

Publication Report



Dental Statistics – NHS General Dental Service Registrations

Updates of existing pages to / as at 31 March 2011

Publication date – 31 May 2011



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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 at <http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/>.

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.

Introduction

The NHS General Dental Service (GDS) is usually the first point of contact that patients have with dental treatment. Patients register with an NHS General Dentist (a "High Street dentist") to receive the full range of NHS treatment provided by independent contractor dentists working on behalf of local NHS boards. A number of salaried dentists also work in the GDS, who provide an alternative service to the contracted General Dental Practitioners, in order to meet the oral health needs of the local population.

People who register with an NHS dentist are entitled to receive the full range of dental treatment available under NHS General Dental Services. MIDAS ("Management Information & Dental Accounting System"), the payment database for GDS dentists, processes information on patients registered with NHS dentists in a dynamic database that changes daily, so 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](#) within 3 months of the completion date of treatment).

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 patients' home address postcodes (denominator).

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](#)

In November 2010, ISD Scotland released an enhanced set of National Statistics in the form of participation in NHS general dental services. ISD believes this additional information will provide a valuable, complementary tool in the analysis of the population's engagement with NHS general dental services and offer scope for further discussion on registrations data.

The first release defined participation as "a measure of patient attendance at an NHS general dental practice for treatment, registration or other form of contact within the last two

years as at 30th September 2010". This measure will further support data already available on NHS dental registrations and the introduction of [non-time-limited registration policy](#).

The denominators used in the first release were the child and adult populations in each NHS board area and in Scotland as a whole; this second release uses as its denominator the population of children and of adults who are registered with an NHS dentist in each NHS board area and in Scotland as a whole. 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, consideration will be given to using the full child and adult populations of administrative areas as denominators.

Key points

At 31 March 2011:

- The level of the Scottish population (all ages) registered with an NHS GDS dentist was 73.2%, up from 72.0% as at 31 December 2010.
- The 6-12 age group had the highest level of population registered (95.5%) with an NHS GDS dentist.
- Among mainland NHS boards, NHS Ayrshire & Arran had the highest level of children registered (85.2%) and NHS Lanarkshire the highest level of adults registered (77.2%).
- People from the most deprived backgrounds make up the lowest proportion (SIMD 1-18.8%) of those registered.
- At Scotland level, the rate of participation in NHS General Dental Services among registered patients over the last 2 years was 80.3% for adults and 88.6% for children.
- Participation rates for children were highest in NHS Borders (93.0%) and lowest in NHS Western Isles (74.4%), while rates for adults were highest in NHS Borders (87.6%) and lowest in NHS Orkney (63.1%).

Results and Commentary

Registration

NHS dental registrations are currently analysed by the following administrative areas: NHS board, local authority, Scottish parliamentary constituency, Scottish parliamentary region and community health partnership.

The latest available data contained in the tables show the number and level of people registered with an NHS dentist by age group and by administrative area as at recent points in time.

Data as at 31 March 2011 show an increase over time in the number and level of people registered – both children and adults – with an NHS dentist across Scotland. People from the most deprived backgrounds make up the lowest (SIMD 1-18.8%) proportion of those registered.

Since March 2007 to March 2011 there has been an increase of over 1.2 million patients registered with an NHS dentist. Over 170,000 new children and 1,046,897 new adults registered. This will continue to rise due to the introduction of [non-time-limited registration policy](#).

Over the last 12 months (March 2010 to March 2011) the rate of the Scottish population registered with an NHS dentist has increased by 4 percentage points (all ages) and by 8 percentage points for adults and 6 for children. NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway and NHS Highland have observed the biggest percentage point increase for all ages – these boards have increased by 6 percentage points.

[NHS General Dental Service Registrations in Scotland, as at 31st March 2011](#)
[NHS General Dental Service Registrations by Administrative Area and Age Group, as at 31st March 2011](#)

[NHS General Dental Service \(Non Salaried & Salaried\) Registrations by NHS Board and SIMD, as at 31st March 2011](#)

Participation

The latest available data contained in the tables show the rate of participation in NHS General Dental Services as at March 2011.

The rate of participation among registered patients of all ages remained the same between September 2010 and March 2011. Very young children and adults aged 55 to 64 have the highest rate of participation. The population and service profiles in some NHS board areas are such that the Community Dental Service (CDS) plays a greater role in treating children than the GDS.

[Registered NHS patients participating in NHS General Dental Service as at 31st March 2011](#)

Glossary

CDS NHS Community Dental Service

GDS NHS General Dental Service

MIDAS Management Information & Dental Accounting System, the payment database for GDS dentists

List of Tables

Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
1	NHS General Dental Service Registrations in Scotland, as at 31st March 2011	March 2011	Excel [82kb]
2	NHS General Dental Service Registrations by Administrative Area and Age Group, as at 31st March 2011	March 2011	Excel [2244kb]
3	NHS General Dental Service (Non Salaried & Salaried) Registrations by NHS Board and SIMD, as at 31st March 2011	March 2011	Excel [227kb]
4	Registrations by dental postcode March 2007-June2010	March 2007-June2010	Excel [5342kb]
5	Registered NHS patients participating in NHS General Dental Service as at 31st March 2011	March 2011	Excel [143kb]

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Further Information

Further information can be found on the <http://www.isdscotland.org>

Appendix

A1 – Background Information

ISD Scotland has appended the Community Health Index (CHI) number to records in the patient registration dataset. CHI is a unique patient number from which a patient's age and postcode can be derived, when linked to the appropriate data sources. Although use of CHI number has enhanced registration data by enabling the removal of duplicate records and by identifying records of deceased patients, approximately 5% of CHI numbers are currently absent from the dataset; for these records the patient age has been shown as UNKNOWN AGE and the records with no postcode information shown as Unknown Health Board and detailed as such in the published tables. To further address this information deficit, from quarter ending December 2010 patient age has been sourced from MIDAS, which ensures there are no UNKNOWN AGE records present. However, the Unknown Health Board category still remains.

A2 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details)

Metadata Indicator	Description
Publication Title	NHS General Dental Service Registrations
Description	This release provides information on NHS General Dental Services (GDS) registrations as at 31 st March 2011. Information on the participation (contact with an NHS dentist) of these registered patients can also be found in this release.
Theme	Dental Health Care
Topic	Registrations
Format	Excel workbooks and PDF
Data Source	MIDAS
Date that data is acquired	3 rd May 2011
Frequency	Quarterly
Timeframe of data	Data as at 31 March 2011
Accessibility	It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to published guidelines. See attached link for further details: http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/Accessibility/
Value type and unit of measure	Count of patients registered with NHS dentist.
Disclosure	The ISD Statistical Disclosure Protocol is followed: http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/
Official Statistics designation	National Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Awaiting assessment by UK Statistics Authority
Last published	22 nd February 2011
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Date of first publication	Registrations quarterly 2007
Help email	NSS.ISD-Dental-Info@nhs.net
Date form completed	18 th May 2011

A3 – 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).

Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division)