

2011

Annual Report

*Promoting excellence and accessible
dental hygiene care for all Nova Scotians*

c o n t e n t s



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c h a i r ' s m e s s a g e

*Do not follow where the path may lead.
Go instead where there is no path
and leave a trail. ~ Emerson*



College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia exists so that in the best interest of the public, members are regulated, provide excellent care and advance the profession...through the cost effective stewardship of resources.

CDHNS Ends Policy E1

Stewardship: administration, management, control including the responsible use of resources.
~Oxford English Dictionary

I am pleased to present the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia's Annual report for the fiscal year ending in 2011. This report represents the achievements of the CDHNS over the past year.

It is the responsibility of the Governing body of the College to be visionary; to look ahead to what would benefit the preventative oral health of the public, and how individual dental hygienists can play a role in the delivery of services, education and interdisciplinary collaboration.

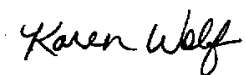
This Vision requires your Council to:

- Establish Policies including a primary target or END.
- Establish Guidelines for effective communication and delegation between Council and Registrar so the "working out" of the business of the College will be effectively administered.
- Secure a responsible staff who move toward this goal while working within the prescribed policies.

Over the past two years since the College was established three advancements have been made: Self-Initiation, Standards of Practice for licensing and the most recent Local Anaesthetic program.

Thank you for moving forward with me as we blaze this new trail.

Sincerely



Karen Wolf Council Chair

introduction

BACKGROUND

Dental hygienists have been providing services to Nova Scotians since 1955. The profession has been self governing since May 15, 2009. The profession is regulated by the Dental Hygienists Act of Nova Scotia (2007) and the Dental Hygiene Regulation. The Dental Hygienists Act provides for delivery of dental hygiene services in a variety of settings including interdisciplinary health clinics, dentist practices, population health, continuing care facilities, independent dental hygiene clinics or mobile services.

THE OBJECTS OF THE COLLEGE

In accordance with Section 5 (1) of the Dental Hygienists Act

In order that the public interest may be served and protected, the objects of the College are to

(a) regulate the profession of dental hygiene through

(i) the registration, licensing and disciplinary processes established pursuant to this Act and the regulations,

(ii) establishing, maintaining and developing standards of practice for members,

(iii) establishing, maintaining and developing standards of professional ethics for members, and

(iv) establishing, maintaining and developing standards for the education, knowledge, qualifications, professional responsibility and competence of its members and applicants for membership;

(b) subject to clause (a), advance and promote the profession of dental hygiene;

(c) administer this Act and perform such other duties and exercise such other powers as are imposed or conferred on the College by this Act or the regulations; and

(d) do such other lawful acts and things as are incidental to the attainment of the objects referred to in clauses (a) to (c).

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PROFESSION

The practice of dental hygiene means the application of professional knowledge for the purpose of providing therapeutic, preventative and maintenance services and programs for the promotion of optimal oral health and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing,

a) includes assessment for dental hygiene services, the planning of dental hygiene interventions to prevent oral disease and the evaluation of the progress and results of dental hygiene interventions and services, oral health practices and behaviours;

b) includes such practices as prescribed in this Act or the regulations;

c) includes collaboration with other health professionals for the provision of oral health services, health education and health promotion in order to integrate preventive oral health care into general preventative care.

d) a dental hygienist may provide services as a researcher, clinician, consultant, administrator, manager, educator or health promoter.

