

# 2021 Annual Report

# A word from our Medical Officer of Health

As Public Health continues to battle the fifth pandemic wave with Omicron, it seems to me that we might never again have the luxury of viewing the world without the shadow of the pandemic looming over us. Like Alice, we have stepped through the looking glass and nothing is the same as it was. I suspect that things were comparable over a century ago, after the Spanish influenza pandemic. Somehow the memory of that gradually slipped from the forefront of public consciousness. Some historians think that the 1920's roared because people threw off the mental shackles of the first world war and the pandemic. I certainly hope that this can happen again!

The biggest challenge in fighting COVID-19 has not been lack of resources, it has been disinformation and public skepticism over vaccination. Social media generates income based on mouse clicks, regardless of the veracity of what is clicked upon. Promotion of unscientific information has resulted in public confusion and vaccine hesitancy. We have seen scientific and medical expertise be eclipsed by unscientific opinion and even nonsense. It will take a concerted effort by educators and media to reinforce the necessity of relying upon the judgements of qualified scientific and medical experts, rather than unscientific opinions and speculations. Public Health will be leading that campaign, every step of the way.

Yours in health,

*Dr. Colby*

**Dr. David Colby, Chaham-Kent Medical Officer of Health**

# Chatham-Kent Board of Health

Councillor Joe Faas, Board Chair

Councillor Brock McGregor, Board Vice-Chair

Councillor Karen Kirkwood-Whyte

Councillor Carmen McGregor

Noreen Blake

Joshua Caron

Michael Genge

Magdiel Hoste

When the pandemic was declared in Spring of 2020, it felt as if a downpour had begun. In more ways than one, the COVID-19 vaccine was the “sun” that had long been awaited by the community of Chatham-Kent. Being able to witness, first hand, the efforts that CK Public Health put into the vaccine roll out – from the extensive planning to the operating, and all of the functions it took to support such an effort- was incredible. To witness the CK Public Health staff, volunteers, and the community at large come together was inspiring. I was proud.

My hat goes off to the CK Public Health staff, who while dedicating themselves to the emergent response of the COVID-19 pandemic, were still able to keep so many important and necessary programs and services running. Providing prenatal care, continuing the student nutrition program and focusing efforts on harm reduction all while responding to a vast number of environmental health concerns, complaints and calls for service -- that is just a snippet of what this organization was responsible for, day in and day out.

I have said it before and I have no doubt that I will say it again, the community of Chatham-Kent is very fortunate to have CK Public Health and I look forward to stepping into brighter days with this organization by all of our side.

Councillor Joe Faas, Board of Health Chair

# Emergency Management

**3,225** COVID-19 cases (probable and confirmed), along with their identified contacts, managed by CK Public Health

Over **10,000** case contacts were identified and monitored

**84** outbreaks managed and resolved by CK Public Health:

7 in community settings

7 in hospital

10 in long term care & retirement homes

6 in other congregate settings

32 in schools

22 in workplaces

"In more ways than one, the COVID-19 vaccine was the "sun" that had long been awaited by the community of Chatham-Kent" - Joe Faas, CK Board of Health Chair

