



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

ML
BUREAU DE SANTÉ DE
MIDDLESEX-LONDON
HEALTH UNIT
www.healthunit.com

Public Health is perhaps the least well-known of the components that make up the local health system, yet, it is a vitally important part of that system.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) plays a larger role in the lives of London and Middlesex County residents than many realize. Health Unit staff are always on the lookout for the public health issues that can affect your life and the lives of your families, friends and neighbours.

We work with community partners to identify local needs and deliver programs and services that encourage healthy living. We work in schools and with families; we inspect restaurants and other businesses that sell food; as well as tattoo shops, swimming pools, spas, hairdressers, nail salons and more. We encourage residents to be more physically active and enforce provincial regulations under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. We provide dental services to young families who otherwise couldn't afford them and we work to support the most vulnerable in our community. We work with local decision-makers to create bylaws and guidelines that lead to healthier communities and conduct local research on important health matters.

In short, we do more than you would expect.

This annual report provides an overview of some of the work done by the MLHU and its staff in 2014, as well as details about the Health Unit's funding and program costs. We hope you find it informative and interesting and that it provides greater insight into the work of the Middlesex-London Health Unit.



DECIDE
STRATEGY
MANAGE
ANALYSIS
PLANNING
BUSINESS

NEW MLHU STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2014, the MLHU began work on a new strategic planning process. Once complete the 2015-2020 Middlesex-London Health Unit Strategic Plan will ensure the alignment of our work with our vision, mission and values.

Our strategic priorities include: Program Excellence, Client and Community Confidence, Employee Engagement and Learning, and Organizational Excellence. These priorities were developed as a result of collaboration with the Board of Health, community partners and staff.

Our vision, mission and values, together with the strategic priorities and objectives that have been identified in this strategic plan will help us be the best possible health unit that we can be, in order to enhance our positive impact on our community.

The work that was done and the insights that were gained through the strategic planning process will form the foundation for our accomplishments over the next five years.



SETTING A DIRECTION FOR HEALTH EQUITY WORK

In 2014, the Health Unit made a concerted effort to look more closely at the issue of Health Equity. The intent is to determine to what extent our programs and services meet the needs of those in the community whose health is affected by their socio-economic conditions, and to set a future direction that takes those conditions into consideration. Rather than finding answers, the goal was to ask questions, stimulate discussion and reflect on the work we do and the communities we serve. This important work will continue to influence our programs and services into 2015 and beyond.

SMOKING CESSATION DRIVEN TO QUIT CHALLENGE

The *Driven to Quit Challenge* made a return to Middlesex-London in 2014. The Health Unit was there with representatives from the Canadian Cancer Society and Smokers Help Line when the Challenge was launched London's Wharncliffe Chrysler. Those who successfully take up the *Driven to Quit Challenge* and remain smoke-free for the month of March, are entered into a draw for great prizes, including a 2014 Dodge Journey or Avenger, or \$1,000 cash prizes.



SMOKE-FREE MOVIES NIGHT

One Life One You, the MLHU's Youth Engagement group were part of the group that put together the third annual Smoke-Free Movie Night in London's Victoria Park. One Life One You is made up of high-school aged youth leaders who work together to inform other young people and the community about the dangers of tobacco use and the tobacco industry's manipulative marketing tactics designed to entice new customers. Working in partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society, the City of London, the YMCA of Western Ontario, One Life One You welcomed more than 2,000 families to the free, outdoor screening of Disney's animated hit, *Frozen*!. The event also

featured five interactive tobacco prevention and education stations. The evidence is conclusive that there is a causal relationship between exposure to onscreen smoking and youth smoking initiation. Not only does exposure to onscreen tobacco imagery increase smoking initiation and progression to regular smoking among youth, it also undermines tobacco prevention efforts by normalizing tobacco use. One Life One You continues to lead the MLHU's advocacy efforts to have the film ratings system in Ontario changed to reduce the number of onscreen impressions of tobacco use seen by children and youth.

