

A group of people, mostly seen from behind, are wearing blue shirts and forming a large heart shape with their hands raised. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue rectangle that contains the title text.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

a message from the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

The 2023 annual report showcases the incredible achievements of each team within CK Public Health, highlighting the hard work and dedication of our staff in promoting and protecting the health of our community. From innovative programs to impactful initiatives, our team has truly made a difference in the lives of the residents of Chatham-Kent.

In this upcoming year, we remain committed to advancing the health of the community. Our focus continues to be on promoting health equity, addressing social determinants of health, and enhancing our capacity to respond to emerging public health threats. We are committed to fostering partnerships with community organizations, local businesses, and government agencies to create a healthier and more resilient Chatham-Kent.

As we navigate the challenges and opportunities of the coming year, I am confident that CK Public Health will continue to be a trusted source of information, support, and guidance for our community. Together, we can work towards a healthier future for Chatham-Kent.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

Dr Shanker Nesathurai, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Acting Medical Officer of Health



a message from the

BOARD OF HEALTH CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Health, it is my privilege to share the 2023 Annual Report for CK Public Health.

In 2023, the CK Public Health team achieved remarkable milestones and made significant contributions, many of which are highlighted throughout this report. Through innovative programs, outreach initiatives, and collaborative efforts with local community partners, CK Public Health made a positive impact on the health outcomes of individuals and families across Chatham-Kent.

As I look towards the future, I am filled with optimism and excitement for what lies ahead in 2024. CK Public Health remains committed to their mission of promoting and protecting the health of all residents in our community while continuing to adapt to evolving public health challenges, advocating for evidence-based policies, and striving for excellence in all aspects of work.

I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff and community partners for their unwavering support and commitment to the mission of CK Public Health. Together, we will continue to build a healthier, more resilient community for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued trust in CK Public Health.

Sincerely,

Councillor Brock McGregor
Chair, Chatham-Kent Board of Health



CK Public Health

BOARD OF HEALTH

2023 - 2024

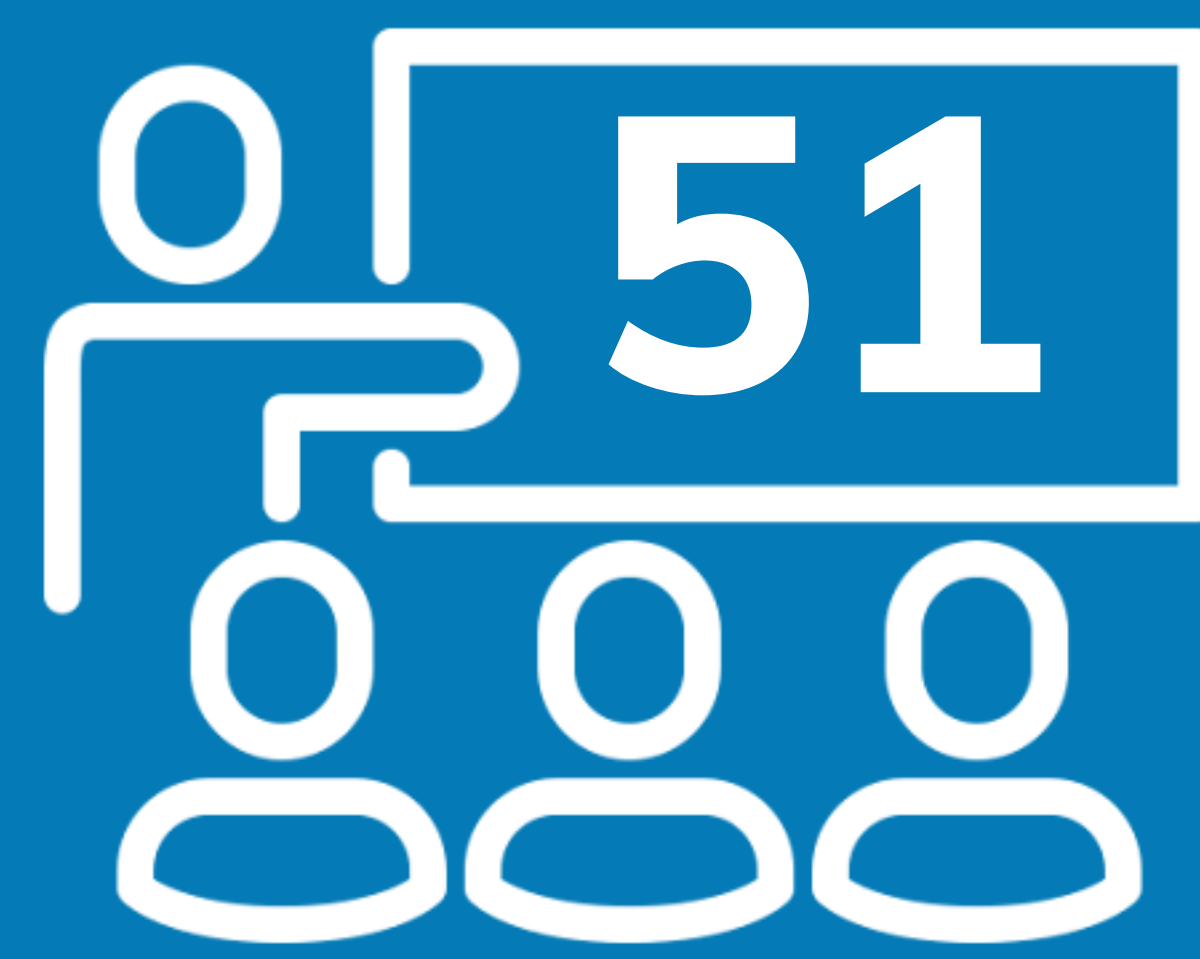
-  Councillor Brock McGregor, Board Chair
-  Councillor Carmen McGregor, Vice Chair
-  Councillor Lauren Anderson
-  Councillor Melissa Harrigan
-  Joshua Caron
-  Magdiel Hoste
-  Mike Genge
-  Noreen Blake

