

Whilst children's oral health has improved over the last 20 years nationally, recent local data for Hull shows that tooth decay continues to be the main oral health problem affecting children.

Poor oral health can affect children's ability to sleep, eat, speak, play and socialise with other children. Other impacts include pain, infections, poor diet, and impaired nutrition and growth. Wider impacts of poor oral health include absence from school or when parents need to take time off work to take their child to the dentist for treatment. Good oral health is an integral part of general health and well-being. Poor health affects children's ability to learn, thrive and develop. Good oral health can contribute to "school readiness".

A commonly used indicator of tooth decay and treatment experience, the dmft index, is obtained by calculating the average number of decayed (d), missing due to decay (m) and filled due to decay (f) teeth (t) in a population. In five-year-old children, this score will be for the first (primary) teeth and is recorded as dmft. The average (mean) dmft is a measure of the severity of tooth decay experience. Both the proportion of children experiencing tooth decay and the severity of tooth decay increases with increasing deprivation. Hull has high levels of deprivation as compared with other local authorities and is within the 5% most deprived local authorities in England. Just over 30% of children under 16 years old live in poverty which is the highest in North Yorkshire and Humber.

Latest oral health data for 5 year old children living in Hull – Key Findings

- **Nearly 40% of 5 year old children living in Hull experience tooth decay, which is significantly higher than the figures for England and Yorkshire and the Humber**
- **For those local 5 year old children with decay, they will have on average 4 teeth affected.**
- **On average, each child has nearly 2 teeth affected, which is significantly higher than the figures for England and Yorkshire and the Humber. As compared with the average**

figure for each of the upper tier local authorities in England, this places Hull in the bottom 10%

- **There have been no measurable improvements in proportion of 5 year children with tooth decay or the severity of tooth decay levels in children in Hull between 2007/08 and 2014/15.**

The results of the most recent 5 year old children oral health survey (2015) can be found at:

[http://www.nwph.net/dentalhealth/survey-results%205\(14_15\).aspx](http://www.nwph.net/dentalhealth/survey-results%205(14_15).aspx)

More information describing the oral health of people living in Hull can be found at:

http://www.hullpublichealth.org/assets/OralHealthNeedsInHullSummary2015_301115.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/463063/North_Yorks__Humber_oral_health_needs_assessment.pdf