



2025 Annual Report





Message from the CEO & MOH

The past year tested and affirmed the resilience of the organization. Our health and care at the epicenter of one of the largest measles outbreaks in a generation, respiratory responses, deep expertise, and sustained infection prevention and control efforts spanning teams across the organization. We throughout our service continuity remained strong with little interruption, even as demands increased. The level of performance does not happen by chance – it reflects planning, dedication, agility, and deliberate self-leadership the whole way. We are grateful for the trust, coordination, and commitment of our health system and community partners that sustained us through a challenging year.

The year also was a valuable year for future planning through the launch of our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan. It is a plan shaped by the lessons of recent years and community input, and strengthened by voices of excellence learned in, your feedback, and helped define our priorities. This resulted in

a plan focused on advancing population health, enhancing service excellence, and ensuring organizational resilience as a clear blueprint for the next five years.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Board of Health for its continued confidence in our work, and its support for the vision outlined in the Strategic Plan. Their leadership and insight, from its recognizable health priorities position, were instrumental with clarity and purpose.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on delivering the high-quality programs and services that define Northwestern Public Health. It is a privilege to lead this organization, and to build self-care our next chapter.

Sincerely,

Cynthia R. Jahn
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Mark Tom
Medical Officer of Health



Health Protection

In 2021, GHPP advanced regional disease prevention and protection through respiratory response, immunisation outreach, vector-borne disease control, and various mental health initiatives.

Seasonal respiratory activities continued a priority in 2021, with COVID-19, H1N1 and influenza disease (all seasonal) local activities, through writing specific and community advice. These activities, paired with public health-led vaccine immunizations delivered in the community and through efforts to reduce disease protection throughout the life cycle of activities living in the region.

Disease prevention continued through a program PBC workshops for long-term care, retirement homes, and congregate living settings... as well as the workshop presented during the pandemic. GHPP also continued to a provincial PBC guidance checklist for children settings, in collaboration with Public Health Ontario.

In Environmental Health, GHPP received Health Canada funding to support climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives related to retirement care. Additional local focus on environmental health is on the more proactive work of

public health, including inspections and food safety, reducing water-borne risks, ensuring safe water, and supporting various investigations in the community.

Highlights

- Tills + COVID-19 vaccine clinic advice, based through seasonal clinics (2021-2022)
- Low vaccination clinic outreach conducted in 2021 included vaccinated women & participating community clinics (St. Michael's, St. Lawrence) (St. Lawrence)
- Oxford County drinking water testing under 5,000 L class, 100% engagement, and 20 post interventions
- Home-based control as bedside monitoring of 100 multiple care facilities across multiple municipalities
- Multiple municipal responses targeted, several outreach since PPH implementation, with GHPP supporting Ontario's highest ever count
- Infection prevention workshops delivered in September 2021 (for important reasons after all-year travel)



Outbreak in the community

In October 2020, measles began spreading rapidly across Ontario, resulting in one of the largest outbreaks in over three decades. By May 2021, COPIH reported 108

cases—mostly among unvaccinated children and youth.

COPIH responded quickly, expanding vaccination, adding vaccine clinics, raising awareness,

partnering with health and media organizations, and engaging affected groups. Staff helped residents access vaccine providers, set up group and individual vaccine clinics and children's centres. Clear communication and guidance led to increased access to vaccination services. Throughout the crisis, COPIH maintained essential services, showing its ability to work effectively and efficiently





Healthy Foundations

Community well-being was prioritized in 2020 through coordinated programming: early years and family supports, oral health, emergency management, and mental health.

Families accessed breastfeeding, parental, and parenting supports, including in-home home visits through Healthy Start's Healthy Children (HHC) and the Home Family Partnership services. The expansion also launched HHC, an evidence-based program supporting women effectively address partner violence, while oral health services expanded prevention and access for school-aged children and adult dentures.

Foundational public health and continued strong through staff emergency preparedness and response training, data informed planning and reporting, and local access that aim to reduce disease transmission for a healthy community for all.

Highlights

- 681 breastfeeding support requests (581 phone calls, 100 home visits, 100 staff time)

- 1000 and 600 phone lines, 600 calls
- Parent programming: 275 registrations, parenting programs: 80 participants
- HHC: 2,000 home visits
- Home Family Partnership (HFP): 100 clients, 26 clients enrolled, 60 HFP visits, 100 HHC visits, 100 program partners (60 HFP)
- Oral Health (2020/2021): 1,000 students screened, various programs: 1,000 appointments for HFP unique clients (60 d)
- Health promotion: 10,700 home and visits, 175 website hit visits
- Emergency management: HHC, staff, community HHC, 600
- Sexual Health (2020 continued cases): 601 chlamydia, 57 gonorrhea, 37 hepatitis C, 18 syphilis, 4 HIV
- Healthy Springs Program: 1,000 clients interacting, 600 calls, 1000 staff time, education visits





**"I feel like I can breathe for the first time. I am so proud of myself."
— IHEAL participant**

IHEAL: Empowering through safety

CEPH, in collaboration with Women University and Illinois London Health Unit, launched IHEAL in September 2021. IHEAL is a community-based, trauma-informed program for women who have experienced abuse from a current or former partner. The program responds to the long-term health, safety, and well-being impacts of intimate partner violence by pairing self-participants with a public health nurse who offers not only individual, confidential support in a safe location chosen by the participant, but also offers more than two decades of research by more researchers at Women University in partnership with the University of British Columbia and the University of New Brunswick. IHEAL is designed to close gaps in long-term supports, particularly for women living in rural communities.

