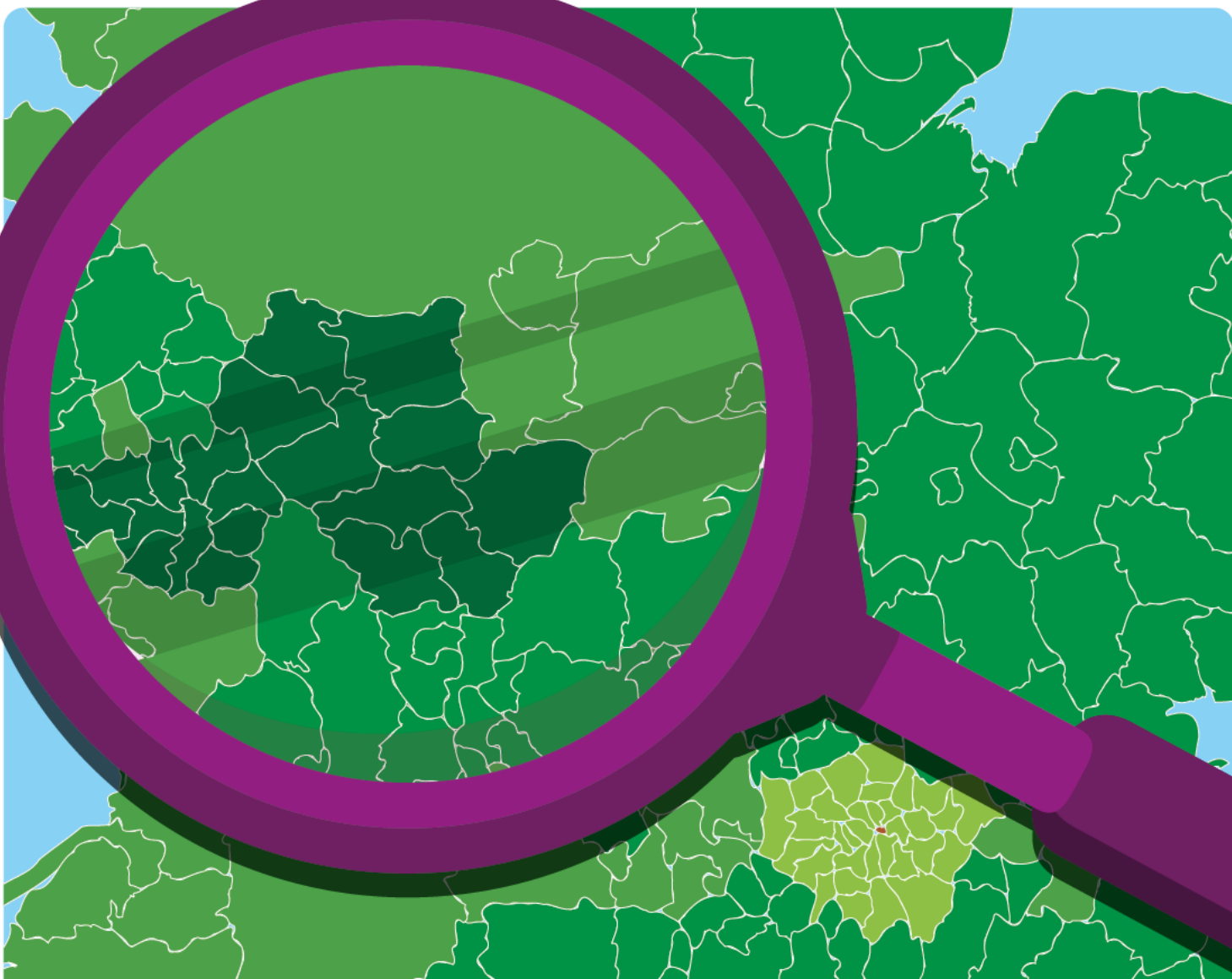


Dental deserts

An analysis of active dental practices offering NHS services across local authorities in England and Wales



Research report

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Summary

Background

This report was a follow-up to an analysis conducted in 2022 of dental practices that offered NHS services. The analysis conducted in 2022 examined the availability of active dental practices, offering NHS services in English and Welsh local authorities. It also investigated the relationship between certain local authority characteristics, such as level of deprivation, and the number of NHS dentists.

Key findings

- The mean number of active dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people in an English and Welsh local authority was 16 and the median was 15.
- There was no clear correlation between the mean number of dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people and the percentage of five-year-old children with dental decay.
- There was a weak to moderate positive correlation between the mean number of dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people and population density.
- There was a weak negative correlation between the mean number of dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people and the percentage of the population living in rural and rural related areas.
- There was a moderate negative correlation between the mean number of dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people and IMD: Health Deprivation and Disability.
- There was a weak to moderate negative correlation between the mean number of dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people and IMD: Overall.

Introduction

This report outlined an analysis of active dental practices offering NHS services across English and Welsh local authorities. The analysis highlighted the availability of NHS dentists across different local authorities. Moreover, the analysis investigated the extent to which there was a correlation between the availability of dentists offering NHS services and deprivation, population density, and the rate of tooth decay among five-year-olds.

Methodology

The data used in this analysis was taken from LG Inform and from NHS England Digital's data repository. The analysis involved generating a variety of summary statistics from the data. In addition, linear regressions were carried out to test the relationship between the proportion of active dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people and tooth decay rates among five-year-olds, population density, health deprivation, and overall deprivation

It is important to note that, in 2022, the data for the number of dental practices offering NHS services was sourced from the Care Quality Commission (CQC). For the current analysis, the dental practice data was sourced from NHS England Digital. The 2022 analysis covered all local authorities in England and Wales; however, this analysis excluded district authorities as district councils did not have oversight of public health.

