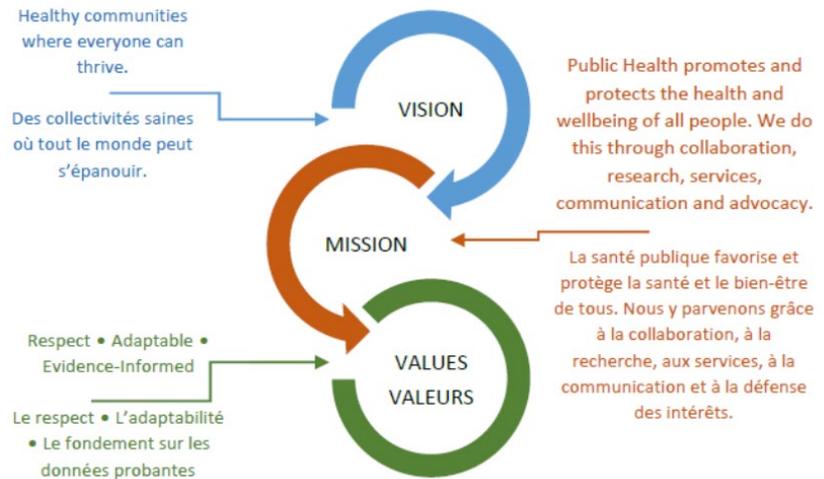


# Report to the Board of Health

Year-End Report – January to December 2023

## Report Content

- [THU in Action: Our People - Our Stories](#)
- [HR Update](#)



## Introduction

During 2023, Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) staff continued to move forward on routinizing COVID-19 response work and recovery. THU completed an after-action review with core IMS members. After-action reviews are an essential component of the recovery phase of the emergency management cycle. They are a qualitative review conducted after the end of an emergency response to identify best practices, gaps, and lessons learned. Learnings from this review were integrated into the emergency management situational assessment and will be drawn from in related operational plans.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused severe backlogs in public health programming and planning that all THU teams continue to navigate. This has, however, provided an opportunity for renewed reflection and prioritization of our programs. In 2023, we began the work of integrating a public health program pyramid into our planning cycle. The pyramid has guided staff involved in program planning to identify critical, essential, aspirational, and legacy work and to think critically about gaps and opportunities. We also have begun the work of critically examining the planning cycle and its associated tools to best support staff in implementing the foundational standards.

COVID-19 also showed THU how synergetic our connection to the Porcupine Health Unit is and a joint team between the health units have begun the work of initiating a voluntary merger with the assistance of Dr. Marlene Spruyt. Our school teams collaborated on a variety of projects, the environmental health teams completed joint training exercises, and health promoters connected on common initiatives such as the Icelandic Prevention Model.

Additional highlights of Timiskaming Health Unit work from January to December of 2023 are further described below.

# In the Spotlight and On Our Radar

## Violence

Violence is recognized as a pervasive and destructive force in society.<sup>1</sup> It has devastating mental and physical impacts on the victims, witnesses, families, and society at large. It can be manifested as gender-based violence, elderly abuse, bullying, community violence, etc. In 2018, the topic of Violence was added to the Ontario Public Health Standards, acknowledging it as a public health priority and requiring boards of health to address it by assessing risks and protective factors and collaborating with local partners to build on community assets.

THU has developed its first operational plan focused on the topic of violence for 2024. Work for this year includes continuing with the collaborative partnerships described below as well as the development of a situational assessment. The situational assessment will collate available data and identify gaps in data related to this topic to inform further program planning.

Timiskaming Health Unit is a member of three community collaborations that address violence prevention. **The Timiskaming Elder Abuse Task Force** is a network of service providers, committed to improving the wellness of seniors within the district. They promote advocacy, education, and prevention of elder abuse issues. The **Timiskaming District Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee** maximizes the capacity of service providers to respond to abused women's needs, improve access to an integrated service delivery system, and ultimately increase the safety and overall well-being for abused women and their children. Through this collaboration, community paramedics have been piloting a *violence screening question*. The screening tool is a practical resource for professionals to help aid in the prevention of violence against women. Asking the question helps professionals identify and respond to persons experiencing abuse or violence in their relationships. Once the results of this pilot are evaluated, we can modify if needed, and expand implementation with other partners across the district. This committee also recently advocated for provincial and municipal partners to declare violence as an epidemic.

**Community Safety Well-Being** plans are provincially legislated for municipalities in Ontario. Timiskaming's plan includes working collaboratively across sectors towards the goal of making Timiskaming a safer, more inclusive, and connected community where all residents thrive. One priority area identified by the stakeholders is community safety, which includes gender-based violence. Another priority area is housing, including transitional and supportive housing, which have been identified as important barriers to leaving a violent partner.

1 Canadian Public Health Agency. (n.d.). *Violence in Society: A Public Health Perspective*. <https://www.cpha.ca/violence-society-public-health-perspective>



# Timiskaming Health Unit in Action

## Our people – our stories.

### Foundational Standards

#### Population Health Assessment and Surveillance:

Population health assessment and surveillance is an essential public health function to support local public health practice to respond effectively to current and evolving issues and contribute to the health and well-being of our population. The list below highlights some of this work:

#### Work Completed:

- Supported outbreaks with data analysis, case definitions, and data entry guidance.
- Shared data and analyses on a variety of public health topics.
- Professional development: Specialist Knowledge Translation Training and Power BI training.
- Supported RPPAs with data requests regarding program planning and other projects.
- Supported regular updates of opioid surveillance dashboard, data tracking process, Early Warning Surveillance System thresholds, and opioid summary report.
- Re-vamped the THU COVID-19 webpage to create a new Respiratory Illnesses page.
- Development of an air quality surveillance system to monitor air quality on a biweekly basis during spring and summer.

#### Variance:

- Knowledge exchange plan was not completed in 2024, deferred to 2025.
- Healthy environment projects deferred to 2024 due to staff turnover.
- Work on climate change indicators to be completed in 2024 Q1 due to staff turnover and delay from Public Health Ontario.
- Infant Feeding Surveillance System report was deferred to Q1 of 2024 due to staff turnover.
- Preconception health deferred to 2024 due to staff turnover and prioritization of Perinatal Mood Disorders project.
- Some substance data updates were not prioritized and deferred to 2024; small data requests were fulfilled.

#### Health Equity:

The following section highlights local public health work in 2023 toward reducing health inequities that includes assessing and reporting on the local impact of health inequities and identifying local strategies, modifying and orienting public health interventions, and health equity analysis, policy development, and advancing healthy public policies.

#### Work Completed:

- Provided support to program teams to integrate the health equity lens into the program planning cycle.

