# **Dental Program**

PHSSC Presentation

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## Dental Program Overview

Youth Focused Programs (Cost -shared funding)

- School Screening
- Healthy Smiles Ontario
  - Emergency & Preventive Streams
- Fluoride Varnish Program
- Mobile Dental Unit
- Outreach

Seniors Focused Program (100% funded Ministry of Health)

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program



#### Public Health Dental

#### Programs are delivered through:

- Public Health Clinics
- Mobile Dental Unit
- Schools
- Childcare Centres
- Primary Care practices
- Community Health Centres
- Community Outreach



#### **Current Mandate - Youth**

To improve the oral health of children/youth by:

- 1. Using Data
  - We collect, analyze, and utilize data regarding youth oral health status
- 2. Access Dental Care for Children at Risk
  - Using our data, we identify children and youth at risk of poor oral health outcomes and connect them to appropriate oral health services
- 3. Improving Access to Oral Health

#### Mandate is met by:

- School-based dental screening in elementary schools
- Delivery of the Healthy Smiles Ontario program
- Provision of preventive services at fixed clinics and the mobile dental unit
- Fluoride varnish program for children age 5 and under
  - Schools/daycares
  - o Physicians' offices
  - Community outreach

# Mandatory School Screenings

- Anticipate screening 41,025 elementary students in the 2022-2023 school year (increased level of screening due to pandemic interruptions)
- 972 students were identified as having urgent oral health conditions (risk of infection within 5 days) in 2022
- 52% of Grade 2 students screened in the fall of 2022, had a history of dental decay. 18% had active decay
- Eligible students are offered preventive services (cleanings, fluoride treatment, sealants)

Is a provincial program that provides FREE dental

care for youth

Three streams of program:

- Emergency Stream
- Preventive Stream
- Core Stream



#### **Emergency Stream Eligibility:**

- Assessed need of oral health issue
- Youth 17 & under
- Family can not obtain treatment due to financial hardship

#### Program covers services such as:

- Examinations
- X-rays
- Fillings
- root canals
- anesthesia if required with private dental practices

#### Preventive Stream Eligibility:

- Assessed need of preventive treatment
- Youth 17 & under

#### Treatments include:

- dental cleanings
- fluoride treatments
- sealants

All preventive services can be accessed at a Public Health clinic, including the mobile clinic

#### Core Stream Eligibility:

- Financial eligibility (based on # of children in household)
- Youth 17 & under
- Automatically enrolled if family receives Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support, or live in a First Nations Community

Program provides coverage for restorative and preventive treatments

- 668 Niagara children enrolled in Healthy Smiles -Emergency Stream in Ontario during 2022
- 1,440 children seen in Public Health clinics in 2022 to be assessed for Healthy Smiles Program
- 1,389 children provided with a preventive service (cleaning, fluoride or sealants) in PH clinics in 2022

# 2023 Estimates for Service Delivery

- 2,600 children/youth seen for assessments in Public Health clinics
- 2,400 children provided a preventive service in clinic (fluoride treatment, cleaning, sealant)
- Estimate screening 24,600 students in elementary schools next year
- Will offer fluoride varnish to approximately 8,000 JK/SK students in the 2023/2024 school year
- 2,500 children will be provided with fluoride varnish in child care centres

## Fluoride Varnish Program

- Fluoride treatments were offered to 62 childcare centres and EarlyOn Centres, with 1,223 children receiving fluoride varnish in 2022
- Fluoride varnish provided at 32 elementary schools for JK/SK students in Niagara between October – December 2022
- Approx 1,700 Fluoride treatments provided by 17 Niagara Primary Care practices during well baby, and early years visits in 2022

#### Mobile Dental Unit

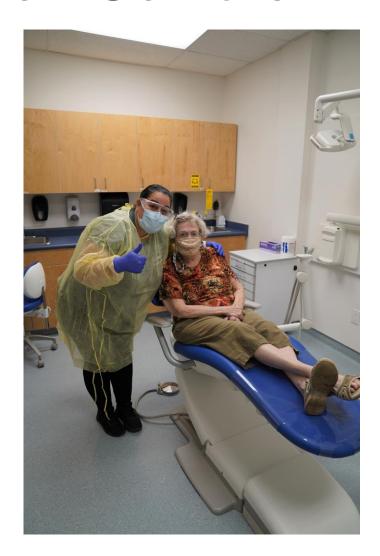
- 33ft retrofitted mobile dental unit with dental chair and equipment
- Visits 12 community locations on a regular basis
- Visits community events, social housing communities, social service agencies to provide preventive services
- Will visit 30 schools in the 2022-23 school year
- 612 children visited the Mobile in 2022 for assessments, preventive services, education
- Currently undergoing efforts to replace aging MDC with new version that can provide preventive youth and restorative seniors services



Dental Clinic

#### **Current Mandate - Seniors**

- Provide oral health services to low income seniors enrolled in the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP)
- 2. Assist low income seniors to improve their oral health knowledge and awareness of oral health services



# Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program

#### Eligibility:

- 65+ and resident of Ontario
- Income of \$22,200 or less if single
- Income of \$37,100 or less if couple
- No other form of dental benefits

## In Niagara

- 4 Clinical Service Delivery Sites
  - Quest Community Health Centre St. Catharines
  - Centre de santé de communitaire Hamilton/Niagara – Welland
  - Niagara Falls Community Health Centre Niagara Falls
  - Niagara Region Public Health Fort Erie











## System Navigational Support

Dental Health Community Workers at clinical sites, as well as Bridges Community Health Centre in Fort Erie/Port Colborne & Wainfleet:

- Assist clients with completing OSDCP applications
- Support with filing tax returns
- Assistance completing medical documents
- Promotion of OSDCP in local community
- Referral to other dental services
- Support accessing primary care services
- Education re: basic oral health needs

# Funding

- 100% Ministry funded program
- Current annual budget is \$2,515,900.00
- 20.3 FTE funded between the 5 locations
- Quest Community Health Centre
  6.3 FTE
- Niagara Falls Community Health Centre 4.5 FTE
- Centre de santé de Communitaire 5.5 FTE
- Niagara Region Public Health
  3 FTE
- Bridges Community Health Centre 1 FTE