A registered and licensed member of the College of Dental hygienists of Nova Scotia may use the following titles:

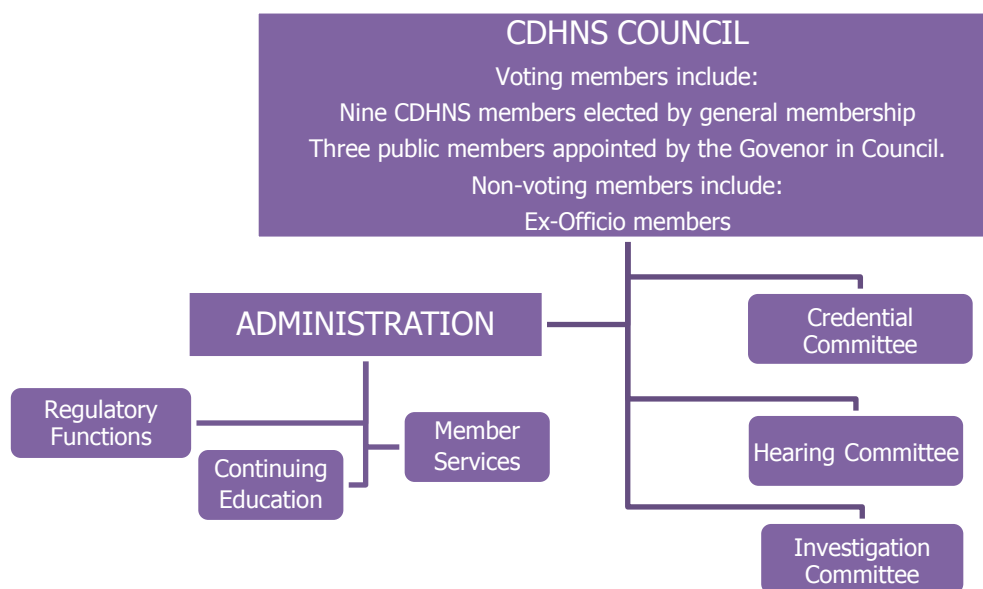
- a) dental hygienist
- b) registered dental hygienist
- c) DH
- d) RDH

o r g a n i z a t i o n a l s t r u c t u r e

CDHNS Council
Karen Wolf, Chair
Rosemary Bourque, Vice Chair
Diane Chalmers
Dawna Ernst-Henry
Sara Harding
Joanne Noye
Stephanie Stevens
Wendy Stewart
Jackie White
Patricia Grant, Ex Officio



The College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia is established by statutory authority through the *Dental Hygienists Act of Nova Scotia*. CDHNS is incorporated as a body corporate, is composed of its members and, subject to this Act, has the capacity and powers of a natural person. Council, committees and other positions are established in accordance with the Act and Regulation and the CDHNS bylaws and policies. The organizational structure is set out below.



REGISTRAR

The Registrar performs all duties designated to that position by the legislation as well as those duties delegated by the Council. The registrar also receives any complaints of unprofessional conduct and under policy determines whether the complaint is dismissed or is referred to investigation or hearing.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee consists of no fewer than three College members and one public representative. The Committee members review registration/licensing issues referred to them by the registrar or by the request of an applicant.

Members:

Sara Harding, Chair
Lynn Myra, Vice Chair
Joanne Noye
Robyn Killen
Mary-Jane Kiley, Public Member

INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

The Investigation Committee investigates complaints regarding a disciplinary matter referred to it by the registrar concerning any member of the College.

Members:

Heather Bell, Acting Chair
Rosemary Bourque
Leslie Ebert
Laurene MacDonald
Mary MacLeod
Collene Sand

HEARING COMMITTEE

When a complaint is referred to hearing the Chair of the Hearing Committee shall appoint a panel of five persons from the Committee, at least one of whom is a lay representative, to act as the Hearing Panel for purposes of the discipline process. The Hearing Committee conducts a discipline hearing for all matters referred to it by the Investigations Committee or directly from the registrar.

Members:

David Purdy, Chair
Jerry Craig
Angus Gibbon
Shauna Hachey
Marcia Kohler
Sue MacIntosh
Katherine MacKeigan
Cara Tax
Denise Zwicker

CONTINUING COMPETENCY COMMITTEE

The Continuing Competency Committee under the direction of the Registrar conducts the Continuing Competency Audit and reviews other matters concerning continuing competency referred to it by administrative staff.

