

# Publication Summary

## Dental Statistics – NHS Registration and Participation

Update of statistics as at 31 March 2015

Publication date – 16 June 2015



### About this release

This release provides information on NHS dental registrations from September 2000 to March 2015 and participation (contact with an NHS dentist) from September 2006 to March 2015.

### Key points

#### Registration

- 88% (4.7 million) of the Scottish population are registered with an NHS dentist.
- Children are more likely to be registered than adults (93% compared to 87%).
- Registration rates have been increasing since 2007 as a result of extensions to the registration period and the introduction of non-time-limited registration in April 2010.
- As at March 2015, there was no deprivation gap between registration rates for children (90% for children living in both the most and least deprived areas).
- However, adults living in the most deprived areas were more likely to be registered with an NHS dentist. This may be due to the availability of free NHS dental treatment for adults who receive certain benefits.

#### Participation

- 74% (3.5 million) of those registered with an NHS dentist as at March 2015 had seen their dentist within the last two years. This has been in steady decline since 2007.
- Children are more likely than adults to have seen their dentist within the last two years (86% compared to 71%).
- Both adults and children living in the least deprived areas are more likely to have seen their dentist within the last two years than those living in the most deprived areas (77% compared to 67% for adults, 91% compared to 82% for children).

### Background

Data on patients registered with an NHS dentist is published in this release. Please note that data for patients registered or treated by private dentists are excluded from this publication.

Participation is a measure of patient attendance at an NHS dental practice for examination or treatment in the two years prior to the time point of interest.

This measure is restricted to only those patients who are registered with an NHS dentist and therefore does not include patients who only see a dentist for occasional or emergency treatment.

Participation as a measure was formally introduced in September 2010 but has been calculated for data since September 2006 in this publication to allow a longer trend to be reported to show the effect of the changes to the registration rules.

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### Further Information

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

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