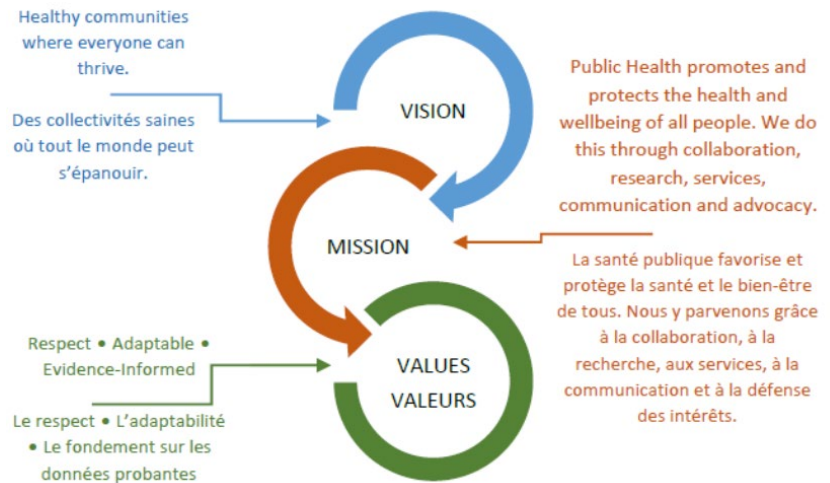


Report Content

- [THU in Action: Our People - Our Stories](#)
- [HR Update](#)



In the Spotlight and On Our Radar

Timiskaming Health Unit in Action

Our people – Our stories

Foundational Standards

Population Health Assessment and Surveillance

Population health assessment and surveillance is an essential public health function to support local public health practice to respond effectively to current and evolving issues and contribute to the health and well-being of our population. The list below highlights some of this work:

Work Completed:

- Continued to support the program planning cycle by providing data as requested to teams
- Ended the 2024 spring-summer air quality surveillance and held a debrief session with the team
- Initiated the 2024-2025 seasonal respiratory surveillance season. Created a joint respiratory surveillance system with Porcupine Health Unit.
- Continued work on health status reports

Health Equity

The following section highlights local public health work in 2024 toward reducing health inequities which includes assessing and reporting on the local impact of health inequities and identifying local strategies, modifying and orienting public health interventions, and health equity analysis, policy development, and advancing healthy public policies.

Work Completed:

- Continued supporting staff in their Rainbow Health Ontario Training
- Active participation in the TAOHT Health Equity work group
- Continued to be involved in provincial work group dedicated to sociodemographic data collection

Variance:

- Most of the planned projects in the health equity workplan are tracking as variance due to staff vacancies

Effective Public Health Practice

Effective public health practice requires THU staff to apply skills in evidence-informed decision-making, research, knowledge exchange, program planning and evaluation, and communication, with a continued focus on quality and transparency. The section below captures 2024 activity highlights for program planning, evaluation, and evidence-informed decision making as well as for knowledge exchange and continuous improvement.

Work Completed:

- THU staff completed an organizational assessment on skills related to evidence-informed decision making. NCCMT is working with THU leadership to develop a customized learning plan.
- Foundational standards staff continued their learning series with NCCMT to hone their advanced skills
- Continue to work with the Hospital for Sick Children on piloting an implementation tool for Brief Contact Intervention
- Continue to support THU with tools, processes, and practices that support evidence-informed public health

Emergency Management

Effective emergency management ensures that boards of health are ready to cope with and recover from threats to public health or disruptions to public health programs and services.

Work Completed:

- Completed review of internal Emergency Response, Planning, and Management documents and related gaps/risks
- Launched a climate change survey with high participation to better understand the local experience of residents experiencing adverse heat or air quality in their homes and community

Variance:

- Creation and finalization of a hotwash procedure and tool is delayed but on track to be finished by the end of the year.
- Staff turnover has delayed some items but most priority projects should be completed before end of Q4.

Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being

Active Living:

Work Completed:

- Completed school zone safety assessments with Ecole Ste. Croix in and Central Public School in Kirkland Lake. Updated school travel plan, brokered information from schools to municipality.
- Supported Bus Buddies events with communications and hosted the [School Bus Safety Game](#) on the Walk 'N Roll website.
- Created 1 additional Bike Rodeo Kit.
- Distributed information about sport and recreation funding opportunities and call for expressions of interest to partner in Physical Literacy for Life local partnership through invitation letter to 50 community organizations.
- Supported the City of Temiskaming Shores [Colour Ride](#) and Pokémon GO in Real Life.
- Coordinated 2024 IWalk Month with six participating schools.
- Promoted Vision Zero Pedestrian Safety Campaign using social media and during IWalk week with 9 schools and at City of Temiskaming Shores Road Safety Day.

Variance:

- Promotion of sleep toolkit delayed due to delay in development of the resource.
- Communications about 24 hr movement guidelines displaced by other timely priorities, will be addressed in Q1 2025. December will be very busy for me considering the outreach that we are doing for the AST steering committee and for the PL4C group as well as some documentation for school travel planning that has been displaced by the program planning and situational assessments. I also just recently got asked by Krystal to do presentation for her road safety day.

Food and Nutrition:

Work Completed:

- Updates to nutrition pages on Timiskaming Health Unit website

Variance:

- Work to explore potential for having a sustainable program and other relevant topics. Explore potential collaborations with community partners delayed due to limited human resources in this program area.
- Work to promote, coordinate, and maintain the Healthy Eating in Recreation Settings project in Kirkland Lake and Temiskaming Shores delayed due to limited human resources capacity in this program area.
- Initiative to explore potential for having a sustainable program for youth, in collaboration with community partners, postponed due to limited human resources capacity.
- Development of training materials for Blender Bike delayed due to low human resources capacity

Mental Health Promotion:

Work Completed:

- Facilitated 3 Your Health Space all-staff training opportunities as part of workplan to address findings from THU Guarding Minds at Work survey results

Variance:

- Comprehensive mental health literacy campaign delayed to 2025 due to human resources capacity

Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP):

The OSDCP program serves seniors within our district who qualify for dental care.

Work Completed:

- We continue to work with our local dentists and denturist. From January to September, 54 new clients have been seen through the OSDCP.
- We have been supporting clients to navigate the Canadian Dental Care Program (CDCP) and OSDCP. Clients are being referred to Service Canada for more information on the CDCP. Our local libraries across the district are also supporting seniors with signing up for the CDCP program.

Variance:

- Since the implementation of the Canadian Dental Care Program (CDCP), we have seen a decrease in claims related to the OSDCP program. This has been noted across the province.

OSDCP	2022 Total	2023 Total	2024 (Jan to Sept)
Applied at THU	232	272	101
Applied Online	19	26	2
Unique Seniors Served at THU	182	262	224
Total OSDCP Preventive Appointments at THU	197	280	265
Unique Seniors Served by Providers	554	697	490
Total OSDCP Appointments by Providers	686	901	658

Substance Use and Injury Prevention

Alcohol and Drug Use, Enhanced Harm Reduction Program and Ontario Naloxone Program:

Work Completed:

- Ongoing coordination and backbone support for Timiskaming Drug and alcohol Strategy including Steering Committee, 4 pillar working groups, communications working group, and People with Lived Experience Advisory Committee
- Facilitated [International Overdose Awareness Day](#) with events in Temiskaming Shores, Englehart, and Kirkland Lake. Included [Media Release](#), booths, municipal declarations of support, and public speaking.
- Implemented campaign to raise awareness about cannabis edibles and unintentional childhood poisonings. Include a [media release](#), social media, rack cards and posters. Partnered with 10 cannabis retailers and provided print resources and free lock bags for customer distribution. Interviews with CBC and Northern News.
- Set up one new community sharps disposal site in partnership with Centre de santé communautaire du Temiskaming in Kirkland Lake
- Launched the Planet Youth Timiskaming website and data reports: [TimiskamingYouth.ca](https://www.timiskamingyouth.ca)

- Reviewed [Planet Youth data](#) with three local action teams and collectively determined three priorities across the district: 1) increasing constructive use of free time among youth 2) strengthening youth sense of belonging and connection to community, and 3) increasing awareness of protective factors for youth.
- Facilitated monthly [local action team](#) meetings in South, Central, and North Timiskaming.
- Applied for \$743,580 in funding over 30 months for Planet Youth Timiskaming via the Public Health Agency of Canada's *Youth Substance Use Prevention Program (YSUPP) – Stream 2: Implementation and Intervention Research*.
- Established a research partnership with Dr. Mahmood Gohari to support intervention evaluation as part of the Stream 2 project.
- Hosted first [Campfire N Smores event](#) at the New Liskeard waterfront. Approx 70 youth ages 12-17 were in attendance.
- Presented about Northeastern Ontario's experience implementing the Icelandic Prevention Model at the [2024 Ontario Municipal Social Services Association \(OMSSA\) Forum](#), in partnership with Porcupine health Unit and North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit.
- Toured the [Timmins Youth Wellness Hub](#).