- Completed a plan to implement sociodemographic data collection at THU but paused launch due to the ministry developing standard provincial indicators.
- Supported professional development at THU by co-presenting a learning session with Public Health Ontario on Health Equity.
- Created repository of resources for community engagement and priority population engagement to promote participatory approaches.
- Supported THU in becoming a Living Wage employer and accompanying communications and promotional materials.
- Completed a BOH presentation on Health Equity in public health.
- Researched and added a mandatory health equity training component to THU staff orientation.

**Variance:**

- Research into health equity indicators was completed but indicators for THU were not finalized.

**Effective Public Health Practice:**

Effective public health practice requires THU staff to apply skills in evidence-informed decision-making, research, knowledge exchange, program planning and evaluation, and communication, with a continued focus on quality and transparency. The section below captures 2023 activity highlights for program planning, evaluation, and evidence-informed decision making as well as for knowledge exchange and continuous improvement.

**Work Completed:**

- Several program plans were updated to inform the 2024 budget process.
- THU's Professional Practice Council launched OceanMD, an extension of our OSCAR EMR. OceanMD enables THU to send emailed appointment reminders, secure eMessages, and to join the Ontario eReferral network. Work to operationalize and fully integrate these functionalities is ongoing.
- Launched a pilot group of twelve staff taking OnCore training, a collaborative, peer-led public health foundations course.
- Finalized THU ethics policy and related supporting documents.
- Finalized THU evaluation protocol.
- Finalized the Grand Rounds procedure.
- THU hired a practicum student to support Food and Nutrition work.

**Variance:**

- Updating planning tools has been initiated but not finalized.
- Strengthening CQI practices continues to be a goal for the team but is deprioritized due to capacity.

**Emergency Management:**

Effective emergency management ensures that boards of health are ready to cope with and recover from threats to public health or disruptions to public health programs and services.

**Work Completed:**

- Administered the After-Action Review of the COVID-19 pandemic and wrote a report summarizing findings.
- Completed a Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA).
- Completed a situational assessment for emergency management and integrated learnings from the aforementioned reports.
- Supported the launch of PurpleAir monitors across the district, partnering with ECCC and municipalities.

## Examples of Knowledge Products created with the Foundational Standards Team in 2023:

Team	Product name
CD/IP	Completed and submitted City of Temiskaming Shores marina consultation briefing note NE SOYF evaluation report Community Fridge Pilot Project evaluation
HGD	In-person Prenatal Classes Evaluation Report Breastfeeding Peer Support Group: Implementation Summary Temiskaming Children’s Services Planning Table Self-assessment summary report. Perinatal Mood Disorders Universal Screening Research Strategy
FS	Grand Rounds year-end summary Fulfilled several data requests from external partners such as: births by quarter, opioid data, harm reduction, falls, food security, and population projections Cryptosporidiosis and pertussis data summaries Ultraviolet Radiation data analysis

## Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being

In 2023, in addition to the work described below, THU's Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being program team contributed to education and awareness about the importance of this chronic disease prevention work, through Health Promotion Ontario’s White Paper on the Value of Local Health Promotion and a briefing note for THU’s Board of Health on Public Health Strengthening and Chronic Disease Prevention. The team also contributed to Public Health Ontario’s work by reviewing two Focus on Reports published in 2023: Salutogenesis and Health Promotion and Foundations of Health Promotion.

### Active Living:

#### Work Completed:

- Refreshed the Share the Road communications campaign and offered signage to municipalities at no cost to them. Distributed new signs in the southern part of the district and replaced damaged signs.
- Participated in the City of Temiskaming Shores Road Safety Education Day along with community partners (200+ attendees). Set up booth with active travel information including cycling safety, pedestrian safety, and share the road resources. We also provided helmet fit demonstrations and helmets to anyone who needed them.
- Community involvement at Englehart’s Day in the Park. THU staff set up a tent where the Walk ‘N Roll program provided a scavenger hunt and the HGD staff provided car seat resources. Over 400 people attended the Saturday event.
- Coordinated Temiskaming Shores Community Bike Festival. This year’s event gave 115 bicycles and helmets to new owners.
- Supported Town of Kirkland Lake with Bike Month activities.
- Collaborated with 3 schools on school zone safety assessments.

- Completed pick-up planner for one school in partnership with school administration and parent council.
- Promoted pedestrian skills campaign during iWalk Month (October). Total 8 schools participated (3 FR, 5 EN—1621 students).
- Delivered cycling skills training in schools: bike rodeos at 2 schools, updated resources for teachers and classroom package.
- Developed [Board of Health Briefing Note on Physical Literacy](#).

#### **Variance:**

- Did not collaborate as planned with City of Temiskaming Shores on active transportation initiatives; City did not hire a student in this role for 2023.
- Did not initiate bicycle festival in Kirkland Lake due to staffing capacity. Will revisit in 2024.
- Did not develop AST toolkit for educators—revisiting the utility of this intervention.
- Pedestrian skills training pilot moved to February 2024 due to limited staff capacity.
- Implementation of new cycling skills facilitators postponed to 2024 due to limited staff capacity.
- Shifted planned activities to promote affordable access to recreation with early planning to address physical literacy. To be continued in 2024.
- Updated situational assessment not completed as planned. To complete in 2024.

#### **Healthy Eating:**

##### **Work Completed:**

- Delivered four virtual presentations to youth at Youth Job Connection, topic: healthy eating (reach=57).
- [Blender Bike](#) borrowed four times in 2023—Extendicare, Teck Pioneer Residence, Kirkland Lake Family Health Team, and EarlyON.
- Completed a qualitative research project to explore perceptions of food insecurity among community partners.
- Launched and evaluated the Community Fridge Pilot Project in partnership with Timiskaming’s Community Food Action Network and Temiskaming Shores Public Library.
- Contributed content to municipal newsletter (Community Fridge, Food Insecurity) and Health Care Provider newsletter (weight stigma/bias, food insecurity, the Code).
- Provided nutrition related content for THU Youth Instagram.
- Provided a virtual presentation to the Age Friendly Committee about eating well, food labels, and the community fridge (25 participants).
- Precepted one student from Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program for 6 weeks.
- Presented to a group of youth 15 to 29 from Youth Job Connection (YJC) on "how to eat well on a budget": 20 participants.
- Completed 2022 Nutritious Food Basket data analysis and dissemination as part of Nutrition Month (social media, [THU website](#), [infographic](#), [report](#), [BOH briefing note](#) and [presentation](#), [media release](#), email blast, THU webinar).
- Participated in launch of Temiskaming Shores Community Fridge Project in collaboration with the Community Food Action Network in Temiskaming Shores. A number of community partners attended the event. THU managed the social media accounts, supported the project implementation, created social media posts, resources and materials. January to June 2023.
- Offered training to 4 community partners on how to use the blender bike during community events (Extendicare, EarlyON, TPR, KL FHT).

