
Oral Health in Leicester 2025



Leicester
City Council

*Liz Rodrigo – Consultant in Public Health
Chirag Ruda – Programme Officer*

Headlines – Oral Health Survey and Child Tooth Extractions

- Of five-year-olds examined, 35.6% were found to have decay experience (decayed, missing to due extraction or filled teeth).
- When accounting for enamel decay, this increases to 42.4% of five-year-olds examined
- Mapping of dentinal decay shows that, similar to the previous survey, children living in the East of the city tend to experience the most amount of decay.
- Childhood tooth extraction mapping from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) highlights areas in Crown Hills and Stoneygate with a higher number of admissions - potentially indicating less routine dental monitoring.

Children's Oral Health Sampling & Participation

The population for this survey were 5-year-olds attending mainstream, state funded schools. Overall, 130 out of 153 Upper-Tier Local Authorities commissioned the 2023/24 survey. Of all schools sampled for across England, 59.9% were examined, or 12% of all five-year-olds according to mid-year-estimates for 2022.

Leicester

Participation in Leicester continues to fall with less than 400 children examined in the main sample for this latest survey.

| Year | Number Examined (Main Sample) | % of Sample | % 5-year-olds (MYE 2022) |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 2023/24 | 392 | 66.4 | 8.3 |
| 2021/22 | 866 | 73.0 | 17 |
| 2018/19 | 1,076 | 72.4 | 23 |

Dentinal Decay

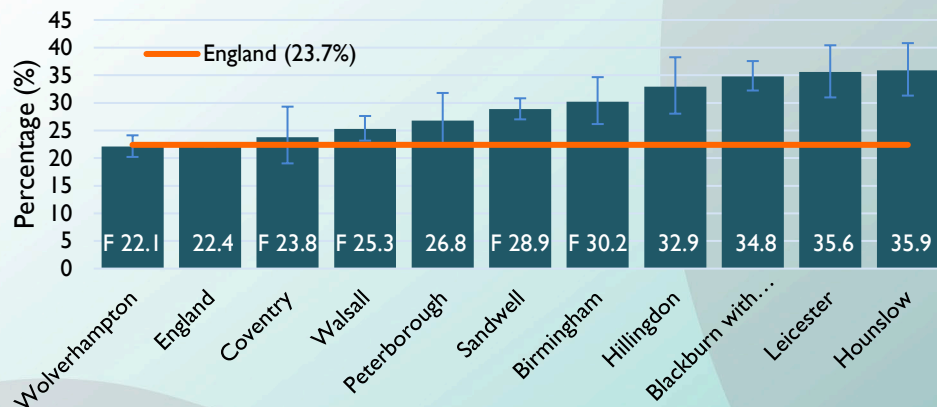
Percentage of children with any decay experience

For dentinal decay, the main indicator reported for Leicester, around 35.6% of children examined were found to have decay experience.

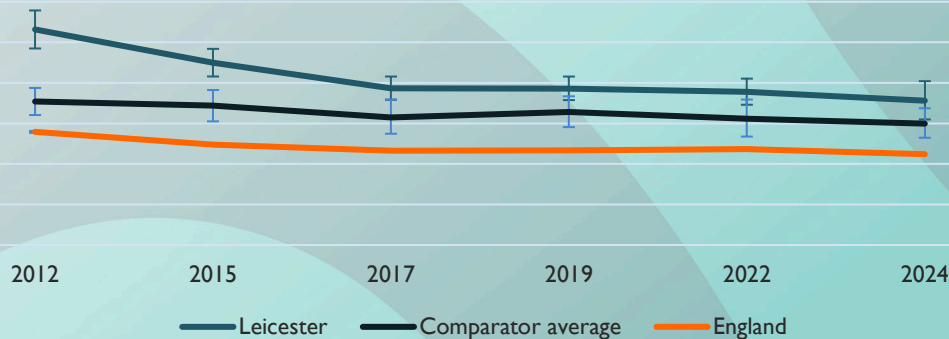
This is a fall from the 9th highest prevalence to 13th of all participating local authorities and is significantly higher than the national average (23.7%).

Nevertheless, this figure follows the slight decrease observed in the previous survey and is significantly lower than a decade ago (53.2% in 2012).

Percentage of 5-year-olds with Dentinal Decay Experience (d3mft>0), 2024



Percentage of five-year-olds with decay experience 2012-24



Dentinal Decay

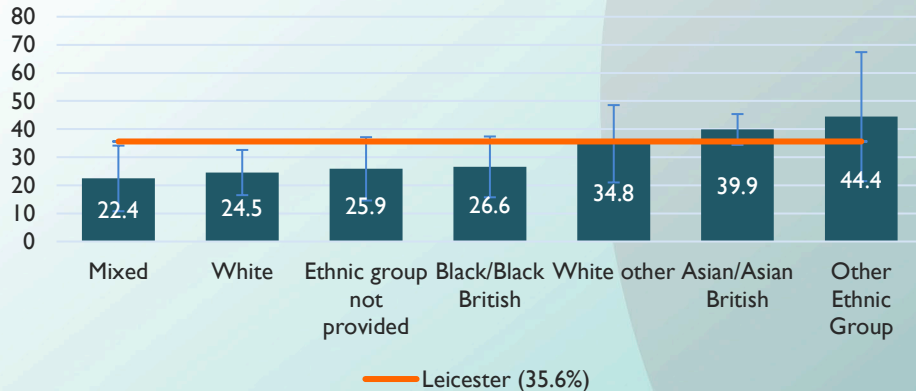
Amongst the 5-year-olds examined, those of Asian or 'Other' ethnicity had a higher prevalence of decay experience compared to the overall city figure or any other ethnic group.

This finding is consistent with results from previous surveys.

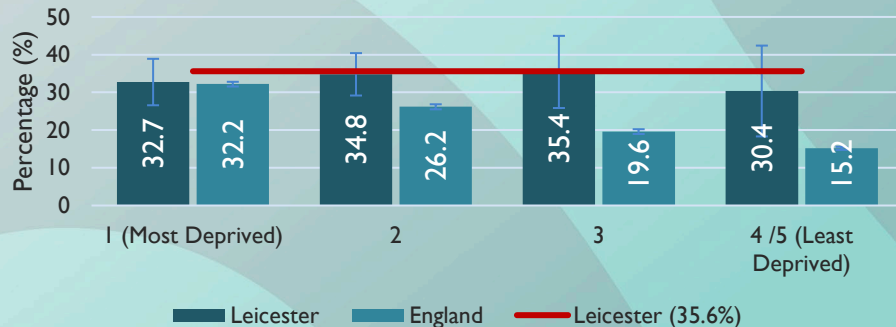
Looking at decay experience by deprivation, the pattern observed in Leicester does not reflect the National findings, where the proportion of children with decay experience increases with deprivation levels.

