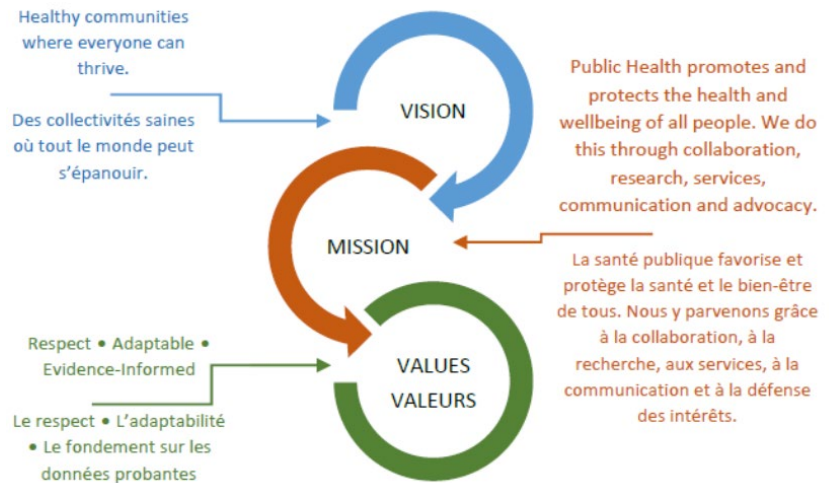


### Report Content

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



## In the Spotlight and On Our Radar

As specified in the Ontario Public Health Standards (2018), Partnerships, Collaboration, and Engagement is a Core Principle of the Policy Framework for Public Health Programs and Services. In this report, you will see examples of work that is the result of collective efforts with a common theme: THU is the backbone. [Collective impact](#) is a network of community members, organizations, and institutions who advance equity by learning together, aligning, and integrating actions to achieve population and systems level change. In the collective impact model, having a strong backbone is critical.

Examples of efforts that follow the collective impact model are the Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy (TDAS), the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan (CSWB), and to a similar extent, Planet Youth Timiskaming (PYT). TDAS is a multi-agency effort led by a steering committee and four pillars. THU provides backbone support through a Public Health Promoter who also has resources at THU for supports such as mentorship, management guidance and oversight, and research expertise.

Another example of the collective impact model is the CSWB initiative. Launched in 2023, this initiative is a joint investment of 24 municipalities. The municipalities fund a Public Health Promoter to coordinate the work of the steering committee and the work groups (housing, health and wellbeing, and community safety). Similarly to TDAS, THU provides in-kind support such as management oversight and guidance, mentorship, research expertise, and communications support.

PYT is also a multi-agency, cross-district effort that is largely supported by THU but relies on the grassroots contributions and efforts of our highly engaged Local Action Teams (North, Central, and South). Beginning in 2022, TDAS endorsed the Icelandic Prevention Model as a local strategy to prevent or delay the onset of youth

substance use. Over time, community partners learned about and supported this initiative, culminating in Icelandic Prevention Model representatives visiting Temiskaming Shores in February 2023. In November 2023, data were collected in all five local high schools. The data provides insight on the health and lifestyle of local teenagers. While data were being summarized and disseminated in mid-2024, the Public Health Agency of Canada announced a funding opportunity for Planet Youth initiatives. THU staff devoted time and effort into producing a strong application and optimistically await the news regarding this investment into local youth.

As evidenced by the community progress in these initiatives, collective impact and investments into community engagement pay off in dividends. THU staff keep partnerships and collaboration at the forefront of their work because all community partners are working towards a common agenda – to improve the health and wellbeing of our district.

# 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:

- Completed a draft Knowledge Translation Plan.
- Initiated work on several health status reports that cover a variety of priority topics. These reports will be available publicly once completed.
- Completed the creation of a surveillance framework to monitor indicators relating to emergency preparedness and climate change.
- Completed syphilis and chlamydia data analyses.
- Launched the 2024 wildfire air quality dashboard and associated website in partnership with Porcupine Health Unit.
- Supported epidemiological analysis of local data to determine which factors are associated with an increased risk of mothers in Timiskaming developing perinatal mood disorders. The results will inform an assessment of best practices.

##### Variance:

- Cancer data update not complete due to competing priorities.
- Yearly summary of reportable disease moved to Q3 to account for data clean-up needs.

#### Health Equity

The following section highlights local public health work in 2024 toward reducing health inequities which 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:**

- Continued to initiate the Safer Spaces workplan, which aims to strengthen inclusive practices at THU. Select staff were invited to partake in Rainbow Health Ontario Foundations Course training, which aims to equip service providers with comfort and competence in providing high-quality inclusive, affirming, welcoming, and culturally sensitive care. Staff who complete this training will progress to further specialized training this fall.

