

Oral Health Program Update

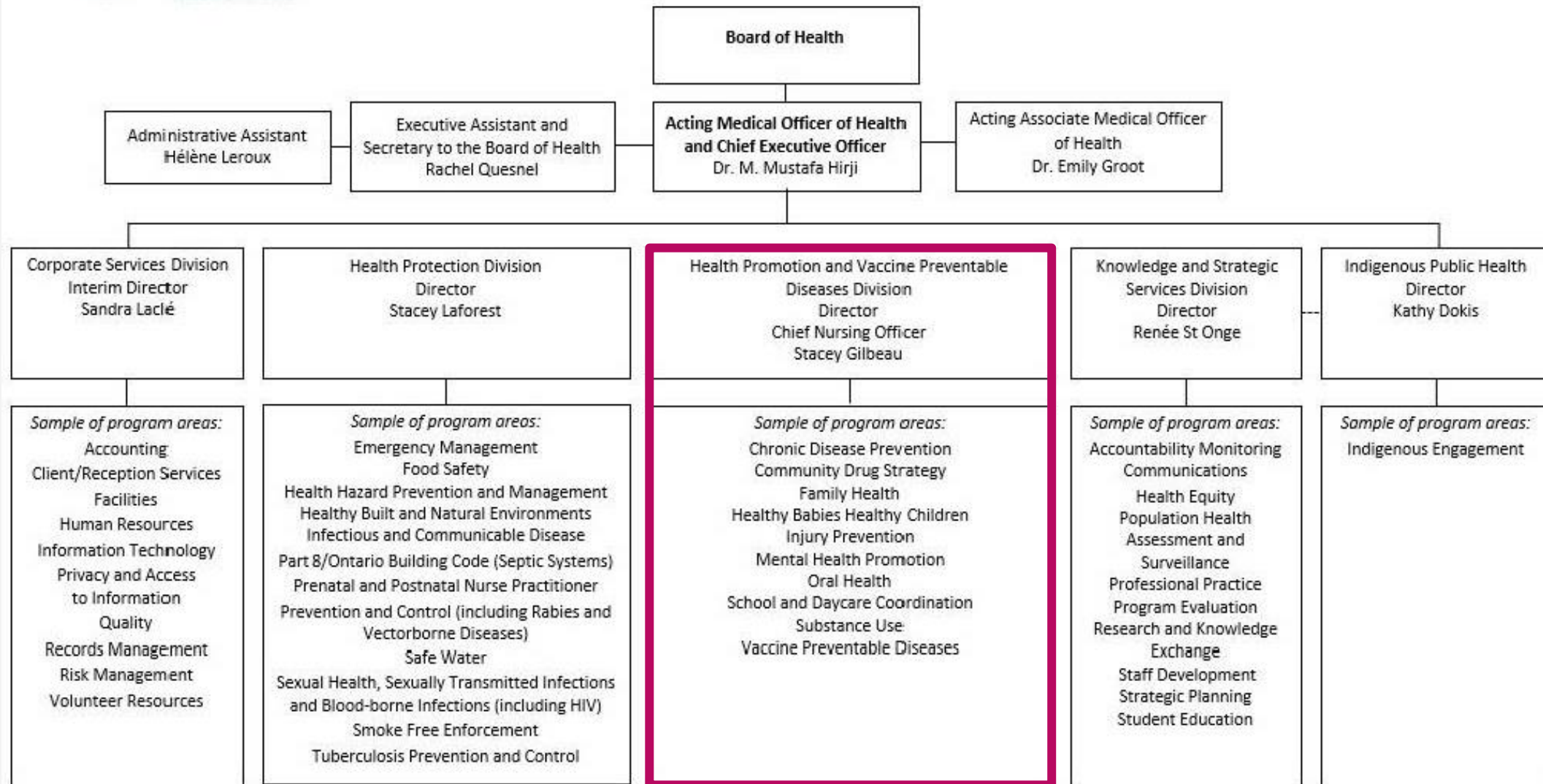
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Health Promotion and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Division

