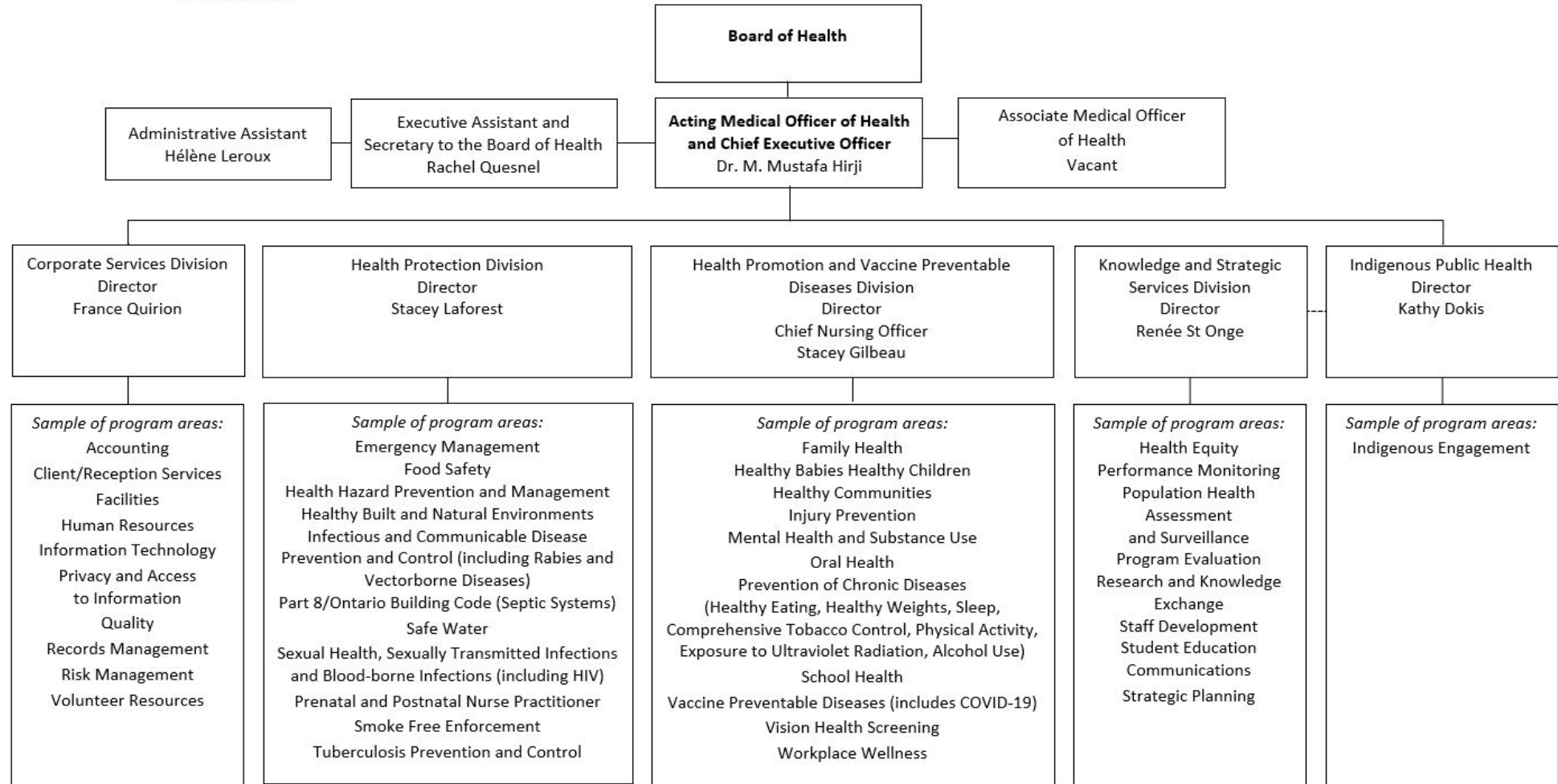


# 2023 Year-in-Review

Public Health Sudbury & Districts



**Public Health**  
**Santé publique**  
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS



R: March 18, 2024



**Public Health**  
**Santé publique**  
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

# Health Promotion and Vaccine Preventable Diseases

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Stacey Gilbeau, Director and Chief Nursing Officer

# Mental Health and Substance Use

## Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health

Per week

No risk	0	
Low risk	1	
	2	
Moderate risk	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
Increasingly high risk	7	
	8	
	+	

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction  
Evidence. Engagement. Impact.

**Lock it up**

**ARE YOU READY TO QUIT SMOKING?**

**Visit [stoponthenet.com](http://stoponthenet.com)**

**ENROL FOR FREE NICOTINE PATCHES**

STOP on the Net is an initiative of the Smoking Treatment for Ontario Patients (STOP) Program, and is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health.

## Mental Health Literacy

Promoting Mental Health for All

Public Health  
Sudbury & Districts

# Opioids and Other Drugs



Community  
**Drug Strategy**

Greater Sudbury  
**Summit on  
Toxic Drugs**

A logo consisting of a central white heart shape surrounded by several black dots of varying sizes, arranged in a circular pattern.

**Sommet sur les  
drogues toxiques**  
du Grand Sudbury

**DRUG  
WARNING**

A banner with a grey top section and a white bottom section. The top section contains the text 'Greater Sudbury Summit on Toxic Drugs' on the left and 'Sommet sur les drogues toxiques du Grand Sudbury' on the right, separated by a central logo. The bottom section features a large orange circle with the words 'DRUG WARNING' in bold black text inside it, flanked by several orange curved lines.



# Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention



**1 531**

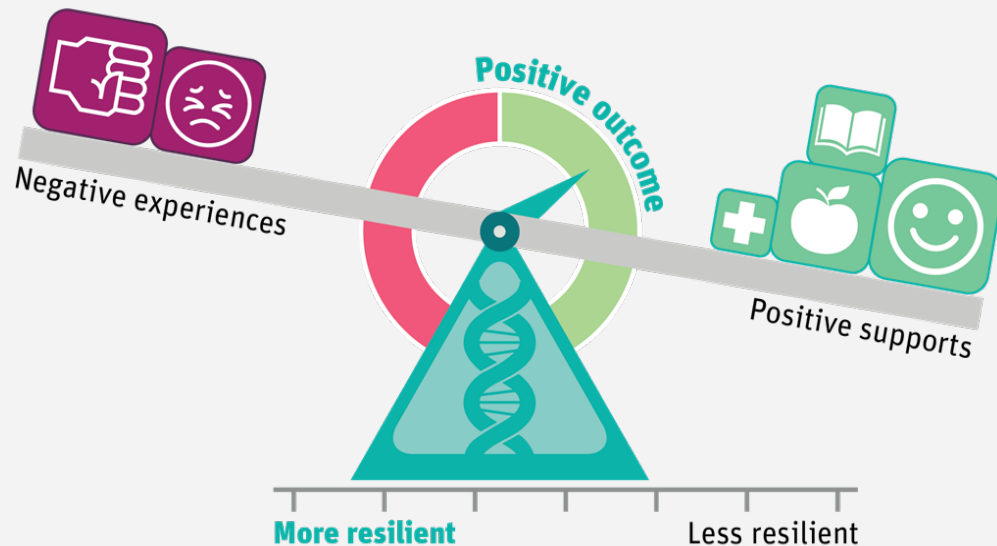
→ community members learned and engaged with Public Health staff on chronic disease prevention and well-being topics such as physical activity, healthy eating, healthy aging, and the built environment

# School Health

Working upstream → **1 155** adult influencers

Targeted universalism → **4 014** students at **38** schools

**2 141** → visits to Public Health school-related web pages



# Oral Health Programs for Children

907



callers or walk-in clients were assisted with accessing financial assistance for dental treatment, completing paperwork, or other oral health inquiries

9 680



dental screenings were completed in elementary schools, with 696 referrals made for children in need of urgent dental care





# Oral Health Programs for Children (continued)



834

→ dental screenings were provided to children at schools in First Nations communities

327

→ children were enrolled in *Healthy Smiles Ontario* for emergency dental care

933

→ preventive appointments were provided to children at Public Health clinics

# Visual Health and Vision Screening

**80**

→ schools participated in the school-based vision screening program

**1 619**

→ senior kindergarten students received vision screening

**495**

→ students were referred to their optometrist for follow up



# Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP)

**1 337**

→ callers were assisted with accessing dental care, completing paperwork, and other oral health inquiries



**Dental care for eligible seniors**

Find out if you qualify

**294**

→ new client charts were created and **596** clients received at least **1** appointment for an OSDCP dental service



**Soins dentaires pour les personnes âgées admissibles**

Découvrez si vous l'êtes

# Healthy Families



**1 571** → births in the service area



# Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) Team

- Routine immunization
- Grade 7 immunization program
- Annual review of records
- COVID-19 immunization program
- Influenza immunization program