**Variance:**

- Due to some contract positions being eliminated in 2024, much of the work identified in the operational plan was not able to be addressed.

### **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 2024 activity highlights for program planning, evaluation, and evidence-informed decision making as well as for knowledge exchange and continuous improvement.

**Work Completed:**

- Research, Planning, and Policy Analysts supported the development and launch of a new Operational Plan template.
- THU's Professional Practice Council continued its work supporting the launch of OceanMD, which includes secure patient messaging, appointment reminders, and electronic forms. Additionally, the committee supported finalizing a process for reporting Medication Errors.
- Completed and evaluated the first cohort of OnCore public health foundations course with 10 participants.
- Foundational Standards team began a series of trainings through the National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools.

### **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:**

- Created a hotwash/debrief tool to support teams in capturing lessons learned and experiences following disruptions, planned events, or emergencies.
- Evaluated the current state of THU's emergency response plan and ancillary documents, noting risks and priority documents needing immediate updating.
- Staff engaged in training for Incident Management System 100 and 200.
- Continued work in partnership with ORCCA to increase capacity in supporting climate change mitigation strategies in Timiskaming.

# Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being

## Active Living:

### Work Completed:

- Completed scan of existing pedestrian skills training programs for useful resources
- Quarterly update to Walk n Roll website (<https://walknroll.ca/>)
- Began working with two additional local schools in Active School Travel program (Ste. Croix and Federal)
- Implemented bike rodeos with 3 schools (6 classes = 10 teachers/EAs + 143 students)
- Painted activity stencils on STATO trail in Haileybury and promoted the stencils in municipal newsletter
- Contributed helmets, bells and lights, and staff time to Temiskaming Shores 2024 bike festival in June
- Distributed cycling resources at Road Safety Education Day booth in Temiskaming Shores, 50 families and 100 children in attendance

### Variance:

- Work to begin planning for a 2025 Bike exchange event in Kirkland Lake has been delayed.
- Planned work to update French resources was deemed not necessary.

## Food and Nutrition:

### Work Completed:

- Virtual presentation about healthy eating to youth through the Youth Jobs Connection (15-29 yrs. old): 20 students in attendance
- Co-presented with City of Temiskaming Shores on Healthy Eating in Recreation Settings initiative to Canadian Parks and Recreation Association/Health Canada Healthy Eating initiative webinar.
- Completed food costing in May 2024, now in the process of collecting housing data and preparing for analysis
- Attended Timiskaming Area Ontario Health Team (TAOHT) meeting for Diabetes Care in Timiskaming to improve continuity of care for diabetes patients.
- Facilitated meeting of Timiskaming Registered Dietitian Network
- Provided THU staff training on weight stigma and weight bias via THU Grand Rounds

### Variance:

- Education related to weight bias and weight stigma within THU and with Timiskaming health care providers delayed to Q3
- Engagement with community partners to develop plan to re-start Food Skills for Families program delayed due to continued Registered Dietitian vacancy.
- Development of webinar version of Healthy Eating on a Budget training delayed due to continued staff vacancy.
- Work related to Healthy Eating in Recreation Settings on hold due to continued staff vacancy.
- Sharing of Community Fridge evaluation report delayed to Q3.

## Mental Health Promotion:

### Work Completed:

- Supported Temiskaming Pride with the development of a promotional banner and supported events to create a safe place

- Collaborating with Ontario 211 to promote in Temiskaming District
- Collaborated on development and implementation of Mental Health Awareness Week in Timiskaming: attended 3 meetings, hosted webinar with 95 participants at noon session, another session hosted in the evening.
- Continued promotion of psychological health and safety at THU through weekly Not Myself Today campaign all-staff emails, delivered all-staff training: *Planning for Resilience*, delivered *Civility* workshop for THU Nurses' Day.
- Supported Temiskaming Pride and KL Pride with promotion, attended local Pride parades (2).

**Variance:**

- Building internal capacity to implement and provide trauma informed care delayed to Q3
- Work to embed mental health promotion language into all program areas delayed to Q4
- Work to create connections with farming community, to explore opportunities to promote farmer's mental health delayed due to staff capacity

**Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP):**

The OSDCP program serves seniors within our district who qualify for dental care.

**Work Completed:**

- From January to June the OSDCP saw 45 new clients in the program.

