

### Appendix C - Public Health Dental Clinics Service Delivery

Dental screenings and clinical dental services are provided at two Public Health clinic locations in Waterloo and Cambridge. Ninety-nine per cent of clients who access these dental clinics are children and youth (age 17 and under).

Indicator	2023	2024*
Number of unique children and youth who received clinical dental services	798	551
Number of clinical dental service appointments completed for children and youth	1919	1041

*\*Current up to June 30, 2024*

Children and youth can also apply for the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program and/or the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) based on specific criteria (i.e., income thresholds, filing taxes). Those who do not qualify for HSO or CDCP can seek dental care at the two Public Health dental clinics based on eligibility. Children and youth from low-income families can receive basic dental care such as check-ups, cleanings, and fillings.

Low-income adults between the ages of 18 to 65 have very limited options to access affordable dental care if they do not have access to private dental insurance; are not eligible for social assistance; or do not meet financial eligibility to receive temporary emergency dental coverage (discretionary benefits). Public Health dental clinics provide one-time emergency appointments for adults who meet criteria and are within the financial threshold of eligibility, typically to manage dental pain. An average of 72 low-income adults access the Public Health dental clinics for emergency dental care per year.

In 2025, adults will be able to apply for CDCP. If they do not qualify for CDCP because they do not file taxes; cannot afford the 40-60% co-payment based on their income level; or cannot afford any out-of-pocket expenses as CDCP providers can charge above the CDCP established fees, then they can seek emergency dental care at the Public Health dental clinics.

Without access to the Public Health dental clinics for children, youth, and low-income adults, other options include paying for dental treatment at a community provider; seeking care with a family physician or walk-in clinic; or seeking care at the local hospital's emergency department.