

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

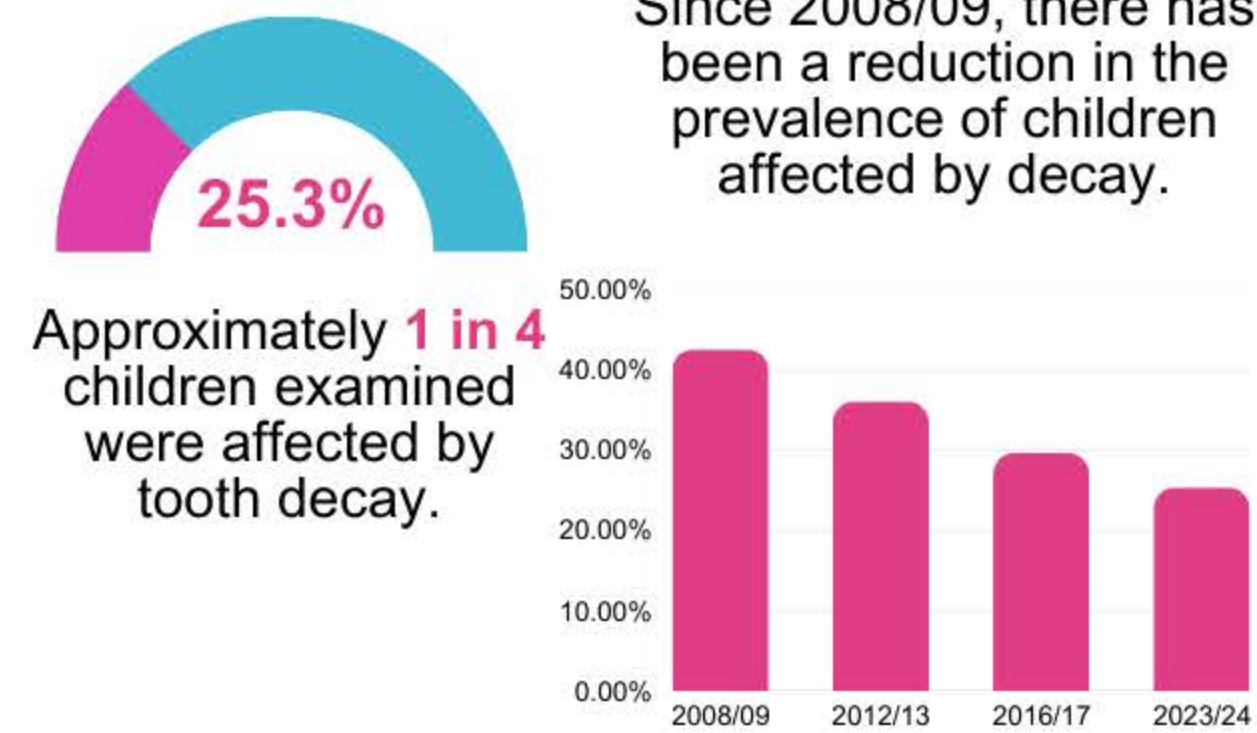
## Who was examined?

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

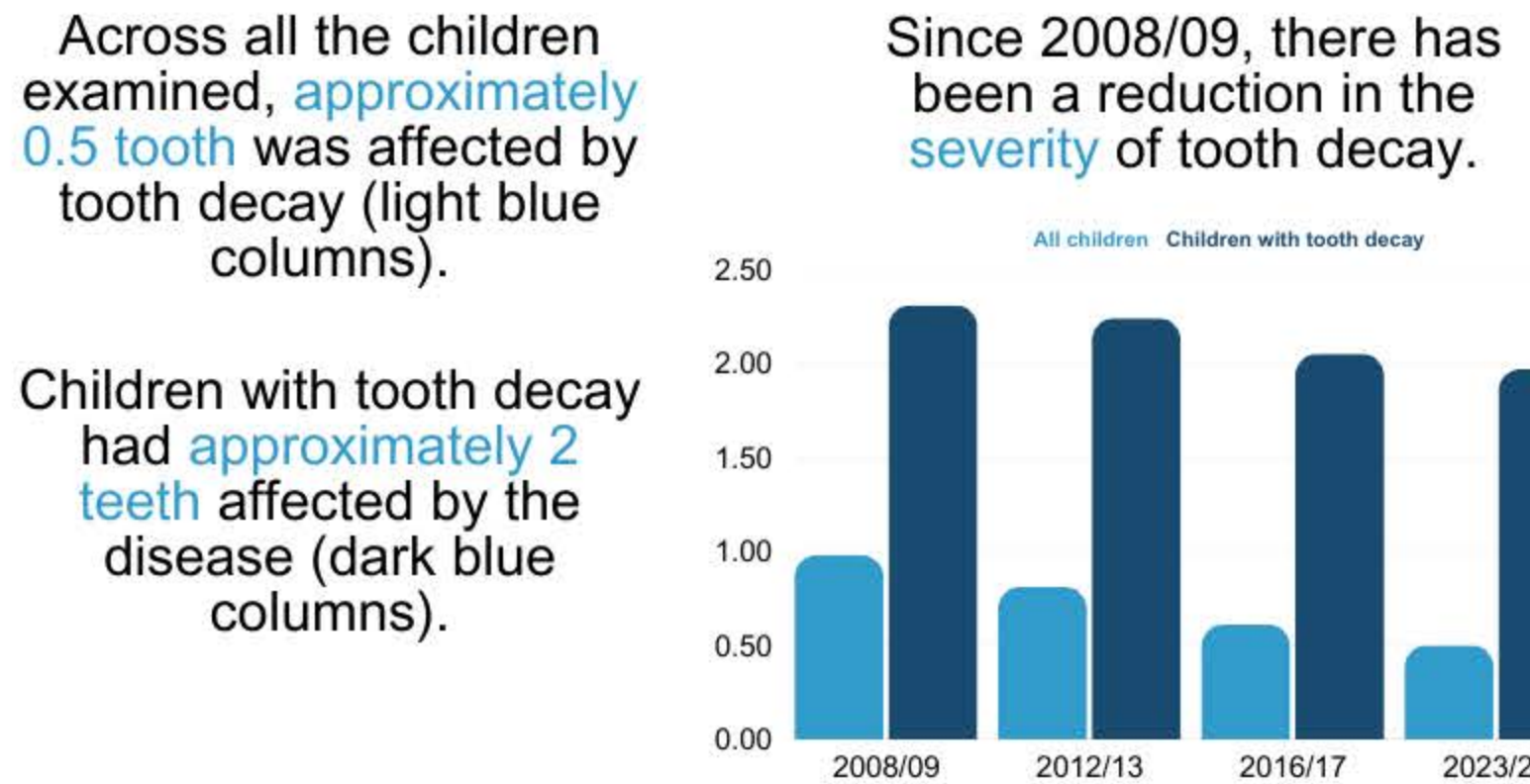
## How did we measure oral health?

