



**Elgin St. Thomas Site**  
Administrative Office  
1230 Talbot Street  
St. Thomas, ON  
N5P 1G9

**Woodstock Site**  
410 Buller Street  
Woodstock, ON  
N4S 4N2

February 21, 2023

Mr. Ben Addley, Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Lynn Buchner, Director of Corporate Services  
County of Oxford  
21 Reeve Street  
Woodstock, ON N4S 7Y3

Dear Ben and Lynn,

On behalf of the Board of Health, we are pleased to advise you that the Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Board of Health approved the 2023 General Programs and Related Services budgets at its February 9, 2023, Board meeting with the following resolution:

*That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the 2023 Budgets for General Cost-Shared program, for 100% Provincially funded ongoing initiatives, and for 100% Provincially funded one-time initiatives, as presented and that staff return a report on budget impacts required to improve key health indicators.*

Budget presented as follows:

\$18,048,416	General Programs and Related Services budgets
<u>\$0</u>	Cost-Shared Business Cases
<b>\$18,048,416</b>	Final Total of Budgets and Business Cases

SWPH has requested that the Ministry assist with providing additional base funding in the amount of 4.5% despite inflation nearing 7% particularly given that base funding from the Ministry has not kept up with inflationary demands year over year.

The total cost shared budget for SWPH public health has been set at \$18,048,416. The total levy for the above noted budget for the **County of Oxford is \$2,792,299** however in the event that SWPH does not receive the requested base funding increase from the Ministry of Health, the levy to the County will be **adjusted accordingly** and we will advise you of the revised amount if required.

There are no cost shared one-time business cases in the 2023 budget as all requested one-time business cases will be submitted as 100% Ministry of Health funded for 2023.

Please forward payment to Southwestern Public Health in monthly installments based on the \$2,792,299.

The Board of Health would appreciate the opportunity to present at a future council meeting about public health matters including its recent budget discussions and decisions. If you are amenable to that, staff can work with the County of Oxford staff to arrange a date that works best for all.

A copy of the Board approved financial audited statements for the period ending December 31, 2022 will be forwarded to the County of Oxford once that work is completed, likely April 2023.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Mr. Joe Preston  
Chair, Board of Health  
Southwestern Public Health



Cynthia St. John  
Chief Executive Officer  
Southwestern Public Health

copy: Monica Nusink, Director of Finance, SWPH  
enclosure: 2023 General Programs and Related Services Budgets



**2023 BUDGET  
FOR  
GENERAL PROGRAMS**

SUPPORTED BY THE  
ONTARIO PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS,  
PROTOCOLS, AND GUIDELINES  
(Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability)



## **General Programs**

# **2023 Budget & Realities and Priorities**

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# STRATEGIC VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES



## VISION

Healthy people  
in vibrant  
communities.

## MISSION

Leading the way in  
protecting and promoting  
the health of all people in  
our communities, resulting  
in better health.

## VALUES

Evidence  
Collaboration  
Accountability  
Quality  
Equity  
Forward-thinking

# Realities

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Southwestern Public Health's 2023 Budget considers the current reality of its provincial mandate, its continued development as a relatively new organization, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response/recovery/backlog demands, and the current needs of its communities. This budget has considerations such as:

- ✓ a continued leadership role in the response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on outbreak management and vaccination while also imbedding this work into our programs and services,
- ✓ the need to deliver public health programs and services in varying ways (in person, virtually, mobile, etc.) to protect the health and safety of our staff, our clients, and our communities,
- ✓ mandated delivery of Ontario Public Health Standards and Accountability Requirements
- ✓ the demonstrated value for money offered by Ontario's public health system. Specifically, studies have concluded that:
  - every \$1 spent on immunizing children with the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine saves \$16 in health care costs (Canadian Immunization Guide);
  - every \$1 spent on mental health and addictions saves \$7 in health costs and \$30 dollars in lost productivity and social costs (Every Door Is the Right Door: Towards a Ten-Year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy);
  - Every \$1 invested in tobacco prevention programs saves up to \$20 in future health care costs (Building on our Gains, Taking Action Now: Ontario's Tobacco Control Strategy for 2011-2016); and
  - Every \$1 spent on early childhood development and health care saves up to \$9 in future spending on health, social and justice services (The Chief Public Health Officer's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada, 2009).
- ✓ continued implementation of the current Strategic Plan for Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) recognizing the need for flexibility given potential changes in our communities due to the pandemic,
- ✓ provincial, municipal, and public demands of public health services, including for example, work towards opioid crisis prevention, assistance with addressing local

## Realities (continued)

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health equity concerns such as poverty, education, housing and community belongingness, studying the impacts of the global pandemic on health outcomes, and continued access to home visiting support, sexual health services, dental care, etc.,

- ✓ extensive catch up of the majority of public health programs put on hold throughout the pandemic (i.e. routine immunizations, oral health screening, healthy child development programs, climate change strategy development, etc.)
- ✓ continued development of the new organization, its culture, its program and service delivery framework (COVID-19 put a pause on much of this),
- ✓ enhanced staffing to support the COVID-19 pandemic response – recognizing that staff recruitment has been challenging due to shortages in the labour market,
- ✓ a continued emphasis on transparency, accountability, and reporting resulting in frequent collection of greater amounts of data, performance targets, and communication of such,
- ✓ a continued emphasis on risk management as outlined in the Board's 2023 risk register and this resulting in the need for continued support for the prompt and proactive identification, mitigation, monitoring and reporting of risks,
- ✓ the continued need for collaboration and integration with community and health system partners (i.e., primary care, education, etc.), and
- ✓ recognition of staff burnout and fatigue with respect to the overall COVID-19 response and the challenges associated with maintaining staff wellness while catching up on so much work that was paused.

# Future Focused

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In order to achieve its vision of Healthy People in Vibrant Communities, SWPH must have its eye on the future both near and far. SWPH considered what is on the horizon when it completed its 2023 planning. These considerations are not in any particular order.

- ✓ Capacity in the community and system for public health work
- ✓ Developing new priorities for 2024 and beyond
- ✓ Contain the spread of COVID-19
- ✓ The unintended consequences of the pandemic including the physical, emotional, and mental health & well-being implications
- ✓ Strive for continued staff wellness
- ✓ Significant economic challenges at the individual, local, provincial, and federal levels
- ✓ Future emergency readiness
- ✓ Strained health care system that was designed for less volume and acuity
- ✓ Individual and community impact of public health prevention, promotion, and protection
- ✓ Sustained momentum to achieve outcomes
- ✓ Workforce recruitment and retention

# Priorities

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Southwestern Public Health will:

- ✓ continue to contain COVID-19 but also recognize the need to incorporate COVID-19 as another infectious disease amongst many,
- ✓ continue to vaccinate our communities including potential future eligible cohorts with focus on vaccine hesitant and resistant individuals,
- ✓ focus on its 1<sup>st</sup> strategic direction of working with partners and community members to reduce health and social inequities, making measurable improvements in population health,
- ✓ focus on our 2<sup>nd</sup> strategic direction of working with partners and community members to transform systems to improve population health,
- ✓ focus on our 3<sup>rd</sup> strategic direction to build an organizational culture of innovation and leadership that supports excellence in public health programs and services,
- ✓ continue to be a credible, reliable, and trusted voice for public health matters in the community,
- ✓ continue to identify innovative approaches to our work so that we are the most effective as possible and we don't duplicate work,
- ✓ continue to offer comprehensive programs and services using accessible and relevant delivery methods for the communities it serves,
- ✓ continue to value partnerships and collaborative efforts with other agencies noting so much of public health's work is connected to other work in the community,
- ✓ strive for compliance with the Ontario Public Health Standards and Accountability Standards for general programs and related services as established by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS),
- ✓ strive to meet any performance targets established by the Ministry of Health as outlined in the Accountability Agreement between the Ministry and SWPH, and
- ✓ continue to monitor population health status and needs in Oxford County, the City of St. Thomas, and the County of Elgin, to evaluate public health programs and services and to engage in continuous quality improvement to improve the safety, efficiency, client-centredness, responsiveness, effectiveness, and timeliness of SWPH programs and services

# 2023 Budget: Summary

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**Southwestern Public Health  
2023 BUDGET**

Standard - Section / Program	2023 Budget
	Jan 1 - Dec 31
<b>Direct Program and Services Costs</b>	
<b>Food Safety</b>	
Food Safety (Education, Promotion & Inspection)	489,426
<b>Food Safety Total</b>	<b>489,426</b>
<b>Healthy Environments</b>	
Climate Change	122,160
Healthy Environments (Health Hazard Investigation and Response)	407,806
<b>Healthy Environments Total</b>	<b>529,966</b>
<b>Healthy Growth and Development</b>	
Reproductive Health/Healthy Pregnancies	364,567
Breastfeeding	379,182
Parenting	500,400
<b>Healthy Growth and Development Total</b>	<b>1,244,149</b>

# 2023 Budget: Summary

Standard - Section / Program	2023 Budget
	Jan 1 - Dec 31
<b>Immunization</b>	
Immunization Monitoring and Surveillance	145,305
Vaccine Administration	148,437
Vaccine Management	199,695
<b>Immunization Total</b>	<b>493,437</b>
<b>Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control</b>	
Infection Prevention & Control	1,778,797
Tuberculosis Prevention and Control	27,860
Rabies Prevention and Control and Zoonotics	222,592
Sharps program	70,900
Vector-Borne Diseases	216,694
Sexual Health	1,034,329
<b>Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Total</b>	<b>3,351,172</b>
<b>Safe Water</b>	
Safe Water	164,147
<b>Safe Water Total</b>	<b>164,147</b>
<b>School Health - Oral Health</b>	
Healthy Smiles Ontario	855,744
School Screening and Surveillance	344,358
<b>School Health - Oral Health Total</b>	<b>1,200,102</b>
<b>School Health - Immunization</b>	
School Immunization	977,166
<b>School Health - Immunization Total</b>	<b>977,166</b>
<b>School Health - Other</b>	
Comprehensive School Health	1,114,009
<b>School Health - Other Total</b>	<b>1,114,009</b>

