/shriver_pp/56)

This material is brought to you by eScholarship@UMMS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center Publications by an authorized administrator of eScholarship@UMMS. For more information, please contact Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu.
Systematic Review of Evidence of Interventions Addressing Disparities in Oral Health for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities1: Year 2
Christine J. Clifford2, MHP; Alexandra Bonardi2, MHA, OTR/L; Matthew Holder3, MD, MBA

**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 greater 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 opinion was used.

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 external and internal validity: Expert clinicians conducted an assessment of the evidence with a consideration of the execution and relevance to clinical practice. Methodologists are conducting further quality review on design suitability, number of studies available, consistency of findings, effect size, and whether expert opinion was used.

**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.

---

1 Project funded by Centers for Disease Control & Prevention/National Center on Birth Defects & Developmental Disabilities/Division of Human Development & Disability Cooperative Agreement # 1U01DD009914-01; 2 Center for Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Research, University of Massachusetts Medical School; Alexandra.Bonardi@umassmed.edu; 3 American Academy of Developmental Medicine & Dentistry