TOBACCO CONTROL NUMBERS FOR 2014:

1891 workplace and public place inspections

178 bar and restaurant inspections

1653 tobacco retailer inspections

142 charges issued out

46 charges issued for the sale and supply of tobacco to those under 19 years of age

29 charges issued for the illegal promotion and display of tobacco products

67 charges issued for smoking in prohibited places



CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH VULNERABILITY WORKSHOP

The Health Hazards Team hosted the Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Workshop at Goodwill industries in late-March. The event brought together representatives from 35 local, provincial, national and international organizations to share the results of the Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment Report for the Middlesex-London Region and discuss how community partners can work together to reduce our vulnerability through climate change adaptation. The event brought together several speakers including Gordon McBean, lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. The team also finalized and formally released the Assessment of Vulnerability to the Health Impacts of Climate Change in Middlesex-London report in partnership with Health Canada.

Responded **1500** complaints/service requests for environmental health issues including but not limited to pest infestations, indoor air quality, poor housing conditions, demolition permits, marijuana grow operations, and land use planning issues.

2 totaling just over one day by early-September.



6 Cold Weather Alerts, totaling 37 days by mid-March.

WORKPLACE WELLNESS PROGRAM

The Workplace Wellness Program works with local employers, managers and business leaders to help them engage their staffs to create healthier environments in which to work.

The MLHU partnered with the Southwest Region Public Health Workplace Network and the Western Region Workforce Planning Boards to host a workshop titled A Changing Workplace: Engaging, Building, Managing. The event featured keynote speaker Dr. Linda Duxbury, one of Canada's leading experts in workplace health, and provided insight into work-life strategies that benefit both a business's bottom line and its competitive advantage. The workshop also took a closer look at some of the challenges associated with finding strategies and approaches that unite and engage employees from multiple generations.



10 physical activity grants were provided to workplaces to increase the awareness of physical activity and to increase the development of workplace policies that support employees being physically active during their workday.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Key decision makers from across Middlesex County gathered in January to consider innovative ways to make their communities healthier and more active. The Creating Healthy Active Communities in Middlesex County forum brought together elected officials, and leaders in the areas of municipal planning, transportation, engineering, economic development, parks and recreation, workplaces, education and tourism to develop ideas and plans to promote healthy, active living.

The event led to the formation of the Middlesex Active Communities Partnership (MAC), whose goal is to enhance structured and non-structured opportunities for active living, with a vision to increase physical activity levels for all Middlesex County residents.

The team also developed and piloted the Active Community Toolkit for Reviewing Development Plans and provided recommendations on several City of London land use development, and site and subdivision plans, as well as the London Plan and the review of the Middlesex County Official Plan.

“Building physical activity considerations into our planning and municipal decisions is becoming critical if we want to encourage our citizens to live healthier and more productive lives,” says Dr. Chris Mackie, Medical Officer of Health and CEO with the Middlesex-London Health Unit. “There’s a clear relationship between how we design our communities and how easy it is for our residents to live life to the fullest. That’s what we’re exploring today.”

HEALTHY AGING – FALLS PREVENTION

In 2014, the MLHU's Falls Prevention program joined forces with 21 local organizations to form the Middlesex-London Falls Prevention Collaborative. In partnership with Westervelt, Medix and triOS Colleges, the team was also involved in the development of Step Ahead to Falls Prevention in Older Adults, a training program for personal support workers.

The team also collaborated with 8 other health units across southwestern Ontario to create a new falls prevention website, www.findingbalanceontario.ca.



MLHU HOSTS NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS CONFERENCE IN LONDON



More than 400 educators, health professionals, parents, students and community members from across Canada gathered in April when London hosted the National Healthy Schools Conference. MLHU staff played a key role in the planning and hosting of the event entitled *Coming Together: Supporting the Whole Child*. The conference was hosted by the Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition, a province-wide partnership with representatives from public health, school boards, hospitals, mental health agencies, universities, as well as parent and student organizations. The event focused on the links between mental, physical and emotional health as well as physical literacy, and the role they all play in developing and sustaining healthy school environments where children can grow and thrive.

“When we talk about healthy schools, we mean places where the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of the entire school community are nurtured and strengthened,” says Christine Preece, Co-Chair of the Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition and Manager of the Middlesex-London Health Unit’s Young Adult Team. “It is in this kind of supportive environment in which students and families can learn, thrive and reach their full potential.”