**164,015**

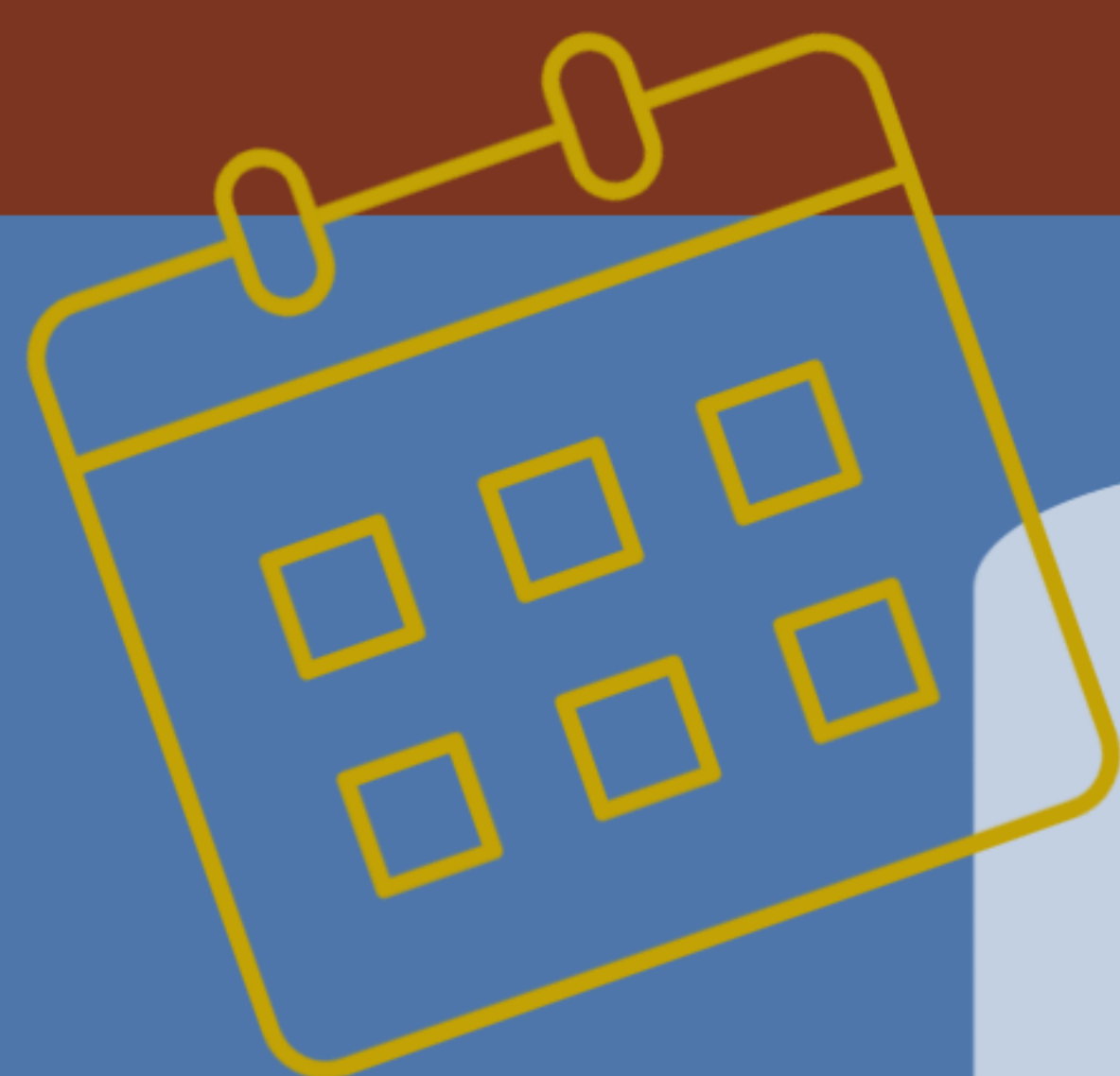
COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered from CK Public Health inventory (all channels including mass, mobile, in-hospital and primary-care hosted immunization clinics)

