

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	Health New Zealand. Age 5 and Year 8 oral health data from the Community Oral Health Service. URL: https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/for-health-professionals/data-and-statistics/oral-health/age-5-and-year-8-data
Numerator	- Mean dmft/DMFT of 5-year-old children / children in school-year 8 that were examined by community oral health services. - Number of 5-year-old children / children in school-year 8 that were examined by community oral health services who were caries-free.
Denominator	Number of 5-year-old children / children in school-year 8 that were examined by community oral health services.
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 health district.
Time period and time scale	Annual, from 2000 onwards.
Population coverage	All children enrolled with community oral health services.
Spatial Coverage	National and by District.
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

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 community oral health services 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. Data is based on aggregated data provided by individual health districts. Confidence intervals calculations for means require the standard deviation of the disaggregated data and so cannot be calculated.
Related indicators	Access to fluoridated drinking water Access to safe drinking water
For more information	Ministry of Health: https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/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.