

# Annual 2022 Report

R E C O V E R

#WeAreCKPublicHealth



# A Message from Leadership

It has been an honour to continue to serve the residents of Chatham-Kent as Medical Officer of Health through 2022, and will do so to the best of my ability until a new Medical Officer of Health is secured.

2022 differed greatly from both 2020 and 2021, as CK Public Health staff were able to turn some of their focus away from COVID-19 to other duties. Balancing ongoing COVID-19 response activities while resuming those efforts was no easy task, but the performance of our health unit has been extraordinary.

As we move cautiously towards pandemic recovery mode, it is imperative that we respect the advice of legitimate health authorities. During the pandemic we saw the proliferation of uninformed opinion, especially through social media. I encourage Chatham-Kent residents to put their trust in experts in the fields of public health, medical microbiology and infectious diseases who have dedicated their careers to the research, practices and interventions that promote and protect the health our society.

In Health,

**Dr. David Colby**

**(Acting) Chatham-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 I reflect on 2022, my last year as the Chatham-Kent Board of Health Chair, and what it meant for our local public health unit, a few words come to mind. Recovery, of course, but also Revival, Resurgence, Reconnection, and Renewal. Life was brought back into programs and services that had slowed, stalled or stopped altogether during the COVID-19 response. Slowly, but surely, they have begun to resemble what they once were “pre-pandemic”.

The outstanding ability of the CK Public Health team to pick up the pieces, juggle both new and existing responsibilities, and even start from scratch in many instances, was admirable – to say the very least. We have often referred to the years of the pandemic as “the storm” and if that truth remains, then 2022 should stand as the year where we first were able to see the sun break through the clouds. While much of our work was, and still is focused on the steady waves around our boat, signs of “smoother sailing ahead” have surely begun to appear.

The 2022 annual report identifies many quantitative and qualitative highlights from the year that would not have been possible without the devoted, resilient professionals that make up CK Public Health staff. Although my official time spent serving on the Chatham-Kent Board of Health has ended, I so much look forward to the years ahead and to be an active supporter as they strive to meet the needs and protect the health of Chatham-Kent residents. It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside the CK Public Health staff and my fellow Board of Health members.

One last time,  
**Councillor Joe Faas**  
**Chair, Chatham-Kent Board of Health**





# Healthy Environments



In 2022, CK Public Health expanded local tick and Lyme disease surveillance efforts in targeted areas. Staff performed active tick surveillance in Rondeau Provincial Park and worked with Park staff to collect ticks from the local deer population in order to update our data on Lyme disease prevalence in the tick population of our known Lyme disease risk area. The Healthy Environments team continued to accept ticks from members of the public as part of our passive surveillance program. The data from these activities provides us with new potential spread areas to monitor for Lyme disease, allows us to communicate risk more accurately to the public, and provides local health care providers with better information to inform treatment.

Chatham-Kent Public Health Inspectors completed **1125** food safety inspections. This includes **280** high risk inspections, **623** moderate risk inspections, and **222** low risk inspections.

**169** individuals received food safety certification through our food handler training program.

**371** animal exposures were investigated as part of our rabies control program.



# Dental



The dental program returned to some regular school-based programs in the Fall of 2022. The team began their screening program in schools across Chatham-Kent, performing oral health screening checks for students in **JK, SK, Grades 1 through 4, and Grade 8**. Through this program, oral health needs, such as dental decay, are identified and assistance is provided for access to treatment.

The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program began to ramp up. This is a government-funded dental care program delivered by CK Public Health. The program provides free, routine dental services for low-income seniors who are 65 years of age or older. There are over **450** seniors enrolled in the program.

# School Health



CK Public Health was excited to return to school-based programs in 2022. Much of the focus for the School Health team was immunization catch up. This included offering community-based clinics for school-age children throughout the community, and the return to school-based immunization clinics in the fall. CK Public Health provided over **4,500** immunizations in over **30** schools across Chatham-Kent throughout the fall.



