

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Program
Westchester Institute for Human Development
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
And
New York Medical College
Team Project Abstract
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Title: The Current Status of Compliance with Dental Procedures Among Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

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Proposal Description: One of the most problematic areas affected for individuals with developmental disabilities is oral hygiene and dental care. Glassman (2009) found that people with developmental disabilities have an increased incidence of dental problems such as missing teeth and dental disease as compared to members of the general population. Several factors including greater difficulty tolerating dental procedures, increased sensitivity to pain and presence of interfering, challenging behaviors contribute to this higher incidence. Research indicates there are three methods commonly used by dentists to address non-compliant behavior in patients: physical restraint, chemical restraint (anesthesia), and behavioral interventions. Chemical restraint (i.e., medication) is the most frequently used method in the majority of cases.

Objectives: This study aims to review dental records of current and past WIHD dental patients to determine the prevalence of chemical and physical restraints used at the WIHD dental clinic. This study hypothesizes that dental patients with developmental disabilities require the use of chemical and physical restraints more often than the general population.

Methods: Literature Review, Interview with Community Partner, Chart Review and Analysis

Community Partner: Dr. Nancy Dougherty, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at NYU

Results: To date, a comprehensive literature review identifying the methods and prevalence of various types of restraint used during dental procedures was conducted and an IRB application submitted to New York Medical College in support of this research project. Next steps include identifying variables to be included in the patient chart review and the collection, recording and analysis of data from the dental records.

Conclusion: Initial findings from the literature review indicate chemical restraint is used between 90% and 100% of the time in instances where non-compliance occurs. This study supports the need to continue research regarding alternatives to restraints.