

# Publication Report



## Dental Statistics – NHS Registrations

Update of pages as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

Publication date – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012



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## About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

**Purpose:** To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

**Mission:** Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

**Vision:** To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

## 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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

ISD's statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (ie assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (ie legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (ie still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#).

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

## Introduction

The NHS General Dental Service (GDS) is usually the first point of contact that patients have with dental treatment. Patients register with an NHS General Dentist (a "High Street dentist") to receive the full range of NHS treatment provided by independent contractor dentists working on behalf of local NHS boards. A number of salaried dentists also work in the GDS and provide an alternative service to the contracted General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) in order to meet the oral health needs of the local population.

There are two separate activities of the NHS GDS being reported here: registration and participation. It is important to note that for registration and participation this release presents data as at two points in time: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. As previously documented in <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Dental-Care/Documents/Changes-proposed-to-ISD-Scotland-Dental-Publication.pdf>, ISD Scotland has adjusted the frequency with which it publishes registration and participation data under *National Statistics* from **quarterly** to **6-monthly** releases (as at 31<sup>st</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> September each year). The last quarterly publication released in the "old" schedule was, therefore, that of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 (data as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011). This first release in the "new" schedule ensures no time gaps are present by presenting data as at the two quarter-end time points 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

People who register with an NHS dentist are entitled to receive the full range of dental treatment available under NHS General Dental Services. MIDAS, the payment system for GDS dentists, processes information on people registered in a dynamic database that changes daily, so the number of people registered with an NHS dentist will change over time, depending on when data are entered into and extracted from the database. Registrations may take several months to be included in MIDAS, because forms are submitted by dentists after the completion of a course of treatment (and must be received by [Practitioner Services Division](#) within 3 months of the completion date of treatment).

Based on the postcode of the registered person's home address, the level of population registered with an NHS dentist by administrative area is calculated as follows:

- The number of people registered with NHS dental practices in any administrative area, based on patients' home address postcodes (numerator) ÷ The number of people resident in that administrative area, based on patients' home address postcodes (denominator).

This methodology ensures that the element of "cross-boundary flow" that is skewed by the movement of patients from the administrative area of their home address to the administrative area of their dental practice is minimised; furthermore, it is widely regarded as a more meaningful methodology and is the one now favoured by ISD Scotland. The number of registered patients who live in an administrative area is expressed as a percentage of all people living in that same administrative area, regardless of which administrative area the registered patients' dental practices are located. Note that "cross-boundary flow" still exists, in that people may live in one administrative area (e.g. NHS Lanarkshire) but be registered with a dentist whose practice is located in another (usually adjacent) administrative area (e.g. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde).

Historical results analysed by postcode of dental practice where the patient is registered (termed "old" methodology) are presented here: [Registrations by dental practice postcode March 2007-June2010](#).

Participation is defined as "a measure of patient attendance at an NHS general dental practice for treatment, registration or other form of contact within the last two years" and restricted to only patients who are registered with an NHS GDS dentist, therefore does not include patients who attend for occasional treatment. This measure will further support data already available on NHS dental registrations and the introduction of [non-time-limited registration policy](#).

Based on the postcode of the registered person's home address, the level of participation is calculated as follows:

- The number who have attended an NHS dental practice for treatment/registration in the previous 2 years in any administrative area, based on patients' home address postcodes (numerator) ÷ The number of people registered with an NHS GDS dentist in that administrative area, based on patients' home address postcodes (denominator).

Patients must also be registered with an NHS dentist to be included in the calculation above. Patients who attend for occasional/emergency treatment or attend to see a Community Dental Service (CDS) dentist will not be included in these data.

In future, once participation analysis can be extended to include all types of patient presenting to NHS General Dental Services as well as NHS Community Dental Services, consideration will be given to using the full child and adult populations of administrative areas as denominators.