OSDCP	2022 Total	2023 Total	2024 Q2 Total
Applied at THU	232	272	77
Applied Online	19	26	1
Unique Seniors Served at THU	182	262	135
Total OSDCP Preventive Appointments at THU	197	280	167
Unique Seniors Served by Providers	554	697	381
Total OSDCP Appointments by Providers	686	901	522

**Substance Use and Injury Prevention**

**Alcohol and Drug Use, Enhanced Harm Reduction Program and Ontario Naloxone Program:**

**Work Completed:**

- Facilitated Timiskaming Knowledge Network session with 27 participants in April. Guest presenter: Len Hughes, Community Engagement Worker in Health Outreach from London InterCommunity Health Centre, on H.O.M.E program based in London Ontario.
- Soft launch of Timiskaming Harm Reduction Outreach Program in June with 2 Harm Reduction Outreach Workers. AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area to shadow outreach workers as training/orientation.
- Continued to support @YouthTimiskaming Instagram as youth engagement strategy motivated by substance use prevention. During Q2, reached 2,647 accounts, engaged 206 accounts. 341 followers.

- Updated and promoted substance use prevention inventory.
- Implemented a campaign to promote Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health and the associated risks.
- Ongoing coordination of Planet Youth Temiskaming: held 3 Steering Committee meetings, 6 South Action Team meetings, 3 Central Action Team meetings, 4 North Action Team meetings. Hosted data review and action planning workshops with all three action teams. Launched bilingual [website](#) and [facebook page](#), 400 followers. [Released data to public](#). Coverage from [Northern News](#), [Temiskaming Speaker](#). Supported secondary schools with presenting the planet youth data results at their June PD day. Presented to Directors of Education, Temiskaming Foundation, Parenting Working Group, Temiskaming Municipal Association. Supported municipal partners to present to Englehart, Temiskaming Shores, and Kirkland Lake Town Councils. Disseminated website and data dashboard via email to ALL schools in Timiskaming District - private and public. Held community engagement booths at community bike festival, ESCSM, and ECCS.
- Completed community asset mapping at 5 high schools.
- Onboarded and trained 1 new harm reduction distribution site and provided refresher training to 2 others.
- Completed drug test strip pilot project with THU and 3 community partners. Evaluation to be completed in Q3.
- Continued to coordinate [Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy](#): released [TDAS progress report](#), with earned media from CJKL, [CBC UpNorth](#), and Radio Canada Coordinated; released [Strengthening alcohol policy letter](#) with earned media from Temiskaming Speaker and CJKL; identified Peer Support Canada certification process & training, promoted to a group of candidates; completed a local pharmacy substance use service inventory; updated [Substance Use Referral Pathway](#).

#### **Variance:**

- Organization of local screenings of Love in the Time of Fentanyl and facilitated discussion displaced by other priority work.
- Work with CSCT to plan and launch Our Healthbox delayed to October due to logistical delays.
- Q2 Planet Youth update delayed to Q3.
- Collaboration with municipalities to promote municipal policies to reduce harms related to cannabis, alcohol and tobacco delayed to Q3.
- Contributed, reviewed and approved the new Englehart MAP (based on template being promoted to CSWB).
- Campaign to promote safe sharps disposal to the general public delayed to Q3/Q4.

#### **Needle Exchange and Harm Reduction Program**

- When clients access THU offices for harm reduction supplies, they are also offered other THU services such as STBBI testing, contraceptives and directed to other community supports.
- Note that clients will often request supplies for their peers when accessing the NEP program, which may reflect the high number of supplies provided.
- Drug testing kits continue to be made available to clients to test their drugs for fentanyl, xylazine as well as benzodiazepine.
- Clients are also offered sharp containers to properly dispose of their used needles.

Internal Program						
Client Services	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total # Encounters NEP and Other HR Supplies	498	355	159	249	413	243
Total # of needles provided	-	24,380	31,638	37,260	24,856	10,975
Total # of bowl pipes provided	-	4,620	12,962	15,366	19,027	7153
Total # of Naloxone kits provided	-	236	234	256	260	144
Total # of Naloxone refills provided	--	43	45	39	94	26

### Comprehensive Tobacco Control:

#### Work Completed:

- Earned media on World No Tobacco Day,
- Promoted stronger municipal by-laws in [quarterly municipal newsletter](#)
- Promoted tobacco cessation programs. Locally, 23 registered in virtual and 88 registered in in-person programs in Timiskaming during Q2.
- Distributed cessation resources to dentists, hospitals, family health teams, and pharmacies.
- Newspaper ads (Speaker, Northern News) to promote cessation and smoke-free housing, respectively
- Promoted World No Tobacco Day with earned media from TEM Speaker, CJTT, and CJKL. Reached 1493 via social media.

#### Variance:

- Letter to workplaces to promote tobacco cessation and build readiness for smoke-free policies delayed to Q3
- Temiskaming Cessation network meeting not held due to staffing capacity limitations.

