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TO: Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit

DESTINATAIRE : Conseil de santé de la circonscription sanitaire de la ville d'Ottawa

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**SUBJECT: Ottawa Public Health Research Projects: 2023 and 2024**  
**OBJET : Projets de recherche de Santé publique Ottawa : 2023 et 2024**

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to update the Ottawa Board of Health on research projects with Ottawa Public Health (OPH) involvement in the years 2023 and 2024. These projects demonstrate OPH's commitment to evidence-informed decision-making and role in advancing public health priorities through collaboration, data-driven approaches, and policy development.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has demonstrated a strong commitment to research as a foundation for evidence-informed decision-making, enhancing population health outcomes. Over the past two years, OPH has actively engaged in 58 research projects, with 30 continuing into 2025. Through partnerships with leading academic institutions, public health units, and government agencies, OPH has played diverse roles in shaping research methodologies, contributing data, and applying findings to public health interventions. These collaborations span local, national, and international levels, underscoring OPH's influence in advancing public health research. By integrating equity-driven, prevention-focused, and impact-maximizing strategies, OPH has positioned itself as a key partner in generating and translating evidence into actionable policies and programs.

The research initiatives undertaken by OPH cover a broad spectrum of public health priorities, including climate change, health equity, infectious disease prevention, food insecurity, neighbourhood health, and geriatric care. Participation in each research project contributes valuable insights that inform policies and interventions aimed at improving health and well-being across Ottawa's communities. Moving forward, OPH remains dedicated to ensuring that our policies and programs continue to be guided by evidence.

## BACKGROUND

Research plays a crucial role in guiding OPH's efforts to improve population health outcomes and inform policy-making through evidence-informed decision-making. Over the years, OPH has strengthened research partnerships, aligning with our strategic goals of being equity-driven, prevention-focused, and impact-maximizing. In 2023, OPH participated in 23 new research projects, reflecting a growing engagement in public health research. This momentum continued into 2024, with OPH initiating participation in 35 new research projects. This growth underscores OPH's deepening research culture and commitment to generating and applying evidence to enhance public health interventions and decision-making.

OPH played multifaceted roles in these 58 projects over 2 years, with 30 of them continuing into 2025. As a study partner in 31 projects, OPH helped shape research objectives, methodologies, and knowledge-sharing strategies, through meaningful engagement with academic and institutional partners. In 21 projects, OPH contributed firsthand insights as a study participant, recognizing the importance of experiential knowledge in informing public health research and practice. Additionally, OPH supported three studies through data sharing, ensuring that valuable local public health data informed evidence-based findings. OPH also took on the role of lead investigator in one project, driving the research project from conceptualization to publication. Finally, OPH served as an end-of-grant knowledge user in two project proposals, helping translate research findings into actionable public health policies and programs. This range of engagement highlights OPH's role as both a contributor to and beneficiary of public health research.

OPH's research involvement was strengthened through partnerships with a diverse network of institutions at local, national, and international levels. These collaborations included leading universities such as the University of Ottawa, University of Toronto, McGill University, and the University of British Columbia, as well as specialized research institutes like The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and the CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network. OPH also worked closely with other public health units, reinforcing strong regional partnerships. Engagement with government agencies like the Public Health Agency of Canada and international organizations such as the World Health Organization further emphasized OPH's role in public health research. The breadth of these collaborations reflects OPH's dedication to leveraging diverse expertise, fostering interdisciplinary research, and ensuring findings are translated into real-world applications that enhance public health practice, while also demonstrating the trust researchers have in OPH's expertise and leadership in evidence-informed decision-making.

## DISCUSSION

The 58 research projects covered diverse public health priorities such as health equity, infectious disease surveillance, environmental health, and chronic disease prevention. A detailed outline of these 58 projects is provided in the Appendix. While each project contributed valuable insights, we have highlighted key initiatives under six overarching themes.

