

Oral health and Victorians with an intellectual disability

People with an intellectual disability were more likely to have fair or poor dental health

According to the Victorian Population Health Survey of People with an Intellectual Disability 2013 (VPHS-ID 2013), the dental health status of people with an intellectual disability in every age group was more likely to be reported as fair or poor compared with the same age groups in the general Victorian population (Figure 1).

People with an intellectual disability visit a dental professional more often

Approximately seven in 10 people with an intellectual disability aged 40–59 years had visited a dental professional within the 12 months preceding the survey, which was higher than the same age group in the general Victorian population. In Victoria, people with an intellectual disability are a priority group for access to public dental services. Further information is available at: www.health.vic.gov.au/pch/downloads/community_health_priority_tools.pdf

Choice of drink when thirsty

Most people with an intellectual disability had a preference for drinking water when they were thirsty.

In every age group, there was no difference in the consumption of sugar-sweetened soft drinks between people with an intellectual disability and the general Victorian population.

The proportion of adults with an intellectual disability aged 18–59 years who consumed diet drinks daily was significantly higher than the same age groups in the general Victorian population.

There has been a significant **change** in the preferred choice of drink when thirsty by people with an intellectual disability since 2009. People with an intellectual disability aged 18–59 years were **less likely to choose soft drinks** when thirsty than for the same age group from the previous survey.

Frequency of brushing teeth

Across all age groups, people with an intellectual disability were less likely to brush their teeth two times or more a day when compared with the same age group in the general Victorian population.

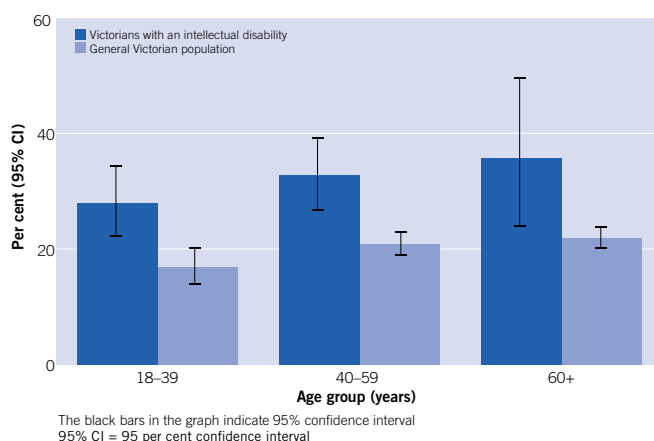
Missing teeth

People with an intellectual disability aged 60 years or over were more likely to have dentures or no teeth than the general Victorian population.

Avoiding or delaying a visit to a dental professional due to the cost

In every age group, people with an intellectual disability were less likely to avoid or delay visiting a dental professional due to the cost than the same age group in the general Victorian population.

Figure 1: Reported fair or poor dental health status, by age group



For further information

The VPHS-ID 2013 is a statewide survey the Department of Health and Human Services undertook to collect information on the health and wellbeing of people with an intellectual disability in Victoria.

The full report of the VPHS-ID 2013 is available at:

www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus

Dental Health Services Victoria have a dedicated web page for Disability Support Workers at: www.dhsv.org.au/professionals/disability-support-workers

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Available at www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/survey/vphs-id.htm

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