Variance:

- Work to address anabolic steroid use not addressed due to redirection toward other priorities.

Needle Exchange and Harm Reduction Program:

- THU continues to be an access point for clients seeking clean harm reduction supplies, allowing clients to use their substances safely. THU has seen 41 new clients who have not previously accessed our NEP and HR program.
- Between January and September clients have been seeking an increasing number of test strip kits to ensure their supply has not been tainted with fentanyl, benzodiazepines or xylazine. More information on this project will be shared in Q4.

Internal Program						
<i>Client Services</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>
<i>Total # Encounters NEP and Other HR Supplies</i>	498	355	159	249	413	387
<i>Total # of needles provided</i>	-	24,380	31,638	37,260	24,856	18,397
<i>Total # of bowl pipes provided</i>	-	4,620	12,962	15,366	19,027	8376
<i>Total # of Naloxone kits provided</i>	-	236	234	256	260	220
<i>Total # of Naloxone refills provided</i>	--	43	45	39	94	32
<i>Benzodiazepine Test Strips</i>	-	-	-	-	-	17
<i>Fentanyl Test Strips</i>	-	-	-	-	-	100
<i>Xylazine Test Strips</i>	-	-	-	-	-	95

Comprehensive Tobacco Control:

Work Completed:

- Continued advocacy to New Liskeard Fall Fair to make environment smoke- and vape-free
- Outreach to large employers in Timiskaming to promote quit programs and smoke- and vape-free policies
- Outreach to health care providers in Timiskaming to request collaboration
- Implemented the Clear the Air vaping education campaign.

Tobacco Enforcement								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Inspections	355	336	357	220	163	267	348	246
Charges	6	9	7	1	8	5	5	2
Warnings	103	82	166	73	136	144	108	61

Injury Prevention, including On- and Off-Road Safety:

Work Completed:

- Ongoing facilitation and backbone support for Timiskaming Community Safety and Well-Being Plan implementation. Includes support for Steering Committee and 3 working groups.
- Held in-person 1-year update CSWB event in Englehart. Included 21 attendees with representatives from 8 municipalities and 6 community partners.
- Reactivated TDRSC after a pause with 8 community partners. Facilitated Young Riders Day with TDRSC, an event geared to new students riding the school bus, reaching 46 new students and their families across the district.
- Shared ATV safety messages, on social media, reaching 5327 users, with 160 engagements/interactions.

Variance:

- Communications about signs of concussion with a focus on recreation centres and older adults delayed due to human resources limitations

Healthy Aging:

Work Completed:

- Participated in the Senior Active Living Fair hosted by the City of Temiskaming Shores Age Friendly Committee. Shared healthy aging and fall prevention information and resources to the approximately 150 older adults in attendance.
- Supported local partners with applications for Senior Active Living Centre (SALC) funding.
- Updated inventories for exercise programming and social opportunities for older adults across the district and share with partners.
- Worked with senior volunteers to coordinate and implement chair-based exercise program at the local library
- Worked with 211 to update programs and services promoted to older adults in Timiskaming.

Variance:

- Local support for healthcare providers in implementing fall risk screening and assessment delayed to align with regional coordination with support from Centre for Effective Practice
- Connection with local seniors clubs to offer support and resources, encourage membership with OACAO and join Links2Wellbeing delayed to Q4.

Healthy Built Environments:**Work Completed:**

- Released fall issue of Health for All Newsletter to all municipalities in Timiskaming

Healthy Growth and Development

From January to September, we have had 233 births within our district. Healthy Growth and Development initiatives continue to prioritize and promote preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth, parental and family health.