IPARENT CAMPAIGN

The iParent campaign was featured widely in print and transit advertising. In April, the iParent prenatal graphic featured penguins nurturing their unhatched eggs, then in September the relationships graphic featured a mother gorilla looking uneasily at two young gorillas embracing; which turned heads when it covered the sides of a few LTC buses.

ENACTING OF ONTARIO'S SKIN CANCER PREVENTION ACT

Ontario’s Skin Cancer Prevention Act came into effect in May, banning tanning bed operators from providing UV light treatments, as well as the advertising or marketing of artificial tanning services to anyone under the age of 18. The Act also requires operators who sell or offer tanning bed services or treatments to notify the MLHU and register as a tanning bed operator, and to post signs in their businesses which outline the dangerous health effects of artificial tanning.

In advance of the legislation, the Health Unit held a Tanning Bed Operator Information Session in March 2014 for the 43 tanning bed operators within Middlesex-London to educate them on the legislation and the new obligations that they have under the law.

To support the Act, the Chronic Disease and Tobacco Control team launched its “No Such Thing as a Safe Tan” campaign – which used graphics that included a coffin-shaped beach towel and a casket-like tanning bed to convey the message that tanning carries significant health risks.

Skin cancer accounts for about one-third of all cancers diagnosed in Ontario. The most deadly form of skin cancer, melanoma, can spread quickly to other areas of the body such as the liver, lungs and brain. Those under the age of 30 who use tanning equipment are 75% more likely to be diagnosed with melanoma than those who have never used tanning equipment.

By the end of 2014, each artificial tanning business operator had been inspected twice by Health Unit staff, to ensure their businesses were operating in compliance with the legislation.

ROAD SAFETY AND THE SHARE THE ROAD CAMPAIGN

In late May, the members of the London Middlesex Road Safety Committee launched its Share the Road campaign at the Komoka Wellness and Recreation Complex. Using an approach that combines advertising with highly visible signage, the Share the Road campaign aimed to encourage drivers and cyclists to be courteous and respectful of one another, while providing a one-metre safety margin for cars, trucks and minivans that pass bikes. The campaign was supported by new road signage, radio ads, widespread television and newspaper coverage, a dedicated website, print material, and social media, which generated lively community discussion and opinion sharing.



Municipality of Middlesex Centre, the Middlesex detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, London Health Sciences Centre, London Police Service, Can Bike London, the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA), the London Block Parent Program, Young Drivers of Canada, Western University and Fanshawe College. The Committee's mandate is to make roads in London and Middlesex County safer.

The Health Unit also collaborated with the City Of London's Transportation Planning & Design Division and the London Middlesex Road Safety Committee on the development and implementation of the London Road Safety Strategy which aims to decrease serious injury and death related to motor vehicle collisions in London and Middlesex County by 10% (155 fewer deaths) by 2015.

In addition to the Health Unit, the Road Safety Committee is made up of representatives from the City of London, the County of Middlesex, the



BABY-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE AGENCY-WIDE DOCUMENT REVIEW



The Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFI) is a global, evidence-based approach that increases the health and well-being of all children and families. BFI protects, promotes and supports breastfeeding. The initiative is aimed at hospitals and community-based organizations, including all of Ontario's 36 health units, which have been mandated by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to implement BFI. Health units must complete several steps before receiving their BFI designation.

In June, an assessor visited the MLHU and conducted a BFI Agency Wide Document Review. The assessor indicated they were impressed by the comprehensive, thorough approach being taken at the Health Unit as it seeks its BFI designation.

Then, at the end of September, the assessor spent a day meeting with staff and observing several MLHU programs including the Health Connection, a Well Baby/Child and Breastfeeding Clinic and Healthy Babies, Healthy Children to ensure they were in compliance with BFI requirements. During these visits, the assessor met with senior and front-line staff as well as several clients.

The assessor's feedback about the Health Unit's website was positive. They found the website to be

current, and that it included videos and teaching tools which cover a wide range of breastfeeding information.

The next step towards the MLHU receiving its BFI designation is the BFI External Assessment, which is expected to take place in mid-2015.




We believe breastfeeding is important.

