

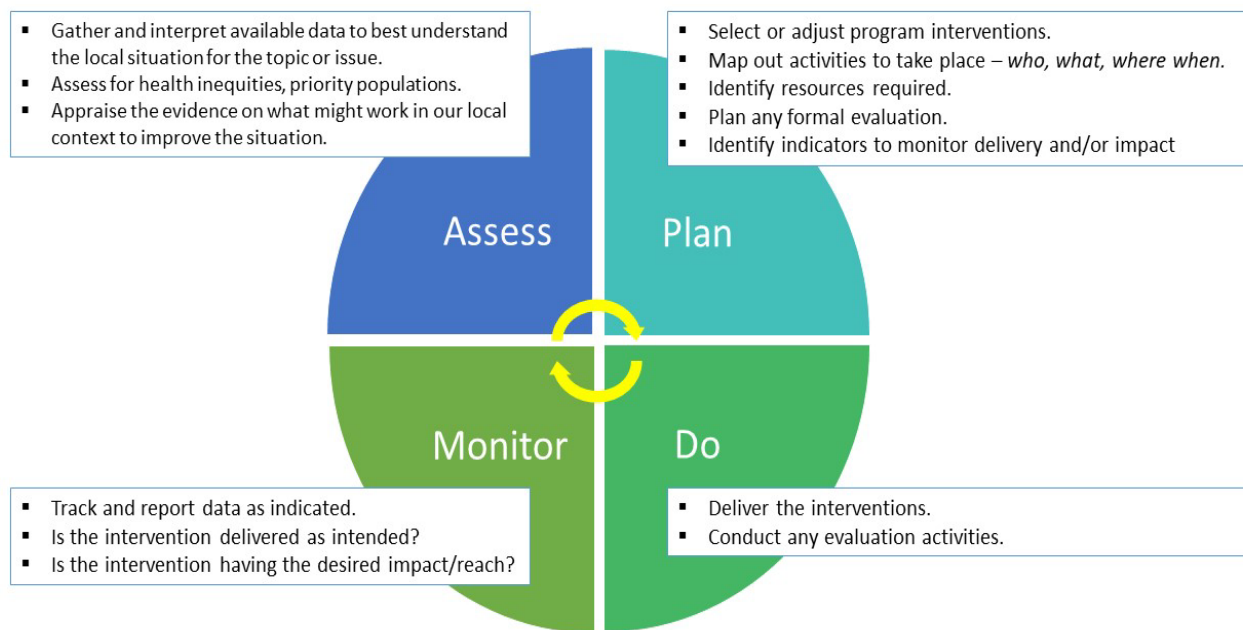
Report Content

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Mid-Year Program Highlights

THU's 2019 Annual Service Plan (ASP) describes 40 local programs to address the nine Program Standards in the Ontario Public Health Standards ([OPHS, 2018](#)). In addition, the ASP details how THU is implementing the four Foundational Standards of the OPHS. Each local program outlines specific actions for a total of 106 interventions. A systematic planning cycle (Fig. 1) is used to determine what work we do and how we do it based on the best available evidence. Teams also continue work on establishing monitoring indicators to measure activities and achievements and drive continuous quality improvement. This mid-year report provides highlights of local public health work in 2019.

Figure 1. Iterative Planning Cycle for Evidence Informed Public Health Practice.



Foundational Standards: Population Health Assessment and Health Equity

Goals: To increase the use of population health information to inform the planning and delivery of programs and services; and to reduce the negative impact of social determinants of health that contribute to health inequities.

- Promoted local population health data collection via the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System.
- Supported internal and external stakeholders to use population health information.
- Conducted ongoing surveillance and compiled population health data reports (e.g. Health Status, Immunization Coverage, Diseases of Public Health Significance, Profile of Social Determinants of Health in Timiskaming).
- Completed an internal organizational capacity assessment for addressing health inequities and launched an internal health equity committee.
- Promoted local Bridges out of Poverty training and hosted internal training on anti-oppressive practices.
- Hosted an all-staff learning session with local Indigenous teachings on culture and traditions.

