



# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Public Health Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	June 3, 2024
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Public Health Services 2023 Annual Performance and Accountability Report (BOH24012) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Konrad Lisnyj (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5452
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable.

## INFORMATION

As per the 2022 Annual Performance and Accountability Report (Public Health Committee Report BOH23024), staff committed to bringing forward a 2023 year-end performance and financial report to the Board of Health. This report fulfils this reporting commitment.

The purpose of this report and its accompanying appendices is to provide a status update on Public Health Services' programmatic and financial performance in delivering the Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability ('Ontario Public Health Standards') in 2023 to the Public Health Committee, the Ministry of Health, and the public.

### Overview of Public Health Services

Public Health Services offers a wide variety of services and supports related to health promotion, health protection, and injury and disease prevention to enhance the health and well-being of the Hamilton population. The dedicated team of professionals, including nurses, doctors, public health inspectors, dental staff, nutritionists, social workers, epidemiologists, specialist roles and health promoters, collaborates with community partners to address the health needs of the community. Services

---

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

encompass immunization, infectious and communicable diseases prevention and control, education programs, family and child health services, population health assessment, substance use, sexual health services, air quality monitoring, school services, dental services, food and water safety, injury prevention, and public health inspections, as well as foundational programs that underlie and support all programs and services.

### **Key Public Health Services Priorities for 2023**

As part of the 2023 Annual Service Plan and Budget, the Board of Health has endorsed four key priorities to address Hamilton's population health needs over the coming years (Board of Health Report BOH23011):

1. Health equity;
2. Child and youth healthy growth and development;
3. Mental health and substance use; and,
4. Climate change.

These priority health issues, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, are enduring issues that require collaborative and innovative efforts from partners across various sectors.

### **Public Health Services Priorities: Progress Update**

This section will briefly highlight work across Public Health Services designed to address its four priority areas.

#### **1. Health Equity**

Public health plays an important role in identifying and addressing unfair health differences in our community.

In 2023, Public Health Services worked to advance health equity by:

- Training staff to better understand and embed health equity and anti-racism principles into program planning and decision-making;
- Using data to understand what impacts health to deliver services to Hamiltonians better;
- Working with community partners and priority groups to reduce health inequities; and,
- Raising public awareness of local health inequities and working together to address their root causes.

Some examples of Public Health Services' role in advancing health equity include co-developing an Indigenous Health Strategy in collaboration with the Indigenous community, gathering input from the Hamilton community to update

---

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

the Board of Health's governance structure for better representation of our diverse community, developing the Community Health Status Report to provide comprehensive information about the community's overall health status, and launching an Instagram account to enhance communication and engagement with community members and partners.

## **2. Child and Youth Healthy Growth and Development**

Public health is essential for supporting children's healthy growth and development in our community, ensuring children, youth, and their families have the information, skills, and support needed to reach their full potential.

In 2023, Public Health Services focused on contributing to children's healthy growth and development to ensure families thrive at every stage by:

- Promoting perinatal health through screening, education, and supports;
- Supporting early childhood development for those up to age six; and,
- Enhancing school-based health services and partnerships.

Key highlights of Public Health Services' role in this area include creating community pathways to improve access to supports and services, providing prenatal screenings for 900 pregnant individuals, conducting preventative dental screenings for over 22,000 students, administering more than 46,000 vaccines to prevent diseases among students, and working in schools to foster healthy, supportive environments by achieving a 53% completion rate for National Healthy Schools Certification in target schools.

## **3. Mental Health and Substance Use**

Public health plays a key role in supporting individuals experiencing mental health and substance use problems, while also addressing the broader impact on the community.

In 2023, Public Health Services worked towards this goal by:

- Using person-centred approaches in our programs and services;
- Collaborating with the community to support mental well-being in the middle years;
- Advancing healthy public policy surrounding substance use; and,
- Enhancing harm reduction efforts.

Examples of Public Health Services' role in addressing this priority include providing accessible mental health counselling and supports across all age groups, responding to over 3,400 harm reduction service requests through the Van Needle Syringe Program, and developing community-wide strategies to

---

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

address substance use issues, such as the Hamilton Opioid Action Plan and the Hamilton Drug Strategy.

#### **4. Climate Change**

Public Health Services uniquely addresses the impact of climate change on community health by helping Hamiltonians adapt to a changing climate and build resilience.

In 2023, Public Health Services focused its efforts on aligning with and supporting the City of Hamilton's Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Plan in:

- Addressing extreme heat by improving cooling options in rental housing and across the City;
- Protecting vulnerable populations from diseases spread by insects;
- Enhancing our understanding of how climate change affects health; and,
- Educating the community about climate and health issues.

Some examples of Public Health Services' role in addressing climate change include launching the "Be A Heat-Wave Hero" campaign to educate landlords about extreme heat risks in high-risk areas, monitoring vectors like mosquitoes and ticks, as well as vector-borne diseases such as West Nile virus and Lyme disease, and improving signage on local trails to educate residents on protecting themselves from vector-borne diseases.

