

Child Dental Health Survey launch event

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Methodology Summary

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Thanks to those who took part!

Where the survey fits in

- Fifth survey since 1973: Important part of Government public health statistics evidence base
- Complements wider evidence base on dental public health – adult survey, BASCD surveys, administrative data
- Cross-sectional, analytical epidemiology survey focusing on age cohorts that will differ in the population
- Main focus – prevalence estimates at national level and analysis of determinants of outcomes (e.g. good/bad health)
- Strengths: Depth of the data for each case; comparable data across countries

Survey development: Comparability & relevance?

Sample

Consultation

Ethics, process & documents

Publicity

Case management

Examiner recruitment

School recruitment

Survey content & instruments

Pilot

Training and calibration

Implement agreed changes after pilot

Output specification

Sampling and weighting

- Target population: 5, 8, 12 and 15 year olds in state and independent schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Random probability sample of schools, and random (systematic) sample of pupils within participating schools. Clustered sample of schools in England and Wales
- Oversampling of “deprived schools” – Around a third of sample taken from schools with $\geq 30\%$ free school meal eligibility
- Three weights: Examination, pupil questionnaire, parent questionnaire
- Final weights a product of sampling weight, non-response adjustment and calibration to population totals
- Need to adjust for complex sample design during analysis

Data collection instruments

- Dental examination
- Parent self-completion questionnaire as follow up (self report data; reliance on schools)
- Pupil self-completion for 12 and 15 year olds (NEW for 2013 survey; completed during dental examination appointment; self report data; high response)
- Largely paper based collection, but (new) web option for parent questionnaire

Consent to the dental examination

- Requirement to use opt-in consent for dental examination
- From parents of 5 and 8 year olds (with children allowed to opt out during examination appointment)
- Directly from 12 and 15 year olds (with parents allowed to opt older children out in advance)
- Substantial impact on response for younger children in participating schools compared to 2003 opt out process

Data availability

- Non-disclosive dataset to be lodged at UK data archive (<http://data-archive.ac.uk/>)
- To send this month; data archive specifies 28 days to make this publically available
- Dataset will be fully labelled and will contain weights and psu/strata variables to use to account for complex design
- “Approved researcher” legal gateway for accessing more disclosive data