

In Merton, just over 3 in 10 adults and just under 5 in 10 children have access to NHS dentistry.

**ADULT ACCESS** ^[1]

**34.9%**
of adults in Merton saw an NHS dentist
60,704 of 174,114 · April 2024 to March 2026
London **36.9%** · England **40.0%**

**CHILD ACCESS** ^[1]

**47.3%**
of children in Merton saw an NHS dentist
21,169 of 44,777 · April 2025 to March 2026
London **51.5%** · England **60.0%**

 NHS DENTAL PROVISION IN MERTON ^[2] as at August 2026

**NHS PRACTICES**
21
With a GDS contract

**NHS DENTISTS**
107
Active in the borough

**CONTRACT VALUE**
£9,828,003
Total commissioned

**SPEND PER PERSON**
£44.90
Per resident

**NHS TREATMENT DELIVERED** ^[1]

94,440 COURSES OF TREATMENT, APR 2025 TO MAR 2026

55.5%

27.7%

11.1%

Share

■

Band 1

Check-ups, scale and polish

55.5%

■

Band 2

Fillings, extractions, root canals

27.7%

of which 2a 18.4% · 2b 8.9% · 2c 0.4%

■

Band 3

Crowns, dentures, bridges

5.6%

■

Urgent

Urgent appointments

11.1%

URGENT CARE AS A SHARE OF UDAS

5.6%

8.2%

required from April 2026

13%

UDAs weight each course by complexity, so urgent care is a smaller share of UDAs (5.6%) than of courses (11.1%).

**ACCESS WITHIN MERTON** ^[1] 20 wards, adults

Cricket Green

42.7%

Figge's Marsh

42.6%

Lower Morden

41.8%

Raynes Park

28.2%

Hillside

25.8%

Village

19.9%

Adult access ranges from 19.9% in Village to 42.7% in Cricket Green, a gap of 22.8 points within the borough, wider than the gap between Merton 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**
16.6%
London 27.4% · England 22.4% · 2024 survey

**CHILDREN UNDER 10 ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL TO HAVE DECAYED TEETH REMOVED**
130
In 2024/25, up 30% on 2023/24 (100)

**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 West London LDC covers Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Richmond upon Thames, Sutton and Wandsworth. We bring dental intelligence into local planning, connect partners with practices in the borough, and cascade information and opportunities to them.

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**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