

**The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has just released a new report covering the most up-to-date information on the state of Australian oral health. The report *Oral health and dental care in Australia: key facts and figures 2015* covers topics pertinent to the health of the Australian population. These include: oral health, use of dental services, hospital separations, financial barriers, private health insurance, expenditure and dental workforce.**

The report shows some interesting results regarding toothaches: uninsured adults have higher incidences of toothache (20%) than those with insurance (12%). The report from AIHW also uncovered, in 2013, that of people eligible for public care 20% had toothaches in comparison to 15% of the ineligible population.

“In 2013, 16% of adults with natural teeth had experienced toothache in the previous 12 months and 27% reported feeling uncomfortable about their dental appearance,” said AIHW spokesperson Dr Adrian Webster.

The report also took a closer look at the dental workforce over the last several years showing that in 2013, per 100,000 people there were roughly

- 3 dental therapists,
- 3 oral health therapists,
- 5 dental hygienists,
- 5 dental prosthetists,
- 56 dentists.

According to Dr Webster, rural areas unfortunately remain disadvantaged when it comes to the dental workforce.

“Major cities had the highest number of practising dentists—about 63 per 100,000 people—while this was lowest in ‘Remote/Very remote areas’, at about 26 per 100,000”, said Dr Webster.

The report is available in [digital](#) and [print](#) formats from the AIHW website.



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