

Program/Service Information Report

Oral Health Services

2026 Q1 & Q2 Summary

To: Board of Health
Meeting Date: September 2, 2026
Report No.: BH.01.SEP0226.C10

Key Points

- **Oral Health School Screening Program:** 11,321 students screened in 2025–26.
- **Enhanced Fluoride Varnish Program:** 3,219 students received Fluoride Varnish (FV) applications in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph (WDG).
- **Preventive Clinics (Portable):** Portable hygiene services were delivered in five high-risk schools; 328 children from JK to Grade 8 received services.
- **Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO):** 552 clients were seen for screenings and preventive services; 128 children were identified with urgent concerns; 125 Emergency and Essential Services Stream (EESS) and 69 Preventative Services Only (PSO) applications were completed.
- **Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP):** 305 clients received preventive services; 294 unique Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) clients were seen; 457 DDS appointments were completed.
- **Community Outreach Screening:** 171 children were screened through community outreach; 16 were identified with urgent dental needs and supported with follow-up and referrals.

Program Requirements

Compliance with OPHS and Accountability Indicators

☒ In compliance

Highlights

Oral Health School Screening Program(OHSSP)

Data for the OHSSP is reported by school year. Screening requirements are based on each school's risk level from the previous year. Under the *Oral Health Protocol, 2021*, urgent concerns require immediate clinical attention, while non-urgent concerns do not require immediate treatment.

- **High-risk** schools received screenings for students in Junior Kindergarten (JK), Senior Kindergarten (SK), and Grades 2, 4, and 7.
- **Medium-risk** schools received screening in JK, SK, Grades 2, and 7.
- **Low-risk** schools received screening in JK, SK, and Grade 2.

In 2025–2026, 11,321 students were screened; 310 urgent and 1,019 non-urgent dental concerns were identified. Table 1 summarizes school risk intensity.

Table 1: Summary of Schools by Risk Intensity (2025-2026)

Risk Intensity	Number of Schools
Low	74
Medium	10
High	3
All	7
Total	94

Enhanced Fluoride Varnish Program

In 2025–26, Wellington-Dufferin Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) delivered in-school fluoride varnish in 108 schools, reaching 3,219 students with preventive support to help reduce cavities and strengthen tooth enamel.

Preventive Clinics (Portables)

WDGPH continued its preventive clinics pilot in 2026, offering hygiene services in five high-risk schools identified through school screening data on decay, missing and filled teeth, and urgent and non-urgent treatment needs.

Overall, 328 children from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 received hygiene services in school settings, improving access to care and supporting earlier prevention of future dental needs.

Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO)

HSO preventive services, including dental screenings and cleanings, were provided to eligible children and youth at all three WDGPH office locations.

Table 2: Healthy Smiles Ontario – Q1 & Q2 2026 Service Summary

Indicator	Q1 2026	Q2 2026
# of Dental Screenings	172	117
# of new patient cleanings	22	181
# of previous patient cleanings	45	18
Total # of clients seen for screenings and preventive services	234	318
# of children identified with urgent concerns	72	56
# of HSO Emergency and Essential Services (EESS) applications completed	69	56
# of HSO Preventive Services Only (PSO) applications completed	39	30

Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) for children aged 0–17 continued to shift demand at WDGPH dental clinics. Program efforts increasingly focused on helping families enroll in HSO and CDCP and connect with participating community dental providers.

In 2026, WDGPH launched an HSO restorative dental services pilot at the Guelph and Orangeville clinics. The pilot supported children unable to access community dental care or awaiting treatment under general anesthesia. To date, 27 children have received restorative treatment.

Portable clinical services remained focused in higher-need areas, specifically Wellington County and focussing on priority populations. Outreach clinics screened 63 children,

identified 15 urgent dental needs, completed 14 EESS applications, and supported 7 CDCP applications.

Building on the 2025 pilot with six licensed childcare centres, the early childhood oral health promotion initiative expanded in 2026, with 24 licensed childcare centres expressing interest. The initiative includes on-site education, screenings, and fluoride varnish application. Additional participation and outcome data will be shared in a future Consent Agenda.

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP)

WDGPH provides OSDCP services to low-income seniors at the Guelph and Orangeville clinics. While new client bookings declined, likely due to increased access through the CDCP and access to dental care in the community, new seniors are applying for OSDCP. Emergency referrals decreased, reflecting improved clinic capacity and community access through CDCP providers.

The program targeted outreach and promotion to help eligible and underserved seniors access available dental coverage and care.

Table 3: OSDCP Services – Q1 & Q2 2026 Service Summary

Indicator	Q1 2026	Q2 2026
Total # of clients seen for preventive services	144	161
# of emergency referrals to community dentists	0	1
# of unique DDS* clients	141	153
# of DDS appointments	226	231
# of new patient examinations	10	16
# of extractions (oral and maxillofacial surgeries)	28	51
# of fillings (restorative services)	166	156
# of root canals (endodontic services)	6	1
# of referrals to denturists	5	28
# of referrals to oral surgeons for complicated procedures	7	8

*DDS: Doctor of Dental Surgery

Community Outreach

In Q1 and Q2 of 2026, Oral Health Services provided education and screenings at community locations, including EarlyON centres, family shelters, community centres, and immigration services. Outreach screened 171 children; 16 having urgent dental needs and received follow-up and referrals.

Outreach continues to help identify unmet oral health needs and connect clients to care. Portable preventive clinics were also maintained and expanded in areas facing access barriers, aligning with the WDGP Strategic Plan focus on children's health and equitable access.

Related Reports

1. BH.01.FEB0426.C02 – [Dental Program](#)
2. BH.01.APR0225.R10 – [CDCP](#)

Prepared By:	Sofie Wilcox, Manager, Oral Health Services
Approved By:	Rita Isley, RN, MPA VP, Community Health and CNO
Submitted By:	Dr. Nicola J. Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health & CEO

NOTE: If a significant performance variance was identified above, a full report to the Board of Health is to be completed for presentation at the next Board of Health meeting.