Ups and downs of NHS Dentistry 2010/11

New reporting gives clarity to NHS dentistry usage

The NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2010/11 has recently been released by the NHS Information Centre.

This year the paper has progressed into a comprehensive report bringing together a range of information, such as the number of dentists working for the NHS, the amount of treatments that are carried out and the number of patients that are seen by an NHS dentist. One interesting fact showed that 45.5 per cent of NHS dentists are female.

There was however a key finding to the report, which revealed that the number of fluoride treatments had substantially increased since 2009/10 for both adults and children; 8.1 per cent of all child treatments included a fluoride varnish, while 1.2 per cent of all adult treatments included a fluoride varnish.

The figures also revealed that since 2006 an extra one million patients have been seen by an NHS dentist, putting the final figure for the two-year period, ending in June 2011, at more than 29 million. Alongside these figures, in the past 24 months around 56.3 per cent of the population have received dental care. Even though these figures are promising, the report also revealed that over the same period 26,000 fewer children had seen an NHS dentist.

Commenting on this figure, Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, Dr Nigel Carter said: “It is disappoint-