When the dental practice data was downloaded from NHS England, a postcode was provided. LG Inform Plus included a tool that allowed assignment of a local authority based on postcode. When this tool was set to district and single-tier councils, over 4,000 dental practices could not be assigned; this generally occurred when dentists were located close to authority boundaries. Setting the tool to county and single-tier authorities reduced the number of unassigned dental practices to around 70. These 70 practices were then manually matched with a local authority. In summary, the

differences in approach between the 2022 analysis and this one meant that any direct comparison between them was not advisable.

One important caveat to the data was that all active dental practices offering NHS services were treated equally in the analysis, regardless of size. Hypothetically, a local authority might have relatively few dental practices. However, in reality, it could have a high number of dentists, since multiple dentists can work within a single practice. Another caveat worth noting was that while all of the active dental practices included in the analysis offered NHS services, not all of them would have offered the same range of services and treatments.

The analysis outlined in this report mainly made use of linear regressions. This was the process of testing the relationship between two variables. A linear regression between two variables might suggest a correlation but did not prove that one caused the other. Most outcomes were shaped by multiple factors and could not be fully explained by this type of analysis.

A small amount of missing data was imputed. This was done by replacing the missing value with the corresponding value from a similar authority. The similarity between local authorities was measured by council type and a range of socio-economic metrics.

In the analysis section of the report, there will be reference to 'R' and 'P' values. The R value represents the correlation between the variables. The strongest possible score for a positive correlation is 1 and for a negative correlation it is -1. The P value is measure of statistical significance. Any P value which is 0.05 or less is considered significant. In the report you will see that some P values are '0.00*' this does not mean they equal zero exactly but are rounded to two decimal places.

Dental deserts

This section contains analysis of the data.

Analysis

As shown in the Table 1, the mean number of NHS dentists per 100,000 people in an English or Welsh local authority was 16 and the median was 15. The standard deviation was 5; this meant that approximately 68 per cent of local authorities had between 10 and 20 dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people. The smallest number of NHS dental practices per 100,000 people in a local authority was 10 (five local authorities), and the largest was 56 (Westminster). In terms of raw counts, the local authority with the fewest NHS dentists was Rutland (9 practices) and the highest was Kent (259 practices).

Table 1: The number of active dental practices offering NHS services

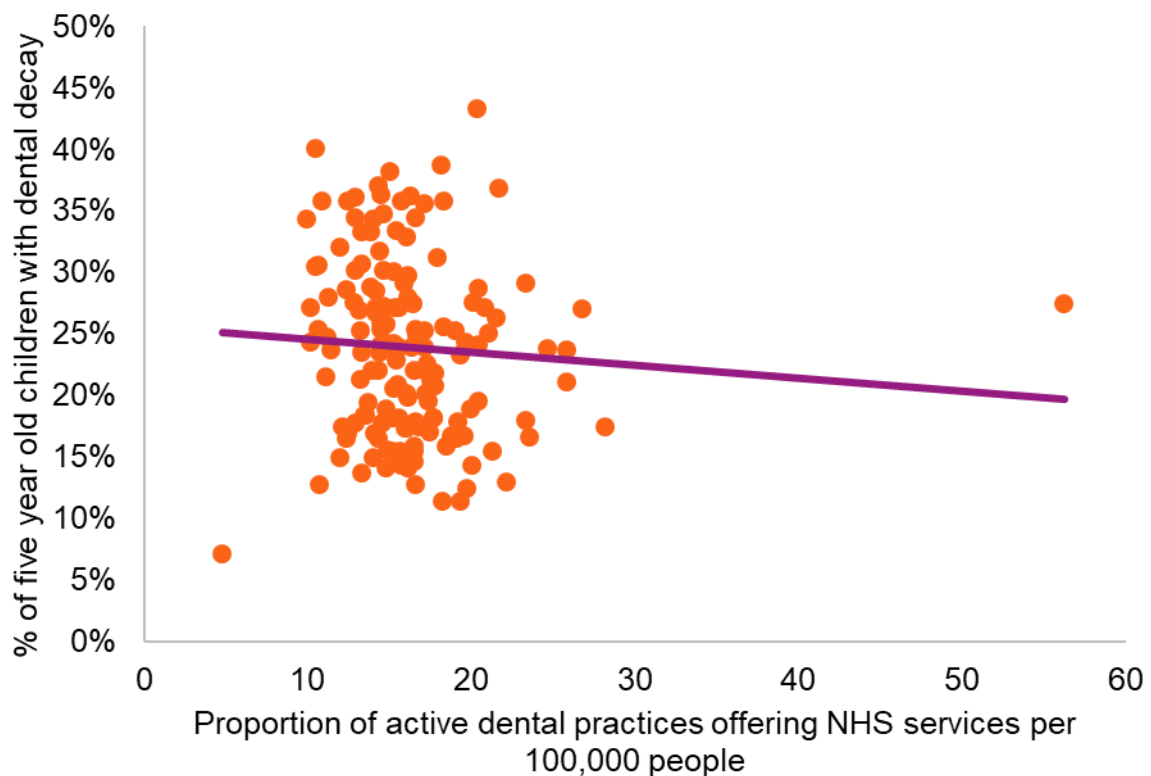
	Number	Number per 100,000 people
Mean	61	16
Median	47	15
Standard deviation	±46	±5
Min	9	10
Max	259	56

Base: 173 English and Welsh local authorities. The City of London and the Isles of Scilly have been excluded from the analysis owing to their unique characteristics.

