

# Publication Report



## Dental Statistics – NHS Registration and Participation

Update of statistics as at 30th September 2013

Publication date – 26th November 2013



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## Introduction

### NHS General Dental Service (GDS)

The NHS General Dental Service (GDS) is usually the first point of contact for NHS dental treatment. People register with a General Dental Practitioner (a "High Street dentist") – who is an independent contractor working on behalf of the local NHS board – to receive the full range of NHS treatment available. There are also a number of salaried dentists working in the GDS, who provide an alternative service to the independent General Dental Practitioners, in order to meet the oral health needs of the local population.

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

MIDAS, the computerised payment system for GDS dentists, processes information on people registered with an NHS dentist 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](#) (PSD) within 3 months of the completion date of treatment).

### Registration

This release presents data taken from a snapshot of NHS dental registrations as at 30th September 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 mid-year population estimates provided by the National Records of Scotland (NRS).

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](#).

### **Changes in this publication - Registrations for deceased patients**

CHI number is identified for approximately 97% of records on MIDAS. Between March 2010 and March 2013, CHI number, where available, was used to identify and remove records for deceased patients from the dataset. Dentists only stop receiving registration payments for this small number of patients when records are updated as 'deceased' and therefore, until then, patients' registrations are still active. Data from September 2013 onwards will include dental information for deceased patients. As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 21,947 (0.5%) of active registrations were for deceased patients.

### **Mid-year population estimates**

2012 mid-year population estimates are from the newly available 2011-based census from National Records Scotland, whereas previous years are based on the 2001-based census. In order to use the most recently available figures, registration levels for September 2013 are based on the 2012 mid-year estimates. This should be considered when looking at time trend analysis. These changes do not appreciably affect the results, nor would they change the overall interpretation of results by users of the report.

### **Participation**

Participation is defined as "a measure of patient attendance at an NHS dental practice for examination or treatment in the last two years". This is restricted to patients who are registered with an NHS GDS dentist and therefore does not include patients who only attend for occasional, emergency or hospital treatment.

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

- The number who have attended an NHS dental practice for examination/treatment at least once in the previous two 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).

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 (CDS), consideration will be given to using the full child and adult populations of administrative areas as denominators.

## Key points

### Registration

- As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, over 4.4 million patients were registered with an NHS GDS dentist in Scotland, an increase of 1.8 million since March 2007.
- The level of the Scottish population registered with an NHS GDS dentist increased from 50.5% in March 2007 to 83.4% in September 2013.
- Within the 6-12 age group, over 99% of the population was registered with an NHS GDS dentist.
- Registration levels for adults aged over 24 decreased incrementally with age, from 93.8% for the 25-34 age group to 66.1% for people aged 75 and over.
- As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Shetland and Greater Glasgow & Clyde had the highest percentage of children registered (91.5%) and Ayrshire & Arran the highest percentage of adults registered (86.7%).
- Western Isles had the lowest percentage of children registered (80.6%) and Grampian had the lowest percentage of adults registered (61.1%).

### Participation

- 3.4 million registered patients attended an NHS dental practice for examination or treatment in the two-year period up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, an increase of over 365,000 in the two years prior to September 2010.
- Nationally, the rate of participation was 85.9% for children and 74% for adults (down slightly from 86.6% and 75.4% respectively, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013).
- Participation rates were lowest for patients aged 75 and over (66.6%) and highest in the 0-2 age group (97.6%).
- Participation rates for children were highest in Borders (91.7%) and lowest in Shetland (83.3%); rates for adults were also highest in Borders (84.5%) and lowest in Orkney (65.1%).
- Since March 2011, Borders has reported the highest participation rates among children and adults.