Thursday, April 17, 2025



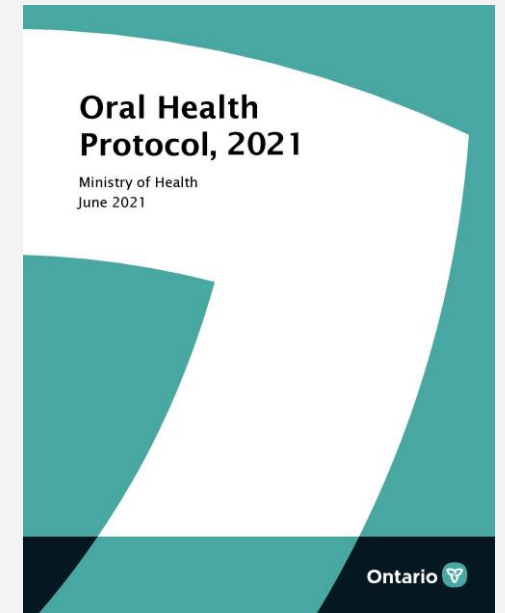
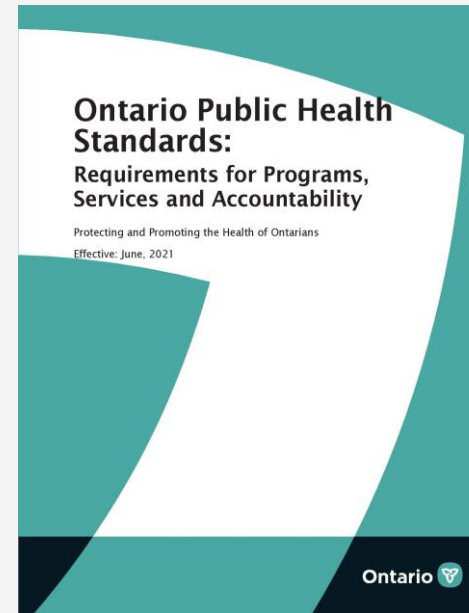
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R: January 6, 2025

Oral health programs

- School screening
- Healthy Smiles Ontario
- Fluoride monitoring
- Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program



Tooth decay

- The most common chronic disease of childhood
- Untreated tooth decay can
 - cause severe pain
 - affect concentration/school performance
 - disrupt eating and sleeping
 - affect permanent tooth structures
 - lead to life threatening infections
- Dental disease is the leading cause of day surgery under general anesthesia for children under 5 years of age
- Some children have increased risk due to inequities



Image source: iStock

Children's oral health promotion

- Tooth decay is preventable
- Protective factors:
 - regular dental visits beginning before age one
 - practicing good oral hygiene
 - limiting foods/drinks high in sugar
 - drinking optimally fluoridated water
- Our program goals:
 - Reduce oral health inequities
 - Enable all children and youth to achieve optimal oral health