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



### Severity of tooth decay



## Oral health inequality across Wales

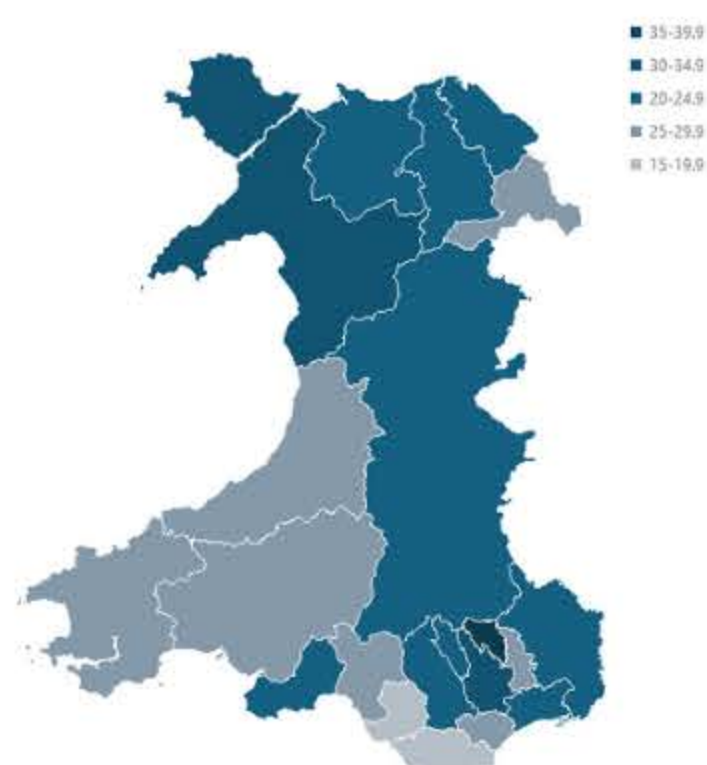
Children from deprived backgrounds experience higher levels of **prevalence** and **severity** of tooth decay. However, this pattern has seen some improvement since 2008/09.



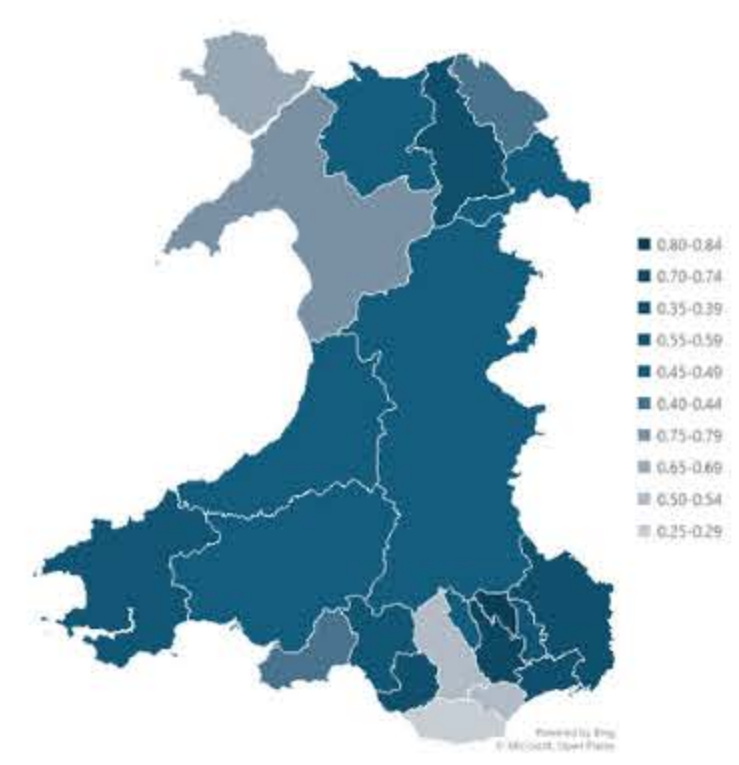
## Distribution of prevalence and severity across Wales

**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**)