### **1. Climate Change**

Climate change is an escalating public health concern, influencing disease patterns, environmental conditions, and the well-being of vulnerable populations. OPH is actively engaged in research to understand and mitigate these impacts. The Climate Equity Indicators for Ottawa project (078-24) integrates climate-specific data with health and social indicators to identify climate-vulnerable neighborhoods and guide targeted interventions. The Addressing Climate (In)Justice Among People Experiencing Homelessness study (079-24) examines how climate-related challenges disproportionately affect unhoused populations, informing equitable public health responses. Additionally, the Management of Physical Infrastructure Systems in Cities project (040-23) explores best practices for adapting urban infrastructure to protect public health in a changing climate. Through these initiatives, OPH is leveraging research partnerships to enhance climate resilience and safeguard community health.

### **2. Health Equity**

Equity is a critical pillar of public health, ensuring that everyone has fair opportunities to achieve optimal well-being. OPH is actively contributing to research that informs equitable policies and interventions. The INTERACT study (067-24) examines how investments in public infrastructure, such as Ottawa's light rail transit system, impact health, well-being, and social connectedness, particularly for equity-deserving groups. The Co-designing National Guidelines for Social Data Collection project (076-24) seeks to establish best practices for collecting and using social data in health settings to advance health equity. Additionally, the Advancing Equity in Sustainable Transportation Planning study (046-23) explores ways to integrate equity into transportation planning, ensuring inclusive mobility solutions. Through these initiatives, OPH is working alongside research and community partners to embed equity into public health decision-making and urban planning.

### **3. Infectious Diseases**

OPH is engaged in research that enhances infectious disease prevention and expands access to testing and treatment. The Get-a-Kit – STI Expansion project (051-23) leverages the GetaKit.ca system to provide at-risk individuals with easier access to STI testing, improving early detection and intervention. Meanwhile, the SPRITE study (052-23) evaluates the use of point-of-care rapid testing for syphilis and HIV in underserved populations, helping to build capacity for more accessible and immediate treatment options. By supporting these initiatives, OPH is advancing innovative strategies to reduce the burden of infectious diseases and improve health outcomes in the community.

### **4. Food Insecurity**

Food insecurity remains a pressing issue in public health, impacting the well-being of communities. OPH collaborated with the University of Ottawa on a research project (057-23) to assess the extent of food insecurity among students through surveys and interviews. The study also mapped available food resources both on and off-campus and proposed sustainable, evidence-based solutions for institutions to help reduce food insecurity in this population. By engaging in this research, OPH is contributing to efforts that inform policies and interventions aimed at ensuring students have reliable access to nutritious food.

### **5. Building Healthier Ottawa Neighbourhoods**

Neighbourhood environments play a crucial role in shaping community health and well-being. OPH partnered with the University of Ottawa on the Ottawa Neighbourhood Study (061-23), which integrates diverse data sources to generate insights on local neighbourhoods. By analyzing the relationships between neighbourhood indicators and socioeconomic characteristics, this project identifies trends and inequities, helping inform policies and interventions that promote healthier, more equitable communities. OPH's involvement ensures that public health perspectives are integrated into the study's planning and implementation, strengthening data-driven decision-making for Ottawa's neighbourhoods.

## **6. Supports for healthy aging – fall prevention**

Falls are a leading cause of injury among older adults, making prevention efforts essential for promoting healthy aging. OPH collaborated on research projects to improve fall prevention strategies in community settings. In partnership with the University of Waterloo (070-24), OPH contributed insights from Ottawa to an environmental scan examining how exercise services for fall and fracture prevention are delivered across Ontario. Additionally, OPH is currently supporting a University of New Brunswick study (095-24) aimed at implementing and sustaining evidence-informed fall prevention exercise programs for adults aged 50+. These initiatives help strengthen community-based approaches to reducing fall-related injuries and improving quality of life for older adults.

## **CONCLUSION**

OPH's involvement in research projects highlights our commitments to Evidence Informed Decision Making and meaningful engagement to inform public health practice. Moving forward, OPH remains committed to deepening research partnerships, expanding its contributions to knowledge generation, and ensuring that public health policies and programs in Ottawa are grounded in the best available evidence.