The scatter plot shown in Chart 1 shows the proportion of dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people against the percentage of five-year-old children

with dental decay. Observing the chart, there was no clear correlation ($R = -0.11$) between the two variables. Moreover, this finding was not considered statistically significant ($P = 0.12$). Although this finding was somewhat unexpected, there were possible explanations. For example, the only up-to-date dental-decay data available at local authority level were for five-year-olds. For many children aged five and under, their oral health was overseen by health visitors rather than dentists, meaning the availability of dental practices offering NHS services may have had less effect on tooth-decay rates in this age group.

Chart 1: The proportion of active dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people against the percentage of five-year-old children with dental decay

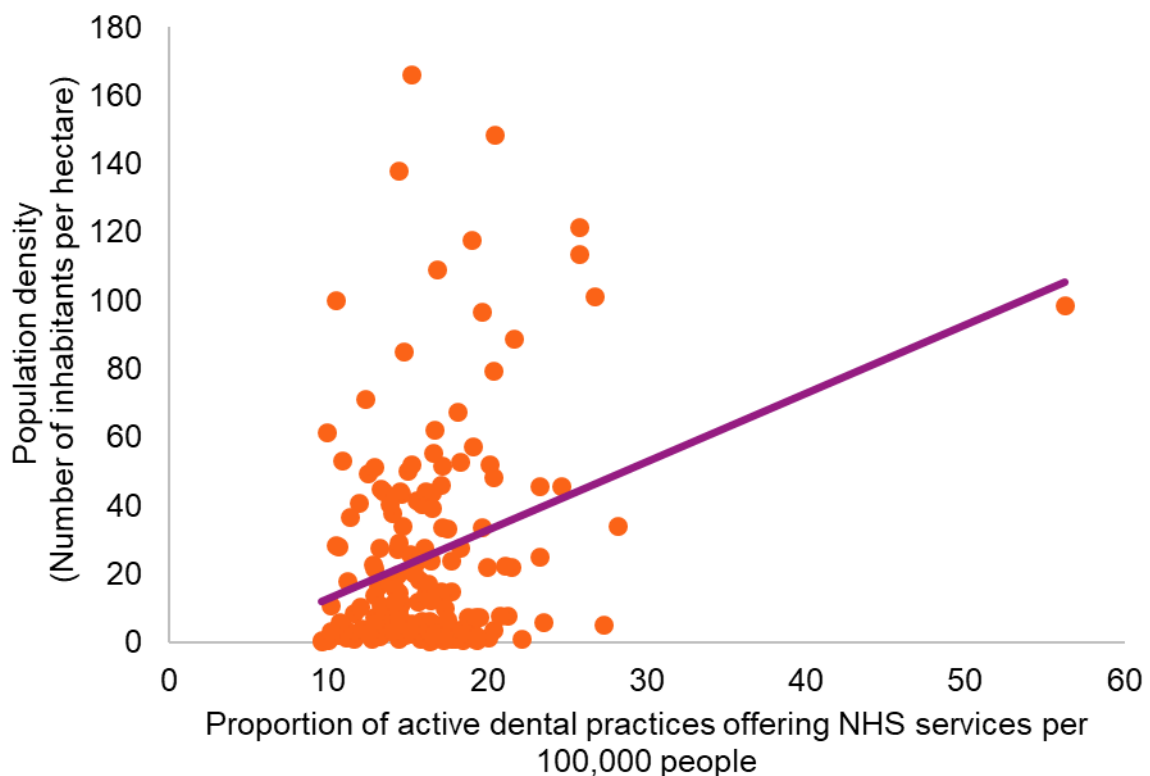


Base: 152 English local authorities. The City of London and the Isles of Scilly have been excluded from the analysis owing to their unique characteristics.

As shown in Chart 2, the proportion of dentists per 100,000 people was plotted against population density in English and Welsh local authorities. For context, a

lower population density generally equated to a more rural authority and vice versa. There was a weak to moderate positive correlation ($R = 0.30$) between the variables, and this was a statistically significant finding ($P = 0.00^*$). This meant the data indicated that local authorities with a higher population density were slightly more likely to have access to an active dental practice offering NHS services. However, given the correlation was somewhat weak, it was important not to draw too strong of a conclusion.

Chart 2: The proportion of active dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people against population density (number of inhabitants per hectare)

