About this Release

This release provides information on NHS General Dental Services (GDS) registrations as at 31\textsuperscript{st} December 2011 and as at 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2012. Information on the participation (contact with an NHS dentist) of these registered patients can also be found in this release.

Key Points

Registration and participation as at 31\textsuperscript{st} 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\textsuperscript{th} 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\textsuperscript{th} 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\textsuperscript{st} 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\textsuperscript{st} 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 31st 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%).

Background
Since June 2010, ISD has been reporting registration levels based on the geography of patients’ home addresses, rather than on the geography of the dental practice where they are registered.

Participation is a measure of patient attendance at an NHS general dental practice for treatment, registration or other form of contact within the last two years (in this release as at 31st December 2011 and as at 31st March 2012). This measure further supports data already available on NHS dental registrations and the introduction of non-time-limited registration policy.

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Further Information
Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the ISD website

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 Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

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.
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 www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/