**8 406**



responses to vaccine-related  
phone call inquiries





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# Health Protection

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Stacey Laforest, Director

# Food Safety

**2 542** → inspections **245** food complaint investigations

**6** → charges and **2** → orders issued

**46** → food handler training courses offered and **679** food handlers certified



# Safe Water

## Drinking Water

**20** → boil water orders issued

**12** → drinking water orders issued

**717** → adverse drinking water reports investigated

**219** → bacteriological samples taken

## Recreational Water

**169** → beach inspections

**905** → bacteriological samples collected

**156** → public swimming pool and spa inspections



**ALERT**  
Boil Water  
Advisory



**ALERT**  
Blue-green  
algae bloom

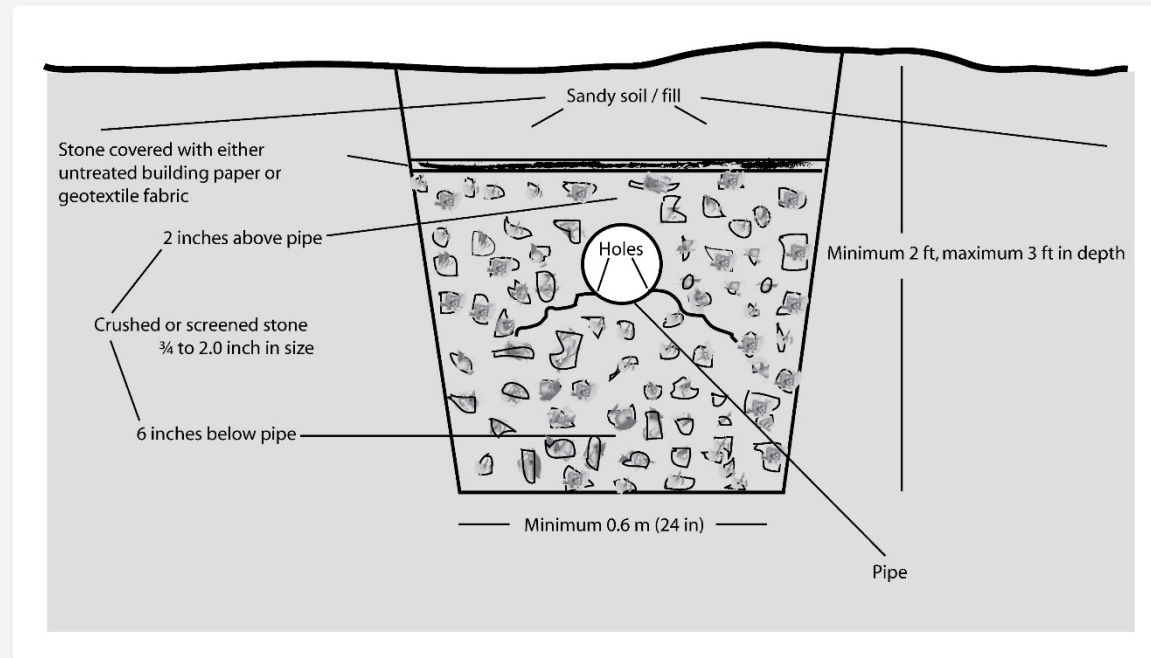
# Part 8 Ontario Building Code

**301** → sewage system permits issued

**50** → consent applications processed and **194** renovation applications processed

**50** → mandatory maintenance inspections completed

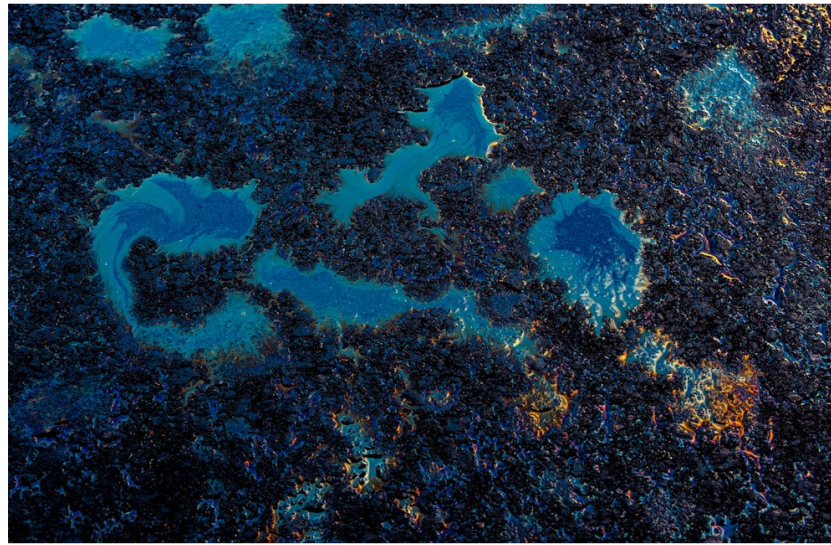
**302** → consultations and inquiries



# Health Hazard

**367** → complaints received

**460** → issues investigated





# Emergency Preparedness and Response

## Participated in:

**6** → municipal emergency exercises, co-hosted a health sector emergency exercise, and conducted an internal annual emergency exercise.

## 24/7 Response

**1 029** → calls to the 24/7 after-hours emergency response line



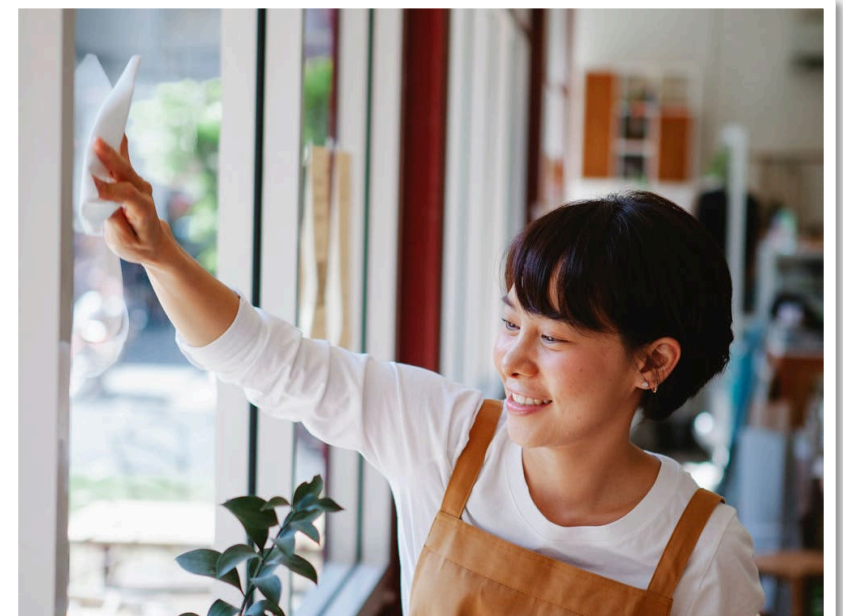
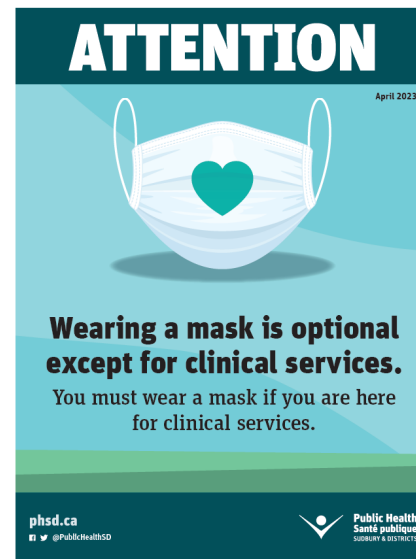
# Smoke-Free Ontario Act



# Control of Infectious Diseases

**3 898** → investigations of *Diseases of Public Health Significance* conducted

- outbreak management
- rabies
- inspections
- vector-borne diseases
- infection control





# Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub

**81** → proactive IPAC assessments and  
**31** education sessions

**388** → outbreak management team meetings in  
response to respiratory or enteric outbreaks

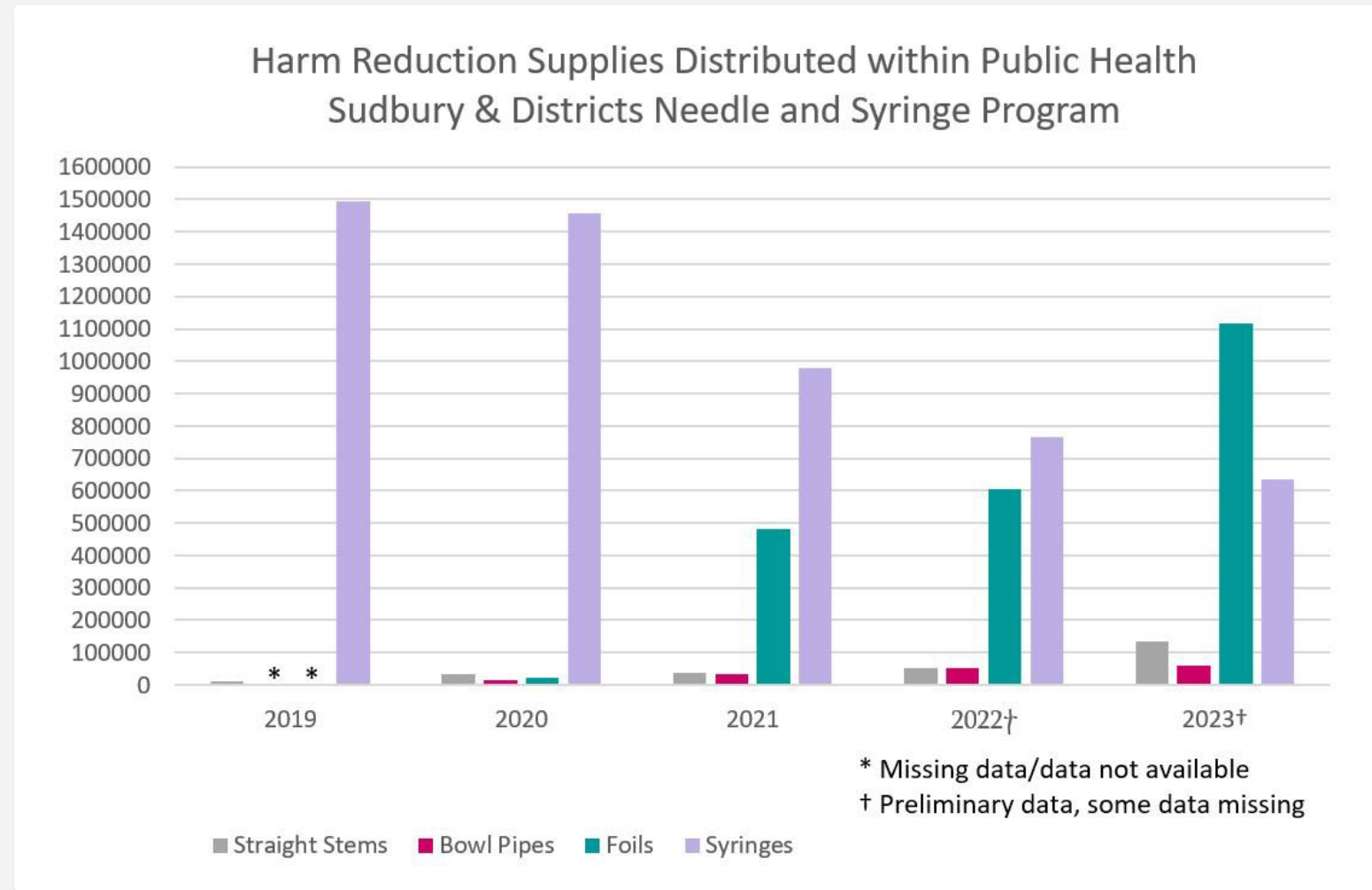


# Harm Reduction Supplies and Services Program

31 762



client visits  
or contacts





# Sexual Health, Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections

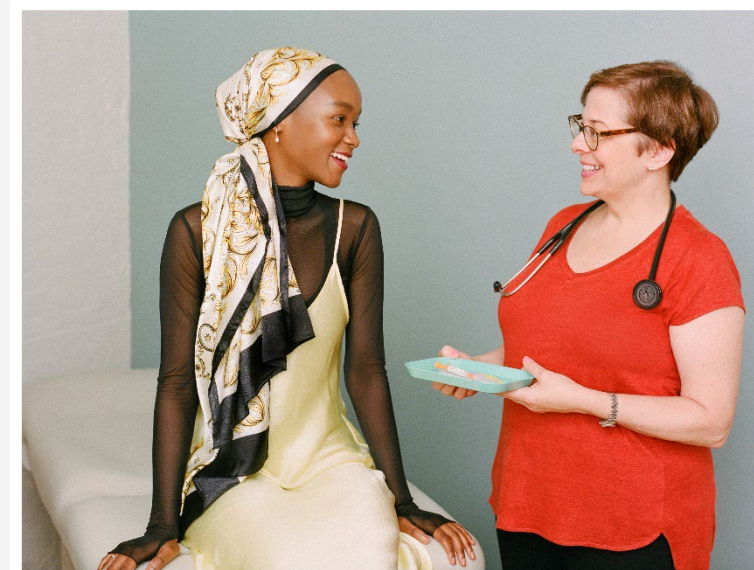
**3 553**

→ in-office visits

**4 025**

→ telephone or electronic consultations

- HIV testing
- syphilis case management
- outreach
- promotion



# Growing Family Health Clinic





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SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