Foundational Standard: Effective Public Health Practice

Goal: THU is responsive to current and emerging evidence, emphasizes continuous quality improvement and supports a culture of transparency.

- Evidence informed decision making, program monitoring, identification of indicators and outcome data review ongoing.
- Several evaluation projects were supported across various programs.
- Revised internal research ethics policy and process in alignment with standards and supported ethics review assessments for several THU projects.
- Q2 Media Releases included the following topics
- Supported numerous communication strategies using various modalities across all programs. Media releases in Q2 include Bike Festival, Northern PHUs Work Together on Climate Change Reports, Public Health Partnerships Build Community, Budget announced for Public Health.

Foundational Standard: Emergency Management

Goal: to enable consistent and effective management of emergency situations.

- Participated in annual emergency management planning with the province re: potential flooding in James Bay Coast communities.

Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being

Goal: Increase levels of physical activity among children and youth and make active living easier in our communities:

- Provided Bike Safety in Schools program in partnership with five schools and Road Safety Coalition to 165 grades 4-6 students.
- Established Playground Community of Practice for community members across district to share experiences, knowledge and evidence about playground design, construction and maintenance.
- Supported wrap-up of KidSport affordable access to recreation funding, now referring to JumpStart and CJKL fund.
- Initiated district-wide Active School Travel project after success with \$60k grant from Green Communities Canada's Active School Travel Fund.
- Promoted Share the Road campaign during Bike Month with two new billboards and social media.
- Partnered with Temiskaming Shores Bicycle Friendly Community Committee and community volunteers, to implement a Bicycle Exchange Event. 47 free donated bicycles with helmets and bells, were provided to those in need.
- Hosted 2 Bike Maintenance workshops in (KL and Temiskaming Shores) with 23 participants.
- Intervention activities on pause include Sitting Less is Better workplace health promotion campaign, affordable access to recreation workshop, and work promoting physical literacy with early years providers. This pause relates to THU capacity as well as partner readiness.
- No complaints received re. Skin Cancer Prevention Act; no inspections required.

Goal: Improve population eating habits and make health eating easier in our communities

- Carried out Nutritious Food Basket food costing with six Timiskaming grocery stores.
- Supported implementation of Food Skills for Families program for Older Adults in KL.
- Initiated work with four community organizations to plan local food security initiatives.
- Received 0 complaints related to Healthy Menu Choices Act; no inspections required.
- Delay in Healthy check-out lanes project due to other unanticipated policy opportunity.
- Participated on panel at local Climate Café discussing climate change, food systems and food security with 37 community members.
- Delivered health eating skills and eating on a budget session (Northern College and KLDCS).
- Advocated in support of Senate Bill S-228 to regulate marketing of food and beverages to children.

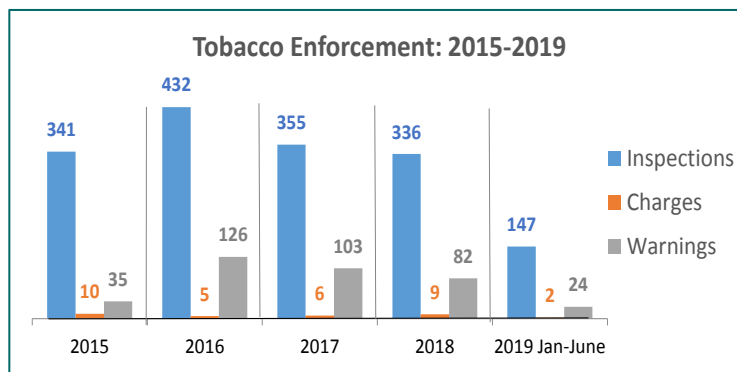
Goal: Help community partners to deliver diabetes prevention behaviour change programming (100% funded)

- 17 community organizations participating in Diabetes prevention programming and implementation
- Completed evaluation of 2018-2019 Fresh Start Program.
- Supported implementation of Food Skills for Families program by Keepers of the Circle in KL.
- Delivered Food Skills for Families facilitator training session to 11 community partners.
- Due to challenges with internal and external capacity, Active Switch community and workplace health promotion program is delayed.