## Key points

### Registration and participation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011

- The level of the Scottish population (all ages) registered with an NHS GDS dentist was 76.8%, up from 75.6% as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- The 6-12 age group had the highest level of population registered (98.6%) with an NHS GDS dentist.
- Among mainland NHS boards, both NHS Dumfries & Galloway and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde had the highest level of children registered (87.3%) and NHS Lanarkshire the highest level of adults registered (80.6%).
- Nationally, the rate of participation in NHS General Dental Services among registered patients over the last 2 years was 87.7% for children and 78.0% for adults (down from 87.9% and 78.6% respectively as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011).
- Participation rates for children were highest in NHS Borders (92.6%) and lowest in NHS Western Isles (78.4%), while rates for adults were highest in NHS Borders (86.3%) and lowest in NHS Orkney (65.1%).

### Registration and participation as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

- The level of the Scottish population (all ages) registered with an NHS GDS dentist was 78.0%, up from 76.8 % as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.
- The 6-12 age group had the highest level of population registered (99.1%) with an NHS GDS dentist.
- Among mainland NHS boards, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde had the highest level of children registered (88.2%) and NHS Ayrshire & Arran the highest level of adults registered (81.8%).
- Nationally, the rate of participation in NHS General Dental Services among registered patients over the last 2 years was 87.4% for children and 77.4% for adults (down from 87.7% and 78.0% respectively as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011).
- Participation rates for children were highest in NHS Borders (92.4%) and lowest in NHS Western Isles (79.5%), while rates for adults were highest in NHS Borders (85.9%) and lowest in NHS Orkney (66.1%).

## Results and Commentary

Registration as at 31st December 2011 and as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

NHS dental registrations are currently analysed by the following administrative areas: NHS board, local authority, Scottish parliamentary constituency, Scottish parliamentary region and community health partnership. The latest available data contained in the links below show the number and level of people registered with an NHS dentist by age group and by administrative area as at recent points in time.

[NHS General Dental Service Registrations in Scotland, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012](#)

[NHS General Dental Service Registrations by Administrative Area and Age Group, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012](#)

[NHS General Dental Service \(Non Salaried & Salaried\) Registrations by NHS Board and SIMD, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012](#)

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011, 87% of children and 74% of adults were registered with an NHS GDS dentist. This increased from 86% and 73% (children and adults respectively) as at 30 September 2011.

**Table 1: Number and level (%) of population registered with an NHS GDS dentist (non-salaried and salaried) as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

NHS Board	Number of children registered	% of child population registered	Number of adults registered	% of adult population registered
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>900,038</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>3,112,246</b>	<b>74.4</b>
Ayrshire & Arran	63,224	86.9	236,605	80.4
Borders	18,522	82.0	55,364	61.3
Dumfries & Galloway	24,586	87.3	83,494	69.6
Fife	59,007	80.0	191,854	65.9
Forth Valley	51,906	84.1	179,842	77.5
Grampian	80,335	73.6	223,571	50.6
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	206,608	87.3	767,726	79.3
Highland	51,561	84.7	142,748	57.1
Lanarkshire	99,870	83.5	356,054	80.6
Lothian	130,101	81.1	472,720	69.9
Orkney	3,584	90.6	9,141	56.6
Shetland	4,518	92.6	12,254	69.9
Tayside	64,327	82.3	237,272	73.1
Western Isles	3,283	64.7	13,647	64.6
Unknown NHS Board	38,606	3.7	129,954	3.1

Source: ISD, MIDAS

1. 2010 GRO populations are used to calculate the level of population (%) registered.

- 2. NHS Board is derived from the postcode of the patient's home address. The 'Unknown NHS Board' category represents those patients whose postcode could not be identified or matched to an NHS board.
- 3. Children are defined as <18 years old and adults as 18+ years.

From March 2007 to December 2011, there was an increase of over 1.4 million people registered with an NHS dentist (nearly 195,000 new children and over 1.2 million new adults registered). A [non-time-limited registration policy](#) was introduced in April 2010.

Over the 12 months to December 2011, the level of the Scottish population registered with an NHS dentist increased by 4.8 percentage points (all ages), by 3.3 percentage points for children and by 5.3 percentage points for adults. NHS Dumfries & Galloway observed the biggest increase for all ages (8.6 percentage points). NHS Orkney recorded the biggest annual increase of any age group (of 17.8 percentage points in the 18-24 age group). Nationally, the age groups showing the biggest annual increases (of 6.0 percentage points) were the 25-34 and 65-74 age groups. Across the mainland boards, NHS Forth Valley and NHS Tayside showed the smallest change (both 0.6 percentage point increases in the 0-2 age group).