# Knowledge and Strategic Services

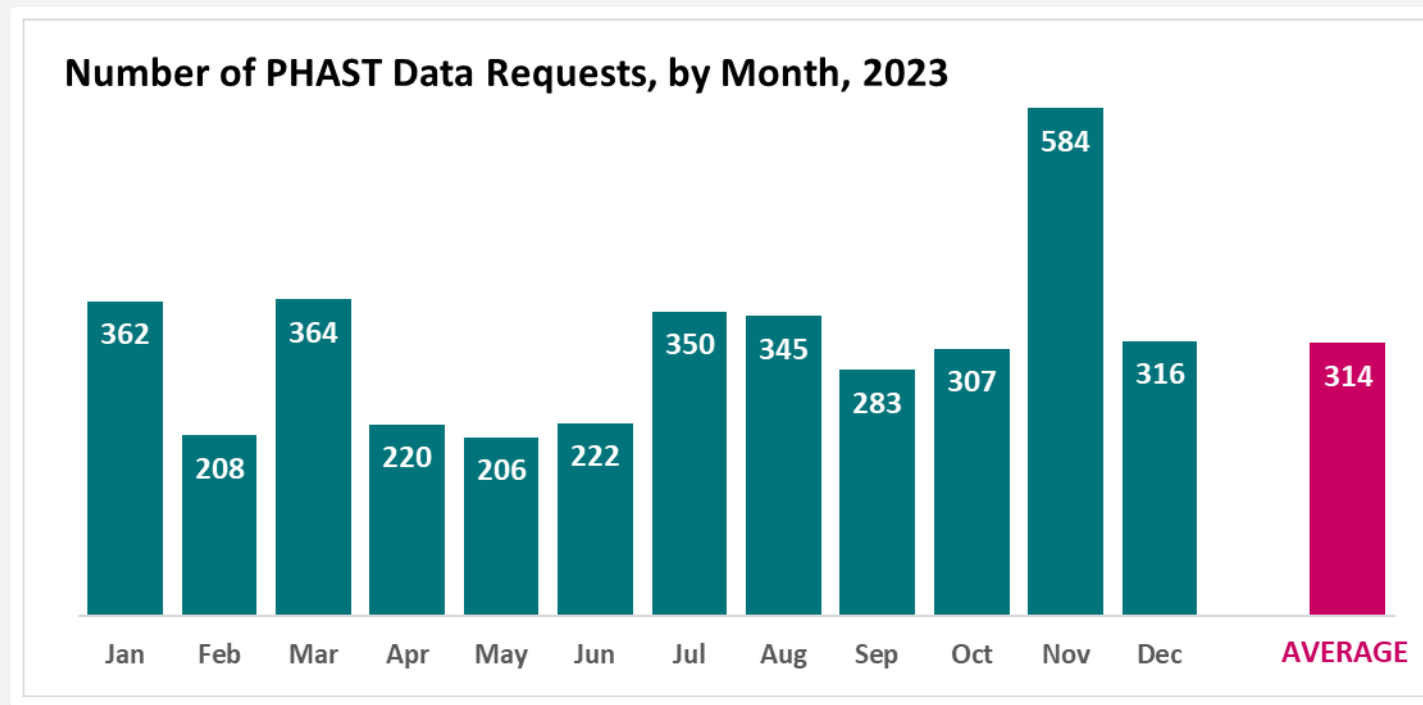
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Renée St Onge, Director

# Population Health Assessment and Surveillance

**3 767** → data requests (totaling **3 448** hours of staff time)

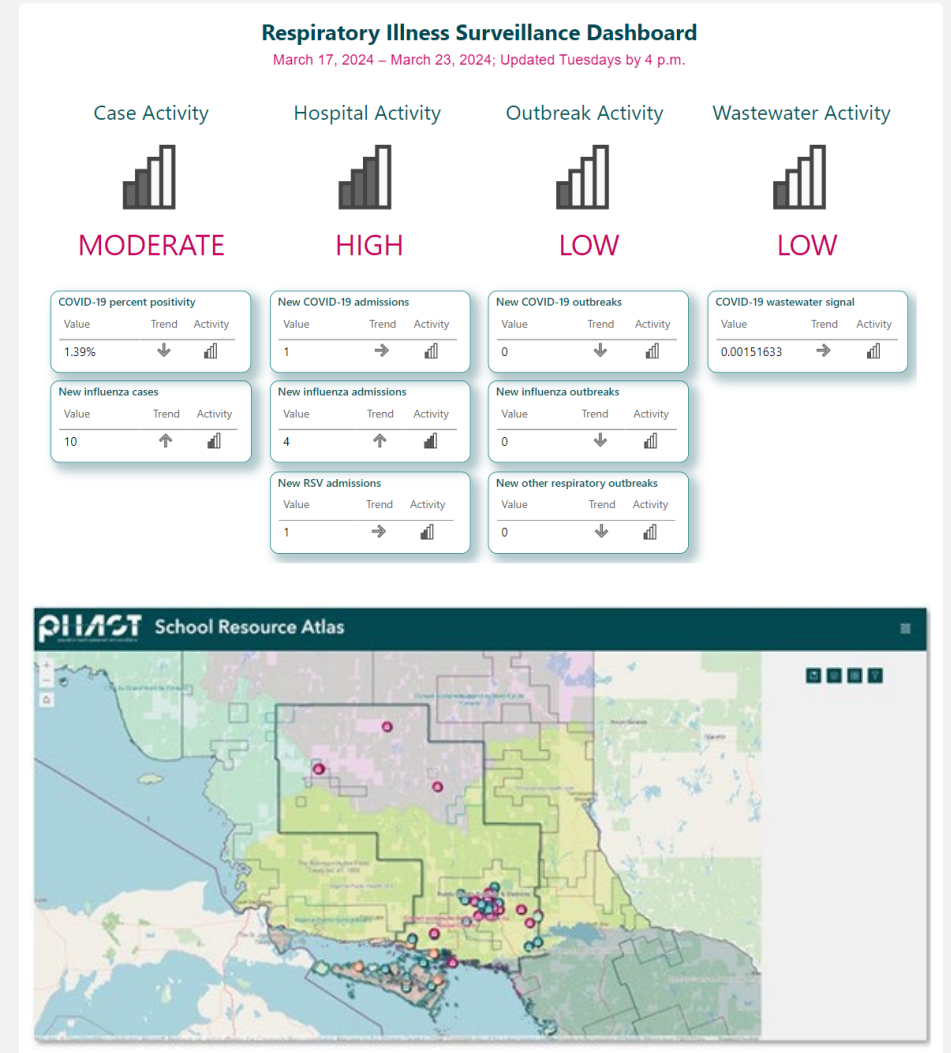
**Top areas of focus include:** infectious and communicable diseases, mental health and substance use, and COVID-19 vaccinations





