

DENTAL CARE BEHAVIOURS OF ADULTS IN NBPSDHU

Data sources:

Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2009/10, 2013/14, Statistics Canada, Share File, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Confidence intervals (CI) and variances were estimated using the bootstrapping method in STATA IC/13.1 (2013) for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU), Sparsely Populated Urban-Rural Mix Peer Group (excluding NBPSDHU), and Ontario.

Symbols:

* - A significant difference exists between the regional and provincial estimate.

† - A significant difference exists compared to comparison group

E- Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability.

Interpretation of a significant difference:

A statistic interpreted as 'significantly different' from another is an estimate found to be statistically meaningful; the difference is unlikely due to chance. Error bars noted in figures within this report illustrate 95% confidence intervals. If there is no overlap in range, the difference can be described as statistically significant.

Definitions:

Adjusted household income:

Adjusted household income reflects the fact that a household's needs increase as the number of members increase. It is calculated by dividing household income by the square root of the household size.

Income groups:

Income groups were determined by dividing adjusted household income into three equal groups, representing the lowest, middle, and highest income. Low income was used as the referent.

Frequency of Teeth Brushing

More than three-quarters of the population aged 18 years and older reported brushing their teeth at least twice a day in the NBPSDHU region, the Sparsely Populated Urban-Rural Peer Group, and Ontario (Table 1). A significantly lower percentage of the peer group population reported brushing their teeth at least twice a day, as compared to Ontario; NBPSDHU and Ontario did not differ significantly.

Table 1. Percentage (95% CI) of adults by reported frequency of teeth brushing and region.

Frequency	NBPSDHU	Peer Group	Ontario
≥ 2 times/day	78.7 (74.7-82.1)	75.1* (73.5-76.6)	82.0 (81.5-82.5)
< 2 times/day	19.5 (16.3-23.1)	23.6* (22.1-25.2)	17.3 (16.8-17.7)

Reported frequency of teeth brushing by adults aged 18 years and older varied by education and income (Table 2, Table 3; Figure 1). A higher percentage of those who had not completed postsecondary education in all regions reported brushing less than twice a day, compared to those who did complete postsecondary education (Table 2; Figure 1).

A significantly higher percentage of the population in the peer group and Ontario with low household income reported brushing less than twice a day, compared to those in the middle and high income groups (Table 3; Figure 1).

Table 2. Percentage (95% CI) of adults that reported brushing their teeth less than twice a day by education and region

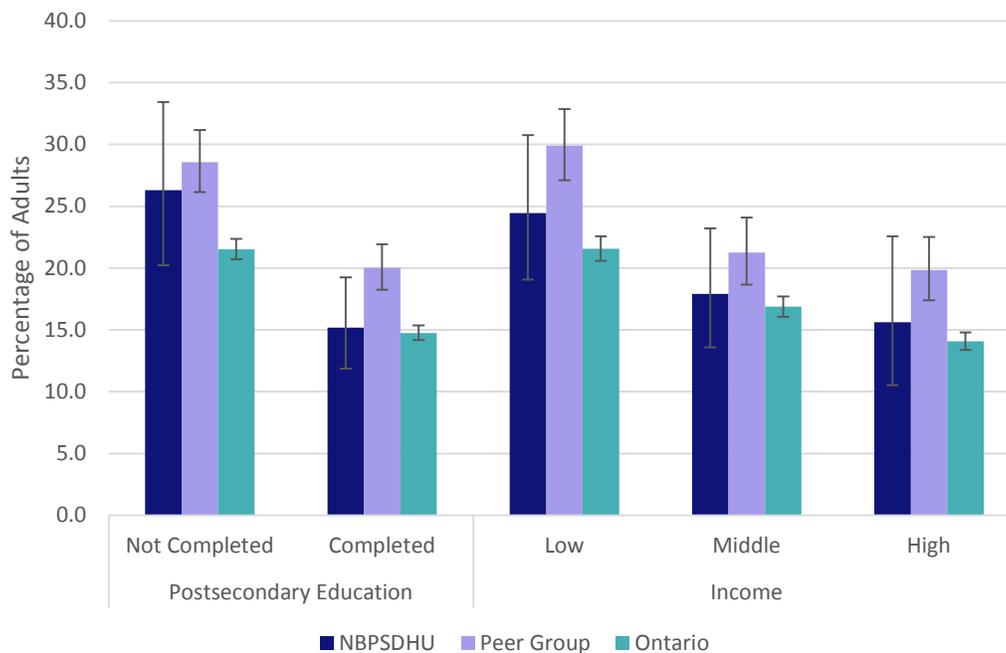
Education	NBPSDHU	Peer Group	Ontario
Did not complete postsecondary	26.3 (20.2-33.4)	28.6* (26.1-31.2)	21.5 (20.7-22.4)
Completed postsecondary	15.2 [†] (11.9-19.2)	20.0* [†] (18.3-21.9)	14.8 [†] (14.2-15.4)

