

**DENTAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE AMONG  
STUDENTS IN TWO FACULTIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES ST.  
AUGUSTINE CAMPUS.**

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2014

**Background:** Oral hygiene can be defined as the practice of keeping the mouth clean by brushing and flossing to prevent tooth decay and gum disease. The purpose of maintaining proper oral hygiene is to prevent the build - up of plaque.

**Objective:** To investigate dental health, knowledge, attitude and practice among students at the University of the West Indies St Augustine Trinidad and Tobago.

**Design:** A structured questionnaire was distributed to a total 178 out of 3, 560 students enrolled in 2 faculties of the University of the West Indies St Augustine from February to March 2014. The questionnaire was randomly distributed and students anonymously filled them out. The purpose of the cross- sectional design was to look at oral health knowledge, attitude and practices. Descriptive statistics was used to analyse results.

**Results:** The response rate for the study was a 100%. A total of 88.8% of the study population were categorized as highly knowledgeable whereas only 11.2% were categorized as belonging to a low knowledge group. The mean knowledge score for students enrolled in the faculty of food and agriculture was significantly higher than that obtained for the faculty of Social Sciences. The p value (0.011) indicates there is a significant association. A total of 68% of students believed their overall oral health was good. A p value (0.013) and (0.021) were obtained for frequency of flossing teeth and how often respondents changed tooth brush. Higher amount of females were concerned with oral self-care habits indicating there is an association between gender and oral health practices. Analysis showed statistical significance between dental visits and level of knowledge.

**Conclusion:** Findings indicate students were highly knowledgeable with respect to oral health issues. Even though they were aware they did not necessarily practice it. Generally females were more engaged in dental health behaviour as oppose to males