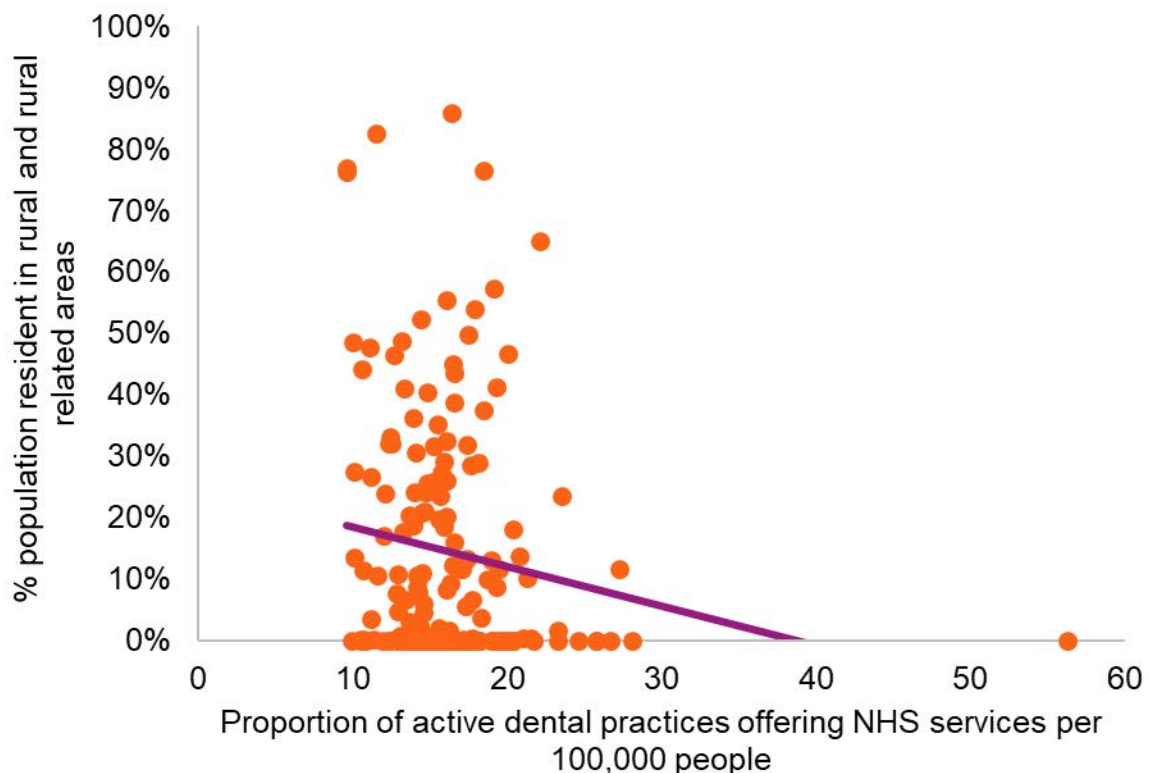


Base: 173 English and Welsh local authorities. The City of London and the Isles of Scilly have been excluded from the analysis owing to their unique characteristics.

As shown in Chart 3, the proportion of dentists per 100,000 people was plotted against the percentage of the population resident in rural and rural related areas in English and Welsh local authorities. There was a weak negative correlation ($R = -$

0.15) between the variables, and this was a statistically significant finding ($P = 0.04$). This meant the data indicated that local authorities with a percentage of people living in rural areas were slightly less likely to have access to NHS dentist. Because the correlation between the variables is weak it is important not to draw much of conclusion from this finding.

Chart 3: The proportion of active dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people against the percentage of the population resident in rural and rural related areas

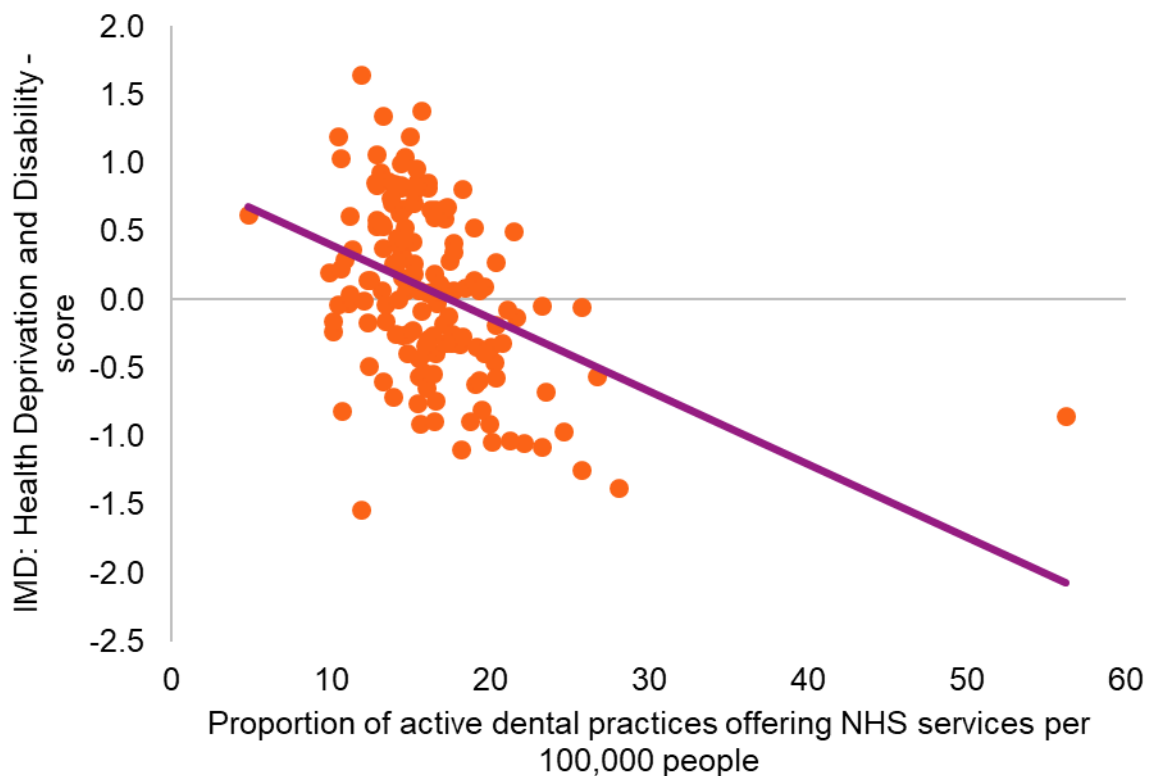


Base: 173 English and Welsh local authorities. The City of London and the Isles of Scilly have been excluded from the analysis owing to their unique characteristics.

The scatter plot in Chart 4 below shows the plotted proportion of dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people against Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) subdomain: Health Deprivation and Disability, in English local authorities. The scatter plot showed a moderate negative correlation between the two variables ($R = -0.41$). This was also a statistically significant finding ($P = 0.00^*$). For context, a low

Health Deprivation and Disability score is considered positive. This meant the data indicated that local authorities with higher levels of health deprivation were more likely to have fewer active dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people.