HEALTHY GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT:

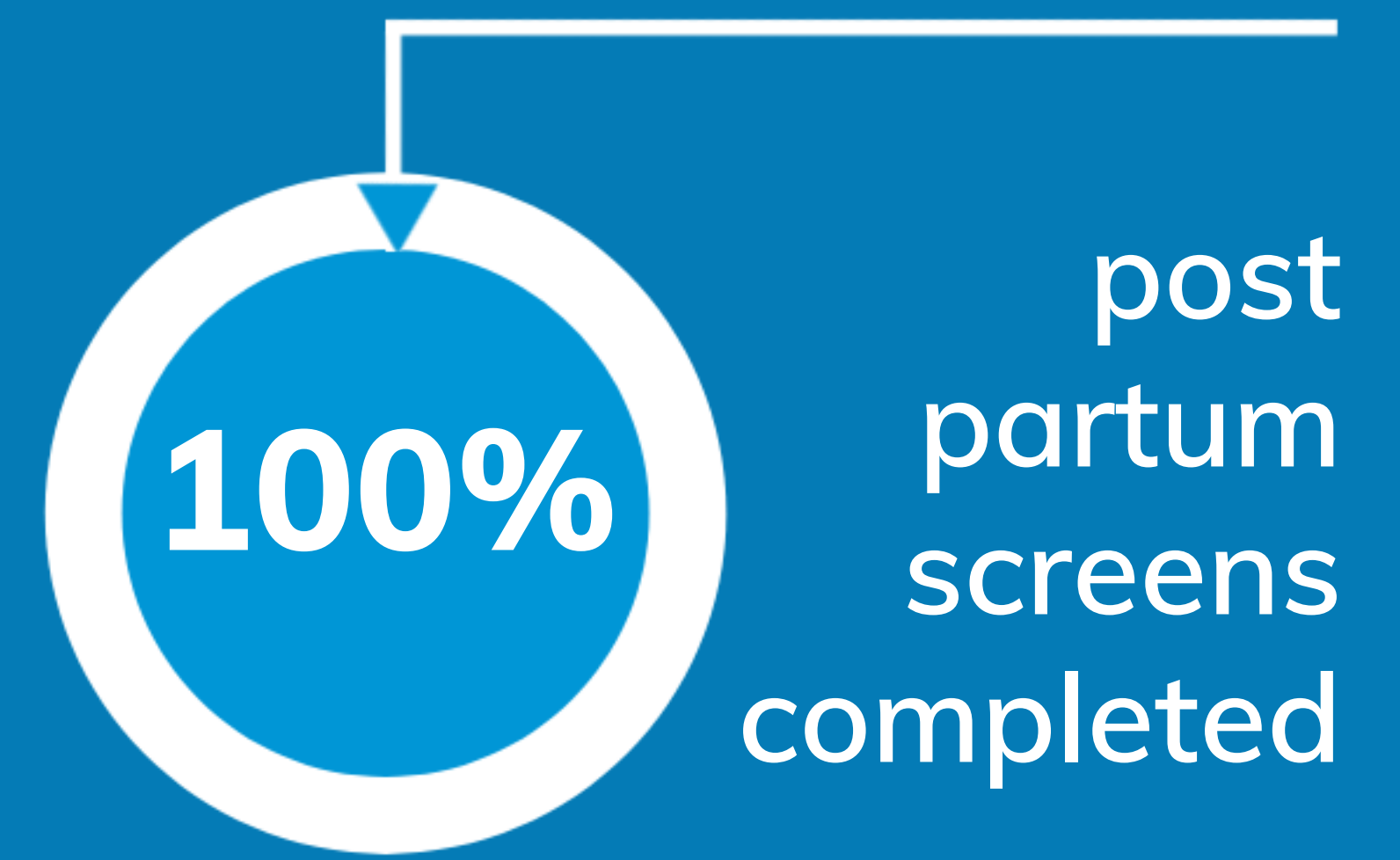
program statistics

The Healthy Growth and Development Team collaborates with individuals and families in Chatham-Kent, offering guidance during pregnancy and fostering optimal preparedness and wellness leading up to childbirth. Our team delivers programs and services designed to promote healthy child development and enhance parenting capabilities.

Dietitians within Chatham-Kent Public Health play a key role in promoting nutrition education, policy development, and community outreach initiatives to improve public health outcomes. Through collaboration with community partners, they advocate for healthy eating environments and strive to reduce health disparities related to nutrition across Chatham-Kent.



51 participants received food skills training



100% post partum screens completed



696

breastfeeding consultations



196

hampers of gleaned produce

118

participants took Building Healthy Babies Program



889 live births



41 schools provided student nutrition programs



75 parents took prenatal classes



106 community garden members

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS:

program statistics

The Healthy Environments team provides health education and regulatory services across a variety of programs, including food safety, safe drinking water, safe recreational water, health hazard mitigation, rabies control, tobacco control, infection prevention and control, and sun safety.

In 2023, notable community health protection efforts included management of a large scale boil water advisory, investigation of a community foodborne illness outbreak, expanded tick surveillance efforts to monitor black legged tick habitat growth, adverse air quality response in relation to widespread wildfire smoke, and resumption of youth test shopping of tobacco vendors following the pandemic.



1,306
food safety
inspections
conducted



261
safe food
handler certifications
issued



139
mosquito traps set up to
monitor West Nile Virus

328
animal exposure
investigations completed
for rabies control



69 tick
identifications



70
lifeguards and camp
leaders trained in
sun safety

15 charges
laid under the Smoke
Free Ontario Act



SCHOOL & COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ORAL HEALTH

program statistics

The School & Community Health Team works through partnership and collaboration with school boards, schools, and the community to implement various health promotion interventions in an effort to improve the health of school-aged children and youth, and individuals of all ages. Their focus is on prevention through education, capacity building, and policy development to improve overall health outcomes. The team also focuses on protection, by providing immunizations to school aged-children and youth and by ensuring students are up-to-date on their immunizations.

The Oral Health Team provides dental health services, including screenings, education, preventive care, and restorative treatment to ensure optimal oral health for children and seniors.



