

Facts on Dental insurance in Durham Region

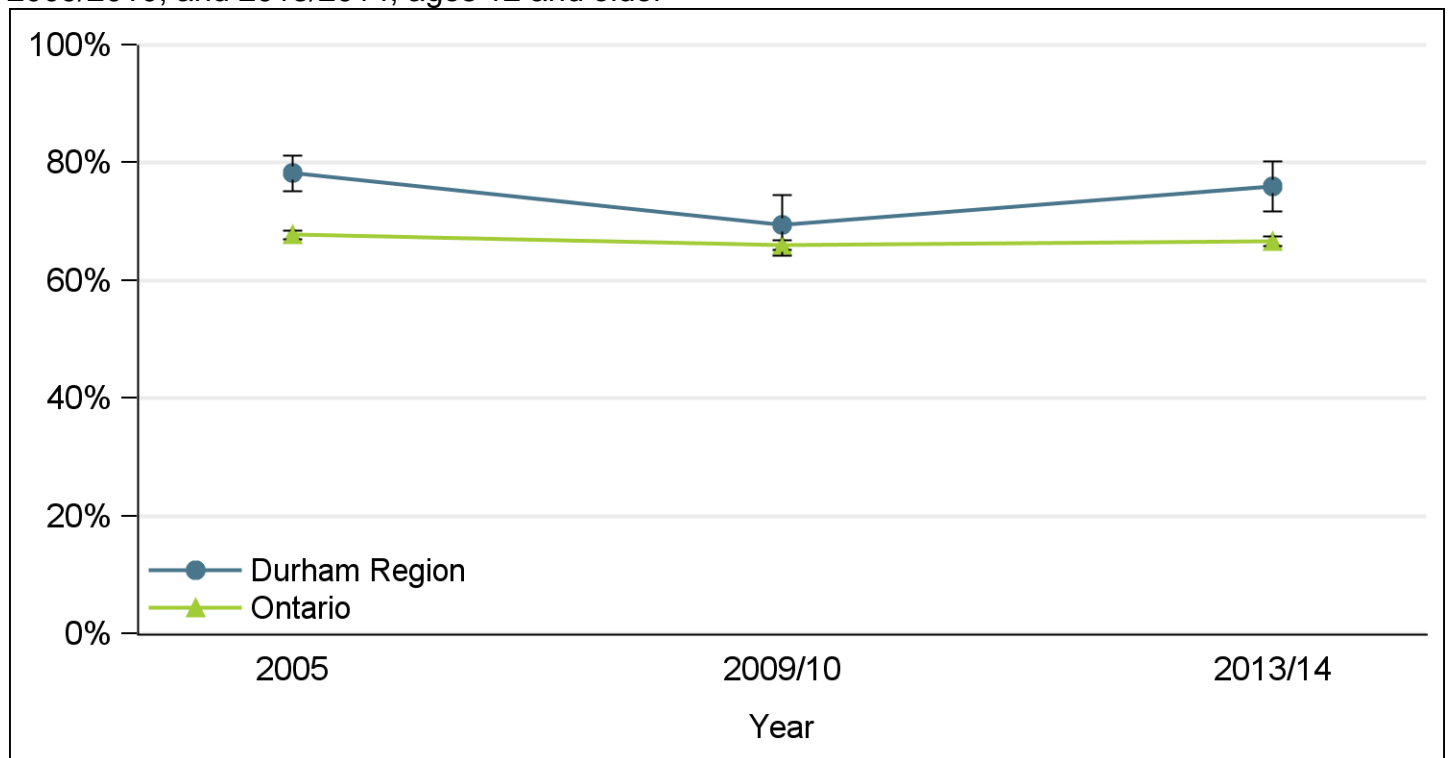
September 2017

Highlights

- In 2013/2014, three out of four Durham Region residents 12 and older said they had dental insurance. Rates for both Durham Region and Ontario stayed the same since 2005.
- Among the 36 Ontario public health units, the proportion who said they had dental insurance ranged from 53 per cent to 76 per cent.
- Those least likely to have dental insurance were older than 65; had less than secondary school education; and were in the lowest income group.