- Provided content for THU's Youth Instagram account: Nutrition Month; youth engagement raising awareness around diet culture and healthy eating habits such as encouraging the consumption of fruits and vegetables, making water the drink of choice, etc.
- Provided support to concession operator and shared healthy eating resources for a hockey tournament.
- Maintained the Timiskaming Talks Nutrition page to provide evidence-based and accurate nutrition information to promote the health and well-being of the Timiskaming population.
- Drafted content and compiled resources to promote the 2023 National Eating Disorders Awareness Week.
- Contributed to THU targeted newsletters: content to raise awareness about the community fridge and food insecurity in municipal newsletter, content to educate about weight stigma and bias, food insecurity, and the international code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes and formula marketing in health care provider newsletter.

**Variance:** Most variance here due to limited RD capacity (only 1/2 positions in place)

- [Healthy Eating in Recreation Settings](#) work not completed in 2023 due in part to concession closure and in part to RD capacity limitations.
- [Local food map](#) not maintained due to limited RD capacity.
- Timiskaming Talks Nutrition FB Page on hold due to limited RD capacity.

## Mental Health Promotion:

### Work Completed:

- Created comprehensive inventory of community assets.
- Promoted 2023 Mental Health Week Promote Mental Health Awareness Week. [Public online event](#) with Adele Lafrance with 125 participants. Developed a library toolkit used by 9 libraries used across Timiskaming and Porcupine districts.
- [Board of Health briefing note](#) on mental health promoting policies and [letter of support](#) for Act for Mental Health Campaign.
- [Board of Health briefing note](#) on psychological health and safety in the workplace and endorsement of adoption of the National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace to promote and protect the psychological health and safety of Timiskaming Health Unit staff.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences overview provided to THU nurses at internal training event.
- Co-facilitated Trauma and Violence Informed Care Training with THU harm reduction, sexual health, and reception staff.
- Implemented [Caring Adults Matter](#) communications campaign in partnership with EarlyON collaborative.

### Variance:

- Internal Psychological Health and Safety policy review delayed to align with updated Employee Wellness and Engagement Committee who will be facilitating implementation of this initiative.
- Trauma and violence informed care training for THU staff supporting harm reduction and sexual health programs delayed to Q4.
- Development of a primer to support implementation of mental health promoting language in all THU program areas not yet addressed due to other activities being given higher priority.
- Community asset mapping project delayed, now collaborating with Centre de sante du Temiskaming to complete in shareable format.
- External workshop with partners on Trauma and Violence-Informed Care postponed to 2024.

- Work to promote social prescribing and other social connections related interventions in Timiskaming delayed to 2024.
- Support for workplace wellness including promoting Psychological Health and Safety Standard and webinars did not occur due to staffing limitations. To be revisited in 2024.
- Interventions to support life promotion and suicide prevention delayed to 2024.

### Healthy Built Environment:

#### Work Completed:

- Developed and submitted a response to the City of Temiskaming Shores' Waterfront Marina consultation.
- THU staff developed a presentation for local municipal councils to increase awareness of the role of local public health and the ways in which municipal governments shape health. The presentation has been offered to all local municipalities.
- THU staff co-presented with a Board of Health member to the City of Temiskaming Shores in November 2023. THU staff also developed and circulated, to all municipal staff and council members, a quarterly newsletter titled [Health for All](#). Past editions can be found at this link.
- A [page](#) has been added to THU's website specific to the topic of municipalities and public health.
- Implemented [Community Placemaking MicroGrant program](#). 36 applications received and grants provided to 14 local projects.

#### Variance:

- Delay in completion of submission to Town of Cobalt Official Plan update pending response from consultant.
- Work to develop Health in All Policies (HiAP) primer series postponed to 2024 due to staffing capacity challenges.
- Situational assessment on this topic not completed as planned. To complete in 2024.

### Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP):

The OSDCP remained very busy throughout 2023 seeing seniors within our district who qualify for dental care services.

#### Work Completed:

- In 2023, the OSDCP saw 149 new clients in the program.
- As of December 31, 2023, we had 13 new clients on a waitlist. We had 27 clients in NL and 13 clients in KL on the recall list.
- The one-time funding received (\$54,000) helped our waitlist. We hired a temporary part-time hygienist and an internal dental assistant was moved to a temporary dental hygienist position. These positions will be maintained until March 31, 2024.
- In December, Service Letter Agreements were sent to our dentists and denturist to renew their support and services related to OSDCP.

#### Variance:

- We were unsuccessful in recruiting dental assistant vacancy (mat leave).
- Mid-year, we received two letters from local dentist offices expressing concern and frustration with the fees associated to the program. Noting this issue is well known across the province. If local dentists stop

participating in the OSDCP, seniors within our district will see longer wait times for services. This could also mean seniors could end up needing to be referred to services out of our district.

OSDCP 2023	2022 Total	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Q3 Total	Q4 Total	2023 Total
Applied at THU	232	77	52	82	49	272
Applied Online	19	11	0	6	9	26
Unique Seniors Served at THU	182	64	68	46	84	262
Total OSDCP Preventive Appointments at THU	197	74	68	50	88	280
Unique Seniors Served by Providers	554	158	183	189	156	697
Total OSDCP Appointments by Providers	686	238	38	237	214	901

## Substance Use and Injury Prevention

### Alcohol and Drug Use Health, Harm Reduction Program and Ontario Naloxone Program:

#### Work Completed:

- [BOH briefing note](#) and endorsement of the implementation of the Icelandic Prevention Model as a local strategy to reduce youth substance use.
- [Board of Health briefing note](#): Mandatory labels on alcohol containers and endorsement, in principle, of Bill S254 – An Act to Amend the Food and Drug Act (Warning Labels on Alcoholic Beverages) and Motion M-61 A National Warning Label Strategy for Alcoholic Products.
- Launched [@YouthTimiskaming](#) on Instagram. The goal of the account is to empower and engage youth 12-25 in the THU region to live healthier lives through sharing credible, non-judgemental health messaging and resources. (183 followers as of August 2023).
- Initiated Planet Youth Timiskaming, local district-wide implementation of Icelandic Prevention Model as part of Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy. Includes development of local Steering Committee.
- Provided a short presentation as part of the [Youth Substance Use Prevention Webinar](#) in partnership with Drug Free Kids Canada, Northeastern Catholic District School Board, and Porcupine Health Unit. The webinar provided information about cannabis, alcohol, and vaping, as well as tools to empower caregivers to have conversations about substance use with their children.
- Brought two CSCT locations on board for Harm Reduction supply distribution and two sharps collection bins.
- Established and hosted first Community of Practice (Knowledge Network HR/TX) meeting. The Knowledge Network provides a virtual venue for presentations and knowledge exchange for service providers and partners working in harm reduction and treatment related to substance use. Guest speakers share their knowledge and experience, followed by an opportunity for all participants to provide local updates, discuss challenges and receive support from their peers.
- Completed inventory of local substance use prevention initiatives.
- Continued to implement District-wide Harm Reduction Program.
- Launched Timiskaming's [Overdose Early Warning Surveillance System](#) including bad drug form (media release and earned media from French CBC, CTV, local radio and newspaper).
- Held second Knowledge Network meeting. Topic: AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area.

