

Oral Health Promotion Strategy



Adults, Wellbeing and Health
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Oral Health: Data Summary

Oral Health in 5 year olds in County Durham

Welcome

Summary

Decay Experience

DMFT

Hospital Admissions Dental Caries

Inequality in Decay Experience

Decay experience (AAP)

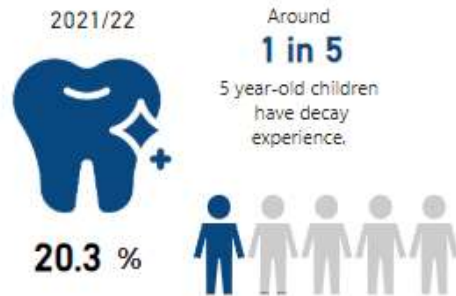
Severity of Decay (AAP)

Dentist Attendance Ward

Dentist Locations

Data Sources

Experience of visually obvious dental decay in 5 year-olds



Percentage change over the most recent period

% change

-24.5% ↓

Statistically **worse** to England and **similar** to the North East.



398.5

Rate per 100k

Hospital admissions for dental caries (5 year-olds)

2020/21 - 22/23

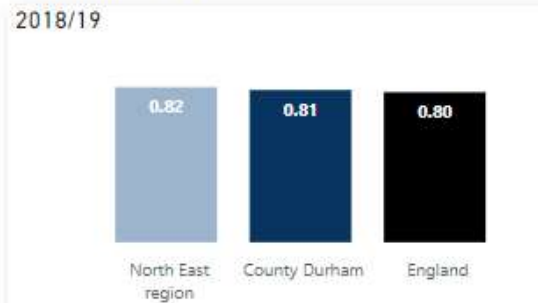
Increasing

That's around **120** admissions per year

Decayed missing or filled teeth (DMFT) in 5 year-olds



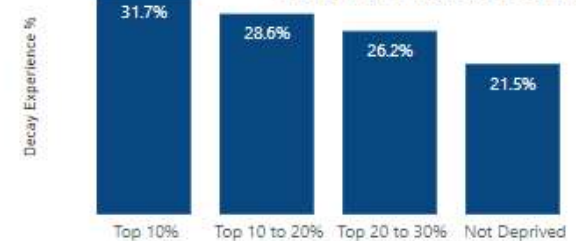
Statistically **similar** to England and **similar** the North East.



Mean severity of tooth decay in children aged five years based on the mean number of teeth per child sampled which were either actively decayed or had been filled or extracted decayed/missing/filled teeth

Inequality

2016/17, 2018/19, 2020/21.



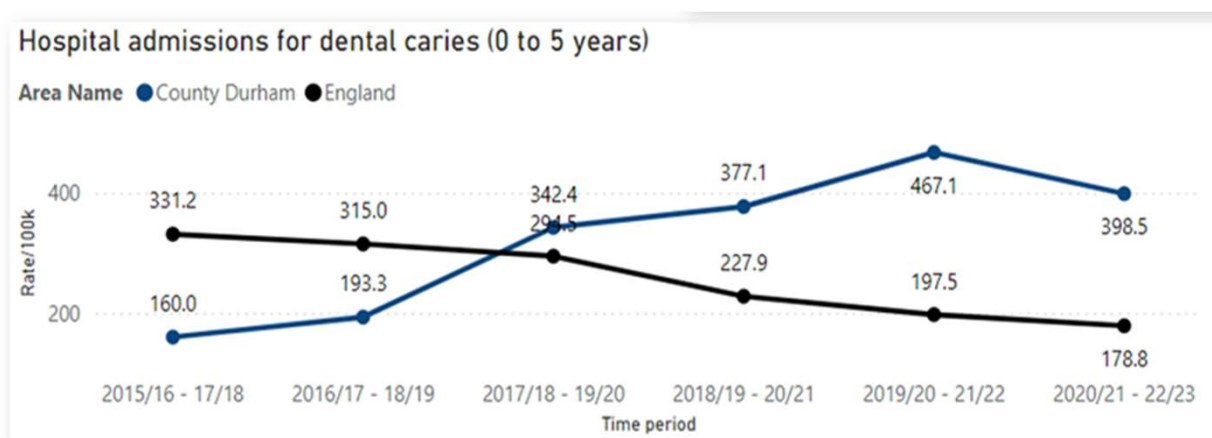
When prevalence of dental decay in 5-year-olds in County Durham is plotted against deprivation there is a clear social gradient.