Breastfeeding and Infant Feeding:**Work Completed:**

- We continue to make available hospital grade breast pumps to support breastfeeding needs across the district. Between July and September, we have lent out 19 hospital grade pumps. We also continue to offer handheld breast pumps to support breastfeeding as well.
- We continue to support the Breastfeeding Buddies Facebook page and create and share posts regularly. We currently have 201 followers.
- We hosted a “Share Your Story” virtual engagement activity on the Timiskaming Breastfeeding Buddie and Parenting in Timiskaming website. This initiative encouraged individuals to share their breastfeeding story.
- We continue to build our relationship with the local La Lèche League chapter out of Cobalt. We continue to explore ways to work with them on increasing breastfeeding support and resources across the district.
- PHNs and FRWs continue to support the LC with breastfeeding support to all families within our district.
- Celebrated World Breastfeeding Week with a communication campaign on “Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All”. Posts were shared on the Parenting in Timiskaming website, THU Corporate account and Timiskaming Buddies Facebook page. Many posts were in response to learnings from the Infant Feeding Surveillance (IFS) report to help address local gaps in parent knowledge around breastfeeding, including where to go for breastfeeding support.

Prenatal Education:**Work Completed:**

- We continue to be able to refer clients to the online Enjoy Prenatal course that is offered through Public Health Sudbury & Districts.
- We continue to support Brighter Futures virtual prenatal classes as requested.
- THU offered in-person prenatal classes across the district in September. From January to September, we have had 38 pregnant people, 20 partners attend a prenatal class virtually or in-person across the district (36 first time pregnancies). KL classes were offered in the KL

boardroom. NL classes were offered out of the community kitchen at CSCT. NL classes needed to be moved related to the flooding of the NL office as the auditorium was being used as storage space.

- We continue to offer 1:1 prenatal care as needed.

Well-baby Visits (WBV):

THU continues to offer WBV throughout the district. These visits reach children aged 0 to 6 years and offer services such as immunizations, weights, and developmental screening.

Work Completed:

- Weekly Well Baby Clinics (WBC) throughout the district.
- A total of 609 children accessed clinical services between January and September (NL: 252, KL: 265, Englehart: 92).
- The HG&D nurses continue to see 4- to 6-year-old clients through the WBCs for school immunizations.
- The HG&D nurse from the Englehart office continues to visit the Amish community regularly to offer HBHC home visits and immunizations.

Mental Health:

Work Completed:

- PHNs and FRWs continue to complete Edinburgh Depression scale screenings prenatally, at 48 hours, 2 months and 6 months. 1 referral was made during Q3 to primary care for follow-up support and services related to perinatal mental health from the screening that was completed. Many of our current post-partum people are already connected to mental health services through primary care or other mental health community supports.
- We continue to review and evaluate our current Post Partum Mood Disorder (PMD) process.
- Cross-programming work between HG&D and the school team continues related to Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) and resilience.

Parenting:

Work Completed:

- FRWs are using [Partners In Parenting Education \(PIPE\)](#) activities with families.
- FRWs are also using [the Nobody's Perfect](#) parenting program with our HBHC home visiting program.
- All PHNs and FRWs are trained in [NCAST Parent Child Interaction Scales \(NCAST PCI\)](#) PCI supports teaching and feeding scales.
- Parenting in Timiskaming Facebook page and family newsletters are ongoing. The Facebook page continues to grow with just under 200 followers as of early fall. Approximately 50% of the followers are women in the 25 to 34 years age category.
- Burn Prevention communications were developed in connection with Sick Kids Hospital and posted on the Parenting in Timiskaming website.
- We supported planning for National Child Day (Nov 20, 2024).
- Over the summer we started work on updating the HG&D team policies and procedures.

Road Safety and Car Seat Safety:

Work Completed:

- PHNs and FRWs continue to offer in-office car seat inspection appointments. We provide best practice recommendations to clients on car seat and road safety.
- We continue to network with local trained Child Passenger Safety Technicians (Brighter Futures, EarlyOn and CSCT).
- We promoted Child Passenger Safety Week campaign (Sept 15 to 21, 2024).
- We worked on promoting the fall car seat training by promoting the training opportunity with local child care partners and agencies. We collected registration and worked with the child passenger safety instructor to prepare the training location, communication and promotion of the community car seat clinic.
- The HG&D nurse from our Englehart office continues to build relationships with our Amish community. Between July and September, she promoted “Driving a Buggy Safely” with conversations of road safety with the community bishop. A safe school travel handout was created and shared with them as well.