As a Baby-Friendly organization:

- ♥ We welcome all families.
- ♥ We train our staff to protect, promote and support breastfeeding.
- ♥ We work with you to make decisions about feeding your baby.
- ♥ We welcome you to breastfeed here.
- ♥ We work with our community to support breastfeeding in Middlesex-London.

The Baby-Friendly Initiative is a world-wide strategy that sets standards for infant feeding. It is currently being put into action in health units across Ontario.

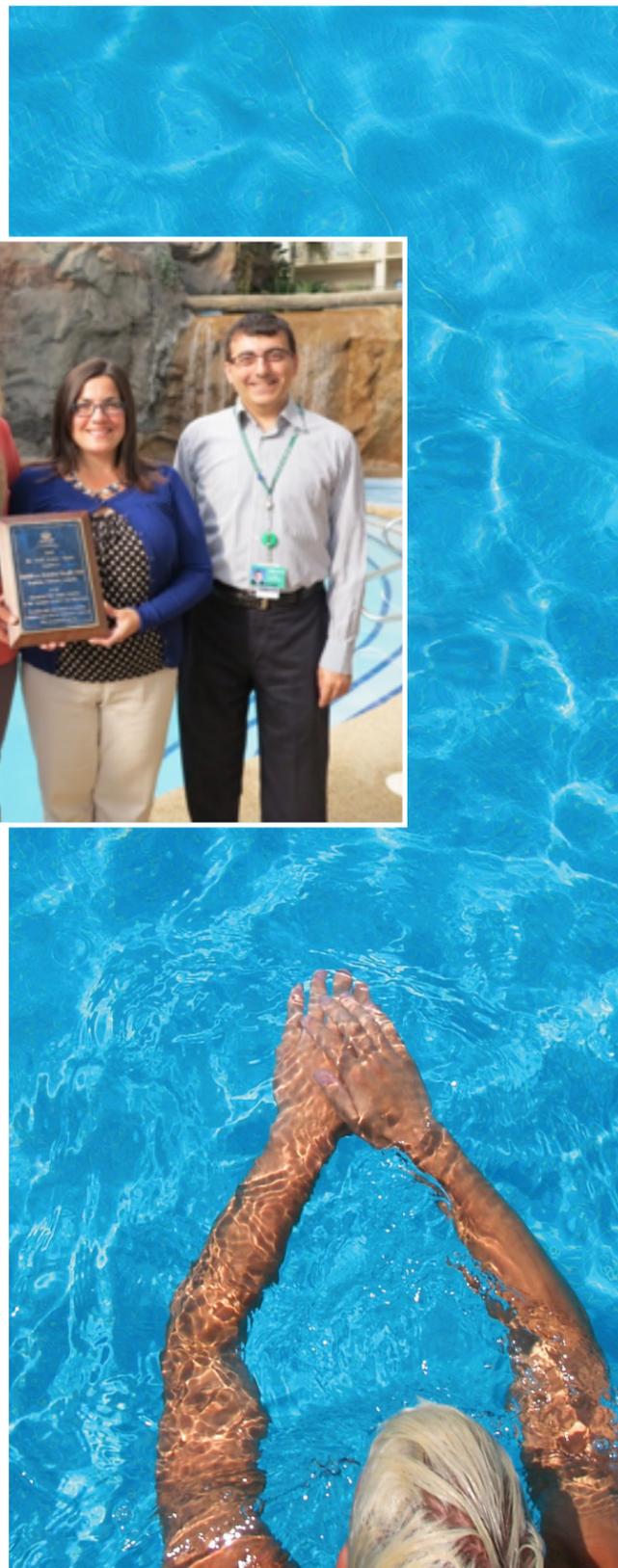


SAFE WATER PROGRAM RECEIVES THE DR. NEIL LOWRY MEMORIAL GRANT

For the first time ever, the U-S based *Association of Pool and Spa Professionals* announced that a Canadian organization would receive its annual \$5,000 grant. The *Dr. Neil Lowry Memorial Grant* was awarded to the Middlesex-London Health Unit for its work in teaching pool and spa operators about their obligations under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, in addition to the importance of keeping their facilities clean and healthy. The grant will help support the MLHU's Training Sessions Project, which through collaboration with pool and spa operators, will explore the current challenges they face and will develop solutions that improve safety and compliance with provincial regulations. An article about the Health Unit's award appeared in the December issue of *Pool and Spa Marketing Magazine*.

