



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-assessments during quarter ending 31 March 2006

01 December 2006

Theme:

**Hearing aid assessments and
re-assessments in Northern
Ireland**

Issued by

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stats_research/stats-cib.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib.htm)

This is the first statistical bulletin presenting information on hearing aid assessments and re-assessments by audiologists in Northern Ireland, for the quarter ending 31 March 2006. Information has been derived from the quarterly collection AUD1, and monitors information on both adults and children fitted and assessed for hearing aids during the quarter, complaints received, and cost of aids issued. In addition, the return monitors complete and incomplete waits for assessment during the quarter, and the length of time patients were waiting or had waited following referral to Audiologist (specified time bands).

Key Findings

Patients Fitted:

- 2,772 patients were fitted with a digital hearing aid or analogue hearing aid during the quarter ending 31 March 2006, 2,575 digital hearing aids and 197 analogue hearing aids.
- Of the 2,772 patients fitted during the quarter, over half (1,557) were new patients.
- The Eastern HSS Board had the highest number of patients fitted with hearing aids during the quarter (1,229), 591 in the Southern Board, 530 in the Western Board, and 422 in the Northern Board.
- In addition, 1,151 existing clients were issued with digital hearing aid replacements or fixes during the quarter (*These are not included in the information above for patients fitted, as patients may have already been fitted during the quarter*).

Patients Assessed:

- 2,542 new and existing patients were assessed for hearing aids during the quarter ending 31 March 2006. Of these, 33 adults were assessed as unsuitable for a hearing aid.

Cost of Hearing Aids:

- Information on the cost of aids was not available in the Northern Board. However, 3,437 aids¹ were issued across the Eastern, Southern, and Western Boards during the quarter ending 31 March 2006 at a cost of £221,886 .

Complaints Received:

- No complaints were reported by Audiology Departments in Northern Ireland during quarter ending 31 March 2006.

Completed Waiting Times:

- 2,680 patients had their hearing aid assessment / re-assessment ² completed during the quarter ending 31 March 2006.
- Of these 2,680 patients, 52% had been waiting less than 3 months from referral to an Audiology Department until the aid was fitted, 21% waited 3 to 6 months, 17% waited 6 to 12 months, and 11% waited 12 months or more.

Incomplete Waiting Times:

- At 31 March 2006, 2,184 patients were waiting for their hearing aid assessment / re-assessment ² to be completed.
- The highest proportion (50%) of these patients were waiting for 6 to 12 months, 26% less than 3 months, 19% 3 to 6 months, and 5% 12 months or more.

¹ Figures for aids issued may not agree with the totals provided in previous commentary. This is due to inconsistency in the way Audiologists have interpreted the requested information. We hope to address this for future quarters.

² Waiting times for hearing aid assessments / re-assessments are counted from the date of the referral to the Audiology department until the aid is fitted or a decision is made that the patient is unsuitable for a hearing aid.

Note to Editors

1. The enclosed figures for hearing aid assessments and re-assessments are the first in a regular series. Data is collected on the AUD1 quarterly return, which provides the DHSSPS with aggregate data on children and adults assessed and re-assessed for hearing aids in Northern Ireland.
2. The information presented for the quarter ending 31 March 2006, is based on data reported by 12 audiologists, working in the following hospital / community Trusts; Royal Group of Hospitals, Belfast City Hospital, Mater Hospital, Ulster Community & Hospital, Laganvalley Hospital, Downe Hospital, Causeway / United Hospitals, Daisy Hill Hospital, Craigavon Area Hospital, Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust, Altnagelvin Hospital, and Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust.
3. The information in this bulletin is presented according to HSS Boards, and is based on the location of the hospitals / Trusts, and not where the client lives, i.e. a client from the Northern Board may be seen in the Royal but their details will be included in the Eastern HSS Board.
4. Numbers from 1 – 5 have been suppressed and are shown as hyphens. Percentages are shown rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was five or less, or the denominator was 10 or less, they have been suppressed and replaced with a hyphen.
5. Symbols used:

Symbol	Meaning
-	Figure is suppressed
.	Not applicable

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Table A.1: Patients Fitted with Hearing Aids during Quarter, by Type of Aid and Patient Type^{1,2}