Healthy Eating:

Work Completed:

- FRWs continue to support healthy eating by supporting families on the HBHC home visiting program with budget friendly health meals and snacks. They also routinely support families with regular mealtime routines and help promote healthy eating.
- The dietitian supported formula costing across our district as part of the Nutritious Food Basket in May and the calculation of data over the summer.
- HG&D nurses continue to offer “Introduction to solids” presentations as requested by community partners.
- We continue to promote THU resource: [Practical Tips to Help Your Child Try New Foods](#) on our website and during our prenatal classes.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program:

The goal of the HBHC program is to optimize newborn and child healthy growth and development and reduce health inequities for families. The program includes the following components: (1) Screening – prenatal, postpartum and early childhood (2) In-depth assessment (IDA) contact and assessment for families with risk (3) Postpartum Contact (4) Blended Home-Visiting and Family Service Plan.

The following table outlines the percentage of births that received a prenatal and postpartum screen as well as the percentage of eligible children (6 weeks to 70 months) who received an early childhood screen. The HG&D nurses and Family Resource Workers (FRWs) are busy across the district as we continue to see an increase in families accessing the HBHC program across the district.

Percent of births receiving a prenatal and postnatal HBHC screen and % of eligible children with an early childhood HBHC screen in Timiskaming Health Unit area.							Provincial Target
Screen	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Jan to Sept)	
Prenatal	82%	65%	82%	75.4% (46.5%)*	62% (49.5%)*	63% (44.4%)	10%
Postpartum	96%	70%	84%	82.8% (69.8%)*	79% (78.9%)*	98% (75.5%)	80%
Early Childhood	3%	2%	0.7%	3.6% (68.4%)*	4% (67.3%)*	1.3% (85%)	5%
*Clients who are considered high-risk as defined by the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Screen							

Blended Home-Visiting (BHV) Program:

Healthy Babies Healthy Children In-Depth Assessments (IDA), Home Visits and Family Service Plans							
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Jan to Sept)
Number of individuals confirmed with moderate or high risk (eligible for home visit) through an IDA	Prenatal	16 (66.6%)	6 (54.5%)	11 (91.7%)	7 (87.5%)	9 (75%)	42 (86.5%)
	Postpartum	33 (53.2%)	16 (51.6%)	34 (73.9%)	30 (73.2%)	48 (87.2%)	98 (91%)
	Early Childhood	18 (72%)	9 (90%)	11 (78.6%)	21 (77.8%)	13 (52.2%)	44 (76.5%)
Number of families served with ≥ 2 home visits		41	26	29	46	69	123
Number of families who received an IDA.		111	52	72	76	91	91
Number of families with a family service plan initiated			10	9	30	48	29
Total # of Home Visits (with a FHV, PHN or both)		206	140	88	498	727	506

HBHC Screening and Hospital Liaison:

Work Completed:

We continue to offer daily weekday hospital liaison to the Temiskaming Hospital. These visits allow the PHNs to complete a formal post-partum HBHC screen as mandated by the ministry. These visits enable PHNs to assist families with breastfeeding and to discuss and promote services at THU and within the community.

We have also started meeting with the manager of the obstetric unit at the Temiskaming Hospital to see how we can best work together to support families within our district.

School and Child Care Health

Oral Health and Vision Screening:

The Oral and Vision Health team has returned to full services in-school. All mandated programming is being completed.

Work Completed:

- Over the summer the health promoter and dental hygienist worked with PHU to update and develop shared school screening resources for the oral health school program.
- In September, the Oral Health team resumed oral health screenings in schools across the district.

Variance:

Oral Health - Dental Screenings									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Jan-Sept)
<i>Pre-K/JK & Grade 2 In-School Mandatory Program</i>	937	800	624	925	279	0*	518	904	375
<i>Regular Screened (all other grades including rescreens/parent request)</i>	---**	----**	985	1840	632	0*	751	1129	342
<i>Office Screenings</i>	238	248	231	193	105	150	88	466	329

**This program was impacted by staff redeployment to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of COVID-19 measures on school partners.*

***Data for this section was not captured in the same fashion it was starting in 2018, therefore it is not specific to the grades required.*

****Title renamed to better reflect ministry reporting (2024). It used to be Pre-Kind/Kind, Grade 2, 4 & 7 In-School Mandatory Program*

