



Bexley

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Oral health of 5-year-old children

This profile describes the oral health of 5-year-olds living in Bexley. It uses data from the National Dental Epidemiology Programme 2019 survey of 5-year-old children¹.

The profile is designed to help local government and health services improve the oral health and wellbeing of children and tackle health inequalities.

In Bexley 255 5-year-olds (approximately 64.6% of those sampled) were examined at school by trained and calibrated examiners using the national standard method².

Figure 1: Prevalence of experience of dental decay and mean number of teeth with experience of dental decay in 5-year-olds in Bexley, other local authorities in London and England.

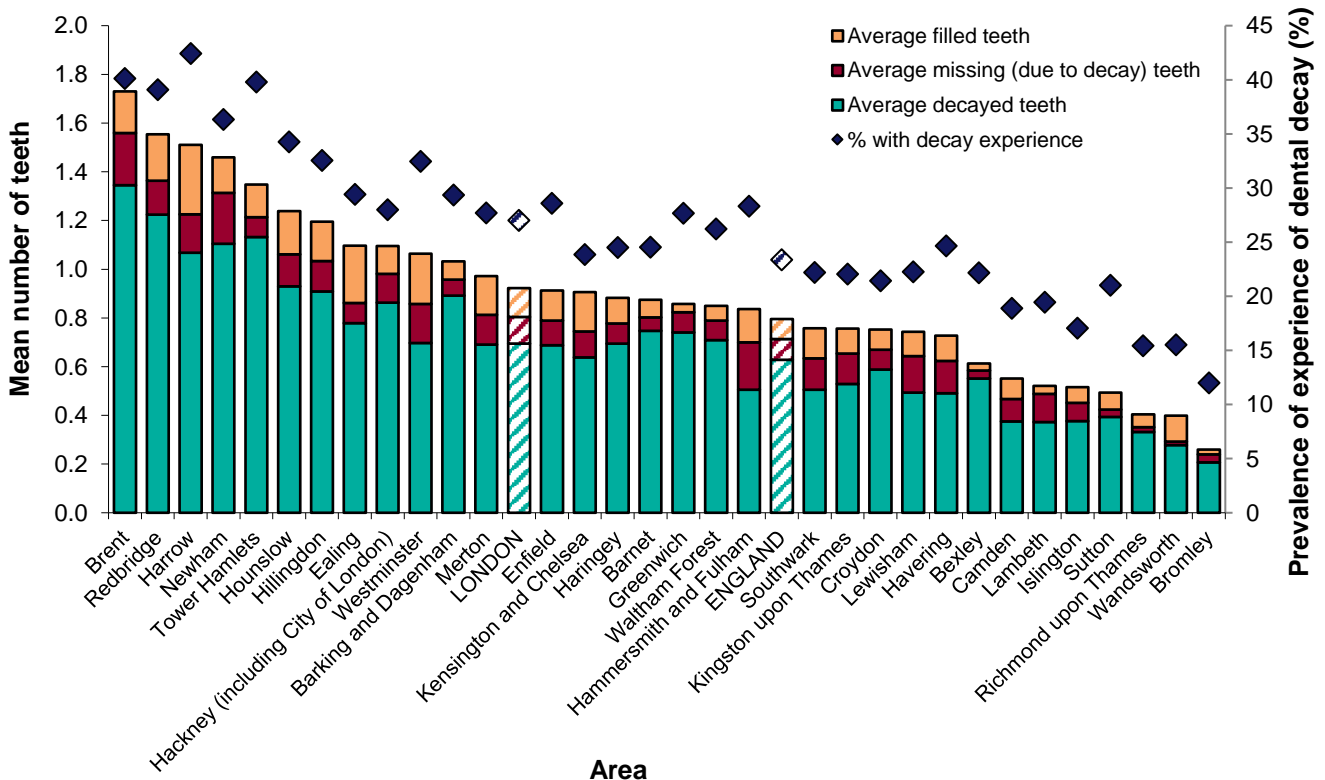


Table 1: Experience of dental decay in 5-year-olds in Bexley, other local authorities in London and England.