Chart 4: The proportion of active dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people against IMD: Health Deprivation and Disability

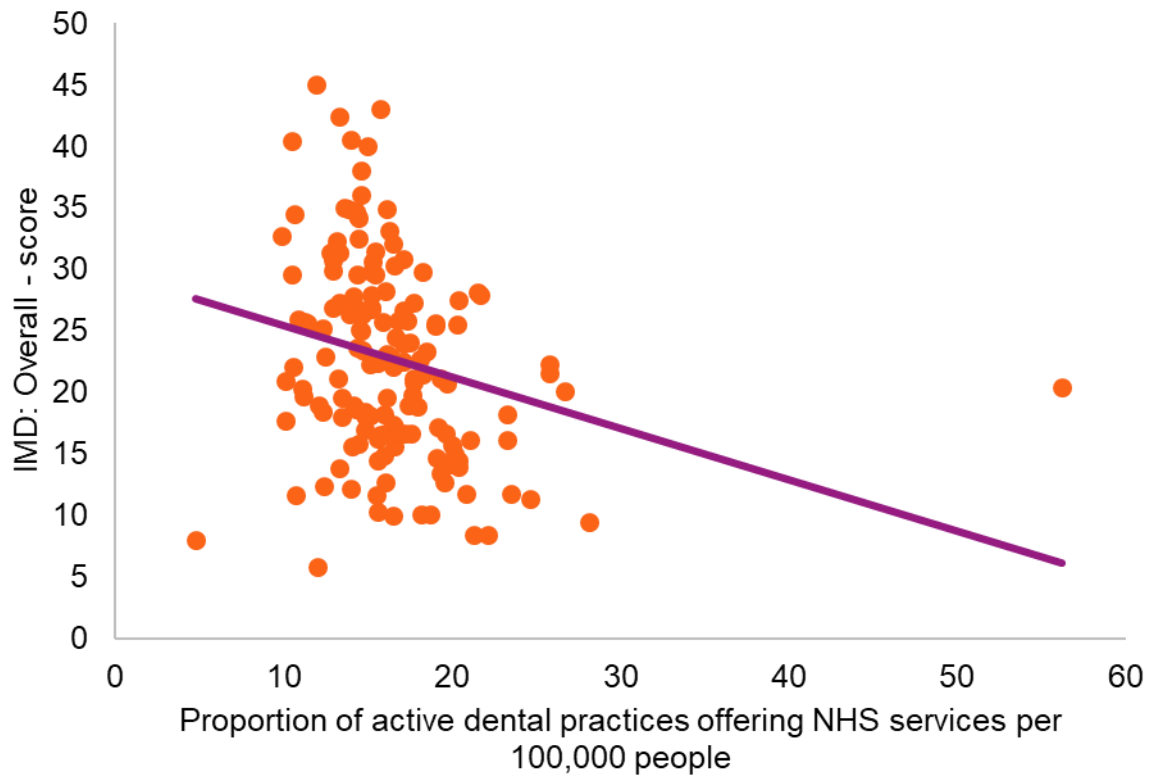


Base: 152 English local authorities. The City of London and the Isles of Scilly have been excluded from the analysis owing to their unique characteristics.

As shown in Chart 5 the proportion of dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people plotted against IMD: Overall, in English local authorities. There was a weak to moderate negative correlation ($R = -0.29$) between the two variables. This was a statistically significant finding ($P = 0.00^*$). For context, a low overall deprivation

score was good. This meant the data indicated that local authorities with higher levels of overall deprivation were somewhat more likely to have fewer active dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people.

Chart 5: The proportion of active dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people against IMD: Overall



Base: 152 English local authorities. The City of London and the Isles of Scilly have been excluded from the analysis owing to their unique characteristics.

Annex A: Raw data

Local authority	Number of active dental practices offering NHS services	Percentage of active dental practices offering NHS services per person	Proportion active dental practices offering NHS services per 100,000 people	Population density	% population resident in rural and rural related areas	Percentage of five year old children with dental decay	IMD: Health Deprivation and Disability score	IMD: Overall score
Anglesey	8	0.01%	11.5	1.0	82.5%			
Barking and Dagenham	22	0.01%	9.9	61.6	0.0%	34%	0.2	32.8
Barnet	92	0.02%	23.3	45.5	0.0%	29%	-1.1	16.1
Barnsley	32	0.01%	12.9	7.6	10.8%	30%	0.8	29.9
Bath and North East Somerset	47	0.02%	23.5	5.8	23.5%	17%	-0.7	11.7
Bedford Borough	33	0.02%	17.4	4.0	31.8%	20%	-0.1	18.9
Bexley	39	0.02%	15.5	41.4	0.0%	27%	-0.6	16.3
Birmingham	170	0.01%	14.6	43.6	0.0%	30%	0.7	38.1
Blackburn with Darwen	23	0.01%	14.6	11.5	4.5%	35%	1.0	36.0
Blackpool	17	0.01%	11.9	40.9	0.0%	32%	1.6	45.0
Blaenau Gwent	11	0.02%	16.3	6.2	9.4%			

