

Dental Statistics – NHS Registration and Participation



Statistics as at 31 March 2016

Publication Date – 21 June 2016

About this release

This release from Information Services Division provides information on NHS dental registrations in Scotland from September 2000 to March 2016 and contact with an NHS dentist (participation) from September 2006 to March 2016.

Main points

Registration

- 4.9 million (91%) of the Scottish population are registered with an NHS dentist.
- Children are more likely to be registered with an NHS dentist than adults (94% compared to 90%) and true across all deprivation areas.
- In contrast, adults are more likely to be registered if they live in the more deprived areas (92% in the most deprived area, 84% in the least deprived areas).

Contact with a Dentist (Participation)

- At March 2016, 3.5 million (72%) of those registered had seen an NHS dentist within the last two years. This has been a steady decline since the change in the registrations rules in 2007, when 2.5 million (99%) had contact with an NHS dentist.
- Children are more likely than adults to have seen an NHS dentist within the last two years (85% compared to 69%).
- Those from the most deprived areas were less likely to see their dentist within the last two years than those from the least deprived areas.

Background

This release only includes data on patients registered with an NHS dentist, data for patients registered or treated by private dentists are excluded from this publication. Registration policy has changed over the years; originally registration with an NHS dentist lapsed after 15 months, this increased to 36 months in April 2006, then 48 months in April 2009 and in April 2010 'lifetime' registration was introduced. These changes have driven registration rates up and affected the rates of participation.

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. The number of patients attending an NHS dental practice has increased, although registrations have seen a larger increase, resulting in an overall lowering of the participation rate. The participation

information relates only to patients who are registered with an NHS dentist, it does not include patients who only see a dentist for occasional or emergency treatment.

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

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Find out more

Further information can be found in the [Dental Registration and Participation Report](#).

The Information Services Division published a wide range of dental statistics. You can find all our dental information at the [ISD Dental website](#).

The next release of this report is expected June 2017 and will present data as at 31 March 2017.

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in [NHS Performs](#). NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

ISD and 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. [Find out more about our statistics](#).