Tobacco Enforcement								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Inspections	355	336	357	220	163	267	348	149
Charges	6	9	7	1	8	5	5	1
Warnings	103	82	166	73	136	144	108	44

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

#### Work Completed:

- Distributed 300 bilingual Slow Down/Safe Streets signs to municipalities of Virginiatown, Larder Lake, Englehart, Earlton, Hudson, and Latchford.
- Ongoing coordination of [Timiskaming Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan](#) implementation. Supporting Coordinator, co-Chairing Steering Committee, chairing Health and Wellbeing working group, participating in Housing and Homelessness Working Group, co-chairing Community Safety Working group.

## Healthy Aging:

### Work Completed:

- Continued local coordination of regional [Stay on Your Feet](#) collaboration.
- Grew local network related to healthy aging through connections with Timiskaming Area Ontario Health Team (via CSWB) and Mino M'Shki-ki Indigenous Health Centre.
- Coordinated 3 Spring Fling events. Attendance in Kirkland Lake= 68, Englehart=51, Haileybury – 77. Offered transportation to participants from rural areas=23 participants. Coordinated booths and speakers including One Light Diversity Centre and Kirkland Lake Multicultural Group; distributed resources; supported peer-to-peer seniors performance troupes in Temiskaming Shore and Kirkland Lake with performances.
- Updated [Guide to Social Activities for Older Adults in Timiskaming](#), shared with health care providers.

### Variance:

- Development and sharing of weekly Facebook posts for regional Stay on Your Feet not addressed due to competing priorities.

## Healthy Built Environments:

### Work Completed:

- Developed and distributed quarterly [Health for All newsletter](#) to municipalities in Timiskaming.

### Variance:

- Development of 1-page primers for municipalities on health in all policies delayed.

## Healthy Growth and Development

From January to June 2024, we have had 163 births within our district. 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 has supported 15 families with hospital grade breast pumps so far this year. Manual breast pumps also remain available as needed for a minimal fee.
- We continue to maintain and support the Timiskaming Breastfeeding Buddies Facebook group. The Facebook page has 197 followers. Weekly breastfeeding posts are shared.
- Lactation consulting support continues throughout the district; a total of 24 breastfeeding consultations have occurred with families so far this year. All PHNs and FRWs are trained with the level 1 and 2 breastfeeding course and support families with breastfeeding as well.
- We continue to work on developing and strengthening our community partnership with the local La Lèche League to explore supporting a breastfeeding peer support program.
- Work was completed on our Infant Feeding Surveillance and Screening (IFSS).



## Prenatal Education:

### Work Completed:

- We continue to offer the online bilingual course for THU residents via Public Health Sudbury and Districts.
- THU continues to partner with Timiskaming Brighter Futures to offer virtual prenatal sessions.
- In-person prenatal classes returned in April/May across the district. The prenatal series is run for 4 weeks. An evaluation of the classes will be conducted.
- Since the start of this year, 43 pregnant people and 34 support people received prenatal care through in-office, virtual and 1:1 appointment. 43 were first time parents and 1 teen participated in the in-person classes in the KL office. The Englehart office supported 1 prenatal client virtually.
- We continue to work with community partners to reach teens that are pregnant.

## 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 continues to offer weekly Well Baby Clinics (WBC) throughout the district.
- A total of 465 children accessed clinical services from January to June 2024 (NL: 189, KL: 204, Englehart: 72).
- HG&D nurses continue to support seeing 4- to 6-year-old clients through the WBCs for school immunizations.

## 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. No referrals were made between January to June 2024. Those that scored high on the Edinburgh were already receiving services. Staff supported a comprehensive assessment of prenatal and postpartum depression screening to align with best practices.

## Parenting:

### Work Completed:

- THU continues to update the Parenting in Timiskaming website and newsletter content.
- Parenting in Timiskaming Facebook page: posts are ongoing. Page also aims to share parenting-related activities and information from community partners. Cross-posting to THU page and Youth Instagram as relevant. Includes monitoring page and replying to comments. The Parenting in Timiskaming Facebook page continues to grow. Between April 1 and June 30, the page had a reach of 3.6k, with 223 content interactions. At that time, we had 185 people following the page.
- We hosted our first virtual presentation on the page on Starting Solid Foods for parents and caregivers on June 26. We have 45 subscribers that are getting the family newsletter.