School Health Immunization and Licensed Child Care:

Work Completed:

- We continued to update and align the grade 7 immunization program with PHU.
- The school nurses completed grade 7 immunization presentations in all our grade 7 classrooms. By reimplementing these presentations, we saw an increase in return of our school immunization consent forms which cut down the amount of follow-up phone calls that needed to be made.
- Review and phone call follow-up on missing grade 7 immunization consent forms.
- The school team also supported the review of international student immunization records.
- We continue to track our child care immunizations (admissions and retirements).
- We supported a new child care in Larder Lake by sharing our process with them.
- The school team worked on suspendable calls (7 years +) throughout the summer.
- Some staff took part in a virtual immunization conference on Immunization Across the Life Span.

Comprehensive School and Child Care Health:

Work Completed:

- We continue to promote posts on our Youth Instagram account.
- Student engagement activities continue with our 5 high schools. These activities are typically done over the student lunch hour. These activities cover a variety of health topics (Planet Youth, men's health, mental health, healthy eating).
- A school nurse attended the Northern College Haileybury Fair.
- The school team continues to support Planet Youth committees and events. School nurses took part in different Planet Youth engagement booths throughout the summer (ex: BIA NL and KL Farmers Market).
- THU School nurses visited the Youth Hub they have in Timmins as our work continues locally with Planet Youth.
- Principal meetings were set in September, school nurses worked with principals on identifying their needs for the 2024-2025 school year.

Infectious Diseases and Infection Prevention and Control:

Work Completed:

- We continue to share the [Guide to Common Infections](#) and remind schools that the document is located on our website.
- The school nurses provide support to parents, schools and child care centers related to infectious diseases.
- We have offered support and information to parents, schools and child care on head lice.

Healthy Eating and Active Living:

Work Completed:

- We continue to promote healthy nutrition to schools and child care.
- We are starting to explore and work with TDSS and the Salvation Army on a Community Fridge Pilot Project.
- We provide support for the NFVP program and planning.
- The school nurses have shared with local schools' nutritional grant opportunities.
- Our dietitian has supported the school team by offering training presentations on food neutral approaches. We are also looking into how to use the Rainbow Food Explorers Toolkit for Educators.
- We have received the findings from the NFVP evaluation, this also included an infographic with THU findings as well as THU and PHU findings.
- The dietitians from THU and PHU have worked on streamlining the NFVP process and registration.
- THU's dietitian is also working with the Student Nutrition Program (SNP) lead to address nutrition inquiries.
- 9 schools participated in IWalk. We supported over 200 teachers with Safe Walking resources and encouragement ideas for a week. 6 schools took us up on the offer of pizza lunches for the winning classes.
- Set up a booth outside of Central Public School for International Walk to School Day. We handed out prizes and resources to approximately 80 walkers. We also supported the school to create a special "Lindsay Lamarche Walk to School Day".

- Supported 2 schools with school zone safety assessments and tracking AST safety issues (Central Public School and Ste. Croix).
- Supported Bus Buddies event with communications and resources hosted on the Walk 'N Roll site.
- Additionally, the Active School Travel Steering committee identified NLPS as a school that could use AST support in 2025.
- THU supported école Catholique Ste-Croix with stencil activities (see pictures below)



Sexual Health and Healthy Sexuality:

Work Completed:

- Over the summer, the school nurses took the opportunity to organise and prepare the healthy relationship/well-being clinics for our local high schools.
- Healthy relationship/well-being clinics resumed bi-weekly in all our high schools in September.

Substance Use:

Work Completed:

- School nurses have completed [QUASH](#) training and certification. They also support schools with QUASH resources and information as requested.
- Supported our Tobacco Enforcement officer with updating our SFOA information. We also continue to align this work with PHU. Signage and resources will be offered to the school in September.

Mental Health:

Work Completed:

- The school nurses continue to support students and schools with Mental Health resources.
- We are working with local student councils on promoting Mental Health within schools.
- Planning continued related to RNAO youth champion.

