

Oral health in Leicester (Adults)

A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a statutory process by which local authorities and commissioning groups assess the current and future health, care and wellbeing needs of the local community to inform decision making.

**Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Summary Document
August 2023, Division of Public Health, Leicester City Council**
[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/jсна/)

Further information:

Oral health in Leicester (adults) Leicester City Council JSNA
chapter: [Oral health \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/jсна/)

Oral health Office for Health Improvement and Disparities:
[Public health profiles - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://www.phe.org.uk/public-health-profiles-ohid/)

Impact of oral health, poor oral health risk factors, and groups at risk: Poor oral health impacts a persons quality of life. All are at risk of poor oral health even though it is largely preventable. Risk factors for oral disease are modifiable and include high in sugar diet, tobacco use, excessive alcohol, poor oral hygiene, trauma and irregular use of dental care services.

Groups at risk	Detail
Deprived communities	Areas with poor oral health are often deprived parts of the country where access to dental services and cost can be significant barriers.
Children	Tooth decay remains the most common reason for hospital admission for children aged 5 to 9 years-old.
Pregnant women	Increased risk of oral/dental disease and low usage of dental services.
Vulnerable older people	This group (including older people in care homes) are more likely to have general health complications that make dental treatment planning more difficult.
Black and Minority Ethnic groups	Those of non-white backgrounds have lower use of dental services. Irregular dental attenders are more likely to experience tooth loss and increased dental disease experience
Living with long term conditions, disability, poor mental health	These groups, including those with learning disabilities, autism and other neurodiverse conditions, have poorer levels of oral health, and experience barriers to maintaining good oral health.
Marginalised groups	Homeless people tend to have greater experience of dental disease and access dental services less than the general population
Refugees and asylum seekers	Asylum seekers and refugees tend to have poorer oral health, and face barriers to access services including difficulty accessing translation support

Key indicators for oral health in Leicester: The table below shows how residents of Leicester experience many poor mental health risk factors and issues more severely than England.

Oral health and wellbeing risk factors	Leicester	England
Living in 20% most deprived areas: % of population (2019)	35%	20%
Older people living in deprivation (IDAOP1): % of population aged 60+ (2019)	29.8%	14.2%
Percentage of adults with active decay (2017/18)	36.4%	26.8%
Percentage volunteers (Dependent older people) with any oral health impacts fairly or very often (2016)	20.6%	17.7%
Percentage of adults (18+) accessing NHS Dental Services (2022)	16.0%	17.2%
Proportion of patients who succeeded in getting a dental appointment (2021)	71.0%	76.0%
Percentage of adult (18+) claims with extractions (2020/21)	19.5%	14.0%
Oral cancer registrations – standardised rate per 100,000 (2017-19)	22.7	15.4
Mortality from oral cancer – standardised rate per 100,000 (2017-19)	9.2	4.7

Source: Leicester City Council Mental Health (adults) JSNA 2023
Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
NHS Business Services Authority

Significantly higher than England

Significantly lower than England

No significant differences

Current services in relation to need: NHS England has statutory responsibilities to commission NHS dental services that meet the needs of the local population to continuously improve oral health and reduce inequalities.

Dental services	Detail
NHS Dental Services	The vast majority of dental care in Leicester is provided by NHS General Dental Practitioners (high street dentists). There are 85 NHS dental practices listed on the NHS website in and near Leicester supporting local residents.
NHS 8 – 8 (365 days per year) dental service	8:00 a.m to 8:00 p.m services provide unscheduled (emergency) dental care for patients in pain that do not have a routine dental practice or when their routine dental practice is closed i.e. at weekends or bank holidays.
NHS Community Dental Service (Paediatric and Special Care Dental Services)	Provides specialist dental treatment in a primary care setting for those with complex special needs (including domiciliary dental care).
NHS Hospital Dental Service	Consultant led services in Oral and Maxillofacial surgery (including Minor Oral Surgery), Orthodontics and Restorative dentistry.
Private dentistry	There are private dentistry options available in the city. Data on private practices is not readily available and therefore it is difficult to gather how these are used in the city.

Unmet needs
82% of NHS dental practices were not accepting new patients. There has been a sharp decrease in available dental services since 2019.
Areas of the city particularly underserved include the North West and West.
A significant proportion of dental treatment in the city is categorised as 'Urgent', this could potentially relate to the difficulty in getting routine dental treatment
Given increased difficulty in getting NHS appointments residents that can afford private dental care may turn to this sector. Many others will be unable to afford this care or could turn to international options that are less regulated.