# 2023 Budget: Summary

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Standard - Section / Program	2023 Budget
	Jan 1 - Dec 31
<b>Substance Use and Injury Prevention</b>	
Substance Use	468,798
Harm Reduction	208,242
Smoke Free Ontario Strategy	213,245
<b>Substance Use and Injury Prevention Total</b>	<b>890,285</b>
<b>Foundational Standards</b>	
Emergency Management	70,648
Effective Public Health Practice	337,839
Population Health Assessment	387,478
<b>Foundational Standards Total</b>	<b>795,965</b>
<b>Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention</b>	
Built Environment	257,151
Healthy Eating Behaviours	118,799
Mental Health Promotion	95,126
Injury Prevention	180,350
Health Equity	332,780
Healthy Menu Choices Act Enforcement	500
Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviours	107,468
<b>Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention</b>	<b>1,092,174</b>

# 2023 Budget: Summary

<b>Direct Program and Services Costs Total</b>	<b>12,341,997</b>
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Program and Services Support Costs	5,706,419
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<b>Program and Services Support Costs Total</b>	<b>5,706,419</b>
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<b>Total Cost Shared</b>	<b>18,048,416</b>
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## 100% Provincially Funded Programs

Ontario Senior Dental Care Program	1,061,100
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Medical Officer of Health Compensation Initiative	156,043
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School Focused Nurses Initiative (Covid-19)	450,000
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<b>Total 100% Provincially Funded</b>	<b>1,667,143</b>
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<b>Total General Cost-Shared Funding and 100% Provincially Funded</b>	<b>19,715,559</b>
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## One-Time 100% Provincial Funding Requests (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024)

Public Health Inspector Practicum	20,000
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Sharps Program	60,000
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Covid-19 (General response and Vaccination efforts)	2,487,762
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Infection Prevention and Control Hub	805,000
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Stigma Education Initiative	24,500
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Collaborative Planning School Board Work	10,000
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<b>Total</b>	<b>3,407,262</b>
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## Programs Funded by Other Ministries

Healthy Babies Healthy Children	1,653,539
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Pre and Post Natal Nurse Practitioner	139,000
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<b>Total Programs Funded by Other Ministries</b>	<b>1,792,539</b>
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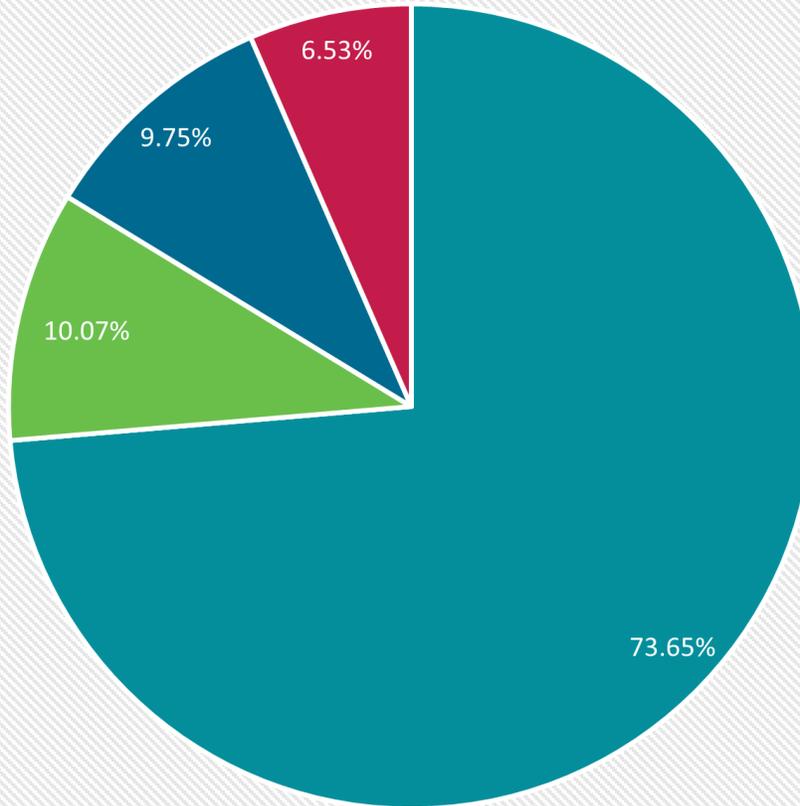
# 2023 Budget: Summary

## 2023 Cost Shared Budget Amounts

2023 Budget - reflects a 4.5% increase from all funding partners					
Population based on 2021 Census	42,840	51,912	121,781	216,533	
	19.78%	23.97%	56.24%	100%	
	<u>City of St.</u>				
	<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Thomas</u>	<u>Elgin County</u>	<u>Oxford County</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ministry funding	\$ 11,584,661	\$ 982,272	\$ 1,190,283	\$ 2,792,299	\$ 16,549,516
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$ 11,584,661</b>	<b>\$ 982,272</b>	<b>\$ 1,190,283</b>	<b>\$ 2,792,299</b>	<b>\$ 16,549,516</b>
One Time Ministry mitigation funding to public health		\$ 296,550	\$ 359,349	\$ 843,001	\$ 1,498,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,584,661</b>	<b>\$ 1,278,822</b>	<b>\$ 1,549,632</b>	<b>\$ 3,635,300</b>	<b>\$ 18,048,416</b>
Levy increase over prior year (Cash payment)		\$ 59,622	\$ 2,996	\$ 163,333	\$ 225,952
Actual levy payment (cash payment)	\$ 13,083,561	\$ 982,272	\$ 1,190,283	\$ 2,792,392	\$ 18,048,509

# 2023 Budget: Summary

2023 Cost Share Overview



■ Salaries & Benefits   ■ Program Costs   ■ Facilities & Office Management   ■ Corporate Services

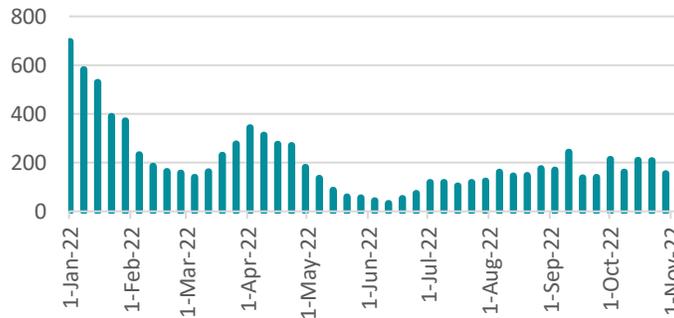
# Population Health Highlights

Based on local need, and recent concerns, the following are statistical highlights of some of the majority priorities across the organization in 2023.

## COVID-19

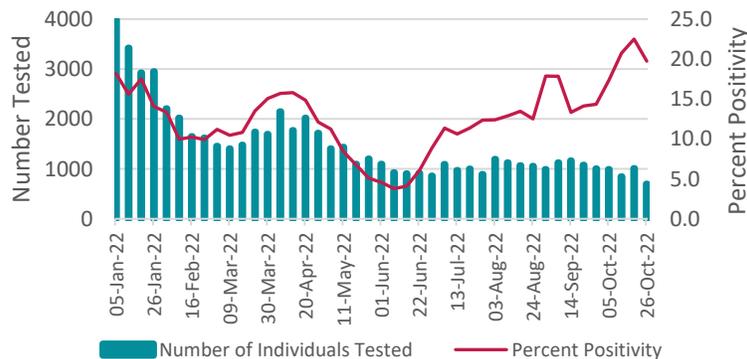
In 2022, SWPH entered a different stage of pandemic response—living with and managing COVID-19. Various provincial and federal restrictions related to travel, masking and closures were lifted and confirmed case counts throughout the year reflected these changes (**Figure 1**). At the beginning of 2022, eligibility for COVID-19 PCR testing became restricted to high-risk groups, which meant that the number of confirmed cases in the SWPH region was a severe underestimate of the true burden of the disease.

**Figure 1. Number of confirmed cases in the SWPH region, weekly, January – December 2022**



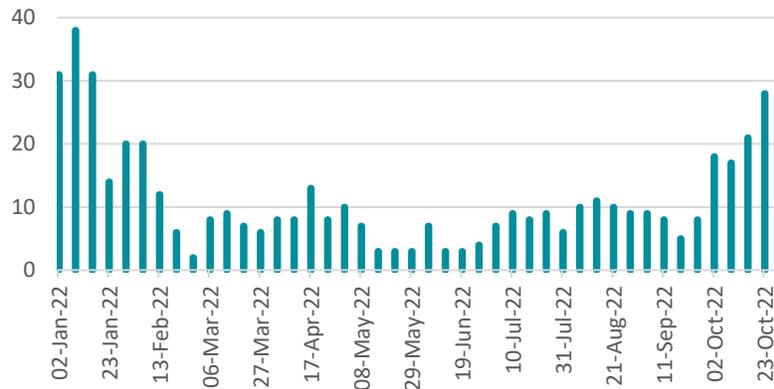
While the number of individuals being tested for COVID-19 declined over time in 2022, the percent positivity reached an all-time high in mid-October 2022, climbing to a record 22.5% (**Figure 2**).

**Figure 2. Number tested and percent positivity in the SWPH region, weekly, January – December 2022**



Throughout 2022, the number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations was generally higher in the fall and winter and lower in the spring and summer months (**Figure 3**).

**Figure 3. Number of new hospitalizations in the SWPH region, weekly, January – December 2022**



Vaccine uptake in the Southwestern Public Health region was initially high by the end of 2021, when about 84% of the population aged 12 years and older had received at least 2 doses of the vaccine. However, booster dose uptake in 2022 was much slower. As of November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, approximately 1 in 4 SWPH residents age 12+ (24.2%) had their primary series of the vaccine plus a booster dose in the last 6 months.

Going into 2023, SWPH staff will still be expected to continue COVID-19 case management, reporting, and vaccine administration activities. It is also important to continue reporting on and tracking COVID-19 and to reflect on the indirect health impacts of the pandemic.