Nevertheless, 5-year-olds in Leicester living in the least deprived areas had the lowest proportion of decay experience.

Percentage of Leicester Five-Year-Olds with Decay Experience, by Ethnicity



Percentage of Leicester Five-Year-Olds with Decay Experience, by Deprivation Quintile 2024



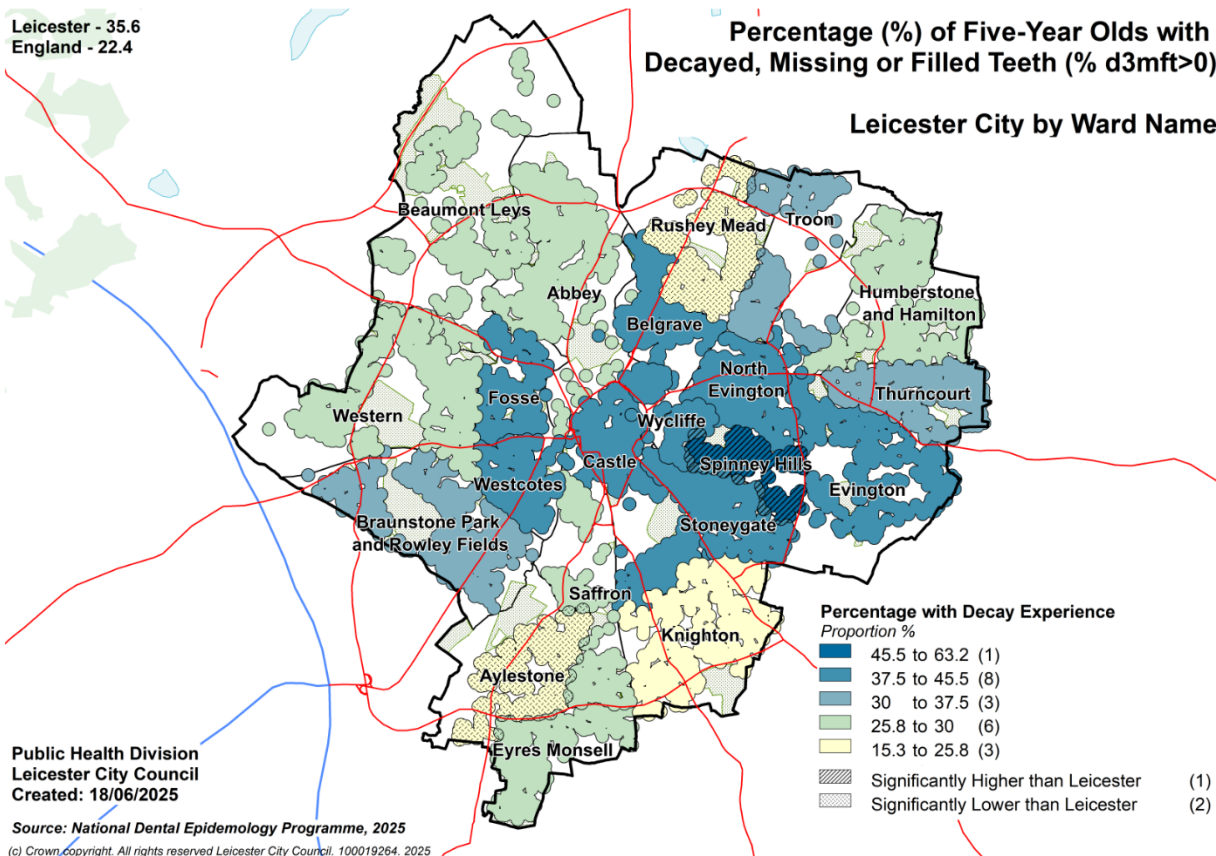
IMD Deprivation Quintile, where 1 means the 20% most deprived and 5 is the 20% least deprived

Dentinal Decay - Mapping

Leicester - 35.6
England - 22.4

Percentage (%) of Five-Year Olds with
Decayed, Missing or Filled Teeth (% d3mft>0)

Leicester City by Ward Name



Similar to last survey's picture, the highest prevalence of decay experience for Leicester's 5-year-olds is concentrated in the East of the city. This area of Leicester is also represented in the mapping of enamel and dental decay.

The ward with the highest prevalence was Spinney Hills, with 63% of 5-year-olds examined having decay experience.

Since the previous survey, however, comparatively high prevalences of decay occur in the Centre and West of Leicester.

Wards with the lowest prevalence of decay are Knighton (22%), Rushey Mead (19%) and Aylestone (15%).