Image sources: iStock

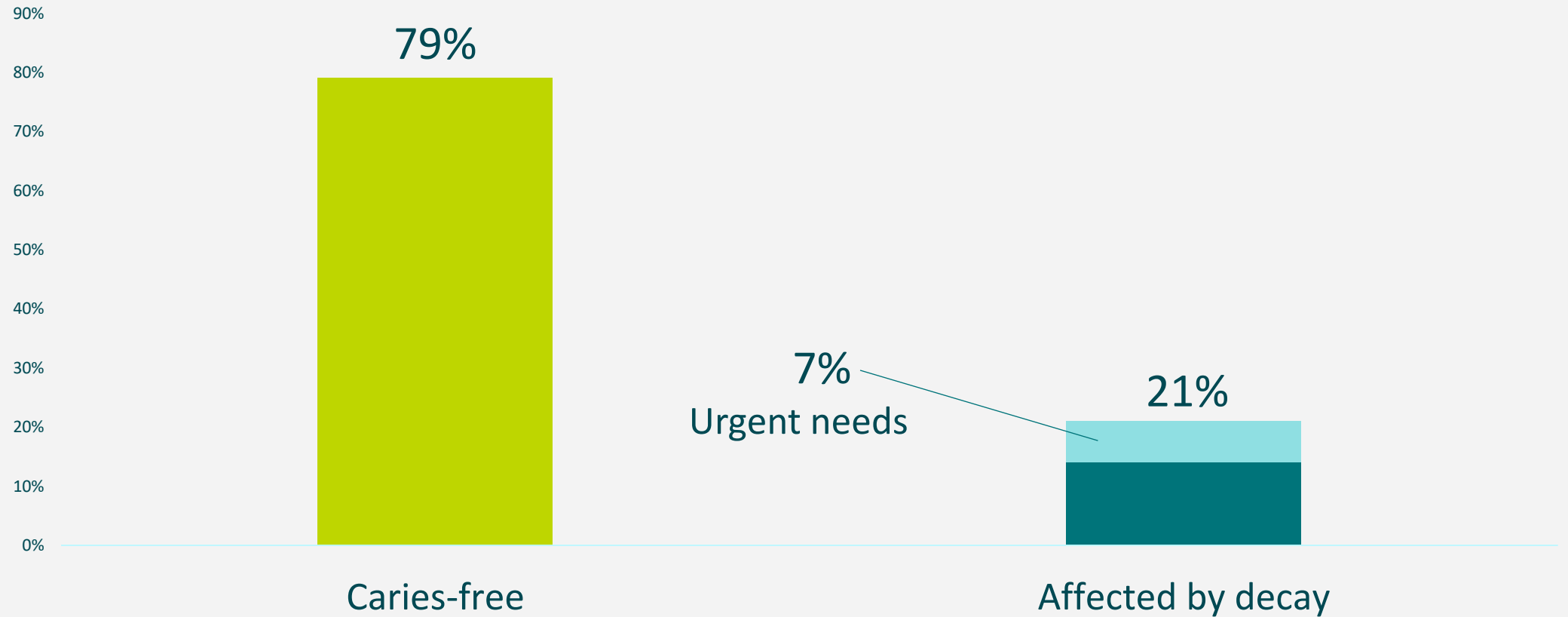
School screening

- Timely and effective detection and identification of children and youth at risk of poor oral health outcomes
- Program activities:
 - annual school screening
 - follow up
 - monitor progress of care
 - collect and report surveillance data