Substance Use and Injury Prevention

Goal: Reduce Tobacco use and exposure (Smoke-Free Ontario & NRT funding)

- Cessation: Carried out brief contact intervention with 61 clients. Provided free NRT to 30 clients in Q2 and hosted Cessation Community of Practice meeting, with a focus on vaping. 30 youth champions were supported to plan and implement tobacco and vaping prevention activities across secondary schools. A presentation was also delivered by youth to a Grade 6 class.
- Protection & Enforcement: 100% completion of required Youth Access inspections for Jan-June 2019 and on track for full completion of remaining SFOA inspections for 2019. Two charges have been laid (*Supply tobacco to person under 19, Failure of employer to ensure no ashtrays or similar equipment*).



Goal: Reduce the frequency, severity and impact of substance use

- Facilitated 4 community conversations about cannabis and other substance use (2 in KL, 2 in Temiskaming Shores) to 50 people.
- Launched standard drink size campaign with information provided to 15 alcohol-serving premises.
- Launched social media [campaign](#) on advertising guidelines related to alcohol. Reached 9370 people.
- Implemented Medicine Cabinet Cleanout campaign with reach of 6140 via social media.
- In partnership with KLDAAC, expanded the *Thank a DD* campaign to 2 Kirkland Lake restaurants. Sponsored radio messages related to impaired driving and safety and sponsored free non-alcoholic wine and beer for 5 homecoming Wine & Cheese events (KL 100 celebration).

Goal: Promote healthy aging and reduce the number and impact of falls for those aged 65 years plus (funded 50% by NE LHIN)

- Led Senior Volunteer Appreciation and Networking Event for 35 Rising Stars troupe members.
- Held 10th Annual Spring Fling Seniors and Caregiver Luncheons in Kirkland Lake, Englehart and New Liskeard with over 350 older adults and 20 community partners in attendance.
- Developed evaluation and co-promoted [Senior Centres Without Walls](#) program across district with Temiskaming Home Support.

Goal: Reduce the frequency, severity and impact of injury

- Supported Ecole St. Michel traffic committee in advocating for safety measure on highway 11.
- Provided Safe Kids Week/prevent childhood falls at home resources to service providers.
- Supported Kirkland Lake Soccer Association with concussion policy.
- Work towards ATV safety and safe boating have been delayed.

Goal: To increase positive mental health in THU as a workplace and the community.

- Launched the *Not Myself Campaign* positive mental health in the workplace campaign at THU.
- Incorporated activities for mental health in the alpha Fitness Challenge with 94% staff participation.
- Held 2 [Safe Talk](#) suicide alert trainings in partnership with NEOFACS with 53 participants (KL & TS).

Harm Reduction:

Internal Harm Reduction Program					External Program
<i>Client Services</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Jan-Jun)	2019 (Jan-Jun)
<i>Male Clients</i>	121	189	197	176	50
<i>Female Clients</i>	68	108	132	88	29
<i>Needles Distributed</i>	12,906	20,953	36,549	17,336	3,380
<i>Safer Snorting Kits</i>			107	56	44
<i>Pipes</i>			1386	3175	259
<i>Naloxone Dispensed</i>			51	59	14

- CMHA, Mino M'shki-ki and Northwood Recovery are now needle exchange and naloxone distribution satellite agencies. Naloxone is now available on Bear Island.
- Provided presentations to the Kirkland Lake and District hospital on substance use (crystal meth and opioids) and data from the opioid poisoning snapshot. Presentations were also provided to Kunuwanimano, Temiskaming Hospital Nursing skills fair, and Harley Township fire department.
- Completed interviews for the qualitative research project on Opioid Use in Timiskaming.

School Health

Goal: to achieve optimal health of school-aged children and youth through partnership and collaboration with schools.