- Facilitated 2023 [Overdose Awareness Day](#) awareness campaign and attended local events in Temiskaming Shores, Englehart, Kirkland Lake.
- Grand Rounds presentation on Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy (TDAS).
- Ongoing coordination of Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy, co-chair of Steering Committee, chair of three pillar groups.
- Facilitated [anti-stigma training](#) for care providers, in partnership with CSCT and CMHA-CT: 2 English training sessions (50 attendees) and 1 French (28 attendees). All events were 2 hours long and virtual.
- Promoted information to influence parental attitudes and behaviour related to substance use (local vaping campaign, workshops/webinars from various sources).
- Initiated consultant-supported project to develop a mobile harm reduction outreach program for Timiskaming.
- Successfully applied to be part of the [Our Health Box](#) research project in partnership with CSCT in Temiskaming Shores. Program to launch in spring 2024.
- Led development of [substance use health referral flow chart](#) for service providers in collaboration with community partners.
- Launched [drug checking test strip pilot project](#).
- Collaborated with AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area to organize and promote point of care testing drives in Timiskaming.

**Variance:**

- Public communications campaign topics delayed due to staff capacity issues: substance use stigma, lower risk cannabis use, addictions awareness week, and steroid use.
- Health care provider screen for substance use delayed due to staffing capacity challenges. Will be addressed in 2024.
- Provided information to 2 municipalities to update Municipal Alcohol Policies.

**Needle Exchange Program:**

Internal Program					
<i>Client Services</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>
<i>Total # Encounters NEP and Other HR Supplies</i>	498	355	159	249	413
<i>Total # of needles provided</i>	-	24,380	31,638	37,260	24,856
<i>Total # of bowl pipes provided</i>	-	4,620	12,962	15,366	19,027
<i>Total # of Naloxone kits provided</i>	-	236	234	256	260
<i>Total # of Naloxone refills provided</i>	--	43	45	39	94

**Comprehensive Tobacco Control:**

**Work Completed:**

- Cessation support to 31 clients without access to other resources.
- Distributed 108 NRT vouchers.
- Archived Medical Directive for this program since no longer dispensing NRT.

- Provided tobacco-free resources to local sports and recreation clubs and facilities as well as three hospitals, CMHA, and the three Family Health Teams. Resources will be provided to remaining two FHTs in 2024.
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Great Northern Family Health Team to partner on implementation of tobacco cessation among people who are pregnant pilot project. Implementation to begin in 2024.
- Outreach to three large employers to offer tobacco cessation support. Focused outreach to continue in 2024.
- Implemented communications campaign to promote tobacco and vape cessation to young adults on radio, newspaper, and social media, and in arenas and recreation areas.
- Developed [Board of Health Briefing Note](#) to inform local advocacy for Ontario’s participation in a vape tax intervention to deter access to vape products among youth.

**Variance:**

- Refresh and implementation of THU’s 2019 Brief Contact Intervention policy and procedure initiated but not complete. Continuing into 2024.
- Held one Timiskaming Cessation Network meeting in fall 2023 (had planned two).
- Local cross-sector tobacco intervention planning event not held due to staffing capacity limitations.
- Advocacy to district care providers to increase cessation support delayed to 2024 due to staffing capacity limitations.
- Promoted smoke-free multi-unit housing in South part of district, will promote in North part in 2024.
- Promotion of tobacco and vape free campaign in bars and restaurants postponed to 2024.

Tobacco Enforcement							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Inspections	355	336	357	220	163	267	348
Charges	6	9	7	1	8	5	5
Warnings	103	82	166	73	136	144	108

**Work Completed:**

- Our youth test shopping program was fully completed in 2023.
- Test shopping completion also included new specialty vape stores for the first time, as these businesses were new to our district.

**Variance:**

- We were hoping to train on and begin utilizing the ministry’s new SharePoint site for tobacco enforcement, however the launch of the site was delayed, and it will have to take place in 2024.

**Injury Prevention, including On- and Off-Road Safety:**

**Work Completed:**

- Continued with advocacy efforts to reduce highway speed. Highway 11 speed was recently reduced to 70km/h near Ecole St-Michel.

- Supported town of Kirkland Lake with safety changes to local areas of concern (Foss Lane, Woods/Queen Street intersections).
- Facilitated Action2Zero project, with 20 community partners representing 14 organizations participate in preliminary survey to help shape Action2Zero report.
- Collaborated with Healthy Growth and Development team to support car seat safety during Safe Kids Week.
- Facilitated launch of Timiskaming Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.
- Campaign delivered re concussions including education and resources for health care providers, parents and students.
- Ongoing coordination of Temiskaming District Road Safety Coalition (6 meetings in 2023).

**Variance:**

- Did not deliver boating or ATV safety campaigns as planned due to staffing constraints.
- Delayed implementation of communications campaign to reduce risk of accidental poisoning of cannabis edibles in partnership with 9 local retailers to 2024.

**Healthy Aging:**

**Work Completed:**

- Coordinated implementation of three older adult Spring Fling wellness fair and luncheon: June 7th – Kirkland Lake – approx. 70 older adults and 8 community partner booths; June 14th – Englehart– approx. 55 older adults and 10 community partner booths; June 21st – New Liskeard – approx. 150 older adults and 12 community partner booths.
- Continuing to collaborate with four other Northeastern Ontario HUs in delivery of Stay on Your Feet (SOYF) initiative for older adult falls prevention, partially funded by Ontario Health Northeast. Includes ongoing maintenance and promotion of regional Stay on Your Feet [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).
- Maintained and expanded diverse network of key stakeholders engaged in fall prevention via Local SOYF Timiskaming Coalition and relevant working groups.
- Maintained [Guide to Exercise Opportunities for Older Adults in Timiskaming](#) with up to date information.
- Coordinated planning and delivery of Stand Up/PIED 48-week exercise classes in partnership with Ontario Health and local delivery partners.
- Supported delivery and expansion of chair-based exercise programs (i.e. Bougeons Doucement Ensemble and From Soup to Tomatoes) in Temiskaming Shores.
- Provided Home Safety Checklist (HSC) and Independent Living Guide (ILG) as tools to assess risk factors at home and in community to older adults and Family Health Teams.