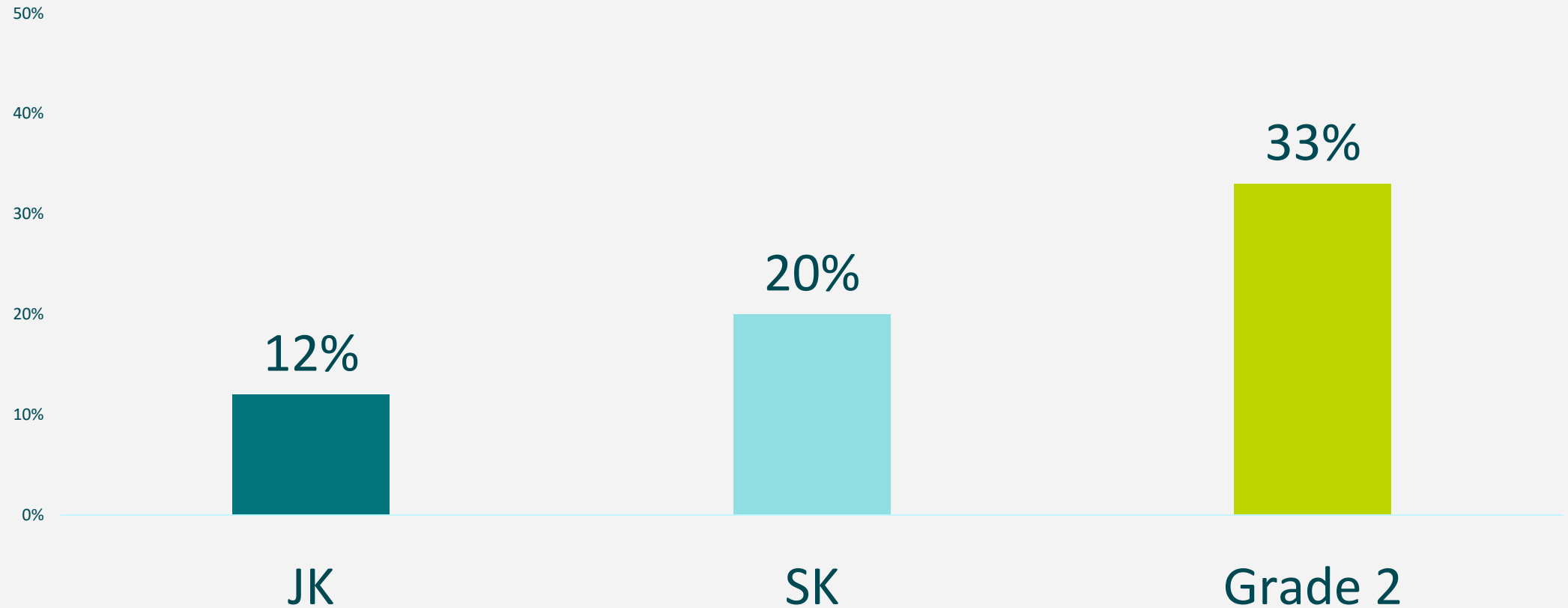
Image source: iStock

Student dental screening results, Sudbury and districts, 2023-2024



Source: Oral Health Information Support System (OHISS)

Percentage of children affected by tooth decay, by grade, Sudbury and districts, 2023-2024



Source: Oral Health Information Support System (OHISS)

Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program

- Reduces inequities by increasing access to oral health care
- Program activities:
 - preventive clinics
 - oral health education
 - navigation, enrollment, and case management
- Barriers exist for some HSO clients trying to access dental care



Image sources: HSO and iStock

Priorities for 2025: children and youth

- Increasing access to preventive services
- Increasing Indigenous engagement
- Exploring upstream approaches to promote oral health
- Preventing early childhood caries



Image source: iStock

Monitoring fluoride levels

- Community water fluoridation is a safe, effective, cost-efficient, and equitable way to prevent tooth decay in a population
- Program activities:
 - Review monthly drinking water quality reports
 - Inform the public when fluoride levels fall outside the therapeutic range for >90 days



Image source: iStock

Oral health for seniors

- Relationship between periodontal disease and pneumonias, stroke, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and malnutrition
- Seniors are less likely to visit the dentist despite having a higher level of need
- Seniors with inequitable access to dental care include those who
 - have lower income
 - are homebound or institutionalized
 - have dementia or other cognitive impairment
 - reside in rural areas



Image sources: iStock

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP)

- Reduces inequities by increasing access to dental care
- Program activities:
 - enrollment support and navigation
 - mixed-model service delivery
 - cleanings, fillings, extractions, root canal treatments, and so on

