



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	November 13, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Population Health Assessment Report (BOH17030) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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Council Direction:

Not applicable

Information:

Summary

The health system in Ontario, including the public health sector, is undergoing significant transformation. One component of this is the modernization of the standards to better integrate public health into the greater health system. The Standards for Public Health Programs and Services (Standards) set the minimum requirements for public health units to improve population health outcomes and reduce health inequities. Improvements in population health outcomes can be achieved through a population health approach to program and service delivery. A successful population health approach relies on a deep understanding of the health of the community. Population health assessment provides the necessary information to understand the health of Hamiltonians through the identification of current and emerging health issues and trends, and priority populations.

Through the Standards it is mandated that the Board of Health (BOH) use population health data to inform the planning and delivery of programs and services in order to address local needs. The BOH is required to demonstrate and document the use of this

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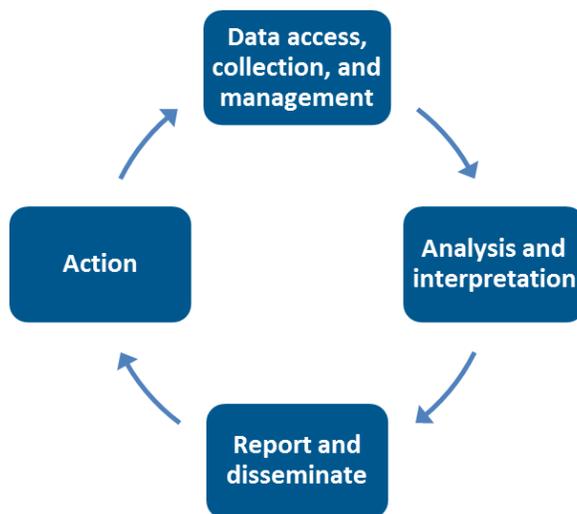
evidence in the new Annual Service Plan & Budget Submission that will also include risk management, a stakeholder engagement plan, and other compliance documents. Public Health Services (PHS) also provides population health data and intelligence to the HNHB LHIN and local health system partners to inform planning for health services within Hamilton.

What is population health assessment?

Population health is the overall health status of a community or group of individuals. It is measured by health status indicators and is influenced by physical, biological, behavioural, social, cultural, economic, and other factors (MOHLTC, 2016). Population health assessment involves measuring, monitoring, and reporting the health of the population (MOHLTC, 2016). As shown in Figure 1.0, population health assessment is an ongoing, continuous cycle that consists of:

- Collection and management of population health data from a number of different sources;
- Analysis and interpretation of the data to identify current and emerging health issues and trends, and priority populations;
- Dissemination of the findings in a meaningful way that is easy to understand; and,
- Use of the results to inform actions and decisions relating to the planning of programs and services.

Figure 1.0: Population Health Assessment Cycle



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Action resulting from population health assessment often leads to the collection of additional data to address new questions and issues that arise, commencing the cycle again. The Epidemiology & Evaluation program at PHS has a comprehensive Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Strategy to guide and support the work at each step of the population health assessment cycle.

What is the Purpose of Population Health Assessment?

Population health assessment is foundational to public health practice and can be used to support a number of different practices, including:

- Program planning and evaluation;
- Accountability;
- Policy development;
- Strategic spending;
- Evidence-informed decision making; and
- Awareness and advocacy.

A key objective of the new Standards is to increase the use of public health knowledge, expertise, and population health intelligence in the planning and delivery of programs and services within an integrated health system. Ongoing collection and analysis of population health data is essential to the BOH in effectively meeting this objective.

It is expected that the BOH will use population health data to inform decisions on local public health program and service delivery. Furthermore, the BOH will be required to demonstrate and document the use of this evidence in the new Annual Service Plan & Budget Submission that will be submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

In light of the *Patients First Act*, the BOH is expected to work on population health assessment in partnership with the Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN), to help inform health system planning.

How is Population Health Assessment Shared with Partners and the Public?

It is important that population health intelligence be made available to PHS programs, our health system and community partners, and the public in a meaningful way that is easy to access and understand. It is essential for partners, decision-makers and the community to understand the health of the population in order to take action to improve health outcomes.

PHS developed and shared several community health profiles over the past year, for example they were used to support planning by the Hamilton Community Health Work Group and the Dundas Family Health Team. These profiles highlighted the demographic and health characteristics of specific geographic areas and were

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developed in collaboration with health system and community partners. The Dundas Family Health Team (FHT) used the community health profile provided by PHS as well as input from the community to identify two priority issues: 1) youth mental health; and, 2) seniors health. The Dundas FHT then developed tailored interventions to address these issues. A few examples include:

- Partnering with Routes Youth Program to provide wellness education;
- Developing a memory clinic in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Society; and,
- Developing a community-based Advanced Care Planning workshop.

This is a great example of how health system and community partners can use population health intelligence to take action, tailor services to local needs and ultimately improve health outcomes.

Other examples of population health assessment products used to communicate and share population health information with both our partners and the community can be seen in Appendices A to C. Appendix A contains the Village of 100 infographic that uses demographic and health data to describe what Hamilton would look like if it were reduced to a representative village of 100 people. Appendix B - The Life Course model identifies Hamilton's top health issues across the lifespan. Appendix C - The Population Health Assessment Posters highlight the current and emerging health issues by topic area. Each of these products was designed to summarize relevant and pertinent demographic and population health intelligence in a way that is easy to understand, so that it can be used to inform health system and public health program planning.

Population health intelligence realized through population health assessment work will continue to be made available to the BOH, our stakeholders, and partners to inform future decision making with the aim of improving population health outcomes and reducing health inequities in our community.

Next Steps

Over the next few years, the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance (PHAS) Strategy will continue to evolve enabling us to gain a deeper understanding of the health of Hamiltonians. This will also provide insight about the interaction of health issues and risk factors across the life course. To achieve this, PHS will further collaborate with community and health system partners (e.g., school boards) to share and access additional data that will advance our understanding of population health. Identifying health inequities, including the differences in health among and between groups within the community, has also been highlighted as a priority within the PHAS strategy. Providing more detailed information on health inequities is essential in order to tailor public health programs and services to neighbourhoods and populations with the greatest needs, maximizing the impact of PHS programs and services.

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Appendices/Schedules Attached:

Appendix A to Report BOH17030 – Village of 100

Appendix B to Report BOH17030 – Life Course

Appendix C to Report BOH17030 – Population Health Assessment Posters

References:

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. (2016). Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol. Retrieve from: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/population_health_assessment.pdf