| Local authority | Prevalence of experience of dental decay (%) | Mean number of teeth with experience of dental decay in all examined children n (95% confidence intervals) | Mean number of teeth with experience of dental decay in children with any decay experience n (95% confidence intervals) |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Brent | 40.1 | 1.7 (1.40 - 2.06) | 4.3 (3.74 - 4.89) |
| Redbridge | 39.1 | 1.6 (1.20 - 1.91) | 4.0 (3.29 - 4.66) |
| Harrow | 42.4 | 1.5 (1.19 - 1.83) | 3.6 (3.04 - 4.09) |
| Newham | 36.3 | 1.5 (1.09 - 1.83) | 4.0 (3.30 - 4.74) |
| Tower Hamlets | 39.8 | 1.3 (1.04 - 1.65) | 3.4 (2.82 - 3.95) |
| Hounslow | 34.3 | 1.2 (0.98 - 1.49) | 3.6 (3.10 - 4.13) |
| Hillingdon | 32.5 | 1.2 (0.91 - 1.48) | 3.7 (3.06 - 4.29) |
| Ealing | 29.4 | 1.1 (0.79 - 1.40) | 3.7 (3.04 - 4.42) |
| Hackney (including City of London) | 28.0 | 1.1 (0.78 - 1.41) | 3.9 (3.18 - 4.65) |
| Westminster | 32.4 | 1.1 (0.78 - 1.35) | 3.3 (2.67 - 3.89) |
| Barking and Dagenham | 29.4 | 1.0 (0.74 - 1.33) | 3.5 (2.80 - 4.24) |
| Merton | 27.7 | 1.0 (0.66 - 1.28) | 3.5 (2.72 - 4.30) |
| London | 27.0 | 0.9 (0.88 - 0.97) | 3.4 (3.30 - 3.53) |
| Enfield | 28.6 | 0.9 (0.65 - 1.18) | 3.2 (2.53 - 3.87) |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 23.8 | 0.9 (0.53 - 1.28) | 3.8 (2.63 - 4.97) |
| Haringey | 24.5 | 0.9 (0.58 - 1.18) | 3.6 (2.74 - 4.46) |
| Barnet | 24.5 | 0.9 (0.61 - 1.14) | 3.6 (2.84 - 4.29) |
| Greenwich | 27.7 | 0.9 (0.66 - 1.05) | 3.1 (2.64 - 3.56) |
| Waltham Forest | 26.2 | 0.8 (0.64 - 1.06) | 3.2 (2.72 - 3.77) |

| Local authority | Prevalence of experience of dental decay (%) | Mean number of teeth with experience of dental decay in all examined children n (95% confidence intervals) | Mean number of teeth with experience of dental decay in children with any decay experience n (95% confidence intervals) |
|------------------------|--|--|---|
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 28.3 | 0.8 (0.64 - 1.03) | 3.0 (2.51 - 3.39) |
| England | 23.4 | 0.8 (0.78 - 0.81) | 3.4 (3.36 - 3.44) |
| Southwark | 22.2 | 0.8 (0.52 - 1.00) | 3.4 (2.72 - 4.11) |
| Kingston upon Thames | 22.0 | 0.8 (0.51 - 1.00) | 3.4 (2.63 - 4.24) |
| Croydon | 21.4 | 0.8 (0.51 - 0.99) | 3.5 (2.72 - 4.30) |
| Lewisham | 22.3 | 0.7 (0.51 - 0.98) | 3.3 (2.59 - 4.08) |
| Havering | 24.6 | 0.7 (0.54 - 0.92) | 3.0 (2.48 - 3.42) |
| Bexley | 22.1 | 0.6 (0.43 - 0.80) | 2.8 (2.19 - 3.35) |
| Camden | 18.9 | 0.6 (0.32 - 0.78) | 2.9 (2.04 - 3.81) |
| Lambeth | 19.4 | 0.5 (0.35 - 0.69) | 2.7 (2.11 - 3.26) |
| Islington | 17.0 | 0.5 (0.32 - 0.71) | 3.0 (2.34 - 3.71) |
| Sutton | 21.0 | 0.5 (0.35 - 0.63) | 2.3 (1.95 - 2.75) |
| Richmond upon Thames | 15.4 | 0.4 (0.25 - 0.56) | 2.6 (2.00 - 3.24) |
| Wandsworth | 15.5 | 0.4 (0.26 - 0.54) | 2.6 (2.02 - 3.11) |
| Bromley | 12.0 | 0.3 (0.11 - 0.41) | 2.2 (1.23 - 3.11) |

Table 2. Measures of oral health among 5-year-olds in Bexley, it's statistical neighbours,ⁱ London and England.