Bolton	39	0.01%	12.9	21.6	0.4%	35%	0.6	30.7
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	94	0.02%	23.3	24.9	1.7%	18%	0.0	18.2
Bracknell Forest	20	0.02%	15.6	11.7	2.1%	16%*	-0.9	10.2
Bradford	80	0.01%	14.3	15.3	7.8%	37%	0.6	34.7
Brent	70	0.02%	20.3	79.7	0.0%	43%	-0.5	25.6
Bridgend	20	0.01%	13.6	5.9	20.3%			
Brighton and Hove	55	0.02%	19.7	33.8	0.0%	13%	0.1	20.8
Bristol	70	0.01%	14.5	44.0	0.0%	18%	0.3	26.4
Bromley	66	0.02%	19.9	22.1	0.0%	19%	-0.9	14.2
Buckinghamshire	103	0.02%	18.2	3.6	28.9%	11%*	-1.1	10.1
Bury	28	0.01%	14.3	19.7	1.9%	22%	0.3	23.7
Caerphilly	28	0.02%	15.9	6.4	18.5%			
Calderdale	29	0.01%	13.9	5.7	18.8%	22%*	0.3	26.4
Cambridgeshire	93	0.01%	13.3	2.3	41.1%‡	14%	-0.6	13.9
Camden	59	0.03%	26.7	101.4	0.0%	27%	-0.6	20.1
Cardiff	55	0.01%	14.3	27.2	2.4%			
Carmarthenshire	19	0.01%	10.0	0.8	48.6%			
Central Bedfordshire	43	0.01%	13.9	4.3	36.2%	15%	-0.7	12.2
Ceredigion	7	0.01%	9.6	0.4	77.0%			
Cheshire East	84	0.02%	20.4	3.5	18.0%	20%	-0.2	14.5

Cheshire West and Chester	54	0.01%	14.8	4.0	25.6%	26%	0.1	18.1
City of London	21	0.16%	156.0	46.6	0.0%	24%	-0.7	14.7
Conwy	18	0.02%	15.7	1.0	27.3%			
Cornwall	93	0.02%	16.1	1.6	55.4%	30%	0.1	23.1
Coventry	41	0.01%	11.4	36.6	0.2%	24%	0.4	25.6
Croydon	68	0.02%	17.1	46.0	0.0%	25%	-0.2	22.5
Cumberland	49	0.02%	17.7	0.9	0.0%	21%	0.1*	21.2*
Darlington	21	0.02%	19.0	5.6	13.1%	25%	0.5	25.7
Denbighshire	14	0.01%	14.4	1.2	52.3%			
Derby	39	0.01%	14.6	34.2	0.0%	27%	0.5	26.3
Derbyshire	100	0.01%	12.3	3.2	32.0%‡	17%	0.1	18.4
Devon	146	0.02%	17.5	1.3	49.8%‡	21%	-0.3	16.6
Doncaster	52	0.02%	16.6	5.5	16.1%	25%	0.7	30.3
Dorset	77	0.02%	20.0	1.5	46.7%	14%	-0.3	15.7
Dudley	57	0.02%	17.4	33.3	0.0%	17%	0.3	24.1
Durham	81	0.02%	15.2	2.4	0.0%	21%	0.7	26.8
Ealing	68	0.02%	18.1	67.6	0.0%	39%	-0.3	22.7
East Riding of Yorkshire	58	0.02%	16.6	1.5	43.6%	18%*	-0.4	15.6
East Sussex	98	0.02%	17.6	3.3	28.5%‡	18%*	-0.3	19.8
Enfield	52	0.02%	15.9	40.5	0.0%	29%	-0.5	25.8
Essex	227	0.01%	14.8	4.4	24.1%‡	14%	-0.4	17.0
Flintshire	25	0.02%	16.0	3.5	32.5%			

Gateshead	32	0.02%	16.1	14.0	8.2%	20%	0.8	28.2
Gloucestershire	105	0.02%	15.9	2.5	29.2%‡	17%	-0.3	14.9
Greenwich	49	0.02%	16.7	62.2	0.0%	25%	0.0	24.5
Gwynedd	22	0.02%	18.5	0.5	76.6%			
Hackney	38	0.01%	14.4	138.3	0.0%	24%	0.4	32.5
Halton	17	0.01%	13.1	16.4	0.7%	27%*	0.9	32.3
Hammersmith and Fulham	48	0.03%	25.8	113.5	0.0%	21%	-0.1	22.3
Hampshire	229	0.02%	16.0	3.9	20.1%‡	17%*	-0.6	12.7
Haringey	57	0.02%	21.7	88.8	0.0%	37%	-0.1	28.0
Harrow	53	0.02%	20.1	52.2	0.0%	28%	-1.0	15.0
Hartlepool	13	0.01%	13.6	10.2	3.1%	20%	0.9	35.0
Havering	44	0.02%	16.4	23.9	0.0%	28%	-0.5	16.8
Herefordshire	34	0.02%	17.9	0.9	54.0%	31%	-0.3	18.9
Hertfordshire	237	0.02%	19.5	7.4	11.6%‡	17%	-0.8	12.7
Hillingdon	51	0.02%	16.0	27.6	0.0%	33%	-0.4	18.2
Hounslow	54	0.02%	18.3	52.8	0.0%	36%	-0.3	21.5
Isle of Wight	26	0.02%	18.5	3.7	37.5%	16%*	0.1	23.3
Isles of Scilly	1	0.04%	44.9	1.4	100.0%	30%	-2.6	12.0
Islington	45	0.02%	20.4	148.5	0.0%	29%	0.3	27.5
Kensington and Chelsea	38	0.03%	25.8	121.6	0.0%	24%	-1.2	21.5
Kent	259	0.02%	16.1	4.5	26.0%‡	14%*	-0.3	19.5