Members:

Wendy Stewart, Chair
Jackie White, Vice Chair
Allison Craig
Cheryl D'Entremont
Odette d'Eon

***MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE***

This committee concerns itself with those issues which advance the profession and serve College members; including the newsletter, calendar and the annual continuing education event.

Members:

Joanne Noye, Chair
Dawna Ernst-Henry-Calendar
Rosemary Bourque-Unison

COLLEGE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

College staff is responsible for employing the appropriate means to ensure enforcement of the Act and achieve the College's goals (Ends) through application of policies established by the Council and within the resources available.

Patricia Grant, Registrar
Jenn MacKay, Administrative Assistant

resource allocation

Based on the strategic plan and newly developed ends for the fiscal year of 2010 to 2011, Council allocated College resources in the following areas

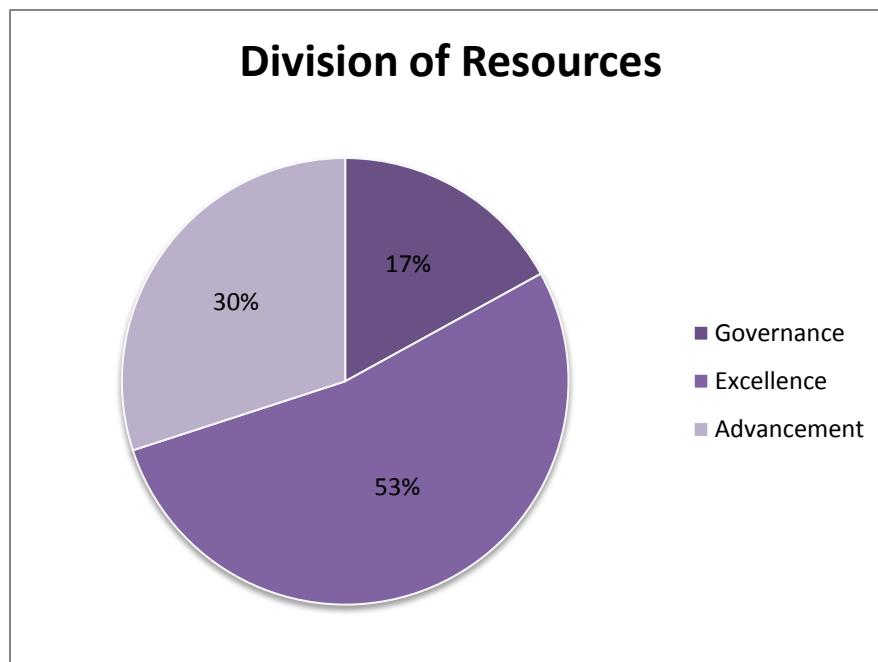
1. Governance of the organization
2. Excellence in and accessibility to dental hygiene care
3. Advancement of the dental hygiene profession

"Governance" includes Council's operational expenses for meetings, professional development skills workshops, financial audit, insurance, professional and consulting fees related to Council activities and responsibilities. It also includes the operating costs for those committees which are named in the legislation.

"Excellence in and accessibility to dental hygiene care" comprises the CDHNS's regulatory and administrative responsibilities under the legislation.

"Advancement of the dental hygiene profession" includes initiatives to provide information and support to members regarding practice, employment issues and opportunities, development in leadership to sustain the profession. It also includes work which increases recognition of the profession, education of the public and increased opportunities for inter professional and interagency collaboration.

Activities which are related to each area are ongoing and projects which are not completed at fiscal year continue into the next budget year.



excellence in and accessibility to dental hygiene care



QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

The following are requirements for registration with the CDHNS:

Members applying for initial registration with the CDHNS must be graduates of dental hygiene programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CDAC) or they must take any examination(s) approved by Council. The Federation of Dental Hygiene Regulatory Authorities (FDHRA) has two voting represents on the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC).

