

ANNUAL REPORT

Supporting the health and well-being of Chatham-Kent through action, collaboration, and care.

2025



a message from the
Medical Officer of Health



On behalf of Chatham-Kent Public Health, I am pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report to the Community. This report reflects a year marked by both significant public health challenges and meaningful accomplishments.

The most notable challenge in 2025 was a measles outbreak that affected approximately 200 residents. As a highly contagious disease that is almost entirely preventable through vaccination, measles underscored the critical importance of maintaining strong immunization programs. In response, CK Public Health worked closely with physicians, nurse practitioners, schools, and community organizations to support vaccination efforts across Chatham-Kent. Encouragingly, approximately 95 percent of school-aged children in our community are up to date on their immunizations.

Beyond outbreak response, 2025 was a year of steady progress across our programs and services. Behind every statistic in this report is a dedicated public health professional committed to improving the health and well-being of our community.

As we look ahead to 2026, we remain focused on preparedness, partnership, and innovation - building on what we have learned to meet emerging public health needs.

Thank you to our staff, partners, and residents for your continued commitment to a healthier Chatham-Kent.

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

a message from the
Board of Health Chair



On behalf of the Chatham-Kent Board of Health, I am pleased to introduce the 2025 Annual Report to the Community for CK Public Health.

This report highlights not only the work undertaken over the past year, but also the shared responsibility we hold in keeping our community healthy, resilient, and informed. Public health is most effective when it is rooted in strong partnerships, and I am proud of the collaboration demonstrated across Chatham-Kent in 2025.

This year brought important challenges, including the measles outbreak that required a coordinated and swift response. The Board of Health commends the dedicated staff of CK Public Health and the many local partners who worked tirelessly to protect residents and limit the spread of illness. Their efforts reflect the strength of a system that is prepared to respond when it matters most.

As we look to the future, we recognize that public health will continue to face complex and changing challenges. However, with continued collaboration, community engagement, and a commitment to innovation, we are well positioned to meet these challenges together.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the staff of CK Public Health for their professionalism and commitment, as well as to our community partners and residents for their ongoing support.

Together, we are building a healthier Chatham-Kent.

Councillor Brock McGregor
Chair, CK Public Health Board of Health

meet the team

Board of Health



Councillor Brock McGregor
Chair



Councillor Carmen McGregor
Vice Chair



Councillor Melissa Harrigan
Representative of Council



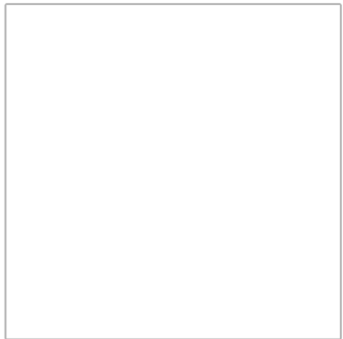
Councillor Lauren Anderson
Representative of Council



Evan Rogers
Citizen Appointee



Stephanie Harper
Citizen Appointee



Joshua Caron
Indigenous Representative

program
Highlights

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**School & Community Health
and Oral Health**

07



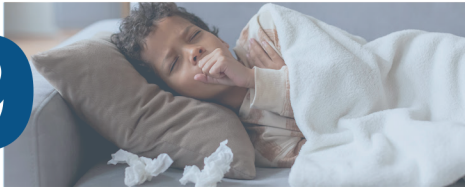
**Healthy Growth &
Development**

08



**Healthy
Environments**

09



**Infectious Disease &
Emergency Management**

10



**Foundational
Standards**

program highlights

School & Community Health and Oral Health

Improving Access to Oral Health Services.

Through its dental clinic and contracted providers, CK Public Health delivered dental care to children and seniors who face systemic barriers.

\$235K+



in Dental Care Provided

Protecting Student Health.

4,602 Hepatitis B, Meningococcal, and HPV vaccines were provided through a combination of internal, community, and school-based clinics.



Promoting Smoke-Free Living.

230 client visits were completed through the Chatham-Kent STOP Program to support individuals in quitting tobacco.



62



Program Leaders Trained

Strengthening Physical Literacy Leadership.

Community program leaders received physical literacy education to support safe, inclusive, and active programming.

Expanding Tobacco Cessation Knowledge.

Brief Cessation Intervention Training helped adults build knowledge and skills to support individuals in quitting tobacco.

245

Cessation Training Participants



Supporting Children's Oral Health.

3,939 children received school-based oral health screenings by Registered Dental Hygienists.



Empowering Youth Through Prevention Education.

595 youth took part in education sessions focused on preventing tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis use.

Delivering Accessible Dental Care.

Appointments were delivered at the CK Public Health Dental Clinic to support community oral health needs.

1,358



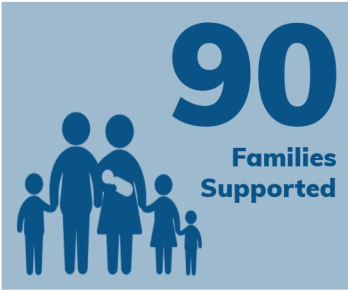
Dental Appointments Provided

program highlights

Healthy Growth & Development

Supporting a Healthy Start.

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children Home Visiting Program supported families in our community.



