



Office for
National Statistics

Adult Dental Health Survey

Ian O' Sullivan
ONS Social Surveys

Background Information

- First Adult Dental Health Survey conducted in 1968
- Commissioned by the NHS Information Centre (IC)
- Consortium with ONS, NatCen, NISRA & Universities of Birmingham, Cardiff, Dundee, Newcastle, and University College London
- ADHS 2009 covered England, Wales, and Northern Ireland

Purpose of the Survey

ADHS 2009 aimed to:

- provide accurate, up-to-date information
- inform the development of policy decisions
- monitor performance of dental health targets

Structure of the ADHS

Two parts to the survey:

- Interview
- Clinical Exam
- Two 10 week field periods
- October to December 2009 & January to April 2010

Questionnaire content

- Health (general, oral, smoking, diet)
- Natural Teeth/Dentures
- Oral Health Impact Profile (OHIP)
- Current Oral Health Behaviour
- Dental Attendance
- Last Visit to the Dentist
- Dental Practice

Questionnaire content

- Treatment Received at Last Visit
- Interaction with Dentist
- Access / Availability of NHS Dentists
- Lifetime Treatment History
- MDAS Anxiety Scale
- Impact of Oral/Dental Problems

Socio-demographic data

- Ethnicity
- Work Schemes / Employment
- Job Details
- Looking for Work
- Educational Attainment
- Other Classification Questions
- Income
- Comments

Performance

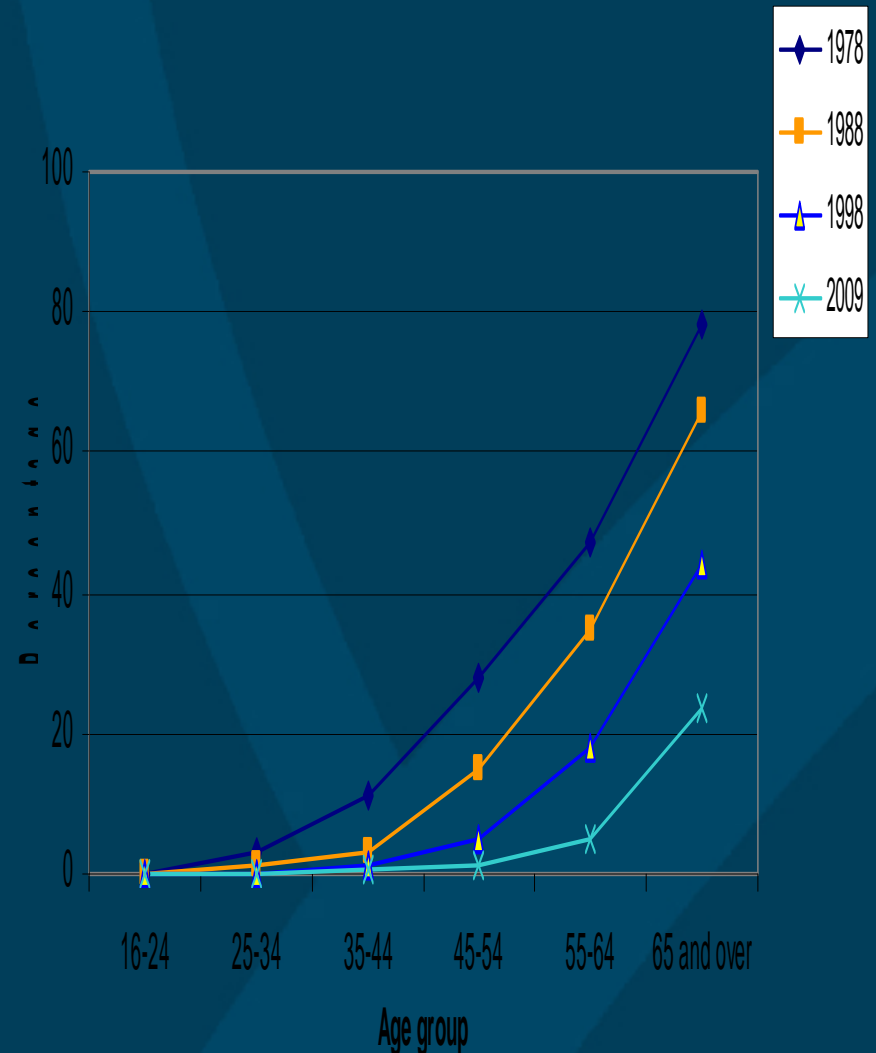
- 60% response rate
 - 13,400 households sampled
 - 7,233 households responded
- 13,509 individuals invited to participate
 - 11,380 (84 per cent) participated
- 813 adults were edentate (7 per cent)
 - not eligible for the examination
- 10,567 eligible respondents,
 - 6,469 (61 per cent) individual dental examinations were completed.

