

Dental Statistics – NHS Registration and Participation

Statistics as at 30 September 2016

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About this release

This Information Services Division publication reports on NHS dental registrations in Scotland between September 2000 and September 2016. In addition, the publication reports on contact with an NHS dentist (participation) between September 2006 and September 2016.

Main points

Registration



92% of the Scottish population is registered with a dentist

- 4.9 million (92%) of the Scottish population are registered with an NHS dentist.
- 94% of adults living in the most deprived areas are registered with an NHS dentist compared to 85% in the least deprived areas.
- Children are more likely to be registered with an NHS dentist than adults (94% compared to 91% respectively).
- There are no longer any significant differences in registration rates between children living in the most and least deprived areas.

Contact with a Dentist (Participation)

- At September 2016, 3.5 million (72%) of registered patients had seen an NHS dentist within the last two years.
- Children are more likely than adults to have seen an NHS dentist within the last two years (85% compared to 68%).
- Children and adults from the most deprived areas were less likely to have seen their dentist within the last two years than those from the least deprived areas (81% compared to 90% of children and 64% compared to 75% of adults).

Background

This report only includes data on patients registered with an NHS dentist; data for patients registered with or treated by private dentists are excluded.

Registration policy has changed over the years: originally, registration with an NHS dentist lapsed after 15 months, increasing to 36 months in April 2006 then to 48 months in April 2009. In April 2010, 'lifetime registration' was introduced. These changes have driven up registration rates and affected rates of participation.

Participation is a measure of patient attendance at an NHS dentist in the two years prior to the time point of interest. This relates only to those patients who are registered with an NHS dentist, not those who only see a dentist for occasional or emergency treatment. Participation as a measure was introduced in September 2010 but has been calculated for data since September 2006 to show the effect of changes to registration rules.

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Find out more

Further information can be found in the [Dental Registration and Participation Report](#).

The Information Services Division published a wide range of dental statistics. You can find all our dental information at the [ISD Dental website](#).

The next release of this report is expected in June 2017 and will present data as at 31 March 2017.

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in [NHS Performs](#). NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. [Find out more about our statistics](#).