

ABSTRACT

An Assessment of the level of dental knowledge and
practices among sixth graders of two Urban
Primary Schools in Jamaica and Aruba

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A study was conducted to assess the level of dental knowledge, the source of dental information and practices among sixth graders in Aruba and compare it to their counterparts in Jamaica, in the months of March and April 1988.

The study was aimed at obtaining baseline data on dental knowledge and practices of school children in Aruba, which will assist in the planning of a dental health education programme for all the primary schools in Aruba.

Dental health education is provided on a regular basis by the dental nurses in Jamaica. In Aruba, dental health education is provided by the teachers in primary school but this information is sporadic and not standarized.

There is no significant difference between the level of dental knowledge of the two samples. Although both samples had adequate knowledge of dental care, this certainly could be improved.

(ii)

The brushing technique most often used is the same for both samples. A higher percentage of the Jamaican students had visited a dentist or dental nurse during 1987 than the Aruban students but for both samples the figures were low.