

Program/Service Information Report

Oral Health Services

2025 Q3 and Q4 Summary

To: Board of Health

Meeting Date: February 4, 2026

Report No.: BH.01.FEB0426.C02

Key Points

- **Community Outreach Screening:** In 2025, the Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) Oral Health Services team expanded community outreach by conducting dental screenings for 186 children in addition to school-based screenings, identifying 61 children with urgent dental needs.
- **Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP):** Since the introduction of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), WDGPH continues to see a decrease in clinics of new patients. Promotional campaigns are progressing to try and reach the underserved populations. There is considerable effort focused on assisting seniors with registering for the CDCP program to ensure maximum coverage and navigate access to oral health services.
- **Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO):** CDCP for children 0-18 years old continues to impact the clinical services needed at WDGPH clinics. The focus remains on providing more support with enrollment assistance for both HSO and CDCP services and strategic dental screening and portable clinics.

Program Requirements

Compliance with OPHS and Accountability Indicators:

In compliance

Not in compliance. If not in compliance, provide additional information about the variance and how it will be addressed.

Highlights

Community Outreach Screening

In 2025, the Oral Health Services team expanded community outreach across Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) by offering oral health education and dental screenings at a variety of community-based locations, including EarlyON centres, community centres, and immigration and settlement services. These efforts complemented school-based programming and helped improve access for families who may face barriers to care. Through outreach initiatives, 186 children were screened, with 61 identified as having urgent dental needs and supported with appropriate follow-up and referrals.

In 2026, Oral Health Services continues to expand outreach efforts across the region, including exploring the use of portable preventive clinics in areas identified as experiencing barriers to access, in alignment with the WDGPH Strategic Plan and its focus on children's health and improving equitable access to care.

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP)

WDGPH deliver dental services to low-income seniors through the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) at its Guelph and Orangeville clinic locations. An ongoing decline in new client bookings has been observed, likely attributable to increased service availability through the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) at private dental offices. In response, WDGPH has developed targeted community-based promotional materials and has attended various outreach events throughout 2025 to ensure underserved seniors remain informed about available dental coverage and access to care.

A summary of clinical services delivered during Q3 and Q4 of 2025 is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: OSDCP Services – Q3 & Q4 2025 Service Summary

Indicator	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Total # of Clients seen for Preventive Services	173	177
# of Emergency Referrals to Community Dentists	4	0
# of Unique DDS* Clients	241	219
# of DDS Appointments	300	270
# of New Patient Examinations	19	13
# of Extractions (oral & maxillofacial surgeries)	48	73
# of Fillings (restorative services)	268	194
# of Root Canals (endodontic services)	6	1
# of Referrals to Denturists	34	21
# of Referrals to Oral Surgeons for Complicated Procedures	4	4

Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO)

Preventive services, including screenings and hygiene (cleanings) services, are provided to eligible children and youth in all three WDGPH office locations. A summary of the services completed in Q3 and Q4 of 2025 is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Healthy Smiles Ontario – Q3 & Q4 2025 Service Summary

Indicator	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
# of Dental Screenings	60	69
# New Patient Cleanings	48	15
# Previous Patient Cleanings	127	33
Total # of Clients seen for Screenings and Preventive Services	234	116
# Children identified with Urgent Concerns	71	63
# of HSO-Emergency and Essential Services (EESS) Applications Completed	58	55
# of HSO-Preventive Services Only (PSO) Applications Completed	123	27

CDCP for children aged 0–18 has resulted in a decline in clinical services required at WDG dental clinics. In response, the program's focuses on providing enhanced enrollment support for both Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) and CDCP, while ensuring families are effectively connected to community dental providers accepting these programs.

Efforts to prioritize the delivery of portable oral health services in areas of greatest need, with a particular focus on the northern jurisdiction and communities experiencing access limitations. Outreach activities currently underway in schools will be reported later in the year through a future Board of Health report.

As part of a pilot initiative, the Oral Health Services team conducted outreach visits to six licensed daycares across Guelph and Wellington to provide oral health screening and fluoride varnish. A total of 135 children were enrolled; 124 received an oral health screening, 100 received fluoride varnish applications, and 5 non-urgent dental needs were identified. This initiative supported early childhood oral health promotion and addressed access barriers to preventive care.

Building on the success of this pilot, the program will be expanded and offered to all licensed daycares across the WDG region in Q2 and Q3 of 2026. This initiative aligns with WDGPH's commitment to early prevention and improving equitable access to oral health services for young children in the community and will be reported on in a future Board of Health Report.

Related Reports

BH.01.DEC0325.R33 – [Oral Screening and HSO](#)

BH.01.NOV0624.C16 – [Dental Program](#)

BH.01.DEC0424.R36 – [CDCP](#)

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