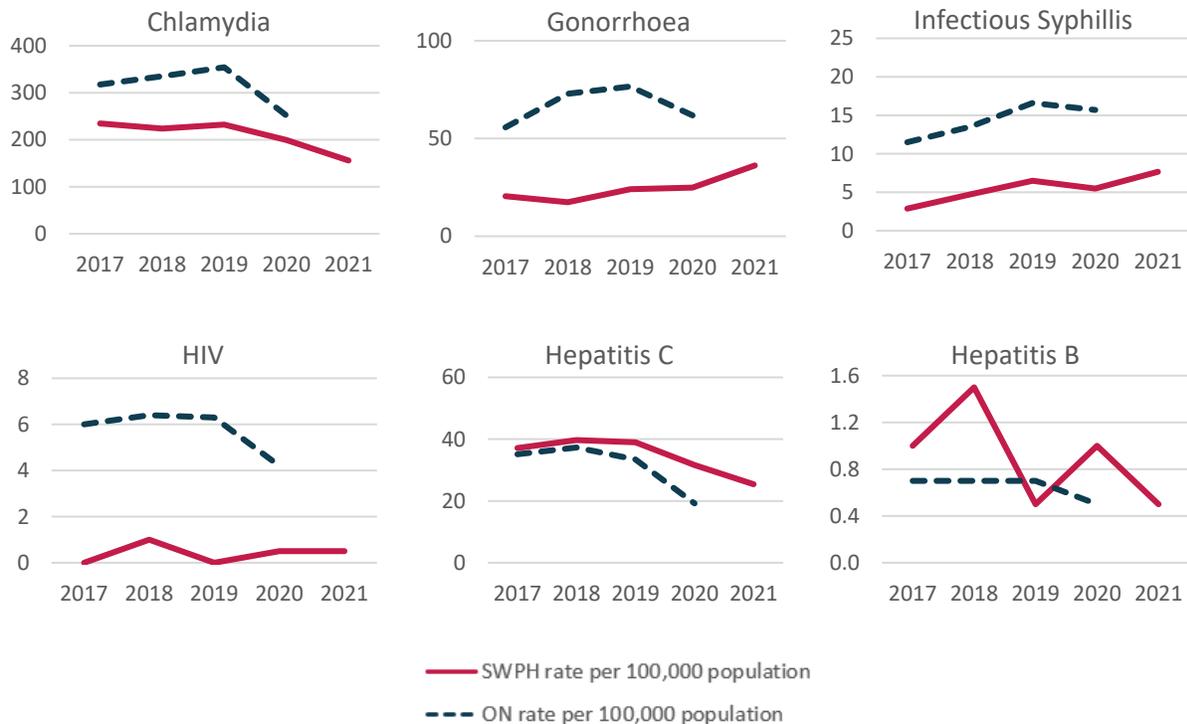
### Sexual Health

Sexual health continues to be a priority area for Southwestern Public Health, with close to 500 confirmed sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections (STBBIs) in 2021 alone. While chlamydia is the most commonly diagnosed STBBI in the region (an average of 435 confirmed cases per year between 2017-2021), SWPH had a lower rate compared to Ontario and rates decreased locally during the 5-year time period (**Figure 4**).

Rates also decreased locally for hepatitis C, however, the rate remained higher than the provincial rate. In contrast, rates of gonorrhoea and infectious syphilis have been on the rise locally, with the rate of gonorrhea doubling between 2018 and 2021 (**Figure 4**). New confirmed cases of HIV and hepatitis B remain rare locally. Only 4 cases of HIV and 9 cases of hepatitis B were diagnosed over the 5-year time period examined (**Figure 4**).

Comparing STBBIs in males and females in the SWPH region, females had higher rates of chlamydia compared to males, while males had higher rates of infectious syphilis, gonorrhoea, HIV and hepatitis C. Hepatitis B had similar rates between males and females.

**Figure 4. Rate of sexually transmitted diseases (per 100,000), SWPH, Ontario, 2017 – 2021**



Youth that have sex at an early age may increase their risk of unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections if they do not have access to adequate protection, knowledge, and support to engage in safer sex. According to the results of the 2015/2016 Canadian Community Health Survey, a higher proportion of youth (15 to 19 years) in the SWPH region reported that they had had sexual intercourse in their lifetime compared to youth in Ontario (56.2% versus 33.5%). While the teen pregnancy rate (15 to 19 years) steadily declined locally from 2016-2020, it was significantly higher than the provincial rate for each of these years.

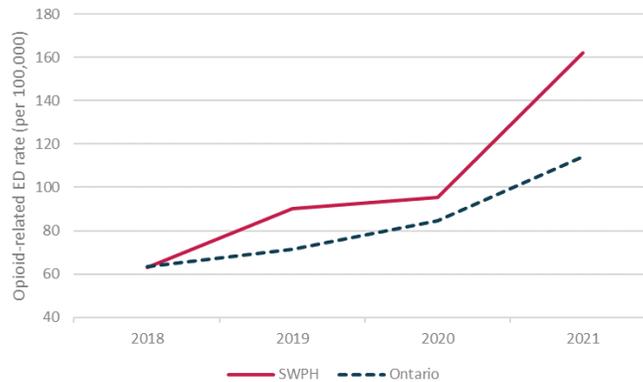
In 2023, SWPH staff will continue with STBBI case and contact management, providing no cost or low-cost access to contraceptives and providing education and counselling around STBBIs, contraceptives and pregnancy.

### Harm Reduction

The rate of opioid-related emergency department (ED) visits, hospitalizations, and deaths have all been steadily increasing since 2015. The rate of opioid-related ED visits and hospitalizations have been higher locally compared to the province since 2018.

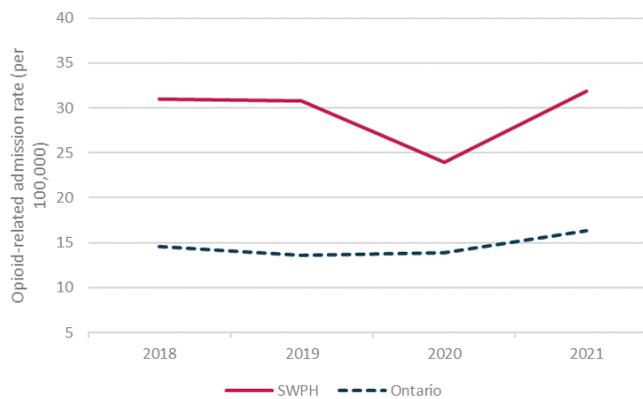
During the COVID-19 pandemic, there continued to be increases across all three indicators locally and across Ontario. However, SWPH saw a larger increase in the rate of opioid-related ED visits compared to the provincial rate, up from 95.2 visits per 100,000 population in 2020 to 162.3 visits per 100,000 population in 2021 (**Figure 5**).

**Figure 5. Rate of opioid-related emergency department visits (per 100,000), SWPH, Ontario, 2018 – 2021**



The rate of opioid-related hospitalizations is significantly higher than the provincial rate. In 2021, the local rate of 31.9 hospitalizations per 100,000 was nearly double the provincial rate of 16.3 hospitalizations per 100,000 population (**Figure 6**).

**Figure 6. Rate of opioid-related hospitalizations (per 100,000), SWPH, Ontario, 2018 – 2021**



The rate of opioid-related deaths also increased steeply during the pandemic, increasing from 13.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 2020 to 21.9 deaths per 100,000 population in 2021. In terms of harm reduction activities, the total number of naloxone kits distributed by pharmacies and SWPH has also increased year over year, more than doubling between 2018 and 2021, highlighting the growing need with the increased opioid-related harms.

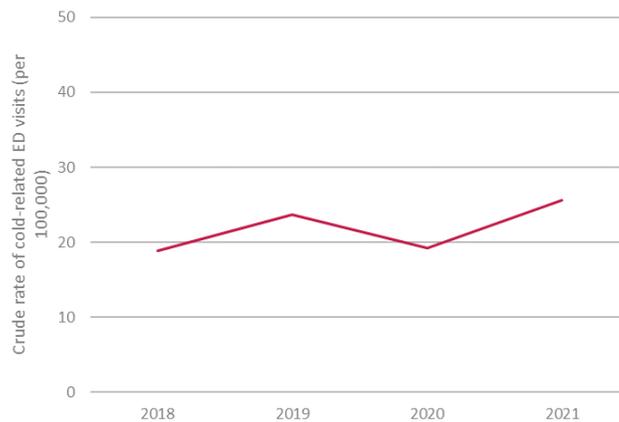
The higher burden of opioid-related harms also increases the need to assess the feasibility of consumption and treatment services in our region and a refined local opioid overdose response plan, which will be large pieces of SWPH work planned for 2023.

## Climate Change

Extreme temperatures increase the risk for environment-related illnesses such as heat stroke, syncope (fainting), and exhaustion, as well as frost bite and hypothermia, especially for seniors and other vulnerable populations in our community.

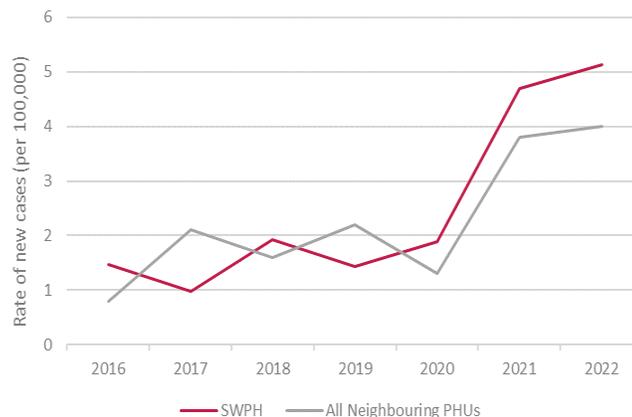
Locally, the rate of emergency department (ED) visits due to heat-related illnesses has increased overtime until 2019 and remained high throughout the pandemic. The rate of ED visits due to cold-related illnesses has fluctuated overtime but also continued to increase into 2021 when it reached an all time high of 26 visits per 100,000 population (**Figure 7**).

**Figure 7. Emergency department rate for cold-related illnesses (per 100,000), SWPH, 2018 – 2021**



The rising temperature also increases the risk of vector-borne illnesses, such as West Nile and Lyme disease, as the warmer weather creates an ideal environment for mosquitos and ticks to thrive. The rate of Lyme disease has been on the rise in recent years, reaching an all-time high of 4.9 cases per 100,000 in 2022. This is higher compared to the rate of all neighbouring health units (PHUs who share a border with SWPH) combined (**Figure 8**).

**Figure 8. Lyme disease incidence rate (per 100,000), SWPH, surrounding PHUs, 2016 – 2022**



It is important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the volume of emergency department visits in 2020 and 2021 meaning these trends may be an underestimate of the impact of climate change over the last few years.

These trends highlight the need to continue issuing both heat and cold alerts, especially in coordination with any provincial/federal alerts, to reduce harms to the community. The topic of climate change will represent a large portion of work locally, and that work will be led by the Medical Officer of Health.

