



Poor Beginnings

Health inequalities among
young children across England

@ncbtweets
#PoorBeginnings



Working with children
for children

NCB's mission

To be a strong voice for children and young people, championing their rights and reducing the impact of inequalities, so that every child, especially the most vulnerable, can grow up safe, happy and healthy



Working with children
for children

Why focus on the early years?

The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional – are laid in early childhood

Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review (2010)

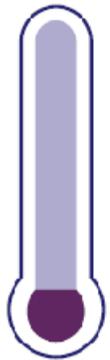
Four key outcomes



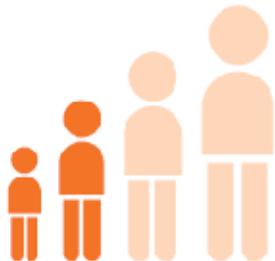
Obesity in 4-5 year olds (9.5%)



Tooth decay in 5 year olds (25%)



Hospital admissions due to **injury** (48,000 cases)



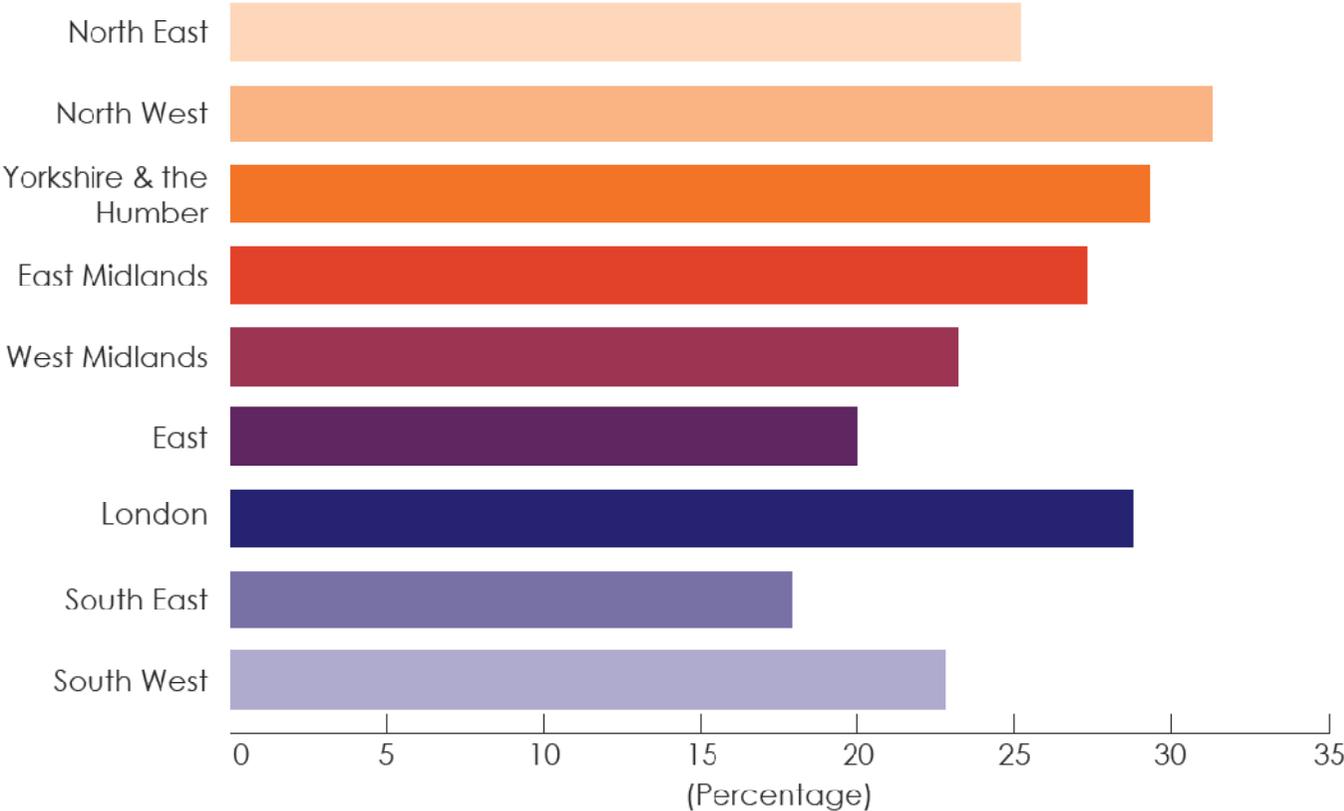
Good level of **development** (40% NOT reaching)



Working with children
for children

Regional variations: tooth decay

Figure 2: Proportion of five-year-olds with current/active tooth decay, by region



Source: National Dental Epidemiology Programme for England (2012), Oral health survey of five-year-old children 2012.