1st Dose: 84,500

2nd Dose: 79,500

3rd Dose: 34,000

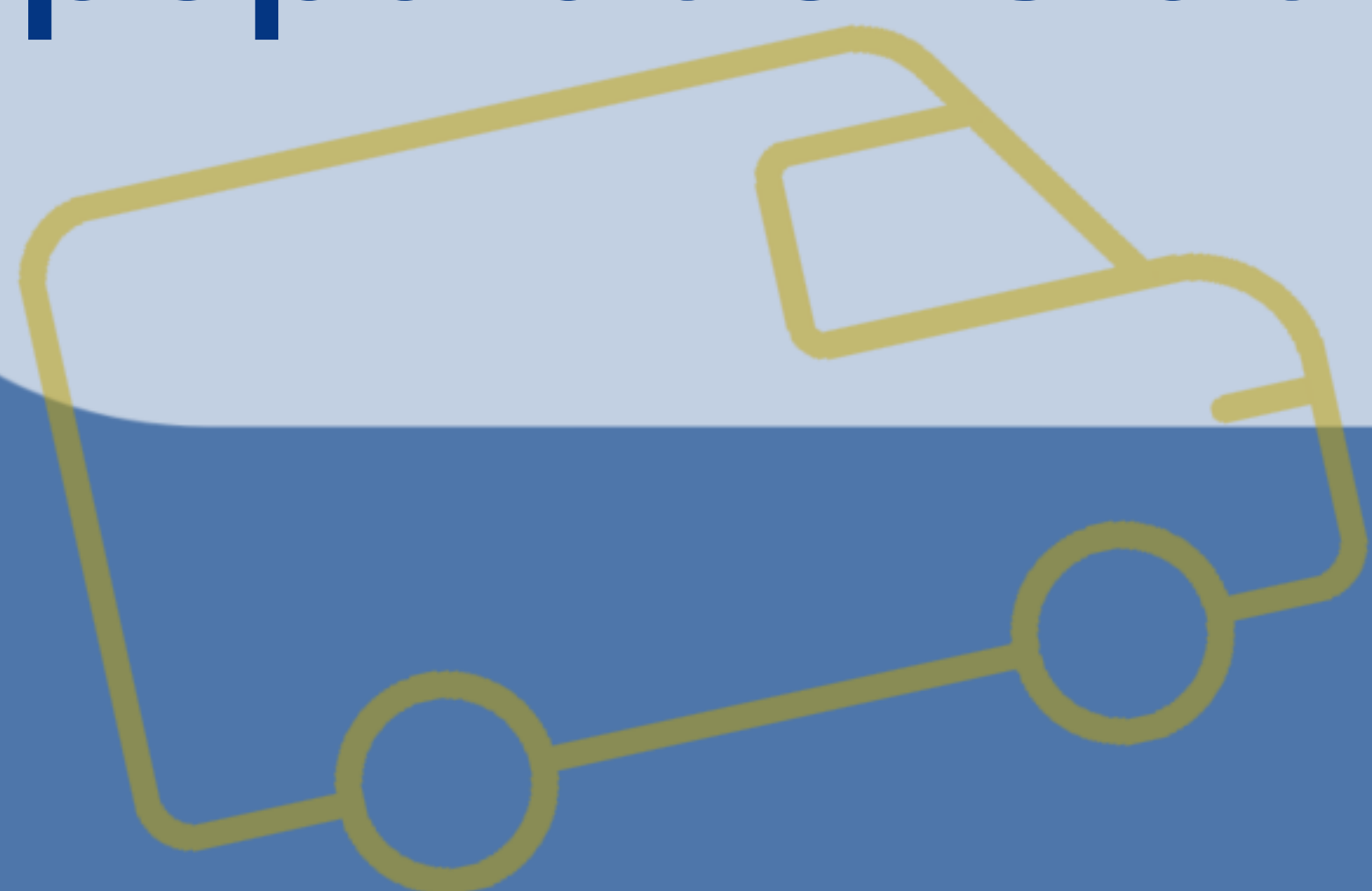
# Vaccine Rollout & Support



The COVID-19 vaccine was administered on **250** days of the 2021 calendar year.

CK Public Health clinics were held at over **30** different locations across Chatham-Kent including the Bradley Centre Clinic, schools, recreation centres, service agencies and workplaces.

Mobile and outreach teams served homebound and hospitalized residents, congregate living settings (long-term care, retirement, group homes, shelter populations, temporary foreign agricultural workers), and other priority populations at additional locations throughout CK.



## Key Vaccine Resources Developed

Vaccine Communications Toolkit  
Workplace Vaccination Policy Support  
Child Vaccination Guide and Social Story