# Population Health Assessment and Surveillance (continued)

- Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System collecting information to support program and service planning decisions
- Systematic surveillance, modelling, and reporting on important local public health topics
- Producing socio-demographic and population health status reports and providing information on, for example, youth, older adults, and Francophones, as well as related to the toxic drug crisis





# Effective Public Health Practice

- Research and evaluation projects
- Research Ethics Review Committee consultations and reviews
- Knowledge products: literature reviews, environmental scans, needs assessments, rapid reviews, primers, and factsheets
- Knowledge exchange activities: presentations, workshops, and conferences
- Electronic survey development and administration
- Participation on national, provincial, regional, and local committees




# Accountability Monitoring

## COVID-19 Pandemic Response: Partner Debrief Summary

January 2023

In June and July 2022, Public Health Sudbury & Districts undertook a community process to collect feedback from partners about their experiences with the local COVID-19 response. Responses were collected from 16 sector-specific focus groups that were led by a facilitator. The sessions were conducted using Microsoft Teams and an online survey was made available to anyone who was unable to attend. Participants were asked to consider strengths and challenges, key lessons learned, and what may be needed to support a future emergency response. The following report represents the themes and suggestions collected!





### What we heard

### What worked:

Partners identified the following actions and activities as beneficial or helpful to meet their respective client and stakeholder needs throughout their pandemic response.

- Regularly scheduled meetings provided information and opportunities to have questions answered and concerns heard.
- Communication that was clear and consistent, despite a constantly changing information environment.
- On-the-ground presence, Public Health staff attended constantly changing information environments.
- Oversight of a mass vaccination campaign that engaged all citizens.
- The provision of infection, prevention, and control expertise, including personal protective equipment and guidance on what to do during an outbreak. This was especially important for congregate living settings and health care settings.
- The coordination and management of case and contact tracing.
- Using our network of strong partnerships to marshal information, support, and resources in support of common goals.

• Congregate living settings include long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges, and other congregate settings that provide assisted living services.



January 2023 - 1

## Public Health Sudbury & Districts and the COVID-19 pandemic: From risk to recovery and resilience

February 2022

It has been nearly two years since the first case of COVID-19 infection was confirmed in the Sudbury and Manitoulin districts. During this time, Public Health Sudbury & Districts (Public Health) has provided leadership and essential services to manage the pandemic and guide communities to best protect themselves during an unprecedented and ever-changing crisis.

Public Health has worked to understand, translate, and action the best available evidence, including extensive and ongoing reviews of science and local epidemiology. All these extraordinary efforts have been vital. They have also come at great opportunity costs. Public Health has had to stop or radically reduce many of its other public health programs and services during this two-year period, creating a growing backlog of services and unmet needs.

While the pandemic continues to demand Public Health leadership and resources, we are actively looking forward to planning for the future. We are investing energy in planning so that we are ready to assess and address ongoing and emerging health needs that require public health intervention. We are an active partner in the local recovery effort—creating and contributing to post-pandemic strong and resilient communities.



February 2022 - 1

## 2022 COVID-19 Response by the Numbers & Recovery Progress Report

Public Health  
Santé publique  
Sudbury & Districts

phsd.ca @PublicHealthSD

### Background

Public Health Sudbury & Districts (Public Health) has been focused on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic since the beginning of 2020. As a result of this intense effort, established programs and services were adapted, and many were reduced or paused all together throughout 2020 and 2021.

2022 marked the beginning of Public Health's journey toward recovery and resumption of some programs and services. During this time, the pandemic continued to demand leadership and resources from the public health sector, and Public Health Sudbury & Districts looked to concentrate efforts on the impacts of the pandemic on local communities and on its own workforce. As such, the agency directed resources to assess and address ongoing and emerging health needs that require public health intervention.

As a result, in March 2022 Public Health launched [Public Health Sudbury & Districts and the COVID-19 pandemic: From risk to recovery and resilience plan](#). The risk, recovery, and resilience plan focuses on public health priorities that emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic—with an overall goal to resume the full scope of public health programs and services in the future.

This COVID-19 Response by the Numbers and Recovery Progress Report highlights achievements of our ongoing COVID-19 response as well as accomplishments from our continued recovery efforts.

### How this report is organized

The first section of this report focuses on the COVID-19 response. Data and explanatory notes are presented in table format for indicators in the following categories: overall COVID-19 program supports; case, contact, and outbreak management; COVID-19 vaccine program; and health and human resource capacity and financial impact.

