

"Can non-dental personnel be trained to assess and collect data on oral health in population surveys of adults with Intellectual disabilities?"

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Project Brief:

Population with intellectual disabilities (ID) may benefit from an improved oral health and oral health-related quality of life, if Ireland has more research data that are targeted to drive policy development. Cost and availability of dentist may be one of the barriers in carrying out oral health assessments in an epidemiological setting.

This project explored the development of an index that would allow non-dental individuals to collect oral health information in oral health surveys or as part of the general health surveys. The second part of this project evaluated the initial validity, reliability and feasibility of this index. This index has the potential to be an alternative and inexpensive oral health data collection approach in health surveys involving population with ID.