Over the course of the year, 64 pool and spa operators took part in training sessions held by the MLHU's Safe Water team.

In 2014, the Safe Water team also completed 100% of all required inspections under the Ontario Public Health Standards, including those for small drinking water systems, as well as regulated and non-regulated recreational water facilities.



BAD WAYS TO BE NICE CAMPAIGN

In August, the Southwest Tobacco Control Area Network launched an online video campaign to raise awareness about the issue of adults supplying tobacco to teens. Using a provocative approach, the videos showed young children asking adults for cigarettes. The campaign generated almost 10,000 views on YouTube.

The local effort was part of the larger Bad Ways to Be Nice Facebook campaign aimed at young adults who purchase tobacco products for minors. The "social supply" of tobacco is one of the reasons that young people begin to use tobacco products and is a target area for Ontario's Tobacco Control Area Networks.



INMOTION COMMUNITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

In October, the Health Unit was once again part of the annual InMotion Community Physical Activity Challenge. For the second year in a row, people across London and Middlesex County were challenged to add at least 15 minutes of physical activity to each day.

By the end of the month, more than 4.7 million minutes of physical activity had been completed by more than 11,500 people, easily surpassing the previous year's 2.1 million minutes. Among the notable achievements was the participation of 1,683 students from more than 50 schools across the region.

The MLHU also created a physical activity toolkit for workplaces, which is designed to assist employers in creating workplaces which support physical activity.

UP for the CHALLENGE?

in motion™
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

Join the Challenge for the month of **OCTOBER**.

in motion™
Physical Activity - do it for life!

MIDDLESEX-LONDON
Building Canada's Healthiest Community

www.inmotion4life.ca

Twitter: @inmotion4life Facebook: /inmotion4life

walking, biking, gardening, volleyball, dancing, baseball, golfing, pilates, aerobics, jogging, hiking, soccer, yoga, swimming, weightlifting, tennis.

CHILD SAFETY TEAM

The team launched a new booster seat campaign in 2014 in collaboration with the Child Safety Coalition, which includes representatives from police, fire, school boards and Ontario Early Years Centres. The group identified a key statistic; that more than 70% of children who should be in booster seats when riding in motor vehicles aren't using these important devices, and set out to raise awareness about this issue. The campaign focused on the importance of proper booster seat use and the provincial legislation that governs them. The campaign goals were to increase the use of booster seats, while also reducing the frequency and severity of injuries that can result from improper use. As part of this effort, booster seats were distributed to families in need.



The team also collaborated with the Pool and Hot Tub Council of Canada on a drowning prevention campaign, which highlighted the need for adults to keep an eye on youngsters when they are in swimming pools. The effort included providing information to local healthcare providers, in addition to radio, cinema, bus and transit shelter advertising.



Through its work with the Helmets on Kids Partnership, the Child Safety team also joined with community partners to distribute bicycle helmets to 1,600 children in London and Middlesex County. The partnership developed the 2V1 campaign, which spread the word about the need for children to use bicycle helmets, and how to wear them properly, through print, radio and transit advertising as well as distribution of information through local bike shops.

SAFER INHALATION KITS

In September, the Health Unit joined Regional HIV/AIDS Connection and My Sister's Place in launching the distribution of Safer Inhalation Kits. The goal of the program is to reduce the risk of disease transmission among drug users, which can occur through the sharing of unsanitary or dangerous supplies and paraphernalia. Similar programs are in place in communities across Ontario, including Elgin-St. Thomas, Haldimand-Norfolk, Halton, Hamilton, Toronto, Sudbury, Haliburton, Durham Region, Kawartha, Wellington-Dufferin, Guelph, and Thunder Bay.

Among the benefits associated with the distribution of Safer Inhalation Kits are a decrease in the transmission of HIV, Hepatitis C and other communicable diseases among those who smoke crack cocaine. It also creates opportunities for Health Unit staff to connect with those who use crack and potentially, to refer them to other community supports, programs and services.

SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES

There were about 15,800 visits to the Health Unit's sexual health clinics in London and Strathroy in 2014, for a variety of services related to birth control and sexually transmitted infections. The Clinic team also began to provide Intrauterine Devices and Intrauterine System's to female clients who were asking for a long acting birth control method.