Successful completion of the National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination is required for registration with the CDHNS. The examination is offered three times per year at sites throughout Canada. Dalhousie University serves as the exam site in Nova Scotia. The CDHNS is a voting member of the National Dental Hygiene Examining Board (NDHEB) and is currently represented on the board by Council member Wendy Stewart.

All applicants for registration are required to successfully complete the Knowledge of Dental Hygiene Practice in NS: Jurisprudence course. This course is offered online at the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association website.

Appeals of a decision on registration may be referred to the Credentials Committee by either the registrar or the applicant.

PRACTICE REQUIREMENT – SELF INITIATION COURSE

All practicing members are required to successfully complete the Self initiation Course for Dental Hygienists in NS within two years of initial licensing with the CDHNS. This course is offered online at the CDHA website. Members who were licensed in NS on May 15, 2009 must meet this requirement in time to renew their licence by November 1, 2011.

Currently 407 members have completed the requirement and have been authorized to self initiate dental hygiene care in Nova Scotia. Self initiation means dental hygienists determine when to proceed with dental hygiene care. Meeting all requirements under the Act validates that self-initiated dental hygiene practice will satisfy the public interest principles of access, equality, accountability and quality of care, without any increased risk of harm to the public.

STANDARDS AND CODE OF ETHICS

Code of ethics and practice standards provide guidance for health professionals. The CDHNS has adopted the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association Code of Ethics and Practice Standards. The Act considers failing to maintain the standards of practice or failing to uphold the Code of Ethics adopted by the College as unprofessional conduct.

CDHNS Standards Documents:

- CDHA Dental Hygiene: Definition, Scope and Practice Standards
- CDHA Code of Ethics
- CDHNS Best Practices: Self Initiation
- CDHNS Best Practices: Record Keeping
- National Dental Hygiene Competency Statements

CONTINUING COMPETENCY PROGRAM

Regulation provides for a mandatory continuing competency program. Upon the establishment of the CDHNS in November of 2009 all members were assigned a new reporting cycle of two, three or four years to accommodate administration of the program. The first cycle was completed on December 31, 2010. Following the initial staggered cycles all Continuing Competency cycles will require 45 credits in a three year cycle.

In June of 2010 Council adopted the Continuing Competency Guidelines revisions. The Continuing Competency Committee met twice during the 2010-2011, once to review the terms of reference for the committee and to establish the audit process. The second meeting in February was to conduct the first CDHNS continuing competency audit. The results of this process where all practicing members chosen for a random audit were successful. In addition, the Terms of Reference were amended and are ready for Council approval. The Committee reviewed courses offered online at CDHA to establish the number of credit hours and the category of credits acknowledged by the CDHNS.



COMPLAINTS

The College is responsible to Nova Scotians to ensure that dental hygienists practicing in Nova Scotia meet the College's established standards. The CDHNS must manage complaints, investigations and discipline processes in accordance with the Dental Hygienists Act, Regulation, other applicable legislation and policies. The College responds to formal complaints from all sources – members of the public, employers, other health professionals, other colleges and members of the College. The registrar may refer a complaint on behalf of the College.

In the year 2010-2011 no formal complaints were received.

In the past year, the CDHNS's disciplines committees (Investigation and Hearing Committees) have been working on the completion of guidelines for the discipline process for their respective committees. Appropriate resources, education and support have been provided to conduct these activities. It is required that the CDHNS have fair and open practices which ensure public protection and at the same time offer appropriate support to members.

MEMBER STATISTICS

The Dental Hygienists Act and regulation establishes a general register of members. Within that members may hold a practicing licence, a non practicing membership or a provisional licence. Practicing licence holders may practice dental hygiene in the province, those holding a non practicing membership must not practice dental hygiene but remain on the register list. Provisional licence holders may practice dental hygiene in the province but must do so only for a specific period of time and according to any provisions placed on the licence by the CDHNS.

The CDHNS licensing year is from November 1 to October 31. During the 2010-2011 licence renewal period CDHNS registration certificates were sent to every registered member.