Oral Health in children in County Durham

Oral Health is a vital part of health and wellbeing. Dental decay has detrimental impact on children and young people's physical, social and mental health. Removal of decayed teeth is the most common reason for a 5-9 year old child to be admitted to hospital in England.

Latest data available tells us:

- County Durham is ranked 70 out of 152 Local Authorities, for decayed, missing or filled teeth
- Around 1 in 5 (20.3%) of 5-year-olds in Durham have experience of decay
- Roughly 120 hospital admissions per year for dental caries, higher than England and North East averages
- There is a clear link between dental decay and deprivation – 10.2% difference between the top 10% deprived areas and 'not deprived' areas in County Durham (DMFT, 5 years)



County Durham's Oral Health Promotion Strategy 2023-2028

In 2023 the [Oral Health Promotion Strategy](#) for County Durham was supported by the Health and Wellbeing Board and presented to Overview and Scrutiny.

The strategy aims to:

- Improve oral health of everyone living in County Durham
- Reduce oral health inequalities
- Create supportive environments, working with communities and partners to promote oral health
- Contribute to good oral health across the life course

<p>Priority</p> <h1>1</h1> <p>To ensure we are guided by the approach to wellbeing.</p>	<p>Priority</p> <h1>2</h1> <p>To adopt an oral health in all policies approach.</p> <p>To work with partners to ensure oral health is seen as an integral part of overall health and wellbeing and therefore to incorporate oral health into relevant policies.</p>	<p>Priority</p> <h1>3</h1> <p>Prevention for Children and Young People.</p> <p>To explore and use all available opportunities to deliver preventive messages and evidence based interventions.</p>	<p>Priority</p> <h1>4</h1> <p>Effective support for vulnerable groups.</p> <p>To ensure we consider vulnerable and hard to reach groups within our communities and provide tailored and targeted support.</p>	<p>Priority</p> <h1>5</h1> <p>To increase knowledge and skills among the workforce across services and sectors to enable them to support residents across the County to improve their oral health.</p>	<p>Priority</p> <h1>6</h1> <p>To ensure we make good use of available data to understand challenges faced by communities when accessing primary dental care and ensure we are providing sufficient levels of preventive programmes in these areas.</p>
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Supervised Toothbrushing in County Durham

- Early Years Foundation Stage (3-5 year olds).
- Local oral health needs strategies and existing interventions.
- NHS Core20PLUS5 (Children and Young People).
- Budget 30 October commitment, ensure this remains stable.
- County Durham programme presented nationally as model of best practice.
- Establish optimal oral health habits for life.

- 5502 children involved in Supervised Toothbrushing in nurseries in the top 30% IMD in County Durham.
- 6 SEND schools supported with specialised kits.



Programme expanded to 30% most deprived early years settings.



Durham County Council provide resources to set up a toothbrushing programme for children.



Training, guidance, and support provided by County Durham and Darlington Oral Health Promotion Team