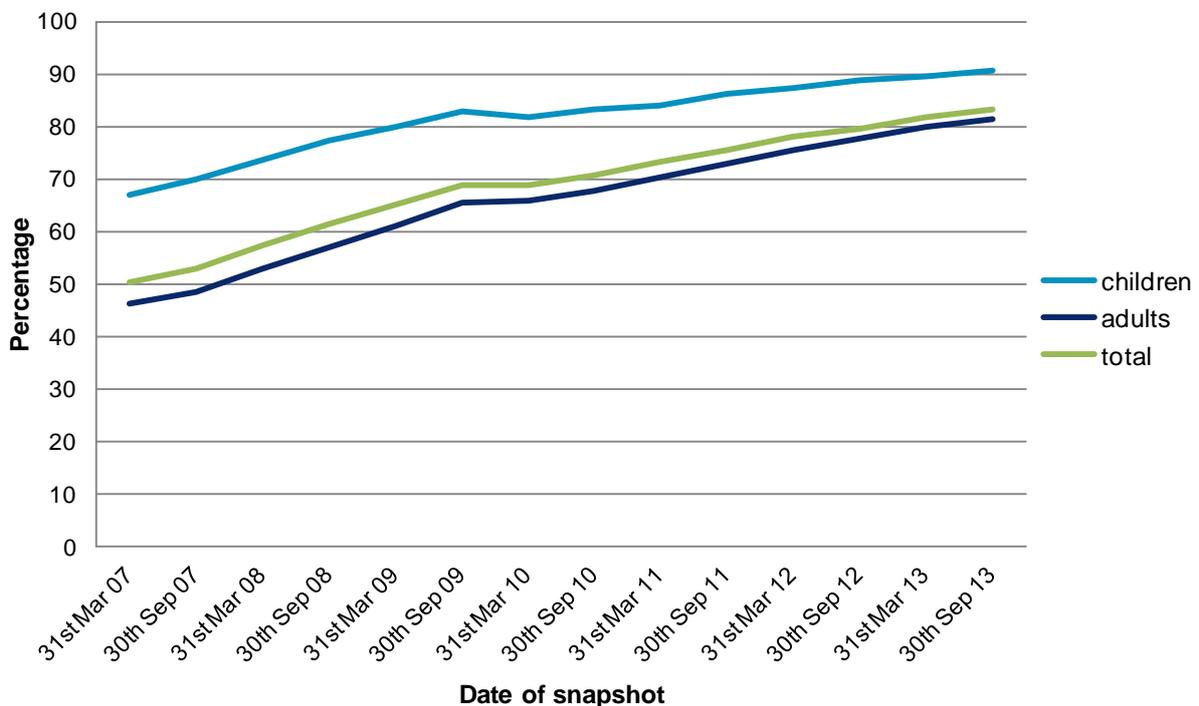
## Results and Commentary

### Registration

Registration data are presented from March 2007. As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, over 4.4 million patients were registered with an NHS GDS dentist in Scotland, an increase of 1.8 million since March 2007.

The level of the Scottish population registered with an NHS GDS dentist increased from 67.2% of children and 46.2% of adults in March 2007 to 90.7% of children and 81.6% of adults in September 2013 (figure 1).

**Figure 1: Level (%) of children and adults registered with an NHS GDS dentist in Scotland; at specified dates<sup>1-6</sup>**