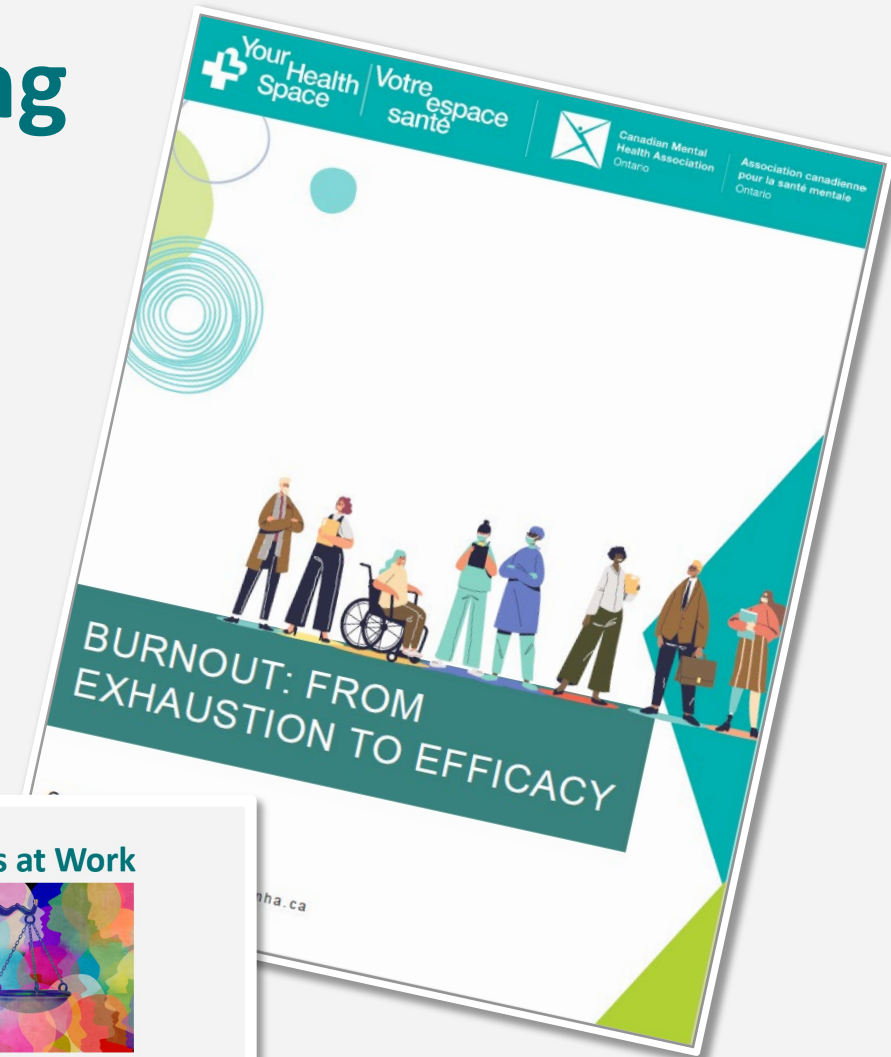
The second section of this report presents the progress on recovery planning. This section presents an update on Public Health's four overarching community-focused priorities – getting children back on track; levelling up opportunities for health; fostering mental health gains; and supporting safe spaces—along with one operational priority—people and processes—which identifies work required to support staff to deliver on our overall programs and services. Within each priority area, Public Health's key initiatives are highlighted and a summary on progress to date is provided.



February 2023 - 1

# Staff Development and Training

- Staff orientation
- Management and leadership development workshops and webinars
- Mandatory and non-mandatory staff development opportunities



# Student Placement Program

## Academic Affiliations

**3** → faculty appointments with NOSM University



## Student Placements

**33** → students from **7** post-secondary institutions, representing **8** disciplines, offering **7 364** hours of student placement experience

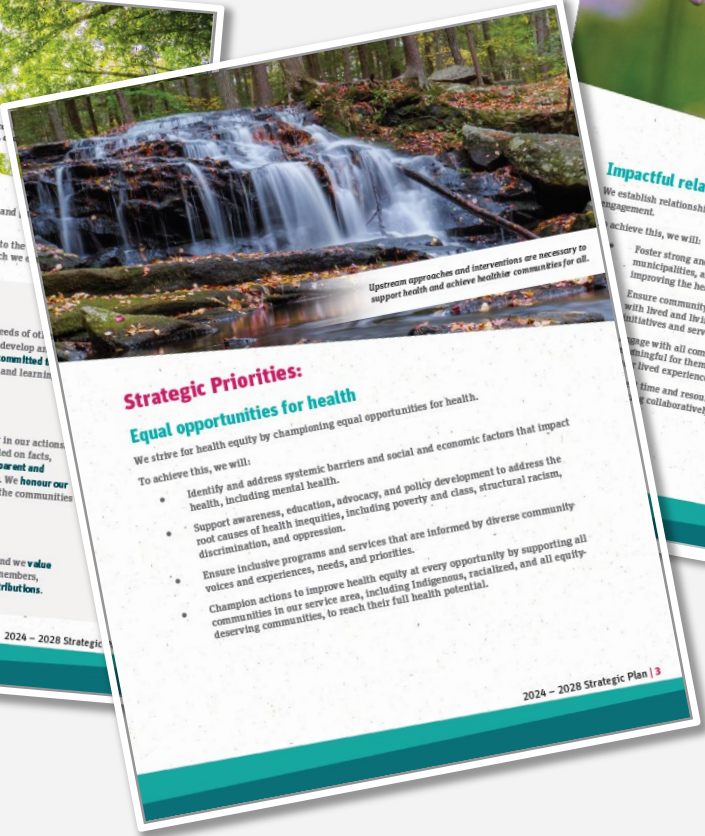


**33** → staff volunteer preceptors





# Strategic Plan



# Health Equity

- Supporting the community
- Increasing staff competencies
- Developing tools—*Health Equity Checklist*
- Using social media to focus attention on Indigenous engagement, racial equity, health equity