- The local Parenting Working Group continues to meet bi-monthly. With a priority placed on cross-promotion and cross-collaboration, the group has led to some joint program planning and sharing of local data.
- We participated in a Tickle and Toes presentation at EarlyOn in KL.
- June 18 and 19, 2024, the HG&D nurses completed and successfully passed the Parent Child Interaction (PCI) recertification related to the Teaching Scale.
- Some staff attended the Parenting and Children’s Mental Health Virtual Summit to learn more about ACEs prevention in April.
- Communications were developed in response to the [IFSS report](#) to offer education and awareness to the public on issues identified within the report.
- Presented to families at EarlyON in KL on screen time (May).
- Attended PHO Parenting Working Group.
- Initiated an Internal Working Group for ACES & Resiliency.
- Initiated partnership with the Burn Program at Sick Kids Hospital to develop communications on burn prevention for children & youth.

### Road Safety and Car Seat Safety:

#### Work Completed:

- Established a local “Car Seat Collaborative”: a mailing list with the intention of collaboration with regards to car seats (programs, clinics, planning, support).
- Ongoing car seat inspections performed as requested by the community. Twenty-three car seats have been inspected by THU staff from January to June 2024.
- We continue to work collaboratively with other agencies that have trained technicians.

### Healthy Eating:

#### Work Completed:

- Developed posts on Practical Tips to help children try new foods for the Parenting in Timiskaming website and social media platforms.
- Developed posts on breastfeeding and alcohol and cannabis use, as well as cow’s milk introduction.
- HG&D nurses supported a presentation on the introduction of solids at EarlyOn in Haileybury.

### 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 following table 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	2024	
Prenatal	82%	65%	82%	75.4% (46.5%)*	62% (49.5%)*	62% (51%)	10%
Postpartum	96%	70%	84%	82.8% (69.8%)*	79% (78.9%)*	84% (77%)	80%
Early Childhood	3%	2%	0.7%	3.6% (68.4%)*	4% (67.3%)*	1.7% (87%)	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	2024
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%)	37 (73%)
	Postpartum	33 (53.2%)	16 (51.6%)	34 (73.9%)	30 (73.2%)	48 (87.2%)	85 (82%)
	Early Childhood	18 (72%)	9 (90%)	11 (78.6%)	21 (77.8%)	13 (52.2%)	27 (53%)
Number of families served with ≥ 2 home visits		41	26	29	46	69	87
Number of families who received an IDA.		111	52	72	76	91	50
Number of families with a family service plan initiated			10	9	30	48	21
Total # of Home Visits (with a FHV, PHN or both)		206	140	88	498	727	406

### 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 enable PHNs to assist families with breastfeeding and to discuss and promote services at THU and within the community.
- Quarterly meetings have been set with Temiskaming Hospital as we continue to work collaboratively.

# 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.

### Work Completed

- The feasibility study to evaluate the Child Care Fluoride Varnish program was completed. The information was shared and discussed with the Porcupine Health Unit.
- THU worked with PHU on sharing statistics related to PHU’s application for the oral health access fund application.
- We continue to assess capacity to possibly offer the Child Care Fluoride program during the 2024-2-2025 school year.

### Variance:

- The Child Care Fluoride varnish program (non-mandatory) remains on hold related to capacity issues.

Oral Health - Dental Screenings									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Jan-Jun)
<i>Pre-K/JK &amp; Grade 2 In-School Mandatory Program</i>	937	800	624	925	279	0*	518	904	375
<i>Regular Screened (all other grades including rescreens/parent request)</i>	---**	----**	985	1840	632	0*	751	1129	342
<i>Office Screenings</i>	238	248	231	193	105	150	88	466	263

*\*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.*

*\*\*\*Title renamed to better reflect ministry reporting (2024). It used to be Pre-Kind/Kind, Grade 2, 4 & 7 In-School Mandatory Program*

## School Health Immunization and Licensed Child Care:

### Work Completed:

- The school team worked on ISPA preparation and the suspension process started.
- The school nurses increased immunization calls to parents regarding overdue 4-year booster immunizations. Approximately 200 calls were completed. They also worked with principals on getting this information through schools as well.
- The school team supported the NL and KL office with school immunization during the regular routine evening immunization clinic.
- Support and collaboration continue with our licensed child care providers.
- Round 2 of the grade 7 immunization clinics were completed.
- Completed the high school ISPA vaccines (Tdap).

## Comprehensive School and Child Care Health:

### Work Completed:

- The school team continues to support IPM activities.
- IPM information shared with parents through school council meetings. Engagement continues with our schools as well. School nurses helped disseminate info to schools/boards as well as taking advantage of the last PD days to update school staff.
- We provided JK resources and supports to all schools. We attended a few school open houses to support JK registration day.
- The school PHNs continue to support Youth Instagram as they try to match trends and share relevant information with the school community.
- School nurses continue to collaborate with school councils as well as parent councils.
- They also participated in the Pow Wow in North Cobalt as guests.

## 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 remains up to date.
- With support from the IPAC team, the school team supported the development of parent information related to the increase in measles seen in the province. Parent information was shared with our anabaptist schools and communities as well with all our public schools.