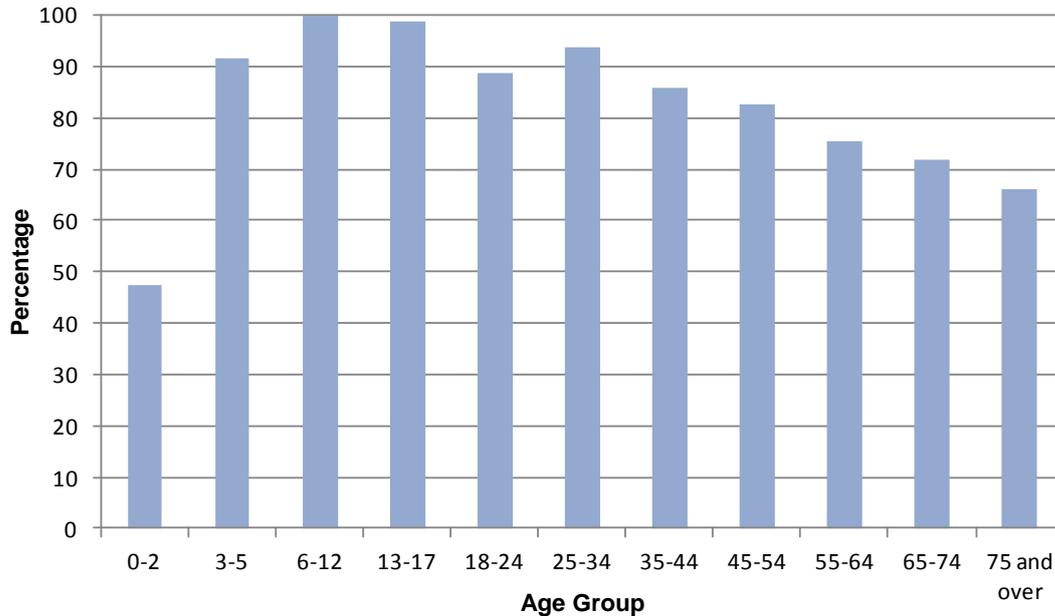
Source: ISD, MIDAS

1. NRS mid-year population estimates were used to estimate the percentage of people registered.
2. Children are defined as <18 years old and adults as 18+ years.
3. Between 2010 and March 2013, registrations for deceased patients were excluded from the cases on MIDAS which had a CHI number. However, there may have still been registrations for deceased patients among the approximately 3% of cases on MIDAS which have no CHI number, as these could not be identified for removal.
4. Duplicate registrations are excluded from the cases on MIDAS which have a CHI number; however, there may still be duplicate registrations among the cases which have no CHI number.
5. Figures are taken from a snapshot of NHS registrations, e.g. on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
6. Due to the method of data extraction, figures for September 2013 include 15,933 CDS attendances.

A key policy change influencing registration levels has been the introduction of [non-time-limited registration](#). Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, patient registration records lapsed after a period of 15 months if the patient did not attend the practice; the Scottish Government extended this period to 36 months one year later; “lifetime” registration was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. Non-time-limited patient registration contributes to the overall number of patients registered with an NHS GDS dentist, and since the policy’s introduction there has been an increase of over 866,000 people registered.

Over 99% of children aged 6-12 were registered in September 2013. Registration levels for adults aged over 24 decreased incrementally with age, from 93.8% for the 25-34 age group to 66.1% for people aged 75 and over (figure 2). A similar pattern was seen in previous years.

**Figure 2: Level (%) of the population registered with an NHS GDS dentist in Scotland; by age group; as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013<sup>1-5</sup>**



1. Source: ISD Scotland, MIDAS.

2. NRS 2012 mid-year population estimates were used to calculate the percentage of people registered.

3. Duplicate registrations are excluded from the cases on MIDAS which have a CHI number. However, there may still be duplicate registrations among the 3% of cases on MIDAS which have no CHI number, as these cannot be identified for removal.

4. Figures are taken from a snapshot of NHS registrations taken on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

5. Due to the method of data extraction, figures for September 2013 include 15,933 CDS attendances.

NHS dental registrations are presented 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 and administrative area, from March 2010 to September 2013, are contained in the following link.

[Table 1 - NHS General Dental Service Registrations by Administrative Area and Age Group](#)

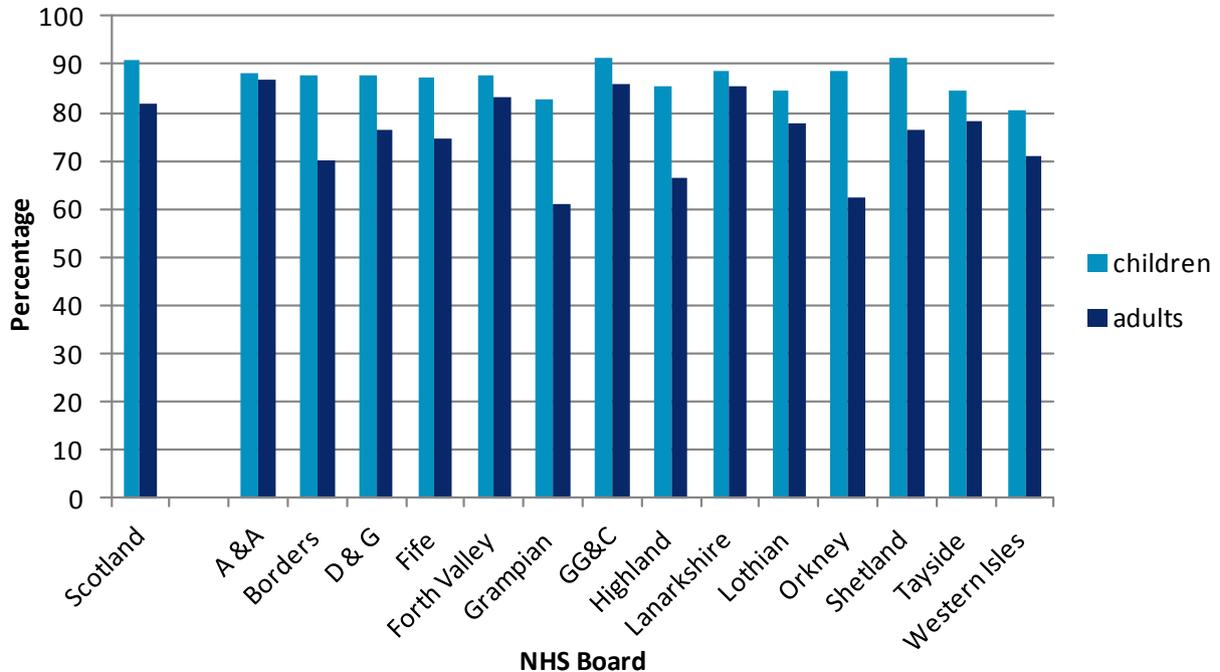
Since March 2010, an increase in registration levels has been reported for all age groups, with the biggest increases shown in the 25-34s (up 24.6 percentage points) and the over 75s (up 24.2 percentage points).

