

# Publication Report



## **Dental Statistics – NHS Registration and Participation**

**Update of pages as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

**Publication date – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

## Contents

Introduction.....	2
Key points.....	4
Results and Commentary .....	5
Registration.....	5
Participation .....	6
Glossary .....	7
List of Tables .....	8
Contact .....	9
Further Information .....	9
Rate this publication .....	9
Appendices.....	10
A1 – Background Information.....	10
A2 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details).....	11
A3 – Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access).....	13
A4 – ISD and Official Statistics.....	14

## Introduction

### NHS General Dental Service (GDS)

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.

### Management Information & Dental Accounting System (MIDAS)

MIDAS, the payment system for GDS dentists, processes information on people registered in a dynamic database that changes daily. Therefore, 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).

### Registration

This release presents data taken from a snapshot of NHS GDS registrations as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

Data are presented on the number and percentage of the population who are registered with an NHS GDS dentist. 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 individual's 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-June 2010](#).

### Participation

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”. This is restricted to patients who are registered with an NHS GDS dentist and therefore does not include patients who attend for occasional treatment.

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 general 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 GDS 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 81.8% as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, up from 79.8% as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
- Within the 6-12 and 13-17 age groups, over 99% of the population was registered with an NHS GDS dentist.
- Among mainland NHS boards, Greater Glasgow & Clyde had the highest level of children registered (89.9%) and Ayrshire & Arran the highest level of adults registered (85.9%).
- Grampian had the lowest registration rates for children (79%), adults (59.4%) and the total population (63.3%).
- Nationally, the rate of participation in NHS General Dental Services among registered patients over the last 2 years was 86.6% for children and 75.4% for adults (down from 87.5% and 77.1% respectively, as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012).
- Participation rates were lowest in the 18-24 age group (69.3%) and highest in the 0-2 age group (98.1%).
- Participation rates for children were highest in Borders (91.9%) and lowest in Shetland (83.5%); rates for adults were also highest in Borders (85.5%) and lowest in Orkney (67.4%).

## Results and Commentary

### Registration

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, 89.5% of children and 79.9% of adults were registered with an NHS GDS dentist (Table 1). This was a slight increase from 88.7% and 77.6% (children and adults respectively) as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

Shetland had the highest percentage of children registered (94.8%) and Ayrshire & Arran the highest percentage of adults registered (85.9%). Grampian had the lowest registration rates for children (79%) and adults (59.4%).

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

**Table 1: Number of people and level (%) of the population registered with an NHS GDS dentist, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013<sup>1-7</sup>**

NHS Board	Number of children registered	% of child population registered	Number of adults registered	% of adult population registered
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>927,330</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>3,370,982</b>	<b>79.9</b>
Ayrshire & Arran	64,112	89.0	253,188	85.9
Borders	18,884	84.3	62,167	68.5
Dumfries & Galloway	24,743	88.7	90,603	75.4
Fife	62,226	84.2	210,226	71.6
Forth Valley	53,116	86.6	191,779	81.8
Grampian	86,636	79.0	264,622	59.4
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	212,316	89.9	817,023	83.9
Highland	53,017	87.8	161,885	64.4
Lanarkshire	102,160	85.6	376,427	84.9
Lothian	134,889	83.4	511,925	74.5
Orkney	3,647	93.1	10,529	64.8
Shetland	4,574	94.8	13,497	76.4
Tayside	66,059	84.8	254,055	77.5
Western Isles	3,975	80.0	15,108	71.6
Unknown NHS board	36,976	n/a	137,948	n/a

Source: ISD, MIDAS

- 2011 NRS mid-year population estimates were used to calculate the percentage of people registered.
- 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.
- Children are defined as <18 years old and adults as 18+ years.
- Dental registrations are measured using CHI number. Approximately 3% of CHI numbers are not recorded in MIDAS.
- Dental registrations of deceased patients are excluded.
- Duplicate registrations are excluded from those cases which have a CHI number. However there may still be duplicate registrations amongst those cases which have no CHI number, as these cannot be identified for removal.
- Figures are taken from a snapshot of NHS GDS registrations taken on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

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. Trend data for NHS dental registrations, by age group, administrative area and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) are contained in the following links.