## Healthy Eating and Active Living:

### Work Completed:

- We continue to share nutritional supports/resources/grants with schools as requested.
- We continue to support the schools with the NFVP and SNP programs. The dietitian is helping with coordination and evaluation of the NFVP as she works with our schools and school nurses.
- Promotion posters were updated to share with schools promoting Nutrition Month activities during March related to the Blender Bike. The school nurses supported multiple Bike Rodeos across the district.
- We promote local food bank locations and hours to schools for students and families.
- THU purchased 5 Rainbow Plate toolkits to support food neutral information. Training to be offered to the school team.
- THU continues to support the Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (PALS) program. PALS is a playground leadership program that encourages all children to participate in activities regardless of their gender, size or ability.
- AST Steering Committee working group was created to address the continuing **transportation issues** with the parent drop-off and pick-up at Central Public School.
- 3 schools/6 classes/143 students completed the **Bicycle Skills Training program** and participated in our Bike rodeos in May.
- We are moving forward with our **Activity Stencils** project on the playground at École Catholique Ste-Croix which is to be implemented over the summer.
- The municipality of Armstrong acknowledged our school safety memo and will install a **new crosswalk** this year for the students at École Catholique Assomption in Earlton.

- Attended the evening Open House at École Catholique St- Michel. The school wanted us to inform families of the addition of a **new section of the City's Active Transportation trail which will connect their school** to the Dymond subdivision.
- We supported and attended multiple community health promotion booths (Block Party, Track and Field). These booths shared information on Sun Safety and Nutrition.
- The school nurses attended Anti-Weight Stigma training and Weight Science Foundational Training.

## Sexual Health and Healthy Sexuality:

### Work Completed:

- THU has seen an increase in students accessing nurses during the healthy relationship clinics in 4 of 5 of our 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.
- The healthy relationship clinics are being promoted via TikTok videos and on the @youthtimiskaming Instagram page. Some videos are getting around 900 views.
- From January to June 2024, 71 students have been seen by a school nurse during a healthy relationship clinic. Topic discussion during these clinics included: sexual health (distribution of condoms, pregnancy tests, STI testing, general health questions, menstrual cycle/puberty and immunization
- As part of the healthy relationship clinics, the school nurses also organize youth engagement activities and booths over lunch to engage with students.
- Curriculum support for sexual health co-teaching in some of our high schools were completed (ESCSM and Envolée du Nord).
- The school nurses attended the pride vendors fair and shared IPM information.
- The school nurses attended the SOGC contraceptive summit.

## Substance Use:

### Work Completed:

- We continue to support our local schools with resources and information on tobacco, vaping and cannabis as requested. We continue to share health promotion information on cannabis and vaping through school social media.
- Vaping booths were set up in our high schools with an interactive activity for students. They showcased the hairspray versus water vapors to students.
- A local high school with the support of the school nurse is working on Not An Experiment escape room.
- The school team is working with our local drug strategy to ensure supports and information is being shared with them.
- Opioid and Bullying activities were held at some of our local high schools; students were engaged with the activities (TDSS and KLDCS).
- Presentations were completed related to harm reduction on refusal strategies (drugs and alcohol).

**Mental Health:**

**Work Completed:**

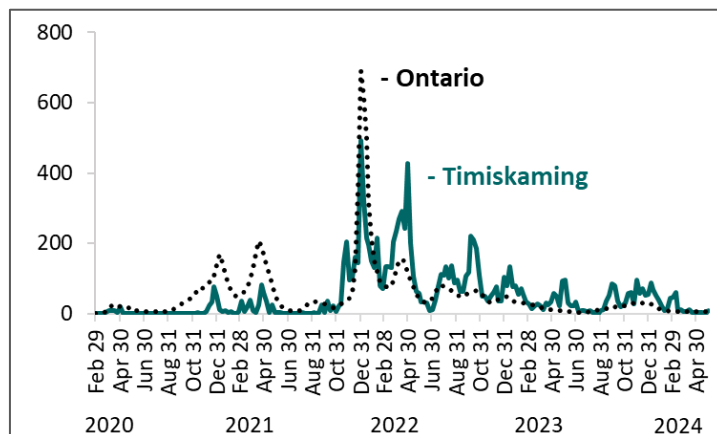
- The school nurses continue to support the RNAO Youth Wellness Initiative. The school nurses participated in the end of year celebration at EHS, this included students from all 3 DSB1 schools.
- THU supported logo development and toolkit updates related to RNAO Youth Wellness.
- The school nurses also supported health promoters with work related to Planet Youth. THU and PHU are planning meetings with DOEs to share the IPM community and school survey results (April).
- The school nurses supported different mental health activities within schools (Envolée du Nord, St. Pat’s.
- We worked with Northeast Mental Health Week Coalition related to Mental Health Week.
- The school team is supporting internal ACEs and Resilience work.

