This annual report includes information on patients receiving NHS dental care in England for the 12 month period to 31 March 2017. Subjects covered include dental activity, clinical treatments and dental workforce. Information on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist up to 30 June 2017 is also included.

In 2016-17:

51.4% of adults in England saw an NHS dentist in the 24 months to 30 June 2017, totalling **22.2 million** adults. This is an increase of **18,774** adults compared to the 24 month period to June 2016.

6.8 million children in England saw an NHS dentist in the 12 months to 30 June 2017, representing **58.2%** of all children. **57.6%** of children were seen by an NHS dentist in the 12 months to June 2016.

The **North of England** had the highest proportion of adults seeing an NHS dentist in the 24 month reporting period, 56.8% of the population. **London** had the lowest proportion of adults seen with 45.0%.

Similarly, **63.0% of children** in the **North of England** saw an NHS dentist in the 12 months to 30 June 2017, the highest of any region. The lowest proportion was recorded in London with 49.2%.

To see the full 2016-17 dataset visit the main publication page [here](#).
NHS Dental Statistics, England: 2016-17

Activity

39.9 million Courses of Treatment (CoT) were delivered in 2016-17, 241,989 (0.6%) more than in 2015-16. 57.5% of these CoT were Band 1 treatments.

Paying adults account for more than half of all CoT (52.9%) followed by children (28.5%) and non-paying adults (18.6%).

11.4 million CoT were delivered to children in 2016-17. 71.4% (8.1 million) of these CoT were Band 1 treatments indicating children are more likely to receive a general check up than correctional treatments.

CoT delivered in 2016-17 equated to 85.7 million Units of Dental Activity (UDA), 619,593 fewer than the previous year.

4.2 million Units of Orthodontic Activity were carried out in 2016-17, 0.4% (15,543) fewer than in 2015-16. Orthodontics is a specialist area of dentistry concerned with the growth and development of the teeth and jaws.

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Author: Primary Care Domain, NHS Digital
Responsible Statistician: David Leese
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www.digital.nhs.uk
enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk
Clinical Treatments

Scale and Polish is the most frequent treatment delivered to adults (excluding examinations) with 13.1 million CoT, 46.0% of all treatments. 1.0 million Scale and Polish CoTs were delivered to children in 2016-17, the third most common treatment (excluding examinations).

Aside from examinations, fluoride varnish was the most common treatment provided to children, with 4.7 million CoT delivered. This represents a 13.9% increase (572,206) from 2015-16.

CoT including fissure sealants for adults increased by 10.7% since 2015-16 to 43,377. Fissure sealant treatments delivered to children have increased by 6.5% to 184,616.

Workforce

24,007 dentists performed NHS activity during 2016-17, a decrease of 82 (0.3%) on 2015-16.

83.5% of dentists performed under the General Dental Services contract.

36.2% of dentists (8,688) are aged under 35. This age group accounted for the both the largest number of dentists joining the NHS (1,260, 81.4%) and leaving the NHS (639, 39.2%).