Statistics

**Dental/orthodontic treatments and procedures data**

*General*

11.4 million treatments (COT) were delivered to children in 2017-8

39.2 million treatments (COT) were delivered to adults in 2017-8

Almost 60% of COT treatments from paying adults were classified as urgent

4.2 million units of orthodontic activity were carried out in 2017-18, 0.3% (12,534) more than 2016-7

6.9 million, or 58.6% of children saw an NHS dentist in the 12 months to 30 June 2018.

58.2% of children were seen in the 12 months to June 2017. *(Note: children are recommended to visit the dentist once every 6 months).*

22.0 million, or 50.7% of adults saw an NHS dentist in the 24 months to 30 June 2018. This was 98,445 fewer than the 24 month period to June 2017.

*Regional*

56.1% of adults in the North of England saw an NHS dentist in the 24-month reporting period, the highest of any region. London had the lowest proportion of adults seen with 44.3%.

63.4% of children in the North of England saw an NHS dentist in the 12 months to 30 June 2018, the highest of any region. The lowest was London at 49.8%.

*Clinical*

Scale and Polish is the most frequent adult treatment 12.7 million CoT, and 45.7% of all treatments.

1.0 million Scale and Polish CoTs were delivered to children in 2017-18, the third most common treatment.

Fluoride varnish was the most common children’s treatment, with 5.5 million CoTdelivered. This represents a 17.4% increase (814,535) from 2016-17.

(Source: [NHS data](https://files.digital.nhs.uk/4F/B3B6FE/nhs-dent-stat-eng-17-18-rep.pdf))

**Dental workforce data**

*General*

24,308 dentists performed NHS activity during 2017-18, an increase of 301 (1.3%) on 2016-17.

84.4% of dentists performed under the General Dental Services contract.

36.5% of dentists (8,865) are aged under 35.

59.0% of these are female and 41% male.

(Source: [NHS data](https://files.digital.nhs.uk/4F/B3B6FE/nhs-dent-stat-eng-17-18-rep.pdf))

**Tooth decay/extraction data**

*Children’s tooth decay*

* A quarter (24.7%) of 5-year-olds have tooth decay, with an average of 3 to 4 teeth affected.
* 12% of 3-year-olds had visible dental decay with on average 3 teeth affected
* Tooth decay was the most common reason for hospital admission for children aged 5 to 9 years in 2012 to 2013.
* Over 63,000 children aged 0 to 19 years were admitted to hospital for tooth extractions in 2014 to 2015.
* An average of 3 school days were missed due to poor dental health.
* NHS in England spends £3.4 billion per year on all ages primary and secondary dental care (with an estimated additional £2.3 billion on private dental care).
* The averge cost of tooth extraction for an under 5 is £836.
* £50.5m was spent on tooth extractions on those aged under 19 from 2015 to 2016.
* £7.8m was spent on tooth extraction for under 5s.

(Source: [GOV.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-oral-health-applying-all-our-health/child-oral-health-applying-all-our-healthhttps://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-oral-health-applying-all-our-health/child-oral-health-applying-all-our-health))

* 42,911 hospital procedures to remove multiple teeth from patients aged 18 and under in 2016-17 at a cost of more than £36 million. (Source: NHS Spending Data, extracted from [the Telegraph](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/01/13/uk-oral-health-crisis-170-youngsters-day-have-teeth-extractedas/))

*Adult’s tooth decay*

The Adult Dental Health Survey (ADHS) in 2009 found:

* 94% were dentate (at least one natural tooth), those with no natural teeth (edentate) has decreased (25% in 1968, 28% in 1978, 6% in 2009)
* 17% of dentate respondents had very healthy periodontal (gum) tissues and no signs of periodontal disease
* 61% of dentate adults in England and Wales reported attending a dentist for a regular check-up (40% in 1968)
* 19% decay in managerial and professional occupations compared with 27% experiencing dental decay from routine and manual backgrounds

(Source: [GOV.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-oral-health-applying-all-our-health/adult-oral-health-applying-all-our-health))

Survey Data

Information - (user FAQs)

General

*How often should you be brushing your teeth? (Is brushing your teeth once a day enough?)*

**Twice a day** for 2 minutes at a time. Before bed is paramount, but in the morning is recommended.

(Source: [NHS](https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/dental-health/your-teeth/teeth-cleaning-guide))

*How long should you really brush your teeth for?*

**2 minutes**. Remember to brush the inside surfaces, outside surfaces and the chewing surfaces of your teeth.

(Source: [NHS](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/how-to-keep-your-teeth-clean/))

*How often should you be going to the dentist?*

You may assume you should have a dental check-up every **6 months**, but some people may not need to go so often and others may need more frequent checks.

Your dentist will suggest when you should have your next check-up based on how good your oral health is.

The time between check-ups can vary from **3 months to 2 years**, depending on how healthy your teeth and gums are and your risk of future problems.

(Source: [NHS](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/dental-check-ups/))

*What can I expect at a dental check-up?*

At your check-up, your dentist may:

* Carry out a full examination of your mouth, teeth and gums
* Ask about your general health and any problems you have had with your teeth, mouth or gums since your last visit
* Ask about and give advice on your diet, smoking and drinking
* Ask about your teeth-cleaning habits and give you advice on the most appropriate ways to keep your mouth, teeth and gums healthy
* Explain any risks, as well as dental costs, of all treatment you may need
* Discuss with you when your next visit should be

(Source [NHS](https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/dentists/what-happens-when-you-visit-the-dentist/))