The appendices to this report provide additional details surrounding the achievements of Public Health Services in 2023:

- Appendix "A" to Public Health Committee Report BOH24012 contains more detailed information about Public Health Services' progress made in 2023 in addressing the four priorities and their key action areas (previously reported in Public Health Committee Report BOH24001). It also highlights Public Health Services' programmatic performance towards achieving the objectives outlined in the Annual Service Plan and Budget, which extend beyond the four priorities;
- Appendix "B" to Public Health Committee Report BOH24012 provides a comprehensive overview of the advancements made within the four priorities, supported by tangible examples. This information will be shared with the public to demonstrate the impact of Public Health Services' efforts in the community; and,
- Appendix "C" to Public Health Committee Report BOH24012 provides a comprehensive overview of the Provincial portion of the estimated 2023 financial actuals for Ministry of Health-funded programs and services under the Ontario Public Health Standards.

---

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

### **Overview of Ministry of Health Performance Reporting Requirements**

The Ontario Public Health Standards require boards of health to report on program and financial performance to the Ministry of Health through quarterly Standards Activity Reports and an Annual Report and Attestation. Appendix “A” to Public Health Committee Report BOH24012 includes programmatic data reported to the Ministry of Health as part of the third and fourth quarter Standards Activity Reports. The program and financial performance information contained in Public Health Committee Report BOH24012 will be reported to the Ministry of Health through the 2023 Annual Report and Attestation by June 28, 2024.

Additionally, under the Ontario Public Health Standards, boards of health must produce an annual performance and financial report for the public to enhance transparency and increase awareness of local public health issues and services. Appendix “B” to Public Health Committee Report BOH24012 fulfils this reporting requirement, which will be made available on the City of Hamilton’s website at <https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health>.

### **2023 Attestation of Compliance**

As part of the Ministry of Health Annual Report and Attestation, boards of health must complete a certificate of attestation to demonstrate compliance with the Organizational Requirements outlined in the Ontario Public Health Standards. In 2023, Public Health Services fully complied with 63 of 64 organizational requirements. This marks an improvement from the previous year, when it fully complied with 59 out of 64 organizational requirements (Public Health Committee Report BOH23024). The requirement not met in 2023 was related to reviewing and revising by-laws, policies, and procedures at least every two years. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the ability to adhere to the two-year review schedule. Public Health Services has developed plans to review and revise its policies and procedures in 2024 to ensure compliance.

### **2023 Financial Performance**

In 2023, the Ministry of Health granted the City of Hamilton Board of Health \$41,565,725 to support the delivery of programs and services under the Ontario Public Health Standards. This included one-time funding to support the COVID-19 General and Vaccine Programs and various projects and initiatives and one-time mitigation funding to offset the increased costs for Municipalities due to the cost-sharing change from the mixed 75%/25% to 70%/30%. As of December 31, 2023, a total of \$40,576,959 of the Provincial share was spent, with a positive variance of \$988,766. The City of Hamilton contributed \$13,015,141 in support of these same initiatives.

For the programs with the funding year January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, the Ministry of Health continued to provide funding based on a Provincial and Municipal cost-share formula for all programs under the Ontario Public Health Standards, apart from the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program, which remained 100% Provincially

**SUBJECT: Public Health Services 2023 Annual Performance and Accountability Report (BOH24012) (City Wide) - Page 6 of 7**

---

funded. Overall, the City of Hamilton Board of Health received \$27,195,200 for the Annual Service Plan and Budget Mandatory Programs ('Mandatory Programs'), and the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program received \$4,318,125. The Ministry of Health also provided \$7,836,600 for COVID-19 costs above the Mandatory Programs at 100% in 2023, where \$6,847,834 was spent, with a positive variance of \$988,766 which is expected to be recovered by the Ministry of Health. The City of Hamilton has submitted a letter to the Ministry of Health requesting the opportunity to retain these committed funds to help alleviate the costs of the 2024 Mandatory and COVID-19 General and Vaccine Programs. The Ministry of Health also provided one-time mitigation funding to offset the increased costs for Municipalities due to the cost-sharing change from a mixed 75%/25% and 100% funding model prior to 2020. A total of \$2,215,800 was granted, which was fully claimed.

On March 28, 2024, the Ministry of Health granted an additional \$591,900 to reimburse extraordinary costs related to the COVID-19 Vaccine Program from January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024. This amount is expected to be fully spent.

The Ministry of Health also provided one-time funding for 100% funded programs. A total of \$575,000 for the School-Focused Nurses Initiative (100%) from April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023, was fully spent. In addition, a total of \$1,061,600 was provided for the following programs from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, that is expected to be fully spent: Public Health Inspector Practicum Program (100%), Needle Syringe Program (100%), Smoke-Free Ontario Enforcement Tablet Upgrades (100%), and Public Health Services Seniors Dental Clinic (100%).

Appendix "C" to Public Health Committee Report BOH24012 provides a more detailed overview of the Provincial portion of the 2023 financial actuals for Ministry-funded programs and services under the Ontario Public Health Standards. The financial data provided in this report are reasonably accurate and complete. It is important to acknowledge that our financial systems are offline due to the ongoing cybersecurity incident impacting the City of Hamilton. As such, minor adjustments may occur once the system is restored, and we can review the final reports. Note that our year-end position is considered an approximation under these circumstances.

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report BOH24012	Program Indicator Results for 2023
Appendix "B" to Report BOH24012	Public Health Services 2023 Annual Performance and Financial Report to the Public

**SUBJECT: Public Health Services 2023 Annual Performance and Accountability  
Report (BOH24012) (City Wide) - Page 7 of 7**

---

Appendix "C" to Report BOH24012

Estimated 2023 Financial Actuals for Ministry  
of Health-Funded Programs Under the Ontario  
Public Health Standards