In 2014, the MLHU collaborated with Fanshawe College and Western University in an effort to set a world record for the most tests for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) done in one day. The goal was to highlight how easy it is to be tested for chlamydia and gonorrhea, while promoting frequent STI testing. While the world record wasn't beaten, the Health Unit set a new Canadian mark when 516 people were tested at Western University in just one day.



HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS

The MLHU also works closely with Regional HIV/AIDS Connection and the London Intercommunity Health Centre on harm reduction programs. These include the needle exchange program (about 64,000 needles distributed from the MLHU in 2014; 58,000 of which were returned) and two new programs: the Naloxone Program and the distribution of Safer Inhalation Kits.

THE NALOXONE PROGRAM

This is to certify that:

_____ has been trained in opioid overdose prevention and response and has been given this naloxone administration kit by

THE NALOXONE PROGRAM
for use in the event of an opioid overdose.

Issued on: ___ / ___ / 20___

THE NALOXONE PROGRAM

In May, the Naloxone Program was introduced with the goal of preventing local opioid-related overdose deaths in London and Middlesex County. The Naloxone Program, is a partnership of the Health Unit, the London InterCommunity Health Centre, Regional HIV/AIDS Connection, and the London Area Network of Substance Users.

Community naloxone distribution has been a key component of opioid overdose prevention programs in many communities around the world where overdose-related deaths occur. These programs provide individuals who are at risk of opioid overdose themselves with basic lifesaving skills, including how to administer naloxone when someone has overdosed. Once they complete this training, these individuals receive pocket-sized kits which contain two small containers of naloxone, syringes, instructions for administering the naloxone, and a training certificate. Since they were first started, community naloxone distribution programs have helped save the lives of thousands of opioid overdose victims, including three in London.

EARLY YEARS TEAM

The Early Years Team provides leadership to the Community Early Years Partnership which includes 28 local agencies providing services and support related to early childhood development. The Partnership developed the first phase of the *Building Healthy Brains to Build a Healthy Future* campaign.

The team also screened 3,445 children during *Well Baby/Child & Breastfeeding Drop-ins* and at Ontario Early Years Centres for the early identification of potential developmental delays. Support and counseling was provided to 4,350 mothers during breastfeeding appointments and at *Well Baby/Child & Breastfeeding Drop-ins*.

The MLHU's Health Connection telephone service responded to 943 calls related to healthy growth and development, and supported 730 mothers who had questions about breastfeeding.



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TEAM

In 2014, the Reproductive Health team explored the need and opportunities for MLHU staff to reach out to vulnerable women and their families, including the development of online and skill-based prenatal education programs.

The Reproductive Health team launched several new preconception health initiatives, including a social media campaign that sought to increase awareness about the importance of planning a pregnancy. As well, a new community-based food skills program which combined healthy eating, food preparation and preconception health teaching was piloted with 240 vulnerable women of childbearing age.

The team also partnered with the Sexual Health team in leading weekly preconception information sessions at the Elgin Middlesex Detention Center. The teams also collaborated with the London Health Sciences Centre on *Having a Baby Day*, which saw more than 420 high school students participate in workshops that focused on preconception.

The team's *Skin-to-Skin* campaign aimed to increase awareness about the importance of early attachment and bonding. As the result of a Facebook campaign which encouraged MLHU clients to share their skin-to-skin stories, 21 people posted their experiences and pictures on the Health Unit's website.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE, INFANT HEARING AND BLIND LOW VISION PROGRAMS

This program provided speech and language services to 3,241 children. Staff also identified 49 children with permanent hearing loss through infant hearing screening and provided follow up supports and services to 139 children who have permanent hearing loss. In addition, 31 children were identified as being blind or having low vision, while support and services were provided to 103 children.

The team also developed a new video to help parents understand the Healthy Child Development Programs that are available in Ontario, which support early intervention. The video will be used at all birthing hospitals in the province.

BEST BEGINNINGS TEAM

Through its Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program, the Best Beginnings team supported more than 1,500 families at risk for challenges which can affect healthy infant and child development. HBHC provides screening and assessment services, as well as home visits to support parents and promote optimal child growth and development.