CDHNS MEMBERS

	2009 (May 15)	2010 (May 19)	2011 (May 6)
Practicing members	563	593	620
Non – Practicing	NA	24	30
Total	563	617	650

NEW REGISTRATIONS COMPLETED

	May 2009- April 2010	May 2010 – April 2011
Dalhousie Graduates	22	27
Other Canadian Graduates	12	16
Other new registrants	19	21
Total	53	64

OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

Honorary Member	1
Life Members	2

Independent Dental Hygiene Practitioners 2
(Practicing members who have listed with the CDHNS
as providing dental hygiene care directly to the public)



advancement of the profession

The College is committed to facilitating opportunities for quality, relevant continuing education for the membership. To meet this commitment the CDHNS undertook a number of activities in 2010 -2011.

STUDY CLUBS

The College has seven registered study clubs throughout the province. We co- operate with these groups as requested to facilitate their presentation of learning activities to members.

HALIFAX DENTAL HYGIENE SOCIETY

The College has met with the Halifax Dental Hygiene Society to develop a coordinated effort to offering courses in the spring and fall in the metro area.

ANNUAL CONTINUING COMPETENCYEVENT

The CDHNS is committed to holding a continuing competency event each year in conjunction with the annual general meeting. In June of 2010 the CDHNS with the assistance of the Member Services Committee held a successful event which was attended by 164 members and despite moving to a larger venue it was a sold out event. The program featured sessions on:

"The Oral Health of our Ageing Population, by Dr. Deborah Matthews

Dr. Tammy Wright spoke on dental Lasers and periodontal treatment

Tim Dixon of Glaxo Smith Kline presented on denture care and GSK were sponsors of the luncheon for the conference. Corporate sponsors provided attendees information on products and resources. This continuing competency course was followed by the CDHNS AGM meeting with 227 members attending.

CPR COURSES

The CDHNS assists members in finding the appropriate CRP course required in their area by directing members to scheduled courses and co-operating with local course providers.

CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The CDHNS cooperated throughout the year with CDHA on the planning of the national conference to be held June 9-11 in Halifax.

LOCAL ANAESTHETIC CONTINUING EDUCATION

The CDHNS met with the Continuing Dental Education Committee (CDE) at Dalhousie University in March 2011 to review the planned local anaesthetic continuing education course offered by CDE. Modifications to the program were agreed upon to meet the CDHNS regulatory requirements. The course was held on April 28 -30, 2011 and twenty members of the CDHNS attended. A review of this first program by the CDHNS will be required to take into consideration feedback from the participants, recognition of the course by other regulatory bodies and to discuss with CDE mutual goals for any future programs of this nature.

To date 20 members of the CDHNS have been approved to administer local anaesthesia in NS. These are member who obtained their credential in other jurisdictions and have met the currency requirements of the CDHNS.



representation

The CDHNS maintains memberships in or appoints representatives to other organizations who have goals which align with the CDHNS's End polices. These include:

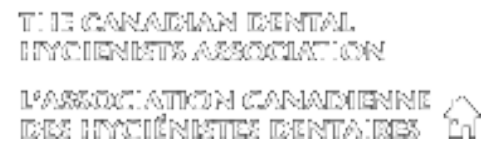
SMOKE FREE NOVA SCOTIA (SFNS)

The Coalition for a Smoke-Free Nova Scotia is a provincial coalition committed to the achievement of a tobacco-free Nova Scotia. Their goal is the elimination of tobacco use in Nova Scotia. As part of the CDHNS commitment to oral and overall health of Nova Scotians the CDHNS maintains a supporting membership in SFNS and is represented there by Paulette Hawksworth. In 2010 SFNS focused on the new Provincial Tobacco Control Strategy which was released on April 27, 2011. The SFNS actively supported Bill-631 to stop tobacco companies from adding candy flavours in smokeless tobacco, including chewing tobacco, which is a loophole left over from Bill-32; while also supporting the advancement of the smoke-free spaces.

