

Oral Health Report 2026

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) completed a regional Oral Health Needs Assessment Survey from August 2025-January 2026 to identify oral health status, barriers to accessing care, and gaps in dental services. Data will help inform and enhance WDGPH dental programs to ensure services are meeting the needs of residents and promote equitable access to care for all.



2 in 3

Survey respondents indicated their oral health status as “good” or “very good”

1 in 4

Only seek dental care on an as-needed basis or not at all

Of those not seeking dental care for oral health concerns...

50% have an annual household income of less than \$50,000

Reported Impacts of Oral Health Issues



68%
Eating



50%
Self-
Perception



43%
Pain



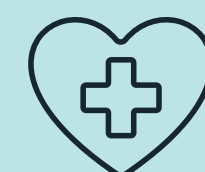
27%
Relationships



24%
Depression



22%
Talking



17%
Other Health
Problems



8%
Finding a
Job

Dental Insurance Coverage



49% of survey respondents have employer-based insurance



30% of respondents have publicly-funded insurance



17% of respondents do not have insurance

Respondents were asked to identify the factors that make it difficult to visit the dentist. The most common barriers were:



61%
The cost of services



41%
Taking time off work



55%
Insurance coverage



35%
Fear or dislike

Gaps in Dental Insurance Coverage

- Of those without dental insurance:
 - 30% were individuals 65+
 - 26% were between the ages of 26-39
 - 23% were between the ages of 40-54

Free and Low-Cost Dental Programs

- 1 in 5 survey respondents have not heard of any free or low-cost dental programs.
- More than 1 in 3 respondents who have never utilized these programs may be eligible based on their reported income.
- Top barriers for accessing such programs include lack of knowledge, uncertainty about eligibility, and difficulty applying.