

Health Status Highlights from Our Communities

SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC HEALTH
PRESENTATION TO
OXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Presenters:

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Our Community is Changing

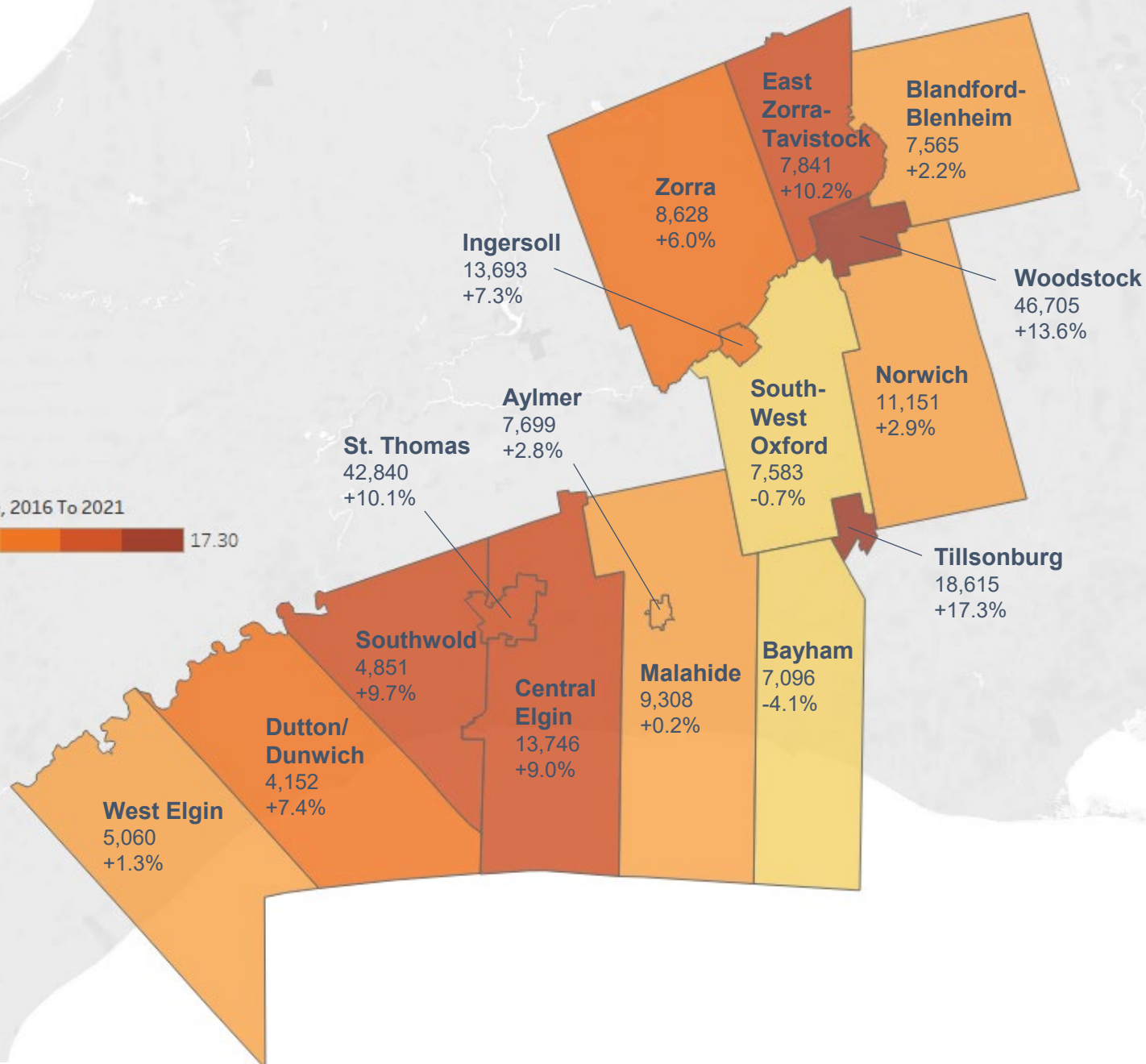
- The SWPH region had significant population growth between 2016 and 2021
- The population is aging; The proportion of the population aged 65 and over is increasing, while the proportion aged 19 and under is decreasing
- The most common places of birth of recent immigrants have changed, with many now born in India
- The proportion of the SWPH population that belongs to a visible minority group doubled between 2016 and 2021 but remains much lower than the province



Data Source:
StatsCan. The Canadian Census

Population Size and Change by Municipality

% Population Change, 2016 To 2021

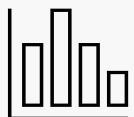


What is driving population growth?