Infectious and Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

2024 Q1 to Q3	Number of outbreaks	Number of cases					Number of deaths
		Staff	Resident /patient	Student	Visitor	Other	
Long-Term Care & nursing homes	22	25	166	0	0	0	5
Hospitals	4	3	19	0	0	0	1
Congregate living	3	2	7	0	0	0	0
Community	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Daycare/school	2	12	0	0	13	0	0
TOTAL	32	42	192	0	13	2	6

IPAC Hub:

Work continues and relationships are maintained with the IPAC Hub and THU staff provide regular education and support to congregate care settings in the district (5 Long Term Care, 1 Retirement Home and 4 Community Living Sites).

Work completed:

- IPAC Hub shared information gained from the 'Communities of Practice' (CoP) to the immunizations team to plan the upcoming UIIP.
- THU IPAC Hub staff participated in a ministry series evaluating the IPAC Hub as a program. THU staff participated in the IPAC-NEO conference held in North Bay where five local settings also attended. It was a great networking opportunity!
- Targeted in-services were provided to LTCH who identified low vaccine uptake in the previous years. One PHI returned from leave, adding capacity to the Hub.
- Relevant ministry updates were shared with community partners who are part of the Hub.

Variance:

- Regular IPAC Hub presentations were not offered due to staff limitations.
- Internal committee did not meet due to vacancies and capacity.

Other Diseases of Public Health Significance

Work Completed:

- As THU continues to align services with the OPHS, meetings were held with the regional OHT to support the partial divestment of TB skin testing (TST) effective October 7th. Meetings were also held with other community partners who may be interested in supporting the gap in services for students, employers as well as clients without an HCP. THU continues to offer publicly funded TSTs to clients who require it.

Reportable Diseases and Infection Control									
Client Services	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Reportable Investigations (non-STI)	73	65	111	91	154	652	1,342	1,261	248
Outbreaks - Institutional	14	29	33	18	25	16	18	37	31
Outbreaks - Community	0	0	0	0	2	23	0	2	1
Animal Bite Reporting	29	85	77	72	64	62	74	51	90
Sexually transmitted infections (STI)	82	61	78	67	75	69	28	50	53
Personal service settings inspections (hair salons, tattoos, piercings, aesthetics)	47	50	52	49	31	10	14	17	36

Sexual Health Program:

The goal of the Sexual Health Program is to promote healthy sexuality.

Sexual health services at THU include:

- STIs and testing,
- Pregnancy testing/options counselling,
- Sexuality,
- Sexual health,
- Free condoms,
- Low-cost birth control.

Client Services	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Q1-Q3
Male Clients	127	164	308	292	142	68	179	168
Female Clients	805	644	1014	690	295	137	291	386
% of clients between 12-24	-	66%	63%	56.3%	49.2%	46.8%	59.1%	46%
Contraceptives (sold)	846	198	195	72	38	29	12*	16*
Contraceptives (prescribed)	-	-	-	138	47	83	72	61
Plan B	25	23	25	16	3	13	7	2

STBBI Testing	201	257	329	241	102	111	186	335**
Pregnancy Tests	36	37	39	20	12	19	31	32
IUD/Pregnancy Referrals and (F/U)***	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	13
Treatment Prescribed for STI	-	-	-	-	29	40	39	39
Pap tests	-	-	-	-	10	11	5	14

**this number denotes the amount of visits where contraceptives were sold, not the amount of contraceptives provided*
*** STI and STBBI are now captured under the same category to follow most appropriate and inclusive language*
****this new reporting category was added to highlight the referrals to other providers for various services not offered at THU, including terminations*

Work Completed:

- With one PHN still on leave, the sexual health clinic was offered in New Liskeard twice weekly.
- THU offered PAP days every 2 months for clients in New Liskeard. Clinics have been well attended.

Immunizations

Immunization – Vaccine Safety and Vaccine Administration

COVID-19 Vaccine Program:

Work Completed:

- THU prepared for the upcoming fall vaccine campaign. Planning began during Q3 for the community clinics in all areas of the district.
- Clinic advertising was done via local newspapers, radio stations and social media accounts. Posters were also hung in various public spaces throughout the district.
- Relevant ministry updates were shared with healthcare providers, LTCH, retirement homes, hospitals and congregate living settings.
- Approximately 745 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were offered between Q1 and Q3

Other COVID-19 vaccine program highlights:

- All XBB vaccine products were removed from circulation in August 2024 by the Ministry of Health while awaiting the approval for KP.2 vaccine products.