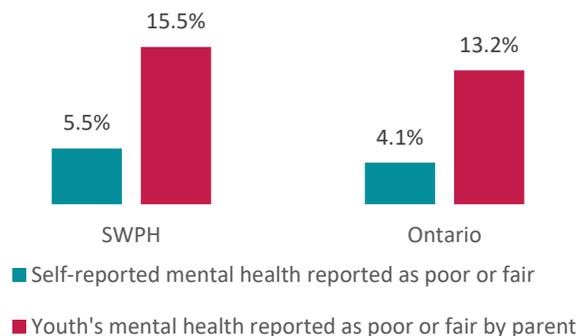
## Children’s Well-Being

### Mental Health

Improving the mental health of children and youth continues to be a priority for SWPH in 2023. Based on responses to the 2019 Canadian Health Study on Children and Youth (CHSCY), more youth aged 12 to 17 years in the SWPH region perceived their mental health to be poor or fair compared to the rest of Ontario. Specifically, 15.5% of youth from the SWPH region reported their mental health to be poor or fair compared to 13.2% in Ontario.

Interestingly, parents and/or guardians across the SWPH region and Ontario perceived their child or youth’s mental health to be better than the youth themselves did. In the SWPH region, 5.5% of parents and/or guardians reported that they perceived their child/youth’s mental health to be poor or fair, compared 15.5% of youth in the region. The discrepancy between perceived mental health between parents and/or guardians and youth themselves was also observed at the Provincial level (**Figure 9**).

**Figure 9. Self-reported mental health among youth (12 to 17 years), SWPH, Ontario, 2019**



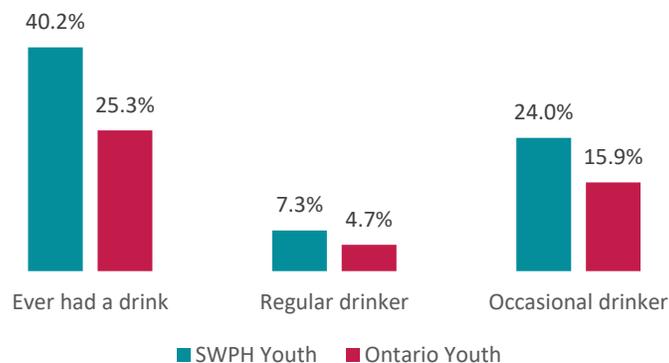
In 2019, 6.7% of youth in the SWPH region required or received services for their mental health between 2018 and 2019. This is slightly higher than the 5.8% reported at the Provincial level, though this difference is not statistically significant. Additionally, 20.6% of youth in the SWPH region reported that they had considered attempting suicide or taking their own life between 2018 and 2019. This percentage is higher, though not statistically significant, than what was reported among youth across Ontario (15.6%).

## Substance Use

Substance use among youth continues to be priority area for SWPH. Alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis consumption are higher among youth from the SWPH region compared to all of Ontario.

According to data from the 2019 CHSCY, significantly more youth aged 12-17 years from the SWPH region had ever had a drink of alcohol; 40.2% of SWPH youth, compared to 25.3% of Ontario youth. Furthermore, more youth from the SWPH region considered themselves to be regular and occasional compared to youth across Ontario (**Figure 10**).

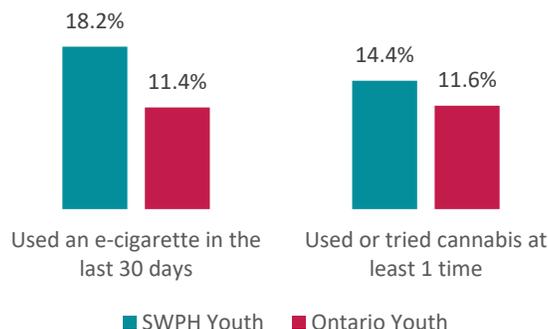
**Figure 10. Self-reported alcohol use among youth (12 to 17 years), SWPH, Ontario, 2019**



A significantly higher percentage of youth from the SWPH region reported having used an e-cigarette in the last 30 days according to the 2019 CHSCY (**Figure 11**). Specifically, 18.2% of youth from the SWPH region reported using an e-cigarette in the last 30 days, compared to 11.4% of youth across Ontario.

A higher percentage of youth aged 12 to 17 years from the SWPH region reported having tried cannabis at least once in their lifetime compared to Ontario. Though, the percentage of youth that reported using cannabis more than once was similar.

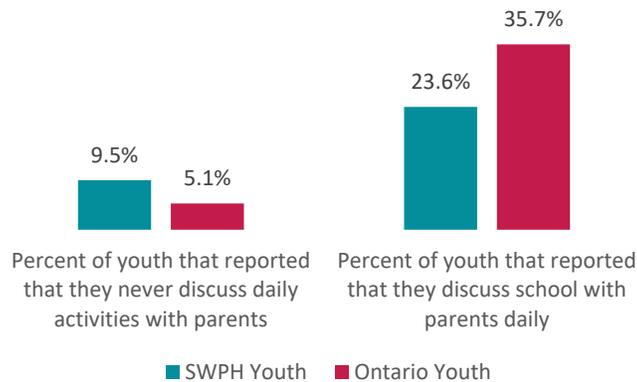
**Figure 11. Self-reported e-cigarette use among youth (12 to 17 years), SWPH, Ontario, 2019**



## Parental Communication & Engagement

Parental engagement is a protective factor for the health of children and youth and is another priority area for SWPH in 2023. According to data from the 2019 CHSCY, communication between parents, care givers and their children or youth, and parental engagement is lower in the SWPH region than Ontario (**Figure 12**). For example, 9.5% of youth in the SWPH region reported that they never discussed daily activities with the parents between 2018 and 2019 compared to 5.1% of Ontario youth. Additionally, significantly less youth from the SWPH region reported discussing school with their parents daily (23.6%) compared Ontario youth (35.6%).

**Figure 12. Self-reported interactions with parent or guardian among youth (12 to 17 years), SWPH, Ontario, 2019**



The health and wellbeing of children and youth are the focus of work for many different teams at Southwestern public health into 2023.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## FOOD SAFETY

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### Food Safety Highlights:

#### 1. Food Safety – Education, Promotion & Inspection

The goal of the Food Safety Program is to reduce the burden of food-borne illnesses. To meet this goal, several interventions are applied, including the inspection of public facilities that prepare and serve food, training of food handlers, educating the public about safe food-handling practices and principles, timely and effective detection of food-borne pathogens and response to community outbreaks.

- a. Complete 100% of all high-risk routine food premises' inspections and prioritize the inspection of food premises designated as moderate risk based on the relative extent of the risk presented by the operation (e.g., compliance history). Priority for inspections will consider those premises that were not inspected due to public health inspectors being deployed during the COVID-19 response.
- b. 100% disclosure of inspection results and enforcement activities on Health Inspect Southwestern and onsite at food premises' locations.
- c. Implement a locally driven food safety campaign for the public that: i) provides food safety tips via social media; ii) informs the public about the Health Inspect disclosure campaign; and iii) communicates the food safety requirements for preparing food for sale from a home residence.
- d. Provide formal and provincially approved food safety training courses to the community in a classroom setting. Informal education and food safety training occurs during inspections and conversations with food premises operators.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

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### Healthy Environments Highlights:

This program aims to reduce public exposure to health hazards and to promote the development of healthy built and natural environments that support health and mitigate existing and emerging risks, including those of a changing climate.

#### 1. Climate Change Program

- a. Continuation of climate change vulnerability assessment.
- b. Activation of a Heat Alert Response System (HARS).
- c. Develop a SWPH climate change strategy
- d. Review of municipal climate change plans. The review will provide us with a better understanding of climate and equity-related health indicators and supportive policies within Official plans. Further, it will facilitate a more proactive and effective relationship between SWPH and municipal planning partners to inform climate change and equity supportive policies.

#### 2. Health Hazard Investigation and Response

- a. A focus on safe housing issues related to mould, pest control, and other health hazard issues using a health equity lens. This includes connecting with agencies like Canadian Mental Health Association and provincial financial support systems (e.g., ODSP) when needed. This focus also includes developing and maintaining partnerships with stakeholders such as housing corporations.
- b. Proactive initiatives involving federal and provincial inputs (from Health Canada and Public Health Ontario) focused on radon awareness and open-air burning.
- c. Completing routine migrant farm housing inspections at or above the required inspection frequency to minimize injury or illness potential impacts. The use of guidance from the province which includes COVID-19 mitigation strategies, remain in place.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## HEALTHY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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### Healthy Growth and Development Highlights:

#### 1. Reproductive Health/Healthy Pregnancies

The goal of the Reproductive Health/Healthy Pregnancies program is to provide prenatal care and interventions to improve modifiable risk and protective factors that can better the health of the mother and child, families, and society overall.

To meet this goal:

- a. Free prenatal education provided virtually and in-person. It is anticipated that 750 individuals will take part, and benefit from prenatal education in 2023.
- b. Early identification of risk factors (chronic conditions, alcohol intake, smoking, substance use, poor nutrition in pregnancy) for early intervention by a Public Health Nurse.
- c. Promotion of reproductive health/healthy pregnancies via print, website, and social media channels.
- d. Resource sharing with clients and community agencies.

#### 2. Breastfeeding

The goal of the Breastfeeding program is to support mothers to breastfeed as an optimal source of nutrition to support healthy growth and cognitive development of their infants.

To meet this goal:

- a. Promotion of the benefits of breastfeeding via print, website, and social media channels.
- b. Providing information, consults and resources to families who are considering or who have initiated breastfeeding.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## HEALTHY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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### Healthy Growth and Development Highlights (continued):

- c. Using online infant feeding surveillance survey to gather statistics around infant feeding practices in SWPH region to understand current situation and improve service.

Approximately 2575 babies are born annually in the SWPH region. In 2023 it is anticipated that 800 parents and their children will be served with over 1000 parent interactions via our website and social media channels.

### 3. Parenting

The goal of the Parenting program is to prepare parents for the transition from being partners to parents.

To meet this goal:

- a. Supporting positive parenting for healthy attachment between the parent and child through individual or group support sessions.
- b. Promotion of Know & Grow phone line and Healthy Growth & Development program services via print, website, and social media channels.
- c. Provide child management strategies to parents to promote positive behaviours in children to support successful child development.
- d. Mental health promotion, support, and referral to enhance the capacity of individuals to increase control over their lives and improve their mental health.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## IMMUNIZATION

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### Immunization Highlights:

#### 1. Immunization Monitoring & Surveillance

The goal of the immunization monitoring and surveillance program is to effectively monitor, investigate, and document all suspected adverse events following immunization (AEFIs) that meet the provincial reporting criteria and promptly report all cases to the Ministry of Health. This includes promoting the reporting of AEFIs by other health care providers in the community to SWPH for follow up.