All NHS boards reported an increase in the level of children and adults registered, with the highest increases seen for children in Western Isles (up 26.9 percentage points) and adults in Highland (up 20.9 percentage points).

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Shetland and Greater Glasgow & Clyde had the highest percentage of children registered (91.5%) and Ayrshire & Arran the highest percentage of adults registered (86.7%). Western Isles had the lowest percentage of children registered (80.6%) and Grampian had the lowest percentage of adults registered (61.1%) (figure 3).

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.

**Figure 3: Level (%) of the population registered with an NHS GDS dentist; by NHS board of residence, as at 30th September 2013<sup>1-6</sup>**



Key: A&A – Ayrshire & Arran; D&G – Dumfries & Galloway; GG&C – Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Source: ISD, MIDAS

1. NRS 2012 mid-year population estimates were used to calculate the percentage of people registered.
2. NHS board is based on the postcode of the patient’s home address which is derived from the patient’s CHI number. Approximately 3% of CHI numbers are not identified on MIDAS. As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 174,106 postcodes (3.9%) could not be identified or matched to an NHS board.
3. Children are defined as <18 years old and adults as 18+ years.
4. Duplicate registrations are excluded from the cases on MIDAS which have a CHI number. However, there may still be duplicate registrations among those cases which have no CHI number, as these cannot be identified for removal.
5. Figures are taken from a snapshot of NHS registrations taken on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
6. Due to the method of data extraction, figures for September 2013 include 15,933 CDS attendances.

Data for NHS dental registrations are analysed by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) population-weighted quintiles. Each quintile consists of approximately 20% of the population living in Scotland, with deprivation quintile 1 indicating the population living in the most deprived areas. As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, national registration rates were similar across the SIMD quintiles, suggesting no association between registration and deprivation. The rates varied across NHS Boards.

Trend data for NHS dental registrations by SIMD and dental salaried status are contained in the following link.

[Table 2 - NHS Dental \(Non Salaried & Salaried\) Registrations by NHS board and SIMD](#)

2012 mid-year population estimates are from the newly available 2011-based census from National Records Scotland, whereas previous years are based on the 2001-based census.

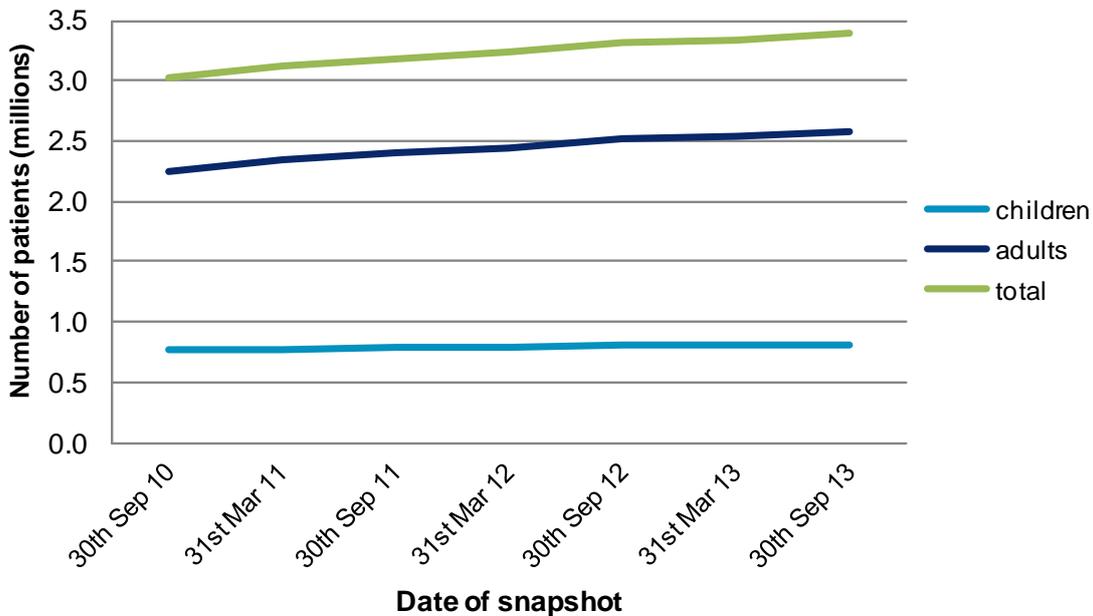
In order to use the most recently available figures, registration levels for September 2013 are based on the 2012 mid-year estimates.

