

Publication Report



Dental Statistics – Registration and Participation

Update of pages as at 30th September 2012

Publication date – 26th March 2013

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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. This release presents data as at 30th September 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 from quarterly to 6-monthly releases (as at 31st March and 30th September each year).

Publication of dental registration and participation statistics did not go ahead as planned in November 2012 because a problem was discovered with duplicate registrations data held in ISD's dental data warehouse; this problem has, however, now been resolved for this re-scheduled publication. Further investigation into the data quality and completeness of earlier registration and participation releases has determined that this is not a historical problem and therefore need not be remedied by the publication of a corrected set of figures.

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 further supports 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 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

- The level of the Scottish population (all ages) registered with an NHS GDS dentist was 79.8%, up from 78.0 % at 31st March 2012.
- Among mainland NHS boards, Dumfries & Galloway and Greater Glasgow & Clyde had the highest level of children registered (89.2%), while Ayrshire & Arran had the highest level of adults registered (83.9%); Ayrshire & Arran also had the highest level of total population registered (84.9%).
- Among mainland NHS boards, Grampian had the lowest level of children (77.1%), adults (56.0%) and total population (60.2%) registered.
- Nationally, the rate of participation in NHS General Dental Services among registered patients over the last 2 years was 87.5% for children, 77.1% for adults and 79.3% for all registered patients; these results are very similar to those of March 2012 (87.4%, 77.4% and 79.6% respectively).
- Participation rates for children were highest in Borders (92.5%) and lowest in Shetland (85.6%), while rates for adults were highest in Borders (86.4%) and lowest in Orkney (69.5%); rates for all registered patients were highest in Borders (87.9%) and lowest in Western Isles (74.4%).

Results and Commentary

Registration

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 data accessible from 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 by Administrative Area and Age Group, as at 30th September 2012](#)

[NHS General Dental Service \(Non Salaried & Salaried\) Registrations by NHS Board and SIMD, as at 30th September 2012](#)

As at 30th September 2012, 88.7% of children and 77.6% of adults were registered with an NHS GDS dentist, up from 86.1% and 73.0% respectively as at 30th September 2011 and from 87.5% and 75.7% respectively as at 31st March 2012.

Number and level (%) of population registered with an NHS GDS dentist (non-salaried and salaried) as at 30th September 2012^{1,2,3}

NHS Board	Number of children registered	% of child population registered	Number of adults registered	% of adult population registered
Scotland	919,587	88.7	3,273,196	77.6
Ayrshire & Arran	63,986	88.9	247,491	83.9
Borders	18,776	83.8	60,118	66.3
Dumfries & Galloway	24,877	89.2	88,232	73.4
Fife	61,522	83.2	203,586	69.4
Forth Valley	52,768	86.0	187,242	79.8
Grampian	84,512	77.1	249,621	56.0
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	210,719	89.2	796,385	81.8
Highland	52,757	87.3	155,475	61.8
Lanarkshire	101,460	85.0	368,008	83.0
Lothian	133,446	82.5	497,422	72.4
Orkney	3,631	92.7	9,928	61.1
Shetland	4,526	93.8	13,131	74.3
Tayside	65,607	84.2	247,932	75.6
Western Isles	3,848	77.5	14,598	69.1
Unknown NHS Board	37,152	3.6	134,027	3.2

Source: ISD, MIDAS

1. 2011 GRO populations are used to calculate 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.

Since the introduction of a [non-time-limited registration policy](#) in April 2010, there has been (between September 2010 and September 2012) an increase of over half a million people registered with an NHS dentist (over 50,000 children and over 450,000 adults).

In the year to September 2012, all NHS Boards reported an increase in the level of children and adults registered, with the highest increases (excluding island Board areas) seen for children in Dumfries & Galloway (11.1%) and for adults in Grampian (29.3%).

Participation

The population and service profiles in some NHS Board areas are such that the Salaried General Dental service and the Community Dental Service (CDS) play a greater role in treating children than the independent (non-salaried) GDS.

The data accessible via the link below show the rate of participation – patient attendance at an NHS general dental practice for treatment, registration or other form of contact within the last two years – in NHS General Dental Services as at 30th September 2012. Nationally, the rate of participation among registered patients of all ages (79.3%) was 0.3 percentage points lower than as 31st March 2012 (79.6%).

Among children, those aged 0 to 2 had the highest rate of participation (98.1%) and among adults those aged 55 to 64 (81.4%). Among registered patients of all ages, the rate of participation (79.3%) was 0.3 percentage points lower than at 31st March 2012, 0.1 percentage points higher for children (87.5%) and 0.3 percentage points lower for adults (77.1%).

Participation rates for children ranged from 92.5% in Borders to 85.6% in Shetland, while those for adults ranged from 86.4% in Borders to 69.5% in Orkney; rates for patients of all ages ranged from 87.9% in Borders to 74.4% in Western Isles.

[Registered NHS patients participating in NHS General Dental Service as at 30th September 2012](#)

Glossary

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 an employee of an NHS Board

List of Tables

Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
2	NHS General Dental Service Registrations by Administrative Area and Age Group	As at 30 th September 2012	Excel [3,928kb]
3	NHS General Dental Service (Non Salaried & Salaried) Registrations by NHS Board and SIMD	As at 30 th September 2012	Excel [402kb]
4	Registered NHS patients participating in NHS General Dental Service	As at 30 th September 2012	Excel [347kb]

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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 3% 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	Dental Statistics – Registration and Participation
Description	This release provides information on NHS General Dental Services (GDS) registrations as at 30 th September 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	Registration and participation.
Format	Excel workbooks.
Data source(s)	MIDAS. GROS.
Date that data are acquired	13 th March 2013.
Release date	26 th March 2013.
Frequency	6-monthly.
Timeframe of data and timeliness	As at 30 th September 2012. Normally 2 months in arrears but for this re-scheduled publication 6 months in arrears.
Continuity of data	Reports 6-monthly as at 31 st March and 30 th September.
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 the 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 are highly accurate and reliable; they are the product of practitioners' detailed records of treatments prescribed for and provided to their patients for payment and clinical governance purposes. Practitioner Services Division (PSD) internal reporting routinely quantifies the accuracy of MIDAS source data. However, errors made by practitioners in claiming for treatment prescribed and provided are identified by PSD's validation systems and corrected in the next available payment schedule (usually the following month).
Completeness	GDS data have a high degree of completeness; they are the product of practitioners' detailed records of treatments prescribed for and provided to their patients for payment and clinical governance purposes. Practitioner Services Division (PSD) internal reporting routinely quantifies the accuracy of MIDAS source data. However, errors made by practitioners in claiming for treatment prescribed and provided are identified by PSD's validation systems and corrected in the next available payment schedule (usually the following month).
Comparability	Comparable over time.
Accessibility	It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and

	products accessible according to published guidelines .
Coherence and clarity	Tables and charts are accessible via the ISD website at: http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Dental-Care/General-Dental-Service/registration-and-participation.asp
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 ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol is followed.
Official Statistics designation	Official Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Pending.
Last published	29 th May 2012.
Next published	28 th May 2013.
Date of first publication	Registrations quarterly 2007.
Help email	NSS.ISD-Dental-Info@nhs.net
Date form completed	13 th March 2013.

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)

A4 – ISD and Official Statistics

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](#).