



THE YORK REGION PUBLIC HEALTH DENTAL PROGRAM

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

Following Ontario Public Health Standards, the York Region Public Health Dental Program monitors oral health status of the region's children and provides preventive services and oral health screening in a number of settings, including elementary schools, Public Health dental clinics and community venues such as Ontario Early Years Centres. Eligible children with dental needs are provided preventive services, such as cleaning, fissure sealants and fluoride treatment or referred to programs such as Children In Need of Treatment (CINOT) and Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO). Our teams screened more than 50, 000 children in 271 elementary schools and our 3 Public Health dental clinics in 2012. Preventive services were provided to 1, 169 children in our clinics.

OUR CLIENTS: Children 17 years of age and under

OUR VISION: "All children, youth and families in York Region will achieve optimal health and well-being."

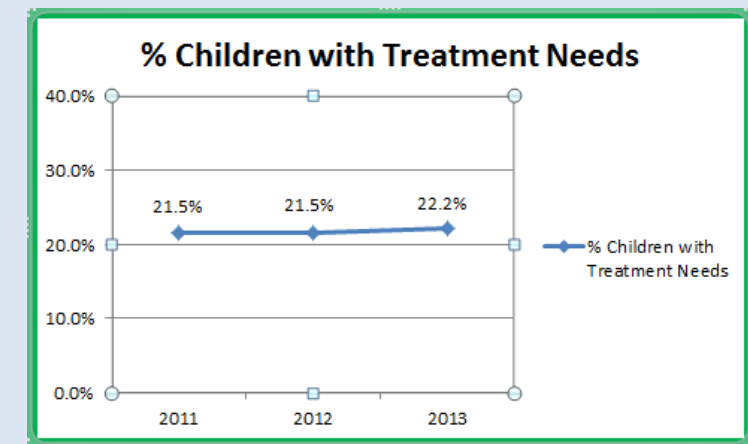
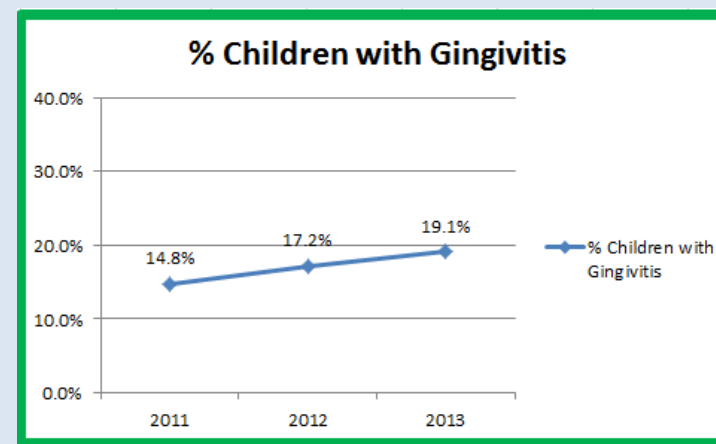
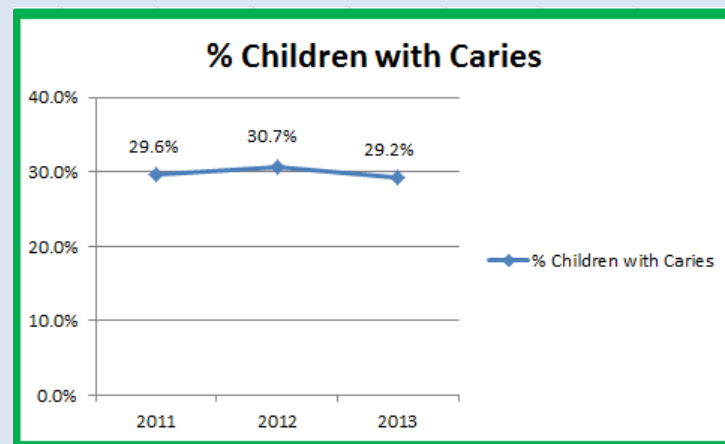
MEASURING THE ORAL HEALTH OF YORK REGION CHILDREN

1. % of children with dental caries (cavities)
2. % of children with gingivitis (gum disease)
3. % of children with dental treatment needs

WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO KNOW?

1. Identify preschool children at high risk of developing cavities
2. Screen and collect oral health information for adults (including seniors)

ORAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN YORK REGION



STORY BEHIND BASELINE

- Oral health is important for overall health and well-being
- Poor oral health can lead to pain, difficulty eating and sleeping, speech problems, poor overall health and higher risk of tooth decay in later years
- Dental problems in early childhood have been shown to impact general growth and cognitive development and lead to negative self-esteem, poor school behaviour and reduced employability
- The presence of gum disease has been linked to several health conditions, such as poor diabetic control, arthritis, heart disease and aspiration pneumonia
- Data shows (as seen in the charts above) that children's oral health remains static; there is a need to change this trend and to see improvement in the health of children
- Dental treatment is costly and difficult to access for many families, especially those with limited or no dental coverage
- The Dental Program works with over 600 dentists in our community who treat children under the CINOT or HSO programs (as part of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy)

OUR PARTNERS

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Dentists, Registered Dental Hygienists, Child and Family Health programs, Public Health programs, primary care providers, School Boards, Ontario Early Years Centres, Regional Welcome Centres, Children's Aid Society, Shelters, EMS, libraries and community centres

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?

- Increase collaboration with other York Region programs, integrating more oral health promotion into a variety of health and social service messaging, and to increase awareness/change perceptions about the importance of children's oral health
- Collect more data to better understand the greater York Region population and to use this data to guide our program priorities
- Determine and link at-risk preschool children with oral health treatment and programs
- Advocate to provide dental services for all adults without dental coverage, who are in financial hardship, as current local discretionary funding through social services (OW, ODSP) is limited