Enamel and Dental Decay

Percentage of children with enamel and or dentinal decay

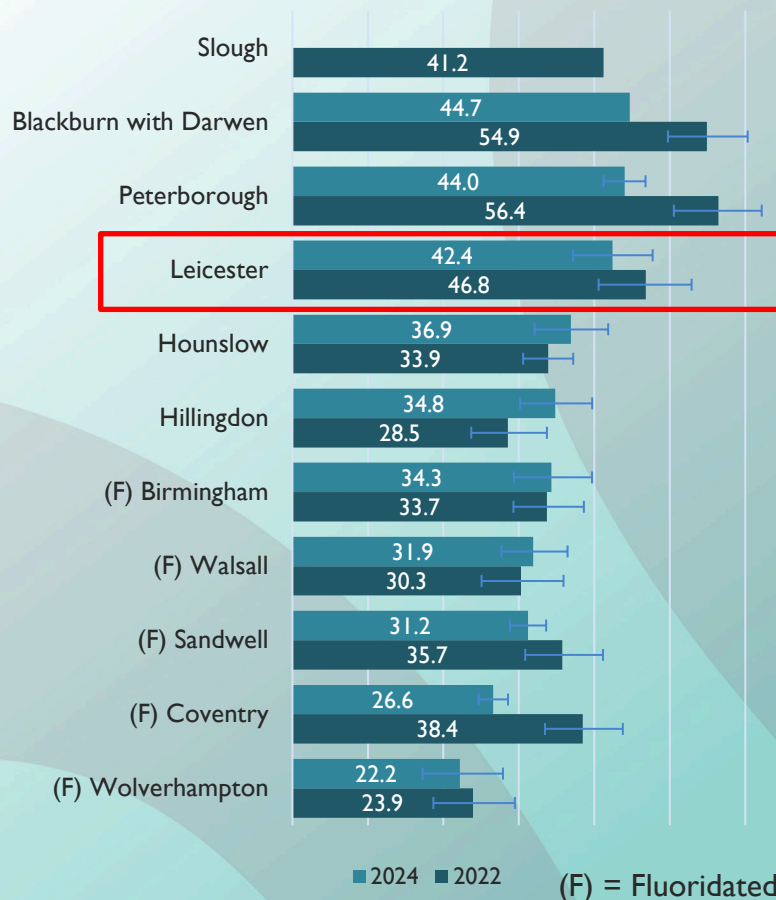
In Leicester, more than four in every ten children (42.4%) examined were found to have enamel or dentinal decay.

Amongst all participating local authorities, Leicester has the 13th highest prevalence of enamel or dentinal decay for 5-year-olds.

Leicester, amongst most its comparator areas, has seen a slight decrease in prevalence since the previous year of measurement however this change is statistically not significant.

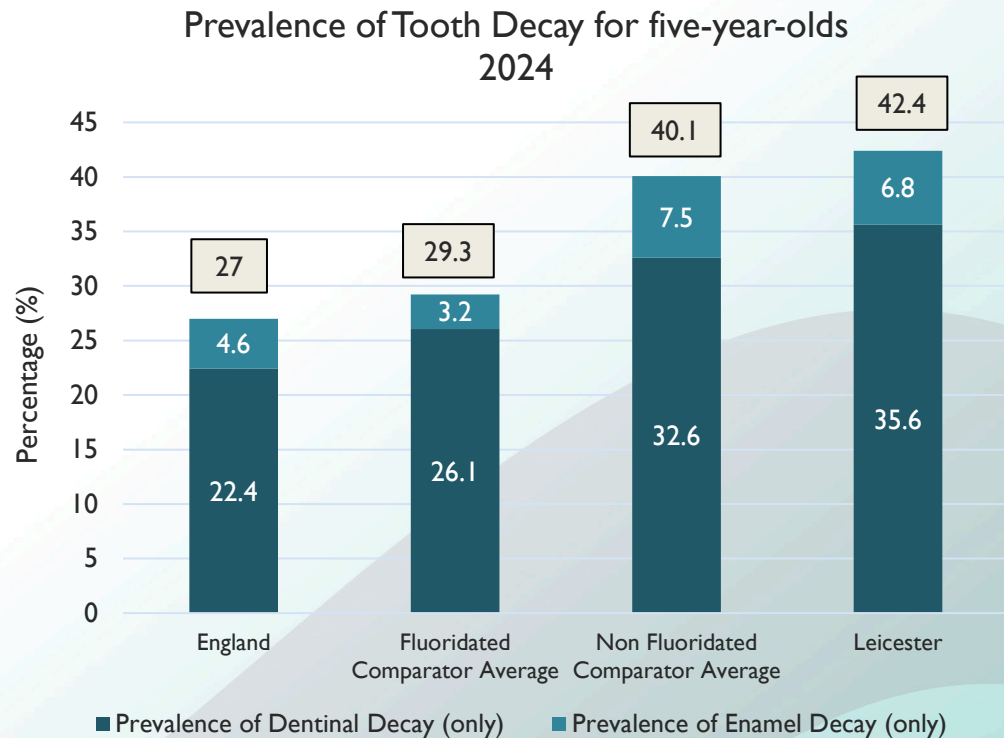
Wolverhampton is the only peer area with a prevalence below the national figure (Wolverhampton 22.2%, England 26.9%).