2,838

doses of HepB vaccine to students in grades 7-12

2,729

doses of HPV vaccine to students in grades 7-12

1,662

doses of Meningococcal vaccine to students in grades 7-12

6,326

students in CK schools screened for dental-related concerns



1,535

students were suspended under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)

1,088

people received physical literacy training



most requested topics in school

48

community partners engaged in alcohol prevention work



50

educational activities completed related to alcohol and other drugs

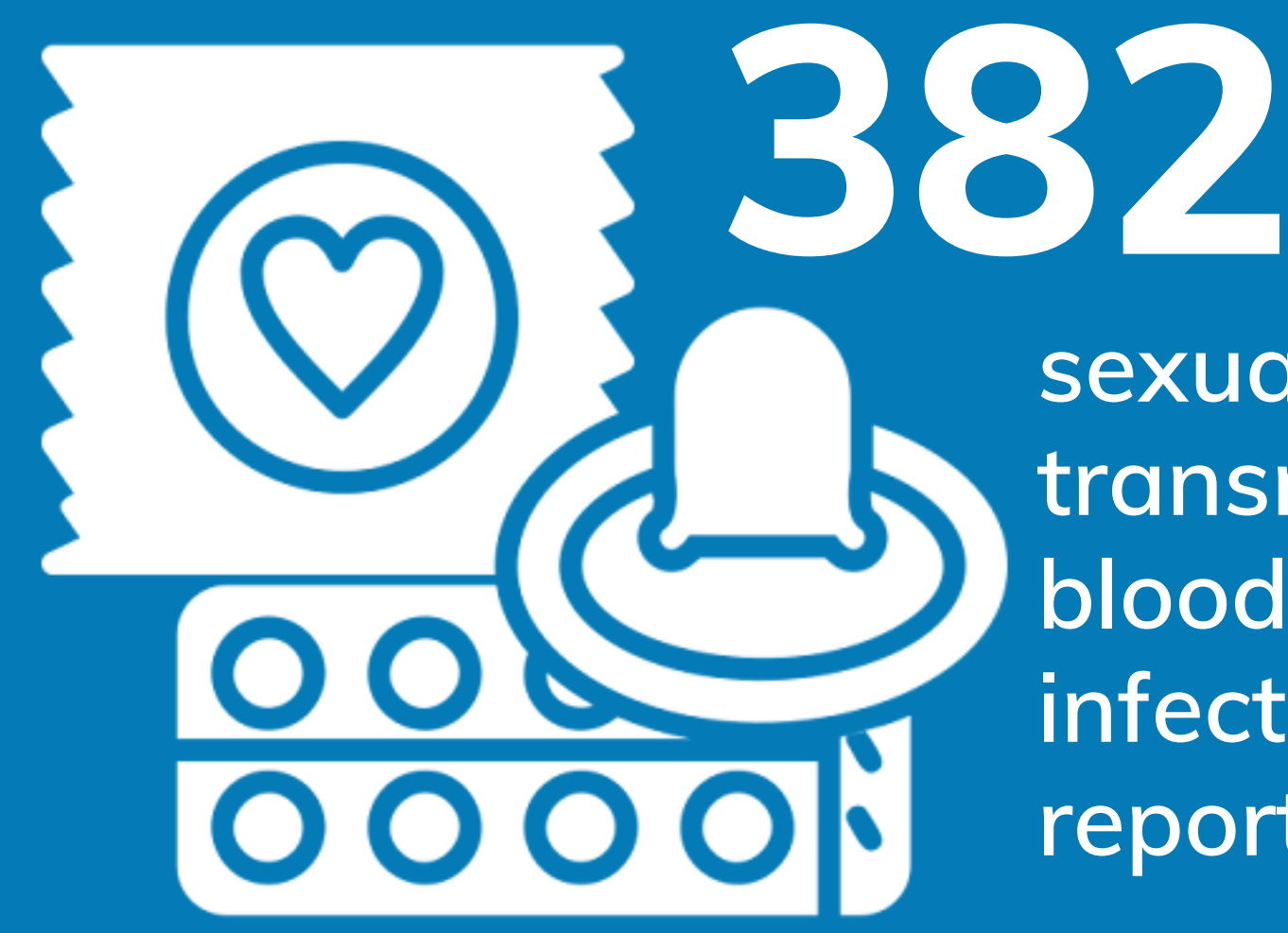
INFECTIOUS DISEASES & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

program statistics

The Infectious Diseases and Emergency Management Team provides a comprehensive approach to preventing, reducing, and managing the incidence of communicable and infectious disease transmission.

Outbreak management is provided in settings associated with a higher risk of infectious diseases as well as communicable disease throughout the community.

Publicly funded immunizations for vaccine preventable diseases are provided to individuals who do not have a health care provider to assist with both disease prevention and outbreak management.