**Infectious and Communicable Disease Prevention and Control**

Outbreaks 2024 Q1 & Q2	Number of outbreaks	Number of cases					Number of deaths
		Staff	Resident /patient	Student	Visitor	Other	
Long-Term Care & nursing homes	15	16	138	0	0	0	4
Hospitals	2	3	13	0	0	0	1
Congregate living	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daycare/school	2	12	0	13	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>

**COVID-19 2024 Q1 & Q2** *(This will be the last COVID data update for quarterly stats)*

- 165 confirmed cases
- Outbreaks:
  - 5 Long-Term Care Home/Nursing Home
  - 2 Hospital



## COVID-19 Communications:

### Public and External

- Information regarding current regarding local and provincial guidance and recommendations for the public and various sectors including regulation changes were shared as appropriate via mainstream media and social media.
- The Ministry of Health updated and amended the Respiratory outbreak management guidance, this was shared with the IPAC Hub partners.
- Weekly risk assessment for all respiratory diseases were updated on our website until the closure of the wastewater monitoring program in June, and updates were paused.

### Media Relations

- Media questions continued to be fielded from media locally and across the province.

### Internal

- Relevant updates were shared with appropriate staff internally, via e-mails and team meetings.
- Social media pages from other Ontario health units are monitored for internal planning.

### **IPAC Hub:**

Program work continued and relationships were strengthened with partners after the return of a PHN from leave. The PHN continued to be readily accessible to identify and prioritize Hub members' needs, followed by planning to fill the gap. Meetings continue to be held as needs arose, and updates from the province were provided as available.

### **Work Completed:**

- Education session provided to LTCH/RH and CL partners on Tuberculosis and a Community of Practice (CoP) titled: Vaxchat: Peer led discussion on vaccination strategies in the workplace. This CoP focused on strategies used by our Hub members for increasing influenza and covid-19 vaccination uptake in their staff.
- In-person site visits provided to LTCH/RH for networking purposes and outbreak support.
- Internal team continued to meet regularly to discuss outbreaks and relevant topics.
- Participated in the Regional IPAC Hub table which was meeting every 2 months.
- Completed and submitted the monthly reporting tool on THU IPAC activities.

### **Variance:**

- Due to ongoing vacancies, unable to complete additional IPAC audits/site visits to all congregate care settings.



## Other Diseases of Public Health Significance

Reportable Diseases and Infection Control									
Client Services	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Q1 & Q2
Reportable Investigations (non-STI)	73	65	111	91	154	652	1,342	1,261	222
Outbreaks - Institutional	14	29	33	18	25	16	18	37	19
Outbreaks - Community	0	0	0	0	2	23	0	2	2
Animal Bite Reporting	29	85	77	72	64	62	74	51	62
Sexually transmitted infections (STI)	82	61	78	67	75	69	28	50	37
Personal service settings inspections ( <i>hair salons, tattoos, piercings, aesthetics</i> )	47	50	52	49	31	10	14	17	32

- Initial steps towards TB skin testing partial divestment taken by sending a letter to HCPs advising them of the upcoming change in Q3.

### 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.

<b>Client Services</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Male Clients	127	164	308	292	142	68	179	64
Female Clients	805	644	1014	690	295	137	291	139
% of clients between 12-24	-	66%	63%	56.3%	49.2%	46.8%	59.1%	39%
Contraceptives (sold)	846	198	195	72	38	29	12*	7*
Contraceptives (prescribed)	-	-	-	138	47	83	72	10
Plan B	25	23	25	16	3	13	7	2
STI Tests	201	257	329	241	102	111	186	128**
Pregnancy Tests	36	37	39	20	12	19	31	10
IUD/Pregnancy Referrals and (F/U)***	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7
Blood-Borne Infection Tests	97	140	148	58	27	42	77	128**
Treatment Prescribed for STI	-	-	-	-	29	40	39	20
Pap tests	-	-	-	-	10	11	5	7

*\*this number denotes the amount of visits where contraceptives were sold, not the amount of contraceptives provided*  
*\*\* STI and STBBI are now captured under the same category to follow most appropriate and inclusive language*  
*\*\*\*this new reporting category was added to highlight the referrals to other providers for various services not offered at THU, including terminations*

**Work Completed:**

- A Pap clinic was offered in the south end, and well attended.
- PHNs at both KL and NL offices continue to work together to complete contact tracing, offer STI treatment and direct clients to external providers as necessary.