DENTAL CARE BEHAVIOURS OF ADULTS IN NBPSDHU

Table 3. Percentage (95% CI) of adults that reported brushing their teeth less than twice a day by income and region

Income Group	NBPSDHU	Peer Group	Ontario
Low	24.5 (19.1-30.8)	29.9* (27.1-32.9)	21.6 (20.6-22.6)
Middle	17.9 (13.6-23.2)	21.3* [†] (18.7-24.1)	16.9 [†] (16.1-17.7)
High	15.6 ^E (10.5-22.6)	19.8* [†] (17.4-22.5)	14.1 [†] (13.4-14.8)

Figure 1. Percentage (95% CI) of adults that reported brushing their teeth less than twice a day by education, income, and region



Dental Insurance

Over one-third of adults aged 18 years and older in the NBPSDHU region reported not having any dental insurance, which was similar to adults in the sparsely populated urban-rural mix peer group and Ontario (Table 4; Figure 2). A significantly higher percentage of adults in the NBPSDHU region and Ontario who have not completed postsecondary school reported not having dental insurance (Table 4; Figure 2). Adults in the lowest household income group reported not having any dental insurance more than the middle and high income groups in all regions (Table 4; Figure 2). Of those adults who have dental insurance, the majority have an employer-sponsored plan, followed by a government-sponsored plan (Table 5).

DENTAL CARE BEHAVIOURS OF ADULTS IN NBPSDHU

Table 4. Percentage (95% CI) of adults not having any dental insurance, by education, income group, and region

Education and Income Group	NBPSDHU	Peer Group	Ontario
Did not complete postsecondary	45.3 (39.3-51.5)	39.3 (37.0-41.7)	40.2 (39.1-41.3)
Completed postsecondary	32.8 [†] (28.1-38.0)	27.3 (25.3-39.4)	29.2 [†] (28.4-30.0)
Low income group	52.6 (44.8-60.7)	46.1* (43.5-48.7)	50.2 (49.0-51.4)
Middle income group	28.2 [†] (23.5-33.5)	25.0 [†] (22.5-27.8)	25.2 [†] (24.1-26.2)
High income group	30.8 [†] (24.3-38.2)	25.6 [†] (23.2-28.2)	27.0 [†] (26.1-27.9)
Total	37.9 (34.0-41.9)	32.5 (30.9-34.2)	33.7 (33.0-34.3)

Figure 2. Percentage (95% CI) of adults not having any dental insurance, by education, income group, and region