Trend over time

Figure 1. Proportion who said they had dental insurance, Durham Region and Ontario, 2005, 2009/2010, and 2013/2014, ages 12 and older

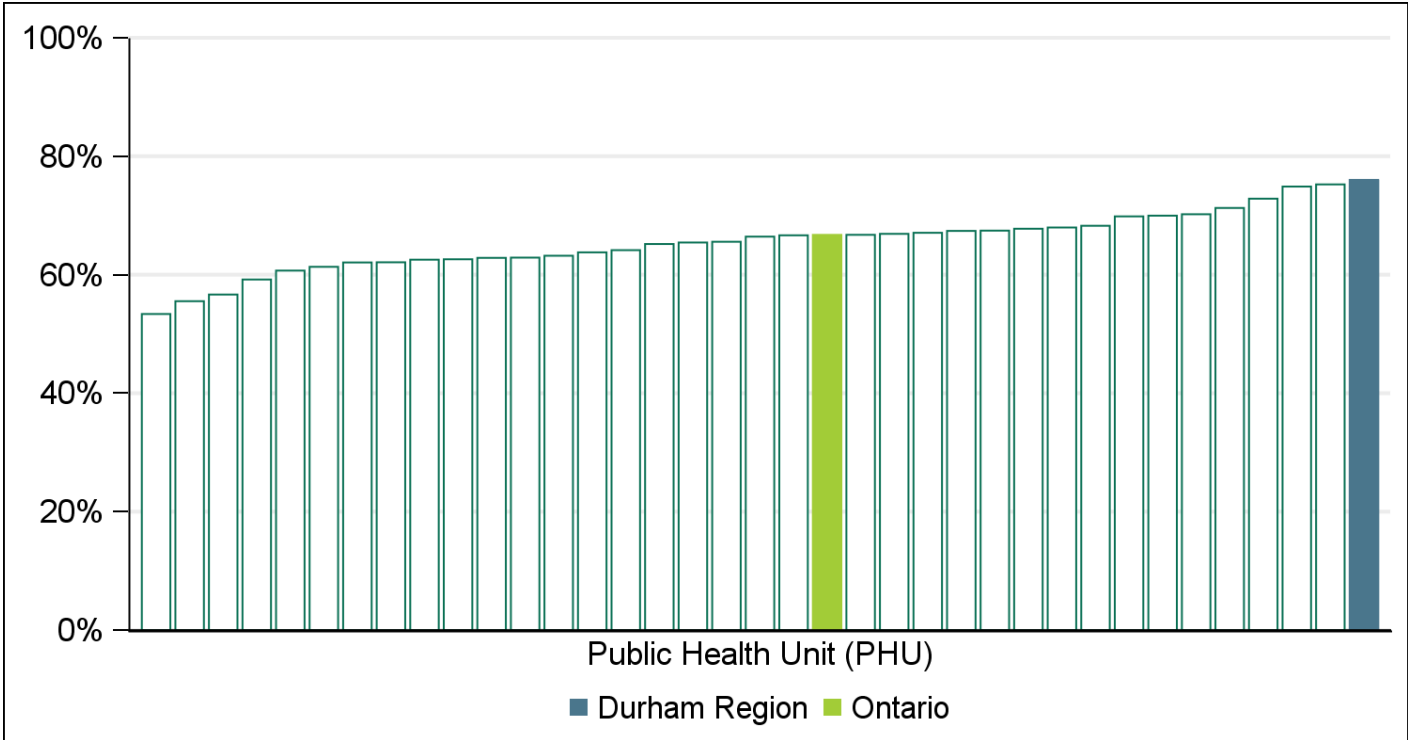


Place of residence	2005	2009/2010	2013/2014
Durham	78%	69%	76%
95 per cent CI (Durham)	75-81%	64-75%	72-80%
Ontario	68%	66%	67%
95 per cent CI (Ontario)	67-68%	65-67%	66-68%

In 2013/2014, over 75 per cent of Durham Region residents aged 12 and older said they had dental insurance. This rate is higher than the rate for Ontario of 67 per cent. Figure 1 shows that rates for both Durham Region and Ontario stayed the same since 2005.

