

ORAL HEALTH



Hamilton

Seniors (age 65+) in Hamilton^[1-4]

Hamilton's senior population is growing quickly, but many seniors do not have dental insurance coverage. Income status is a major determinant of oral health and seniors with lower income are more likely to have unmet dental care needs.

102,500

Number of seniors living in Hamilton

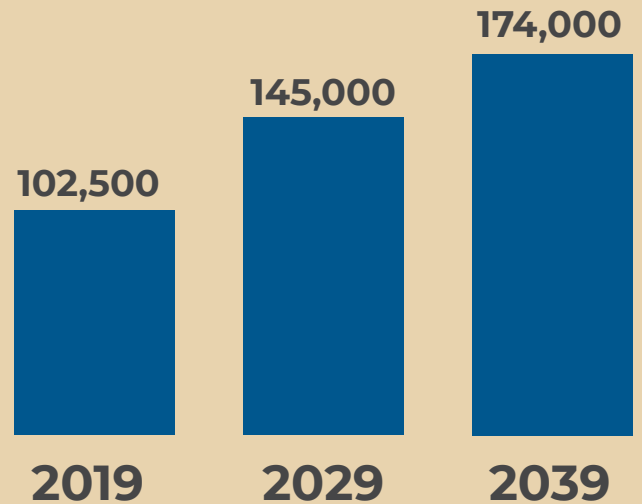
61,000

Estimated number of seniors with no dental insurance in Hamilton

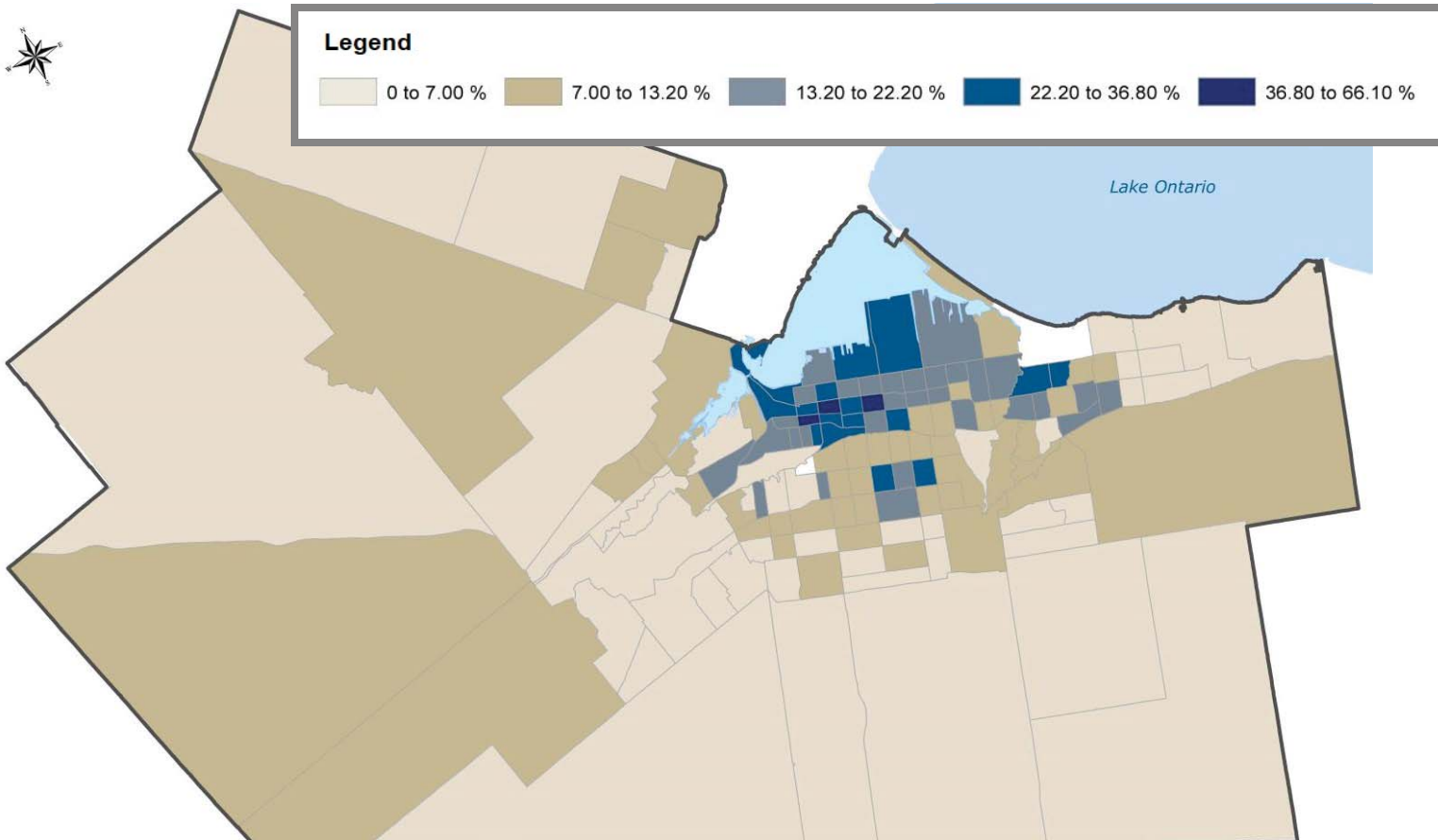
10,230

Estimated number of seniors eligible for low income dental coverage in Hamilton

Projected growth of senior population in the City of Hamilton (2019-2039)



Percentage (%) of seniors living in low income households, City of Hamilton (2016)



Oral Health Status of Hamilton Seniors^[4]

Poor oral health is linked to:

Psycho-social
well-being

Heart
disease



Respiratory
disease

Malnutrition



Oral health is vital to overall health and well-being. Hamilton seniors commonly report experiencing oral pain or discomfort. Many skip routine visits to the dentist due to perceptions regarding need (e.g., not needed if wearing dentures) and the out-of-pocket cost (lack of insurance).