# Chronic Disease & Wellbeing



The Chronic Disease & Wellbeing team encompasses a number of programs and services across a wide range of public health topics. Many of these programs and services, that were paused due to the pandemic, were revived in 2022.

Staff hit the ground running on the road to recovery, and continued their efforts to support Chatham-Kent community partners and residents.

**1,805** naloxone kits were distributed to community organizations through the Ontario Naloxone Program and clients at risk of drug poisoning

**7** naloxone education sessions were hosted across CK

The Chatham-Kent Student Nutrition Program served **10,327** students across **44** different schools, providing over **1 million** meals

**1,975** students participated in vaping prevention education sessions

**26** cessation interventions were provided to youth and young adults

**216** community program leaders trained as part of the Physical Literacy Chatham-Kent project.



# Healthy Growth & Development



The Healthy Growth and Development Team works alongside individuals and families from across Chatham-Kent, encouraging them during pregnancy and helping them to be as prepared and as healthy as possible leading up to the birth of a child. The team provides programs and services that support healthy child development while building parenting skills.

**116** parents participated in online prenatal classes

**110** participants took part in our Building Healthy Babies program (Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program) with our Registered Dietitian, Outreach Worker, Public Health Nurses and Community Partners

**713** breastfeeding consultations took place

**100%** of postpartum screens completed against number of live births for families in the Chatham-Kent area.

**83%** of postpartum families identified with risk who receive contact from the health unit within 48 hours of discharge from hospital by a Public Health Nurse



# Infectious Disease & Emergency Management



Throughout 2022, the Infectious Disease & Emergency Management Team lead the public health response to COVID-19. Their efforts to support the community extended beyond the pandemic, continuing to respond to the needs of Chatham-Kent residents in the areas of sexual health and harm reduction.

**6,487** COVID-19 cases (probable and confirmed) along with their identified contacts, were managed by CK Public Health

**37,460** COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered from CK Public Health inventory (all channels included mass, mobile, in-hospital and primary care hosted immunization clinics)

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

**55** other reports of infectious diseases among CK residents (enteric, food and waterborne, vector borne, and other diseases of public health significance)

**235** new clients accessed the Needle Syringe Program



# Foundational Standards



In 2022 the Foundational Standards team continued to support COVID surveillance and reporting, vaccine planning and communication. The team also supported the development of a Recovery Strategy Framework to underpin the key work to be done in moving CK Public Health towards pandemic recovery. The framework focused on staff wellness, organizational effectiveness, effective public health practice, partnerships and emergency management. Key initiatives included internal communication and policy development; review of emergency management response; development and initiation of an internal health equity action plan; development of guidance and resources to support program review and planning; and starting the development of a new strategic plan for the organization. Assessment and evaluation work was focused in the area of substance use to support local programming and strategy development.

**101** COVID-19 Current Situation Summaries were reported in 2022

CK Public Health's social media audiences continued to grow over 2022, with increases to followers across the 3 main platforms: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

CK Public Health's Facebook following grew by **16%**



**147, 645** new users visited to the CK Public Health website in 2022

[www.CKPublicHealth.com](http://www.CKPublicHealth.com)