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, 88% of children and 76% of adults were registered with an NHS GDS dentist. This increased from 87% and 74% (children and adults respectively) as at 31 December 2011.

**Table 2: Number and level (%) of population registered with an NHS GDS dentist (non-salaried and salaried) as at 31st March 2012**

NHS Board	Number of children registered	% of child population registered	Number of adults registered	% of adult population registered
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>907,631</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>3,166,443</b>	<b>75.7</b>
Ayrshire & Arran	63,616	87.5	240,495	81.8
Borders	18,609	82.3	56,619	62.7
Dumfries & Galloway	24,800	88.1	85,372	71.1
Fife	59,938	81.3	195,620	67.2
Forth Valley	52,304	84.7	182,461	78.6
Grampian	81,804	74.9	232,134	52.6
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	208,643	88.2	778,098	80.4
Highland	52,054	85.5	146,626	58.7
Lanarkshire	100,464	84.0	360,182	81.5
Lothian	131,333	81.9	481,410	71.2
Orkney	3,612	91.3	9,366	58.0
Shetland	4,544	93.1	12,539	71.6
Tayside	64,819	82.9	240,875	74.2
Western Isles	3,404	67.0	13,965	66.1
Unknown NHS Board	37,687	3.6	130,681	3.1

Source: ISD, MIDAS

- 1. 2010 GRO populations are used to calculate the level of population (%) registered.
- 2. NHS Board is derived from the postcode of the patient's home address. The 'Unknown NHS Board' category represents those patients whose postcode could not be identified or matched to an NHS board.

3. Children are defined as <18 years old and adults as 18+ years.

From March 2007 to March 2012, there was an increase of nearly 1.5 million people registered with an NHS dentist (over 200,000 new children and nearly 1.3 million new adults registered). A [non-time-limited registration policy](#) was introduced in April 2010.

Over the 12 months to March 2012, the level of the Scottish population registered with an NHS dentist increased by 4.8 percentage points (all ages), by 3.2 percentage points for children and by 5.2 percentage points for adults. NHS Dumfries & Galloway observed the biggest increase for all ages (8.1 percentage points). NHS Orkney recorded the biggest annual increase of any age group (of 18.7 percentage points in the 18-24 age group). Nationally, the age group showing the biggest annual increase (of 6.7 percentage points) was 65-74 age group. Across the mainland boards, NHS Tayside showed the smallest change (1.0 percentage point increase in the 0-2 age group).

### Participation as at 31st December 2011 and as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

The population and service profiles in some NHS board areas are such that the Community Dental Service (CDS) plays a greater role in treating children than the GDS.

The data contained in the tables show the rate of participation in NHS General Dental Services as at 31st December 2011 and as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

The rate of participation as at December 2011 among registered patients of all ages (80.2%) was 0.5 percentage points lower than at September 2011 (80.7%). Among children, those aged 0 to 2 (97.8%) had the highest rate of participation and among adults those aged 55 to 64 (82.3%).

The rate of participation as at March 2012 among registered patients of all ages (79.6%) was 0.6 percentage points lower than at December 2011 (80.2%). Among children, those aged 0 to 2 (97.6%) had the highest rate of participation and among adults those aged 55 to 64 (81.7%).