**Participation**

Participation is a measure of patient attendance at an NHS dental practice for examination or treatment in 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, emergency or hospital treatment. As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 77,117 (2.2%) of patients who attended an NHS dental practice were not registered. Participation data are presented from September 2010.

3.4 million registered patients attended an NHS dental practice in the two-year period up to 31<sup>st</sup> September 2013, an increase of over 365,000 in the two years prior to September 2010 (figure 4).

**Figure 4: Number (millions) of registered patients participating in NHS dental services in Scotland, by specified dates<sup>1-6</sup>**



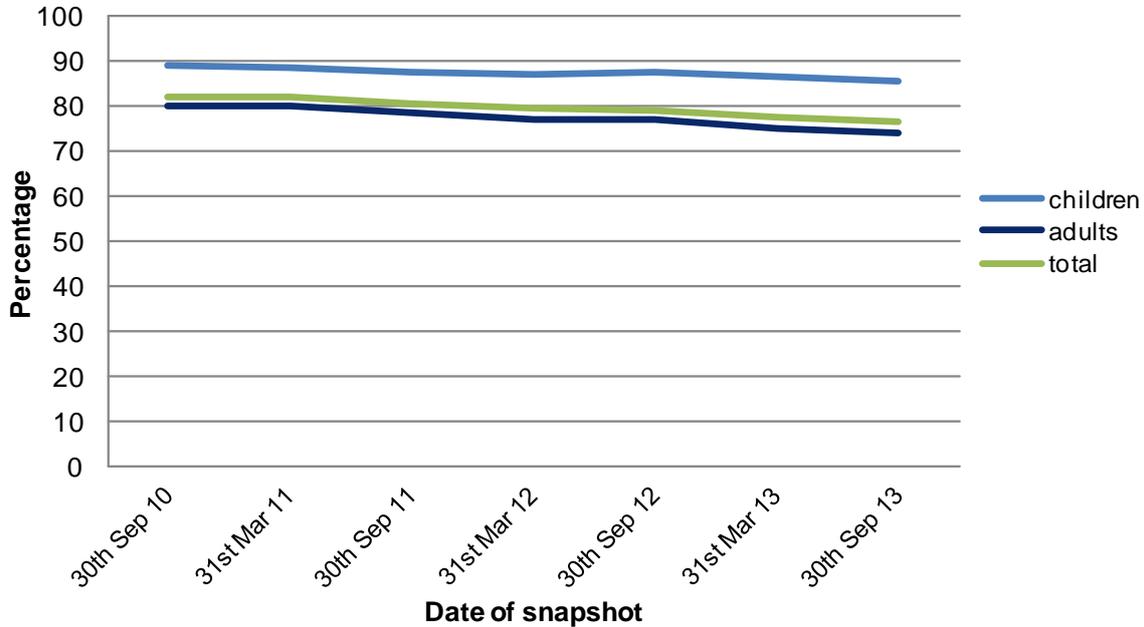
Source: ISD, MIDAS

1. Patients defined as 'participating' must be registered with an NHS GDS dentist and have attended an NHS dental practice for examination or treatment at least once within the last two years.
2. Children are defined as <18 years old and adults as 18+ years.
3. Between 2010 and March 2013, registrations for deceased patients were excluded from the cases on MIDAS which had a CHI number. However, there may have still been registrations for deceased patients among the approximately 3% of cases on MIDAS which have no CHI number, as these could not be identified for removal.
4. Figures are taken from a snapshot of NHS dental activity, e.g. on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
5. Due to the method of data extraction, figures for September 2013 include 15,933 CDS attendances.
6. Activity relating to occasional/emergency/hospital patients is not included.

Until participation analysis can be extended to include all NHS GDS and CDS activity, the number of patients registered is used as a denominator in calculating participation rates. The number of registrations in recent years has increased significantly, in part due to the introduction of non-time-limited registration in April 2010. As a result, the percentage of registered patients attending an NHS dental practice has shown a steady decline (figure 5).

The level of participation for children dropped from 89.1% of the registered population in September 2010 to 85.9% in September 2013. Similarly, the rate for adults dropped from 80.1% to 74%.