Kingston upon Hull	38	0.01%	14.0	38.0	0.0%	34%	0.9	40.6
Kingston upon Thames	42	0.02%	24.6	45.8	0.0%	24%	-1.0	11.4
Kirklees	64	0.01%	14.5	10.8	11.0%	25%*	0.2	25.2
Knowsley	25	0.02%	15.7	18.4	0.2%	36%	1.4	43.0
Lambeth	60	0.02%	19.0	117.8	0.0%	17%	0.1	25.4
Lancashire	186	0.01%	14.6	4.4	21.1%‡	24%	0.4	23.4
Leeds	147	0.02%	17.7	15.0	6.6%	22%	0.4	27.3
Leicester	65	0.02%	17.1	51.8	0.2%	36%	0.6	30.9
Leicestershire	91	0.01%	12.4	3.5	33.1%‡	17%	-0.5	12.3
Lewisham	44	0.01%	14.7	85.0	0.0%	19%	0.1	26.7
Lincolnshire	87	0.01%	11.1	1.3	47.7%‡	22%	0.0	20.3
Liverpool	67	0.01%	13.3	45.0	0.0%	33%	1.3	42.4
Luton	25	0.01%	10.8	53.3	0.0%	36%	0.3	25.9
Manchester	87	0.02%	15.0	50.1	0.0%	38%	1.2	40.0
Medway	49	0.02%	17.1	14.8	11.6%	22%*	0.1	23.9
Merthyr Tydfil	16	0.03%	27.3	5.3	11.6%			
Merton	41	0.02%	19.1	57.2	0.0%	17%	-0.6	14.6
Middlesbrough	16	0.01%	10.5	28.3	0.2%	31%	1.2	40.5
Milton Keynes	40	0.01%	13.4	9.7	6.7%	18%	-0.2	18.0
Monmouthshire	12	0.01%	12.7	1.1	46.5%			
Neath Port Talbot	20	0.01%	14.0	3.2	24.2%			

Newcastle upon Tyne	57	0.02%	18.3	27.5	3.7%	26%	0.8	29.8
Newham	38	0.01%	10.5	100.2	0.0%	40%	0.0	29.6
Newport	19	0.01%	11.6	8.6	10.6%			
Norfolk	123	0.01%	13.2	1.7	48.7%‡	21%	0.1	21.2
North East Lincolnshire	21	0.01%	13.3	8.2	6.6%	31%	0.4	31.3
North Lincolnshire	18	0.01%	10.6	2.0	44.2%	25%	0.2	22.1
North Northamptonshire	41	0.01%	11.1	3.7	26.7%	25%	0.0	19.7
North Somerset	32	0.01%	14.5	5.9	20.7%	26%	-0.3	15.8
North Tyneside	32	0.02%	15.1	25.7	0.2%	16%	0.4	22.3
North Yorkshire	108	0.02%	17.2	0.8	0.0%	20%*	-0.3*	16.6*
Northumberland	54	0.02%	16.5	0.7	45.1%	16%	0.2	22.1
Nottingham	53	0.02%	16.1	44.1	0.0%	28%	0.9	34.9
Nottinghamshire	102	0.01%	12.1	4.1	23.9%‡	18%	0.0	19.0
Oldham	40	0.02%	16.3	17.3	1.6%	36%	0.7	33.2
Oxfordshire	116	0.02%	15.5	2.9	35.3%‡	21%	-0.8	11.7
Pembrokeshire	12	0.01%	9.6	0.8	76.3%			
Peterborough	31	0.01%	14.1	6.4	10.6%	27%	0.4	27.8
Plymouth	46	0.02%	17.1	33.7	0.0%	24%	0.7	26.6
Portsmouth	32	0.02%	15.2	52.1	0.0%	24%*	0.3	26.9
Powys	22	0.02%	16.4	0.3	85.8%			

Reading	24	0.01%	13.5	44.1	0.0%	18%*	0.0	19.6
Redbridge	52	0.02%	16.6	55.6	0.0%	35%	-0.7	17.2
Redcar and Cleveland	21	0.02%	15.2	5.6	31.7%	24%	0.8	29.8
Rhondda Cynon Taf	31	0.01%	12.9	5.7	7.7%			
Richmond upon Thames	55	0.03%	28.1	34.1	0.0%	18%	-1.4	9.4
Rochdale	33	0.01%	14.4	14.5	1.9%	32%	0.8	34.4
Rotherham	39	0.01%	14.4	9.5	10.7%	24%	0.8	29.6
Rutland	9	0.02%	22.1	1.1	65.0%	13%	-1.0	8.4
Salford	41	0.01%	14.4	29.2	0.0%	36%	1.0	34.2
Sandwell	48	0.01%	13.8	40.6	0.0%	29%	0.7	34.9
Sefton	39	0.01%	13.8	18.1	1.4%	33%	0.8	27.0
Sheffield	81	0.01%	14.1	15.6	1.7%	29%	0.5	27.1
Shropshire	63	0.02%	19.1	1.0	57.3%	18%	-0.3	17.2
Slough	20	0.01%	12.4	49.4	0.0%	36%8	0.1	23.0
Solihull	36	0.02%	16.5	12.3	12.2%	16%	-0.3	17.4
Somerset	93	0.02%	16.0	1.7	0.0%	20%	-0.3*	16.6*
South Gloucestershire	32	0.01%	10.7	6.0	11.5%	13%	-0.8	11.7
South Tyneside	23	0.02%	15.4	23.2	0.1%	23%	0.9	31.5
Southampton	33	0.01%	12.9	51.3	0.0%	18%*	0.5	26.9
Southend-on-Sea	30	0.02%	16.5	43.7	0.0%	15%	0.1	22.4