**Variance:**

- Engagement with City of Temiskaming Shores 8-80s Community Committee—committee has not met as expected.
- Delay in work to identify local businesses interested in moving forward with Age Friendly Business status as part of Provincial Age Friendly Business Working Group. Now planned for Temiskaming Shores in 2024.
- Work to collaborate with partners to advocate for affordable access to transportation for older adults delayed.

- Work with local seniors club to become members of Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario and join Links2Wellbeing and partner with primary care delayed (Encore Club, KL shifting focus to renovations, time did not permit collaborating with another local club this year).
- Exploring opportunities to host wellness clinics at seniors' apartments adjusted: Community paramedicine is hosting these clinics but does not have space to include falls prevention resources at this time.
- No work yet to engage indigenous partners in the coalition. Will address in 2024.
- Did not run Fall Prevention Month campaign on radio and in print as planned.
- Delay in efforts to train volunteers and service providers to incorporate Home Support Exercise Program (HSEP) from Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging (CCAA) into their programming to reach homebound older adults. To be addressed in 2024.
- Planned presentation to Seniors Centre Without Walls on healthy aging and fall prevention postponed.

### Violence:

#### Work Completed:

- Initiated data collection from partners about the prevalence of violence in Timiskaming.
- Research to identify public health approach to addressing violence not completed due to staff capacity. To be addressed in 2024.
- Continue Membership on the Temiskaming District Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee.
- Joined as member of Timiskaming Elder Abuse Task Force.
- Initial violence screening question training session completed with Community Paramedicine who will pilot the project over the next few months.

## Healthy Growth and Development

The Timiskaming District had 303 births in 2023. Healthy Growth and Development initiatives continue to prioritize and promote preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth, parental and family health.

### Breastfeeding and Infant Feeding:

#### Work Completed:

- THU continues to support clients with the breast pump program. In 2023, THU supported 22 families with hospital grade breast pumps. We also continue to offer manual breast pumps to families as needed for a minimal fee.
- We continue to maintain and support the Timiskaming Breastfeeding Buddies Facebook group. The Facebook page has 188 followers. Weekly breastfeeding posts are shared.
- We continue to ensure all staff have level 1 breastfeeding training. Staff working in the Healthy Growth & Development program have level 2 breastfeeding training to support local families.
- Lactation consulting support continues throughout the district; a total of 155 breastfeeding interactions were made with families in 2023.

#### Variance:

- The Breastfeeding Peer Program remains on pause since 2022. Work is underway to assess our capacity to possibly restart the program in 2024.

## Prenatal Education:

### Work Completed:

- We continue to offer the online bilingual courses for THU residents via Public Health Sudbury and Districts.
- Throughout 2023, THU partnered with Timiskaming Brighter Futures to offer virtual sessions. We also offer 1:1 prenatal/breastfeeding classes through the HBHC program. A total of 62 moms, 11 support partners accessed prenatal classes in 2023. 54 were first-time pregnancies.

## Well-baby Visits (WBV):

THU continues to offer WBV throughout the district. These visits reach children aged 0 to 6 years and offer services such as immunizations, weights, and developmental screening.

### Work Completed:

- THU offered weekly Well Baby Clinics (WBC) throughout the district.
- A total of 612 children accessed clinical services in 2023 across the district, (NL: 364, KL: 209, Englehart: 39).
- THU supports primary care with publicly funded vaccines. We continue to build relationships with primary care providers related to children services, supports and immunizations.
- During 2023, the HG&D team and School team worked in collaboration with our Anabaptist community to re-build and strengthen our relationship.

### Variance:

- We continue to see a decrease in WBV attendance in the north end of the district. An initial meeting was held early December with the Kirkland Lake District Family Health Team and THU to see how we can best support each other related to programs and services. We will explore a joint Well Baby Clinic in 2024.

## Mental Health:

### Work Completed:

- We continue to screen families using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale prenatally, 48 hours after hospital discharge, at 2-months, and at 6-months post-partum. In 2023, ten referrals for support services were made.

## Parenting:

### Work Completed:

- THU launched the [Parenting in Timiskaming](#) website and campaign November 19, 2023. THU participated in local National Child Day events in New Liskeard and Kirkland Lake. The campaign includes a website and social media that supports the following topics: breastfeeding, car seats, immunization, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, positive parenting, postnatal and newborn health, preparing for pregnancy, sexual health, sleep, smoking, starting solids, substance use and services at THU.
- We promote collaboration and cross-promotion of our services and programs across the district.
- The team developed a [New Parent Guide](#).

- Throughout 2023, THU actively participated in the following provincial groups: Parenting Indicator Working Group, ACEs and Resiliency Community of Practice and Healthy Growth and Development Evidence Network.
- THU chairs the local Parenting Working Group. The partners include healthcare, social services, and education.
- Locally, THU participates in the Timiskaming Children Services Planning Table.

### Road Safety and Car Seat Safety:

#### Work Completed:

- In 2023, THU hosted a car seat training for internal and external staff across the district. THU certified ten car seat technicians; 21 car seats were inspected as part of the training.
- THU offered 1:1 car seat inspection appointments; 32 car seats were inspected.
- In collaboration with Centre de santé communautaire du Témiskaming, (CSCT), THU offered a car seat presentation to parents.

### Healthy Eating

#### Work Completed:

- Supporting Ontario Dietitians in Public Health Childcare Practical Guide that is being updated for 2024.
- Provided feedback on nutrition sections for the website update.
- Developed nutrition post for Peer Support Facebook Plan for December.
- In collaboration with our dietitian, PHNs offered presentations in collaboration with EarlyOn, Timiskaming Brighter Futures and CSCT related to introducing solid foods.
- THU also created and adapted a resource on how to introduce solids and tips on picky eaters.

### Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program:

The goal of the HBHC program is to optimize newborn and child healthy growth and development and reduce health inequities for families. The program includes the following components: (1) Screening – prenatal, postpartum and early childhood (2) In-depth assessment (IDA) contact and assessment for families with risk (3) Postpartum Contact (4) Blended Home-Visiting and Family Service Plan.

The table below outlines the percentage of births that received a prenatal and postpartum screen as well as the percentage of eligible children (6 weeks to 70 months) who received an early childhood screen. We continue to see an increase in families accessing the HBHC program in the south end of THU's catchment area since resuming regular programming.