**Figure 5: Level (%) of participation for children and adults registered with an NHS GDS dentist in Scotland; by specified dates<sup>1-6</sup>**



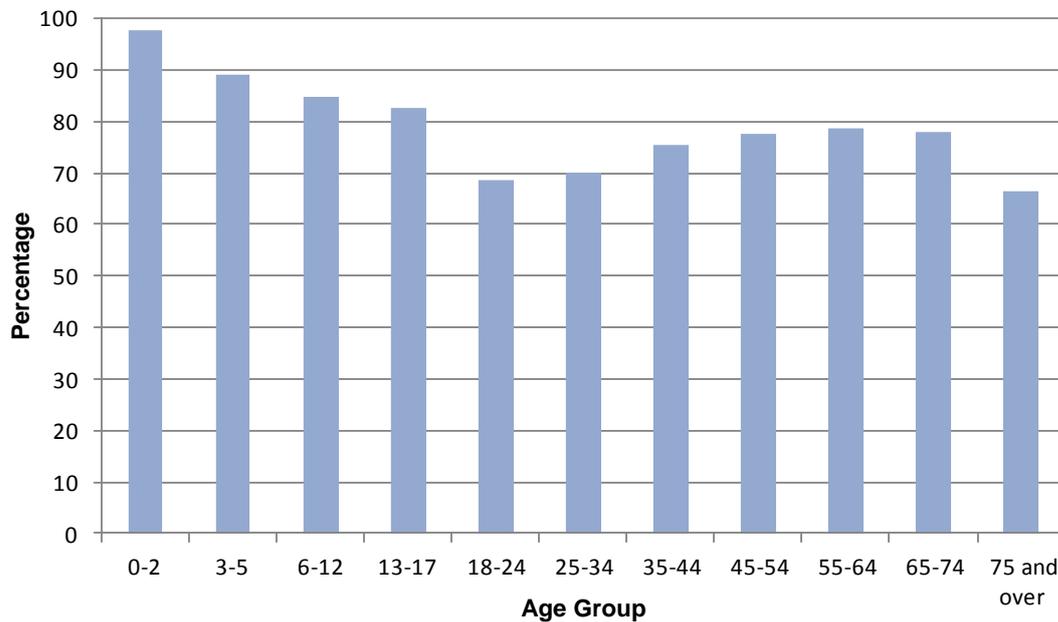
Source: ISD, MIDAS

1. Patients defined as 'participating' must be registered with an NHS GDS dentist and have attended an NHS dental practice for examination or treatment at least once within the last two years.
2. Children are defined as <18 years old and adults as 18+ years.
3. Between 2010 and March 2013, registrations for deceased patients were excluded from the cases on MIDAS which had a CHI number. However, there may have still been registrations for deceased patients among the approximately 3% of cases on MIDAS which have no CHI number, as these could not be identified for removal.
4. Figures are taken from a snapshot of NHS dental activity, e.g. on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
5. Due to the method of data extraction, figures for September 2013 include 15,933 CDS attendances.
6. Activity relating to occasional/emergency/hospital patients is not included.

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, the lowest national registration levels were reported for children aged 0-2 (47.2% registered); however, this age group had the highest rate of participation (97.6%). For children, the rate of participation decreased incrementally with age to 82.5% for the 13-17 age group. This pattern was consistent across each NHS board.

National registration levels for adults aged over 24 decreased with age; however, participation increased incrementally between the 18-24 and 55-64 age groups (figure 6). A similar pattern was seen in previous years. The rate of participation was lowest for patients aged 75 and over (66.6%).

**Figure 6: Level (%) of the Scottish population participating with an NHS GDS dentist; by age group; as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013<sup>1-4</sup>**



Source: ISD, MIDAS

1. Patients defined as 'participating' must be registered with an NHS GDS dentist and have attended an NHS dental practice for examination or treatment at least once within the last two years.
2. Figures are taken from a snapshot of NHS dental activity on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
3. Due to the method of data extraction, figures for September 2013 include 15,933 CDS attendances.
4. Activity relating to occasional/emergency/hospital patients is not included.

