Abstract

**Aim.** To investigate 20-29 year old students’ knowledge of Sweden’s general dental subsidy (ATB) at Malmö University. To describe students’ frequency of having regular dental checkups and reasons for why students went regularly to checkups and some did not. To describe what motivated students to increase their checkup frequencies and the effect of subscription on dental care.

**Method.** A questionnaire with 17 questions was formulated. The selection proceeded by a stratified convenience sample. One hundred and fifty-eight students were asked to participate whereof 108 chose to participate.

**Results.** Forty-four percent (n=47) had knowledge of ATB, of which 34% (n=16) knew its precise amount. Seventy-three percent (n=79) of students went to regular checkups. Those who did not attend regular checkups and had knowledge of ATB were more than those who attended regularly. Main reason for regular checkups was appreciation of having teeth controlled. Main reason for irregular checkups was not being able to afford them. Invitations and free checkups were stated as motivating reasons for students to increase their dental visit frequency. 98% of those who had subscription on dental care went to regular checkups.

**Conclusion.** The knowledge of ATB existence did not result in a higher dental checkup frequency in comparison to those who did not know of its existence. Student’s knowledge of ATB was low which indicated major flaws in information supposed to reach individuals aged 20-29 years. It was shown that by offering subscription on dental care or checkup invitations, the frequency of regular checkups could be increased.