

ALCOHOL IN ONTARIO'S COMMUNITIES

Our Ask

That municipal governments support their local Public Health Unit and encourage the Provincial Government to:

- Have a provincial alcohol strategy that includes a review and impact analysis based on existing evidence of the health and economic effects of alcohol in Ontario that enhances public education of the negative health impacts of alcohol.

That municipal governments:

- **Develop Municipal Alcohol Policies, planning and implementation of alcohol-related interventions and other policy levers to reduce risk and harm from alcohol.**

Return on Investment



- Significant savings could be achieved through reduced healthcare burden from alcohol-related diseases and death.
- Diseases related to heavy drinking account for at least 40,000 hospital stays each year in Ontario at a cost of \$65,000,000.
- Expenditures attributed to alcohol consumption cost Ontarians an estimated \$1.7 billion in direct health care costs and \$3.6 billion in indirect costs in 2011, for a total of \$5.3 billion.
- It is estimated that law enforcement related to alcohol costs Ontarians \$3.1B yearly.

Background

Health and Social Effects of Alcohol

- The World Health Organization has identified harmful use of alcohol as responsible for 2.3 million deaths worldwide every year, representing 5.9% of all deaths.
- Alcohol is the most commonly used drug among Ontarians and one of the leading causes of death, disease and disability in Ontario.
- Ontario has a significant portion of the population drinking alcohol and exceeding the low risk drinking guidelines.
- There were more hospital admissions in Canada last year for alcohol-related conditions than for heart attacks.
- Harmful alcohol use can lead to an increased risk of health problems - liver diseases, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and other chronic illnesses.
- Broader social implications of harmful alcohol use include injuries, violence, motor vehicle collisions, family disruption, unemployment and workplace accidents.
- Low-alcohol policies can be an effective means of promoting moderate alcohol consumption, support community values, raise awareness of harms, influence community social norms and promote healthier communities.
- Public health practitioners and municipalities work together on reducing alcohol-related harms.
- Policy strategies are needed at all three levels of government.



Association of Local
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STRONG LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Strong Local Public Health

- Ontario’s 444 Municipalities benefit from the many public health programs and services that keep them healthy.
- Under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, municipalities in a health unit are responsible for paying the expenses of the health unit in the performance of its functions and duties that are largely mandated by the province.
- Ontario’s 35 public health units work hard to deliver these essential programs and services to prevent disease and promote health in local communities.
- For more than 180 years, Ontarians have enjoyed a strong public health system that puts local communities and their health at the front and centre.

Other Key Public Health Issues



While we have highlighted the health issue on the reverse as a particularly important topic you should be aware of, there are a host of other broad public health issues that may also affect the overall health in your community. Here are a few:

- Tobacco endgame
- Oral health for adults
- Cannabis
- Opioids
- Mental health
- Alcohol
- Food insecurity

About alPHa



Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

- The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to the boards of health and public health units in Ontario.
- Membership in alPHa is open to the 35 public health units in Ontario and we work closely with board of health members, medical and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers in each of the public health disciplines – nursing, inspections, nutrition, dentistry, health promotion, epidemiology and business administration.
- The Association works with governments, including local government, and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective and efficient public health system in the province.
- Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, alPHa’s members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention, and surveillance services in all of Ontario’s communities.