Output strategy

- First Release – December 2010
- Executive summary
- Foundation report
- Function & Health
- Disease & Related Disorders
- Urgent Conditions
- Complexity
- Risk & Preventive Behaviour
- Service Considerations
- Outcome & Impact
- Barriers & Access To Care
- England & SHA
- Wales
- Northern Ireland

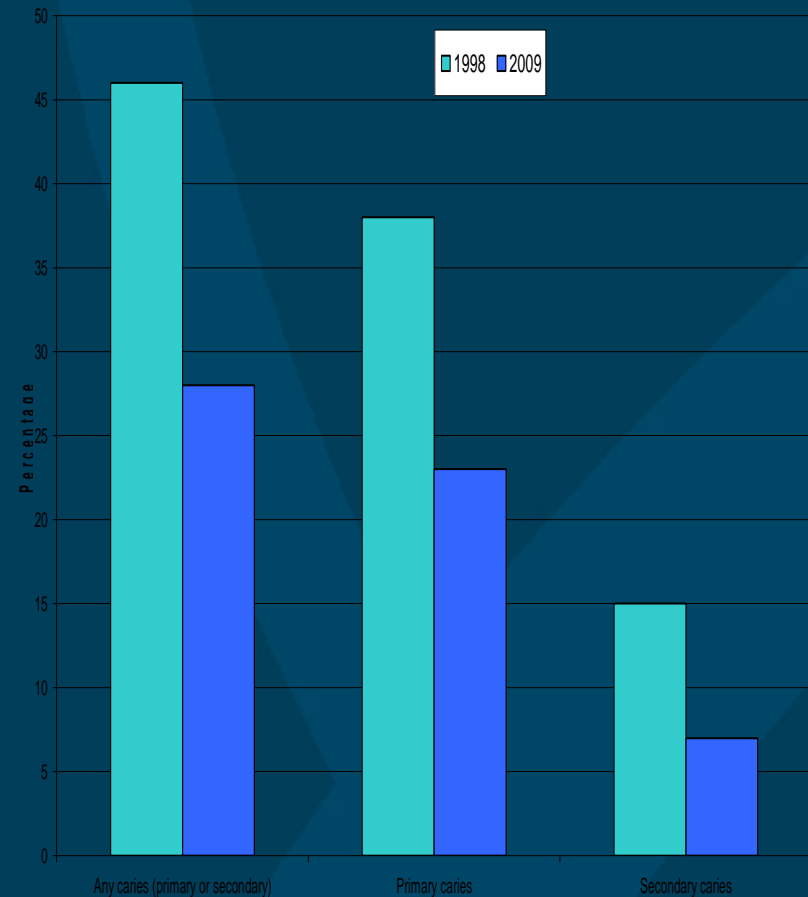
Function & Health

- 94 per cent of the combined populations of England, Wales and Northern Ireland were dentate, that is had at least one natural tooth.
- The overall mean number of teeth amongst dentate adults was 25.7.
- The majority of dentate adults (60 per cent) having between 27 and 32 teeth.
- Only 17 per cent of dentate adults had very healthy periodontal (gum) tissues and no periodontal disease.
- Ten per cent of dentate adults had excellent oral health



Disease & related disorders

- 31 per cent had obvious tooth decay in either the crowns or roots of their teeth.
- There are social variations in dental decay with adults from routine and manual occupation households being more likely to have decay than those from managerial and professional occupational households
- The prevalence of decay in the crowns of the teeth varied with age; highest in adults aged 25 to 34 (36 per cent) lowest in those aged 65 to 74 (22 per cent).
- The prevalence of decay in England has fallen from 46 per cent to 28 per cent since 1998, and this reduction is reflected in all age groups.



Urgent conditions

- Nine per cent of dentate adults reported current pain related to their teeth in the clinical examination.
- Seven per cent of dentate adults had one or more PUFA lesions (PUFA is the presence of open pulp, ulceration, fistula and abscesses in the mouth), most commonly an open pulp (4 per cent).
- A positive PUFA score, that is having any symptoms was more commonly recorded in men (8 per cent) than women (6 per cent), was associated with socio-economic classification,
- There was a marked difference in the prevalence of PUFA according to the frequency of tooth brushing, high levels of dental anxiety, poor general and dental health.

