

HEALTH EQUITY



PRIORITY GOAL

To decrease health inequities such that everyone has equal opportunities for optimal health and can attain their full health potential without disadvantage due to social position or other socially determined circumstances.

COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT

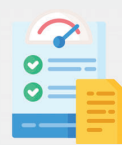
Action Area Goal: Enhance staff competency to improve equitable health outcomes in programs.



93% of staff have completed Health Equity and Anti-Racism training, with **91% of staff** indicating the training had increased their knowledge of how to contribute to health equity and anti-racism action at work.

DATA FOR EQUITY

Action Area Goal: Enhance the collection and use of data on the social determinants of health for Hamiltonians.



All programs developed health equity key performance indicators to monitor and reduce local health inequities, with **full implementation in 2025** of these measures.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Action Area Goal: Increase engagement with priority populations in identifying and addressing health inequities and collaborate with community partners.

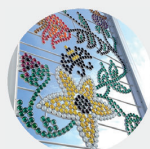


WITH THE 2024 RELEASE OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH STATUS REPORT, community organizations and priority populations were engaged to help shape a meaningful report.

THE CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM HAD

13 community engagement activities with priority populations and

18 new and ongoing partnerships with organizations serving those populations.



In response to Public Health Services' Indigenous Health Strategy, the **Indigenous Well-being Advisory Circle** was established to provide collective Indigenous expertise and consultation to health and social service organizations.

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Action Area Goal: Measure and demonstrate the impact of programs on health inequities in our community.

2,839

LOW-INCOME SENIORS ACCESSED FREE DENTAL CLINIC SERVICES THROUGH THE ONTARIO SENIORS DENTAL CARE PROGRAM.



At discharge, **96% of one-parent families** participating in the Healthy Babies Healthy Children's Home Visiting Program, achieved their goals for healthy attachment with their child.

494.6K

total views of Instagram posts.

Public Health Services continues to use storytelling and real-life examples across social media to make our work more accessible and relatable to the community.



CHILD AND YOUTH HEALTHY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT



PRIORITY GOAL

To achieve optimal preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth, parental, and family health, and to achieve optimal health of school-aged children and youth through partnership and collaboration with school boards and schools.

OPTIMAL PRENATAL HEALTH

Action Area Goal: Improve health and mental health during pregnancy and the immediate postpartum period.



40% OF PREGNANT INDIVIDUALS IN HAMILTON ACCESSED

Healthy Growth and Development prenatal supports, **exceeding the 25% target.**

Strategies to identify individuals with prenatal risk factors boosted intake assessments, program enrollment and access to virtual education. **THE HEALTHY BABIES HEALTHY CHILDREN PROGRAM COMPLETED 929 PRENATAL SCREENS, CONNECTING THOSE WITH RISK FACTORS** to supports during pregnancy that promote healthy birth outcomes.

INFANT AND EARLY YEARS MENTAL HEALTH

Action Area Goal: Reduce the number of children aged 0-6 years at risk for poor social and emotional development.

874

CHILDREN AND YOUTH RECEIVED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING THROUGH THE CHILD & ADOLESCENT SERVICES PROGRAM.



APPROXIMATELY ONE QUARTER OF BRIEF COUNSELLING SESSIONS WERE COMPLETED IN TARGETED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.



Community planning facilitating access to mental health support for 3.9 to 6-year-olds resulted in a new pathway for parents and caregivers to get help.



of children referred to the 0 to 3.8-year-old pathway were connected to developmental and/or mental health services.

OPTIMAL HEALTH OF SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Action Area Goal: In partnership and collaboration with school boards and schools, improve the mental health and well-being of school aged children and youth, increase access to oral health care services for children and youth, and reduce the burden of disease and absence from school due to lapsed immunization vaccinations and records.

16,643

DENTAL SCREENINGS WERE COMPLETED, with approximately 9% of children who were screened having an urgent dental need.



74% of 7-year-old students and 88% of 17 year-old students enrolled in Hamilton Schools were vaccinated for Meningococcal Disease in the 2023-24 school year.

Vaccine target rate: 90%

725

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN WERE ENROLLED in the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program in the 2023-24 school year.