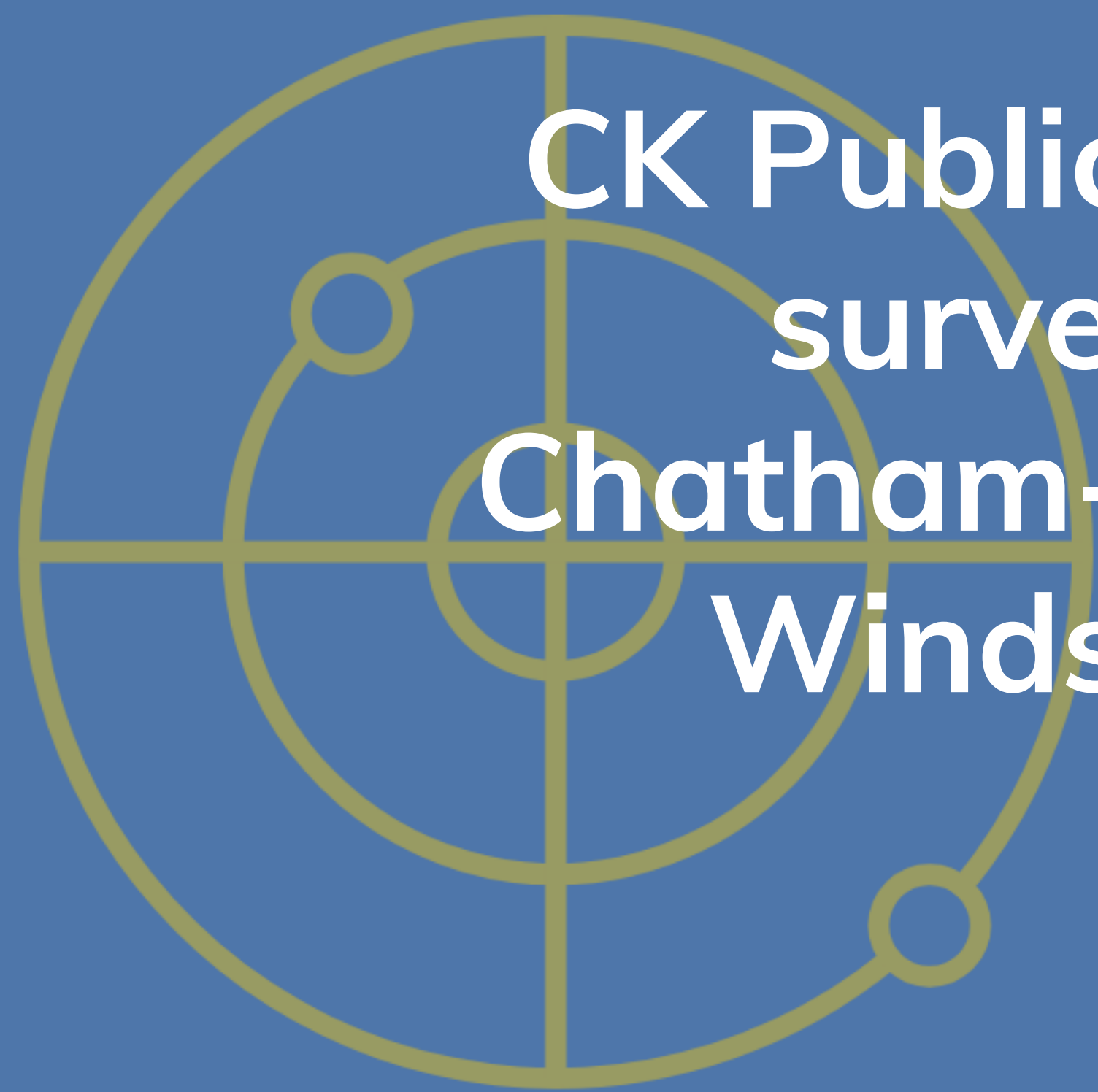
# Surveillance, Communication, Health Equity & Health Promotion



**556,859** unique site visitors

**2,007,654** site visitors

**3,966,206** page views



CK Public Health initiated wastewater sampling for COVID-19 surveillance in the city of Chatham, in partnership with Chatham-Kent Public Utilities Commission and the University of Windsor. Plans were underway by the end of the year to expand this surveillance to Wallaceburg.

**Local COVID-19 surveillance information updated on the website every weekday**



**Followers: 4999 to 6611 (32% increase)**

**Reach: 1 693 078**



**Followers: 1874 to 2034 (8% increase)**

**Reach: 183 252**



**Reach: 3 443 300**

CK Public Health led the development of recommendations to Municipal Council to address the human and social impacts of COVID-19. Council endorsed that the Municipality would continue to strengthen key social determinants of health and work to establish a diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy.