- Intraprovincial migration
- Natural growth
- Immigration from other countries

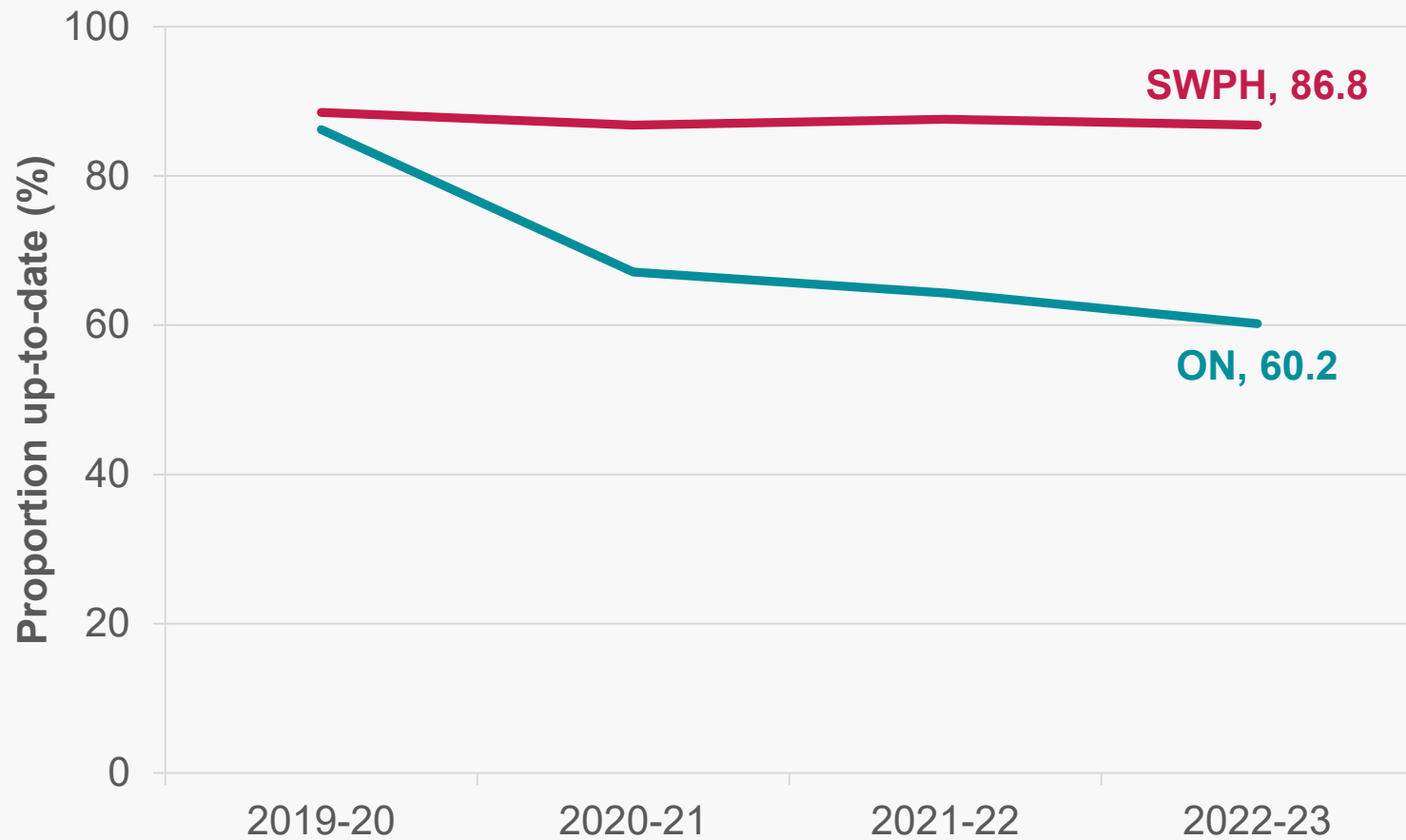
Immunizations

- The local vaccine coverage rates for various diseases of public health significance have remained relatively stable over time. Many are over 80%
- The vaccine coverage rates for pertussis and measles/mumps were both around 87% in the most recent school year (2022-2023)
 - Both are much higher than the coverage rates in Ontario (60%)
- Catch-up activities by SWPH have been the main factor in children remaining up-to-date on their vaccinations each school year



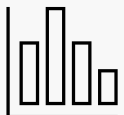
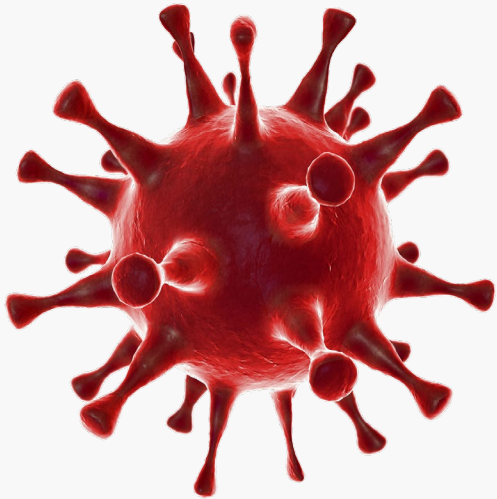