| | Bexley | Statistical neighbour within London: Havering | Statistical neighbour comparator 1: Havering | London | England |
|--|--------|---|--|--------|---------|
| Prevalence of experience of dental decay | 22.1% | 24.6% | 24.6% | 27.0% | 23.4% |
| Mean number of teeth with experience of dental decay | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Mean number of teeth with experience of decay in those with experience of dental decay | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| Mean number of decayed teeth in those with experience of dental decay | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 2.7 |
| Proportion with active decay | 20.9% | 18.3% | 18.3% | 23.2% | 20.4% |
| Proportion with experience of tooth extraction ⁱⁱ | 0.8% | 3.7% | 3.7% | 3.2% | 2.2% |
| Proportion with dental abscess | 0.3% | 0.7% | 0.7% | 0.9% | 1.0% |
| Proportion with teeth decayed into pulp | 4.5% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 3.4% | 3.3% |
| Proportion with decay affecting incisors ⁱⁱⁱ | 3.6% | 5.0% | 5.0% | 8.2% | 5.2% |
| Proportion with high levels of plaque present on upper front teeth ^{iv} | 0.0% | 9.4% | 9.4% | 2.1% | 1.2% |

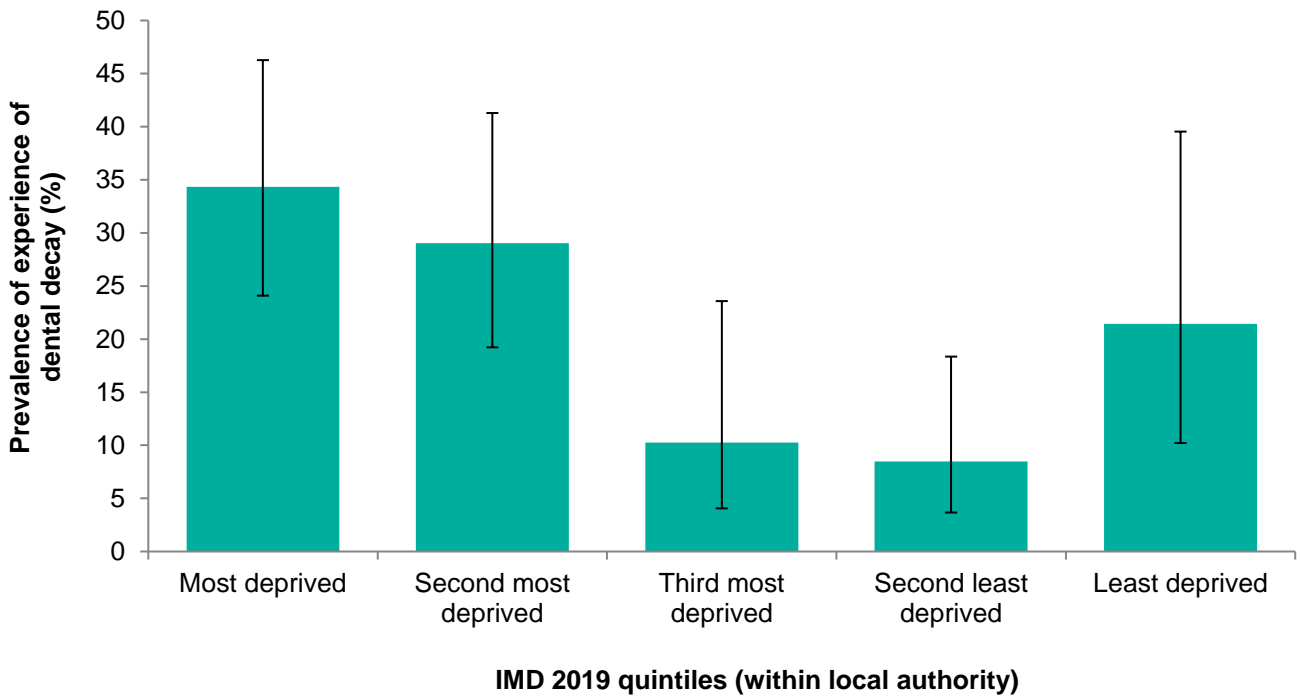
ⁱ generated by the children's services statistical neighbour benchmarking tool, the neighbour within London has "Very Close" comparator characteristics and the national neighbour 1 has "Very Close" comparator characteristics³.

ⁱⁱ experience of extraction of one or more teeth on one or more occasions.

ⁱⁱⁱ dental decay involving one or more surfaces of upper anterior teeth.

