

Oral health of school year seven (12-year-old) children in Wales 2023-24

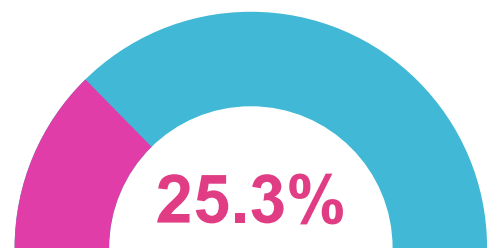
Who was examined?

6,329 children were examined from 203 state-maintained schools across Wales (approximately 1 in 5 children).

How did we measure oral health?

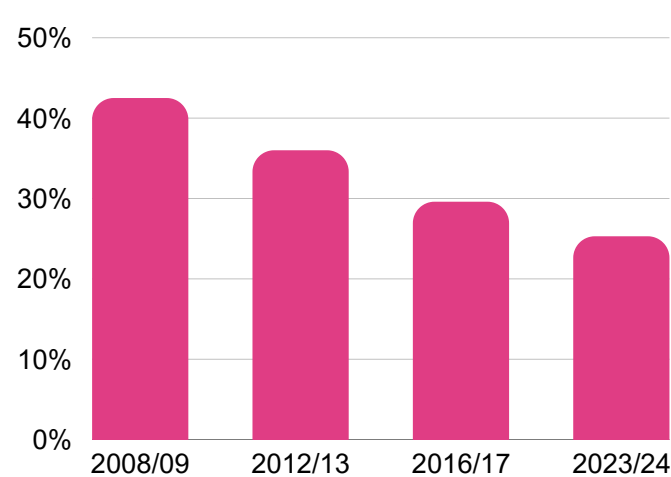
We counted the number of teeth that either had tooth decay or had teeth that had been filled or extracted due to the disease. We then calculated how many children had decayed, missing or filled teeth across Wales (known as **prevalence**) and calculated the mean number of teeth affected by tooth decay per child (known as **severity**).

Prevalence of children affected by decay



Approximately 1 in 4 children examined were affected by tooth decay.

Since 2008/09, there has been a reduction in the prevalence of children affected by decay.

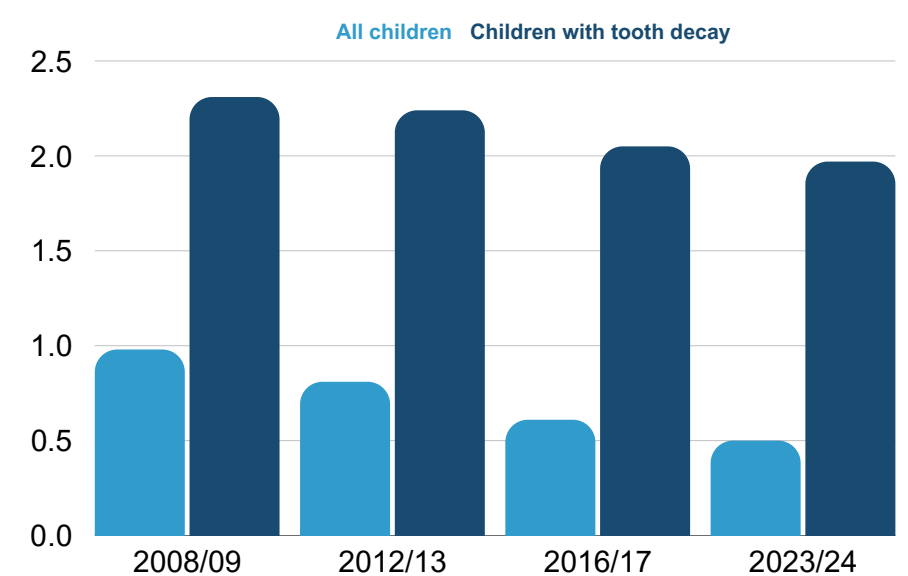


Severity of tooth decay

Across all the children examined, approximately 0.5 tooth was affected by tooth decay (light blue columns).

Children with tooth decay had approximately 2 teeth affected by the disease (dark blue columns).

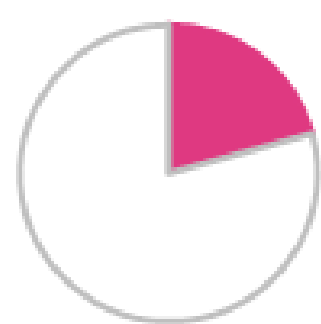
Since 2008/09, there has been a reduction in the severity of tooth decay.



Oral health inequality across Wales

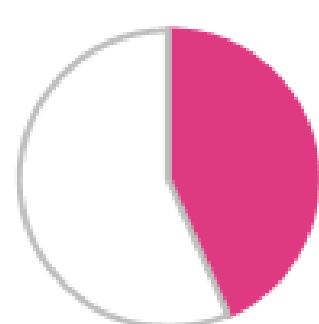
Children from deprived backgrounds experience higher levels of **prevalence** and **severity** of tooth decay. However, this pattern has seen some improvement since 2008/09.