90 Hamilton schools completed Healthy School Certification, where **40 were high-priority schools.** After certification, all priority schools reported positive impacts on student health and well-being.



MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE

PRIORITY GOAL

To promote community mental health and well-being and reduce the burden of substance use.

MUNICIPAL POLICIES ON SUBSTANCE USE

Action Area Goal: Enhance the Municipal Alcohol Policy to mitigate the harms associated with alcohol use on municipal properties.



Led the City staff working group that reviewed the [Municipal Alcohol Policy](#) to align City property events with safe drinking guidelines, promoting healthier & safer events.



City Council decided to maintain the 2011 Municipal Alcohol Policy.

TRAUMA-AND VIOLENCE-INFORMED CARE

Action Area Goal: Strengthen Public Health Services' approach to trauma-and violence-informed care.



Initiated the integration of trauma-and violence-informed care into public health programs to ensure [culturally, emotionally, and physically safe services](#).



Included [staff training, policy development, and planning](#) environmental assessments to improve the safety and comfort of public health spaces.



Future work will expand staff training, adoption of policies across programs, and promotion of approaches to community organizations and services.

HARM REDUCTION

Action Area Goal: Enhance harm reduction education, programs, and services to support safer substance use among people who use substances.



Re-engaged the [Hamilton Drug Strategy Steering Committee](#) to identify priority substances. Strategic plans advanced through the Alcohol and Opioid Working Groups in collaboration with community partners.

Quit Clinics worked effectively for their target populations:



33%

of clients who identified with having mental health concerns were smoke free at their 12-month follow-up.



37%

of clients whose annual before tax income was <\$60,000 were smoke free at their 12-month follow-up.

For reference, according to Cancer Care Ontario, [only 2% of Ontarians who quit smoking stay smoke free](#) for at least 12 months.



14,173

clients accessed supplies to reduce risk of harms associated with substance use.



TARGET: 20%

79%

more eligible external stakeholders distributed [naloxone kits](#) through the Ontario Naloxone Program.



TARGET: 10%

38%

increase in the number of community partner agencies providing supplies through the [Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution](#).



CLIMATE IMPACTS

PRIORITY GOAL

To promote healthy built and natural environments that support health and mitigate existing and emerging risks, including the impacts of a changing climate, and to enable consistent and effective management of emergency situations.

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

Action Area Goal: Increase surveillance, public awareness, and detection of climate-sensitive vector-borne diseases to reduce the incidence of vector-borne disease in the Hamilton community.



61 TICKS

submitted by the public directly to Public Health Services for identification.



12.5% OF 80 MOSQUITO POOLS

tested positive for mosquito-borne viruses (**West Nile Virus, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis**).

Measures align with the objective of increasing awareness of tick identification and prevention measures in Hamilton.

Lyme disease cases have increased in Hamilton since 2013, with the highest number of cases seen to date (79) reported in 2023. This reflects a broader pattern across Ontario. More cases may be reported as more individuals seek testing and treatment because of increased public and physician awareness of Lyme disease. Improvements to surveillance and diagnostic methods may also contribute to a higher number of identified cases.



2 CASES

of **West Nile Virus** were reported.



74 CASES

of **Lyme Disease** were reported.

Case numbers include locally acquired and travel-related origins.

EXTREME HEAT AND HEALTH

Action Area Goal: Promote the development of healthy built and natural environments and mitigate the impacts of climate change.



748 COOL KITS

were distributed to individuals identified as having high vulnerability to extreme heat.



A new "**Heat-Related Illness Situational Report**" was used to monitor the local population health impacts of extreme heat in real-time.



the **Community Heat Response Strategy** was approved by the Board of Health.



>1,500 BUS TICKETS

Distributed to local residents for travel to and from community-wide "**cool spaces**" during a heat warning of any duration in partnership with Hamilton Street Railway.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Action Area Goal: Increase preparedness and public awareness to respond to threats related to climate change.



Public health messaging was delivered through media interviews on the health **impacts of wildfire smoke, extreme cold, and heat-related illness**.



Mandatory **emergency preparedness training** was implemented for all staff.