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CC: [Name(s), Department/Branch][Organization(s)]

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

## **OPH APPROVED RESEARCH PROJECTS – 2024**

### **#063-24 - A Community That Counts: Data-driven localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Ottawa's neighbourhoods**

Led by the University of Ottawa, this project aims to bridge the gap between the global formulation of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and the local community in Ottawa by employing a localized approach, connecting the sustainable development goals to Ottawa's natural neighbourhoods, a relatable level of geography, known by residents and amenable to local action. The Epidemiology unit of OPH partners with the research team to support the planning and implementation of this project.

### **#064-24 - A cross-sectional investigational study to evaluate the sensitivity, specificity, and utility of the MedMira Inc. Multiplo® Complete Syphilis (TP/nTP) Antibody Test (POCT) to diagnose infectious syphilis in participants attending the Sexual Health Clinic in Ottawa, Ontario.**

Led by the University of Ottawa, the primary objective of this study is to determine if a point of care test for syphilis administered at a clinic can provide comparable results to those obtained by conventional laboratory testing. The study is conducted at OPH-affiliated Sexual Health Clinic, with Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Services of OPH providing support for its overall conduct.

### **#065-24 - Public Health and healthcare system collaboration to achieve Quadruple Aim**

Led by the University of Toronto, this study aims to examine how public health and healthcare systems collaborate to improve population health. A member of the Senior Leadership Team of OPH participated as key informants to provide insights on public health and informing directions for future research and implementation initiatives.

### **#066-24 - Outdoor Aeroallergen Concentrations as Overlooked Environmental Risk Factors for Acute Cardiovascular Events: High Resolution Exposure Modelling and Epidemiological Analyses in Canadian Cities**

Led by McGill University and Carleton University, this project develops new models to predict daily variations in pollen/spores and then apply these models in new epidemiological studies. The cities of Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal are being used for the study. The results of this study have the potential to enhance the city's policies

related to climate change. The Supportive Health Environments branch of OPH supports this project as an end of grant knowledge user.

### **#067-24 - INTERACT: INTerventions, Equity, Research, and Action in Cities Team and the City of Ottawa**

INTERACT is a CIHR-funded collaborative that has been carrying out research in 4 Canadian municipalities since 2017. They leverage natural experiments to work with local governments to understand how public investments in infrastructure impact health, well-being and equity. The Supportive Health Environments branch of OPH and Transport planning services of City of Ottawa collaborate with the researchers from University of Saskatchewan; University de Montreal; Simon Fraser University to assess impacts on health and well-being, including physical and mental health, as well as social connectedness in using the Ottawa light rail transit system.

### **#068-24 - Focus, Inform and Transform (FIT) to reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes in Black people in Canada.**

Led by the University of Ottawa, the FIT (for Focus, inform, implicate, and transform) project is an innovative model aiming to Train (students from different fields) to Inform (religious leaders and Black community members from mosques and churches) in order to Transform (the lifestyle habits of those at high risk of Type 2 Diabetes). The Community Engagement Unit and the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention branch of OPH partner with the research team to support the planning and implementation of this project.

### **#069-24 - Planning healthy communities: Exploring the production of health-promoting resources and health equity in place**

Led by the University of Waterloo, the purpose of the study is to explore healthy community initiatives and efforts that support health and equity in the Province of Ontario. The Supportive Health Environments branch of OPH participated as key informant in semi structured interviews to provide insights from Ottawa.

### **#070-24 - Environmental scan of exercise services for fall and fracture prevention in Ontario**

Led by the University of Waterloo, the purpose of the study is to understand how exercise services designed to improve balance and prevent falls are being delivered in Ontario communities. Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention branch of OPH



participated as key informant in semi structured interviews and focus groups to provide insights from Ottawa.

### **#071-24 - Canadian Wellbeing Knowledge Network (CWKN)**

Led by the McGill University, the Canadian wellbeing knowledge network's mission is to mobilize evidence and experience to make wellbeing the priority in programs, practices, policies, and mindsets. The project aims to generate useful toolkits for network members to communicate about wellbeing evidence, and for communities to develop and apply wellbeing frameworks in their work. Supportive health environments branch of OPH partners with the research team and provides input to support the development and refinement of knowledge mobilization toolkits.