Complexity and maintenance

- 84% had at least one filled tooth
- And - for those with a filling
 - 7.2 teeth affected
 - 15.7 surfaces
- 26% had secondary decay or an unsound restoration
- 97% of those aged 45-54 years had at least one filled tooth
- Almost 20% used dentures
- 6% edentate and used full dentures
- 13% dentures and natural teeth
- 37% had at least one crown
- For those with crowns: average of 3 per person (similar to '98)
- 47.6 million crowns across the three countries

Preventive behaviour and risks to oral health

- Seventy-five per cent of adults said that they cleaned their teeth at least twice a day and a further 23 per cent of adults said that they cleaned their teeth once a day.
- The majority of dentate adults (76%) reported using toothpaste with a high level of fluoride and a further 18 per cent said that they used a brand with a medium level of fluoride.
- Overall 78 per cent of dentate adults said that they had been given advice by a dentist or a member of the dental team on cleaning their teeth and/or gums.
- Twenty-two per cent of all adults said that they currently smoked.
- Two-thirds (66 per cent) of dentate adults had visible plaque on at least one tooth.
- The average number of teeth with plaque was 6.0 teeth and given that the average number of teeth was 25.7, represented just under a quarter (23 per cent) of all teeth.
- A similar proportion (68 per cent) of dentate adults had calculus present in at least one sextant of the mouth; on average 1.8 sextants were affected.

Service considerations

- Almost two-thirds (61 per cent) of dentate adults said that the usual reason they attended the dentist is for a regular check-up.
- Overall half of all dentate adults (50 per cent) reported that they attended the dentist at least once every six months; 21 per cent indicated that they attended at least once a year; and a further 6 per cent once every two years.
- Seventy-one per cent of dentate adults had received NHS care at their last completed course of dental treatment: 45 per cent said that they paid for this care and 25 per cent said it was free.
- Eighty-five per cent of adults rated the practice they had attended most recently as good or very good, for length of time waiting for routine appointments.

Outcome and impact

- Just under two-fifths of all adults (39 per cent) experienced one or more of the problems included in OHIP-14 (Oral Health Impact Profile-14, scale) occasionally or more often in the previous 12 months.
- The most commonly reported OHIP-14 problems were included in the categories of physical pain (30 per cent) and psychological discomfort (19 per cent)
- A third of all adults (33 per cent) said they had difficulty performing at least one element of the OIDP2 (Oral Impacts on Daily Performance).
- Overall, the more prevalent oral impacts among adults were difficulty eating (21 per cent), smiling (15 per cent), cleaning teeth (13 per cent) and relaxing (10 per cent).
- In general dentate adults attributed their oral impacts primarily to toothache, sensitive tooth or tooth decay, and to problems with their gums. However for problems with smiling, the main conditions identified were appearance of teeth, bad position of teeth and missing teeth.

Access and barriers to care

- Just under three-fifths (58 per cent) of adults said that they had tried to make an NHS dental appointment in the previous three years.
- The vast majority (92 per cent) successfully received and attended an appointment while a further 1 per cent of adults received an appointment but did not attend..
- Eighty-seven per cent of those adults who had successfully made an appointment with an NHS dentist (whether they went to this appointment or not) already had an NHS dentist when they last tried to make an appointment and a further 10 per cent were able to get an appointment with the first new NHS dentist they approached.
- Just over a quarter of adults (26 per cent) said that the type of dental treatment they opted to have in the past had been affected by the cost of this treatment and almost one-fifth (19 per cent) said that they had delayed dental treatment for the same reason.
- Twelve per cent of adults who had ever been to a dentist had an MDAS (Modified Dental Anxiety Scale) score of 19 or more which suggests extreme dental anxiety.
- The two items on the MDAS that elicited anxiety most often were both associated with receiving dental treatment; 30 per cent of adults said that having a tooth drilled would make them very or extremely anxious and 28 per cent reported similar levels of anxiety about having a local anaesthetic injection.

Adult Dental Health Survey 2009

The NHS Information Centre commissioned the survey, with funding provided by the Department of Health in England, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department for Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland.



The Office for National Statistics (ONS) was the lead contractor working in partnership with the National Centre for Social Research, the Northern Ireland Statistic & Research Agency, and a team of academics from the **Universities of Birmingham, Cardiff, Dundee, Newcastle and University College London**



For further information

ONS Social Surveys
ian.o'sullivan@ons.gov.uk
(01633) 455729