Percent of births receiving a prenatal and postnatal HBHC screen and % of eligible children with an early childhood HBHC screen in Timiskaming Health Unit area.						Provincial Target
Screen	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Prenatal	82%	65%	82%	75.4% (46.5%)*	62% (49.5%)*	10%
Postpartum	96%	70%	84%	82.8% (69.8%)*	79% (78.9%)*	80%
Early Childhood	3%	2%	0.7%	3.6% (68.4%)*	4% (67.3%)*	5%

\*Clients who are considered high-risk as defined by the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Screen

### Blended Home-Visiting (BHV) Program:

Healthy Babies Healthy Children In-Depth Assessments (IDA), Home Visits and Family Service Plans						
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of individuals confirmed with moderate or high risk (eligible for home visit) through an IDA	Prenatal	16 (66.6%)	6 (54.5%)	11 (91.7%)	7 (87.5%)	9 (75%)
	Postpartum	33 (53.2%)	16 (51.6%)	34 (73.9%)	30 (73.2%)	48 (87.2%)
	Early Childhood	18 (72%)	9 (90%)	11 (78.6%)	21 (77.8%)	13 (52.2%)
Number of families served with ≥ 2 home visits		41	26	29	46	69
Number of families who received an IDA.		111	52	72	76	91
Number of families with a family service plan initiated			10	9	30	48
Total # of Home Visits (with a FHV, PHN or both)		206	140	88	498	727

### HBHC Screening and Hospital Liaison:

#### Work Completed:

- We continue to offer daily weekday hospital liaison visits to Temiskaming Hospital. These visits also allow the PHNs to complete a formal post-partum Healthy Babies Healthy Children screen as mandated by the ministry. The visits also enable PHNs to assist families with breastfeeding and to discuss and promote services at THU and within the community.

## School and Child Care Health

### Oral Health and Vision Screening:

The Oral and Vision Health team has returned to full services in-school. All mandated programming is being completed.

**Variance:**

- We were unsuccessful at recruiting for a dental assistant position in 2023. Due to capacity, we have only been able to offer mandated programs. The child care fluoride program remained on hold in 2023.

Oral Health - Dental Screenings								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pre-Kind/Kind & Grade 2 In-School Mandatory Program	937	800	624	925	279	0*	518	904
Pre-Kind/Kind, Grade 2, 4 & 7 In-School Mandatory Program***	---**	----**	985	1840	632	0*	751	1129
Office Screenings	238	248	231	193	105	150	88	466

*\*This program was impacted by staff redeployment to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of COVID-19 measures on school partners.  
 \*\*Data for this section was not captured in the same fashion it was starting in 2018, therefore it is not specific to the grades required.  
 \*\*\*This number includes additional grades in-school screening as well as rescreens and Family and Child Services screens.*

**Vision Screening Program:**

School Vision Screening Program						
Senior Kindergarten Students	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number Screened	146	143	0*	0*	0*	383
Number Referred to Optometrist for Vision Exam	62	63	0*	0*	0*	134

*\*Similar to oral health, this program was impacted by resources being redeployed to the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that schools were shut down at times and/or not allowing visitors in when they were open.*

**School Health Immunization and Licensed Child Care:**

**Work Completed:**

- The school team continued with school immunization clinics throughout 2023. They offered routine immunization and catch-up vaccines.
- The team continued updating their school immunization process to be ready for the 2023-2024 school year. This included an online process to support the ISPA (Immunization School Pupils Act).
- Support and collaboration continued with our licensed child care providers.

**Variance:**

- We did not enforce the Immunization School Pupils Act (ISPA) during the 2022-2023 school year due to capacity. Porcupine Health Unit, with whom we share three common school boards, also did not enforce the ISPA.

## Comprehensive School and Child Care Health:

### Work Completed:

- Work continued to distribute biweekly school community e-blasts to Principals with curriculum linked resources. The purpose of the e-blasts is to share school-related content with all schools across our district. These topics also align with THU's mandate, such as: physical activity, immunization, mental health, or healthy eating.
- Collaboration continued with Porcupine Health Unit as we made updates to the JK resource. [Ready, Set, Kindergarten-JK resource](#)

## Infectious Diseases and Infection Prevention and Control:

### Work Completed:

- We continued to support our local schools with IPAC resources as needed.
- We continue to make sure that THU website information for schools and child care remain up to date.
- [A Guide to Common Infections](#) was created and uploaded to the THU website. This resource was created in partnership with Porcupine Health Unit to support schools and child care providers with information on how to manage common infections.

## Healthy Eating and Active Living:

### Work Completed:

- Collaborated with EarlyOn and delivered a community Bike Rodeo in Earlton.
- Delivered bicycle rodeos to two schools (four classes).
- Developed new active travel resources for teachers in both French and English: Classroom package includes virtual bicycle safety presentation, student evaluation, teacher feedback form, student cycling pledge.
- Scavenger Hunt Activity and THU booth at Day in the Park in Englehart.
- Provided new skipping ropes/jump rope activity booklet to École Ste-Croix for their outdoor classroom.
- Active School Travel/Advocacy for safety in school zones – after traffic observations and in consultation with the school and the community, a memo was sent to Armstrong Town Council with recommendations for a new crosswalk in front of École Catholique Assomption.
- Another memo was also developed in conjunction with the Timiskaming District Road Safety Coalition on behalf of St. Jerome Catholic School. It was advocating for changes to the main intersection accessing the school, including an enhanced crossing with a 4-way stop and better sidewalk connectivity. The proposed changes were brought to council at a public meeting and the changes were adopted by the Town.
- Promoted the Canadian Cancer Society's "On Your Feet Challenge" via social media.
- Walk 'N Roll social media focus this quarter has been on safe walking and school bus safety, as well as encouraging families to take the active route whenever possible.
- Preparations and communications began with schools in September to get ready for IWalk – two new schools joined this year – École des Navigateurs and Federal Public School. Nine schools were provided with resources and activity suggestions for Walk to School Day and the whole first week of October.  
**October is Walk to School Month.**
- We provided a box of helmets to the town of Englehart to have available for those who need one.

- Updated the Northern Fruits and Vegetable Program (NFVP) Toolkit activities and implementation guide. This included planning, coordination, deliveries, and troubleshooting. Also completed revision of the NFVP Food Literacy resource.
- Provided SNP lead support funding opportunities and open house nutrition resources.
- Developed 2-3 nutrition posts per month for the Youth Instagram account.
- Contributed to the Youth resilience Instagram page (21 posts).
- Promoting curriculum resources to teachers by writing two e-blasts on promoting food literacy in schools and weight bias in schools.

### Sexual Health and Healthy Sexuality:

#### Work Completed:

- Planning also happened related to getting the healthy relationship clinics initiated in high schools. The purpose of the healthy relationship clinics is to support student and school staff well-being by having a school nurse run weekly or bi-weekly in-school clinics to offer sexual health, healthy relationship, immunization, mental health and substance use services, referrals and resources as needed.
- Supported schools to deliver sexual health curriculum-based learning.
- Reviewed resources that could be used to help support curriculum-based learning on sexual health.
- We are back to offering healthy relationship clinics in four of our five high schools. The purpose of the healthy relationship clinic is to build relationships with students by offering services that include sexual health (birth control, pregnancy tests, STI testing), healthy relationship, mental health, tobacco, and vaping supports.

