Metadata

Information topic	Details
Indicator name	**Oral health of children**
Domain and topic	Drinking water: Oral health of children
Indicator definition and units	• Percentage of children (5-year olds and children in Year 8) who are caries-free. • Mean number of decayed, missing or filled **primary** teeth (**dmft**) of 5-year old children. • Mean number of decayed, missing or filled **permanent** teeth (**DMFT**) of children in Year 8.
Data source	Ministry of Health. Age 5 and Year 8 oral health data from the Community Oral Health Service. URL: https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/oral-health-data-and-stats/age-5-and-year-8-oral-health-data-community-oral-health-service (accessed May 2021)
Numerator	• Mean dmft/DMFT of 5-year-old children / children in school-year 8 that were examined by the Community Oral Health Service. • Number of 5-year-old children / children in school-year 8 that were examined by the Community Oral Health Service who were caries-free.
Denominator	Number of 5-year-old children / children in school-year 8 that were examined by the Community Oral Health Service
Methodology	The presence or absence of dental caries and the number of decayed, missing or filled teeth for each child seen by community oral health services is reported by DHB.
Time period and time scale	Annual, from 2000 onwards.
Population coverage	All children enrolled with the Community Oral Health Service.
Spatial Coverage	National and by DHB.
Measures of frequency	• Percentage of children (5-year olds and children in Year 8) who are caries-free by fluoridation status of the drinking-water supplied to their normal residence • Mean number of decayed, missing or filled **primary** teeth (**dmft**) of 5-year old children by fluoridation status & ethnic group

	• Mean number of decayed, missing or filled **permanent** teeth (**DMFT**) of children in Year 8 by fluoridation status & ethnic group
Confidence interval methodology	95% confidence intervals were calculated based on the methodology outlined in APHO (2008). Where calculable, confidence intervals are presented as error bars on graphs.
Limitations of indicator	Reliable comparisons of the oral health indicators between children from fluoridated and non-fluoridated area is not possible without adjusting for a number of demographic variables which are not recorded in the source data, so this indicator only presents an overall view.
Limitations of data source	Service level data has been used in this indicator. Not all children are enrolled with the Community Oral Health Service or examined on time. Children seen by private dentists will not be recorded. This may not provide a representation of the New Zealand population. Confidence intervals for mean dmft/DMFT are not included. Community Oral Health Service oral health data is based on aggregated data provided by individual DHBs. Confidence intervals calculations for means require the standard deviation of the disaggregated data and so cannot be calculated.
Created by	Environmental Health Intelligence New Zealand
Related indicators	Access to fluoridated drinking water Access to safe drinking water
For more information	Ministry of Health: http://www.health.govt.nz/ourwork/preventative-health-wellness/oral-health
References	APHO. 2008. Technical Briefing 3: Commonly used public health statistics and their confidence intervals. York, UK: Association of Public Health Observatories.