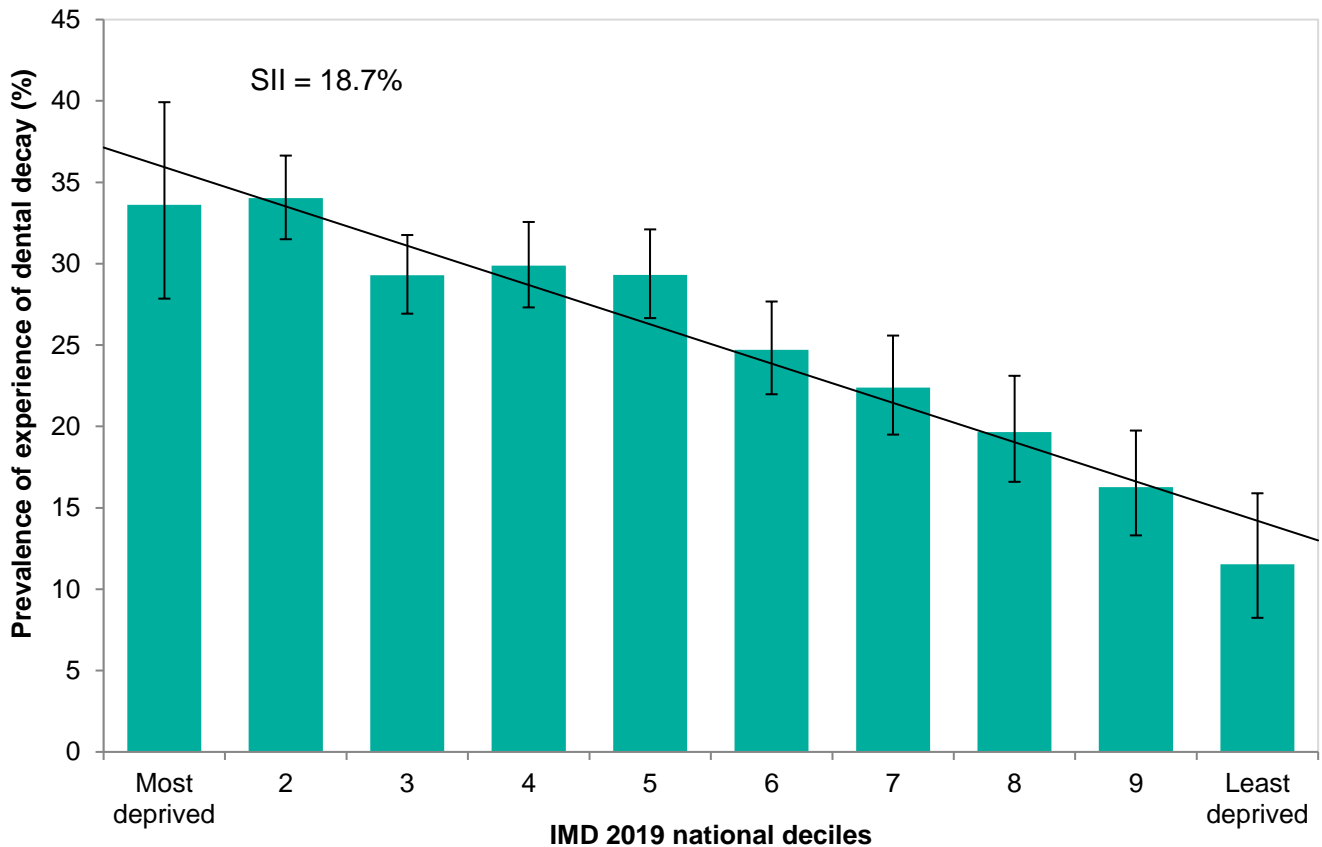
^{iv} indicative of poor tooth brushing habits.

Figure 2: Prevalence of experience of dental decay in 5-year-olds in Bexley, by local authority Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 quintiles.



