

National Dental Inspection Program (NDIP)

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Publication date – 23 October 2018

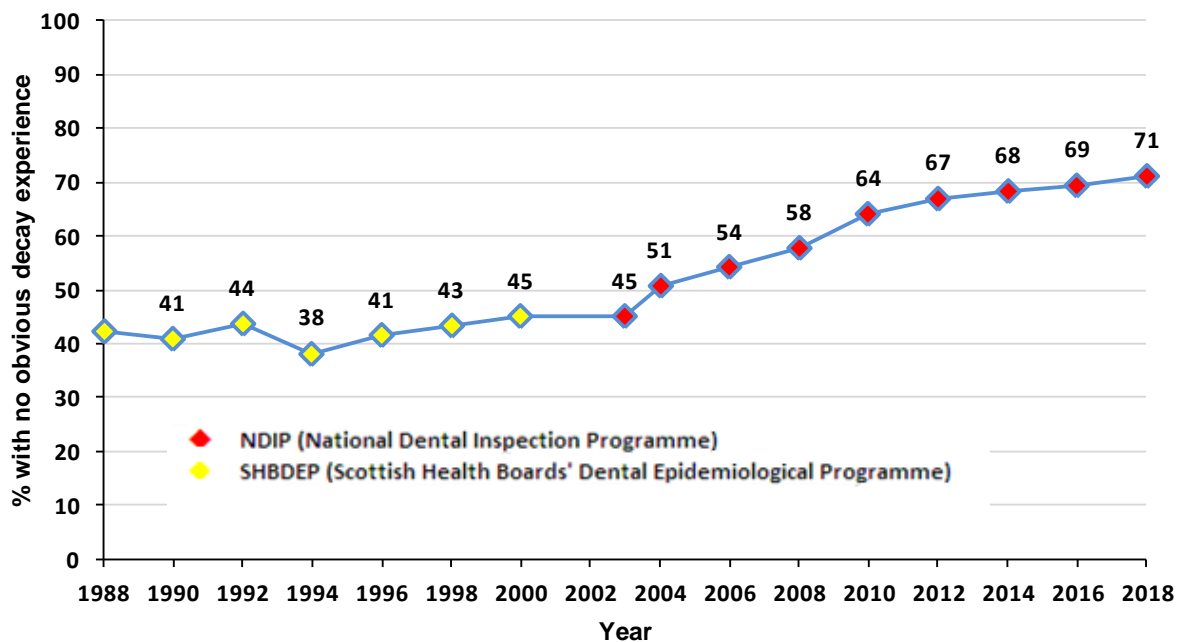
About this release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) provides information on findings of the Detailed Inspection programme of P1 children in school year 2017/18. The National Dental Inspection Programme (NDIP) is carried out annually under the auspices of the Scottish Dental Epidemiology Co-ordinating Committee on behalf of NHS Boards.

Main points

- More than 70 percent of P1 children had no obvious decay experience in their primary teeth in the school year 2017/18. This is a substantial improvement since ISD started recording this information in school year 2002/03 (45%).

Percentage of P1 children with no obvious decay experience in Scotland; 1988-2018



Sources: ISD NDIP Database, SHBDEP

- In the school year 2017/18, the average number of teeth affected by obvious decay experience in P1 children was 1.14. This is less than half of the average number of teeth affected in the school year 2002/03 (2.76).
- There is a continuing link between area-based socio-economic deprivation and poor dental health among P1 children in Scotland. Only 55.8% of P1 children had no obvious decay experience in the most deprived areas compared with 85.9% in the least deprived areas.

Background

The National Dental Inspection Programme (NDIP) is carried out annually under the auspices of the Scottish Dental Epidemiology Co-ordinating Committee on behalf of NHS Boards. Its principal aims are to inform parents/carers of the dental health status of their children and, through appropriately anonymised, aggregated data, advise the Scottish Government, NHS Boards and other organisations concerned with children's health of dental disease prevalence at national and local levels. This ensures that reliable dental health information is available for planning initiatives directed towards health improvements.

Two school year groups are involved: i) at entry into Local Authority schools in primary one (P1) and ii) in primary seven (P7) before the move to secondary education. The Inspection Programme has two levels: a Basic Inspection (intended for all P1 and P7 children) and a Detailed Inspection (where a representative sample of either the P1 or the P7 age group is inspected in alternate years). Note: no obvious decay experience means there are no obviously decayed, missing or filled teeth.

Each NHS Board is required to identify the number of Local Authority schools needed to obtain a representative sample of a given size from their P1 population. The sample sizes used provide adequate numbers to allow meaningful statistical comparisons between NHS Boards. Whole classes are randomly selected to simplify the process for schools while ensuring that results are representative of the P1 population in Scotland.

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Further Information

A more in-depth presentation of the results can be found at the [NDIP 2018 full report](#) or the [Executive Summary report](#).

ISD publishes information relating to the [general dental service \(GDS\) workforce](#) in Scotland.

ISD publishes an annual [NHS Adult & Child Fees and Treatments](#) report providing information on GDS fees paid to dentists and on treatments provided to children and adults.

ISD publishes an annual [NHS Registration and Participation](#) report providing information on NHS General Dental Services (GDS) registrations and participation (contact with GDS).

The [2012 Scottish Health Survey](#) covers dental health topics such as dental health problems and trends in prevalence of natural teeth.

The next release of this publication will be 20 October 2020 (the 2019 report will cover the Detailed Inspection of Primary 7 children).

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. [Further information about our statistics.](#)