261

new clients accessed the Needle Syringe Program



86

cold chain inspections completed on fridges housing publicly funded vaccine in the community



302

publically funded vaccines provided to patients without a primary care provider



194

Naloxone kits distributed



91

community partners trained in Naloxone administration

FOUNDATIONAL STANDARDS:

program statistics

In 2023, the Foundational Standards team supported and conducted population health assessment and surveillance, planning, research, evaluation and knowledge exchange activities across CK Public Health program areas. We shifted from COVID-centered reporting to integrated seasonal respiratory and outbreak surveillance reporting, and updated data and information in other areas of public health importance to support program planning and knowledge exchange. We rolled out resources and templates to support and document public health program planning and evaluation. Health equity work focused on foundational professional development, policy development, Indigenous learning, enhancing client settings for equity and inclusion, and understanding best practices and guidance around land acknowledgements and socio-demographic data collection.



105.4%

increase in Facebook visits

130.3%

increase in Instagram visits



12

Opioid-Related Harm surveillance reports published



90%

completion rate of staff trained in Indigenous Cultural Safety and Francophone Sensitive Care



4

internal program data dashboards developed



50

requests for data, planning, evaluation, health equity or communications support



supported the development of a community drug strategy

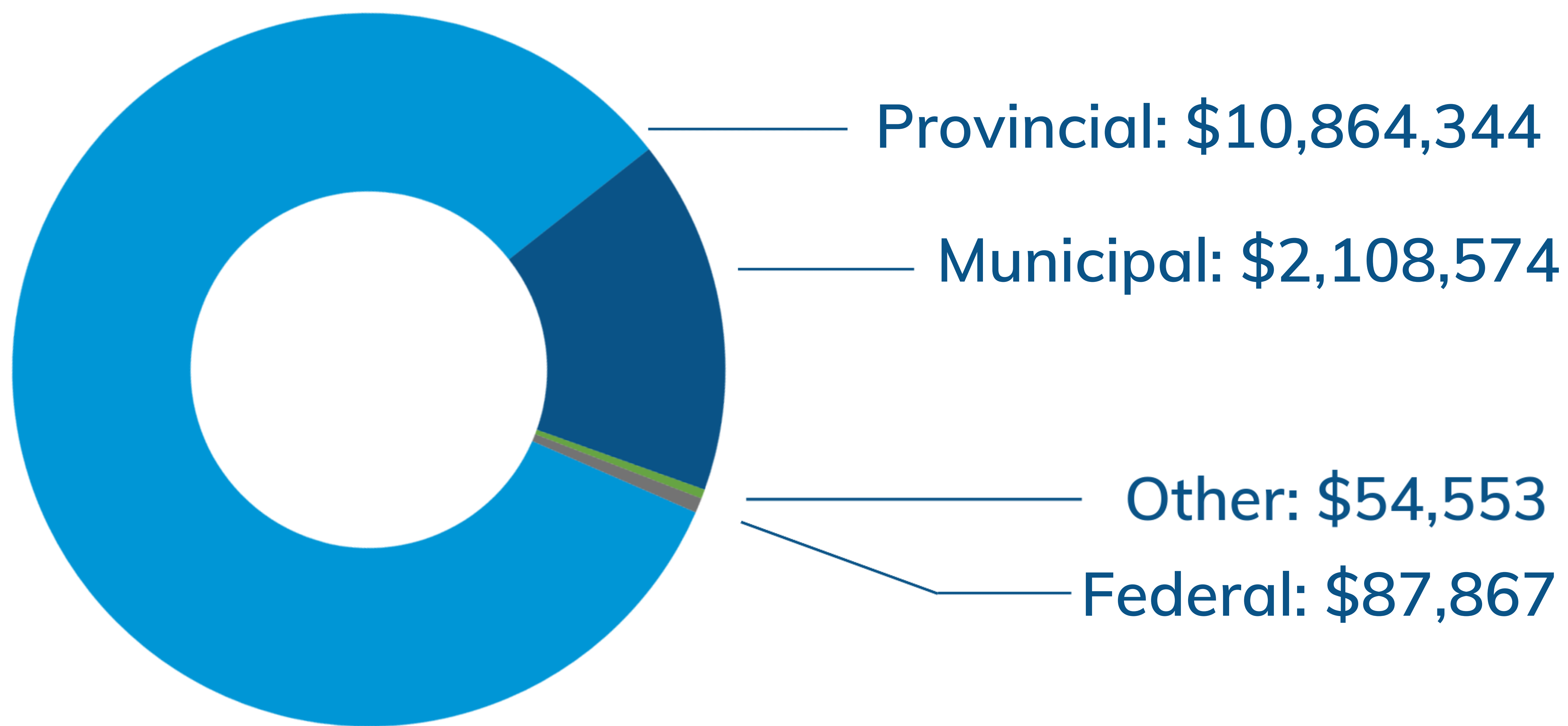
93,285

new website users

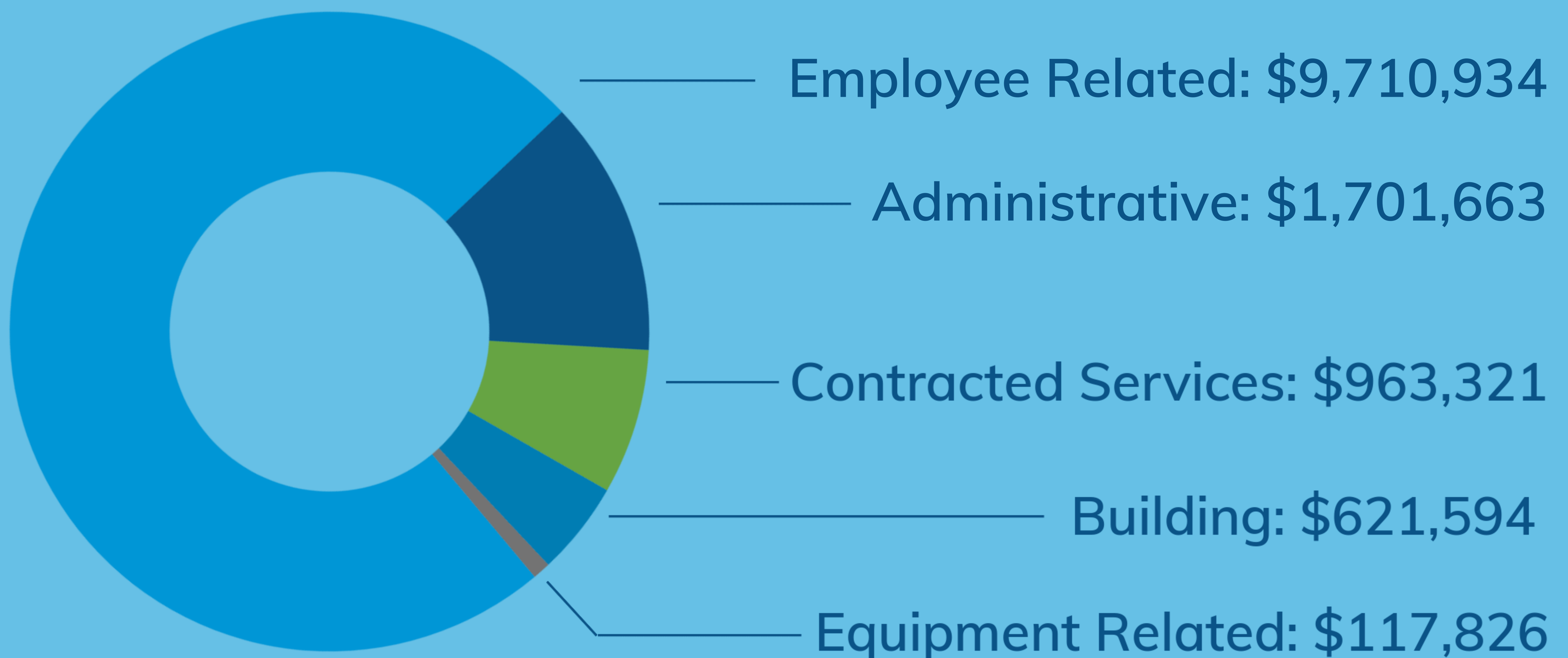


2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FUNDING: \$13,115,338



EXPENSES: \$13,115,338





**Connect
with Us!**

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