### [Registered NHS patients participating in NHS General Dental Service as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012](#)

## Glossary

SDR	Statement of Dental Remuneration
GDS	General Dental Service
MIDAS	Management Information & Dental Accounting System
Non-salaried dentist	Independent contractor dentist working on behalf of an NHS Board
Salaried dentist	Dentist working in the salaried General Dental Service (or Community Dental Service) as employee of an NHS Board

## List of Tables

Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
1	<a href="#">NHS General Dental Service Registrations in Scotland, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012</a>	March 2012	Excel [96kb]
2	<a href="#">NHS General Dental Service Registrations by Administrative Area and Age Group, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012</a>	March 2012	Excel [3,608kb]
3	<a href="#">NHS General Dental Service (Non Salaried &amp; Salaried) Registrations by NHS Board and SIMD, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012</a>	March 2012	Excel [372kb]
4	<a href="#">Registrations by dental postcode March 2007-June 2010</a>	March 2007-June 2010	Excel [5,342kb]
5	<a href="#">Registered NHS patients participating in NHS General Dental Service as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012</a>	March 2012	Excel [307kb]

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## Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ISD website](#)

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Appendix

**A1 – Background Information**

ISD Scotland has appended the Community Health Index (CHI) number to records in the patient registration dataset. CHI is a unique patient number from which a patient's age and postcode can be derived, when linked to the appropriate data sources. Although use of CHI number has enhanced registration data by enabling the removal of duplicate records and by identifying records of deceased patients, approximately 5% of CHI numbers are currently absent from the dataset; for these records the patient age has been shown as Unknown Age and the records with no postcode information shown as Unknown Health Board and detailed as such in the published tables. To further address this information deficit, from quarter ending December 2010 patient age has been sourced from MIDAS, which ensures there are no UNKNOWN AGE records present. However, the Unknown Health Board category still remains.

## A2 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details)

Metadata Indicator	Description
Publication title	NHS General Dental Service Registrations.
Description	This release provides information on NHS General Dental Services (GDS) registrations as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2011 and as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012. Information on the participation (contact with an NHS dentist) of these registered patients can also be found in this release.
Theme	Dental Health Care.
Topic	Registrations.
Format	Excel workbooks.
Data source(s)	MIDAS.
Date that data are acquired	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2012.
Release date	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2012.
Frequency	6-monthly (previously quarterly).
Timeframe of data and timeliness	As at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2011 and as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012. Five and two months in arrears.
Continuity of data	Reports 6-monthly as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March and 30 <sup>th</sup> September (previously quarterly).
Revisions statement	These data are not subject to planned major revisions. However, ISD aims to continually improve the interpretation of the data and therefore analysis methods are regularly reviewed and may be updated in future.
Revisions relevant to this publication	None.
Concepts and definitions	See Glossary and footnotes.
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	Making information publicly available for planning, provision of services, research, etc.
Accuracy	GDS data, as recorded by GDS dentists for payment, probity and quality purposes, are regarded as highly accurate, but may be revised in a subsequent monthly payment schedule.
Completeness	GDS data, as recorded by GDS dentists for payment, probity and quality purposes, are regarded as complete, but may be revised in a subsequent monthly payment schedule.
Comparability	Comparable over time.
Accessibility	It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to <a href="#">published guidelines</a> .
Coherence and clarity	Tables and charts are accessible via the ISD website at: <a href="http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Dental-Care/General-Dental-Service/registration-and-participation.asp">http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Dental-Care/General-Dental-Service/registration-and-participation.asp</a>
Value type and unit of measurement	Count of patients and level of population registered with an NHS dentist / participating in NHS General Dental Services.
Disclosure	The <a href="#">ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol</a> is followed.
Official Statistics designation	National Statistics.
UK Statistics Authority	Currently being assessed by UK Statistics Authority.

Assessment	
Last published	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2011.
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Date of first publication	Registrations quarterly 2007.
Help email	NSS.ISD-Dental-Info@nhs.net
Date form completed	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2012.

## **A3 – Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)**

### **Pre-Release Access**

Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD are obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication). The standard maximum Pre-Release Access is five working days. Shown below are details of those receiving standard Pre-Release Access and, separately, those receiving extended Pre-Release Access.

#### **Standard Pre-Release Access:**

Scottish Government Health Department  
NHS Board Chief Executives  
NHS Board Communication leads

#### **Extended Pre-Release Access**

Extended Pre-Release Access of 8 working days is given to a small number of named individuals in the Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division). This Pre-Release Access is for the sole purpose of enabling that department to gain an understanding of the statistics prior to briefing others in Scottish Government (during the period of standard Pre-Release Access).

Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division)