	numbers					Percentages				
	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland
Total Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid During the Quarter (Both Existing and New Patients)										
All Patients Fitted	1,229	422	591	530	2,772	44	15	21	19	100
Digital Hearing Aid	1,116	404	558	497	2,575	43	16	22	19	100
Analogue Hearing Aid	113	18	33	33	197	57	9	17	17	100
Child Patients Fitted	21	7	15	7	50	42	14	30	14	100
Digital Hearing Aid	16	-	15	-	41	39	-	37	-	100
Analogue Hearing Aid	5	-	-	-	9	56	-	-	-	100
Adult Patients Fitted	1,208	415	576	523	2,722	44	15	21	19	100
Digital Hearing Aid	1,100	399	543	492	2,534	43	16	21	19	100
Analogue Hearing Aid	108	16	33	31	188	57	9	18	16	100
New Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid										
New Patients Fitted	777	292	285	203	1,557	50	19	18	13	100
Digital Hearing Aid	768	-	280	-	1,539	50	19	18	13	100
Analogue Hearing Aid	9	-	5	-	18	50	-	28	-	100
New Child Patients Fitted	12	-	14	-	33	36	-	42	-	100
Digital Hearing Aid	12	-	13	-	32	38	-	41	-	100
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	-	-	-	1	0	-	-	-	100
New Adult Patients Fitted	765	288	271	200	1,524	50	19	18	13	100
Digital Hearing Aid	756	-	-	-	1,507	50	-	-	-	100
Analogue Hearing Aid	9	-	-	-	17	53	-	-	-	100
Existing Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid										
Existing Patients Fitted	461	133	311	328	1,233	37	11	25	27	100
Digital Hearing Aid	348	115	278	295	1,036	34	11	27	28	100
Analogue Hearing Aid	113	18	33	33	197	57	9	17	17	100
Existing Child Patients Fitted	9	-	-	-	18	50	-	-	-	100
Digital Hearing Aid	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	100
Analogue Hearing Aid	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	100
Existing Adult Patients Fitted	452	130	309	324	1,215	37	11	25	27	100
Digital Hearing Aid	344	114	276	293	1,027	33	11	27	29	100
Analogue Hearing Aid	108	16	33	31	188	57	9	18	16	100
Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements ¹										
Patients Issued with Replacements ¹	412	599	75	65	1,151	36	52	7	6	100
Child Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements	71	22	-	-	115	62	19	-	-	100
Adult Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements	341	577	-	-	1,036	33	56	-	-	100

Source: AUD1 Survey

¹ Digital Hearing Aid Replacements are only issued to existing clients who have already been fitted with a digital hearing aid, please note that these should not be added to the total digital hearing aids and analogue hearing aids issued as these clients will have already been fitted with an aid during the quarter.

Table A.2: Patients Assessed for a Hearing Aid during the quarter, by Type of Aid and Patient Type

	numbers					Percentages				
	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland
All Patients Assessed										
All Patients Assessed	1,081	650	638	173	2,542	43	26	25	7	100
All Adults Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	1,075	-	622	-	2,517	43	-	25	-	100
All Children Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	6	-	16	-	25	24	-	64	-	100
New Patients Assessed										
New Patients Assessed	573	293	370	173	1,409	41	21	26	12	100
Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	556	286	345	170	1,357	41	21	25	13	100
Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	-	-	13	-	18	-	-	72	-	100
Adult Patients Assessed as Unsuitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	15	6	11	-	33	45	18	33	-	100
Child Patients Assessed as Unsuitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Adult Patients Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	-	-	356	-	1,390	-	-	26	-	100
Total Child Patients Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	-	-	14	-	19	-	-	74	-	100
Existing Patients Assessed										
Existing Patients Assessed	508	357	268	0	1,133	45	32	24	-	100
Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	-	357	-	0	1,127	45	32	24	-	100
Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	-	0	-	0	6	67	-	33	-	100

Source: AUD1 Survey

Table B.1: Number of Aids Issued during Quarter, by Expenditure on these Aids ¹

	numbers					Percentages				
	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland
All Aids Issued										
Total Number of Aids Issued	1,756	1,024	902	779	4,461	39	23	20	17	100
Adults receiving Digital Hearing Aids	1,524	976	800	681	3,981	38	25	20	17	100
Adults receiving Analogue Hearing Aids	138	19	67	89	313	44	6	21	28	100
Children receiving Digital Hearing Aids	89	-	-	-	157	57	-	-	-	100
Children receiving Analogue Hearing Aids	5	-	-	-	10	50	-	-	-	100
Total Cost of Aids Issued										
Total Cost of Aids Issued during Quarter (,000's)	120.0	0.0	56.4	45.5	221.9	54	0	25	20	100
Cost for Adult Digital Hearing Aids (,000's)	101.9	0.0	50.9	40.5	193.2	53	0	26	21	100
Cost for Adult Analogue Hearing Aids (,000's)	5.4	0.0	3.0	4.2	12.6	43	0	24	33	100
Cost for Child Digital Hearing Aids (,000's)	11.6	0.0	2.5	0.4	14.6	80	0	17	3	100
Cost for Child Analogue Hearing Aids (,000's)	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.5	76	0	3	21	100
Average Cost of Aids Issued										
Average Cost per Aid	£68.3	-	£62.6	£58.4	£64.6	-	-	-	-	-
Average Cost of Adult Digital Hearing Aid	£66.8	-	£63.6	£59.5	£64.3	-	-	-	-	-
Average Cost of Adult Analogue Hearing Aid	£39.0	-	£44.8	£47.4	£42.9	-	-	-	-	-
Average Cost of Child Digital Hearing Aid	£130.2	-	£74.5	£63.7	£112.1	-	-	-	-	-
Average Cost of Child Analogue Hearing Aid	£225.0	-	£38.0	£157.0	£184.6	-	-	-	-	-