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

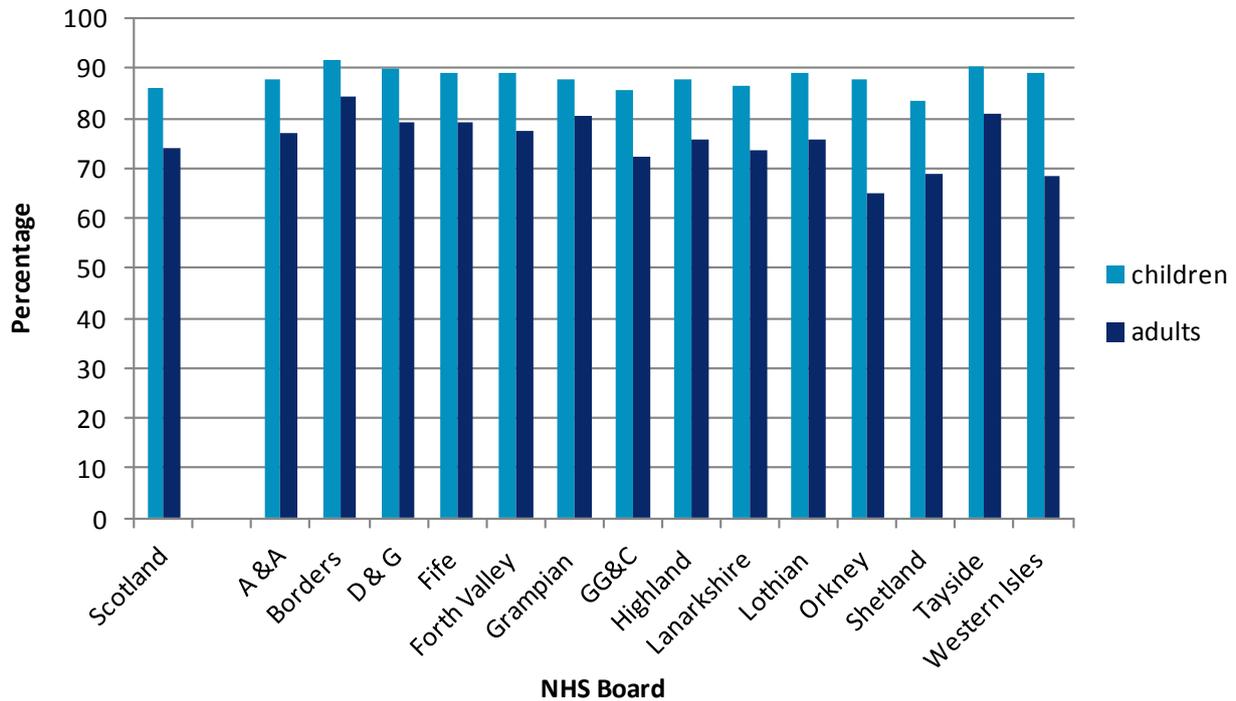
[Table 3 - Registered NHS patients participating in NHS General Dental Service](#)

Since September 2010, all NHS boards excluding Dumfries & Galloway, Orkney and Western Isles have reported an overall decrease in the rate of participation. Shetland experienced the biggest decrease (down 10.9 percentage points).

Since March 2011, Borders has reported the highest participation rates among children and adults. As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, the participation rates for children and adults in Borders were 91.7% and 84.5% respectively (figure 7).

The lowest participation rates for children were reported in Shetland (83.3%) and for adults in Orkney (65.1%).

**Figure 7: Level (%) of the population participating with an NHS GDS dentist; by NHS board of residence; as at 30th September 2013<sup>1-6</sup>**



Key: A&A – Ayrshire & Arran; D&G – Dumfries & Galloway; GG&C – Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Source: ISD, MIDAS

1. Patients defined as 'participating' must be registered with an NHS GDS dentist and have attended an NHS dental practice for examination or treatment within the last two years.
2. Children are defined as <18 years old and adults as 18+ years.
3. NHS board is based on the postcode of the patient's home address which is derived from the patient's CHI number. Approximately 3% of CHI numbers are not identified on MIDAS. As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 174,106 postcodes (3.9%) could not be identified or matched to an NHS board.
4. Figures are taken from a snapshot of NHS dental activity taken on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
5. Due to the method of data extraction, figures for September 2013 include 15,933 CDS attendances.
6. Activity relating to occasional/emergency/hospital patients is not included.

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.

