

**BASCD 2023 ABSTRACT #06****Outcomes of community based undergraduate dental education in Europe: a scoping review***Leavy, P.,<sup>1\*</sup> Daly, B.<sup>2</sup>*<sup>1</sup>*Centre for Health Policy & Management, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland;*<sup>2</sup>*School of Dental Science, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland***Background:**

Recent decades have seen the emergence of community based dental education in settings that are separate to dental teaching hospitals, including general dental practice and salaried dental services. By mirroring care delivery in these services, this experience can facilitate students' transition to independent clinical practice.

**Objectives:**

To identify educational outcomes associated with community-based undergraduate dental education in Europe.

**Methods:**

Web of Science, MEDLINE, CINAHL, Academic Search Complete and ERIC were searched. Peer reviewed articles were selected based on inclusion criteria within the date range 2000 to August 2022, when the search was completed. Following data extraction, a narrative synthesis of findings was conducted with outcomes grouped and themed into five domains: practical skills, teamwork and the business of dentistry, preparedness for independent practice, population and dental public health and specialty specific outcomes.

**Results:**

Forty-three studies from the UK, Germany and the Nordic countries were included. Most studies reported on students' final or penultimate years of study. Improved practical skills related to treatment planning, provision of holistic care (including paediatric and special care dentistry), communication and clinical productivity. Community-based education was noted for promoting teamwork and affording undergraduates experience in the operation of dental clinics. Students also enhanced their understanding of health determinants and gained skills in dental public health. Students frequently reported increased confidence and self-reliance.

**Conclusions:**

Community based dental education facilitates students in consolidating their learning and honing their skills in preparation for independent practice. The educational outcomes cited align with many of the objectives and intended learning outcomes of such programmes.

To deliver on the WHO global strategy on, and developing universal health coverage for oral health, UN member states will need to enhance the capacity and capabilities of their oral health workforce. This review highlights the importance of community-based education in supporting this endeavour.

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