



## Office for Health Improvement & Disparities

FAO: Directors of Public Health for forwarding to  
Directors of Children's Services

13 May 2025

Dear Directors of Public Health and Directors of Children's Services

### ***Notice of the 2025 to 2026 National Dental Epidemiology Programme survey***

I would like to make you aware of this year's oral health survey of 5-year-old schoolchildren, which is taking place during the academic year 2025 to 2026. This survey will use the same sampling frame as previous surveys to allow statistical comparison at local authority level. The surveys are currently the only measures we have of oral health at local authority geography and the national programme produces robust information that is comparable across local authorities offering benchmarking and an overall national picture.

OHID is asking directors of public health and directors of children's services to support local involvement in the 2025 to 2026 survey. It would be helpful if directors of public health could voice their support for this year's survey to directors of children's services and pass on their endorsement to head teachers of primary schools.

National training and calibration for the survey will take place in June 2025 and regional training will be rolled out from September 2025. Fieldwork will take place following regional training throughout the school year and data will need to be submitted to the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities by the end of August 2026.

Dental epidemiology co-ordinators (consultants in dental public health) across England, will advise throughout the process, and can advise on the commissioning of these surveys.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank local authorities, and particularly directors of public health, for their continued support for the programme. If you have any queries or feedback about the programme, please contact me through the details below.

Yours sincerely,

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