### **#072-24 - CIHR Pan-Canadian Network for HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (STBBI) Clinical Trials Research**

The CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN) is establishing a coordinated national Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (STBBI) research infrastructure. This collaboration with CTN aims to advance and apply implementation science to promote evidence-based practices. Through a two-way exchange and shared priority-setting with CTN and its partners, OPH will integrate new knowledge into practice and help shape future research priorities.

### **#073-24 - Policy scan on shade as an effective public health and climate adaptation intervention in municipal contexts**

Led by the University of Guelph, the research team is identifying municipal-level urban shade policies and practices across Canada and assessing their content for focus on equity, different types of shade, and other important characteristics. OPH assisted with the data collection by sharing municipal policy documents with the team for review.

### **#074-24 - What happened and why? Case studies to determine the extent of equity-lens driven decision-making in response to COVID-19**

Led by the University of Toronto, the main objective of this project is to understand whether COVID-19 public health policies, recommendations, and implementation decisions were designed and implemented with health equity in mind. Two members from the OPH senior leadership participated in semi-structured interviews to offer insights on where health equity gaps existed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how they can be addressed.

**#075-24 - Strengthening organizational capacity for health research, data management and knowledge mobilization (KM) in African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities across Canada**

Led by the University of Ottawa, the purpose of this study is to identify and eliminate the barriers experienced by organizations that address the health needs of African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities in conducting research, data management and knowledge mobilisation. The Evidence team at OPH participated as key informants for this research.

**#076-24 - Co-designing national guidelines for the collection and use of social data in health settings to advance health equity**

Led by the university of Toronto, this project aims to co-design (informed by existing evidence and recommendations, subject matter experts, health organizations, and citizens) and disseminate national guidelines for collecting and using social data in health settings. As study partners, the Epidemiology unit of OPH supports the planning and implementation of this project.

**#077-24 - Locally Driven Collaborative Project (LDCP): Maternal barriers and facilitators to breastfeeding goal attainment among mothers with healthy term infants**

The objective of this project is to develop further understanding of the benefits of professional breastfeeding support on breastfeeding outcomes and to further understand how the mother's perceived/actual barriers and facilitators to breastfeeding influence their breastfeeding goal attainment. As study partners, the Healthy Growth and Development branch of OPH will support the planning and implementation of this project in collaboration with Hastings Prince Edward Public Health Unit, Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington Health Unit, Eastern Ontario Health Unit, Leeds Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit

**#078-24 - Climate Equity Indicators for Ottawa**

Led by the University of Ottawa, this project aims to integrate climate-specific data sources with existing social and health data of the Ottawa Neighbourhood study (ONS) and develop indicators that can be used for climate impact research, and use GIS and data visualization tools to identify and map neighbourhoods of climate vulnerability and mitigation resources. As integrated knowledge user, the Supportive Health

Environments branch of OPH will support the planning and implementation of this project.

**#079-24 - Addressing climate (in)justice among people experiencing homelessness: A mixed methods study**

Led by the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, the aim of this study is to explore the climate (in)justice experiences of people experiencing homelessness using a mixed methods approach. Community Health and Wellness Branch of OPH supports the planning and implementation of this project.

**#080-24 - Air sampling and testing for SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A and B, and RSV in various indoor and outdoor environments**

Led by Carleton University, the research plan involves conducting air sampling and testing for SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A and B, and RSV in various indoor and outdoor environments. The findings of the study would inform OPH policies and procedures on respiratory illnesses as an end of grant knowledge user.

**#081-24 - Current state of partnership and collaboration between PHUs and School Board partners across Ontario**

Led by the University of Toronto, the focus of this research project is to further explore the current state of partnerships and collaboration between local public health and education sector partners in support and achievement of the Ontario Public Health Standards as it relates to a comprehensive school health promotion approach. Immunization and School Partnerships branch of OPH participated as key informant in this study.

**#082-24 - The Safe and Affordable Place to Call Home: A Multi-disciplinary Longitudinal Outcomes Analysis of the National Housing Strategy research project**

Led by Carleton University, this project is a five-year multi-disciplinary study that will focus on the experience of the most vulnerable Canadians in relation to their housing condition. The research will also assess the effectiveness of efforts to operationalize a rights-based approach to housing for all people living in Canada. Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Services of OPH partners with the research team in the planning and implementation of the project.