Data Source:
Public Health Ontario. Immunization coverage report for school pupils in Ontario. 2024

Measles and Mumps Vaccine Coverage



Infectious Diseases and Outbreaks

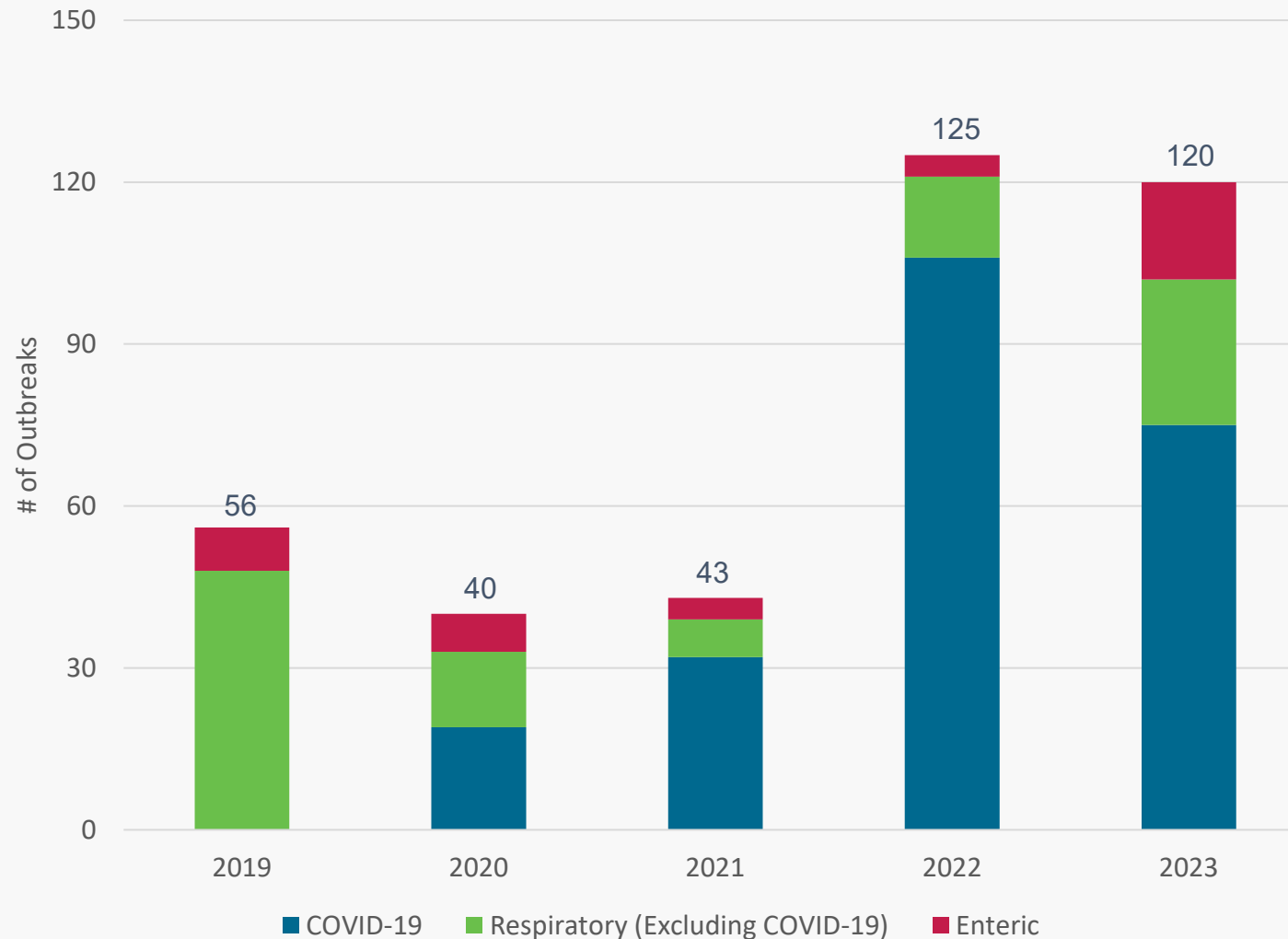
- The number of outbreaks in long-term care homes, retirement homes and hospitals has more than doubled compared to pre-pandemic years
- There have been increases in rates of many reportable diseases, a few examples are pertussis, Lyme disease, invasive group A strep and syphilis
- At the same time, many other diseases, while not increasing, still contribute to the overall burden of illness in the region, including chlamydia and campylobacteriosis to name only a couple



