About this Release
This release provides information on NHS General Dental Services (GDS) registrations as at 31st March 2013. Information on the participation (contact with an NHS dentist) of these registered patients can also be found in this release.

Key Points
- The level of the Scottish population (all ages) registered with an NHS GDS dentist was 81.8% as at 31st March 2013, up from 79.8% as at 30th 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 30th 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%).

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 March 2013). This measure further supports data already available on NHS dental registrations and the introduction of the non-time-limited registration policy.
**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](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)

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**Contact**

**Stephen Goold**
Principal Information Analyst  
[stephen.goold@nhs.net](mailto:stephen.goold@nhs.net)  
0131 275 6316

**Diane Stockton**
Public Health Specialist  
[diane.stockton@nhs.net](mailto:diane.stockton@nhs.net)  
0131 275 6817

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**Further Information**

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) or on the [ISD website](http://www.isdscotland.org)