### **#083-24 - A place-based simulation model of the impact of structural determinants on health inequities**

Led by University of Ottawa, this project will catalyze the development of an adaptable hyper-localized simulation model to identify and explain how structural determinants of health influence specific health outcomes across Ottawa's neighbourhoods. As a study partner, Epidemiology and Supportive Health Environments branches of OPH partners with the researchers to support the planning and implementation of the project.

### **#084-24 - Defining Public Health Programs and Services in Canada: A Survey of Canadian Public Health Experts**

Led by the University of Saskatchewan, this study aims to ascertain what current programs and services are delivered by Public Health across Canada and seek the opinions of Canadian public health experts on what programs and services should be considered part of public health in an ideal world. The Public Health Medicine Unit participated in completing a survey on services that OPH currently delivers with a perspective on whether these programs and services are solely considered public health's responsibility or a shared responsibility and if so, to what degree.

### **#085-24 - Exploring Built and Social Environmental Influences on Active Commuting: Insights from the 2021 Census and Workplace-Home Neighbourhood Data**

The study integrates recent updates from the Canadian Urban Environment Health Research Consortium (CANUE) environmental data and the 2021 Census data to identify meaningful patterns in physical environments (including built and natural environment exposures) and social environments around individuals' workplaces and homes. In collaboration with Institute for Work & Health, Public Health Agency of Canada, the Supportive Health Environments branch of OPH will partner with the research team to support the planning and implementation of this project.

### **#086-24 - PHAC ISAF: Implementing the Ottawa Intersectoral Social Infrastructure Data Hub (OISIDH)**

Led by the University of Ottawa, this project implements Ottawa's first intersectoral data hub, housed at the Bruyère Research Institute in Ottawa, by leveraging existing partnerships and developing new ones to create an inclusive, intersectoral governance model. The research team will convene cross-sectoral tables to determine the most

pressing inequities in Ottawa, identify potential root causes, and specify data needed to inform effective upstream interventions. Epidemiology unit and Supportive Health Environments branch of OPH are partnering with the research team to support the planning and implementation of this project.

#### **#087-24 - Implementing the Ottawa Decision Support Hub to augment population health management**

Led by the University of Ottawa, the proposed project augments the population health management capacity of Ottawa's Health Teams (OHTs) by implementing the Ottawa Decision Support Hub, an online data platform that will improve the integration of care for OHT populations. This platform will bring health-related data together with neighbourhood-level data on social and environmental factors, and thus allow OHTs to better identify where their populations experience greater health inequities and propose ways to reduce them. Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention branch of OPH partners with the research team to support the planning and implementation of this project.

#### **#088-24 - Measles Virus Genotype A in Canada's Capital Region Wastewater Associated with Public Health Vaccination Initiatives**

Led by the University of Ottawa, this research monitored Ottawa wastewater for measles virus, identifying vaccine-derived genotype A RNA—the first such detection in North American wastewater. Epidemiology unit of OPH participated in this research and provided the vaccination data that helped correlate findings.

#### **#089-24 - Effectiveness of mpox virus detection in wastewater as surveillance for mpox activity in Ottawa**

Led by the University of Ottawa, the project involves testing Ottawa wastewater for mpox signal since the initial outbreak in May 2022, The Epidemiology unit of OPH shared non-identifying data on human cases of mpox to correlate with the wastewater data.

#### **#090-24 - Inclusive risk communication during emergencies or disasters**

Led by the University of Ottawa, the study aims to understand the nature of health communication received by people with disability from their governmental health agencies, and how it affected their perceptions of risk and their risk reduction. The Emergency Management unit of OPH participated in Structured Interview Matrix (SIM) consultations organized by the research team and offer insights as key informants.

### **#091-24 - Developing new assays for vector-borne pathogens in wastewater and environmental monitoring**

Led by the University of Ottawa, this project enhances public health resilience in two First Nations communities by using genomic tools for wastewater and environmental monitoring to track vector borne diseases like Lyme disease, West Nile virus, and Powassan virus, which are increasingly prevalent due to climate change. In order to develop these new tools, the research team will partner with the Epidemiology unit of OPH to test new assays on samples of City of Ottawa wastewater which are being collected through an already in-place contract.