Prevalence of enamel and or dentinal decay 2022 & 2024



Note: No participation from Slough in the 2024 survey

Enamel and Dentinal Decay – Fluoridation

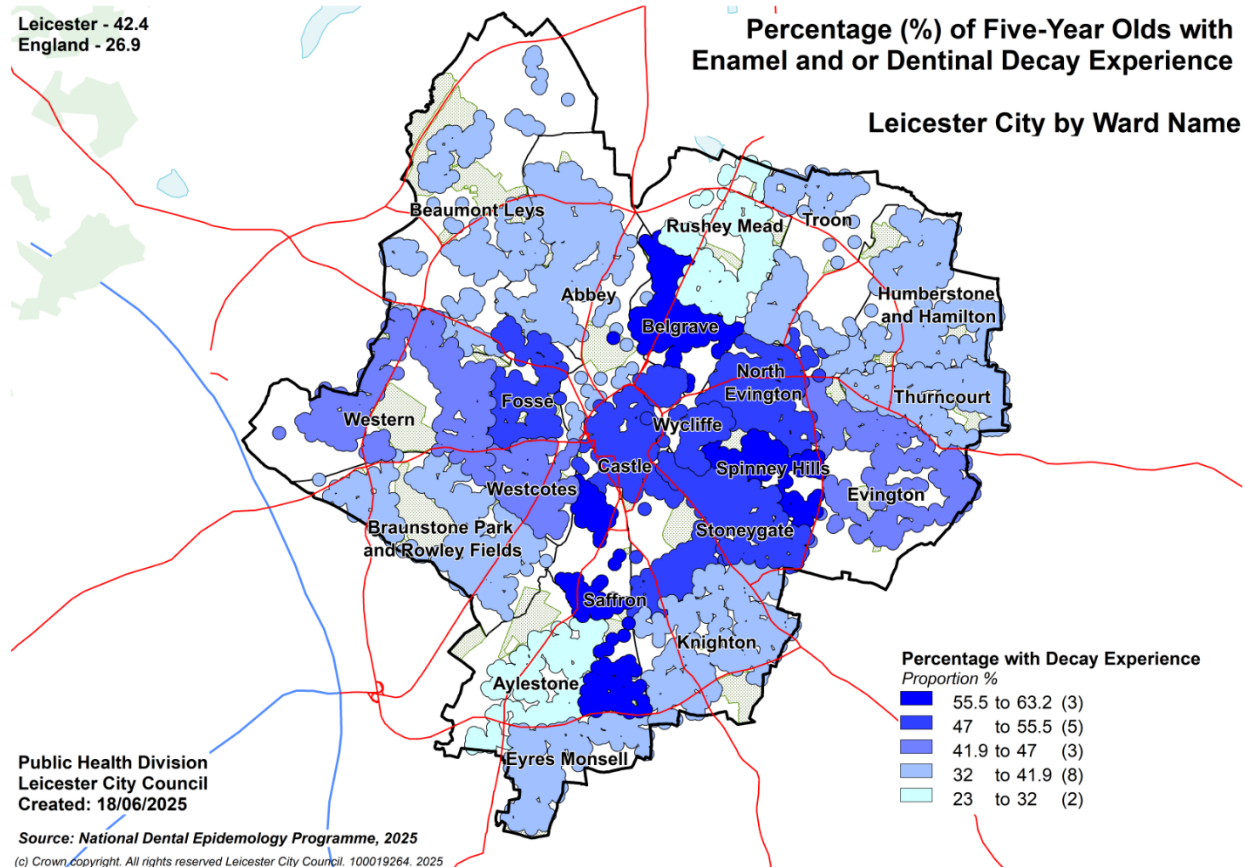


As mentioned previously, enamel decay is captured to account for children with an earlier stage of tooth decay that otherwise would have been missed.

The graph below shows the contribution this indicator makes to the prevalence of dentinal decay that we usually monitor.

With Leicester's higher prevalence of enamel decay compared to the national figure and the city's comparators with fluoridation, the gap in prevalence is widened.

Enamel and Dentinal Decay - Mapping



Higher prevalences of enamel and decay experience by Leicester Ward are concentrated in the city's Centre and East.

Spinney Hills had the highest prevalence with nearly two thirds (63%) of 5-year-olds examined found to have visible signs of enamel or dentinal decay. Meanwhile Aylestone, the prevalence was 23%. This was the lowest of all wards.

While there are a range of values represented in this map, no Ward has been calculated as significantly different to the overall prevalence

Additional Data – Emergency Tooth Extractions

Extractions published under HES indicate a more likely emergency extraction.

This data highlights areas in Crown Hills and Stoneygate with a higher number of admissions potentially highlighting less routine dental monitoring.

Note: The Community Dental Service (CDS), is commonly the service that carries out extractions on children. The CDS uses hospital facilities, but the activity data are not always recorded via Hospital Episode Statistics (HES).

Leicester children aged 0 to 19 experiencing a tooth extraction HES

Number: 265

The HES admissions are generally extractions as an emergency or where other treatment is required.

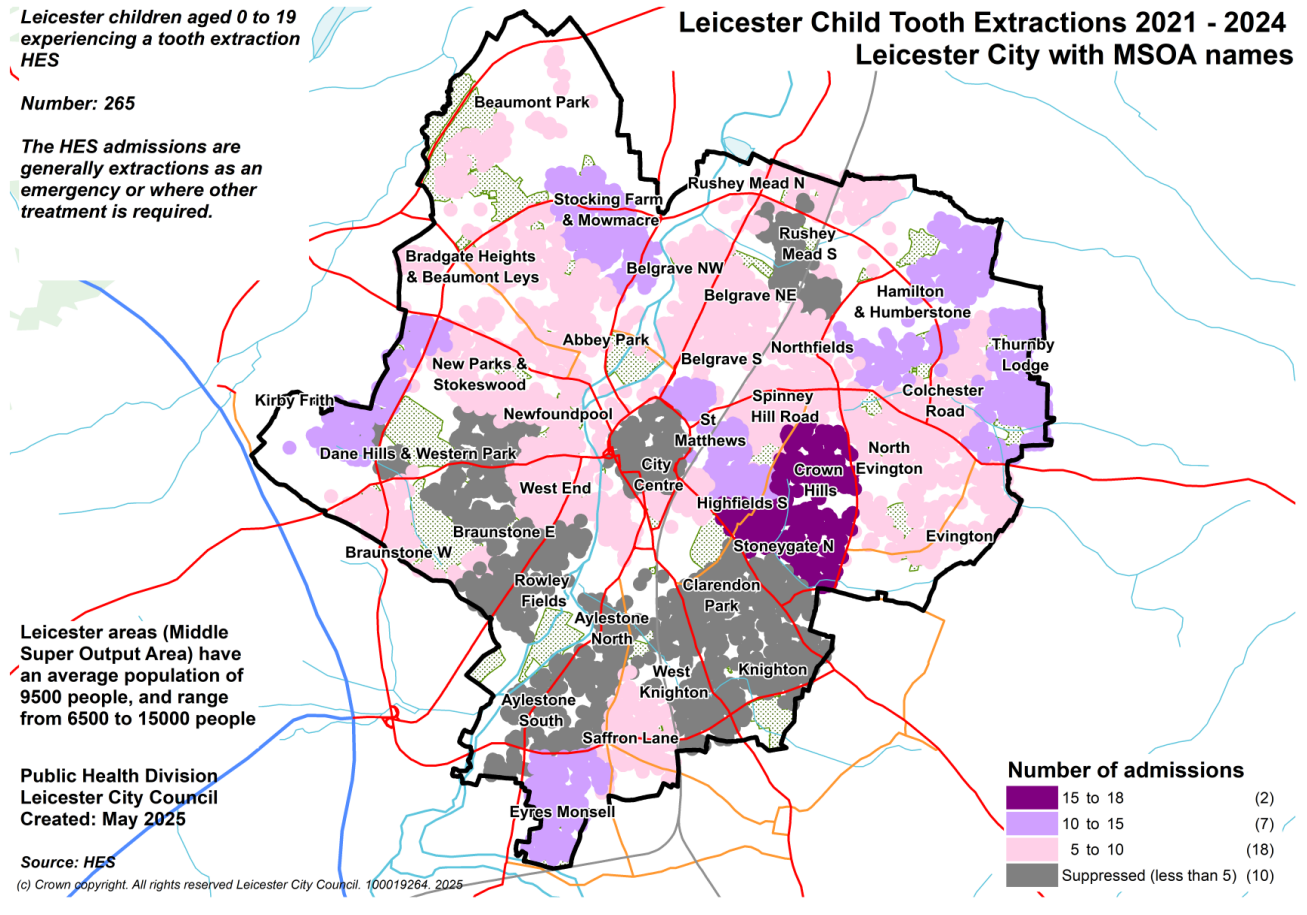
Leicester areas (Middle Super Output Area) have an average population of 9500 people, and range from 6500 to 15000 people