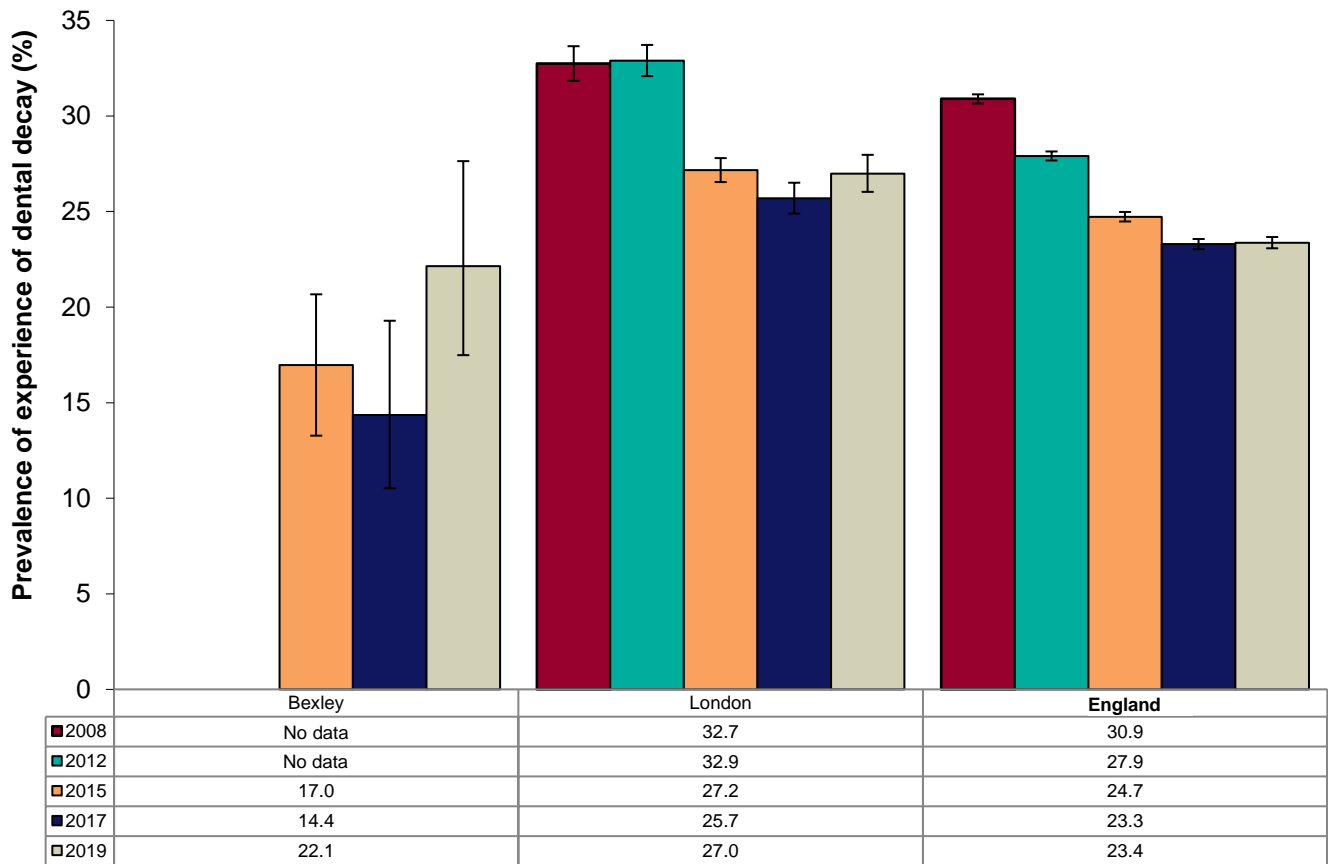
Error bars represent 95% confidence limits

Figure 3: Slope index of inequality in the prevalence of experience of dental decay in 5-year-olds in London.



Error bars represent 95% confidence limits

Figure 4: Prevalence of experience of dental decay in 5-year-olds in Bexley, London and England, by year.