## 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
NRS	National Records Scotland
PSD	Practitioner Services Division
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

Figure/ Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
Figure 1	<a href="#">Percentage of children and adults registered with an NHS GDS dentist in Scotland</a>	March 2007 to September 2013	Excel [37kb]
Figure 2	<a href="#">NHS Dental Service registrations in Scotland by age group</a>	As at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	Excel [28kb]
Table 1	<a href="#">NHS General Dental Service Registrations by Administrative Area and Age Group</a>	March 2010 to September 2013	Excel [4,700kb]
Figure 3	<a href="#">Level (%) of the population registered with an NHS GDS dentist, by NHS board of residence</a>	As at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	Excel [38kb]
Table 2	<a href="#">NHS General Dental Service (Non Salaried &amp; Salaried) Registrations by NHS board and SIMD</a>	December 2010 to September 2013	Excel [496kb]
Figures 4 & 5	<a href="#">Number and level (%) of registered patients participating in NHS dental services in Scotland</a>	September 2010 to September 2013	Excel [47kb]
Figure 6	<a href="#">Level (%) of the Scottish population participating with an NHS GDS dentist, by age group</a>	As at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	Excel [31kb]
Figure 7	<a href="#">Level (%) of the population participating with an NHS GDS dentist, by NHS board of residence</a>	As at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	Excel [34kb]
Table 3	<a href="#">Registered NHS patients participating in NHS General Dental Service</a>	September 2010 to September 2013	Excel [436kb]
Table 4	<a href="#">Registrations by dental practice postcode March 2007 - June 2010</a>	March 2007- June 2010	Excel [5,341kb]

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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, 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, ensuring that there are no "unknown age" records present. However, the "Unknown NHS Board" category still remains.

## A2 – Links/comparisons to other sources of dental health information

The sources below offer information related to dental services and dental health. Most of these sources are external to ISD and we cannot guarantee the content or accessibility of these external web sites.

ISD publishes information relating to the [general dental service workforce](#) in Scotland.

ISD publishes an annual [NHS Adult & Child Fees and Treatments](#) report providing information on NHS GDS fees paid to dentists and on treatments provided to children and adults.

ISD publishes an annual [National Dental Inspection Programme \(NDIP\)](#) report which advises the Scottish Government, NHS boards and other organisations concerned with children's health of the oral disease prevalence in their area.

The 2012 [Scottish Health Survey](#) covers dental health topics such as dental health problems and trends in prevalence of natural teeth.

[The Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) (HSCIC) produces annual and quarterly statistical publications providing information on all patients that receive NHS dental care in England. Subjects covered include: dental activity, clinical treatments, orthodontic activity and dental workforce. Information on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in the previous 2 years at specified dates is also included.

[StatsWales](#) provide statistics on general dental services, including data on the proportion of patients treated.

It should be noted that the definition of patients seen/treated used by HSCIC and StatsWales differs to ISD's definition of participation (which is restricted to patients who are registered with an NHS GDS dentist).

The Office for National Statistics' (ONS) has carried out a [Dental Health Survey of Children and Young People](#) every ten years since 1973. The next study will be in 2013. The study provides information to underpin dental health care for children in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The information collected helps the NHS to understand how the dental health of each generation of children is changing. It is used in the planning of dental care services for the future.

Please note that if you want to compare deprivation levels in Scotland and England, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is not directly comparable with the Index of Multiple Deprivation used in England.

**A3 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details)**

<b>Metadata Indicator</b>	<b>Description</b>
Publication title	Dental Statistics – NHS Registration and Participation.
Description	This release provides information on NHS dental registrations as at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013. Information on the participation (contact with an NHS GDS 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, NRS.
Date that data are acquired	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2013.
Release date	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2013.
Frequency	6-monthly.
Timeframe of data and timeliness	As at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 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	General Dental Service 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 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	As above.
Comparability	CHI number is identified for approximately 97% of records on MIDAS. Between March 2010 and March 2013, CHI number, where available, was used to identify and remove records for deceased patients from the dataset. Dentists only stop receiving registration payments for this small number of patients when records are updated as 'deceased' and therefore, until then, patients' registrations

	<p>are still active. Data from September 2013 onwards will include dental information for deceased patients. As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 21,947 (0.5%) of active registrations were for deceased patients.</p> <p>2012 mid-year population estimates are from the newly available 2011-based census from National Records Scotland, whereas previous years are based on the 2001-based census. In order to use the most recently available figures, registration levels for September 2013 are based on the 2012 mid-year estimates. This should be considered when looking at time trend analysis. These changes do not appreciably affect the results, nor would they change the overall interpretation of results by users of the report.</p> <p>See appendix 2 for information on comparisons with UK-wide statistics.</p>
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 GDS dentist/participating in NHS Dental Services.
Disclosure	The <a href="#">ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol</a> is followed.
Official Statistics designation	Official Statistics.
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Pending.
Last published	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2013.
Next published	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2014.
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	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2013.

## **A4 – 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).

## A5 – 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](#).

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.