

State of the Art Statement

Question: Do people living in deprived areas define oral health differently from people who live in less deprived areas?

Answer: The results of the critical appraisal conclude that there is a lack of evidence relating to perceptions of oral health in deprived areas.

We could find no studies that have compared the perceptions of oral health amongst people from deprived areas with those from non-deprived areas in the UK.

There is a clear gap in our knowledge of the variations in individuals' and communities' perceptions of oral health, including within and between different areas, to support policy developments aimed at "meeting the oral health needs of the population effectively"ⁱ.

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

ⁱ Department of Health. Steele Implementation Programme: Briefing Pack. February 2010.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_112298