Public Health Division
Leicester City Council
Created: May 2025

Source: HES

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Leicester Child Tooth Extractions 2021 - 2024 Leicester City with MSOA names



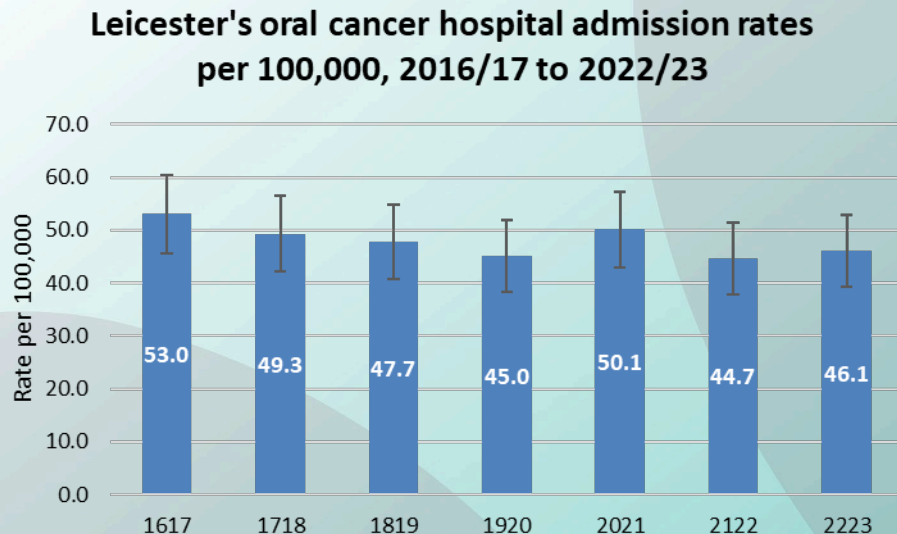
Hospital Admissions for Oral Cancer, Leicester Cohort

Key finding:

- Overall number of Oral Cancer admissions in Leicester 2022/23, n=172
- Leicester observed a rate of 46.1 per 100,000 population in 2022/23
- The annual admission rates remained statistically similar across all the years from 2016/17 to 2022/23
- Overall, hospital admissions were highest among individuals aged 55-74 and males have significantly higher oral cancer admission rates than females in most of the age groups
- White British individuals have the highest overall admission rates, particularly between ages 55-74
- North Health and Wellbeing Area (HWBs) area had significantly highest admission rates compared to Leicester city overall and other locality areas

Admission rates: Leicester according to time period

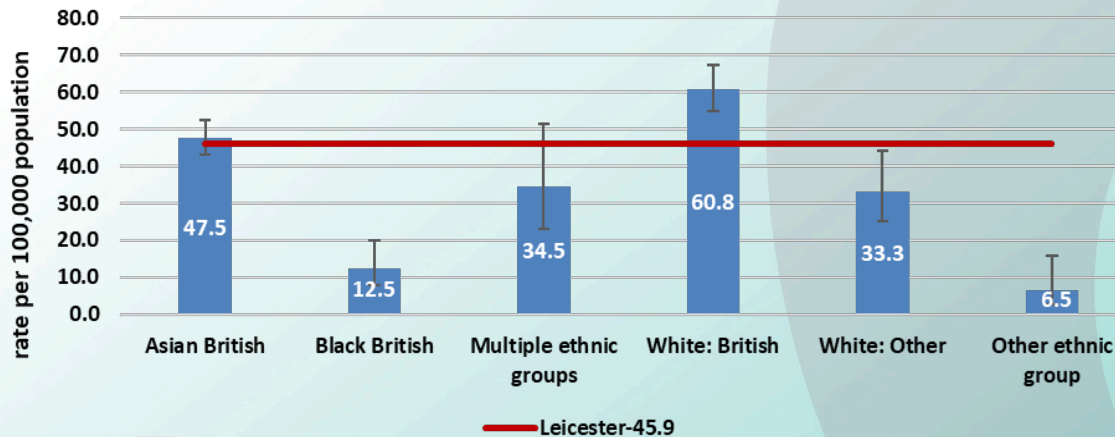
- Leicester's oral cancer admission rates have varied over the years, with a slight decrease observed in 2022/23 (46.1 per 100,000) compared to 2016/17 (53.0 per 100,000).
- However, the rates have remained statistically similar across all years.



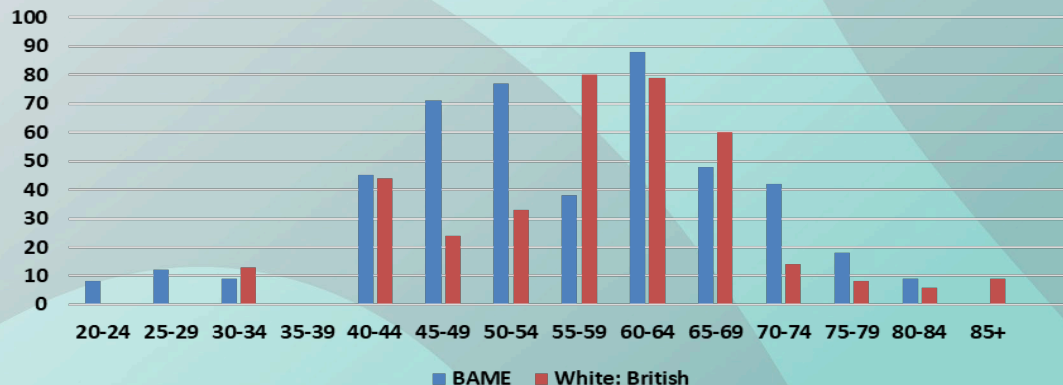
Admission rates by Ethnicity

- White: British group shows significantly highest rate at 60.8 per 100,000 population
- Asian British shows the next highest rate at 47.5 per 100,000 population; Black British (12.5) and Other ethnic groups (6.5) have significantly the lowest rates according to the ethnic groups in Leicester
- Higher admission in younger age groups (under 55) in BAME communities than in White: British populations
- White: British admissions increase significantly, especially from ages 55 to 69, with a peak notices between 55-64 years age group

