

# 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
  - 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)

# Healthy Smiles Ontario

Is a provincial program that provides **FREE** dental care for youth

Three streams of program:

- Emergency Stream
- Preventive Stream
- Core Stream



# Healthy Smiles Ontario

## 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



# Healthy Smiles Ontario

## 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

# Healthy Smiles Ontario

## 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

# Healthy Smiles Ontario

- 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



# Current Mandate - Seniors

1. 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 communautaire 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 Communautaire 5.5 FTE
- Niagara Region Public Health 3 FTE
- Bridges Community Health Centre 1 FTE