Source: AUD1 Survey

¹ Information on the cost of aids was not available in the Northern Board

Table C.1: Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments During Quarter ending 31 March 2006¹ by HSS Board

	numbers					Percentages				
	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland
All Completed Waits	1,191	404	588	497	2,680	44	15	22	19	100
Less than 3 months	769	366	161	96	1,392	55	26	12	7	100
3 to 6 months	240	38	14	259	551	44	7	3	47	100
6 to 12 months	114	0	194	142	450	25	-	43	32	100
12 months or more	68	0	219	0	287	24	-	76	-	100
Completed Waits for Children	18	5	61	5	89	20	6	69	6	100
Less than 3 months	13	5	56	5	79	16	6	71	6	100
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
6 to 12 months	5	0	5	0	10	50	-	50	-	100
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
Completed Waits for Adults	1,173	399	527	492	2,591	45	15	20	19	100
Less than 3 months	756	361	105	91	1,313	58	27	8	7	100
3 to 6 months	240	38	14	259	551	44	7	3	47	100
6 to 12 months	109	0	189	142	440	25	-	43	32	100
12 months or more	68	0	219	0	287	24	-	76	-	100

Source: AUD1 Survey

Table C.2: Board Analysis of Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments During Quarter ending 31 March 2006¹

	numbers					Percentages				
	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland
All Completed Waits	1,191	404	588	497	2,680	100	100	100	100	100
Less than 3 months	769	366	161	96	1,392	65	91	27	19	52
3 to 6 months	240	38	14	259	551	20	9	2	52	21
6 to 12 months	114	0	194	142	450	10	-	33	29	17
12 months or more	68	0	219	0	287	6	-	37	0	11
Completed Waits for Children	18	5	61	5	89	100	100	100	100	100
Less than 3 months	13	5	56	5	79	72	100	92	100	89
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
6 to 12 months	5	0	5	0	10	28	-	8	-	11
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
Completed Waits for Adults	1,173	399	527	492	2,591	100	100	100	100	100
Less than 3 months	756	361	105	91	1,313	64	90	20	18	51
3 to 6 months	240	38	14	259	551	20	10	3	53	21
6 to 12 months	109	0	189	142	440	9	-	36	29	17
12 months or more	68	0	219	0	287	6	-	42	0	11

Source: AUD1 Survey

¹ Completed waiting times for hearing aid assessment / re-assessments are counted from the date the referral is received by the Audiology Department until the aid is fitted.

Table C.3: Patients Waiting for a Hearing Aid Assessment / Re-Assessment to be Completed at 31 March 2006¹ by HSS Board

	numbers					Percentages				
	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland
All InComplete Waits	837	64	943	340	2,184	38	3	43	16	100
Less than 3 months	149	35	286	93	563	26	6	51	17	100
3 to 6 months	208	29	183	0	420	50	7	44	-	100
6 to 12 months	458	0	384	247	1,089	42	-	35	23	100
12 months or more	22	0	90	0	112	20	-	80	-	100
InComplete Waits for Children	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
Less than 3 months	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
6 to 12 months	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
InComplete Waits for Adults	837	64	943	340	2,184	38	3	43	16	100
Less than 3 months	149	35	286	93	563	26	6	51	17	100
3 to 6 months	208	29	183	0	420	50	7	44	-	100
6 to 12 months	458	0	384	247	1,089	42	-	35	23	100
12 months or more	22	0	90	0	112	20	-	80	-	100

Source: AUD1 Survey

Table C.4: Board Analysis of Patients Waiting for a Hearing Aid Assessment / Re-Assessment to be Completed at 31 March 2006¹

	numbers					Percentages				
	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Northern Ireland
All Completed Waits	837	64	943	340	2,184	100	100	100	100	100
Less than 3 months	149	35	286	93	563	18	55	30	27	26
3 to 6 months	208	29	183	0	420	25	45	19	-	19
6 to 12 months	458	0	384	247	1,089	55	-	41	73	50
12 months or more	22	0	90	0	112	3	-	10	-	5
Completed Waits for Children	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
Less than 3 months	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
6 to 12 months	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
Completed Waits for Adults	837	64	943	340	2,184	100	100	100	100	100
Less than 3 months	149	35	286	93	563	18	55	30	27	26
3 to 6 months	208	29	183	0	420	25	45	19	-	19
6 to 12 months	458	0	384	247	1,089	55	-	41	73	50
12 months or more	22	0	90	0	112	3	-	10	-	5

Source: AUD1 Survey

¹ Incomplete waiting times refer to patients who have been referred to the Audiology Department who have not yet been fitted with their aid. Waiting times in this case are counted from the date referral in received until the end of the quarter.

Additional Information

For **further information** on Community Care Packages in Effect in Northern Ireland, please contact:

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