Working with children for children

Local authority variations

Obesity

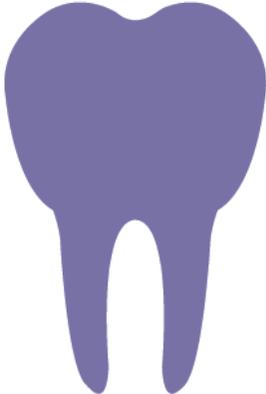


2.5x
likelihood of
obesity

● Barking and Dagenham ● Richmond

A child in Reception class in Barking and Dagenham is over **two and half times** more likely to be obese than a child of the same age in Richmond upon Thames, only 18 miles down the road

Tooth decay



Leicester

5x

likelihood of
tooth decay



West Sussex

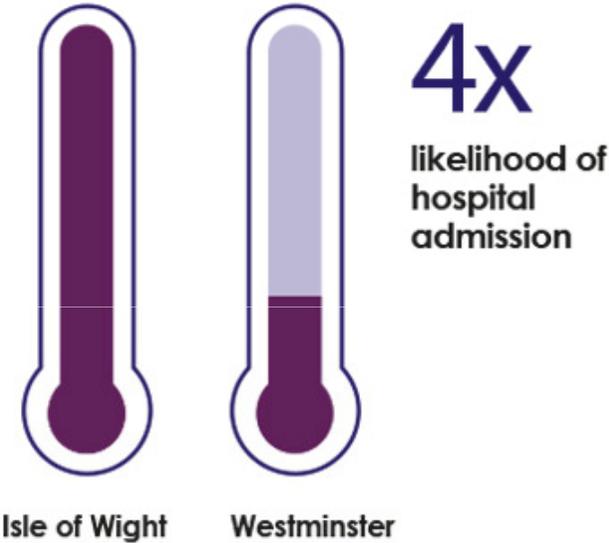
A five-year-old in Leicester is over **five times** more likely to have tooth decay than a child of the same age in West Sussex



Working with children
for children

Local authority variations

Injuries



A young child on the Isle of Wight is over **four times** more likely to be admitted to hospital with an injury than one of their peers in Westminster

Development & 'school readiness'



A child in Lewisham is nearly **twice** as likely as a child in Leicester to achieve a good level of development at the end of Reception

What about here?

Lower than average:

- early childhood obesity (7.8%) – lowest in Y&H
- early childhood tooth decay (21.8%)
- early childhood injury (134 per 10,000)

... and higher than average reaching a good level of development (64.5%)

Although this hides variations *within* local authority areas, often linked to deprivation



Working with children
for children

Impact of deprivation

Most deprived

11.2%



of 4-5-year-olds in the most deprived local authorities are obese

Least deprived

8%



of 4-5-year-olds in the least deprived local authorities are obese

Most deprived



31.6%

of five-year-olds have tooth decay in the most deprived authorities

Least deprived



18.4%

of five-year-olds have tooth decay in the least deprived authorities



Working with children
for children

Impact of deprivation

Most deprived



157 per 10,000

under five-year-olds are admitted to hospital for injury in the most deprived authorities

Least deprived



125 per 10,000

under five-year-olds are admitted to hospital for injury in the least deprived authorities

Most deprived

55.5%



of children reached a good level of development by Reception age in the most deprived authorities

Least deprived

62.2%



of children reached a good level of development by Reception age in the least deprived authorities



Working with children
for children

But some areas buck the trend

Despite high levels of deprivation:

- **Bradford** has average obesity rates
- **Hartlepool** has low rates of tooth decay
- **Liverpool** has low hospital admissions due to injury
- **Waltham Forest** has high rates of children achieving a good level of development



Working with children
for children

Our recommendations

National government

- Action on early childhood inequalities in the forthcoming Life Chances Strategy
- Effective monitoring of transfer of 0-5 public health to LAs
- Ensuring LAs have data and resources they need – focus on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
- Support for local authorities to protect early intervention services
- Investigations of factors underlying geographical variation in early years outcomes

Local authorities and their partners

- Use local data to understand young children's health and development and put in place long-term strategies for improving outcomes
- Use opportunity of transfer to coordinate services



Working with children
for children

If all local authority areas had the same outcomes as the least deprived fifth, across England there would be:

Obesity



16% reduction in cases of obesity in Reception class

The equivalent of nearly 10,000 fewer obese children

Tooth decay

26%

reduction in the number of five-year-olds with tooth decay



Amounting to nearly 35,000 fewer children with poor dental health



Working with children for children

If all local authority areas had the same outcomes as the least deprived fifth, across England there would be:

Injuries

11%

reduction in the number of children under the age of five admitted to hospital with an injury



The equivalent of over 5,000 fewer cases of early childhood injury

Development & 'school readiness'



3%

increase in children achieving a good level of development

Amounting to nearly 12,000 more children better prepared for school



Working with children
for children

Thank you

Zoë Renton, Head of Policy and Public Affairs
zrenton@ncb.org.uk

National Children's Bureau
www.ncb.org.uk
[@ncbtweets](https://twitter.com/ncbtweets)
www.facebook.com/ncbfc