Provincial comparison

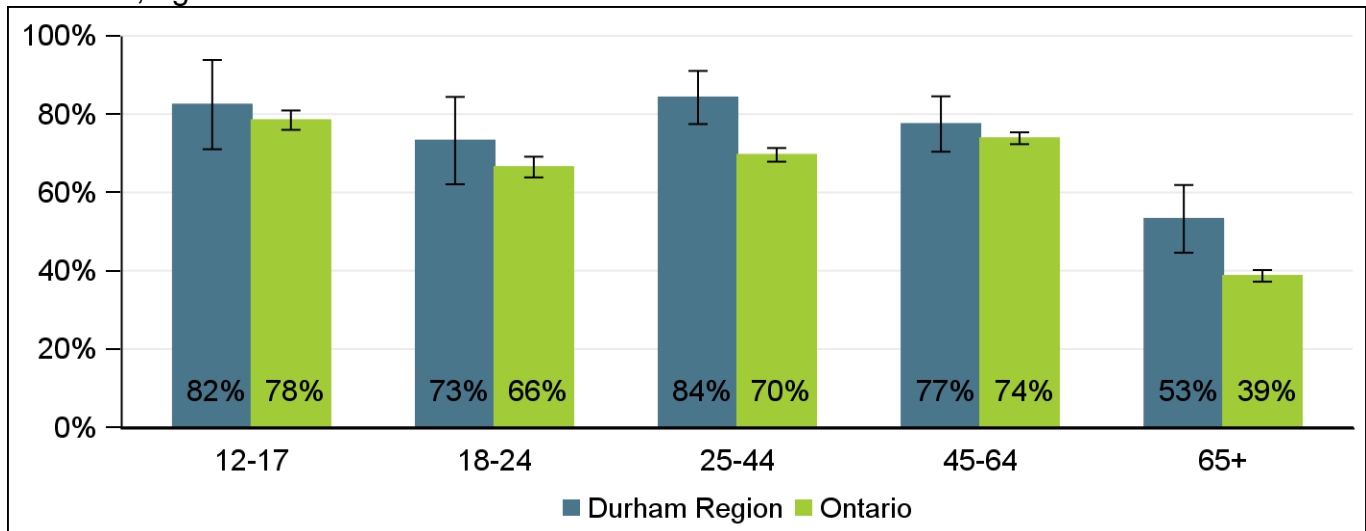
Figure 2. Proportion who said they had dental insurance, by public health unit, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older



For 2013/2014, the proportion of respondents who said they had dental insurance ranged by public health unit from 53 per cent to 76 per cent. Durham Region had the highest proportion of respondents with dental insurance in the province (see Figure 2 above).

Dental insurance and the determinants of health

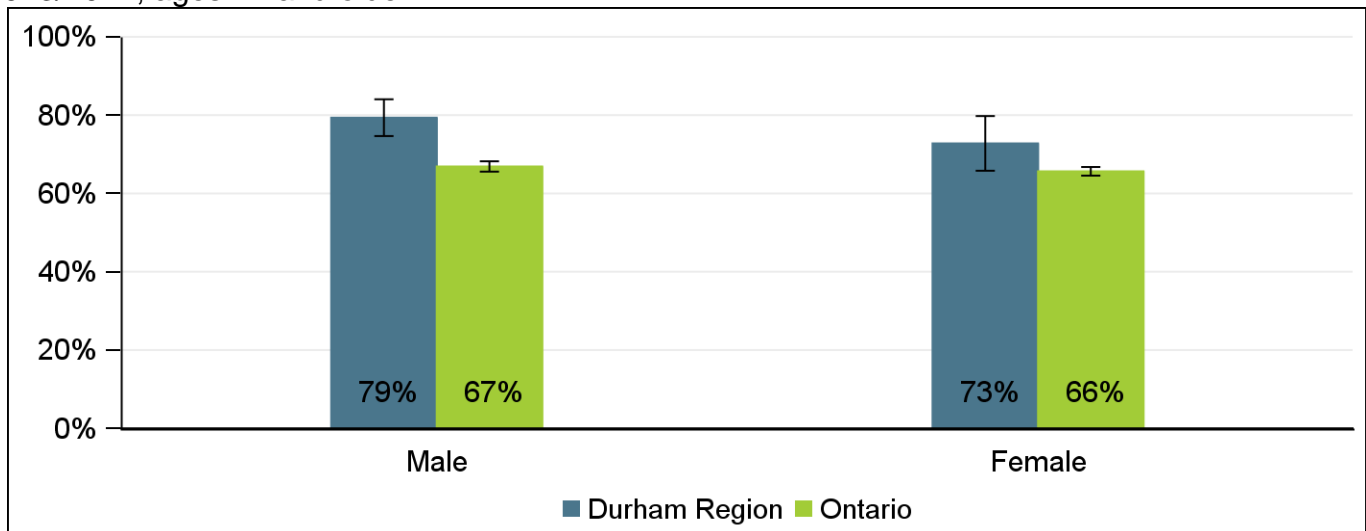
Figure 3. Proportion who said they had dental insurance by age, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older



