



Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

ORAL HEALTH FOR ADULTS IN ONTARIO'S COMMUNITIES

Our Ask

That municipal governments support their local Public Health Unit and encourage the Provincial Government to:

- Establish a funded oral health program for low-income adults and seniors in Ontario.

That municipal governments:

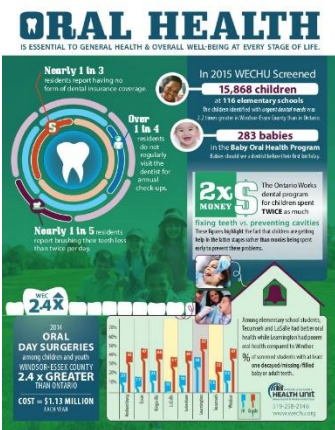
- Support fluoridation of municipal water supplies.

Return on Investment



- Over 220,000 Ontarians visited physician offices for oral health concerns in 2015.
- Over 61,000 visits to emergency departments across Ontario in 2015 were due to oral health concerns.
- An estimated \$38M is spent in the health care system for these complications without addressing their underlying causes.
- it is estimated that every \$1 invested in community water fluoridation yields an estimated \$38 in avoided costs for dental treatment.
- Health Canada estimates that \$4.15 million working-days are lost due to dental visits or dental sick-days in Canada every year.

Background



- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), oral health is essential to general health and quality of life.
- Many low income, and even middle income, Canadians suffer from pain, discomfort, disability, and loss of opportunity because of poor oral health.
- One-third of Ontario workers do not have employee health benefits.
- 13.9% of the Ontario population, live in low income.
- Financial barriers and limited options prevent many marginalized and low-income adults from accessing preventive and acute dental care.
- According to the Ontario Oral Health Alliance (2017), emergency department hospital services are often the only option for treatment of acute dental complications due to lack of dental care.
- Most acute dental complications are avoidable with timely preventive care such as cleanings and fluoride treatments by dental hygienists, as well as fillings and extractions.
- Indirect impacts beyond health related to employability/ self-esteem/confidence.
- There has been a documented marked decline in the rates of tooth decay where fluoride has been added to municipal water supplies; and these health benefits extend to all residents in a community regardless of age, education, socioeconomic status or access to other preventive measures.



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STRONG LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Strong Local Public Health

- Ontario’s 444 Municipalities benefit from the many public health programs and services that keep them healthy.
- Under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, municipalities in a health unit are responsible for paying the expenses of the health unit in the performance of its functions and duties that are largely mandated by the province.
- Ontario’s 35 public health units work hard to deliver these essential programs and services to prevent disease and promote health in local communities.
- For more than 180 years, Ontarians have enjoyed a strong public health system that puts local communities and their health at the front and centre.

Other Key Public Health Issues



While we have highlighted the health issue on the reverse as a particularly important topic you should be aware of, there are a host of other broad public health issues that may also affect the overall health in your community. Here are a few:

- Tobacco endgame
- Oral health for adults
- Cannabis
- Opioids
- Mental health
- Alcohol
- Food insecurity

About alPHa



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- The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to the boards of health and public health units in Ontario.
- Membership in alPHa is open to the 35 public health units in Ontario and we work closely with board of health members, medical and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers in each of the public health disciplines – nursing, inspections, nutrition, dentistry, health promotion, epidemiology and business administration.
- The Association works with governments, including local government, and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective and efficient public health system in the province.
- Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, alPHa’s members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention, and surveillance services in all of Ontario’s communities.