Publication Summary

Dental Statistics – NHS Registration and Participation
Update of statistics as at 31st March 2014
Publication date – 24th June 2014

About this Release
This release provides information on NHS General Dental Services (GDS) registrations and participation (contact with GDS) as at 31st March 2014.

Key Points
Registration
- Over 4.5 million patients (85% of population) were registered with an NHS dentist in Scotland in March 2014.
- There has been a 75% increase from the 2.6 million patients registered (51% of population) in 2007.
- 91% of children and 84% of adults are now registered with an NHS dentist.
- Registration with an NHS dentist falls steadily with age, with only 70% of adults aged 75 and over being registered.
- Most NHS boards had over 85% of children registered with a dentist, with only Grampian (84%) and Western Isles (81%) being lower.
- Registration rates have increased generally across all NHS boards. The largest increase for children registration was in Western Isles, up from 67% to 81% since March 2010.
- Adult registration varied widely across the NHS Boards, with a high of 88% of adults registered in March 2014 in Ayrshire & Arran compared with a low of 64% in Grampian. Rates for Grampian have, however, increased by 22% since March 2010, among the largest increases in Scotland.
- There was no association between registration with an NHS dentist and deprivation for children (all quintiles with around 88% registered).
- In contrast, adults from the most deprived areas were most likely to be registered with an NHS dentist (85%), while registration rates for all other deprivation quintiles (fifths of the population) areas were the same (around 79%). This may be because free NHS dental treatment is available to people who receive certain benefits.

Participation
- Over 3.4 million patients registered with an NHS dentist in March 2014 attended in the previous two years (“participation”). This is a 13% increase from the 3 million participating in the two years prior to September 2010.
- Three-quarters (73%) of adults registered with an NHS dentist in March 2014 attended in the last two years (2.6 million adults).
86% of children see their NHS dentist at least once within two years (815,000 children).

Despite an increasing number of patients participating, the participation rate is falling. This is because the number of registrations has increased at a faster pace than the numbers participating, and as a result, the percentage of registered patients participating has shown a steady decline.

Participation for children has fallen from 89% in September 2010 to 86% in March 2014.

Participation rates for adults have also fallen since September 2010 from 80% to 73%.

Borders had the highest participation rate, both for children (92%) and adults (84%). Shetland had the lowest participation rate for children (83%), while Orkney had the lowest participation rate for adults (61%).

In contrast to the registration patterns, for both adults and children, registered patients from the most deprived areas were least likely to see their dentist within the two years previously.

Background

Participation is a measure of contact with GDS for registration, examination or treatment at least once in the last two years (in this release as at 31st March 2014). This measure further supports data already available on NHS dental registrations and the introduction of non-time-limited registration.

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Further Information

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