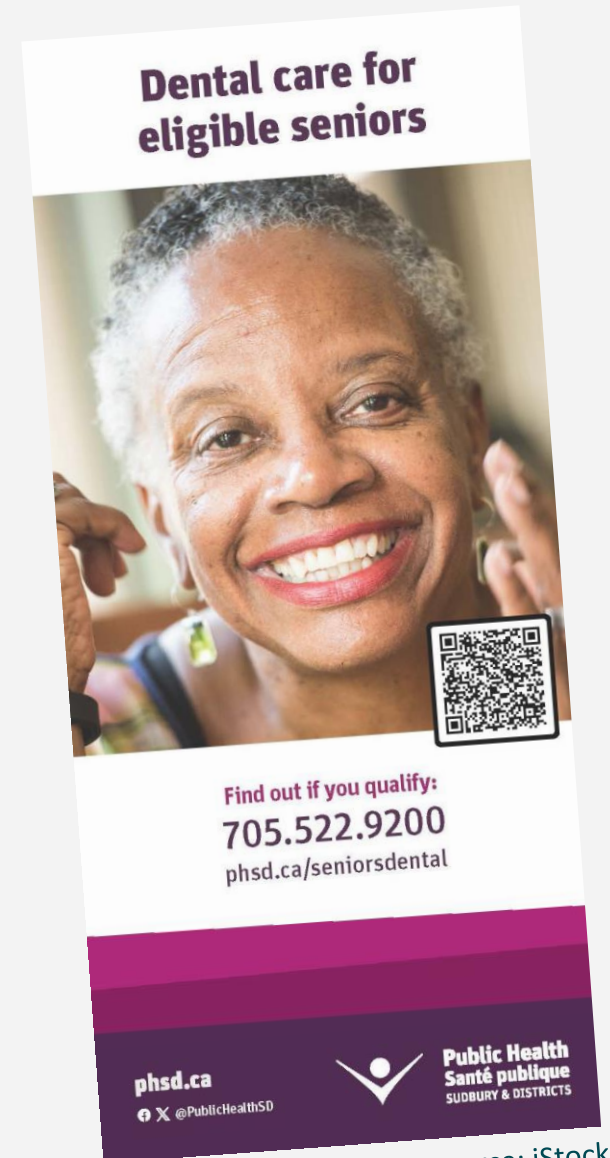
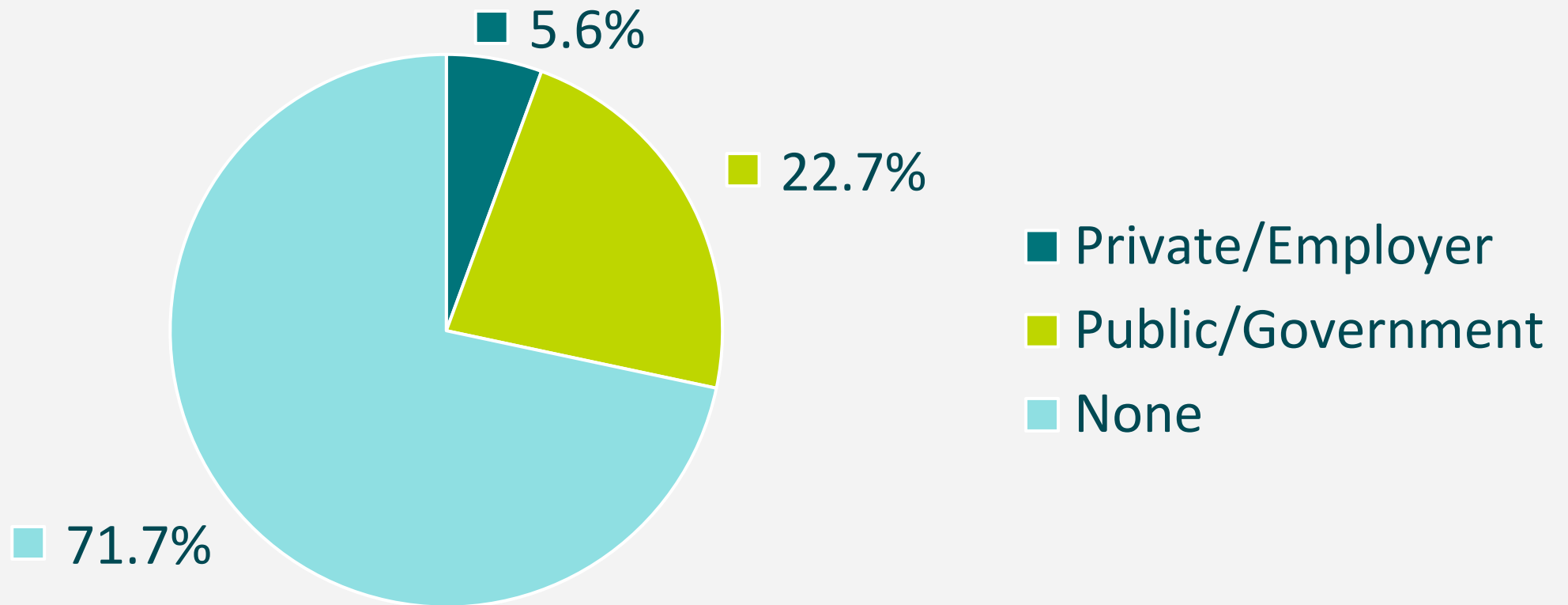
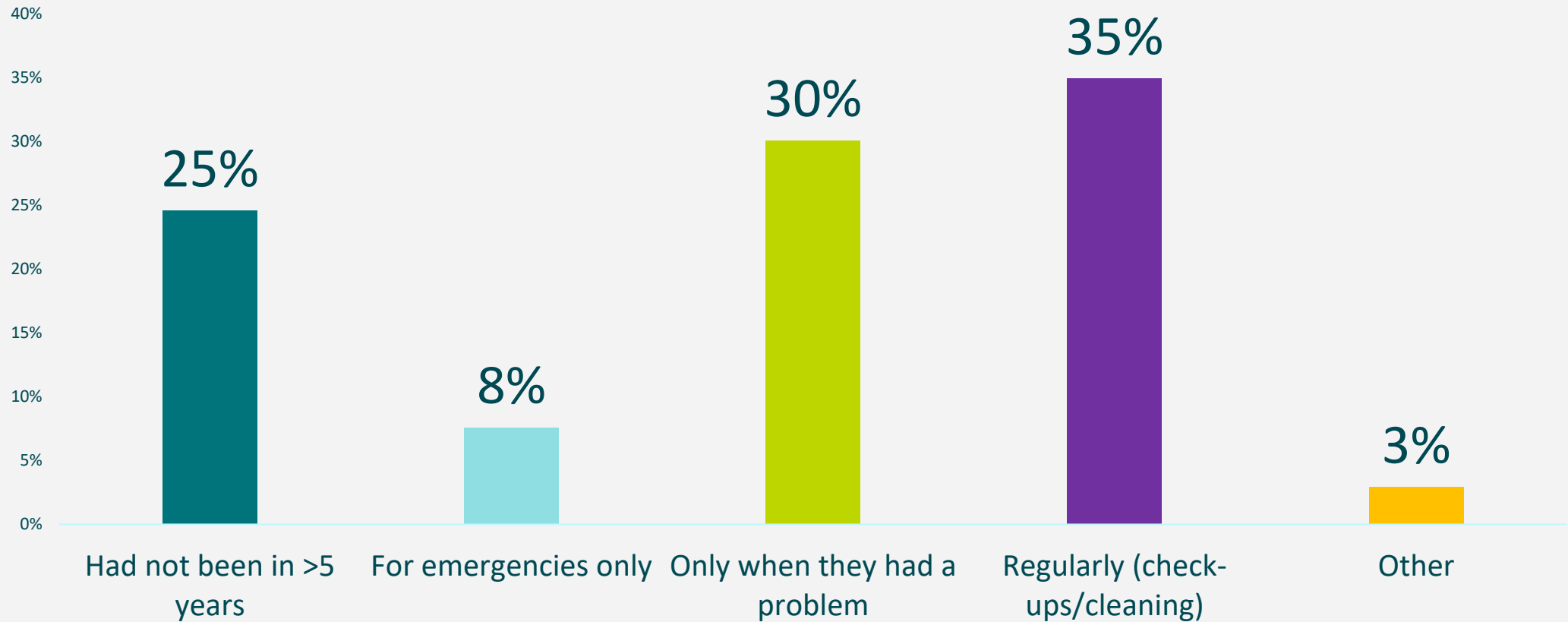