Association between age groups and having dental insurance was significant for both Durham Region and Ontario.

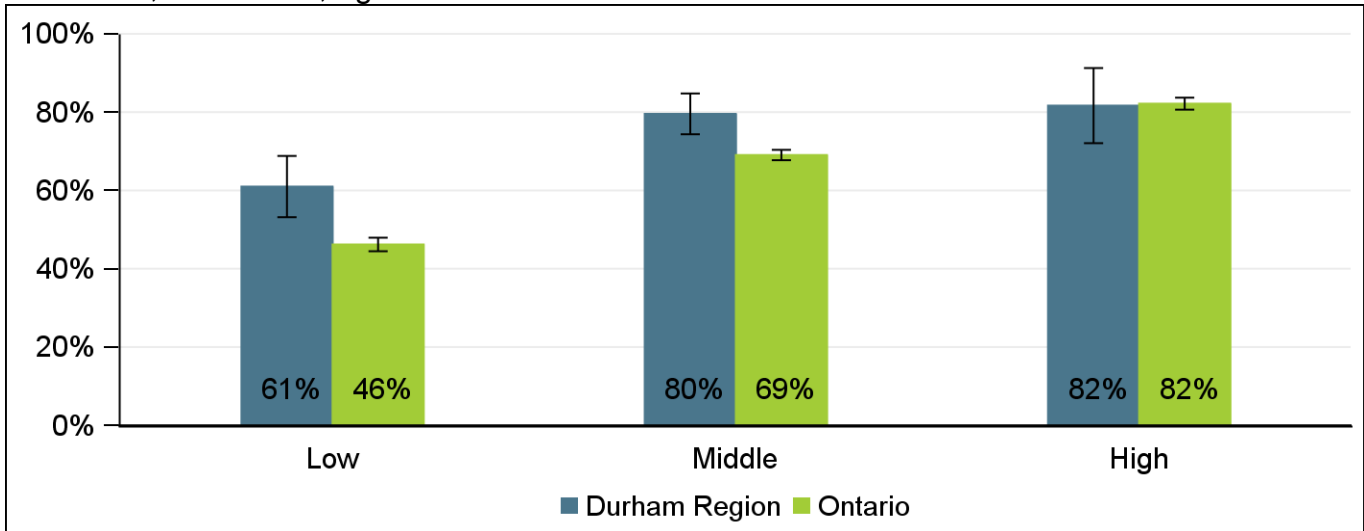
Figure 3 shows what seniors 65 and older were the least likely to have dental insurance, both in Durham Region and Ontario. Slightly more than half of seniors in Durham Region said they had dental insurance, while only two out of five seniors in the province had dental insurance.

Figure 4. Proportion said they had dental insurance by sex, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older



No relationship between was found between sex and having dental insurance for both Durham Region and Ontario (see Figure 4 above).

