



Office for Health
Improvement
& Disparities

To: directors of public health for forwarding to directors of care home residents' services

27 April 2024

Dear directors of public health and directors of adult social care

Notice of the 2024 to 2025 National Dental Epidemiology Programme survey

I would like to make you aware of this year's oral health survey of adults aged 65 years and older living in care homes, which is taking place during the year September 2024 to August 2025. This is the first time we will survey this population group. The survey will consist of a clinical examination and questionnaire interview that will capture information on oral health status, oral health related quality of life and oral healthcare needs. These 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.

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) is asking directors of public health and directors of adult social care services to support local involvement in the 2024 to 2025 survey. It would be helpful if directors of public health could voice their support for this year's survey to directors of adult social care services and pass on their endorsement to care homes in their area.

Dental epidemiology co-ordinators (consultants in dental public health) across England, based in NHS England regions, 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 National Dental Epidemiology Programme.

As OHID co-ordinates the National Dental Epidemiology Programme we are keen to hear how surveys can continue to respond to the needs of users so I would be happy to receive feedback.

Yours faithfully,