In Hamilton...



74% of people with very good or excellent **oral health** say they have very good or excellent **mental health**

47%

Hamilton seniors wear partial or full dentures.

39%

Hamilton seniors experienced oral/facial pain or discomfort in the past year.

34%

Hamilton seniors with partial or full dental insurance coverage.

57%

Hamilton seniors who make routine dentist visits (at least annually).

In comparison, only...

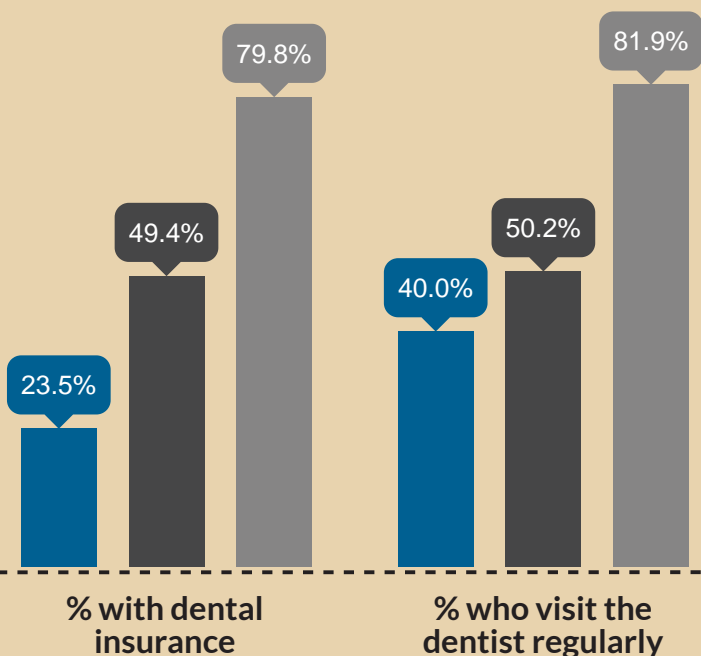


43% of people with fair or poor **oral health** say they have very good or excellent **mental health**

Access to Dental Care among Seniors in Hamilton^[4-5]

Who has the poorest access to dental care?

Low income seniors Low income Hamiltonians High income Hamiltonians



Seniors accessing the City of Hamilton's dental services

Year	Dental Clinic Appointments (Clients)	Dental Health Bus Appointments (Clients)
2015	538 (154)	274 (n/a)
2016	709 (250)	299 (n/a)
2017	648 (258)	287 (206)
2018	681 (246)	333 (244)



The Hamilton Community Foundation has invested more than \$150,000 over 3-years to supplement denture expenses for up to 325 low income seniors in Hamilton.

Emergency Dental Care among Seniors in Hamilton [6-7]

How many seniors are seeking dental care from local emergency departments?



Year Number of Emergency Department Visits

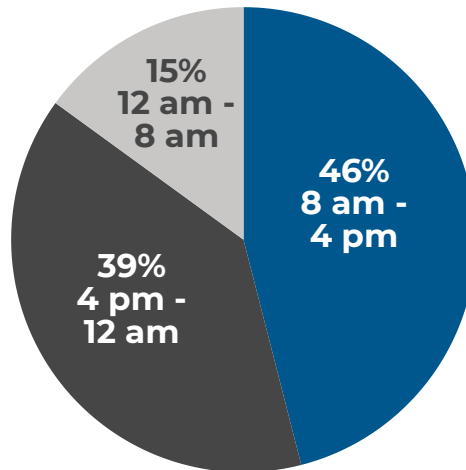
2004 57 visits

2017 152 visits

Hamilton seniors are increasingly seeking dental care from local hospital emergency departments. About 20% of this increase is explained by population growth, but most of the increase may be explained other factors.



When do people seek dental care from local emergency departments?



Mornings are the most common time when Hamilton seniors are seeking emergency dental care, with diminishing visits over the rest of the day. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday are the most popular days for dental-related emergency visits.

Which seniors are more likely to seek dental care from local emergency departments?

214 visits per 100,000 seniors

101 visits per 100,000 seniors

Seniors living in high income area

Seniors living in low income area

Seniors living in low income neighbourhoods in Hamilton are twice as likely to go to the emergency department for dental care. This is likely driven by very low rates of dental insurance coverage among low income seniors.

References

1. Ontario Ministry of Finance. Ontario Population Projections Update, 2017–2041. [June 25, 2018].
2. Statistics Canada. 2016 Census of Population.
3. Canadian Institute for Health Information. Ontario Drug Benefit Program. [June 10, 2019].
4. Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey, 2013-2014. Share File, Ontario MOHLTC.
5. City of Hamilton. Dental Program Administrative Data. [May 26, 2019].
6. Ambulatory Emergency External Cause 2004-2017, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHEALTH ONTARIO, Date Extracted: [May 13, 2019].
7. IDS: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS).

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