To meet this goal, several interventions will be applied:

- a. 100% of AEFIS reported to SWPH will be actioned within five business days of receipt with a comprehensive investigation and review by the medical officer of health.
- b. 100% of fridges storing publicly funded vaccines will have a fridge inspection completed annually by SWPH.
- c. 100% of fridge inspections are documented in the Ministry of Health's Panorama system.

#### 2. Vaccine Administration

The goal of the vaccine administration program is to ensure that eligible persons, including underserved and priority populations, have access to provincially funded immunization programs and services.

To meet this goal, several interventions will be applied:

1. SWPH will act as the centralized distribution site for influenza vaccine and all other publicly funded vaccines for local health care partners (primary care, hospitals, workplaces, other health system partners).
2. SWPH will deliver all components of the provincial Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) to ensure that 100% of individuals in our region will be aware and able to access an influenza vaccine.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## IMMUNIZATION

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### Immunization Highlights (continued):

3. SWPH will support 100% of pre-qualifying organizations for the UIIP with an annual fridge inspection and support throughout the UIIP campaign for vaccine logistics. SWPH is responsible for monitoring and inspective over 150 community fridges annually.
4. SWPH will support 100% of calls from health care providers about vaccines and / or the provincial schedule within 5 days.
5. SWPH will provide weekly multi-antigen vaccination clinics that are open to the public (all ages) to “catch up” on missed vaccinations or to get up to date with the provincial vaccination schedule at each primary office location.

### 3. Community Based Immunization Outreach

The goal of the community-based immunization outreach program is to promote and provide provincially funded immunization programs and services to eligible persons in our region including underserved and priority populations.

To meet this goal, several interventions will be applied:

- a. Community influenza clinic appointments will be designed and held annually at each SWPH site to ensure access for clients who are not eligible to receive flu vaccine at a pharmacy (those under 2 years of age)
- b. Smaller, more targeted clinics are held in the community for clients who may be vulnerable to the complications of vaccine preventable diseases (like flu, COVID19, Hepatitis A and B vaccine, etc.) who may otherwise lack regular access to primary care. This would include the underhoused and clients impacted by mental illness and addictions.
- c. SWPH will provide monthly multi-antigen vaccination clinics (by appointment) that are open to the public (all ages) to “catch up” on missed vaccinations or to get up to date with the provincial vaccination schedule in community locations including Aylmer and to be determined locations in Oxford County (locations being sourced).

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## IMMUNIZATION

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### Immunization Highlights (continued):

#### 4. Vaccine Management

The goal of the vaccine management program is to promote effective inventory management for provincially funded vaccines in accordance with the provincial requirements. This includes preventing, managing, and reporting of vaccine wastage through the Ministry of Health's Panorama system. SWPH is required to ensure that the storage and distribution of provincially funded vaccines, including health care partners, is practiced in accordance with provincial requirements.

To meet this goal, several interventions will be applied:

- a. 100% of adverse storage conditions reported are investigated by SWPH.
- b. 100% adverse storage conditions investigations are documented in the Ministry of Health's Panorama system.
- c. Orders for vaccine from health system partners (primary care, hospitals, etc.) will be process and distributed by SWPH on a weekly basis. SWPH supports over 70 health system partners who order vaccines on a weekly basis.
- d. Wastage from health system partners (collected annually during annual fridge inspections by SWPH) will be entered into the Ministry of Health's Panorama system for reporting as required.
- e. Vaccine stored by and distributed by SWPH will be monitored for maintenance in cold chain temperatures 24/7 to ensure safety and viability of the products in accordance with the provincial requirements for storage and handling.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## INFECTIOUS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PREVENTION AND CONTROL

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### Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Highlights:

The goal of the Infectious and communicable Diseases Prevention and Control program is to reduce the burden of communicable diseases and other infectious diseases of public health significance.

#### 1. Infectious & Communicable Disease Prevention & Control

##### a. Infection Prevention & Control:

Public health staff with specialty training in Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) investigate complaints from the public or internal disease investigations implicating community health care sites in the transmission of blood-borne infections. Sites may include medical and dental offices, surgical and non-surgical cosmetic services and settings that provide personal services such as manicures and pedicures. IPAC is also assessed while investigating outbreaks of infectious diseases at hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes, congregate living settings and licensed childcare centres. IPAC practices reduce the incidence of and the length of outbreaks in closed facilities.

Where possible, SWPH takes a preventive approach, to ensure that any 'lapses' in infection prevention and control that could lead to disease transmission are identified and addressed before a problem occurs. Ontario health units are mandated to post any confirmed lapses in infection prevention and control on their websites. In addition, SWPH routinely inspects approximately 360 personal service settings' premises that provide esthetics, tattooing and hairdressing services.

Annual internal audits of all SWPH clinical services, education of staff and flagging of potential issues are funded and conducted through this program.

All licensed childcare settings will receive an annual IPAC inspection and SWPH staff will follow up on any infractions. Staff in childcare and congregate settings will receive IPAC education, resources, and self-assessment tools to meet the needs of their setting.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## INFECTIOUS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PREVENTION AND CONTROL

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### Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Highlights (continued):

All IPAC complaints will be investigated and IPAC lapses will be reported on the SWPH website. SWPH staff will complete a follow-up inspection to ensure the required corrective measures are implemented.

b. Institutional/Facility Outbreak Management:

To prevent outbreaks and to minimize adverse effects of an outbreak, SWPH staff investigate reports of diseases of public health significance and provide direction to long-term care and retirement home staff, staff of congregate settings and childcare providers to minimize the spread of communicable diseases to others. During the COVID-19 Pandemic the number of outbreak investigations increased significantly. In 2023 it is anticipated that the number of COVID-19 outbreak investigations will decrease due to increased immunity from vaccine-induced immunity and natural immunity.

SWPH staff will respond as soon as possible to reports of an outbreak during business hours and after hours and on weekends. An investigation will determine if an outbreak exists, and control measures will be provided to the facility to limit the spread of disease. Community partners will be informed of confirmed outbreaks in Long-term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and hospitals through posting of the Outbreak Status Report. Resources about how to prevent and control outbreaks will be available on the SWPH website and through education sessions.

c. Infectious Diseases

SWPH will investigate all reports of diseases of public health significance and report confirmed cases to the Ministry of Health by entering required data into the provincial reporting databases. Follow-up will be conducted with cases to inform them of actions to limit the spread of infection. Where indicated the contacts of the case will be investigated and SWPH will facilitate the provision of prophylaxis to limit the spread of disease and inform contacts of steps to facilitate early identification of infection. Health care providers will be informed of local surveillance data and how to respond to suspect and confirmed cases of known and emerging diseases.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## INFECTIOUS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PREVENTION AND CONTROL

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### Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Highlights (continued):

#### 2. Tuberculosis Prevention & Control

##### a. Early Identification

Identification and treatment of latent tuberculosis (LTBI) infection is a key strategy to prevent the development of cases of active TB - a very contagious disease that can lead to disability and death. SWPH receives notification of positive TB skin test results and follows up with the client and their health care provider to ensure the best outcome is achieved. Medication for the treatment of LTBI is publicly funded and distributed through a partnership with local pharmacies. Identification, assessment, and management of contacts of respiratory TB prevents secondary transmission) Management of TB Cases.

An average of one case of active TB disease is reported to SWPH per year. SWPH investigate suspect and confirmed TB cases within 24 business hours. Cases are eligible for publicly funded treatment. For these cases, intensive case follow-up is provided for approximately 6 months per case, including Directly Observed Therapy (DOT). Testing of close contacts of a TB case is conducted by SWPH staff to identify secondary cases.

#### 3. Rabies Prevention & Control

Although the number of rabies-infected animals in the SWPH area is very low, rabies remains a concern because it is a fatal disease with no cure. Animal exposures, including from pets, wildlife, and livestock, are to be reported to SWPH for assessment and follow-up. If rabies cannot be reliably ruled out, SWPH makes a post-exposure vaccine available to the person(s) who were exposed. The risk of rabies is reduced in vaccinated animals, and SWPH enforces provincial legislation that requires domestic animals to be immunized against rabies. This program requires close working relationships with area health care providers, animal control, police and local veterinarians.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## INFECTIOUS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PREVENTION AND CONTROL

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### Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Highlights (continued):

#### 4. Sharps Program (Needle Management Program)

The Sharps Program is part of Ontario's harm reduction program and provides sterile, single use drug use equipment to help prevent the spread of HIV, Hepatitis C and Hepatitis B. Prevention is key as the cost of intervention for blood borne infections is significantly high and contributes to economic losses, increased health care costs and demands on social services. Equipment will be distributed through a variety of locations including the main office sites, satellite sites operated by community partners and through mobile outreach. Supporting clients with additional service referrals and connections to other service providers is also part of this program.

#### 5. Vector Borne Diseases Education

- a. Program activities include developing and distributing educational materials that promote public awareness of the need to protect against West Nile virus (WNV) and Lyme disease (LD) (i.e., informational pamphlets on personal protection, distribution of tick keys.)

##### Control and Surveillance

- b. To test for the risk of West Nile virus (WNV) to the public, SWPH conducts mosquito trapping on a weekly basis during the months of May to September. If mosquitoes test positive for WNV, stand-by larvicide services will be deployed in a targeted approach.

SWPH accepts ticks submitted by the public to support the determination of the risk of Lyme disease in our area. Active surveillance also takes place in order to determine specific areas where Lyme disease carrying ticks may be established as a population.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## INFECTIOUS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PREVENTION AND CONTROL

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### Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Highlights (continued):

#### 6. Sexual Health

- a. The main objective of the Sexual Health Program is to reduce the burden of sexually transmitted communicable diseases – including rising case reports of Syphilis, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and other infectious diseases of public health importance - through timely testing, evidence-informed treatment, community outreach and client and health care provider education. The sexual health clinics at SWPH provide testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and contraception services to high-risk priority populations that experience barriers to accessing/using other health care providers' services.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## SAFE WATER

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### Safe Water Highlights:

#### Water Program

- a. This program's goals are to prevent or reduce the burden of water-borne illnesses related to drinking water and prevent or reduce the burden of water-borne illnesses and injuries related to recreational water use. The goals are achieved through several public health activities, including timely and effective detection of and response to drinking water contaminants and illnesses, public education regarding the potential risk of illnesses and injuries related to the use of recreational water facilities and public beaches, and training and education of owners/operators of public and private drinking water systems and recreational water facilities.