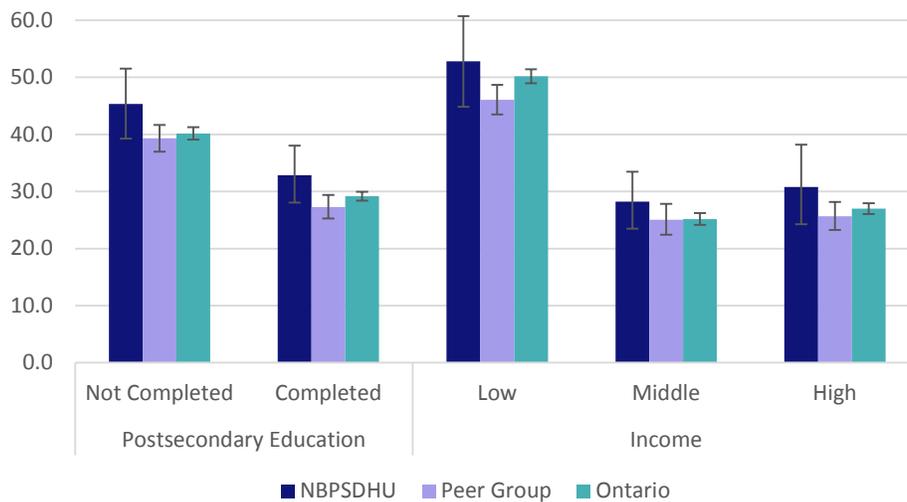


Table 5. Percentage (95% CI) of adults with dental insurance by type of dental insurance plan and region

Type of Plan	NBPSDHU	Peer Group	Ontario
Employer-sponsored	74.6* (69.5-79.0)	80.9 (79.2-82.4)	82.9 (82.3-83.5)
Government-sponsored	17.0* (13.2-21.5)	11.7* (10.4-13.0)	8.7 (8.2-9.1)
Private	5.1 (3.5-7.2)	5.8 (5.0-6.7)	7.1 (6.7-7.6)

DENTAL CARE BEHAVIOURS OF ADULTS IN NBPSDHU

Dental Consults

Approximately two-thirds of adults aged 18 years and older reported that they consulted a dentist or orthodontist in the previous year (Table 6). Significantly fewer adults in the NBPSDHU region and the peer group reported a dental consult in the past year, as compared to Ontario. A significantly higher percentage of adults with insurance reported a consult, as compared to those without insurance in all regions.

Table 6. Percentage (95% CI) of adults that reported consulting a dentist or orthodontist in the past 12 months, by insurance status and region

Insurance Status	NBPSDHU	Peer Group	Ontario
Has insurance	74.7* (69.7-79.2)	77.7* (76.0-79.4)	82.1 (81.5-82.7)
Does not have insurance	45.1 [†] (39.2-51.1)	47.6 [†] (45.1-50.0)	51.1 [†] (49.8-52.3)
Total	62.8* (59.0-66.5)	66.4* (64.9-68.0)	70.5 (69.9-71.2)

Usual Frequency of Visiting the Dentist

Approximately two-thirds of adults aged 18 years and older reported that they usually visit the dentist once a year or more often for check-ups (Table 7). Significantly more adults in the NBPSDHU region and the peer group reported visiting a dentist for emergency care only, compared to Ontario.

Table 7. Percentage (95% CI) of adults by reported usual frequency of visiting the dentist, by region

Usual Frequency	NBPSDHU	Peer Group	Ontario
More than once a year for check-ups	34.0* (30.5-37.7)	34.6* (32.7-36.5)	42.1 (41.5-42.8)
Once a year for check-ups	28.7 (25.4-32.2)	32.0* (30.2-33.7)	29.2 (28.6-29.8)
Less than once a year for check-ups	6.6 (4.9-8.7)	6.7 (5.9-7.6)	6.2 (5.9-6.5)
Emergency care only	26.8* (23.1-30.8)	23.6* (22.1-25.2)	19.8 (19.3-20.4)

Almost half (45.9%) of adults in the NBPSDHU region without insurance reported visiting the dentist for emergency care only, compared to 16.3% of NBPSDHU adults with insurance (Table 8). Similarly, in the peer group and Ontario, significantly more adults without insurance reported visiting the dentist for emergency care only compared to those with insurance.

Table 8. Percentage (95% CI) of adults that reported they only visit the dentist for emergency care, by insurance status and region

Insurance Status	NBPSDHU	Peer Group	Ontario
Has insurance	16.3* (12.7-20.7)	13.5* (12.1-15.1)	10.7 (10.2-11.2)
Does not have insurance	45.9* [†] (40.7-51.2)	45.6* [†] (42.8-48.4)	38.8 [†] (37.7-40.0)