### Substance Use:

#### Work Completed:

- Distributed updated progressive enforcement of tobacco use toolkits to school boards.
- Information was shared with school boards and local schools on vaping.
- Information was shared on the tobacco enforcement guidelines and requirement during our first DOE meeting for this upcoming school year.
- Shared information on [not an experiment campaign and resources](#).

### Mental Health:

#### Work Completed:

- School nurses supported the RAO Youth Wellness Initiative.
- Through the summer, THU worked with Porcupine Health Unit to align the program to help school boards have the same expectations across the district.
- In Sept, we had our first meeting with DSB1 school MH staff and the school board MH lead, this included an overview of: the mini-grant, training, timelines and supports.
- We attended principal meetings, topics included mental health concerns and absenteeism.
- Our Youth Instagram page shared information on the following topics: mental health, coping, exam preparation, stress of starting a new school year and other topics that support youth wellness.
- The school nurses also supported health promoters with work related to Planet Youth to prepare our local high schools with the Icelandic Prevention Model (IMP) survey for our grade 10 and 11 students.

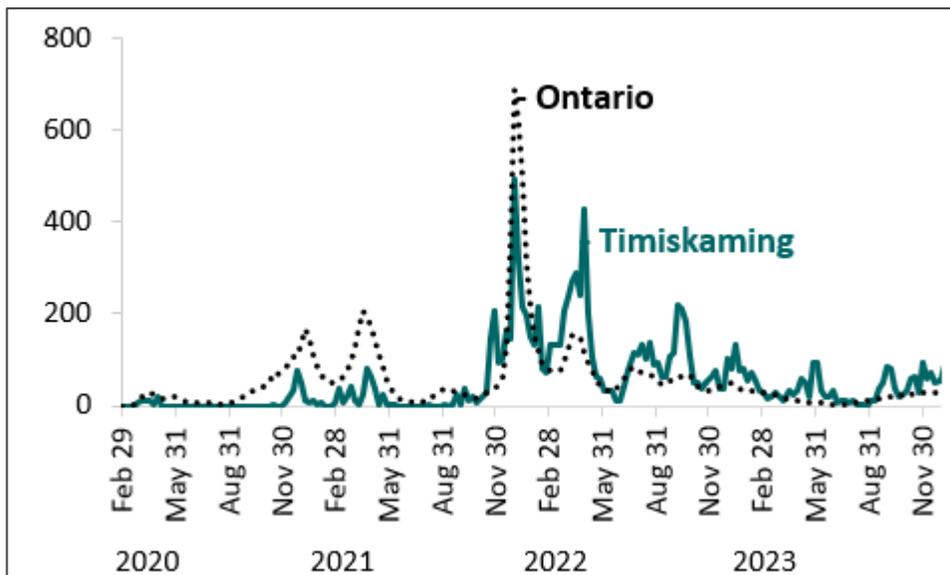
# Infectious and Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

Outbreak counts by location from Q1 to Q4 2023 (all types of outbreaks)						
2023	Number of outbreaks	Number of cases				Number of deaths
		Staff	Resident /patient	Visitor	Other	
Long-Term Care & nursing homes	20	60	243	0	0	3
Hospitals	7	20	39	0	0	2
Congregate living	6	15	21	0	0	1
Community	1	0	0	0	1	1
Daycare/school	5	5	0	0	36	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7</b>

## COVID-19 rates in Timiskaming and Ontario:

COVID-19 – Q1 to Q4:

- COVID cases in the THU area decreased from January to the end of June, then started increasing again near the fall.
- A total of (39) outbreaks were noted in 2023.
- Long-Term Care Homes/Retirement Homes (20)
- Community Living (6)
- Acute Care (7)



### **COVID-19 Communications:**

Below are some highlighted areas of work addressing COVID communication needs.

#### **Public and External**

- As we integrated Covid-19 into our regular respiratory programming we began to shift the message to Covid being just one of many possible respiratory illnesses that you need to protect yourself and others against.
- Webpages were maintained to keep information current regarding local and provincial guidance and recommendations for the public and various sectors including regulation changes. Clinic schedules, vaccine opportunities and recommendations. We shifted to a “Covid Threat Barometer” that is posted on our website and updated weekly.

#### **Media Relations**

- Media questions continued to be fielded from media locally and across the province, although as we moved through 2023 the inquiries began to slow down. Same message was given to them, regarding Covid being one of many respiratory illnesses.
- A weekly page in The Speaker ran from January to September 2023. All content was bilingual. The bottom half of this page is a calendar of upcoming COVID-19 vaccine clinics. The top half of the page consists of a short article, most often using the text from a recent social media post that has been deemed priority. The purpose of this page is to reach people, primarily seniors, who don't use social media.

#### **Internal**

- Updates for our area and for the province were communicated internally via all-staff emails as well as a virtual all-staff meeting. This activity did slow down as 2023 progressed as the need was not as dominant as it previously had been.
- Throughout the year, as we continued to integrate Covid-19 into our regular respiratory programming we worked to communicate this shift.

### **COVID-19 Booking Phone Line:**

The COVID-19 booking phone line was maintained by a core team of THU staff during 2023. We continue to promote and encourage clients to book their COVID-19 vaccine on-line; clients who do not have access to a computer and the internet can call the COVID-19 booking line for an appointment.

### **IPAC Hub:**

Work continued through Q4 using the IPAC Hub model, with THU staff providing support to congregate care settings in the district. Outbreak support was the most frequent request from partners throughout the year. Throughout the year, we provided monthly reports and other data as requested to the ministry to secure additional funding for the IPAC Hub to continue in 2023 and 2024.

### **Work Completed:**

- Education sessions provided to LTCH/RH and CL partners on topics such as hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, diseases of public health significance.
- Internal committee continues to meet weekly with the core group and monthly with the larger group to discuss outbreaks and relevant topics.

- Participate in the Regional IPAC Hub table every 2 months.
- Complete and submit monthly reporting tool on THU IPAC activities.
- Completed IPAC audits to several settings within the district.
- Completed IPAC audits to several programs within THU.

**Variance:**

- Unable to complete IPAC audits/site visits to all congregate care settings (2 of the 5) due to staff limitations.
- Unable to provide education sessions to partners in Q4 due to staff limitations.

**Other Diseases of Public Health Significance**

Reportable Diseases and Infection Control								
Client Services	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reportable Investigations (non-STI)	73	65	111	91	154	652	1,342 (1314 - COVID)	1,261 (697 were COVID)
Outbreaks - Institutional	14	29	33	18	25	16	18 (15 - COVID)	37 (20 - COVID)
Outbreaks - Community	0	0	0	0	2	23	0	2
Animal Bite Reporting	29	85	77	72	64	62	74	51
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)	82	61	78	67	75	69	28	50
Personal Service Settings Inspections (hair salons, tattoos, piercings, aesthetics)	47	50	52	49	31	10	14	19

**Sexual Health Program:**

The goal of the Sexual Health Program is to promote healthy sexuality.