The MLHU also supported the Ministry of Children and Youth Services through its work as Ontario's HBHC Centre of Education. Staff provided support to Public Health Nurses across the province by developing training materials, providing support and sharing home visiting resources with all health units across Ontario.

The team also includes the MLHU's Nurse Practitioner, who provided primary care services during more than 1,500 client visits during Family Health Clinics in the community. These clinics are held at seven sites in London and Strathroy, in partnership with local community agencies and Family Centres. Through these clinics, families with young children who do not have a family doctor or who do not have health care coverage are able to access care in their neighbourhoods. Of the families the Nurse Practitioner met with, 72% did not have a family doctor and 11% did not have health care coverage.



VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

The Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) team oversees the operation of the MLHU's immunization clinics, located at its downtown London and Strathroy offices. Through these clinics, the team provides all publicly-funded immunizations; as well, non-publically funded vaccines are available for purchase.

In 2014, the team administered 12,720 immunizations to 7,675 clients through these clinics. The team's Public Health Nurses also visit local elementary and secondary schools, where they administered more than 11,600 doses of meningococcal, hepatitis B, and/or HPV vaccines to Grade 7 and 8 students. Immunization services were also provided to refugee groups in the community. In addition, five community influenza vaccination clinics were held, where 1,155 flu shots were given.

In 2014, the MLHU began implementation of *Panorama*, a secure, web-based information system designed to manage immunizations records, vaccine cases and outbreaks of infectious diseases. The immunization records of more than 313,000 individuals were entered into Panorama from the Health Unit's existing database.

The collaborated with local childcare centre operators in an effort to follow-up with parents whose children's immunizations were not up to date. Staff also reviewed the immunization records of students and children in childcare, monitored vaccine storage and transportation and followed up all cases of vaccine-related reportable diseases.

15,093 calls and 4,664 emails from the general public and health care providers regarding vaccine and infectious disease issues/information



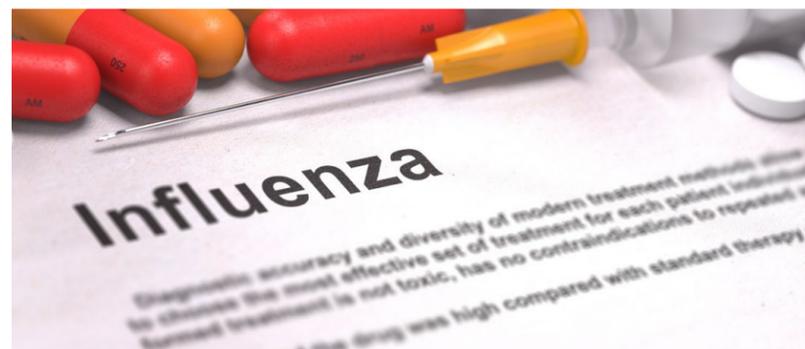
400 (99.8% of total) cold chain inspections of fridges storing publicly funded vaccines/information

11,626 doses of hepatitis B, meningococcal and HPV vaccine to Grade 7 and 8 students (5075 doses of hepatitis B vaccine; 3001 doses of meningococcal vaccine; 3550 doses of HPV vaccine)



INFLUENZA IN 2014

By the late spring, it was clear the 2014 influenza had been intense, with 407 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza, 207 hospitalizations, 21 institutional outbreaks and 17 deaths. Immunization remains the best defense against influenza.



INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL TEAM



Public Health Inspectors with the Infectious Disease Control (IDC) team conduct

thorough inspections of institutions, such as long-term care homes and hospitals, as well as personal services settings, which include tattoo and piercing shops, and nail salons. In 2014, the team completed 100% of all required personal service setting inspections and institutional kitchens.

In March the team issued a community alert about possible measles exposures at several London locations earlier in the month. Team members took phone calls, made follow-up calls, and providing advice to those concerned they may have been exposed.

The team also launched a new public disclosure website where inspection reports from tattoo and piercing shops are posted. As a result, anyone considering getting body art can read about the last inspection report at a given facility, allowing them to make an informed decision.

Infraction Details

There were no infractions found during this inspection.