Southwark	53	0.02%	16.8	109.3	0.0%	18%	0.1	25.8
St. Helens	24	0.01%	12.9	13.6	4.8%	36%	1.1	31.5
Staffordshire	141	0.02%	15.7	3.4	23.5%‡	14%	-0.1	16.6
Stockport	53	0.02%	17.7	23.8	0.4%	18%	0.4	20.8
Stockton-on-Tees	35	0.02%	17.3	9.9	5.6%	23%	0.7	25.8
Stoke-on-Trent	28	0.01%	10.6	28.2	0.2%	31%	1.0	34.5
Suffolk	115	0.01%	14.8	2.0	40.4%‡	16%	-0.3	18.5
Sunderland	43	0.02%	15.3	20.5	0.7%	27%	0.8	30.6
Surrey	230	0.02%	18.7	7.4	10.0%‡	17%*	-0.9	10.1
Sutton	43	0.02%	20.4	48.2	0.0%	24%	-0.6	14.0
Swansea	43	0.02%	17.4	6.5	13.3%			
Swindon	34	0.01%	14.3	10.4	10.1%	17%	0.0	18.6
Tameside	30	0.01%	12.8	22.8	0.2%	28%	0.9	31.4
Telford and Wrekin	28	0.01%	14.6	6.6	6.0%	27%	0.4	25.0
The Vale of Glamorgan	19	0.01%	14.1	4.1	20.1%			
Thurrock	18	0.01%	10.1	10.9	13.4%	24%	-0.2	20.9
Torbay	30	0.02%	21.5	22.2	0.3%	26%	0.5	28.1
Torfaen	18	0.02%	19.3	7.4	8.7%			
Tower Hamlets	50	0.02%	15.2	166.2	0.0%	30%	0.2	27.9
Trafford	50	0.02%	21.1	22.4	0.3%	25%	-0.1	16.1
Wakefield	48	0.01%	13.3	10.7	17.6%	24%*	0.5	27.3

Walsall	38	0.01%	13.2	27.8	0.1%	25%	0.6	31.6
Waltham Forest	34	0.01%	12.3	71.1	0.0%	29%	-0.2	25.2
Wandsworth	65	0.02%	19.6	96.7	0.0%	24%	-0.4	16.6
Warrington	30	0.01%	14.1	11.8	8.6%	27%	0.3	18.9
Warwickshire	87	0.01%	14.1	3.1	30.7%‡	17%	-0.2	15.6
West Berkshire	27	0.02%	16.5	2.3	38.7%	13%*	-0.9	10.0
West Northamptonshire	44	0.01%	10.1	3.2	27.4%	27%	-0.2	17.7
West Sussex	140	0.02%	15.5	4.5	19.8%	18%*	-0.4	14.4
Westminster	119	0.06%	56.3	98.5	0.0%	27%	-0.9	20.3
Westmorland and Furness	44	0.02%	19.3	0.6	0.0%	23%	0.1*	21.2*
Wigan	38	0.01%	11.2	18.0	3.4%	28%	0.6	25.7
Wiltshire	100	0.02%	19.3	1.6	41.3%‡	11%	-0.6	13.4
Windsor and Maidenhead	33	0.02%	21.3	7.9	10.2%	16%*	-1.0	8.4
Wirral	50	0.02%	15.4	20.2	0.6%	33%	1.0	29.6
Wokingham	22	0.01%	12.0	10.3	17.0%	15%*	-1.5	5.8
Wolverhampton	45	0.02%	16.5	39.2	0.0%	22%	0.6	32.1
Worcestershire	93	0.02%	15.1	3.5	25.9%‡	18%	-0.2	18.1
Wrexham	17	0.01%	12.5	2.7	32.1%			
York	43	0.02%	20.8	7.6	13.8%	27%*	-0.3	11.7

Numbers and percentages with an asterisk symbol (*) next to them have been imputed from another similar local authority. An authority's similarity to another one is based upon council type and a range of demographic, economic, financial, and social factors. Next to county councils in the column containing data on the % population resident in rural and rural related areas there will be a double dagger symbol (‡). This represents that the value has been calculated. In this

case data was not available for counties, therefore, to create a value for each county the number of residents in rural or rural related areas for each constituent district authority was summed then divided by the total population of the county. Three of the metrics analysed for this report are not available for Welsh local authorities. The dental practice data is accurate as of the 17 of July 2025.

Annex B: Metrics

Metric name	Source	Definition
Number of active dental practices offering NHS services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS England Digital 	This is the number of active dental practices currently offering NHS services.
Percentage of five-year-old children with dental decay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LG Inform National Dental Epidemiology Programme (NDEP) for England: oral health survey of 5-year-old children 2022 - GOV.UK 	Percentage of 5-year-olds with dental decay extending to the dentine layer which can be detected by visual observation alone.
Population density	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LG Inform Population estimates - Office for National Statistics 	Population density is the number of inhabitants per hectare. For the calculation of population density, the

		land-area concept (which excludes inland water bodies like lakes or rivers) is used.
% population resident in rural and rural related areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LG Inform • Rural Urban Classification - GOV.UK 	The percentage of the resident population living in rural and rural related (Hub Towns) settlements as at Censusday. Hub towns are built-up areas (from Ordnance Survey mapping) with a population of 10,000 to 30,000 (2011 Census) and a certain concentration of residential dwellings and non-residential establishments which have the potential to be centres of business and service provision for a surrounding rural area.
IMD: Health Deprivation and Disability - score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LG Inform • English indices of deprivation - GOV.UK 	The domain measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. The domain measures

		<p>morbidity, disability and premature mortality but not aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation. The more deprived is an area, the higher the IMD score but the lower the rank.</p>
<p>IMD: Overall - score</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LG Inform • English indices of deprivation - GOV.UK 	<p>The main IMD summary measure. It is a weighted average of the seven IMD domains: Income Deprivation, Employment Deprivation, Health Deprivation and Disability, Education Skills and Training Deprivation, Barriers to Housing and Services, Living Environment Deprivation, and Crime. The more deprived is an area, the higher the IMD score but the lower the rank.</p>



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