



ORAL HEALTH

The importance of oral health for people with Intellectual Disabilities.

IDS TILDA Research is informing us about the importance of oral health for people with intellectual disabilities as they age in Ireland.

x2

If an older person has an intellectual disability they are X2 times as likely to have no teeth.

x12

In Ireland, when an older person loses all their teeth they are x12 times less likely to have a denture if they have **an intellectual disability.**



Background:

The two main dental problems are tooth decay and gum disease. Together they lead to tooth loss and finally edentulism.



692 PARTICIPANTS TOLD US ABOUT THEIR TEETH

73% had some teeth

19% had no teeth or dentures

8% had no teeth and wore complete dentures

Those with no teeth or dentures.
Compared to those with a natural dentition:



Were **x3** times more likely to have difficulty eating.

x3 times more likely to be on a softened / liquidised diet.

x2 times more likely to report chronic constipation.

Almost half as likely to be overweight or obese.