Data Sources:

- Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS), extracted using Cognos ReportNet (CRN)
- Infectious disease query by Public Health Ontario

Institutional Outbreaks



Mental Health

- The data suggests that the mental health of the population has declined in recent years, both locally and across Ontario
- Poor mental health is more evident in younger age groups
- Parents tend to think their youth's mental health is better than youth say their mental health is
- The highest rates of intentional self-harm, poor mental health and suicidal thoughts are in younger females

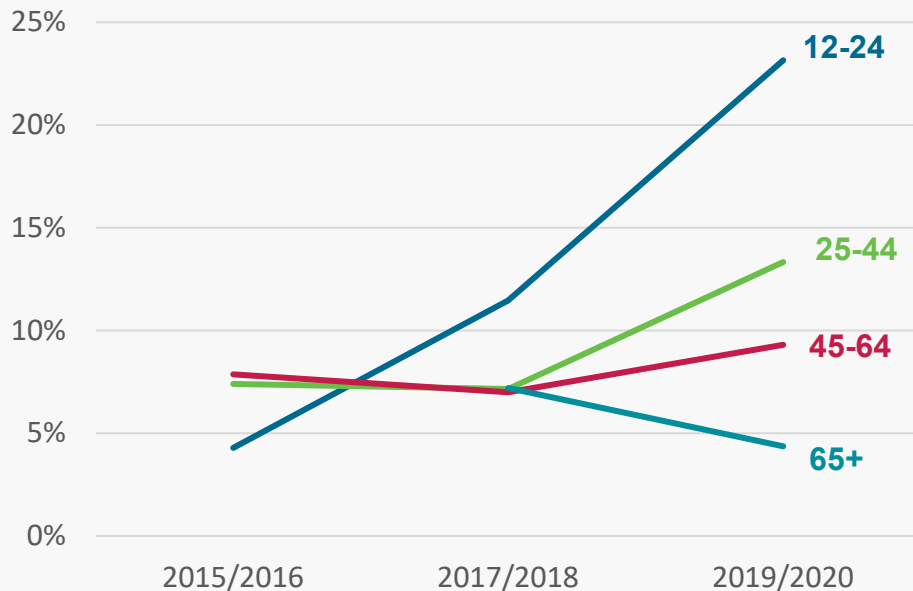


Data Sources:

