

## Program/Service Information Report

### Oral Health Services

#### 2025 Q1 and Q2 Summary

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**To:** Board of Health

**Meeting Date:** September 3, 2025

**Report No.:** BH.01.SEP0325.C08

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### Key Points

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- **Oral Health School Screening Program:** In the 2024-25 school year, 11,086 students were screened as part of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health's (WDGPH) Oral Health School Screening program. The team identified 208 urgent and 900 non-urgent dental concerns.
- **Enhanced Fluoride Varnish Program:** In the 2024-25 school year, fluoride varnish was offered to all students in 69 Wellington, Dufferin, and Guelph catholic and public schools. 3946 students received the first application while 1396 students received the second application.
- **Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP):** With the introduction of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), WDGPH continues to see a decrease in new patients in clinics. Promotional campaigns are in progress to try and reach the underserved populations. There has been a considerable effort into assisting seniors with registering for the CDCP program to ensure maximum coverage.
- **Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO):** The CDCP introduction for children 0-18 years old has resulted in a slight decline in clinical services needed at WDGPH clinics. The focus has been shifted to providing more support to enrollment assistance for both HSO and CDCP services as well as strategic portable clinics.

### Program Requirements

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#### 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

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### Oral Health School Screening Program

Data for the Oral Health School Screening Program at WDGPH is collected and reported by school year rather than by quarter. Screening requirements for each school are determined based on the risk level calculated from the previous year's data. According to the *Oral Health Protocol, 2021*, urgent dental concerns include situations involving pain, infection, hemorrhage, trauma, or pathology (e.g., large cavities) that require immediate clinical attention. In contrast, non-urgent concerns refer to issues that do not require immediate treatment, such as small cavities or decay on loose primary teeth.

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

In the 2024–2025 school year, a total of 11,086 students were screened. The screening team identified 208 urgent and 900 non-urgent dental concerns.

### Enhanced Fluoride Varnish Program

WDGPH offered the fluoride varnish program to all grades in all 69 schools in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph for 2024-25. Two applications (fall and spring) were offered with 3946 students received the first application while 1396 students received the second application.

### Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP)

WDGPH continues to provide dental care to low-income seniors through the OSDCP at its Guelph and Orangeville clinic locations. In recent months, there has been a noted decline in new client bookings, likely due to the increased availability of services under the CDCP, which is now offered at many private dental offices.

To address this shift and ensure that underserved seniors remain informed about their dental insurance options, WDGPH is developing targeted promotional materials for community distribution. In addition, outreach events have been scheduled throughout 2025 to further raise awareness and support access to care.

A summary of clinical services delivered during Q1 and Q2 of 2025 is presented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: OSDCP Services – Q1 & Q2 2025 Service Summary**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Q1 2025</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>
Total # of Clients seen for Preventive Services	170	231
# of Emergency Referrals to Community Dentists	5	10
# of Unique DDS* Clients	199	206
# of DDS Appointments	306	301
# of New Patient Examinations	46	18
# of Extractions (oral & maxillofacial surgeries)	134	56
# of Fillings (restorative services)	246	207
# of Root Canals (endodontic services)	5	9
# of Referrals to Denturists	37	16
# of Referrals to Oral Surgeons for Complicated Procedures	3	5

## Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO)

Preventive services, including screenings and hygiene (cleaning) services, are provided to eligible children and youth in all three WDGPH office locations. A summary of the services completed in Q1 and Q2 of 2025 is provided in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Healthy Smiles Ontario – Q1 & Q2 2025 Service Summary**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Q1 2025</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>
# of Dental Screenings	94	156
# New Patient Cleanings	94	61
# Previous Patient Cleanings	225	149
Total # of Clients seen for Screenings and Preventive Services	373	361
# Children identified with Urgent Concerns	68	71
# of HSO-Emergency and Essential Services (EESS)	70	67
Applications Completed		
Total # of Clients seen for Screenings and Preventive Services	225	156
# of HSO-Preventive Services Only (PSO) Applications Completed		

The CDCP introduction for children 0-18 years old has resulted in a slight decline in clinical services needed at WDGPH clinics. The focus has been shifted to providing more support to enrollment assistance for both HSO and CDCP services while ensuring families are connected to community dentists offering services under these insurance programs.

There has also been a focus on providing portable clinical services to areas of need, specifically the Northern jurisdiction, where there is a large Low German population. Two screening days were offered in Palmerston on May 15<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>. 50 children were screened with 23 urgent needs identified and 16 EESS applications completed. 32 families were also assisted in completing their CDCP applications.

As part of a pilot initiative, WDGPH collaborated with a targeted group of licensed childcare centres in the City of Guelph and select areas of Wellington County. Twelve centres expressed interest and requested on-site engagement and resources. In response, WDGPH conducted site visits and distributed a total of 658 educational “swag bags” to families with children under the age of four. These bags included hygiene products and oral health information to support early childhood health promotion.

Building on this early success, a new fluoride varnish and oral health screening program is scheduled to launch in these participating daycares during Q3 and Q4. This program aims to enhance early prevention and improve access to dental care services for young children in the WDG region.

## Related Reports

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1. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. Report to the Board of Health.  
BH.01.NOV0624.C16 Dental Program 2024 Q1 and Q2 Summary.  
<https://wdgpublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/bh.01.nov0624.c16 - dental.pdf>
2. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. Report to the Board of Health.  
BH.01.DEC0424.R36 A Review of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) and Public Health Dental Programs. <https://wdgpublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/bh.01.dec0424.r36 - cdcp.pdf>

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