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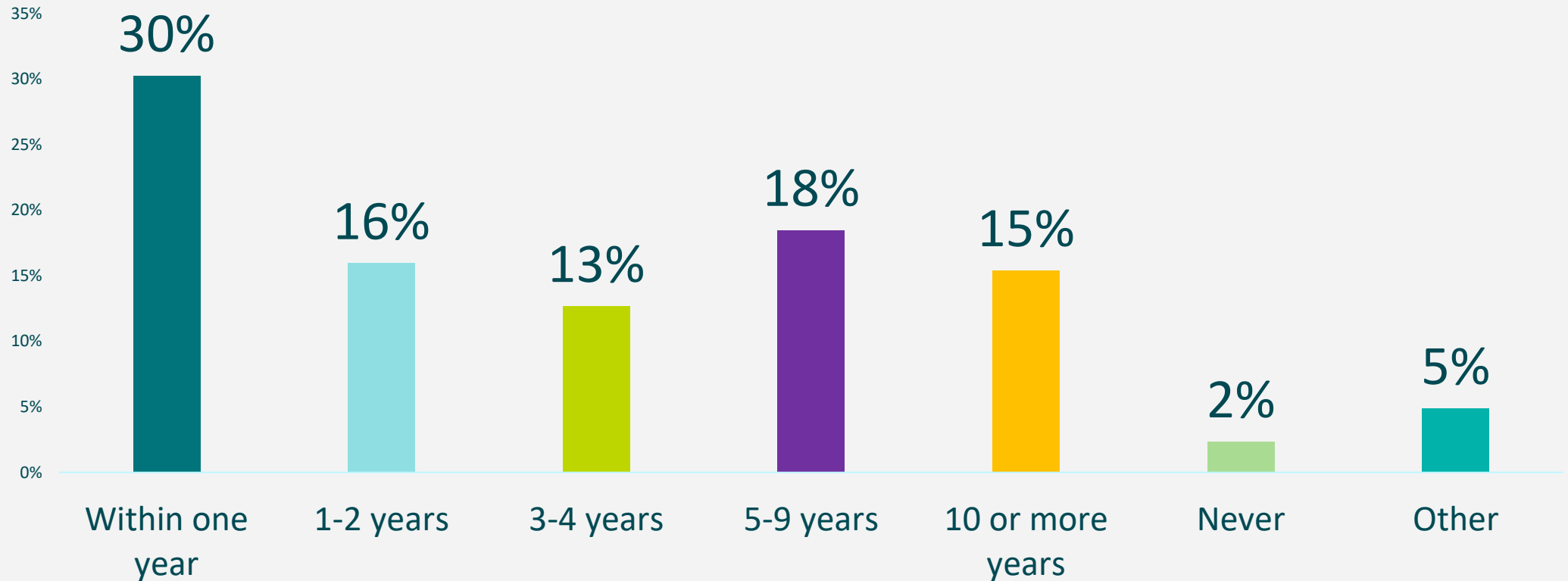
Access to dental insurance in the 5 years prior to enrolling in the OSDCP