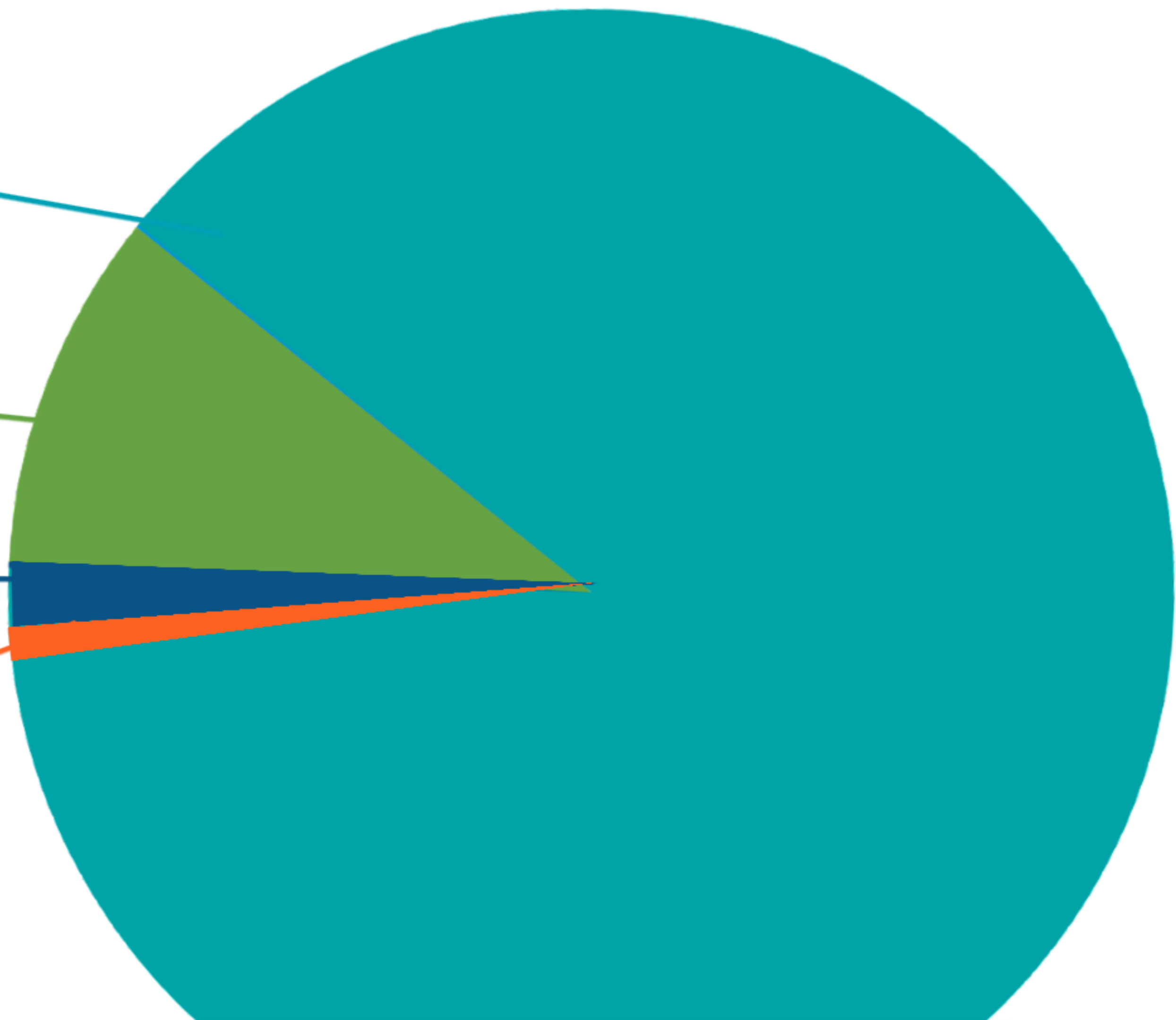
# Financials

Provincial: 11, 277, 825

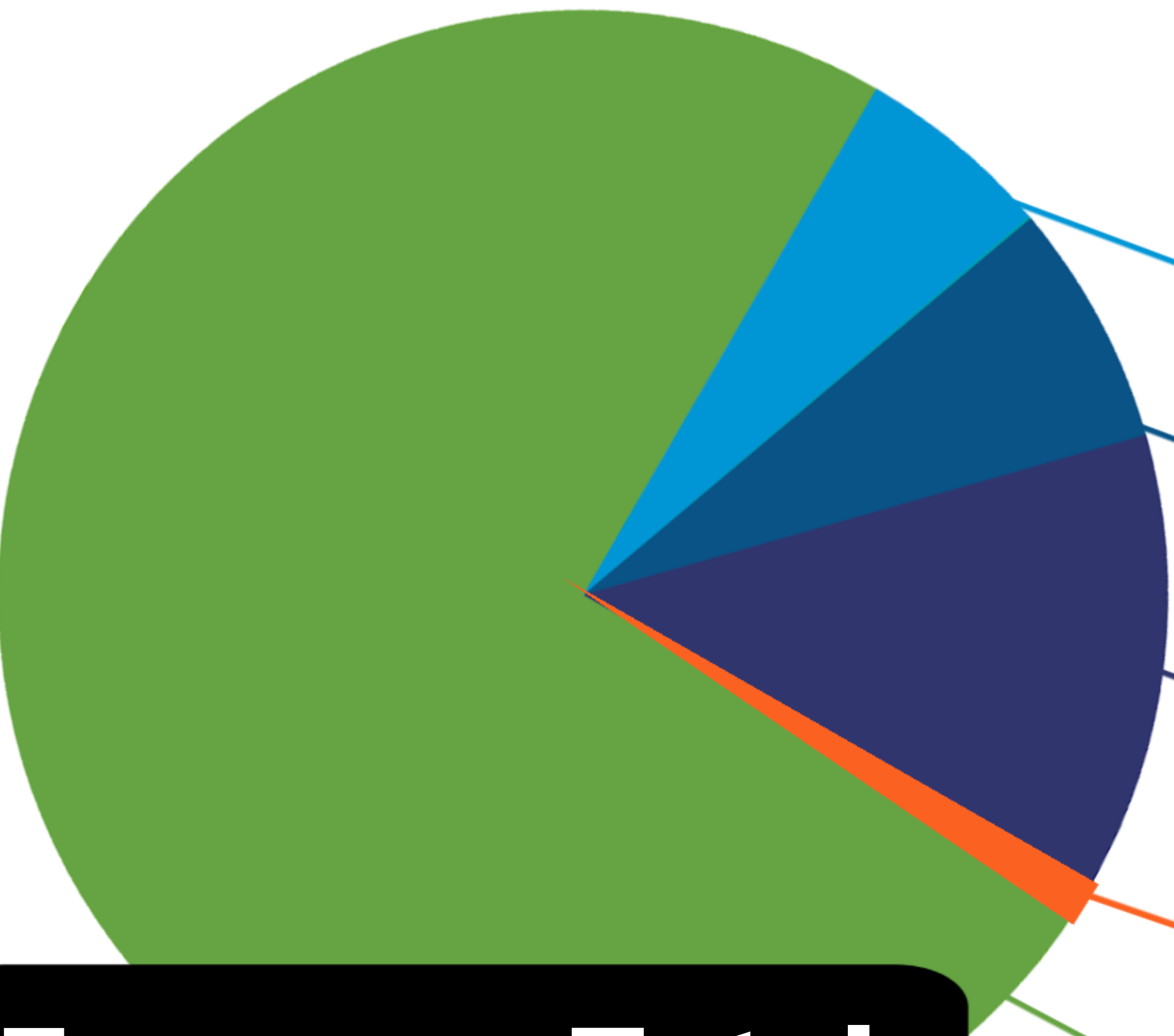
Municipal: 1, 981, 080

Other: 195, 486

Federal: 90, 095



**Funding Total:**  
**13,544,486**



**Expenses Total:**  
**13,544,486**

Building: 737,714

Contracted Services: 910,485

Administrative: 1, 708, 154

Equipment Related: 8,681

Employee Related: 10, 179, 452

## Office Locations

### Main Office

435 Grand Ave W  
Chatham, ON

519-352-7270

### Clinic Services

177 King Street E  
Chatham, ON

519-355-1071

### Dental Clinic

519 King Street W (Unit 1)  
Chatham, ON

519-355-1071