

# Dental Statistics – NHS Treatment and Fees

Statistics as at March 2017



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## About this release

Information Services Division publish information on NHS General Dental Service (GDS) treatment and fees annually. This publication provides statistics for 2016/17 with comparisons with previous years.

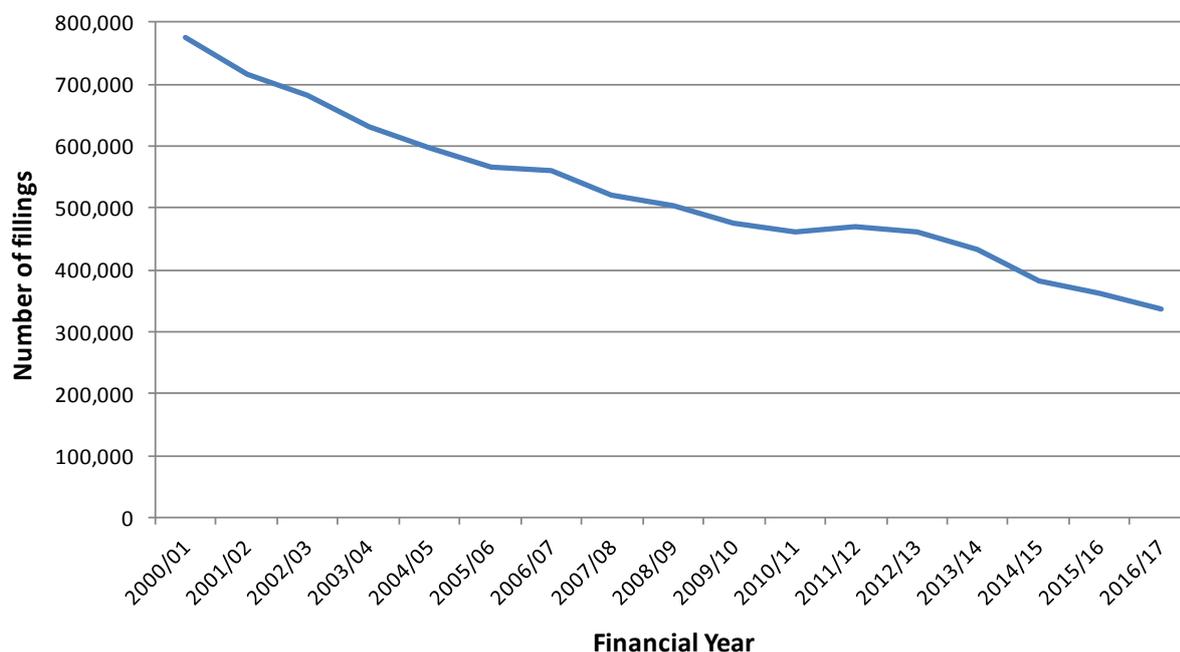
## Main Points

### Treatment

#### Children

- Between 2000/01 and 2016/17 the number of fillings undertaken steadily decreased from around 775,000 to around 338,000.

**Number of fillings undertaken; 2000/01 to 2016/17**



- Similarly, the number of teeth extracted decreased overall from over 133,000 in 2000/01 to less than 90,000 in 2016/17.
- A third (33%) of the claimable dental treatments provided to children were given under Childsmile programme in 2016/17. These include fluoride varnish application, toothbrushing instruction, and diet advice.
- In 2016/17, the number of claimable courses of treatment given to children was around 506,000, slightly less than recent years.

## Adults

- Since 2007/08, the number of courses of treatment given to adults has risen sharply, year on year, from nearly 3 million to over 4.1 million in 2016/17, the highest figure reported. This may be due to increasing numbers of patients participating in GDS.
- Around a third (31%) of the treatments claimed for adults were for examinations or provision of a care and treatment summary report.

## Fees

- In 2016/17, around £289 million in GDS fees were authorised in Scotland, an increase of £3.5 million (1.2%) from 2015/16.
- GDS fees have increased each year since 2003/04, although the rate of increase has slowed in recent years.
- When adjusted for inflation, GDS fees increased each year from 2004/05 until 2010/11, and have since stabilised.

## Background

### Treatment

NHS dentists can provide a wide range of treatments to their patients, from a simple examination to complex surgical treatment. The [Statement of Dental Remuneration \(SDR\)](#) lists all the items of service (IOS) (i.e. treatments) which dentists can provide and claim payment for.

### Fees

Dentists are paid fees both for each patient they have registered with them (capitation and continuing care payments) and for the treatments they provide.

### Childsmile

[Childsmile](#) is a national programme designed to improve the oral health of children in Scotland, and reduce inequalities, both in dental health and access to dental services.

## Contacts

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#). The next release of this publication will be in September 2018.

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## 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. [Further information about our statistics.](#)