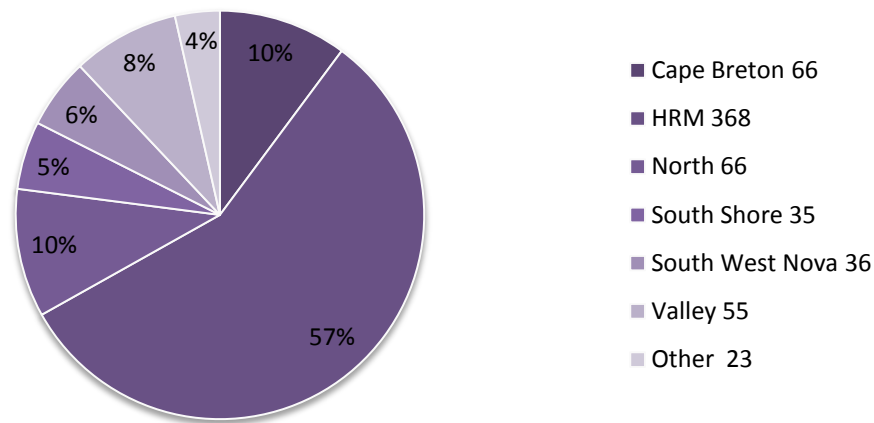


CDHA REPRESENTATIVE

The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association is the national organization that represents 21,000 dental hygienists. It publishes policy document, lobbys on behalf of the dental hygiene profession and makes available other benefits to its membership. The Nova Scotia director is appointed by the CDHNS Council and has been held by Wanda Fedora for the past three years. Over the course of 2010 CDHA has hired a new executive director, Ondina Love. Ondina brings over 15 years of executive employment in health care related associations. The CDHA National Conferences are back on a biannual schedule, starting with Halifax. Their yearly annual general meeting will travel across Canada coordinating with the National Conference, allowing as many dental hygienists to participate. With their continued strives to offer diverse continuing education, CDHA has launched a series of webinars on elder abuse as well as topics such as fluoride, research, sensitivity, and oral cancer.



Workforce Demographic : Geographic Distribution Registered Dental Hygienists in Nova Scotia



recognizing excellence

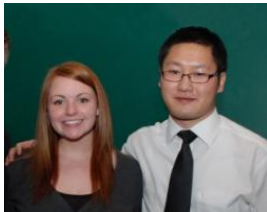
AWARDS

The CDHNS continues to recognize excellence through supporting awards to the newest members of our profession.

Table Clinic Awards

In February the Dalhousie University, School of Dental Hygiene students Table Clinic winners were presented with prizes on behalf of the College by Council members Dawna Ernst Henry and Wendy Stewart.

1st place – Matthew Goodz & Chelsea Boyle
Pneumonia – An Oral Hygiene Approach
(reducing pneumonia rates in long term care facilities)
Adviser: K. Haslam



2nd place - James Chin & Alyssa Marks
Cranberries are Good for Teeth
Adviser: C. Robb

3rd place – Heather Pumphrey & Jennifer McNeil
Chronic Bad Breath? You Could be Suffering from Tonsil Stones
Adviser: T. MacCallum



CDHNS HIGHEST STANDING AWARD

College of Dental Hygienists Award (\$500.00) presented to the student with the highest academic standing graduating from the Dalhousie University, Dental Hygiene Program was presented for 2011 to Heather Pumphrey.

The 2010 winner was Sarah Outerleys, pictured at the left.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS PROGRAM

In the coming year the CDHNS plans to review its recognition of outstanding members of the profession through the development of a recognition awards program.

communication

NEWSLETTER

Three editions of the *Unison* newsletter were published and distributed to members in the past year. The Unison provides members with information about dental hygiene practice, CDHNS updates through the "From the Desk of the Registrar", health promotion, legislative, study clubs and meetings and other educational information. Over the last year we have moved the distribution of the newsletter to the CDHNS administrative office. Our volunteer editor in chief remains Rosemary Bourque and submissions may be sent directly to her through the CDHNS website.