Use of dental care in the five years prior to enrolling in the OSDCP



Last preventive visit prior to enrolling in the OSDCP



OSDCP utilization

- More than 1200 clients
 - 727 have accessed preventive services
 - 492 have accessed a dentist
 - 831 have had dental treatment

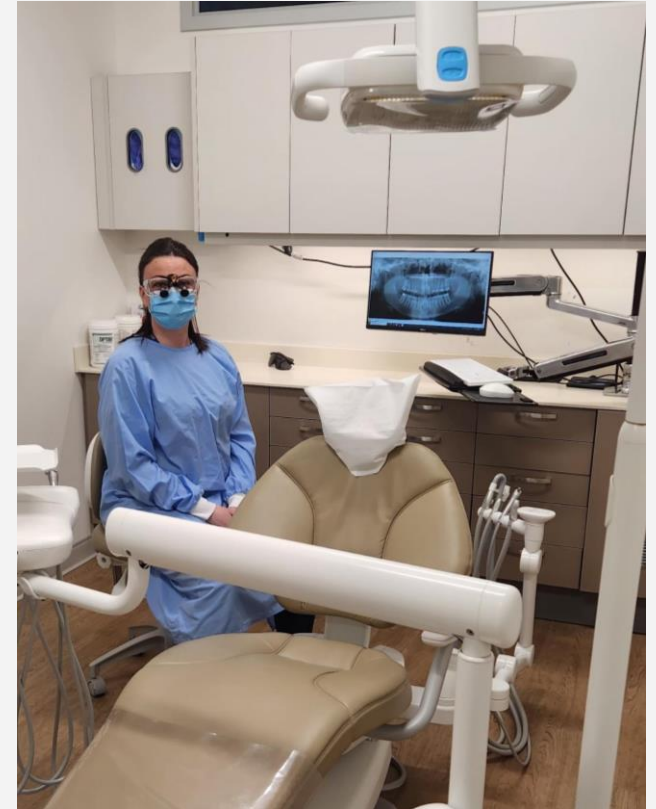


Image source: PHSD

Priorities for 2025: seniors

- Dental provider recruitment: expanding access in the districts
- Increased access for seniors in Long Term Care facilities or who are homebound
- Impact evaluation



Image source: iStock

Thank you. Merci. Miigwech.



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