Routine Immunizations:

Immunization Program					
Immunizations Administered in Office	NL	KL	ENG	Total 2023	2024
# of clients receiving immunizations	524	286	94	2130	1354
# of immunizations administered	845	487	165	4165	2344
Note: These numbers do not include Influenza Vaccine <i>Generated from PANORAMA-R07090 Immunization Administered or Wasted at Health Unit</i>					

2024-2025 Universal Influenza Immunization Program:

Work Completed:

- THU attended regular ministry meetings to discuss the fall vaccine campaign.
- The VPD team met in August to start planning for the 2024/2025 UIIP program, jointly with the COVID implementation team.
- An education session on the seasonal flu and covid vaccine was offered to all PHNs and support staff working the community clinics. The session as recorded for staff who could not attend the live session.
- Multiple fridge inspections were completed throughout the district in anticipation of the UIIP.

Adult and Infant RSV Vaccine Program

Work Completed:

- THU worked with Temiskaming Hospital and the regional OHT to better understand who would be administering the RSV vaccine to eligible adults and infants.
- THU helped facilitate orders and inventory to ensure adequate supply for the district.

Year	Vaccine Fridges - Cold Chain Inspections					
	KL		NL		ENG	
	Total inspections	Total failures	Total inspections	Total failures	Total inspections	Total failures
2018	15	11	32	10	5	1
2019	15	7	30	12	10	2
2020	18	11	24	3	8	1
2021	19	4	28	3	9	0
2022	19	9	25	4	8	0
2023	16	9	24	2	8	1
2024	17	3	18	2	6	0

Land Control

Septic Systems	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<i>Permits Issued</i>	131	111	124	38	66	76	106	125	93	64
<i>File Searches</i>	60	60	66	28	55	65	54	53	41	33
<i>Severance/Subdivision</i>	15	15	29	10	13	8	13	14	12	15

Safe Water

<i>Drinking Water</i>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Small Drinking Water Systems	13	48	2	3	36	34	3
<i>Recreational Water</i>							
Public Beaches (<i>Seasonal Jul-Aug</i>)	17	17	19	0	0	17	5
Pools	18	28	8	13	8	18	10
Recreational Camps/Beachfront (<i>Seasonal Jul-Aug</i>)	9	11	0	5	9	7	5

Variance: Beach and recreational camp beachfront down from previous years due to lower capacity in 2024.

Healthy Environments and Climate Change

We continued to analyze the findings in the climate change and health [report](#), which was completed through the collaborative project of the northeastern health units. To increase the awareness of this topic the report was released and plans for next steps have been worked on in 2023. Our approach at this point has been to use the report to assist with prioritizing health concerns related to climate change that are of a greater risk specifically in our district. In partnership with Porcupine Health Unit, THU will continue to work to identify adaptation and mitigation strategies while still leveraging the knowledge and experience of the initial group when appropriate.

Variance:

- Some initial planning took place in Q1 and Q2 of 2024 but changes in capacity has not allowed for actions to be developed and implemented as prioritizing capacity for this work remains a challenge.

Food Safety

Food Premises - Compliance Inspections										
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
High Risk	165	184	109	93	88	47	29	29	40	38
Medium Risk	206	110	187	214	192	96	60	93	122	128
Low Risk	149	204	160	129	135	62	58	126	129	91
Total	520	498	456	436	415	205	147	248	291	257

Food Handler Certifications										
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Englehart	63	26	23	75	58	3	24	10	37	35
New Liskeard/Tem	90	68	144	351	182	19	55	29	177	46
Kirkland Lake	70	41	58	127	15	34	5	12	19	15
Total	223	135	225	553	255	56	84	51	233	96

Variance: Additional opportunities will take place in Q4 for people to obtain their certification. Anyone at any time can take the on-line course as well. Have worked with schools and crisis shelters to help them prepare for challenging exam.

Human Resource Update

The comings and goings of our colleagues



New Staff:

- Public Health Nurse-IPAC, Permanent, Full-Time, New Liskeard (October 2024)
- Research, Policy, Planning, Analyst, Permanent, New Liskeard (October 2024)

Current Vacancies:

- Public Health Inspector, Permanent, District-Wide
- Registered Dietitian, Permanent, Full-Time, District-Wide
- Program Assistant, Temporary, Kirkland Lake
- Public Health Promoter – Planet Youth, District-Wide

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