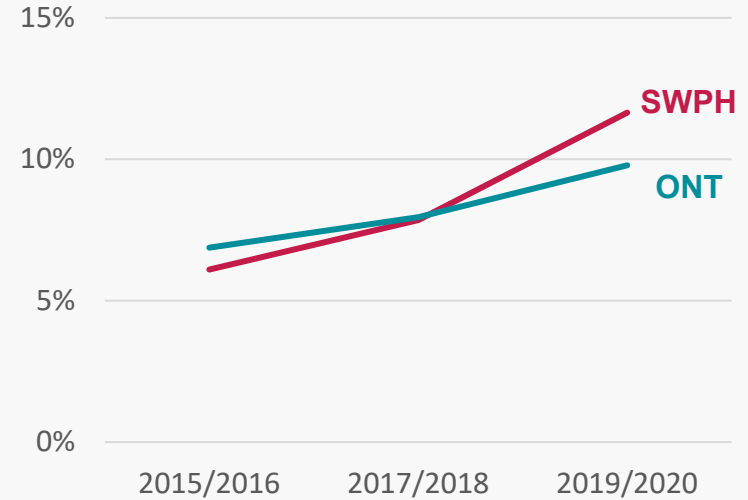
-StatsCan. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) and the Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY).
-The National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) and the Ontario Mental Health Reporting System (OMHRS), accessed via IntelliHEALTH

Mental Health

- The proportion of respondents who rated their mental health as fair or poor has increased over time, both locally and provincially
 - Locally, the proportion almost doubled over time (6.1% vs. 11.7%)

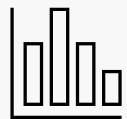


- The proportion of 12-24 year olds locally who rated their mental health as poor or fair was over 5x higher in 2019/20 compared to 2015/16 (4.3% vs. 23.2%)



Substance Use

- Poor health outcomes due to alcohol consumption, like hospitalizations and deaths, have been increasing since 2018
- There are more daily smokers in the SWPH region (17.2%) than in Ontario (10.0%)
- More than 50% of youth in grades 9 to 12 drink alcohol, more than 30% are e-cigarette users, and 25% use cannabis



