

Dental Report - Other Research

www.statistics.gov.uk

Contains information on 2003 national survey based on a representative sample of children aged 5, 8, 12 and 15. As well as dental health of 12,698 children sampled and asked to take part in a school dental examination, 3,342 questionnaires were returned from parents of a sub-sample. Compared to previous surveys from 1983 and 1993.

Example of information:

The survey states that more children are visiting the dentist at an earlier age than ever. The proportion of 5 and 8 year olds making their first visit to the dentist before the age of 2 has more than doubled since 1993. (7% 1983, 15% 1993, 33% 2003.) The proportion of 5 year olds reported to have never visited a dentist decreased from 14% in 1983 to 6% in 2003.

Around a fifth of 5 and 8 years old and a quarter of 12 and 15 year olds reported difficulties accessing an NHS dentist. The main cause given for difficulties in access by 76% of affected parents was that their nearest dentist would not accept any more NHS patients.