#### 1. Drinking Water

- a. SWPH maintains inspection-related activities associated with regulated drinking water systems. These include enforcement activities, adverse drinking water advisories and monitoring of items that may result in the issuance of health information advisories. perform drinking water system risk assessments and post-drinking water advisories on the SWPH disclosure website.
- b. Pre-opening, routine, and re-inspections of small drinking water system inspections.
- c. Conducting risk assessments of small drinking water systems.

#### 2. Recreational Water

- a. SWPH applies an inspection-based program for recreational water facilities. This includes pools, spas, and splash pads. Annual assessment of area beaches is conducted which involves weekly sampling for bacterial contamination. Disclosure of inspection results on SWPH disclosure website and onsite at applicable recreational water locations.
- b. Recreational water safety campaigns are conducted which target initiatives around the risks associated with swimming. These are focused on the summer months.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## SCHOOL HEALTH

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### School Health Highlights:

The School Health program aims to achieve optimal health of school-aged children and youth through partnership and collaboration with school boards and schools. To achieve this goal, several interventions are applied in the following areas, including oral health school screening, vision screening, healthy eating behaviours, healthy sexuality, immunization, infectious disease prevention, mental health promotion, healthy relationships, and substance use.

#### 1. Oral Health School Screening & Surveillance

- a. Oral health screening is available to all children and youth ages 0 to 17. This includes offering school-based oral health screening and surveillance to all elementary schools. Students identified with need for urgent dental care or preventative dental services are referred for treatment. Provincial funding for oral health treatment for eligible children and youth is through the Healthy Smiles Ontario program for families that cannot afford to pay for oral health treatment needs.

#### 2. Immunization for Children in Schools & Licensed Child Care Settings

- a. This program includes the completion of annual record reviews of thousands of immunization records to assess the immunization status of children in licensed childcares and registered schools. Staff work with families, health care providers, licensed childcares and schools to notify, collect and update student records annually. The goal is to reduce or eliminate the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases through immunization or targeted exclusion. This is accomplished by ensuring student records are up to date with Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule.
- b. Staff offer immunization clinics in all publicly funded and private schools in SWPH's jurisdiction. School-based vaccination clinics ensure students have easier access to the vaccines required by the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA).

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## SCHOOL HEALTH

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### School Health Highlights (continued):

#### 3. Comprehensive School Health

- a. SWPH will provide population health information and programming, including social determinants of health and health inequities, relevant to the school population to school boards and schools to identify public health needs in the school community. This includes program activities on healthy eating behaviours, healthy sexuality, substance use and harm reduction, physical activity and mental health promotion, such as Healthy Relationships Plus Program (HRPP). The HRPP is a highly evaluated program offered to grade 7/8 students in our higher-risk schools. This program focuses on relationship-building and conflict-resolution skills.

#### 4. Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO)

- a. This program provides preventative, routine, and emergency dental services for eligible children and youth 17 years of age and under from low-income households.

Staff deliver routine preventative dental services for eligible children in various clinical locations and facilitates enrollment to the appropriate Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) streams (HSO-Core, HSO-Emergency and Essential Services, and HSO-Preventative). Dental clinical services are provided in multiple fixed dental clinics throughout our region including the introduction of a new mobile vehicle offering outreach services.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## SUBSTANCE USE

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### Substance Use Highlights:

The Substance Use and Injury Prevention program aims is to reduce the burden of preventable injuries and substance use. To achieve this goal, several interventions are applied in the following areas of focus, comprehensive tobacco control, falls, mental health promotion and suicide risk, alcohol, cannabis, and opioid use.

#### 1. Substance Use

- a. Working with partners, including school boards, community organizations, and workplaces, SWPH will de-normalize legal substances, implement substance policies, and increase awareness of health risks.
- b. SWPH will work with various stakeholders, including municipalities, to build the capacity to implement a proven community-based substance use prevention model called Planet Youth. In addition, staff will support the development of local action tables and highlight protective factors caregivers can apply in their everyday life to prevent or delay substance use in youth.
- c. SWPH will continue working with community partners on implementing activities set out in the local drug and alcohol strategies of the Oxford Mental Health and Addiction Action Coalition and Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy.
- d. SWPH will collaborate with provincial partners and researchers to counter the effects of alcohol advertising and Alcohol Industry tactics by encouraging policies and legislation that implement warning labels on alcohol containers, which will support the public's right to know about the harms of alcohol.
- e. Staff will use various communication strategies to promote the newly released Canadian Guidance on Alcohol and Health document and raise awareness of the harms related to alcohol use.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## SUBSTANCE USE

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### Substance Use (continued):

#### 2. Harm Reduction

- a. SWPH will engage clients of its sharps services to determine their level of satisfaction with overall experience, staff interactions, and access to supplies.
- b. The aim of the Ontario Naloxone Distribution program is to work with people with lived experience and to work with community partners to increase access to naloxone across the community. In collaboration with stakeholders and partners, staff will explore strategies for expanding naloxone access based on need. The number of naloxone kits distributed through SWPH has increased significantly over the last year and it is estimated that there is potential for more than 1000 kits to be distributed at sharps programs and through community partners in 2023.
- c. The Harm Reduction Program will continue to share timely information with community partners via the Opioid Monitoring Dashboard which includes information about what staff are hearing “on the ground” as well as statistics on opioid prescribing, naloxone distribution, paramedic calls, opioid overdose and drug-related emergency department visits, hospital admissions and opioid-related deaths.
- d. The SWPH *Thresholds for a Community Opioid Overdose Response Plan* will be updated to inform the response to the worsening opioid crisis and provide suitable thresholds for early warnings and surveillance.
- e. Staff will collaborate with municipalities to provide an effective network of sharps disposal initiatives throughout SWPH’s region. SWPH will track the number of sharps retrieved, compare quantities of sharps per area, implement a reporting mechanism for community members to report sharps found, and continually assess potential locations for sharps bins and kiosks.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## SUBSTANCE USE

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### Substance Use (continued):

- f. SWPH will complete a feasibility study and situational assessment for consumption and treatment services. The study will gather information from community members, partner organizations and people with lived/living experience to better understand perceptions and assess the need in the communities of Oxford, Elgin, and St. Thomas. The final report will be used to inform next steps.
- g. Staff will develop and promote educational materials to address the stigma experienced by individuals who use drugs and help remove the stereotypes associated with drug use. Tailored messages and resources will be developed for a variety of groups including the general public, healthcare providers, first responders, and other relevant stakeholders.

### 3. Smoke-Free Ontario

- a. Promoting quit attempts among priority populations and providing tobacco/vaping cessation training and resources to the public and partners, including pharmacists, the Canadian Mental Health Association, Family Health Teams, Community Health Centres, health care professionals, and schools.
- b. Staff will strive for 100% completion of regular vendor education and the required inspections, including a minimum of 1 youth access inspection for each e-cigarette vendor and 1 display and promotion inspection for e-cigarettes.
- c. Work with partners, including landlords, property managers, social housing providers, workplaces, school boards, and municipalities, to create and/or update policies and bylaws to reduce second-hand smoke and vapour exposure. In addition, provide education and awareness of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and associated fines to partners and the public.
- d. Support for the creation of additional smoke-free Multi-Unit Dwellings and smoke-free public places, such as sports fields.
- e. Staff will use social media platforms to target groups such as young adult males, alternative youth ages 13-18 and LGBTQ2S+ who are more likely to smoke or be a part of social groups with higher rates of smoking.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## SUBSTANCE USE

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### Substance Use Highlights (continued):

- f. Application of a compliance strategy that employs a balance of education, inspection, and progressive enforcement, including prosecuting those in non-compliance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. “Progressive enforcement” means the use of warnings and graduated charging options to reflect the frequency and severity of the level of non-compliance.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## FOUNDATIONAL STANDARDS

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### Foundational Standards Highlights:

#### 1. Foundational Standards

Foundational Standards supports programs and services to meet overarching requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards as they pertain to:

- ✓ population health assessment and surveillance
- ✓ health equity
- ✓ effective public health practice, which includes program planning, evaluation, evidence-informed decision-making, research, knowledge exchange, quality and transparency.
- ✓ emergency management

The above-mentioned standards include work in the following areas:

- a. Performing ongoing population health assessment by producing updated health status reports that includes topics such as mental health and substance use.
- b. Surveillance, which is most visible via our Opioid monitoring dashboard and the COVID-19 Dashboard.
- c. Continuing to provide data and information to many audiences. In particular to programs and services to support evidence-based planning and evaluation including analyses from the latest Canadian Community Health Survey and the 2021 Census.
- d. Supporting our annual program planning process by providing support, skill-building, and guidance for staff throughout the process.
- e. Exploring what are the indirect impacts of COVID-19 on our population through data analysis to support program and service delivery.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## FOUNDATIONAL STANDARDS

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### Foundational Standards Highlights (continued):

- f. Supporting staff to strengthen the evidence for their programs, services, and practices through research, evaluation, and situational assessments. For example, a situational assessment is a systematic process that helps make evidence informed program decisions. Our program planners support program staff through the process of identifying and prioritizing community need, based on the latest epidemiological data, understanding the risk and protective factors affecting their chosen topic and by conducting a literature review to understand the best interventions to address the factors they wish to focus on in their work moving forward.
- g. Completing the development and implementation of the Southwestern Public Health program planning database to better support program planning as well as budget development across the Health Unit.
- h. COVID-19 Continuing to build SWPH's internal capacity to respond to public health emergencies including training, internal drills, and tabletop exercises as appropriate.
- i. Supporting the emergency planning activities and exercises of municipal partners as able.
- j. Supporting the ongoing development of policies, procedures and practices that reflect continuous quality improvement principles.
- k. Continuing to manage SWPH's privacy legislation adherence.
- l. Continuing to build SWPH's capacity to incorporate ethical considerations into public health decision-making.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND WELL-BEING

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### Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being Highlights:

The Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being program aims to reduce the burden of chronic diseases of public health importance and improve well-being. To achieve this goal, several interventions are applied in the following areas of focus, the built environment, healthy eating behaviours, mental health promotion, substance use, and physical activity.