[NHS General Dental Service Registrations in Scotland by Age Group](#)

[NHS General Dental Service Registrations by Administrative Area and Age Group](#)

[NHS General Dental Service \(Non Salaried & Salaried\) Registrations by NHS board and SIMD](#)

Nationally, registration levels for adults aged over 24 decreased incrementally with age, from 90.1% for the 25-34 age group down to 60.6% for people aged 75 and over. Registration levels for children in the 6-12 and 13-17 age groups were over 99%.

Since the introduction of a [non-time-limited registration policy](#) in April 2010, there has been an increase of over 730,000 people registered with an NHS dentist.

As at March 2013, all NHS boards reported an annual increase in the level of children and adults registered, with the highest increases seen for children in Western Isles (up 13 percentage points) and adults in Grampian and Orkney (up 6.8 percentage points).

Western Isles recorded the biggest annual increase of any age group (up 17.8 percentage points in the 0-2 age group). Nationally, the age group showing the biggest annual increase was the 65-74 age group (up 5.9 percentage points).

### Participation

As can be seen with registration data, the population and service profiles in some NHS board areas are such that the Salaried General Dental Service (GDS) and the Community Dental Service (CDS) plays a greater role in treating children than the independent (non-salaried) GDS.

Participation rates are a measure of patient attendance for treatment, registration or any other form of contact with NHS General Dental Services within the last two years. Patients who attend for occasional/emergency treatment or attend to see a CDS dentist will be excluded from these figures.

Trend data for the participation rates from September 2010 to March 2013, by NHS board and age group are contained in the link below.

[Registered NHS patients participating in NHS General Dental Service](#)

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, the Scotland rate of participation was 86.6% for children and 75.4% for adults (a slight decrease from 87.5% and 77.1% respectively as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012).

Among children, those aged 0 to 2 had the highest rate of participation (98.1%) and among adults those aged 55 to 64 (79.9%).

Borders had the highest participation rates for children (91.9%) and adults (85.5%).

Nationally, participation rates for children decreased incrementally with age, from 98.1% for the 0-2 age group to 83.4% for the 13-17 age group. This pattern was consistent across each NHS board.

In the year to March 2013, all NHS boards excluding Grampian and Western Isles reported an overall decrease in the rate of participation. Shetland experienced the biggest decrease (down 5.7 percentage points).

## Glossary

CDS	Community Dental Service
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
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

## List of Tables

Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
1	<a href="#">NHS General Dental Service Registrations in Scotland</a>	June 2011 to March 2013	Excel [84kb]
2	<a href="#">NHS General Dental Service Registrations by Administrative Area and Age Group</a>	March 2010 to March 2013	Excel [4,288kb]
3	<a href="#">NHS General Dental Service (Non Salaried &amp; Salaried) Registrations by NHS board and SIMD</a>	December 2010 to March 2013	Excel [426kb]
4	<a href="#">Registered NHS patients participating in NHS General Dental Service</a>	September 2010 to March 2013	Excel [388kb]
5	<a href="#">Registrations by dental practice postcode March 2007 - June2010</a>	March 2007- June 2010	Excel [5,338kb]

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## Further Information

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

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## Appendices

### A1 – Background Information

The Community Health Index (CHI) is a unique patient number from which a patient's age and postcode can be derived when linked to the appropriate data sources. ISD Scotland has appended the (CHI) number to records in the patient registration dataset. 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's age cannot be derived, and historically have been included in published tables under "Unknown Age". Similarly, any records with no postcode information are counted under "Unknown NHS Board". To further address the information deficit, since December 2010, missing ages are sourced from MIDAS, ensures that there are no "unknown age" records present. However, the "Unknown NHS 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 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013. 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	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2013.
Release date	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2013.
Frequency	6-monthly.
Timeframe of data and timeliness	As at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013, therefore 2 months in arrears.
Continuity of data	Reports 6-monthly as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March and 30 <sup>th</sup> 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's (PSD) internal reporting routine 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	As above.
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/Publications/">www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Dental-Care/Publications/</a> .
Value type and unit of measurement	Number of patients and percentage 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	Official Statistics.
UK Statistics Authority	Pending.

Assessment	
Last published	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2013.
Next published	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2013.
Date of first publication	(Registrations) 2007.
Help email	<a href="mailto:NSS.ISD-Dental-Info@nhs.net">NSS.ISD-Dental-Info@nhs.net</a>
Date form completed	8 <sup>th</sup> May 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](#).