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Phonetic spelling of your (full) name

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Abstract Title

Uptake of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) Among Children and Other Residents of Canada

Authors

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Background

Globally, approximately 3.5 billion people are affected by preventable oral diseases due to lack of access to oral healthcare.

Objective

This study aimed to evaluate the uptake and utilization of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) among eligible Canadian residents, including children (<18 years old).

Methods

Data on CDCP approved applications, utilization, and eligible population estimates were provided by Health Canada’s Oral Health Branch and Statistics Canada for Year 1 (December 2023 to June 30, 2025) and Year 2 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026). Statistical analyses included descriptive statistics and rates (per 1000 people). Corresponding 95% confidence intervals of approved applications and utilization were calculated for overall population and provinces/territories.

Results

CDCP eligibility was determined by the following criteria: absence of private dental insurance, family’s Adjusted Family Net Income under \$90,000, be a Canadian resident (for tax purposes), and must have filed tax returns in Canada for the past year. When comparing the applications approval rates in the <18

years old cohort, Year 1 had 488,970 applications approved, compared to Year 2 having 834,660 applications approved, representing an 70.7% increase. When comparing utilization rates, Year 1 had 217,730 recipients, while Year 2 had 396,950 recipients, representing a 82.3% increase. Regional variations show rate fluctuations across Canada. An excerpt of the results is presented in the table attached, highlighting the top provinces and territories in Canada for overall approved child applicants and utilization for children.

Conclusion

A substantial increase in approved child applications and utilization occurred between Years 1 and 2 among all age groups. This indicates that the access to dental care for children in Canada has improved and has potential to continue improving. However, stronger promotion may be needed among certain populations/regions to ensure the CDCP reaches all Canadians who face barriers accessing care.

Table/Figure File

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