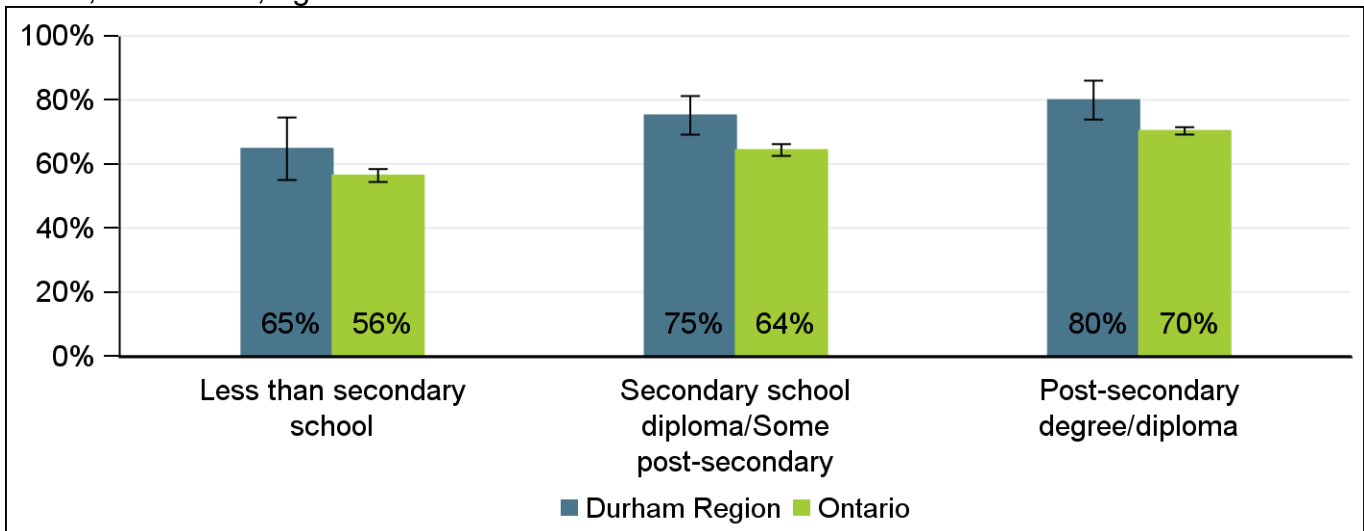
Figure 5. Proportion who said they had dental insurance by household income, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older



Association between household income group and having dental insurance was significant for both Durham Region and Ontario.

Those in the lowest income category were least likely to say they had dental insurance in both Durham Region and Ontario. More low income residents in Durham Region said they had dental insurance, 61 per cent, compared with Ontario, 46 per cent (see Figure 5 above).

Figure 6. Proportion who said they had dental insurance by education level, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 12 and older



Association between education level and having dental insurance was significant for both Durham Region and Ontario.

Figure 6 shows an increase in the number of people who said they had dental insurance as education level increases. In Durham Region, 65% of those without a secondary school diploma said they had dental insurance, compared with 56% province-wide.

Data notes

Data Source: The **Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)** is a cross-sectional survey that collects information related to health status, health care utilization and health determinants for the Canadian population. It surveys a large sample of respondents and is designed to provide reliable estimates at the health region level. Since 2007, data are collected on an ongoing basis with annual releases, rather than every two years as was the case prior to 2007. The CCHS data are collected from persons aged 12 and over living in private dwellings, excluding individuals living on Indian Reserves and on Crown Lands, institutional residents, full-time members of the Canadian Forces, and residents of certain remote regions. Interviews are conducted using computer assisted interviewing, either in person or over the telephone.

Definitions and Survey Questions: Proportion of respondents who said they had insurance that covers all or part of their dental expenses.

Data Analysis: The analysis used the CCHS share file obtained from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. SAS version 9.4 was used to analyze the data. The final CCHS sampling weight formed the estimates. Error bars in the graphs represent the 95% confidence interval (CI) around the estimate. The true or actual estimate falls within the range of values 95 out of 100 times. All analyses excluded response options of “refusal”, “don't know”, “not stated” and “not applicable”, unless otherwise stated.

Dental insurance and the determinants of health analysis used the CCHS 2013/2014 dataset. A chi-square test with a p-value less than 0.05 determined statistical significance. A statistically significant difference between groups means that the association is not likely due to chance.

The income categories of low, middle and high came from a CCHS derived variable. The categories took into account total household income, the low income cut-off, household and community size. Low income groups the lowest 30 per cent, middle groups the middle 40 per cent, and high groups the highest 30 per cent of earners.