# Positive Space Initiative

- Staff launch
- Supportive *Positive Space* statement developed
- Anti-discrimination statement developed
- Office signage for staff and clients in common areas and washrooms



# Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



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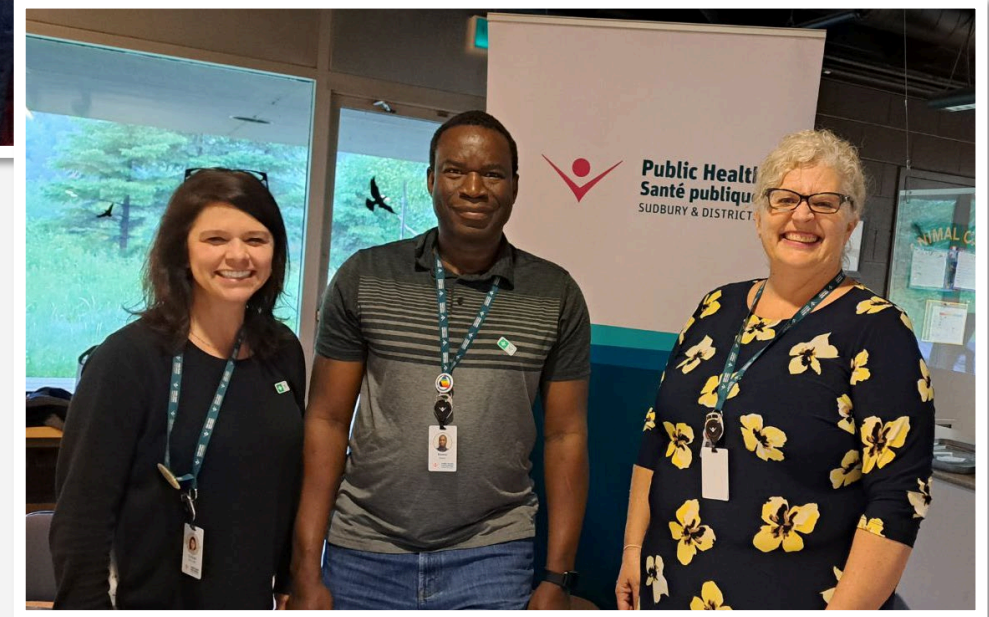
## Workforce Diversity Survey

Understanding how the diversity of the agency's workforce compares and contrasts with that of the populations served



# Racial Equity

- Fostering newcomers' inclusion in Greater Sudbury: Local Immigration Partnership Summit Roundtable—welcome event exhibitor
- Radio-Canada panel interview about Francophone public health services for newcomers during la *Semaine de l'immigration francophone*



# Communications

**171** → media requests processed

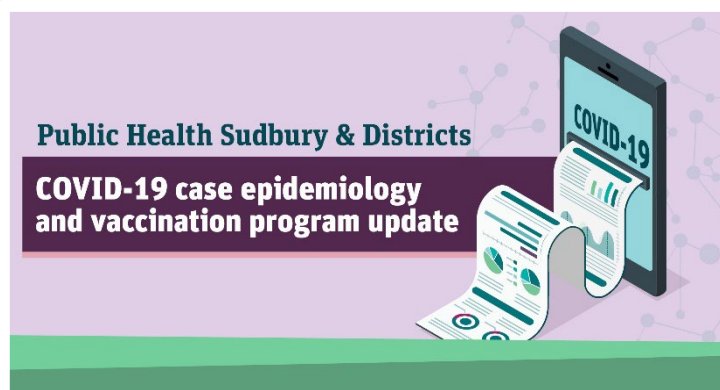
**83** → media releases issued

**5.5%** & **2.4%** → engagement on X  
English      French

**128 400** → Facebook users reached (Eng./Fr. Combined)

**447** → resource review and approval requests

**780** → requests for information received through phsd.ca



Public Health Sudbury & Districts  
COVID-19 case epidemiology and vaccination program update

The graphic features a purple background with a white molecular structure. A smartphone displays 'COVID-19' and a line graph. A document with charts is shown in the foreground.



Air quality alert  
**LIFTED**

The graphic shows a green tree in front of a light blue sky with horizontal lines.



**ALERT**  
Heat warning

The graphic features a red thermometer icon with a red bulb and a red bar at the top of the scale.



**Public Health**  
**Santé publique**  
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

# Indigenous Public Health

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Kathy Dokis, Director



# Indigenous Engagement: Staff training



Indigenous Worldview Experiential Cultural Safety Training: *Journeying from the Head to the Heart, to Affinity & Beyond* with Stephanie Stephens



Presentation and Reflection Walk with Joelle Lachance-Artindale



# Indigenous Engagement



Policies, procedures, and offering information to support staff:

- Indigenous engagement
- smudging indoors (new)
- territorial acknowledgments
- offering semaa (tobacco) to Elders
- working respectfully with Elders

# Indigenous Engagement



Main office mural creates a warm and welcoming space aligned with the *Indigenous Engagement Strategy*

Cultural competency activities with staff:

*“ . . . my main takeaways [are] that we need to form meaningful relationships with our community members and should consult with them more often. Work should be done with and in collaboration instead of us doing what we think is best,”*  
– survey respondent

# Our Commitment



**354** → employees worked a total of **554 267** hours



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