

GERODONTOLOGY MOOC – VIDEO NOTES

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN ORAL HEALTH

Older people are increasingly retaining their natural teeth. In England, there has been a 50% drop in the number of older people without any of their natural teeth (known as edentulousness). A similar trend is seen in Wales. An increasing number of people will retain their natural teeth.

“It is expected that over 90% of adults 45 to 54 will have a realistic prospect of ageing with many of their own teeth.”

Dentate and edentate adults by age (Adult Dental Health Survey)

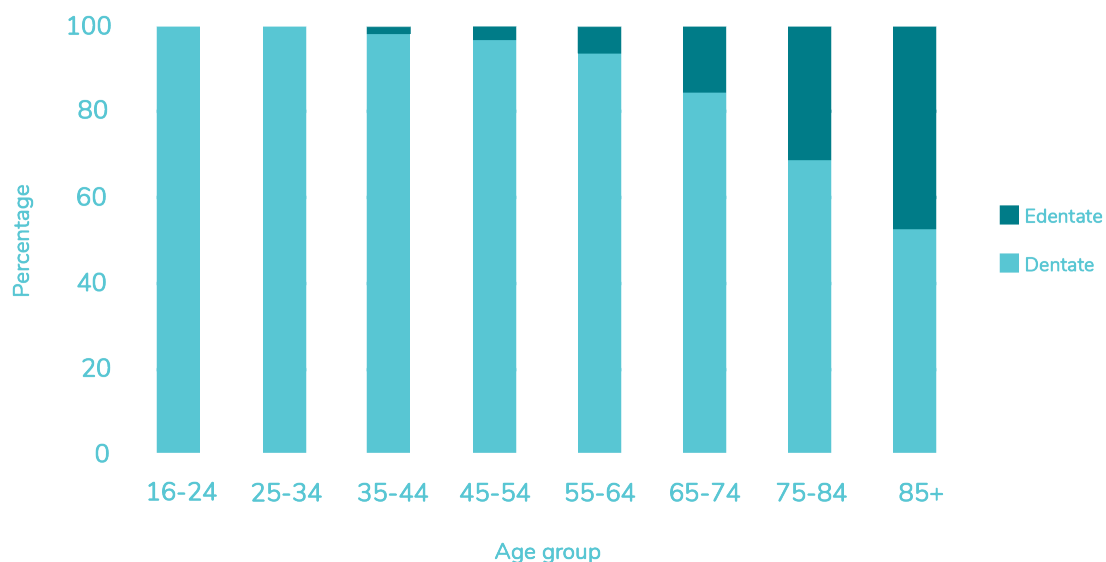


Figure 1: Dentate and Edentate adults by age. Reproduced from the Adult dental health survey, 2009.

These demographic changes will see a reduction in the number of older people wearing partial or full prostheses (partial or full dentures) in the future. However, many of the teeth that do remain will have experienced many restorative procedures (for example, fillings and root treatments). Older people in the future are also more likely to have had crowns and bridges placed to restore edentulous spaces. This will increase the complexity of older peoples' care as they age further.