Oral health of school year one (5-year-old) children in Wales 2024-25
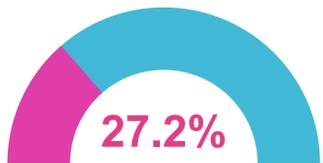
Who was examined?

8,526 children were examined from **656** state-maintained schools across Wales (approximately **1 in 3** children).
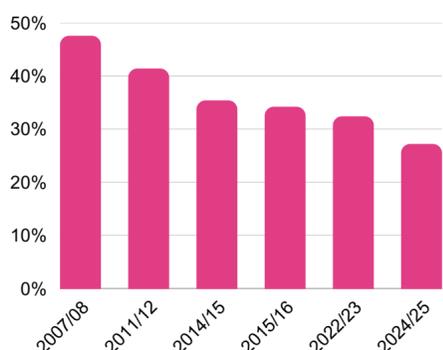
How did we measure oral health?

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 tooth decay

27.2%

Just over **1 in 4** children examined were affected by tooth decay.

Since 2022/23, there has been a reduction in the prevalence of tooth decay.

(Bar chart, x-axis: 2007/08, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2022/23, 2024/25; y-axis: 0% to 50%)

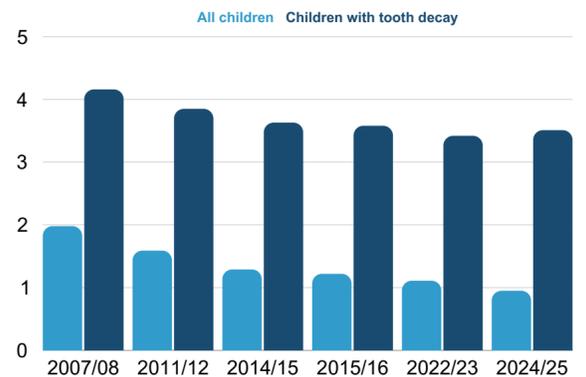## Severity of tooth decay

Across all the children examined, approximately 1 tooth was affected by tooth decay (light blue columns).

Children with tooth decay had approximately 3 ½ teeth affected by the disease (dark blue columns).

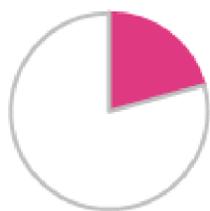Since 2022/23, there has been an overall reduction in the severity of tooth decay.

All children   Children with tooth decay

(Bar chart, x-axis: 2007/08, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2022/23, 2024/25; y-axis: 0 to 5)

Oral health inequality across Wales

Children from deprived backgrounds experience higher levels of **prevalence** and **severity** of tooth decay. This pattern has not changed since 2022/23.
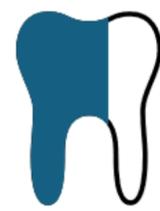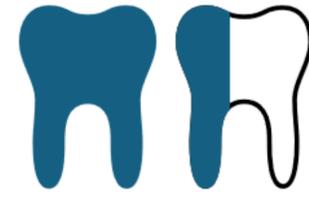
Prevalence

19.8% Least deprived

37.6% Most deprived

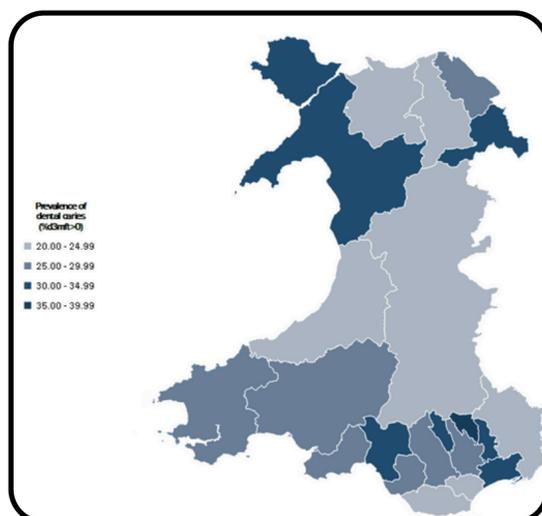### Severity

0.69 teeth Least deprived
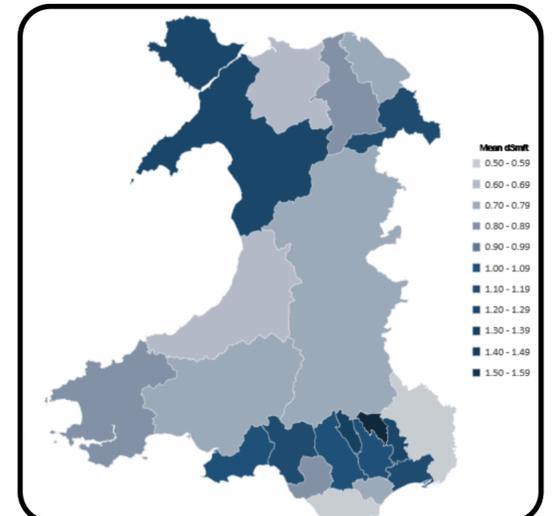
1.33 teeth Most deprived

Distribution of prevalence and severity across Wales

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

The **prevalence** of children with tooth decay ranged from 21.04% in Cardiff and Vale UHB to 30.3% in Aneurin Bevan UHB.

Prevalence of dental caries (%d3mft>0)
20.00 - 24.99
25.00 - 29.99
30.00 - 34.99
35.00 - 39.99

The **severity** of tooth decay ranged from 0.70 in Cardiff and Vale UHB to 1.12 in Swansea Bay UHB.

Mean d3mft
0.50 - 0.59
0.60 - 0.69
0.70 - 0.79
0.80 - 0.89
0.90 - 0.99
1.00 - 1.09
1.10 - 1.19
1.20 - 1.29
1.30 - 1.39
1.40 - 1.49
1.50 - 1.59

Impact of tooth decay across Wales

17.7%

Tooth decay had a negative impact on **17.7%** of the children examined (**approaching 1 in 5**)