In October, the IDC team co-hosted an Infection Prevention and Control workshop in partnership with Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health that boasted the highest ever participation and the greatest number of corporate sponsors. The event included representation from every long-term care home, retirement home and hospital in London and Middlesex County.

It was also a record-setting year with respect to tuberculosis (TB) activity. Over the course of the year, seventeen new, active TB cases were identified. The IDC team's TB nurses hosted 40 clinics during which 204 clients were seen over 848 visits. The IDC team also responded to 68 respiratory and 67 enteric outbreaks in child care centres, hospitals, and long-term care homes.

ORAL HEALTH

The MLHU's Oral Health Team offers a variety of dental services, including several through the Health Unit's downtown London Dental Clinic. Through a variety of programs, treatment and preventive services were provided to 1,700 eligible children, youth and/or adults at little or no cost. Over the course of the year, 911 people were enrolled in the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program, while 643 had their enrollments renewed. Of those registered in HSO program, 97% took advantage of the services that were available.



In-school dental screening increased in 2014, with more than 15,700 students in 128 schools being checked for cavities. Of these, 632 children were found to be in need of urgent dental work. More than 250 oral health education sessions were provided in schools, and the team piloted a fluoride varnish application program.

Oral health is an important part of overall health and it affects quality of life.

15,700 students in 128 schools were checked for cavities 

 **632** children were found to be in need of urgent dental work

911 people were enrolled in the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program

 **250** oral health education sessions were provided in schools

DISTRIBUTION OF FREE CARBON MONOXIDE/SMOKE DETECTORS

In April, the MLHU worked alongside the Municipality of Adelaide-Metcalfe and the Adelaide-Metcalfe Fire Department in donating 250 carbon monoxide/smoke detectors to Middlesex County families in need. The giveaway was part of an effort to raise awareness about the importance of residential carbon monoxide detectors and proposed amendments to the Fire Protection Act, which would require all Ontario homes to have a working carbon monoxide detector.



In Canada, approximately 51 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning each year, with an average of 11 of those deaths happening in Ontario.

“We are thrilled to partner with Adelaide-Metcalfe in their effort to save lives through providing these important safety devices,” said the MLHU’s Dr. Christopher Mackie. “This builds on our earlier efforts in London, where we’ve distributed almost 250 of these devices through our Family Home Visiting Program.”



(Left to right) Dr. Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of the Middlesex-London Health Unit; Pat Simone, Emergency Preparedness Manager with the Health Unit; Adelaide-Metcalfe Fire Chief Arend Noordhof; Denise Dunbar, Manager Middlesex Social Services; and Adelaide-Metcalfe Mayor David Bolton announcing the distribution of 250 free combination Carbon Monoxide/Smoke Detectors at the Adelaide-Metcalfe Fire Department.



THE 2014 FUNDING REPORT

EXPENDITURES 2014

Cost-Shared Public Health Programs:

Mandatory Programs	\$23,631,114
Vector-Borne Diseases	615,956
Small Drinking Water Systems	37,842
CINOT Expansion Program	85,865
Total Cost-Shared Programs	24,370,777

100% Public Health Programs:

Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control	1,166,722
Needle Exchange	234,991
Public Health Nursing Initiatives	548,262
Healthy Babies Healthy Children	2,569,578
Smart Start for Babies	153,263
Enhanced Safe Water Initiative	35,627
Enhanced Food Safety Initiative	80,000
FoodNet	144,664
Other Public Awareness Initiatives	226,022
Panorama Implementation	217,155
Shared Library Services	110,796
Healthy Smiles Ontario	858,924
Dental Treatment Clinic	237,714
Smoke Free Ontario	1,033,844
tykeTALK	1,659,657
Infant Hearing & Screening Program	931,333
Blind Low Vision	160,870
Total Public Health Programs	\$34,740,199

REVENUES 2014

Sources of Funding:

Province of Ontario	\$25,938,491	74.66%
Government of Canada	297,927	0.86%
City of London	6,095,059	17.54%
County of Middlesex	1,160,961	3.34%
Program revenues	1,224,459	3.52%
Reserve Funds	23,302	0.07%
Total Sources of Funding	\$34,740,199	

MIDDLESEX-LONDON BOARD OF HEALTH FUNDING SOURCES