- Continued to support a range of programs with interested schools.
- Planned and implemented activities related to youth mental health and addiction champion project in 5 secondary schools related to unanticipated funding received from RAO (20K).
- Advocated for funding to continue the Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program.
- Completed all Grade 7 and secondary school immunization clinics and completed assessments of those attending school and in licensed childcare. Staff continue to work with families toward compliance. No school suspension orders have been issued.
- Additional school activities are described elsewhere in this report (Bike Safety Program, Tobacco Prevention).



School Resiliency Activity - Cheerful Chains.

- Some activities were delayed or postponed due to unanticipated requests and THU capacity.

Oral Health Screening:

Oral Health - Dental Screenings					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<i>Pre-Kind/Kind & Grade 2 In-School Mandatory Program</i>	555	937	800	---	---
<i>Pre-Kind/Kind, Grade 2, 4 & 7 In-School Mandatory Program</i>				985	915
<i>Additional Grades In-School Screening</i>	1043	2217	1350	654	n/a
<i>Office Screenings</i>	292	238	248	231	193

Vision Screening Program:

School Vision Screening Program		
Senior Kindergarten Students	2018	2019
<i>Number Screened</i>	146	143
<i>Number Referred to Optometrist for Vision Exam</i>	62	63

Healthy Growth and Development

Goal: to achieve optimal preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth, parental, and family health.

91% of planned intervention activities have been completed as projected. The remaining tasks are to be addressed in Q3 and Q4.

Healthy Babies – Healthy Children Home Visiting Program

The HBHC Screen helps to identify families in need of assistance and guidance in achieving their parenting goals. THU has maintained a high percentage of screen completions as per benchmarks established by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).

The table below reflects the percentage of mom and baby dyads who were screened at different times. Partnership efforts with Temiskaming Hospital result in greater postpartum screen completion and increased connections of families with public health services (Source: BORN database).

**Note that prenatal reflects the period of time before the baby is born, postpartum reflects the newborn to 6 weeks of age period of time and early childhood is the 6 weeks to 6 years period.*

HBHC Screens	2017	2018	2019 (YTD)
Prenatal	78.5%	71.3%	82.2%
Postpartum	101.8%	96.9	96.2%
Early Childhood	7.24%	6.19%	3.14%

HBHC Client Visits	2017	2018	2019 (YTD)
Total # of Home Visits	325	418	206
Family Resource Worker Visits (FRW)	158	254	116
Public Health Nurses (PHNs) Visits	167	164	90

Immunizations, Infectious & Communicable Diseases Prevention & Control

Goal: to reduce or eliminate the burden of vaccine preventable diseases through immunization and to reduce the burden of communicable diseases and other infectious diseases of public health significance.

Immunization Program (Jan-June)				
Immunizations Administered in Office	NL	KL	ENG	Total
# of clients receiving immunizations	1026	407	215	1648
# of immunizations administered	1524	473	266	2263
Travel Health Consultations	NL	KL	ENG	Total
# of consultations	389	136	N/A	525
Note: These numbers do not include Influenza Vaccine				

- Several communication campaigns are in progress covering specific immunization topics.
- Topical immunization issues such as Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, Measles vaccination and vaccine shortage issues, were shared in the June edition of the Health Care Provider Newsletter. Health Care Providers also received memos on vaccine best practice updates, shortage notices, and any other immunization program changes.

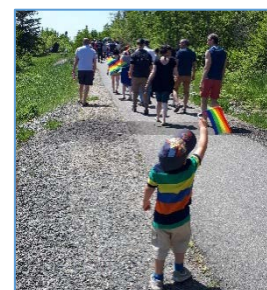
Year	Vaccine Fridge - Cold Chain Inspection					
	KL		NL		ENG	
	Total inspections	Total failures	Total inspections	Total failures	Total inspections	Total failures
2016	13	2	24	5	5	0
2017	12	10	28	7	5	2
2018	15	11	32	10	5	1
2019	1	3	4	5	1	1

The majority of cold chain inspections are completed during the summer months.