Oral cancer admissions by ethnic group (rate per 100,000 population - Census 2021 based rates) - 5 year range, 2018/19 to 2022/23

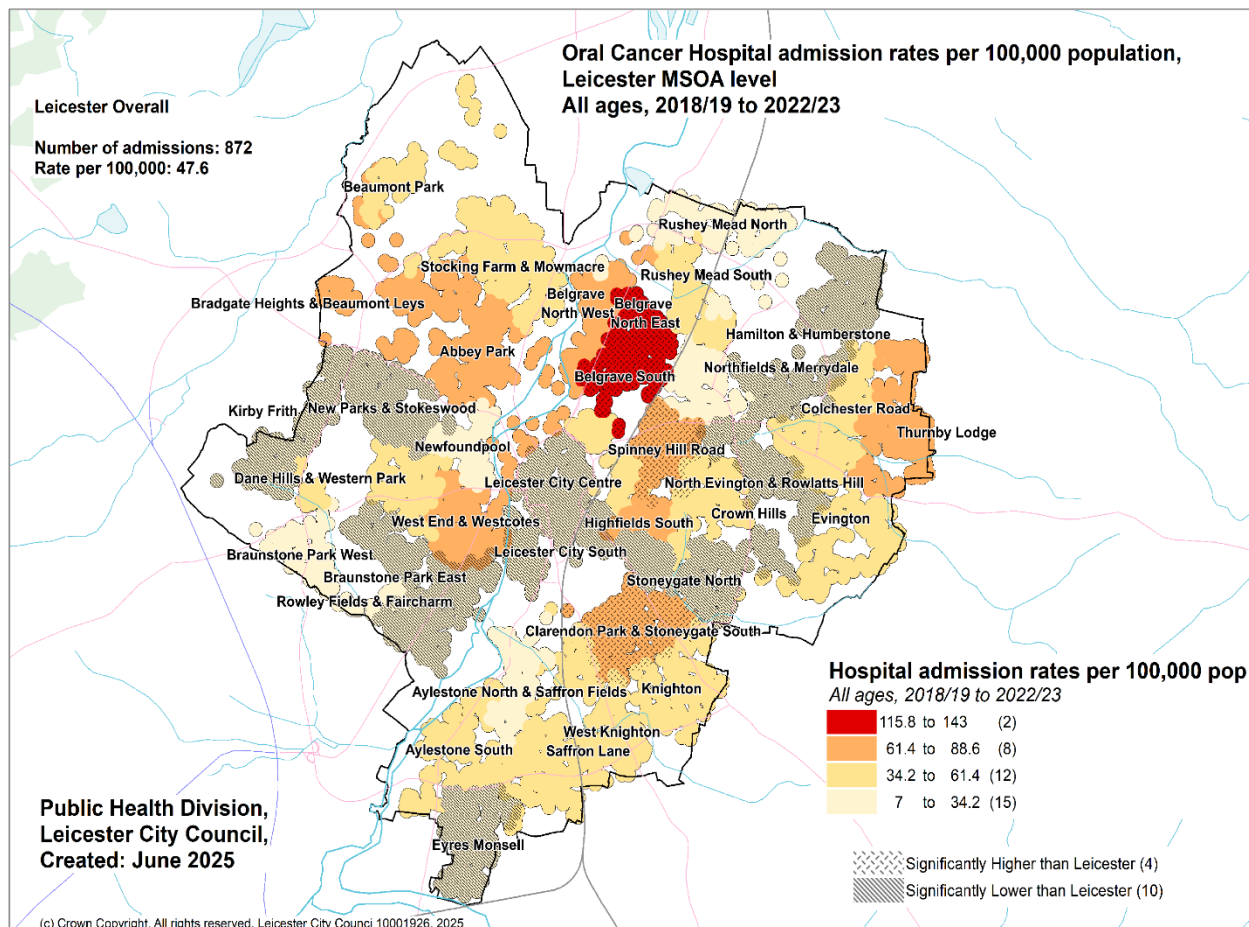


Number of Oral Cancer Admissions for Minority (BAME) and White: British communities by Age band, 5 year range-2018/19 to 2022/23



Note: Numbers less than 5 have been suppressed

Admission rate by Leicester MSOAs: 5 year range (2018/19 to 2022/23)



Significantly higher admission rates were found in Belgrave South, Belgrave Northeast, Spinney Hill Road, and Clarendon Park & Stoneygate South.

Conversely, areas such as New Parks & Stokeswood, North Evington & Rowlatts Hill, Leicester City South, Rowley Fields & Faircharm, Kirby Frith, Eyres Monsell, Hamilton & Humberstone, Stonegate North, Braunstone Park East, and Leicester City Centre have significantly lower admission rates than the Leicester overall average.

Public Health Actions

Overarching approaches at a population level:

- Letter sent to Secretary of State requesting that Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) is considered for fluoridation.
- Promotion of health improvement across all populations via the Live Well service.
 - Diet (sugar reduction)
 - Tobacco (including smokeless tobacco)
 - Alcohol
 - Physical Activity
- Campaign Support
 - Mouth Cancer Action Month
 - National Smile Month
 - Fizz Free February
- Oral health resources provided for all early years children.

Public Health Actions Supporting Early Years Children

- Supervised Toothbrushing (STB) Programme with early years children.
- Smile Early Years Award accreditation scheme for early years settings.
- Oral health resource distribution via Family Hubs, Healthy Together Programme and events.
- Training for health professionals and community organisations.