Strengthening Breastfeeding Support.

723 breastfeeding consultations were completed to support families with infant feeding.



Connecting Families to Early Support.

Staff completed **1,002** Healthy Babies Healthy Children screens while providing information at the bedside of postpartum parents at CKHA.



Nourishing Students Across Chatham-Kent.

The Student Nutrition Program reached students in schools across Chatham-Kent.

Empowering Parents Through Learning.

Parenting workshops supported caregivers with practical guidance and skills related to child development and positive parenting.



Supporting Local Food Access and Community.

240 community members participated in local community gardens, supporting food access and community well-being.



Supporting Healthy Pregnancies.

134 participants took part in the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program, known as Building Healthy Babies, supporting healthy pregnancies and infant outcomes.

Strengthening Mental Wellness in Motherhood.

17 women with limited access to other supports were provided a safe space through the Maternal Mental Health Program to address anxiety and depression.



program highlights

Healthy Environments

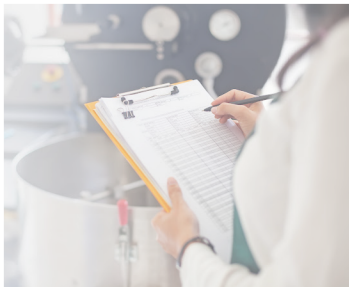
Supporting Safe Community Events.

Public health completed special event consultations to help ensure safe event environments.



Ensuring Safe Food Environments.

1,477 food safety inspections were completed across regulated settings to reduce food-borne illness.



Investing in Greener Learning Spaces.

226 trees were planted through the Tomorrow's Greener Schools Today initiative to enhance schoolyard environments.



225

Food Handler Certificates



Promoting Safe Food Handling.

Public health issued food handler certificates to help promote safe food preparation and handling.

Preventing the Spread of Infections.

Infection, prevention and control (IPAC) investigations were conducted to reduce the risk of illness and protect community health.



Reducing Risks from Tick-Borne Illness.

56 tick identifications were completed to support surveillance and reduce the risk of tick-borne illness.



Managing Animal Exposures.

396 animal exposure investigations were conducted to assess risk and protect public health.

Enforcing Tobacco Control Regulations.

Tobacco-related charges were laid to support compliance with tobacco control legislation and protect public health.



4
Tobacco Charges Laid

program highlights

Infectious Disease & Emergency Management

Strengthening Tuberculosis Prevention Efforts.

Public health completed investigations of latent TB to support treatment and reduce the risk of transmission.



Monitoring Respiratory Illness.

364 respiratory illness infections were reported and assessed to support community health protection.



Responding to Measles in the Community.

169 confirmed measles cases were reported and managed to reduce further spread.



3,685

RSV Vaccine Doses Distributed



Protecting High-Risk Populations from RSV.

Public health distributed RSV vaccine to health care providers as part of the High-Risk RSV Vaccine Program.

Protecting Community Health Through Harm Reduction.

Naloxone kits were distributed by CK Public Health as part of ongoing harm-reduction efforts.

720

Naloxone Kits Distributed



Supporting STI and Bloodborne Infection Prevention.

295 sexually transmitted or bloodborne infections were reported, informing public health response and prevention activities.



Administering RSV Vaccines for High-Risk Populations.

143 RSV vaccine doses were administered by CK Public Health as part of the High-Risk RSV Vaccine Program.

Expanding Access Through Community Partnerships.

CK Public Health provided naloxone kits to community partners to support local distribution and overdose prevention efforts.

5,031



Naloxone Kits to Community Partners

program highlights

Foundational Standards

Engaging the Community on Harm Reduction.

Community members participated in a survey to inform messaging and education on Outdoor Sharps Disposal Bins.



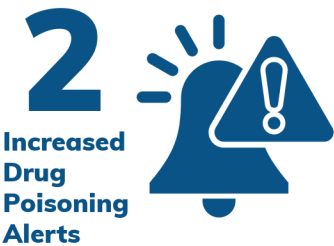
Enhancing Access to Public Health Information.

The launch of a new CK Public Health website improved how residents access public health information and services.



Monitoring Trends to Protect Community Health.

52 surveillance reports were published on opioid-related harms, infectious disease, and mosquito surveillance.



Responding to Emerging Drug-Related Risks.

Increased drug poisoning alerts were issued to inform partners and support community safety.

Enhancing Knowledge of Infant Feeding Trends.

A new Infant Feeding Surveillance Survey was launched, receiving **153** responses from birthing parents in Chatham-Kent.



Amplifying Public Health Messages.

CK Public Health received **656** media mentions, helping to raise awareness of public health programs, services, and priorities.

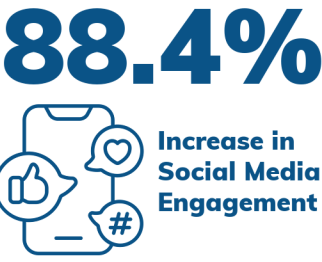


Supporting Community Drug Strategy Efforts.

Public health supported the CK Community Drug Strategy through education, training, and leadership engagement.

Growing Online Reach and Engagement.

Social media interactions increased over the year, strengthening online engagement with the community.



2025

Financial Statements