**Variance:**

- The SH PHN continues to support the clinic twice per week to offer client services.

## 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:

- Participated in bi-weekly ministry calls to learn more and plan for the end of the Spring Vaccine Campaign. Clients are going to be encouraged to wait for the Fall campaign, noting that high-risk population may still require a booster after June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- To ensure accessibility to COVID-19 vaccines, weekly clinics were offered until the end of June, when the Spring Vaccine campaign ended.
- Collaborated with pharmacy partners to ensure they had access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Our area did see a decrease in the number of pharmacies offering the vaccine, which contributed to an increase in clients accessing THU.

Routine Immunizations:

**2023-2024 Universal Influenza Immunization Program:**

Immunization Program					
Immunizations Administered in Office	NL	KL	ENG	Total 2023	2024
# of clients receiving immunizations	524	286	94	2130	1170
# of immunizations administered	845	487	165	4165	1942
<b>Note: These numbers do not include Influenza Vaccine</b> <i>Generated from PANORAMA-R07090 Immunization Administered or Wasted at Health Unit</i>					

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
2024	3	3	4	2	0	0

**Land Control**

Septic Systems	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<i>Permits Issued</i>	131	111	124	38	66	76	106	125	93	37
<i>File Searches</i>	60	60	66	28	55	65	54	53	41	27
<i>Severance/Subdivision</i>	15	15	29	10	13	8	13	14	12	6

## Safe Water

<b>Drinking Water</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Small Drinking Water Systems	13	48	2	3	36	34	2
<b>Recreational Water</b>							
Public Beaches ( <i>Seasonal Jul-Aug</i> )	17	17	19	0	0	17	5
Pools	18	28	8	13	8	18	8
Recreational Camps/Beachfront ( <i>Seasonal Jul-Aug</i> )	9	11	0	5	9	7	0

**Variance:**

- The vast majority of this program’s work takes place in other quarters due to its seasonal nature.

## Healthy Environments and Climate Change

We continued to analyze the findings in the climate change and health [report](#), which was completed through the collaborative project of the northeastern health units. To increase the awareness of this topic the report was released and plans for next steps have been worked on in 2023. Our approach at this point has been to use the report to assist with prioritizing health concerns related to climate change that are of a greater risk specifically in our district. In partnership with Porcupine Health Unit, THU will continue to work to identify adaptation and mitigation strategies while still leveraging the knowledge and experience of the initial group when appropriate.

**Variance:**

- Some initial planning has taken place in Q1 of 2024 but no firm actions have been initiated at this point in the year. Prioritizing capacity for this work remains a challenge.

## Food Safety

<b>Food Premises - Compliance Inspections</b>										
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
High Risk	165	184	109	93	88	47	29	29	40	24
Medium Risk	206	110	187	214	192	96	60	93	122	84
Low Risk	149	204	160	129	135	62	58	126	129	74
<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>	<b>182</b>

Food Handler Certifications										
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Englehart	63	26	23	75	58	3	24	10	37	25
New Liskeard/Tem	90	68	144	351	182	19	55	29	177	39
Kirkland Lake	70	41	58	127	15	34	5	12	19	5
<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>	<b>69</b>

**Variance:** Additional opportunities will take place in Q4 for people to obtain their certification. Anyone at any time can take the on-line course as well.

# Human Resource Update

## The comings and goings of our colleagues



### New Staff:

- Public Health Promoter, temporary to Permanent, New Liskeard (May 2024)
- Infectious Diseases/VPD Program Manager, Temporary, New Liskeard (June 2024)
- Program Assistant, Permanent, New Liskeard (July 2024)
- Epidemiologist, temporary to Permanent, New Liskeard, (July 2024)
- Bookkeeper, Casual, New Liskeard (Aug 2024)
- Public Health Promoter, temporary, New Liskeard (August 2024)
- Public Health Inspector, Temporary to Permanent, Kirkland Lake (August 2024)

### Retirement:

- Program Assistant, Permanent, New Liskeard (July 2024)

### Resignation:

- Infectious Diseases/VPD Program Manager, Permanent, New Liskeard (June 2024)
- Senior Public Health Inspector, Permanent, New Liskeard (July 2024)
- Public Health Promoter, temporary, New Liskeard (August 2024)
- Research, Policy, Planning, Analyst, Permanent, New Liskeard (August 2024)

### Current Vacancies:

- Public Health Inspector, Permanent, District-Wide
- Registered Dietitian, Permanent, Full-Time, District-Wide
- Program Assistant, Temporary, Kirkland Lake (Dec 2024)
- Research, Policy, Planning, Analyst, Permanent, District-Wide
- Public Health Nurse-IPAC, Permanent, Full-Time, New Liskeard

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