

State of the Art Statement

Question: What is the effectiveness of alternative approaches for increasing dental attendance by poor families or families from deprived areas?

Answer: There is only one reported study relating to approaches used by general dental practices to increase dental attendance. Within the UK studies identified by the review the quality of evidence is poor. From the evidence identified, the two most effective methods for increasing dental attendance in families from deprived areas were the mobile dental unit at school premises and the Dental Access Centre. In conclusion, there is a need for more high quality research to determine the best ways to address the widely-acknowledged unmet treatment need of children and families in lower socioeconomic groups.

Further info: You can access the full critical appraisal relating to this question via our website www.dentistryresearch.org