NHS dentistry in Lewisham

Access, provision, treatment types, and children's oral health

South East London LDC

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In Lewisham, just under 5 in 10 adults and 6 in 10 children have access to NHS dentistry.

ADULT ACCESS [1]

45.6%

of adults in Lewisham saw an NHS dentist

110,058 of 241,323 · April 2024 to March 2026

London **36.9%** · England **40.0%**

CHILD ACCESS [1]

56.0%

of children in Lewisham saw an NHS dentist

33,468 of 59,714 · April 2025 to March 2026

London **51.5%** · England **60.0%**

NHS DENTAL PROVISION IN LEWISHAM [2] as at August 2026

NHS PRACTICES
29
With a GDS contract

NHS DENTISTS
187
Active in the borough

CONTRACT VALUE
£20,493,852
Total commissioned

SPEND PER PERSON
£68.08
Per resident

NHS TREATMENT DELIVERED [1]

215,771 COURSES OF TREATMENT, APR 2025 TO MAR 2026

	Share
Band 1 Check-ups, scale and polish	**49.3%**
Band 2 Fillings, extractions, root canals	**28.4%**
of which 2a 20.3% · 2b 7.6% · 2c 0.5%	
Band 3 Crowns, dentures, bridges	**6.8%**
Urgent Urgent appointments	**15.4%**

URGENT CARE AS A SHARE OF UDAS

UDAs weight each course by complexity, so urgent care is a smaller share of UDAs (7.3%) than of courses (15.4%).

ACCESS WITHIN LEWISHAM [1] 19 wards, adults

Crofton Park	52.5%
Bellingham	51.7%
Ladywell	51.0%
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Blackheath	41.7%
Evelyn	40.4%
Lewisham Central	29.4%

Adult access ranges from 29.4% in Lewisham Central to 52.5% in Crofton Park, a gap of 23.1 points within the borough, wider than the gap between Lewisham and the England average.

WHAT WOULD MAKE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE LOCALLY

- Dentistry named in Integrated Neighbourhood Teams
- A route for practices into local prevention programmes
- Access to the NHS Spine and the Single Patient Record

CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH [3] tooth decay is the most common reason a child under 10 is admitted to hospital

FIVE YEAR OLDS WITH TOOTH DECAY

18.9%

London 27.4% · England 22.4% · 2024 survey

CHILDREN UNDER 10 ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL TO HAVE DECAYED TEETH REMOVED

190

In 2024/25, up 12% on 2023/24 (170)

HOW THE NHS DENTAL CONTRACT WORKS

There is no NHS dental registration. A practice is contracted to deliver a set amount of activity each year and is paid for that activity, not for a list of patients.

Once that activity is delivered, a practice cannot take on more NHS patients. More patients means more contract value, which is a commissioning decision.

The contract is national and pays only for defined courses of treatment. There is no mechanism within it to fund prevention work or joint working with local services.

ABOUT THE LDC CONFEDERATION

The LDC Confederation is the membership body for London's four Local Dental Committees, the representative bodies for NHS dentists. Together we cover 22 boroughs and around 3,000 NHS dentists. South East London LDC covers Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.

We bring dental intelligence into local planning, connect partners with practices in the borough, and cascade information and opportunities to them.

contact@ldc.org.uk ldc.org.uk

A note on this data

These figures describe people who were seen by an NHS dentist, not the oral health of those who were not, who are concentrated in the most deprived parts of the borough. Higher access is not in itself a good result: it does not show whether the people with the greatest need are being seen, or whether they are receiving the right care. London and England figures are context, not a benchmark. Being above an average does not mean residents are receiving the care they should.

Sources

1 NHS BSA, NHS Dental Statistics for England 2025/26
2 NHS BSA contract report, August 2026
3 OHID, oral health survey of five year olds 2024 and hospital tooth extractions to March 2025

LDC Confederation

Provided to Local Dental Committees as part of LDC Confederation membership