Sexual health services at THU include:

- STIs and testing, Pregnancy testing/options counselling, Sexuality, Sexual health, Free condoms, Low-cost birth control.

Sexual Health								
Client Services	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Male Clients	129	127	164	308	292	142	68	179
Female Clients	864	805	644	1014	690	295	137	291
% of clients between 12-24	-	-	66%	63%	56.3%	49.2%	46.8%	59.1%

Contraceptives (sold)	929	846	198	195	72	38	29	12*
Contraceptives (prescribed)	-	-	-	-	138	47	83	72
Plan B	41	25	23	25	16	3	13	7
STI Tests	215	201	257	329	241	102	111	186
Pregnancy Tests	28	36	37	39	20	12	19	31
Blood-Borne Infection Tests	124	97	140	148	58	27	42	77
Treatment Prescribed for STI	-	-	-	-	-	29	40	39
Pap tests	-	-	-	-	-	10	11	5

*\*this number denotes the amount of visits where contraceptives were sold, not the amount of contraceptives provided*

#### Work Completed:

- Continued with the creation of social media posts on various sexual health topics in collaboration with the youth initiative.
- Connected with additional partners (School team, CSCDGR, DSBONE, First Nations partners) to discuss bridging services.
- Participated in several learning opportunities to increase staff knowledge and competence.
- Worked on a new tracking method to allow for better capturing and extraction of data.

#### Variance:

- New SH PHN in the south end continues to seek mentorship and education opportunities to enhance her knowledge.
- Several clients take advantage of OHIP+ to obtain contraception and are not purchasing directly from THU.
- Increase in the % of clients seen who are aged between 12-24 years.
- Number of pregnancy tests provided are close to pre-pandemic rates.
- Increase in visits compared to previous years.

## Immunizations

### Immunization – Vaccine Safety and Vaccine Administration

#### COVID-19 Vaccine Program

##### Communications:

Continued social and traditional media and building on partnerships with community organizations to reach specific populations.

##### Other COVID-19 vaccine program highlights:

- The focus for Q4 consisted of planning for and delivering fall vaccines clinics as per ministry's guidance of co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines.
- Community clinics were held in all areas of the district over a 5-week period to ensure all residents could obtain an influenza and/or a COVID-19 vaccine.

- In-house clinics resumed following community clinics and were very well attended for the months of November and December.

**Routine Immunizations:**

Immunization Program				
Immunizations Administered in Office	NL	KL	ENG	Total 2023
# of clients receiving immunizations	524	286	94	2130
# of immunizations administered	845	487	165	4165
<b>Note: These numbers do not include Influenza Vaccine</b> <i>Generated from PANORAMA-R07090 Immunization Administered or Wasted at Health Unit</i>				

**2022-2023 Universal Influenza Immunization Program:**

Year	Vaccine Fridges - Cold Chain Inspections					
	KL		NL		ENG	
	Total inspections	Total failures	Total inspections	Total failures	Total inspections	Total failures
2018	15	11	32	10	5	1
2019	15	7	30	12	10	2
2020	18	11	24	3	8	1
2021	19	4	28	3	9	0
2022	19	9	25	4	8	0
2023	16	9	24	2	8	1

**Travel Health Vaccine Program:**

*\*\*\*the Travel Health Vaccine Program ended effective September 30, 2023 to better align with the OPHS mandates and to focus energies and efforts on priority programs.*

Travel Health Consultations							
Office	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Kirkland Lake	259	210	208	109	0	95	140
New Liskeard	620	695	611	324	64	396	373
Englehart	<i>(included in New Liskeard Statistics)</i>						

## Land Control

Septic Systems	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Permits Issued</i>	131	111	124	38	66	76	106	125	93
<i>File Searches</i>	60	60	66	28	55	65	54	53	41
<i>Severance/Subdivision</i>	15	15	29	10	13	8	13	14	12

## Safe Water

<i>Drinking Water</i>	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS)	19	13	48	2	3	36	34
<b>Recreational Water</b>							
Public Beaches ( <i>Seasonal Jul-Aug</i> )	16	17	17	19	0	0	17
Pools	25	18	28	8	13	8	18
Recreational Camps/Beachfront ( <i>Seasonal Jul-Aug</i> )	11	9	11	0	5	9	7

### Variance:

- SDWS are inspected as they come due in the protocol sequence. In 2023 we had 60 that were due for inspection and we were only able to get to 34 of them due to capacity issues and vacancies.
- Although we were able to inspect most of our recreational camps/beachfronts, which are all in remote areas, we were not able to get to all of them this season.

## Healthy Environments and Climate Change

In January of 2023 the Timiskaming Health Unit released a [report](#), that describes the current and projected impacts of climate change on human health in northern Ontario. The report provides support to the Timiskaming Health Unit and community partners to develop adaptation strategies to mitigate the risks associated with climate change and develop a coordinated approach to addressing the health impacts of climate change across the Timiskaming district.

The Timiskaming Health Unit also became a member of the *Ontario Public Health Climate Network*, which was formally established in the fall of 2023. The purpose of this network is to provide a forum for Ontario public health units to discuss ideas and share resources on climate change and health topics. This group also shares knowledge

and offers strategies to reduce the negative health outcomes and inequities associated with climate risks and ultimately improve community resilience.

**Variance:**

Work pending includes the development of a Timiskaming district climate strategy and surveillance plan that sets out how to meet the requirements in the OPHS standards and guidelines and how to improve and monitor community resilience through mitigation and adaptation planning and implementation.

**Food Safety**

Food Premises - Compliance Inspections									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
High Risk	165	184	109	93	88	47	29	29	40
Medium Risk	206	110	187	214	192	96	60	93	122
Low Risk	149	204	160	129	135	62	58	126	129
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>291</b>

**Variance:** Some areas of the district are behind in routine compliance inspections due to capacity and vacancy issues, however we did do a blitz in Q4 that enabled us to complete some backlog and will continue to do so once capacity/vacancy issues are addressed.

Food Handler Certifications									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Englehart	63	26	23	75	58	3	24	10	37
New Liskeard/Tem	90	68	144	351	182	19	55	29	177
Kirkland Lake	70	41	58	127	15	34	5	12	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>233</b>

**Variance:** We had limited activity in the Kirkland Lake area due to capacity/vacancy issues, in Q4 we did implement a plan that allowed us offer certifications in the area. In any part of our district, people do have the option to take an online Food Handler Certification course at any time.