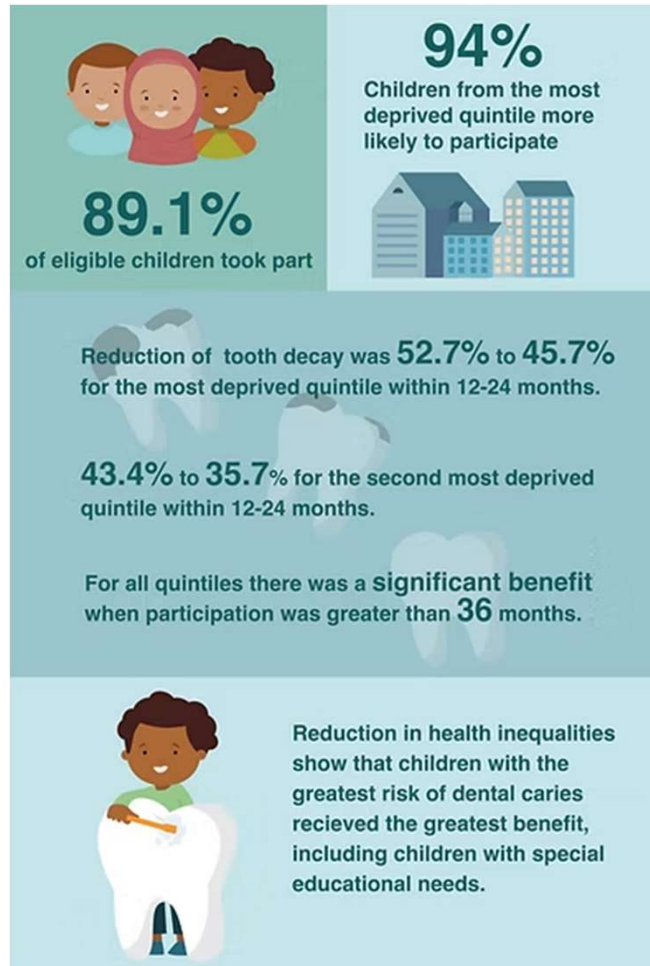


Brushing at home is encouraged alongside the programme.



A quality assurance system is in place to ensure the scheme adheres to guidance.

Supervised Toothbrushing: The evidence



Oral Health Strategy Action Plan

- Universal distribution of Oral Health packs through Health Visitors at the 9–12-month contact, supporting Health Visitors in delivering key oral health messages to families.
- Oral Health is embedded in the services Family Hubs provide – recognised as a strong model to reach most deprived communities and families including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, asylum seekers and refugees.
- Delivery of the dental passports to children in care to facilitate access to dental services.
- Smiling Matters programme training to all residential care homes promoting oral health care plans and denture care kits.
- Collaborative work across wider public health strategies and programmes including breast feeding, healthy school's framework, food policy development, tobacco action plan and adult social care.

Community Water Fluoridation

Water Fluoridation is supported as a public health intervention to improve oral health and reduce inequalities by the four Chief Medical Officers of the UK:

“there is strong scientific evidence that water fluoridation is an effective public health intervention for reducing the prevalence of tooth decay and improving dental health equality across the UK. It should be seen as a complementary strategy, not a substitute for other effective methods of increasing fluoride use”.

[Water fluoridation: statement from the UK Chief Medical Officers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/water-fluoridation-statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers)

- The Department for Health and Social Care consultation on the community water fluoridation expansion in the North East of England closed on 31st July 2024.
- The consultation has been considered and supported by the appropriate Council committees:
 - The Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Children and Young People and Adults and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- Schemes must be monitored to examine their effects on health every 4 years.

Next steps

- Outcome of DHSC Community Water Fluoridation consultation is awaited and expected imminently.
- Awaiting outcome of bid to ICB Investment Board for funding to extend and expand local delivery.
- Enhance delivery to ensure oral health promotion programmes are embedded into the secure children's home and residential children's homes, informed by evaluation of the Children in Care Pathway pilot (Tees Valley).
- Scope the feasibility of providing supervised toothbrushing support in the Home Learning Environment to families most in need.
- Develop an oral health MECC training module for use not only by frontline health care professionals, but also for wider use with carers. This could include, for example, carers of people with learning disabilities, complex medical histories.
- Undertake feasibility study for fluoride varnishing in older people's care homes, learning from the evaluation of the current pilot in Sunderland.
- Completion of the oral health survey of adults, over 65 years, in care homes 2024 to 2025 (part of the National Dental Epidemiology Programme).

Thank you for listening

Further information can be found at –
www.durham.gov.uk/oralhealth
or
www.durhaminsight.info/oral-health

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