CALENDAR

The CDHNS produced and distributed to the membership a date book calendar with the December newsletter. This publication is sponsored through the sale of advertisements for each page or cover. The calendar is a project under Member Services and is co-ordinator by Dawna Ernst-Henry.

WEB SITE www.cdhns.ca

The CDHNS continues to be an excellent way to stay updated with the CDHNS and the profession. The site features sections on the role of the CDHNS, the role of the dental hygienists, education and qualifications of the dental hygienists. The public section seeks to inform the public about the profession and contains a list of practicing dental hygienists names as well as those of independent dental hygiene practices.



During 2010 a "rolling" announcements section was added to the home page. Check there for timely announcements or recently posted updates.

EMAIL BLASTS

The CDHNS on occasion uses an email blast or bulletin to update members on short notice events or information. To receive these important announcements please ensure you have marked the CDHNS as a safe sender in your email program. Updated email addresses are required.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE

As part of the CDHNS's mandate of promoting oral health, the dental hygiene profession, and increasing public awareness, we maintain a resource centre that is available to all dental hygienists in Nova Scotia. During 2010 the resource centre underwent a name change to: Community Education Resource Centre (CERC) and is administered through the CDHNS office in Halifax and coordinated by Jenn MacKay.

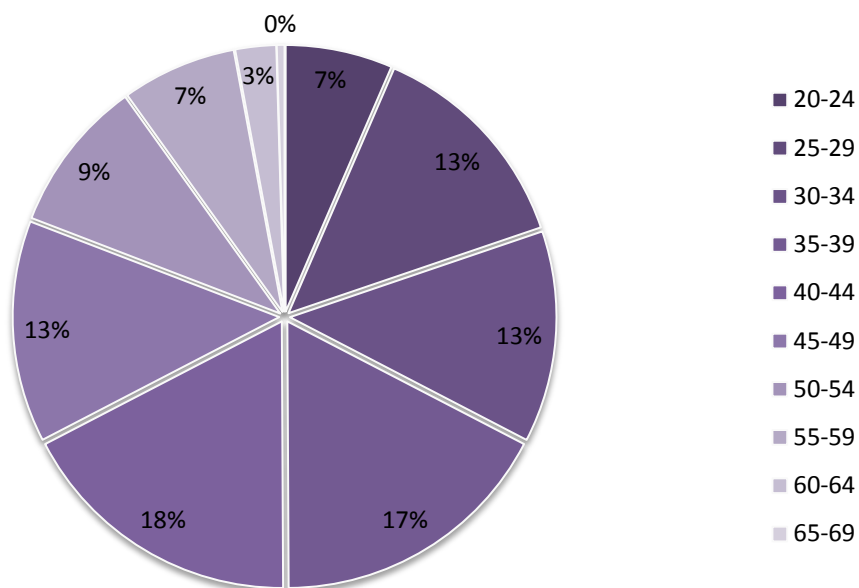
The CDHNS has a volunteer roster of members to provide community education. In 2010-2011 the CERC had 14 requests for supplies and resources to support educational activities in the community. The regions represented stretched from Yarmouth to Cape Breton and the groups involved included Brownies, classrooms, daycares, afterschool programs and homeless shelters. In all a total of 712 members of the public were served by the CERC centre through dental hygiene volunteers. We noticed an increase in requests for dates during April, Oral Health month.

In September two Bachelor of Dental Hygiene students agreed to represent the CDHNS at a Parenting Fair. Over 100 parents and their children visited the booth to receive oral health information and tooth brush kits.



Note: A copy of the CDHNS 2011 auditors statement produced by Wile, Timmons and Michaud Inc. accompanies this report.

Workforce Demographic : Age Distribution Registered Dental Hygienists in Nova Scotia



College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia

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