DETERMINANTS OF DENTAL CARIES EXPERIENCE AMONG PRISONERS

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BACKGROUND

The link between obvious decay (caries) experience, and characteristic low socioeconomic status of prisoners, has been extensively reported; like many other health concerns e.g. substance misuse and mental health, prevalence of dental caries is higher when compared to the general population. Individual level strategies for oral health improvement are mainly educational in nature focusing on recognised risk factors. Efforts to improve effectiveness have led to the emergence of increasingly tailored programmes which recognise and respond to personal attributes. It is proposed there is scope to inform tailored dental services in prisons by characterising the psychosocial risk factors for dental caries as experienced by prisoners.

AIM

To investigate the psychosocial determinants of obvious dental caries experience among Scottish prisoners.

METHODOLOGY

The project comprises three parts: (i) a systematic review of the peer-reviewed literature exploring the determinants of caries experience among prisoners (ii) an investigation of self-report data comprising demographics, medical and substance use history, dental anxiety (MDAS), oral health impact profile (OHIP-14), mood (CES-D), and oral health-related attitudes and behaviours combined with the findings from a visual examination (ICDAS-II) (iii) an explanatory model of the determinants of obvious caries experience in Scottish prisoners.

PROGRESS

Electronic searches of MEDLINE, Embase, Cinahl Plus, SCOPUS, PsychARTICLES, and ASSIA were conducted December 2012; data extraction is now in progress. The oral health survey and preliminary data analysis is now complete: a convenience sample of 342 Scottish prisoners was collected representative of male, and female, adults, and young offenders, from three prison establishments.