### **#092-24 - Canadian Wastewater Monitoring Research Platform for Pandemic Preparedness**

Led by the University of Ottawa, this project seeks to establish a research platform to support the CoVaRR-Net Wastewater Surveillance Research Group (WWSRG) in its mission to advance wastewater and environmental monitoring (WEM) as a cornerstone of pandemic preparedness and response. The Epidemiology unit of OPH will partner with the research team in establishing this research platform.

### **#093-24 - Drivers of enhancing prenatal syphilis screening recommendations across Ontario public health units**

Led by the Queen's University, this is research study evaluates the effectiveness of enhanced prenatal syphilis screening in Ontario Public Health Units (PHUs). The focus of this research is to summarize prenatal syphilis screening recommendations and implementation practices in Ontario PHUs. The Public Health Medicine Unit of OPH participated in an online survey.

### **#094-24 - Public health recommendations for the use of doxy-PEP among gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men**

The Epidemiology unit of OPH is leading an investigation on the effectiveness of giving doxycycline as postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) after sexual contacts during which bacterial sexually transmitted infections transmission could have occurred among gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men. In collaboration with University of Ottawa, the project involves reviewed and analyzing three years of public health surveillance data.

### **#095-24 - Implementing Fall Prevention Exercise Programs in Community Settings**

Led by the University of New Brunswick, the aim of this study is to understand how to Attract, Adapt, IMplement, and Sustain an evidence-informed fall prevention exercise program (The AAIMS Project) in Community Setting for adults aged 50+ in Canada. Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention branch of OPH will participate in the evaluation of this program's implementation.

### **#096-24 - Wastewater and Environmental Surveillance (WWS): Global Landscape Analysis and End-User Requirement for Digitalization**

Led by the World Health Organization (WHO), this project aims to understand the implementation status of wastewater and environmental surveillance (WWS), its workflow and end-user requirements and the embedding of WWS into national public health surveillance. The Epidemiology unit of OPH participated in this study as subject matter experts to offer insights on the topic

### **#097-24 - Pre-exposure mpox vaccination campaigns**

Led by the University of British Columbia, the objective of this project is to assess the successes and shortcomings of the preventive vaccination efforts against mpox in 2022 in order to record them for posterity and research, and to inform future vaccination efforts. OPH staff from Sexual Health and Harm Reduction unit and Immunization Unit will contribute information and feedback about the mpox vaccination rollouts in Ottawa.

## **OPH APPROVED RESEARCH PROJECTS – 2023**

### **#040-23 - Management of Physical Infrastructure Systems in Cities to Protect Public Health from Climate Change-Related Risks**

Led by the University of Cambridge, this project aims to inform future best practice on how to manage physical infrastructure systems to protect public health in cities in a changing climate. The Supportive Health Environments branch of OPH participated as key informants in this project.

### **#041-23 - Building Social Media Communications Capacity for Public Health Emergency Response and Preparedness in British Columbia**

Led by the Simon Fraser University, this project aims to explore the potential strategy and structure for a provincial Community of Practice for practitioners using social media for communications. The Health Information and Public Engagement branch of OPH participated in small and large group discussions to identify challenges and opportunities for using social media for public health communications.

### **#042-23 - Radon Survey of Workplaces in Ontario**

Led by the Occupational Cancer Research Centre, this project investigated the levels of radon in a variety of Ontario workplaces, including public buildings and small to medium sized businesses. The Environmental Health branch of OPH facilitated recruitment for this study by sharing the information with health and safety consultants.

### **#044-23 - Developing a healthy cities research partnership to use linked paramedic data**

Led by the University of Ottawa, this project is a research partnership between the Ottawa Paramedic Service (OPS), researchers, local government and organizations in the community to link OPS Ambulance Call Report data with Ontario health administrative data. The Mental Health, Addictions and Substance Use Health branch of OPH partnered with the research team to support the implementation of the project.