# Healthy Growth & Development

**116** parents participated in online prenatal care

**615** breastfeeding consultations took place

**257** new clients were registered

**94** expectant mothers and their families were served by CK  
Public Health Dietitians

"A new partnership with Sarah's Farm Market allowed us to provide our families with local vegetable and fruit boxes several times throughout the year, increasing access and availability. "

## Healthy Environments

**1244** public health inspections performed

**352** animal exposure investigations

**639** complaints and requests for service

**68** ticks brought in for identification

**3** regular heat warnings and **3** extended heat warnings were issued

**2** mosquito pools that tested positive for West Nile virus

**125** homes participated in Health Canada's Take Action Against  
Radon 100 test kit challenge

# Sexual Health and Communicable Diseases

**360** sexually transmitted or bloodborne infections among CK residents reported to and managed by CK Public Health

**75** other reports of infectious diseases among CK residents (enteric, food & waterborne, vectorborne, and other diseases of public health significance)

## Chronic Disease & Wellbeing

The Chatham-Kent Student Nutrition Program served over **9000** students, across **36** different schools and serving over **1.5** million meals

## Harm Reduction

~**400** naloxone kits distributed to clients at risk of drug poisoning and their peers

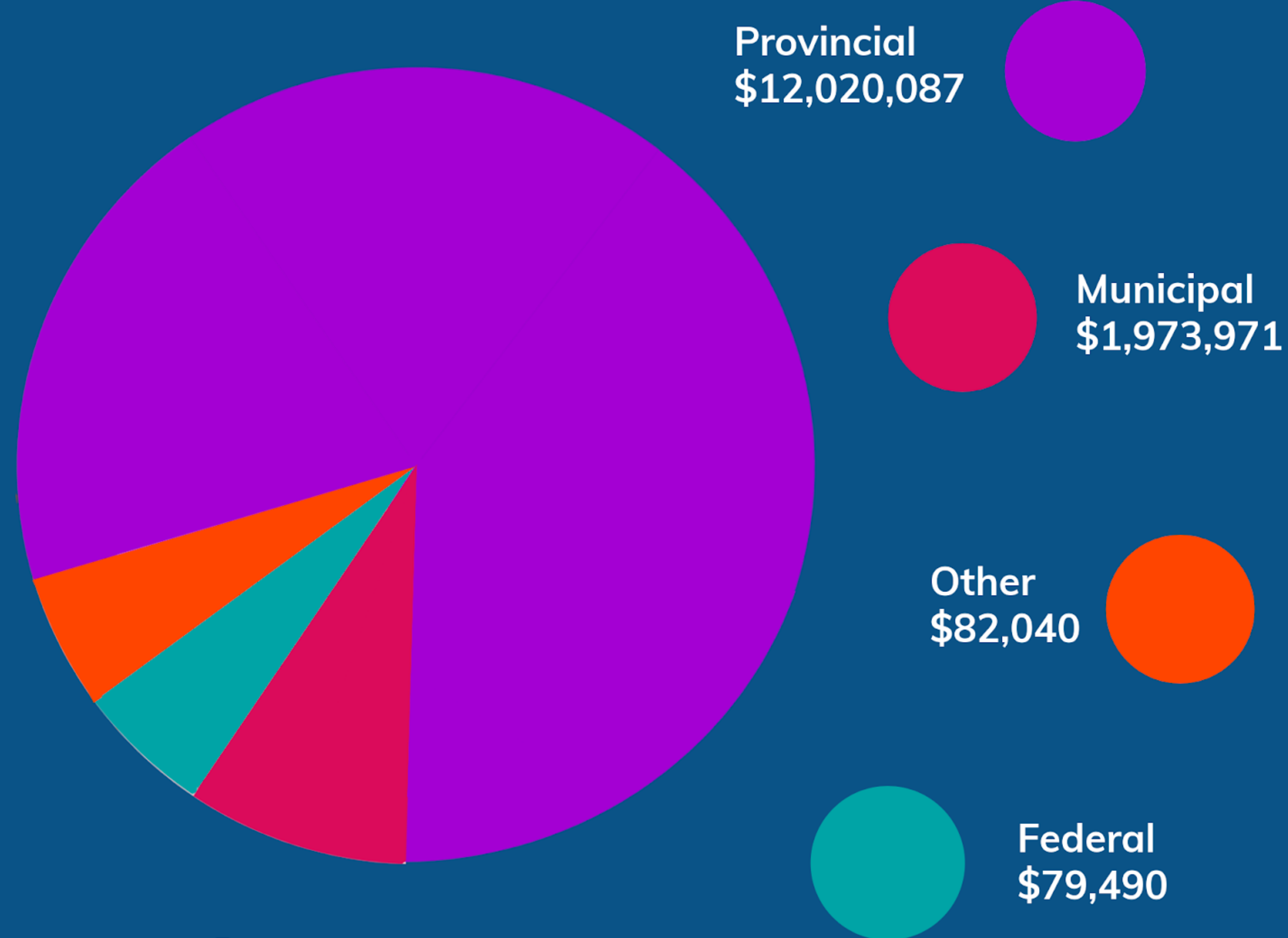
Ongoing opioid surveillance, with monthly surveillance summaries and regular alerts sent out regarding increased local risk of drug poisoning

