

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Providing Leadership in
Public Health Management

alPHa

Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

www.alphaweb.org

A BUSINESS CASE FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health champions health for all. Local public health agencies provide programs and services that promote well-being, prevent disease and injury, and protect population health. Our work, often done in collaboration with local partners and within the broader public health system, results in a healthier population and avoids drawing on costly and scarce health care resources.

OUR ASK

We are asking decision makers for their support for the goals and objectives of public health, with sustained and sufficient resources to ensure stability for Ontario's locally-based network of public health agencies.

Local public health remains essential to the province's population health and the associated economic prosperity.

Local public health supports the Ontario government in its goals to be efficient, effective, and provide value for money.

INVESTMENT IN LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Investment in local public health includes the following returns:



REDUCED HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS:

Public health measures such as **vaccination, case and contact management, outbreak response, community infection control measures** reduced hospitalizations by 13 times during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local public health is also central to responding to new infectious disease risks such as MPOX, reemerging pathogens like poliomyelitis and tuberculosis, and the return of annual seasonal epidemics such as influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).



SAFE COMMUNITIES:

Local public health protects our communities by working with municipalities to provide **safe water, safe food, and emergency preparedness and response.**



HEALTHY CHILDREN:

Local public health protects children through **promotion of healthy growth and development, vaccination, dental screening, and school health.**



Population
Health
Assessment



Health
Equity



Effective Public
Health Practice



Emergency
Management



Chronic Disease
Prevention and
Well-Being



Food
Safety



Healthy
Environments

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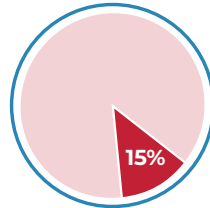
FUNDING

Local public health requires sufficient and sustainable base funding from the provincial government.

The end of mitigation funding (\$46.8M) from the province would equal a **loss** to the overall funding of local public health programs.

A return to the previous **provincial-municipal** cost-sharing formula for all programs and services would help to offset this loss.

PUBLIC HEALTH LEADS TO HEALTH CARE SAVINGS



Health promotion and **disease prevention** are mandated roles for local public health agencies. In doing this, they also work with the Ministry of Health and key stakeholders in addressing chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

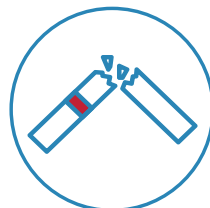
HEALTH INEQUITIES DUE TO SOCIOECONOMIC POSITION CONTRIBUTED \$60.7B = 15% OF ALL HEALTH CARE COSTS.

Smoking, alcohol, diet and **physical activity** improvements could prevent \$89B in health care costs = 22% of all health care costs over 10 years.



Alcohol use is another major contributor to health care and societal cost. It is estimated that alcohol use costs the Ontario economy \$5.3B in health care, law enforcement, corrections, prevention, lost productivity and premature mortality.

It is estimated that **diabetes** in Canada cost the health care system \$15.36 billion over a 10 year period, affecting nearly 10% of the population.



Promotion of **tobacco cessation** and **tobacco control** reduced health care costs by 1.7% overall = \$4.2B saved over 10 years.



COVID-19 RECOVERY

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, local public health has been working hard to put back in place its full range of programs, with progress being made on its recovery priorities (Public Health Resilience), and responding to seasonal respiratory viruses.



Healthy Growth and Development



Immunization



Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control



Oral Health



Safe Water



School Health



Substance Use and Injury Prevention