

Program/Service Information Report

Dental Program

2024 Q1 and Q2 Summary

To: Board of Health

Meeting Date: November 6, 2024

Report No.: BH.01.NOV0624.C16

Key Points

- **Oral Health School Screening Program:** In the 2023-24 school year, 15,751 students were screened as part of WDG Public Health's Oral Health School Screening program. The team identified 361 urgent and 1,126 non-urgent dental concerns.
- **Enhanced Fluoride Varnish Program:** In the 2023-24 school year, fluoride varnish was offered to all Junior and Senior Kindergarten students in 40 WDG public schools, as well as to students in grades 1 and 2 in the 12 highest risk schools. 867 students received one application of fluoride varnish, and 455 students received two applications.
- **Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP):** Seniors in various age ranges were invited to apply for the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) between December 2023-May 2024. With the introduction of this program, WDG Public Health is seeing a decrease in emergency referrals to community dentists and in new clients being added to our OSDCP wait lists.
- **Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO):** Children under 18 years of age became eligible to apply for the CDCP on June 27, 2024; therefore, this program did not have an impact on WDG Public Health's HSO services in Q1 and Q2.

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

Oral Health School Screening Program

Data for WDG Public Health's Oral Health School Screening program is collected and reported by school year rather than quarterly. As a result of the hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, all students in Junior Kindergarten, Senior Kindergarten, grades 2, 4 and 7 were screened in both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. In the 2023-24 school year, 15,751 students were screened. The team identified 361 urgent and 1,126 non-urgent dental concerns. As per the Oral Health Protocol, 2021, urgent dental concerns include a child experiencing pain, infection, hemorrhage, trauma or pathology (including large cavities) that require immediate clinical treatment. Non-urgent concerns indicate areas that do not require immediate treatment, such as small cavities or cavities on loose baby teeth.

Enhanced Fluoride Varnish Program

WDG Public Health was excited to bring back the Fluoride Varnish program in the 2023-24 school year to 40 public schools in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph. Prior to the pandemic, this program was offered twice yearly to 12 schools with high rates of current and past decay. Two applications of fluoride varnish were offered to all Junior and Senior Kindergarten students in the 40 schools, as well as to students in grades 1 and 2 in the 12 highest risk schools. 867 students received one application of fluoride varnish, and 455 students received two applications.

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP)

WDG Public Health provides dental services to low-income seniors in the community through the OSDCP in the Guelph and Orangeville office locations. A summary of the services completed in Q1 and Q2 of 2024 is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: OSDCP Services – Q1 & Q2 2024 Service Summary

Indicator	Q1 2024	Q2 2024
Total # of Clients seen for Preventive Services	211	256
# of Emergency Referrals to Community Dentists	31	16
# of Unique DDS* Clients	249	277
# of DDS Appointments	401	427
# of New Patient Examinations	80	90
# of Extractions (oral & maxillofacial surgeries)	198	149
# of Fillings (restorative services)	295	391
# of Root Canals (endodontic services)	5	9
# of Referrals to Denturists	37	52
# of Referrals to Oral Surgeons for Complicated Procedures	3	8

*DDS=Doctor of Dental Surgery

Seniors in various age ranges were invited to apply for the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) between December 2023-May 2024. With the introduction of the CDCP, WDG Public Health has seen a decrease in emergency referrals to community dentists between Q1 and Q2. Seniors with CDCP coverage can now access emergency dental care in the community without the need for a referral from Public Health through the OSDCP. The CDCP has also had an impact on the OSDCP wait lists in both Guelph and Orangeville. At the end of Q1, 203 clients were awaiting new patient examinations in Guelph, and 20 clients were awaiting new patient examinations in Orangeville. At the end of Q2, the wait lists decreased to 101 clients in Guelph and 10 clients in Orangeville.

Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO)

Preventive services, including screenings and hygiene (cleanings) services, are provided to eligible children and youth in all three WDG Public Health office locations. A summary of the services completed in Q1 and Q2 of 2024 is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Healthy Smiles Ontario – Q1 & Q2 2024 Service Summary

Indicator	Q1 2024	Q2 2024
# of Dental Screenings	143	179
# New Patient Cleanings	56	78
# Previous Patient Cleanings	253	254
Total # of Clients seen for Screenings and Preventive Services	453	511
# Children identified with Urgent Concerns	114	132
# of HSO-Emergency and Essential Services (EESS) Applications Completed	110	132
# of HSO-Preventive Services Only (PSO) Applications Completed	127	181

Children under 18 years of age became eligible to apply for the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) on June 27, 2024; therefore, this program did not have an impact on WDG Public Health's HSO services in Q1 and Q2.

Related Reports

BH.01.FEB0724.R04 – [Oral Health Report](#)

A Board of Health Report on the CDCP will be prepared for the December 4, 2024 meeting.

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