The number of opioid-related deaths continued to be elevated in 2021, with **15** confirmed deaths in Chatham-Kent



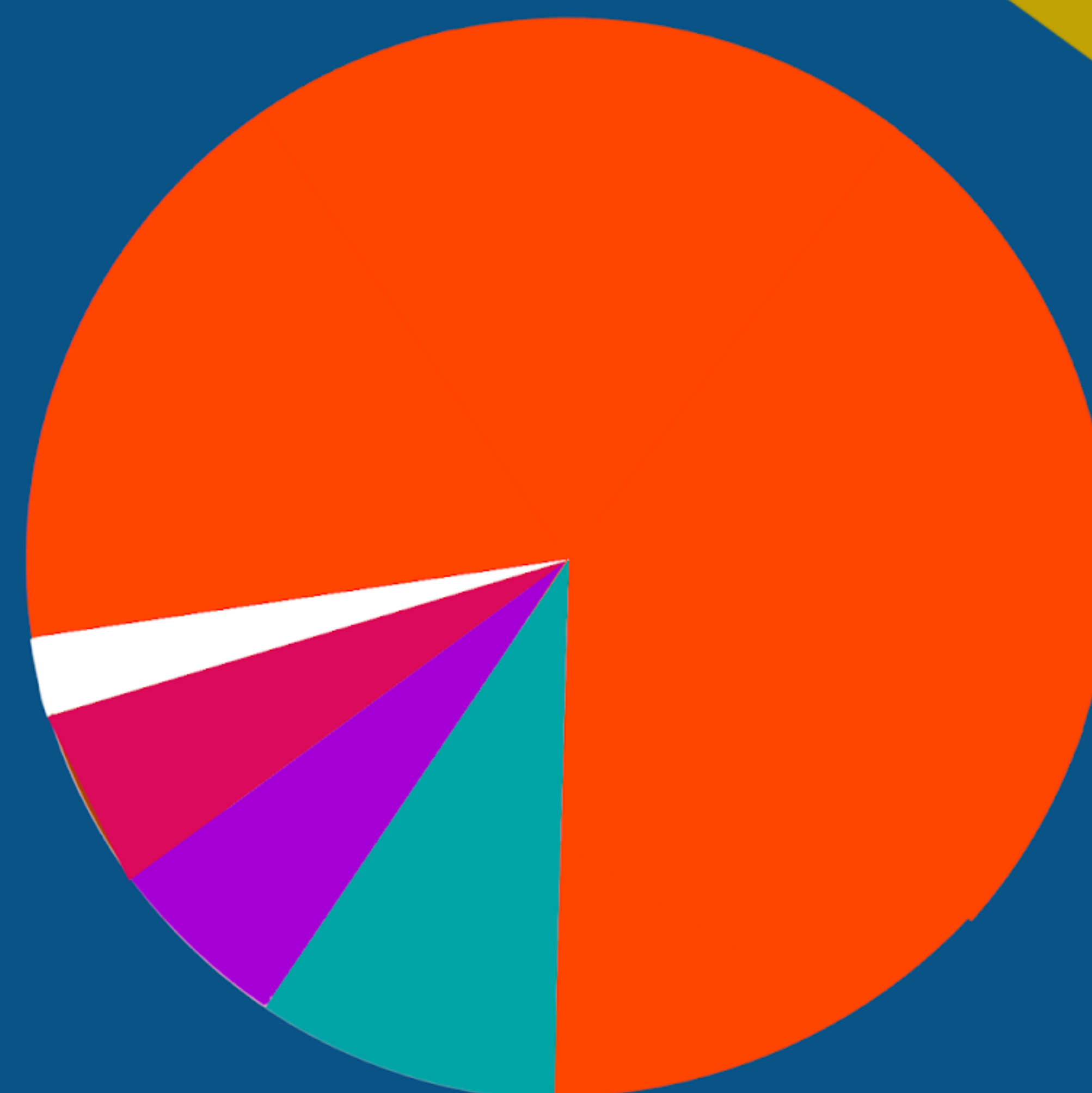
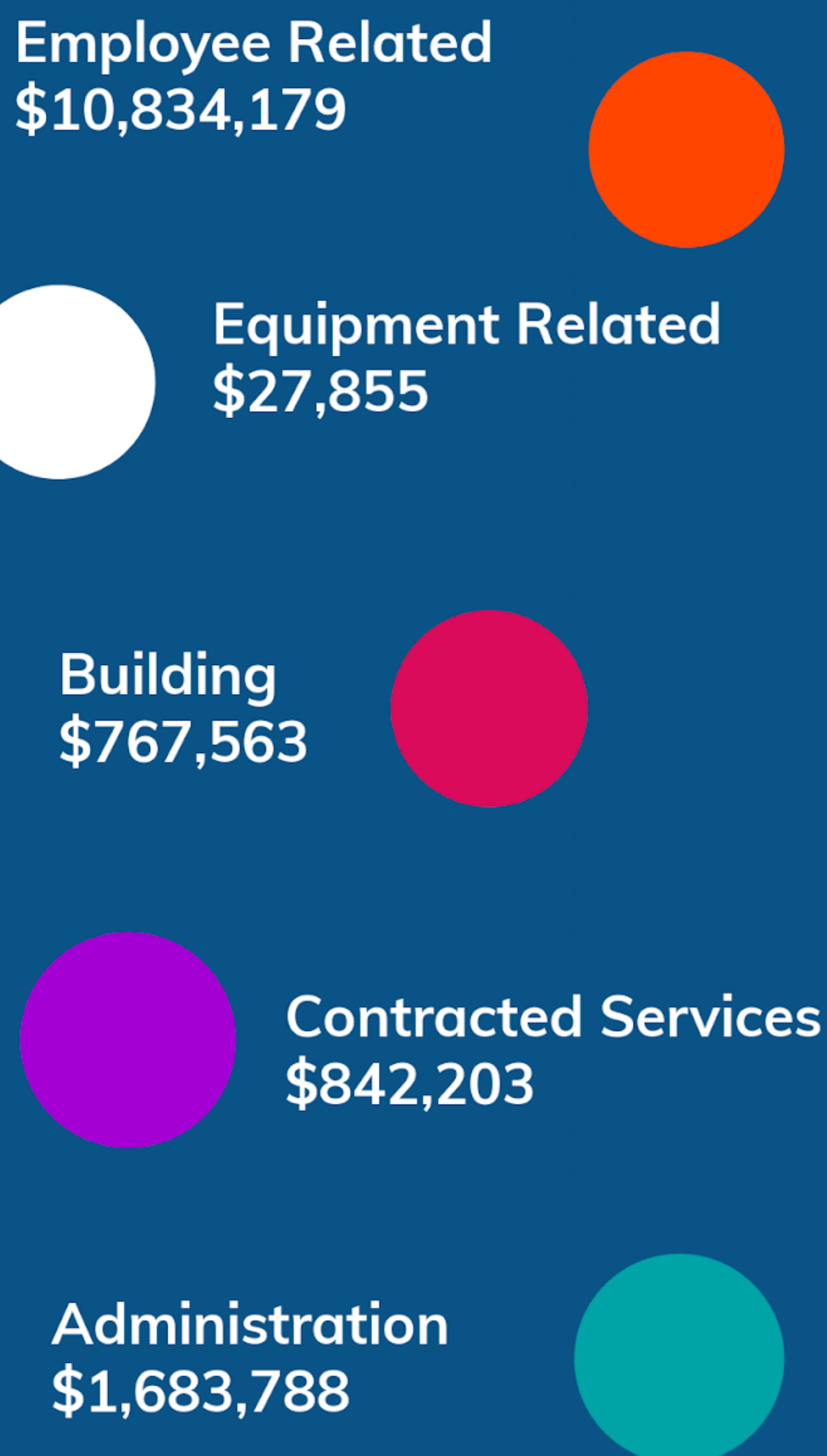
# 2021 Financials

## Funding



**Total**  
**\$14,155,588**

## Expenses



**Total**  
**\$14,155,588**



**CK Public Health dedicates this report to our Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Colby. Our organization and the community it serves is better because of his knowledge, passion and guidance over this year and so many before it.**