In 2021, the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services provided funding to support implementation in this region, enabling IHEAL to be offered through CEPH, expanding access to other health care providers for women across Elgin County, Oxford County, and the City of Thames.

Women meet weekly or every other week for six months and set their own priorities, which may include strengthening safety, improving physical and mental health, rebuilding social connections, accessing legal resources, and supporting personal growth.

Over 90% of women who have completed IHEAL recommend the program to others.





Healthy Communities

SDPH provided health equity and prevention by strengthening organizational frameworks, expanding school-based supports, and partnering with municipalities to create healthier community environments.

By partnering an organization with Health Equity Framework compliance an Equity Initiative Framework, SDPH can better track disparities in health outcomes and guide action to overcome across barriers. It allows programs to be designed to priority populations using a proportionate universal approach for students with the greatest needs receive the greatest support, alongside internal mental health literacy through that reinforced staff capacity.

Especially an urban/developmental Age-Friendly Community recognition in Ego-In Thomas established and supports an healthy safe public spaces through Municipal Health Policy (MHP) expansion. We also launched Planet Health as a community prevention system, establishing local coalitions and conducting a baseline survey of Grade 4-5th students to inform Year 1 activities across the family, school, peer, and leisure domains.

Compliance and enforcement activities further supported safe environments for youth, including school-based clinical services and inspections of school/neighborhood facilities to reduce illegal access.

Highlights

- 1. Southwestern Public Health completed 100 youth access inspections in 2021, including 100 tobacco and 100 vape access inspections.
- 2. Only 10 inspections (10%) resulted in failures, meaning 90% of studies successfully complied with youth access requirements.
- 3. Of the 10 failures identified, 10 resulted in warnings and 1 resulted in charges.
- 4. Tobacco retailer inspections had a 95% mandatory youth access compliance rate, while vape retailer compliance achieved 91.6%.
- 5. In addition to youth access checks, the Tobacco Control Programs completed 100 Display, Promotion, and Handling (DPH) inspections.

Healthy Schools Certification

Each year, SDPH works with local schools and school health partners to advance the health and well-being of individuals within the school community. Part of the work includes an annual submission to the Healthy Schools Certification through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention (NCHADS), a nationally-recognized program that promotes and advances the health and well-being of students, school staff, and the broader school community.

A commitment to advance the SDPH report was honored with the Healthy Schools Certification for 2024-2025, which included 7 schools within the Thomas Valley School District (TVSD) in partnership with TVSD. SDPH initiated a comprehensive communication strategy to recognize these achievements, including in-person celebratory events at each of the awarded schools, media relations activities with local journalists, and social media content.

The goal of this work was to reinforce the ongoing partnership between SDPH and TVSD to advance well-being in schools, while encouraging the local community and supporting staff to understand our shared vision for healthier schools, communities in Elbert County, Colorado County, and the City of St. Thomas.



Corporate Services & Finance

Operational resilience was a focus in 2023 through investments in people, refinement of core support systems, and various facility operations and national security. Top-level staff and training investments support business resilience through periods of high demand while building the capacity needed to meet evolving public health requirements.

Membership and training opportunities were enhanced, public health response practices honed, and personnel enhanced with certified inspectors, building a practical, resilient workforce. These students supported facilities

such as their filer mapping activities and health water monitoring, while expanding coaching opportunities for existing staff.

Staff training and standardized processes addressed management priorities – from cyber and privacy threats, to artificial intelligence applications, to media operational risks. These efforts improved operational awareness throughout the year, with lessons applied when responding to media during the measles outbreak, and in promoting COVID-19 effectiveness and ongoing cyber threats regionally.



2025 Financial Report

Revenue

Local Tax Revenue	\$1,122,420
State Grants & Health Services Building Program	\$175,000
Other	\$52,500
County of Elgin	\$1,350,000
County of DeKalb	\$4,150,000
Other Programs	\$100,000
Interest	\$100,000
Other Investments	\$100,000
Fees	\$100,000
Provisional Revenue	\$14,000,000
Total Revenue	\$16,000,000



Expenses

Cost shared general programs and services	\$45,000,000
Other	-
Other Countywide Initiatives/Programs	\$1,250,000
Other programs & non-fund expenditures	\$4,750,000
Total Expenses	\$47,000,000



Click here for our [full Financial Statements and Budgets](#).



16, Broadway Ave
Suite 2000
Portland, OR
97201-3007

16000 NE
Broadway Ave
Suite 2000
Portland, OR
97232

1-800-542-2009
southwestph.org