Sexual Health				
<i>Client Services</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Jan-Jun)
<i>Male Clients</i>	129	127	164	181
<i>Female Clients</i>	864	805	644	528
<i>% of clients between 12-24</i>			66%	66%
<i>Contraceptives</i>	929	846	198	110*
<i>Plan B</i>	41	25	23	12*
<i>STI Tests</i>	215	201	257	164
<i>Pregnancy Tests</i>	28	36	37	25
<i>Blood-Borne Infection Tests</i>	124	97	140	88

*Note: OHIP+ launched January 1st, 2018, dramatically shifting where the majority of youth under the age of 25 obtain their contraceptives and Plan B.

- No condom use continues to be the highest risk factor for sexually transmitted infections (68% of cases).
- Consultations with health care providers and updates on topics of interest such as gonorrhea treatment are included in the health care provider newsletter.
- Staff attended the 2019 Kirkland Lake Pride Parade.



Infection Control				
	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Jan-Jun)
Reportable Disease Investigations (non-STI) ¹	67	59	102	37
Outbreaks - Institutional ¹	21	36	33	16
Outbreaks - Community ¹	0	0	0	0
Animal Bite Reporting	29	85	77	18
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) ¹	82	61	78	32
Personal Service Settings Inspections (hair salons, tattoos, piercings, aesthetics)	47	50	52	10

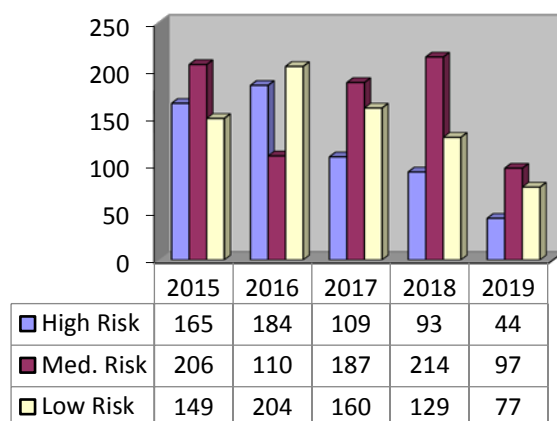
- Formal indicators were developed in Q2 for tracking of program success and ministry reporting.
- The IPAC program is changing its medium for the annual infection control education day from an in-person full day workshop to daily webinars during IPAC week in Q4. Working jointly with Public Health Ontario, we look forward to evaluating the benefits of this platform.

Safe Water

Safe Water Inspections			
Drinking Water	2017	2018	2019
Small Drinking Water Systems	19	13	10
Recreational Water			
Public Beaches <i>(Seasonal Jul-Aug)</i>	16	17	0
Pools	25	18	16
Recreational Camps/Beachfront <i>(Seasonal Jul-Aug)</i>	11	9	0

Food Safety

Compliance Inspections



Land Control

Septic Systems	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<i>Permits Issued</i>	131	111	124	38	13
<i>File Searches</i>	60	60	66	28	31
<i>Severance/Subdivision</i>	15	15	29	10	3

Human Resource Update

The comings and goings of our colleagues



New Staff:

- Public Health Promoter-Active School Travel Project– New Liskeard - Contract (Sept. 2019)

Resignations:

- MOH/CEO – New Liskeard, Permanent (August 2019)
- Dietitian – New Liskeard, Permanent (August 2019)

Current Vacancies:

- Public Health Nurse –Kirkland Lake, New Liskeard – Maternity Leave Contracts (2)
- Senior Public Health Inspector, Permanent, Kirkland Lake or New Liskeard
- Program Manager-Human Resources/Special Projects, Contract, Kirkland Lake, 2-Year Contract
- Dental Assistant, Permanent, Kirkland Lake
- Public Health-Registered Dietitian, Permanent, Kirkland Lake or New Liskeard
- Research, Planning and Policy Analyst, Permanent, New Liskeard
- Epidemiologist, Maternity Leave Contract, New Liskeard

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