#### 1. Built Environment

- a. Staff will provide population health data and evidence-informed recommendations for municipalities to consider in reviewing their official and master plans. Additionally, staff will partner with planning departments to support the inclusion of health considerations into community design processes.
- b. Well-designed communities can contribute to better health and well-being. The neighbourhoods that people live in can influence things such as access to healthy food, physical activity levels, safety, and mental health, to name a few.
- c. SWPH will develop a strategy to incorporate and consider improvements to the built environment across topic areas. For example, the built environment can support positive mental health in our communities through access to greenspace, recreation facilities, and places to gather and socialize. Promotion of active transportation through access to trails, sidewalks, and safe cycling infrastructure is also a contributor to residents' mental health and wellbeing and sense of belonging in their community.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND WELL-BEING

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### Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being Highlights (continued):

#### 2. Healthy Eating Behaviours

- a. The Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) survey tool monitors the cost and affordability of healthy eating within the SWPH region. Through a partnership with the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health Food Insecurity Work Group, staff will develop dissemination materials of local NFB data and food insecurity research. This will support local and provincial work in educating partners and the population on the impacts of food insecurity in the SWPH region. SWPH will also support local poverty coalitions and other community partner agencies working towards ending poverty through poverty reduction and income inequality advocacy.

SWPH will collaborate with the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health Work Group, Southwest Food Systems Network, and community food committees to conduct literature searches for evidence-informed best practices regarding implementing and delivering programs, initiatives, and policies to support sustainable food systems. Environmental scans in Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas will identify gaps and opportunities to improve all aspects of our food system, including production, access, consumption, and waste. Staff will engage in multisectoral collaboration to address food-related challenges to improve community food security and promote a healthy, equitable, and ecologically responsible food system.

- b. Initiatives such as the Good Food Box, Elgin Gleaners, community gardens, and the Food Access Guides increase access to nutritious food within the SWPH region. SWPH will support community partners with the expansion of existing food access programs within the SWPH region.

#### 3. Mental Health Promotion

- a. Mental Health Promotion is a foundational component of public health and the community we serve. Our interventions will reduce mental health stigma and increase resident and community stakeholder knowledge of the factors that promote positive mental wellness.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND WELL-BEING

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### Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being Highlights (continued):

- b. A needs assessment will be conducted to better understand staff knowledge and skills in mental health literacy, trauma-informed practice and cultural humility and safety. The results will be used to develop staff training, tools and resources, and internal policies to support the integration of mental health promotion principles into staff's work.
- c. SWPH will increase mental health awareness by disseminating local data and developing and running a mental health promotion educational campaign will target population subgroups reporting the greatest decline in mental health throughout the pandemic.

#### 4. Injury Prevention

- a. A situational assessment on falls prevention will be completed to gather information from various sources, including partner organizations, existing data, and literature. The information will be analyzed, synthesized, and shared. The findings will be used to inform program planning decisions.
- b. SWPH will reconnect with the Elgin St Thomas Age Friendly Network to exchange knowledge and collaborate on key age friendly community indicators such as improved accessibility and availability of affordable housing and transportation options for seniors.

#### 5. Health Equity

- a. SWPH's Health Equity initiative aims 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. To achieve this goal, staff will collaborate with priority populations, municipalities, and other relevant stakeholders to create or modify interventions that will address the social determinants of health and reduce health inequities.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND WELL-BEING

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### Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being Highlights (continued):

- b. SWPH will continue to build front-line staff's internal capacity to incorporate health equity principles and practices into their programs and services.
- c. Training Active Bystanders workshops will be provided to internal and external partners to teach bystanders to interrupt harm-doing and generate positive actions by others. This will work to address stigma and discrimination within our communities.
- d. Staff will create a priority populations engagement strategy to identify the priority populations in our catchment area as well as methods and strategies to meaningfully engage those populations. The plan will identify the guiding principles, goals and objectives, and the spectrum of community engagement.
- e. A historically and culturally appropriate Land Acknowledgement guidance document will be developed for use by SWPH staff. The resource will further staff's knowledge and understanding of the Truth and Reconciliation report and the 94 Calls to Action.

### 6. Healthy Menu Choices Act Enforcement

- a. SWPH will inspect all new premises within one year of opening. All premises that are non-compliant on initial inspection will be re-inspected until compliance is achieved. All complaints will be followed up within one (1) business day.

### 7. Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviours

- a. Public health will work with its regional and local partners to deliver the Act-i-Pass Program. The Program provides recreation programs with no user fee to grade 5 students in the SWPH region.
- b. SWPH will continue to encourage physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviour among adults by promoting active transportation and working with partners to increase access to recreational opportunities.

# 2023 General Program Budgets

## SUPPORTING COSTS

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### Supporting Costs Highlights:

Public health is expected to achieve compliance with the standards outlined in the Accountability Framework in the areas of program and service delivery, fiduciary requirements, good governance and management practices, and public health practice.

There are several areas of program and service supports that enable programs and services to meet the needs of our communities. In addition, SWPH is required to comply with its accountability agreements between SWPH and the applicable Ministry. Some requirements include:

- ✓ delivery of all mandated programs and services
- ✓ quarterly and annual financial reporting
- ✓ asset inventory maintenance
- ✓ effective procurement practices
- ✓ updating of policies and procedures
- ✓ board of health orientation and development
- ✓ developing and maintaining strategies in the areas of communications, human resources, risk management, research and evaluation, and stakeholder engagement

This involves leadership and support across the organization in the areas of:

- ✓ board governance including standing committees and ad hoc committees
  - ✓ policy and procedure development, implementation, and adherence
  - ✓ accountability and target monitoring
  - ✓ financial management
  - ✓ privacy of health information and personal information
  - ✓ professional practice and continuous quality improvement
  - ✓ communications internally and communications externally
  - ✓ human resources
  - ✓ communications, office management
  - ✓ staff committees/working groups to support program delivery and compliance
  - ✓ oversight of building and rental costs of three facilities as well as maintenance
  - ✓ office equipment
  - ✓ information technology management including hardware/software licenses
  - ✓ training and development
  - ✓ insurance
  - ✓ audit services
  - ✓ legal matters
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# 100% Provincially Funded Programs

## 2023

# Budget and Highlights

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*Included:*

*Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (Senior Oral Care)*

*Medical Officer of Health Compensation Initiative*

*COVID-19: School Focused Nurses Initiative*

# 2023 Budget – 100% Provincially Funded Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program

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## Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Highlights:

The goal of the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) is to reduce the burden of oral diseases for eligible low-income seniors ages 65 and over. To meet this goal, several interventions are applied including the delivery of oral health services for enrolled OSDCP clients, oral health navigation, which includes supporting awareness of access to and the utilization of the OSDCP program, along with the required data collection and analysis.

- a. Seniors SWPH dental staff provide or ensure the provision of oral health services for enrolled OSDCP clients in accordance with the current OSDCP Schedule of Dental Services and Fees (2020). Dental clinical services are provided in multiple fixed dental clinics throughout our region including the introduction of a new mobile vehicle offering outreach services.
- b. Supporting awareness, access, and utilization of the OSDCP program, by supporting seniors through health promotion and targeted outreach to priority populations in our local community. Assisting seniors 65 and over to enroll in the OSDCP program along with finding a dental home in one of dental clinics. Increasing awareness of the available OSDCP services among our community partners and providers along with utilizing referral networks to assist seniors in accessing OSDCP services in our community.
- c. Collecting and recording treatment data as specified by the Ministry for OSDCP enrolled seniors who receive dental services in our multiple dental clinics. Analyze and interpret OSDCP treatment data to inform future program planning.

# 2023 Budget – 100% Provincially Funded Medical Officer of Health (MOH) Compensation Initiative

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## Medical Officer of Health Compensation Initiative Highlights:

All public health units are required to have a minimum of one (1) medical officer of health as set out in the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

### 1. Medical Officer of Health (MOH)

- a. The Ministry of Health provides Boards of Health with an opportunity to apply for a portion of funding towards the salary cost of eligible medical officers of health, in part because the minimum salary for these positions is not determined by SWPH but rather the Ontario Medical Association (OMA). Each year, the health unit applies for this grant.

# 2023 Budget – 100% Provincially Funded COVID-19: School Focused Nurses Initiative

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## COVID-19: School Focused Nurses Initiative Highlights:

This program was initially mandated for public health units during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The mandate was strictly for health units to hire additional nurses to support schools with COVID-19 pandemic support in the areas of COVID-19 prevention and mitigation, including safely reopening schools. Since then, the Ministry of Health has indicated that this time-limited funding can also be utilized for other important school focused programming.

- a. Staff will provide rapid-response support to schools and boards in facilitating public health and preventive measures, including screening, testing and mitigation strategies.
- b. Staff will deliver comprehensive school health programs including mental health promotion and substance use; mandatory school health programs and supporting school-based immunizations and sexual health services. Activities related to COVID-19 and other respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses will be completed as needed.
- c. SWPH will work with our school boards and private school partners to address mental health promotion in schools, and support parents with some of the pandemic-related stressors and substance use prevention programs.
- d. Funding for this initiative, is currently for the school year of 2022-2023.



# One-Time Funding Request 100% Provincially Funded

## 2023 Budget and Highlights

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*Included:*

*Public Health Inspector Practicum Program  
Sharps Program  
COVID-19 Specific Costs  
Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub  
Stigma Education Initiative  
Collaborative Planning School Board Work*

# One-Time Funding Request 100% Provincially Funded

## Project Title: Public Health Inspector Practicum

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### Public Health Inspector Practicum Program Highlights:

- a. To provide a practicum for two students enrolled or who already have a degree in a program of instruction approved by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) Board of Certification (BOC).
- b. To be eligible to sit the Examination to obtain the Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada), every candidate must satisfactorily complete a twelve (12) week minimum practicum in the basic inspection programs.
- c. This practicum must be coordinated by a qualified person who holds the CPHI(C) at the supervisory level of the agency where the practicum is to take place. SWPH staff coach and mentor student PHI candidates in preparation for their BOC exam for the duration of the 12-week practicum.
- d. SWPH benefits from the public health inspector practicum program as the students support the completion of lower risk inspection activity under the mentorship of certified public health inspectors. Additionally, students contribute by sharing innovation and health promotion / education ideas to program delivery. As well, student preceptors gain leadership and staff development opportunities.

# One-Time Funding Request 100% Provincially Funded

## Project Title: Sharps Program

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The program aims to reduce the burden of preventable injuries and substance use through the distribution of clean needles/syringes and other drug use supplies in the community. This intervention has proven to be an evidence-informed effective method in reducing blood-borne infections associated with injection drug use, such as HIV and hepatitis C.

### Sharps Program Highlights:

The goal of a comprehensive needle syringe and inhalation equipment program (formerly known as a needle exchange program) is to distribute needles/syringes and other drug use supplies as an effective method in reducing bloodborne infections (such as HIV, Hepatitis B and C, syphilis) associated with injection or inhalation drug use. Therapeutic nurse-client relationships are developed providing a point of access into health and social services for clients who may not otherwise have access to services or have opportunities for education on safer drug use practices.

