

Regulation and workforce: evidence and relevance

PSA Research Conference

Rebecca Cooper

Associate Director of Policy and Research
General Dental Council

Jonathan Key

Senior Research Analyst
General Dental Council

Research at GDC

Context: Dental sector impacted; Brexit, Pandemic, Cost of Living Crisis

- **Mixed methods research programme**
- **Since 2020; 11,500+ Dental professionals, 9,000+ members of the public**
- **Resulting in 11 publications**

New research:

- Impacts of COVID and cost of living crisis
- Perceptions of GDC
- CPD
- Early career Dental Professionals

Also:

- Data Analyses: Internal (Registration, FtP), External; (ONS/employment and treatment data)
- Ongoing scoping of the external evidence landscape.



What we know

A dental system under strain, particularly regarding NHS services

Dental Professional perspectives

- Mental health
- Meeting patient demand
- Working safely
- Support needed
- Financial circumstances
- Recruitment, retention, NHS provision



Patient perspectives

- Demand for services
- Access to services
- Safety and confidence
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Stakeholder engagement

- Workforce stresses relate to patient safety, confidence and DPs practising safely



How does this inform our work?

Continuing to build the evidence base

- The relationship between registrant numbers, workforce size and patient access
- Impact on the public and patients: access, experience, outcome
- Impact on registrants – retention, career choices, attrition, longer-term plans
- Maintaining the register – facilitating access for those who wish to work in the UK
- Scoping population study

Determining and calibrating regulatory interest in workforce:

- Impact on patient safety and public confidence
 - Potential differential impact – health inequalities – access, experience, outcome
- Collaboration and partnership working in the sector – sharing data and intelligence
- How best to approach workforce-related evidence needs/research over time (focus, methods)

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Thank you.

Do you have any questions?

Please contact Jonathan Key: jkey@gdc-uk.org