



CANADIAN
DENTAL
ASSOCIATION


CDA 2024
Days on the Hill



De-insurance

- Canada lacks a plan to address the risk of employers dropping dental coverage for employees who qualify for the CDCP.
- This would shift the burden of coverage from employers to the federal government.
- A 10% increase in eligible patients would result in an additional CDCP program cost of \$384,769,000 in 2025.
- 43% of employers say the new program will encourage them to reduce the dental coverage provided to employees.

Recommendation:
That the federal government take steps to mitigate the risk of employers dropping their insurance plans for employees:

- Establishing tax credits, especially for smaller employers.
 - Changing eligibility requirements so that individuals are not eligible for CDCP if their employer provides coverage for any employee, including those with high salaries.
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Dental Workforce Challenges

- In the decade prior to COVID-19, the ratio of dental assistants to dentists had fallen roughly by half.
- By 2019, one-third of dental offices had vacant dental assistant positions.
- The situation has deteriorated in recent years and will likely become even more serious with the full implementation of the CDCP in 2025.
- As of September 2024, over 750,000 patients have received care under CDCP. This represents 8% of the total population expected to become eligible in 2025.
- Ensuring that the oral health workforce has the capacity to respond to the increase in patient demand due to the CDCP is critical.

Recommendation:
That the federal government support the oral health care sector in addressing critical workforce challenges.



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Childrens' Oral Health

- Canadians have high rates of dental visits, but children continue to have high rates of oral disease.
- Oral disease is even higher when looking at children from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and Indigenous children.
- Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease for children and is 5x more common than asthma among children age 5 to 17.
- Poor nutrition and unhealthy eating habits can affect the development and integrity of the mouth and the progression of oral diseases for children.
- In 2015, the average daily total sugar intake from food and beverages among all children age 2 to 8 was 101 grams, more than double the recommended sugar intake per day.
- Food and drink marketing is seen as a major contributor to diet-related disease among children.

Recommendation:

That the federal government prioritizes and advances Canada's Healthy Eating Strategy, including fully implementing restrictions on unhealthy food advertising to children.

Tooth Truths: Fascinating Facts About Your Smile



Tooth enamel is the hardest substance in the human body: It's even harder than bone, but unlike bone, enamel cannot regenerate once it's damaged.



Teeth are unique: Like fingerprints, no two people have the same teeth pattern, which is why dental records can be used to identify individuals.



Tooth decay is one of the most common childhood diseases: Despite being highly preventable, tooth decay (cavities) is 5x more common than asthma in children.



Brushing before breakfast is better for your teeth: Brushing before eating helps protect your teeth from acids in food, while brushing right after eating can weaken enamel.



People who drink 3 or more sugary sodas daily have 62% more tooth decay: The high sugar content in sodas contributes to a higher risk of cavities and tooth loss.



Who We Are

About Us

Founded in 1902, the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) is a federally incorporated not-for-profit organization whose corporate members are Canada's provincial and territorial dental associations (PTDAs). CDA represents over 21,000 practising dentists nationwide and is a trusted brand and source of information for and about the dental profession on national and international issues.

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