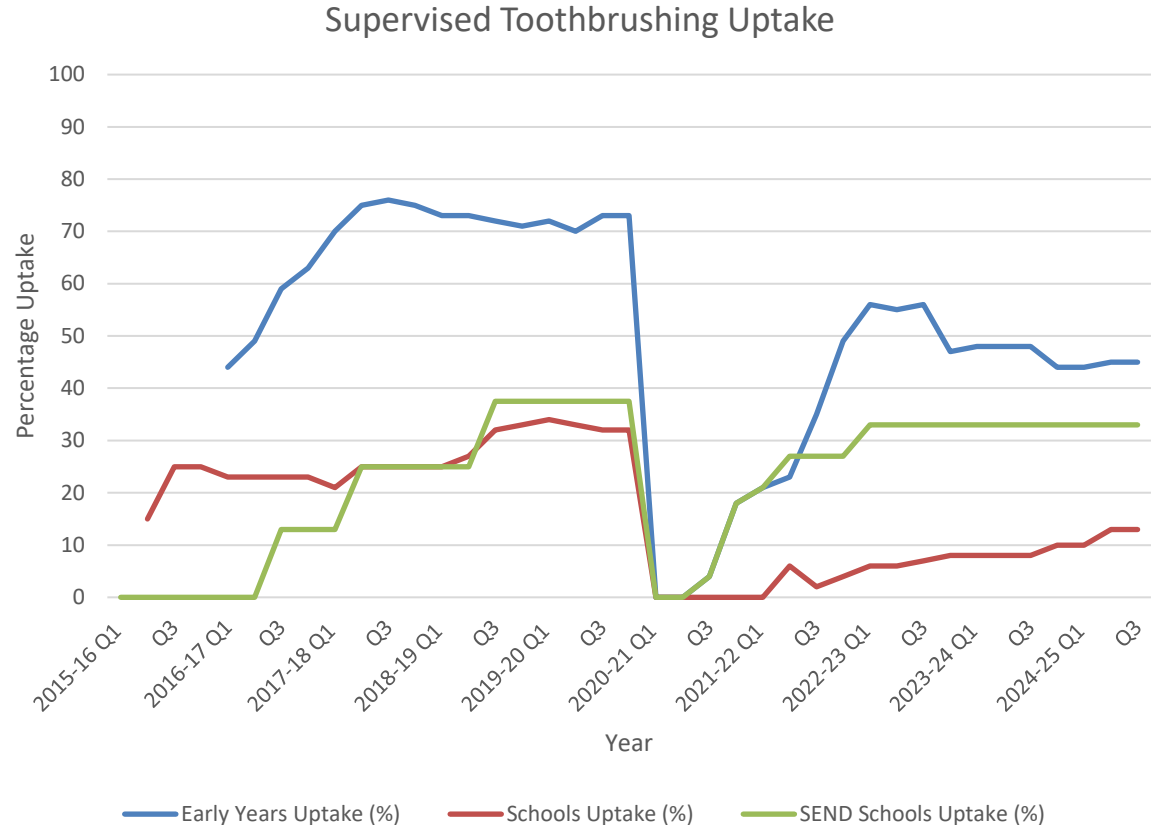
Supervised Toothbrushing Programme

Evidence based programme to reduce decay amongst children, universally offered for free to all Early Years Settings and Primary Schools in Leicester.



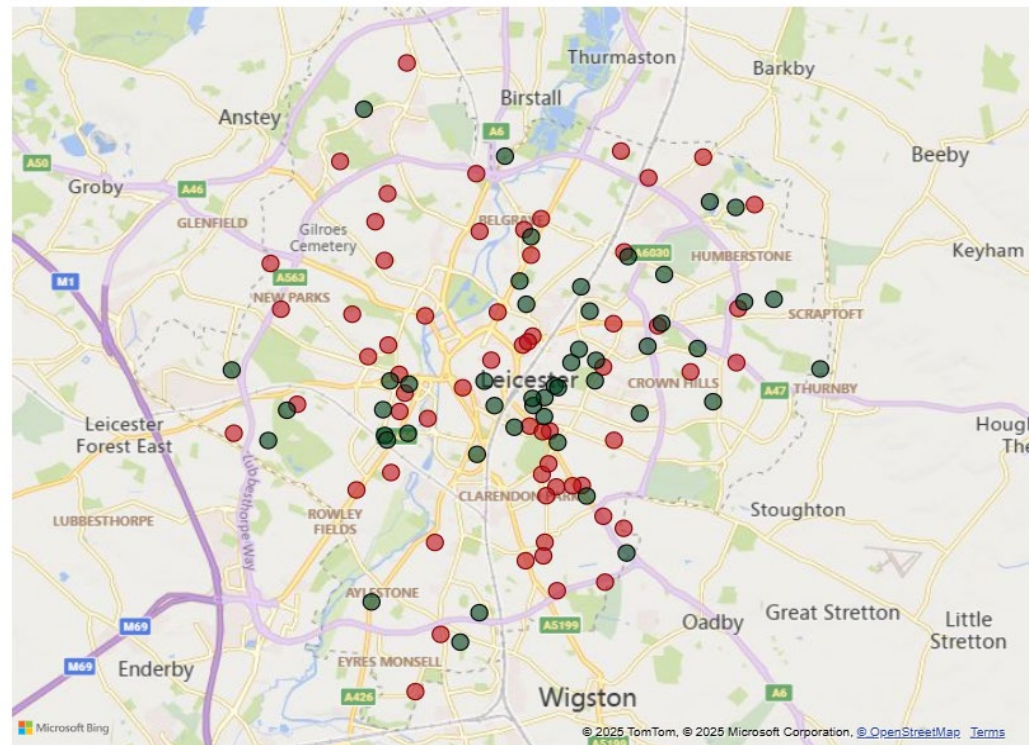
Overall uptake in Leicester City

- Positive uptake amongst early years settings contributed to a significant improvement in decay levels amongst 5 year olds.
- Due to covid, the programme was paused resulting in reduced resumption.
- As of Quarter 3 of 2024/25, 45% of early years settings (nurseries and pre-schools), 13% of primary schools and 33% of SEND schools participate in STB.
- Resulting in 2358 early years children and 1967 primary school children taking part in daily STB within their educational setting.