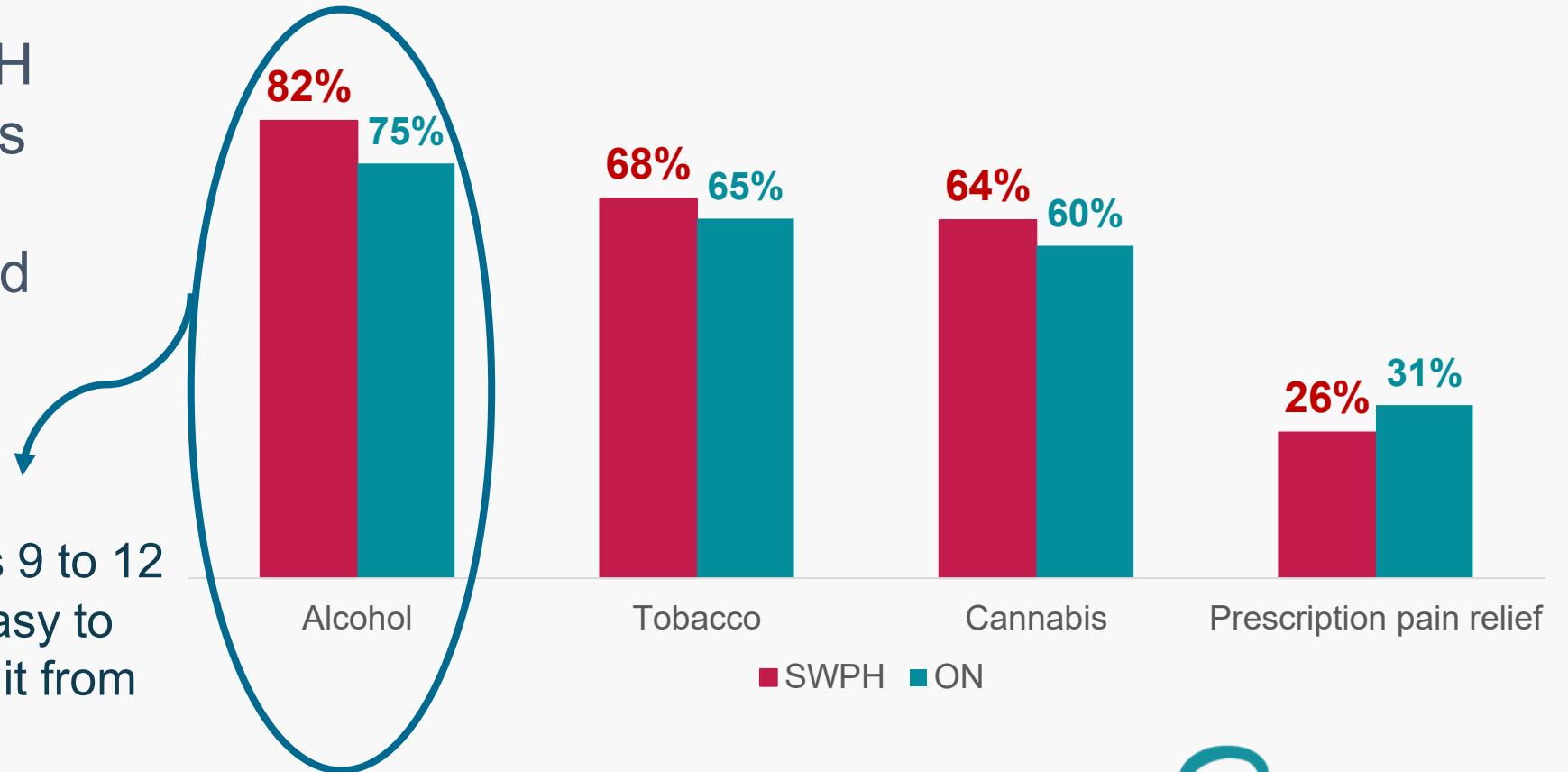
Data Sources:

- StatsCan. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) and the Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY).
- The National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD), accessed via IntelliHEALTH

Youth Access to Substances

- Most youth in SWPH and Ontario think it's easy to access alcohol, tobacco and cannabis

58% of youth in grades 9 to 12 who said alcohol was easy to access reported getting it from a **family member**



Maternal and Reproductive Health

- Mental health concerns during pregnancy have increased in recent years
 - More than 1 in 3 women (35.6%) experienced mental health issues during pregnancy in 2022 in the SWPH region
- Infant feeding has changed over time, with fewer babies being fed breastmilk alone and more babies being combination-fed or formula-fed
- Substance use during pregnancy is of particular concern among women aged 24 years and younger



Data Sources:
-BORN Information System
-SWPH Infant Feeding Surveillance Survey

Oral Health

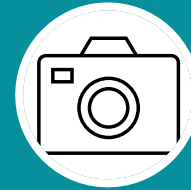
- More than 75% of SWPH residents have visited a dental professional in the last year
- During school screenings in the most recent school year, students in JK had increasing urgent dental care needs, and yet needs were decreasing for older children
- The rate of emergency department visits for non-traumatic dental conditions among local children and youth has decreased over time and is lower compared to Ontario
- The rate of emergency department visits for non-traumatic dental conditions among seniors has decreased since the implementation of the seniors dental program in 2018



Data Sources:

- eHealth Ontario. Oral Health Information System (OHISS)
- The National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), accessed via IntelliHEALTH

Coming Next



This was a picture of our community and how things have changed over time



Use this and other reports in your own work. All health status reports are publicly available:
<https://www.swpublichealth.ca/en/reports-and-statistics/community-health-status.aspx>



Consider ongoing opportunities to engage and share the work of Southwestern Public Health