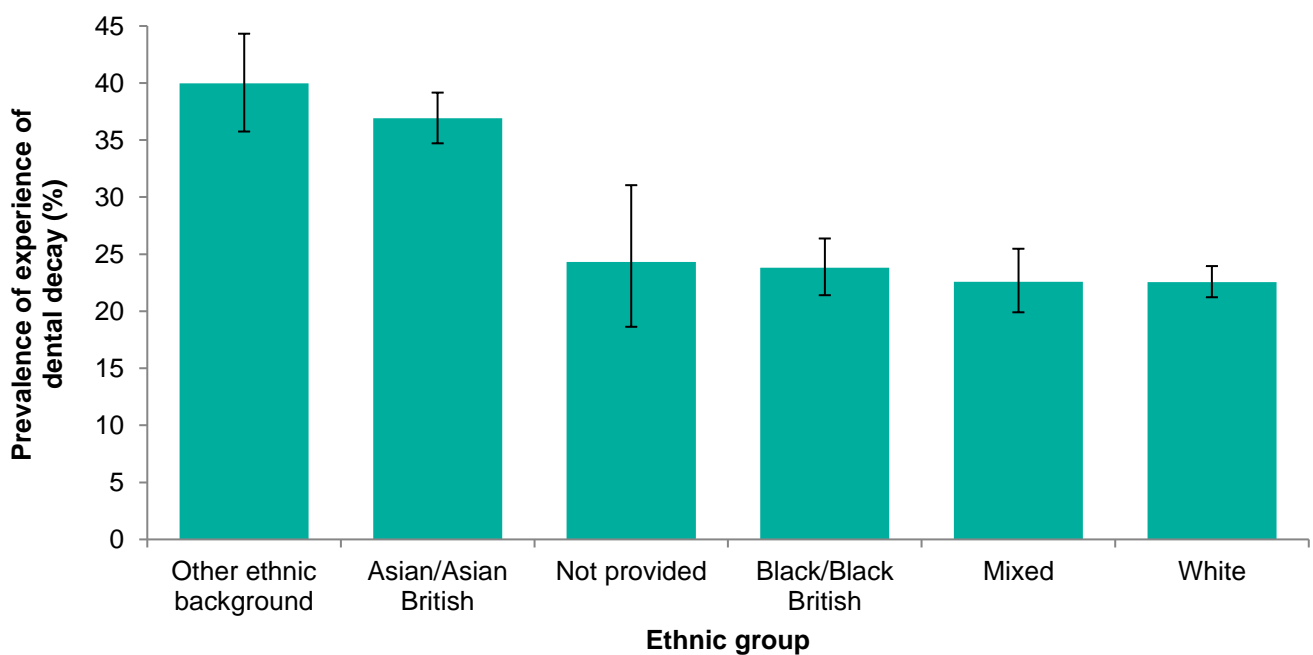


Error bars represent 95% confidence limits

Table 3: Experience of dental decay in 5-year-olds in London, by ethnic group.

| Ethnic group | Number of children examined (N) | Prevalence of experience of dental decay (%) | Mean number of teeth with experience of dental decay among children with any experience of dental decay n (95% CI) | Prevalence of dental decay affecting incisors (%) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Other ethnic background | 498 | 40.0 | 3.8 (3.42 - 4.18) | 13.1 |
| Asian/Asian British | 1,807 | 36.9 | 3.7 (3.48 - 3.92) | 14.1 |
| Not provided | 181 | 24.3 | 2.6 (1.92 - 3.30) | 6.1 |
| Black/Black British | 1,126 | 23.8 | 3.0 (2.69 - 3.26) | 6.0 |
| Mixed | 864 | 22.6 | 3.3 (2.93 - 3.69) | 6.6 |
| White | 3,590 | 22.6 | 3.3 (3.12 - 3.51) | 5.8 |
| London | 8,066 | 27.0 | 3.4 (3.30 - 3.53) | 8.2 |

Figure 5: Prevalence of experience of dental decay in 5-year-olds in London, by ethnic group.



Error bars represent 95% confidence limits

Table 4: Prevalence and severity of experience of dental decay experience in 5-year-olds in Bexley, in wards where an enhanced sample was undertaken.

| Ward | Prevalence of experience of dental decay (%) | Mean number of teeth with experience of dental decay in the whole sample n (95% CI) | Mean number of teeth with experience of dental decay among children with any experience of dental decay n (95% CI) |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| Belvedere | 32.8 | 0.9 (0.43 - 1.34) | 2.7 (1.70 - 3.70) |
| East Wickham | 13.8 | 0.2 (0.00 - 0.41) | 1.5 (0.93 - 2.07) |
| Erith | 18.9 | 0.6 (0.12 - 1.13) | 3.3 (1.30 - 5.30) |
| Sladegreen and North End | 29.6 | 0.7 (0.33 - 1.04) | 2.3 (1.58 - 3.04) |
| Thamesmead East | 28.4 | 0.9 (0.49 - 1.28) | 3.1 (2.17 - 4.07) |
| Bexley | 22.1 | 0.6 (0.43 - 0.80) | 2.8 (2.19 - 3.35) |

Summary

In Bexley average levels of dental decay are lower than the average for England.

The small sample sizes mean it is not possible to provide information at ward level for the whole area. Future surveys could be commissioned to provide larger samples to facilitate local analysis. Commissioning High Quality Information to Support Oral Health Improvement: A toolkit about dental epidemiology for local authorities, commissioners and partners is available to support the commissioning of oral health surveys⁴.

Public health interventions can improve child oral health at a local level. Local authorities improving oral health: commissioning better oral health for children and young people is available to support local authorities to commission oral health improvement programmes for children and young people aged up to 19 years⁵.

If further local analysis is required, please contact the national dental public health team:

DentalPHIntelligence@phe.gov.uk

References

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