DENTAL CARE BEHAVIOURS OF ADULTS IN NBPSDHU

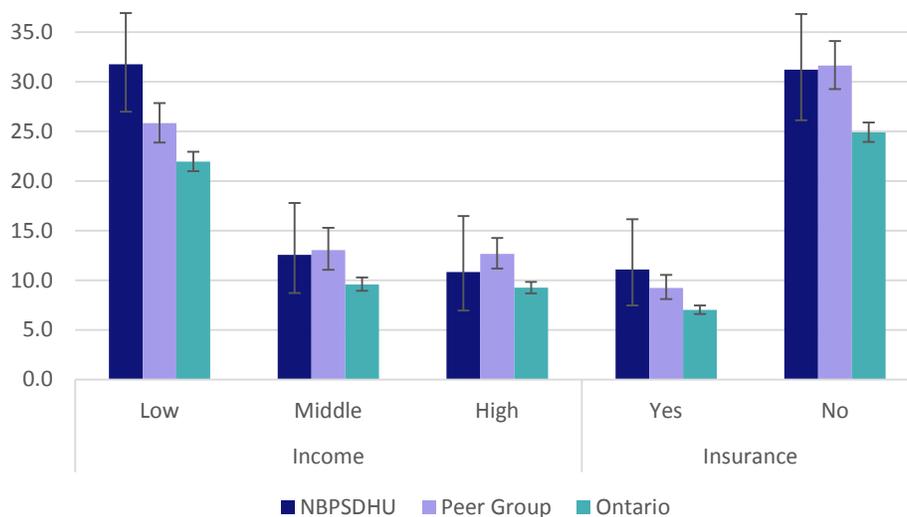
Last Visit to Dentist

A significantly higher percentage of adults 18 years and older in the low household income group reported last visiting the dentist three or more years ago as compared to those in the middle and high income groups in all regions (Table 9). Similarly, more adults without dental insurance reported the last visit as being three or more years ago, as compared to those with dental insurance.

Table 9. Percentage (95% CI) of adults who reported last visiting the dentist three or more years ago, by income, insurance status, and region

Income and Insurance Status	NBPSDHU	Peer Group	Ontario
Low income group	31.8* (27.0-36.9)	25.8* (23.9-27.9)	22.0 (21.0-23.0)
Middle income group	12.6 ^{E†} (8.7-17.8)	13.0* [†] (11.1-15.3)	9.6 [†] (8.9-10.3)
High income group	10.8 ^{E†} (7.0-16.5)	12.7* [†] (11.2-14.3)	9.3 [†] (8.7-9.9)
Has insurance	11.1 ^E (7.5-16.2)	9.2 (8.1-10.5)	7.0 (6.6-7.5)
Does not have insurance	31.2* [†] (26.1-36.8)	31.6* [†] (29.3-34.1)	24.9 [†] (24.0-25.9)
Total	19.0* (16.2-22.2)	17.3* (16.2-18.6)	13.3 (12.9-13.8)

Figure 3. Percentage (95% CI) of adults who reported last visiting the dentist three or more years ago, by income, insurance status, and region



DENTAL CARE BEHAVIOURS OF ADULTS IN NBPSDHU

Reasons for Not Visiting Dentist in Past Three Years

The most commonly reported reasons for not visiting the dentist in the past three years by adults aged 18 years and older in all regions were, wearing dentures, cost, and not thinking it was necessary (Table 10). Cost was reported as the reason for not visiting the dentist by approximately one in three adults in the NBPSDHU region.

Table 10. Percentage (95% CI) of adults who reported last visiting the dentist three or more years ago, by reason for not visiting in the past three years and region

Reason	NBPSDHU	Peer Group	Ontario
Not gotten around to it	4.6 ^E (2.5-8.4)	8.5 (6.5-11.2)	9.5 (8.6-10.5)
Respondent didn't think necessary	25.8 (19.5-33.2)	23.7* (20.9-26.8)	32.7 (30.9-34.4)
Cost	28.2 ^E (19.8-38.4)	19.6* (16.9-22.6)	30.6 (28.9-32.3)
Wears dentures	41.9* (33.8-50.3)	40.5* (36.9-44.1)	21.2 (20.1-22.4)
Other	4.8 ^E (2.6-8.9)	6.2 ^E (4.1-9.2)	5.8 (5.1-6.6)