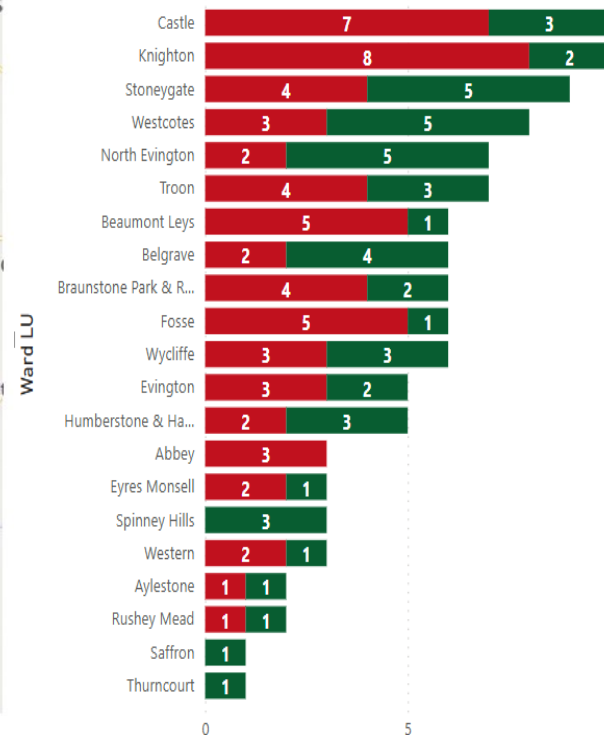


Early years settings STB uptake 2025

OFFERING STB ● No ● Yes



OFFERING STB ● No ● Yes



Action Plan to Increase STB Uptake

- Leicester City Council will receive an additional £119,088 for 2025/26 to implement targeted supervised toothbrushing programme for children aged 3, 4 and 5 in the most deprived communities.
- Funding eligibility and allocations are based on the number of 3- to 5-year-old children living in the 20% most deprived Lower Super Output Areas according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.
- Leicester City Council will also receive toothbrushes and toothpaste over the next 5 years through a donation from Colgate-Palmolive.
- Improving resources
 - Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles refresh
 - Promotional content
 - Oral health resources from participating settings
 - Educational content for schools
- Improve uptake of schools within priority areas
 - Extend offer to Childminders
 - SEND focus
 - Reallocation and recruitment of staff
 - Attendance and promotion of programme at forums
 - Develop mentoring scheme
 - Offer educational sessions
- Community focus to prevent dental decay and poor oral health
 - Pilot informal childcare settings such as Team Hub and Playgroups
 - Community Wellbeing Champion
 - Utilisation of digital community assets
 - Supporting vulnerable groups
 - Asylum seekers/refugees
 - Supported Living
 - Looked After Children
 - Homeless
 - Travellers
 - SEND

Public Health Actions Supporting Adults

Oral Cancer

- Working with University Hospital of Leicester to understand the risk factors impacting Leicester.
- Working with South Asian communities to support the improvement of risk factor awareness and behaviour change that are associated with mouth cancer e.g. Chewing tobacco and betel nut.
- Co-production of mouth cancer promotional assets.
- Work with communities to understand the knowledge and behaviours around shisha smoking and to develop strategies to reduce this.
- Mouth Cancer Action Plan including training pharmacists to recognise oral cancers, refresh training with GPs, improved data collection across the health system, improving HPV vaccination uptake,

Oral Health

- Work with harder to engage with groups:
 - Increasing knowledge of support staff.
 - Distribution of oral health resources including Family Packs of toothpaste, toothbrush and literature at foodbanks, hotels for displaced families, homeless teams.

Public Health Actions Supporting Care Homes Residents

Maintaining good oral health throughout life and into older age improves general health and wellbeing, and plays an important part in helping people stay independent.

The Care Quality Commission report Smiling matters: oral health in care homes showed that too many people living in care homes were not being supported to maintain and improve their oral health.



Free oral health training for care homes

Leicester City Council are pleased to offer free oral health training and support to care homes in Leicester City, to enable your care team to effectively support residents with their daily oral hygiene.

Training includes:

- CQC requirements for oral health care
- Causes and prevention of dental diseases
- Practical guidance on how to assist residents with oral hygiene
- How to complete oral health assessments



To book a session:

Email us:  HealthyTeethHappySmiles@leicester.gov.uk



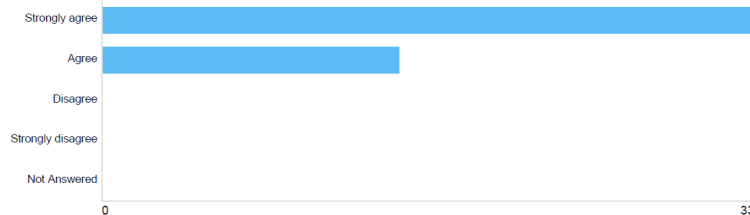
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Uptake and Feedback:

| Activity | Number |
|---|--------|
| Total number of care homes | 94 |
| Care homes trained | 14 |
| Staff trained* | 132 |
| Outstanding care homes booked onto training | 20 |

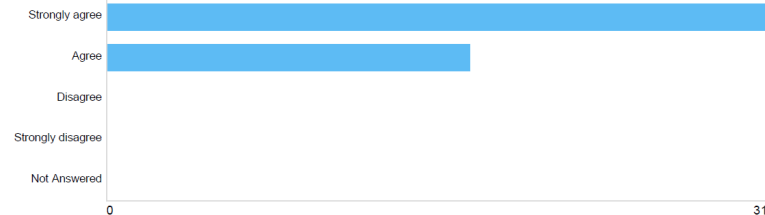


Training and course quality - I learned practical tips and guidance on how to get oral health messages into my setting



| Option | Total | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Strongly agree | 33 | 68.75% |
| Agree | 15 | 31.25% |
| Disagree | 0 | 0.00% |
| Strongly disagree | 0 | 0.00% |
| Not Answered | 0 | 0.00% |

Training and course quality - I would recommend this session to a colleague



| Option | Total | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Strongly agree | 31 | 64.58% |
| Agree | 17 | 35.42% |
| Disagree | 0 | 0.00% |
| Strongly disagree | 0 | 0.00% |
| Not Answered | 0 | 0.00% |

*Staff trained include managers, deputies, care leaders and oral health champions

Further Information

1. National data and reporting is available here: [National Dental Epidemiology Programme \(NDEP\) for England: oral health survey of 5 year old children 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-dental-epidemiology-programme-ndep-for-england)
2. Local information and oral health guidance is available here: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/get-oral-health-advice/healthy-teeth-happy-smiles/>
3. The latest oral health needs assessment (2023) for Leicester City is available here: [Oral health \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/get-oral-health-advice/healthy-teeth-happy-smiles/)
4. Oral cancer admissions are not published and therefore comparator data is not available.
5. Further information on published oral cancer mortality data can be found online here: [Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)
6. Further information on HES admissions: [Hospital Episode Statistics \(HES\) - NHS England Digital](#)