- a. Due in part to the ongoing opioid crisis, demand for sterile harm reduction equipment is on the rise in SWPH's region. It is essential that SWPH continues to meet this growing demand to prevent the transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C infections. The treatment of these infections further burdens the healthcare system and, even more importantly, may impact the health and well-being of community members and their ability to thrive. Both HIV and HCV can spread in the blood, and a major risk factor for both HIV and HCV infection is injection drug use. Sharing needles or other drug injection equipment increases the risk of contact with HIV- or HCV-infected blood.
- b. As part of this strategy, SWPH is collaborating with Regional HIV/AIDS Connection and Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services to facilitate the distribution and collection of harm reduction supplies via a mobile outreach program.

# One-Time Funding Request 100% Provincially Funded

## Sharps Program

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### Sharps Program Highlights (continued):

- c. The 2023 goals of the program include meeting or exceeding sharps return rates found in similar Ontario jurisdictions and ensuring that sharps disposal options are available to clients in areas where they are needed most. These goals align with the recommendations found in the Ontario Public Health Standards, 2018 and the Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction Guideline, 2018. Achieving these goals will necessitate additional kiosks in known underserved areas and regular maintenance and disposal.

# One-Time Funding Request 100% Provincially Funded

## Project Title: COVID-19 (General Response/Vaccination)

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### COVID-19 Specific Costs:

#### 1. COVID-19 General Response

Public Health staff are working collaboratively with local health care providers, municipalities, community partners, and public health officials, including the Ministry of Health, to support COVID-19 response activities. Local efforts are focused on minimizing the risk in high-risk settings, by supporting immunization, and outbreak management to reduce and prevent the spread of COVID 19. This includes long-term care homes, congregate living settings, and other residential facilities which are particularly vulnerable to outbreaks.

#### a. CCM (Case and Contact Management)

Case, contact, and outbreak management is pivotal in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 in our region, especially for those at risk for severe illness and outcomes. Public Health Investigators work collaboratively with partners and high-risk settings to manage and control the spread of infection. This process is labour intensive and is compounded by the emerging pathogenicity of this novel virus. They may also provide guidance about returning to work, outbreak management, public health measures related to enhanced environmental cleaning, self-monitoring, and general infection prevention and control measures. It is anticipated that severe illness and the number of COVID-19 outbreaks will decrease in 2023 as COVID-19 booster rates increase. COVID-19 case, and outbreak management will continue as a measure to control and prevent the spread.

COVID testing in partnership with our local hospitals and community partners to support the operation of the COVID-19 assessment centres and other methods of testing in our region for those at risk of severe illness and outcomes. The purpose of testing is also to understand the transmission of the virus and thereby prevent others from acquiring the disease.

# One-Time Funding Request 100% Provincially Funded

## COVID-19 General Response/Vaccination

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### COVID-19 Specific Highlights (continued):

Communications with members of the public, municipalities, and community partners on a broad range of topics to support the community's well-being, safety, and resilience. This includes education on infection prevention and control practices such as face coverings, physical distancing, hand hygiene, screening information to address vaccine hesitancy. SWPH also advises what the current rules and restrictions are for specific settings-based changes in provincial direction or significant announcements, the number of active cases or local transmission in our region, and the continued COVID-19 vaccine eligible individuals are factors that will impact the work of our team. partnerships to raise awareness of social supports available.

Management of the Case and Contact Management (CCM) database for COVID-19 data entry and outbreak management, including expansion of the CCM database to all diseases of public health significance (DOPHS).

### 2. COVID-19 Vaccination

To further reduce the incidence rate of COVID-19, SWPH will continue to run immunization clinics and mobile community clinics to immunize eligible people and vulnerable populations with COVID-19 vaccine. SWPH will work in collaboration with community partners to coordinate distribution and to administer COVID-19 vaccine. Public health continues to be the primary distribution channel for primary care, hospitals and other health care settings who provide vaccination. The storage and distribution of the vaccine will play a key role in the management of the clinics to maintain the standardization of the identified product. The continued distribution and administration of the vaccine includes the need for public health nurses, registered practical nurses, supervisory support, clerical support, information technology support, and facilities support to complete this important work in an efficient manner.

# One-Time Funding Request 100% Provincially Funded

## Project Title: Infection Prevention and Control HUB

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### Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) HUB Highlights:

- a. As part of the province's comprehensive plan *Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19*, local networks of IPAC expertise (IPAC Hubs) were developed across the health system, that work to enhance IPAC practices in community based, congregate living organizations (CLOs). These organizations include long-term care homes, retirement homes, residential settings funded by the Ministry of Health (MOH), residential settings for adults and children funded by Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), shelters, and supportive housing. Through these new province-wide networks, CLOs are able to access IPAC expertise, collaborative assistance and just-in-time advice, guidance, and direct support on IPAC practices.
- b. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other Ministries involved in this initiative, Ontario Health identified hospitals and public health units from across the province to lead local IPAC Hubs. Southwestern Public Health is the local IPAC Hub lead in this area, that works to coordinate and collaborate with Satellite hubs and health system partners in Oxford, Elgin, St. Thomas, Huron Perth, and London Middlesex to ensure that this specialized guidance and support is available to our congregate living organizations throughout the southwest region.
- c. As the lead for the local IPAC Hub, SWPH is responsible for ensuring accountability for funds transferred from the Ministry of Health to Satellite Hubs, including monitoring of required deliverables.

St. Thomas, Elgin, and Oxford IPAC services for congregate living organizations are administered by staff funded by the IPAC Hub. Services include support for IPAC training, policies and procedures, outbreak preparedness and assistance with on-site IPAC assessments.

# One-Time Funding Request 100% Provincially Funded

## Project Title: Stigma Education Initiative

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### Stigma Education Initiative Highlights:

- a. SWPH is seeking \$24,500 in one-time funding to develop a strategy to reduce the stigma experienced by people who use substances. The strategy will include awareness raising activities, training opportunities, and community engagement initiatives.
- b. Stigma is negative attitudes, beliefs, or behaviours about or towards a group of people because of their situation in life. It includes discrimination, prejudice, judgement, and stereotypes. It can take different forms, including structural, interpersonal, and self-stigma.
- c. People with lived experience with substance use<sup>[1]</sup> (PWLE) are a vulnerable population with unmet treatment needs regarding their health. These unmet needs have been attributed to several barriers they face to accessing and using supportive services; noted among these barriers is stigma. Stigma is a multi-layered barrier in that it can reduce the chances of people seeking social support and erode the public and political will to provide this support.
- d. Effectively addressing barriers to services due to the stigma against PWLE will require a multifaceted approach. In addition to the local population, healthcare providers and law enforcement will also be key target audiences for anti-stigma education and skill building opportunities.
- e. This funding will allow SWPH to develop a suite of communication materials, launch a transit ad campaign (\$11,000), subsidize, and promote registration among healthcare providers for an anti-stigma online workshop (\$10,000), and host community-based events (\$ 3,500).

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<sup>[1]</sup> Note: People with Lived Experience of substance use (PWLE) is the term that will be used in this funding request, however other terms referring to this vulnerable population in literature may include terms such as 'People who use substances' or 'people who use drugs.'

# One-Time Funding Request 100% Provincially Funded

## Project Title: Collaborative Planning School Board Work

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### Collaborative Planning Initiative Highlights:

- a. SWPH is seeking \$10,000 in one-time funding to embark on collaborative planning with all publicly funded school boards in the region and our neighbouring public health unit (Middlesex London Health Unit), with whom we share boards.

SWPH has a long history of offering services to area schools and working with the area school boards to offer the best service possible in partnership with MLHU. This funding request will enhance the depth of our work together. In addition, it will result in a shared approach to address the following agreed-upon priorities:

- i. Mental Health Promotion
  - ii. Substance Use Prevention
  - iii. Equity and Inclusivity
  - iv. Family Engagement
- b. This funding will allow SWPH to hire an external facilitator and convene planning meeting(s) with the school boards and public health partners. These meeting(s) will establish data-sharing agreements, identify indicators to measure our work on the four identified shared priorities and identify the actions that each party will take to improve the wellness of our students over time. The external facilitator is required to allow all parties to participate in the process. There is a considerable amount of data and information available, and the facilitator will assist the group with selecting the best indicators and actions possible. Through this process, SWPH will have increased access to local children and youth data, which has been a longstanding gap. More importantly, this planning will allow the partners to monitor the effectiveness of our shared work supporting local children and families.



# 100% Provincially Funded Programs (by other Ministries)

## 2023 Budget and Highlights

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*Included:  
Pre and Post Natal Nurse Practitioner Program  
Healthy Babies Healthy Children*

# 2023 Budget – 100% Provincially Funded Pre and Post Natal Nurse Practitioner Program

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## Pre and Post Natal Nurse Practitioner Program Highlights:

### 1. Pre and Post Natal Nurse Practitioner Program

The objective of the Pre and Post Natal Nurse Practitioner Program is to increase access to early, regular prenatal and postnatal primary health care for pregnant women, new mothers, and their children until the child's transition to school.

To meet this objective:

- a. Delivered in partnership with East Elgin Family Health Team, the Prenatal and Postnatal Nurse Practitioner Program serves a population that includes Low German-speaking Mennonite families, low-income families living below the poverty line, as well as families with a higher-than-average number of children. Clients enjoy the full benefit of a multi-disciplinary primary care team for comprehensive medical treatment. Approximately 1300 patients are seen annually through this program.

# 2023 Budget – 100% Provincially Funded Healthy Babies Healthy Children

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## Healthy Babies Healthy Children Highlights:

### 1. Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The goal of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program is to provide services during the prenatal period and to families with children from birth up to their transition to school, using targeted program approaches with a universal screening opportunity at time of birth with the intent to optimize newborn and child healthy growth and development and reduce health inequities for families receiving service.

To meet this goal:

- ✓ Early identification and intervention screening.
- ✓ Blended home visiting services (Public Health Nurse & Parent Resource Worker).
- ✓ Service and system integration.
- ✓ Service co-ordination.
- ✓ Access to information and resources.
- ✓ Referral to/from community services.
- ✓ Promotion of Healthy Babies Healthy Children program services via print, website, and social media channels.

For 2023, it is estimated that staff will complete over 1700 screens and conduct approximately 2300 home visits. In 2023, the implementation of a Public Health Nurse led 9-week post-partum mood disorder support group to support clients within the community they reside to obtain service.