



February 28<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Teeth Team Focuses on Growth as Figures Show Stark Statistics for Children's Oral Health

The Teeth Team charity stays focussed on improving oral health in young children, predominantly across Hull and the East Riding. Tooth decay remains the most common reason for hospital admission in children aged between 6-10 years and Teeth Team is now looking to expand its work to further schools in deprived areas.

The latest figures from the Government's Office for Health Improvement & Disparities provide a stark reminder of the necessity of what we are doing for children across our county. In 21/22 there were 42,180 episodes of tooth extractions in NHS hospitals for 0- to 19-year-olds and there were 26,741 episodes of tooth extractions with a primary diagnosis of dental caries (tooth decay).

There were variations in caries-related tooth extraction episode rates across the regions with the highest rates occurring in Yorkshire and the Humber (378 per 100,000 population of 0- to 19-year-olds). The England rate was 205 per 100,000 population of 0- to 19-year-olds.

The caries-related tooth extraction episode rate for children and young people living in the most deprived communities was nearly three and a half times that of those living in the most affluent communities. The costs to the NHS were £81.0 million for all tooth extractions and £50.9 million for caries-related tooth extractions in 2021/2022

The British Dental Association (BDA) said it was "deeply concerned that ongoing and severe access problems, together with disruption to public health programmes and lockdown diets", will widen inequalities.

BDA chairman Eddie Crouch added: "Tooth decay is still going unchallenged as the number one reason for hospital admissions among young children. Decay and deprivation are going hand in hand, and this inequality is set to widen. None of this is inevitable. This Government needs to be willing to take off the gloves when it comes to fighting a wholly preventable disease."

David Fothergill, chairman of the Local Government Association's community well being board, said: "Untreated dental conditions remain one of the most prevalent diseases affecting children and young people's ability to speak, eat, play, and socialise.

"Oral health inequality is expected to grow owing to the scale of backlogs in primary care, which limit the chance to catch problems early."

Currently 3,756 children across 22 primary schools across Hull, the East Riding, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and Nottingham, benefit from Teeth Team's school-based supervised tooth-brushing programme. Teeth Team also provides clinical dental assessments, applications of fluoride varnish if required, and the subsequent signposting for accessing primary and secondary dental care. It is a collaborative working partnership between local dental practices, schools, and parents to improve the dental health of children.

If you would like to support Teeth Team, then please visit [www.teethteam.org.uk](http://www.teethteam.org.uk) for further information.

**ENDS**

Registered Charity Number: 1179888.

For more information about this press release contact:

Emma Harrison @ Harrison Media, PR & Comms

Office: 01482 642092

Mobile: 07976 512340

E-mail: [emma@harrison-media.co.uk](mailto:emma@harrison-media.co.uk)