

SDPBRN Research Audit Portfolio Project	
Using Scottish Adult Oral Health Survey Data to Support Quality Improvement within Primary Dental Care - Pilot Project	
Research audit category	Category D - National, practice-based, dental quality improvement initiatives that include a reflective research component
Funding body	Not applicable
Award reference number	Not applicable
Dental care quality dimension(s)	Effective, Equitable
Research Audit Hours Awarded	3 hours
Project Details	
Background	<p>Background: The most recent epidemiological survey of the oral health of Scotland's adult population was carried out as part of the 1998 UK Adult Dental Health Survey (ADHS). Scotland did not participate in the 2009 ADHS leaving an information gap around the current dental health of the adult population in Scotland.</p> <p>To address this gap the Scottish Adult Oral Health Survey Group is developing a practice-based oral health data collection system. The overall purpose of the Scottish Adult Oral Health Survey (SAOHS) is to gather comprehensive adult oral health data across Scotland in order to inform policy, plan services, improve and maintain health and monitor changes over time.</p> <p>Feasibility Study: During April and May 2013 a feasibility study with a convenience sample of General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) was carried out to help inform the development of this new data collection system. Twenty-four SDPBRN Rapid Evaluation Practitioners gathered oral health data for 20 consecutive patients at either a first visit or recall examination. Results from the feasibility study were used to inform discussions around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the suitability of the oral health data collected; • the acceptability of the survey to GDPs and patients; • additional resources required for GDPs to assess, record and extract the required oral health survey data. <p>The findings demonstrated that gathering comprehensive epidemiological oral health data as part of a routine dental examination was feasible but the system would require further development, piloting and evaluation.</p> <p>Pilot Study: Piloting of the SAOHS will begin in December 2015. Dentists who take part will be required to collect oral health data from 20 patients (within an age defined group) attending their surgery. Data on a number of potential equity stratifiers, examination findings and planned treatment in relation to NHS Statement of Dental Remuneration codes will be collected as part of the survey.</p> <p>To complement the data collection component of the SAOHS an integral quality improvement project has been developed. Dentists who submit data for 20 patients will receive a feedback report summarising the findings for their patients plus information about the national average. This report is intended to be used by dentists to assist them plan local activity focusing on the effectiveness or equity of the care they provide.</p> <p>The aim is not only to allow dentists to compare and contrast their findings with those of the national average but also to reflect on the findings for their own practice, how these might be interpreted and how they might be utilised to design and implement a quality improvement activity which is relevant for their local patient population.</p>

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Research question(s) relating to quality dimension	Can practitioner level data from the SAOHS be used to support dentist directed quality improvement in primary dental care?
Primary outcome(s) relating to quality dimension(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide a summary of returned SOAHS data to dentists participating in the survey. 2. To facilitate dentists in using returned SAOHS data to identify potential areas of quality improvement within their own practice. 3. To identify barriers and facilitators to making quality improvements in the equity and effectiveness of dental care delivery in primary care.
Secondary outcome(s) relating to quality dimension(s)	<p>To determine practitioner views on the SAOHS electronic submission with a view to improving efficiency of the data collection system in future years. Participants will be asked to provide feedback on the questionnaire in terms of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acceptability - structure and format 2. Utility - electronic format and submission
Design	Cross-Sectional Survey
Setting	General and Public Dental Service practices in Scotland
Participants	Dentists
Number of dentist participants	400
Research audit activities	<p>Participating dentists will complete the SAOHS with 20 consecutive patients from the designated age group (45 years +). Dentists will submit their completed questionnaires electronically to ISD/ NSS for collation and analysis. Each dentist will receive a summary of their own results as well as an anonymised summary of the aggregate results from all participants. Dentists are asked to review and reflect on their own results. Using their own data they will be asked to choose up to three areas where the quality of dental care delivered could be improved for their practice population. Dentists are asked to provide an action plan for developing a quality improvement activity (such as further audit or peer review) based on data which indicates areas for improvement in equity and, or effectiveness.</p>
Reflective activity	<p>Dentists are asked to complete and submit a reflective report. Within the reflective report they are asked to provide their own perceptions of the SAOHS electronic submission process thinking about the positive and less positive aspects of the current data collection system. They are also asked to reflect on the barriers and facilitators to making quality improvement in the equity and effectiveness of dental care delivery in their own practice</p>
Anticipated start date	7 December 2015
Anticipated end date	Dentists must have agreed to participate in the SAOHS no later than 31 January 2016 to be eligible for joining this Research Audit.
Project Status	Ongoing

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Contacts	
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