

# Publication Summary

## Dental Statistics – NHS Registration and Participation

Update of statistics as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Publication date – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014



### About this Release

This release provides information on NHS General Dental Services (GDS) registrations and participation (contact with GDS) as at 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014). This measure further supports data already available on NHS dental registrations and the introduction of [non-time-limited registration](#).

## Contact

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

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