

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

PCCHU is...

1 Promoting and supporting policies for residents of Peterborough City to have access to optimally fluoridated community drinking water.

2 Working to improve access and expand dental services for underserved populations.

3 Developing health promotion activity to improve oral health behaviours and knowledge.



HIGHLIGHTS from “ORAL HEALTH in PETERBOROUGH 2013”

IMPORTANCE OF ORAL HEALTH

Oral diseases are mostly preventable. However, once conditions develop, they can have significant direct and indirect costs on individuals as well as on society.

Poor oral health may be associated with conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

Poor oral health affects quality of life – including:

- pain;
- difficulty eating;
- difficulty sleeping;
- speech;
- studying and employment;
- low self-esteem; and
- social interactions.



For a complete report on the status of oral health in Peterborough, please visit www.pcchu.ca (About Us | Plans & Reports)

OR Email us at dental@pcchu.ca

This document is also available in an accessible format on www.pcchu.ca or upon request by calling 705-743-1000.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PETERBOROUGH?

Three-quarters of people visited a dentist in the past 12 months – the most common reason for not visiting a dentist was cost. (CCHS 2009/10)



One-third are not covered by dental insurance – fewer people with low income had dental insurance compared to people with high income. (CCHS2009/10)

One in five visit a dentist only for emergency care. (CCHS 2009/10)

One in six had a tooth removed by a dentist in the past 12 months. (CCHS 2009/10)

Just over half of Peterborough County and City residents experience oral or facial pain. (CCHS 2009/10)

There is an average of over 1,000 emergency department visits for oral health issues in Peterborough per year. (ED visits, 2003-2012)

PUBLIC HEALTH ROLE IN ORAL HEALTH

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit (PCCHU) partners with local providers and stakeholders to advocate for better oral health.

PCCHU:

- conducts oral health screening for school children (over 4,000 students every year!)
- administers publicly funded programs such as Ontario Works, Dental Treatment Assistance Fund, and Health Smiles Ontario
- operates a downtown Community Dental Health Centre as well as a Mobile Dental Health Centre offering oral health care to over 1,250 people a year
- is committed to the continuation and expansion of community water fluoridation and monitors fluoride levels in drinking water