Prevalence



Least deprived

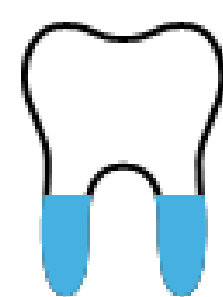
19.0%



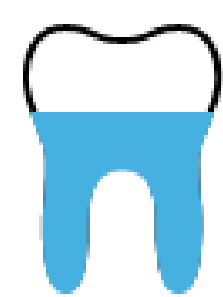
Most deprived

32.5%

Severity



Least deprived

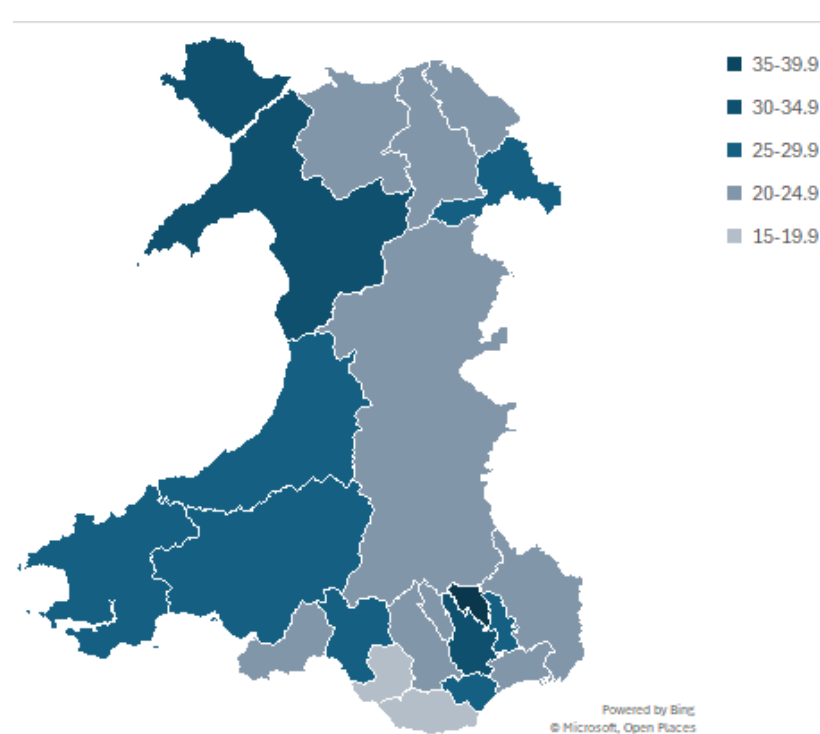


Most deprived

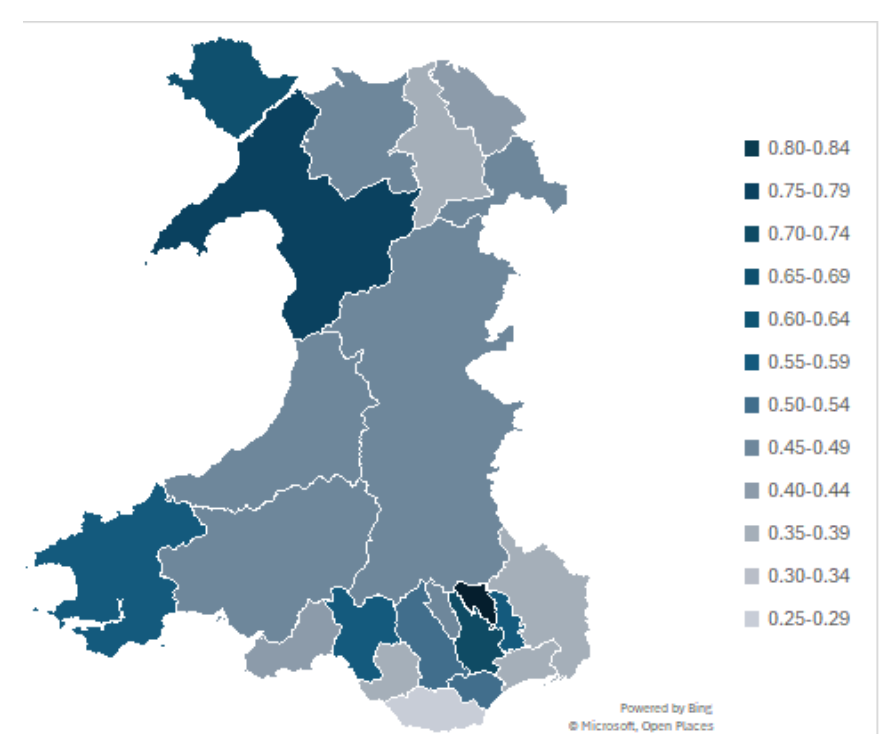
Distribution of prevalence and severity across Wales

Prevalence and **severity** of tooth decay varied across Wales

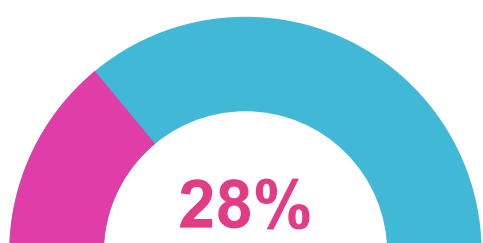
The **prevalence** of children with teeth affected by decay ranged from 16.8% in Bridgend to 36.4% in Blaenau Gwent.



The **severity** of tooth decay ranged from 0.29 in the Vale of Glamorgan to 0.81 in Blaenau Gwent.



Impact of tooth decay across Wales



Tooth decay had a negative impact on 28.1% of the children examined (approaching 1 in 3)