### **#045-23 - Ontario Public Health Information Database (OPHID) Study**

Led by the University of Alberta and Public Health Ontario, this project aims to build an indicator database, the Ontario Public Health Information Database (OPHID), through systematic data collection on public health resources, including funding, workforce and



program delivery across Ontario's local public health units (PHUs). The Senior Leadership Team of OPH participated in surveys, key informant interviews and shared OPH records.

### **#046-23 - Advancing equity in sustainable transportation planning**

Led by Simon Fraser University, this study aims to strengthen partnerships and knowledge exchange between urban researchers, professionals, advocates, and planners looking to unlock the equity-promoting potential of sustainable transportation interventions across Canada. The Supportive Health Environment branch of OPH partnered with the research team and helped develop a case study of Ottawa.

### **#047-23 - Locally Driven Collaborative Project: 2023-2024 - Development of Common Chronic Disease Prevention Indicators**

The overall aim of this study is to increase the capacity of Public Health Units to plan, monitor and evaluate chronic disease prevention (CDP) programs by developing common measurable indicators that can be applied at each health unit for a consistent measure of impact of CDP work. In collaboration with Thunder Bay District Health Unit and University of Toronto, OPH supported the planning and implantation of this project.

### **#048-23 - A human ecological niche model for the occurrence and prediction of Lyme Disease risk in Ontario**

Led by the University of Ottawa and University de Montreal this project aims to identify hotspots of Lyme disease (LD) risk by constructing a spatially explicit model using human case data. The Epidemiology and Surveillance unit of OPH partnered with the research team to provide anonymized data of LD and reviewed findings, manuscripts and presentations developed from the research.

### **#049-23 - Wastewater-based surveillance used to identify start of respiratory syncytial virus disease season in two Canadian cities**

Led by the University of Ottawa, this study correlates respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) wastewater levels with existing clinical surveillance data, with particular attention to differences between adult and pediatric hospitalizations as markers of disease severity. In collaboration with Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), the Epidemiology unit of OPH partnered with the research team and provided anonymized datasets and reviewed findings and manuscripts from the research.

### **#051-23 - Locally Driven Collaborative Project: 2023-2024 – Get-a-Kit – STI Expansion**

This project spans two public health units in Eastern Ontario (Ottawa and KFLA), in collaboration with the University of Ottawa, to leverage the existing [GetaKit.ca](https://getakit.ca) system to implement and evaluate a novel way to offer STI testing to persons at-risk for these infections. Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Services of OPH supported the implementation of this project in collaboration with the research team.

### **#052-23 - Locally Driven Collaborative Project: 2023-2024 – Syphilis Point-of-care Rapid testing and Immediate Treatment Evaluation (SPRITE)**

This project spans includes five public health units (PHUs), KFL&APH, Hastings Prince Edward Public Health (HPEPH), Leeds Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit (LGLDHU), Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU), and Ottawa Public Health (OPH), in collaboration with the Queens University, to build capacity and evaluate implementation of the INSTI® Multiplex HIV-1 / HIV-2 / Syphilis Antibody Test in underserved populations. Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Services of OPH supported the implementation of this project in collaboration with the research team.

### **#054-23 - Cyber-Violence Against Public Health Professionals**

Led by a collaboration between University of Toronto; University of Waterloo, Dalhousie University and University College London this research seeks to understand the nature and impacts of cyberviolence against public health professionals and inform evidence-based interventions to assess and mitigate risk when cyberviolence occurs. Health Information and Public Engagement branch of OPH participated as key informants in this study.

### **#055-23 - HaPPHIR: Healing Physicians in Public Health for an Inclusive and Equitable Recovery: evidence and evaluation to support burnout recovery for public health physicians and residents in Ontario.**

The Public Health Medicine Unit of OPH partnered with Public Health Ontario, Niagara Region Public Health, McMaster University and Peterborough Public Health to identify and evaluate strategies used in public health organizations and residency programs in Ontario to prevent, mitigate, and recover from burnout.

### **#056-23 - Study on Institutional Decision-Making and the Role of Evidence During Health Emergencies**

Led by the Cambridge University, the study aims to deepen the understanding of the factors influencing decision-making processes during health crises. This study is particularly concerned with understanding institutional collaboration and the role of evidence and science advice in these decision-making processes. The Public Health Medicine Unit of OPH participated as key informants in this study.

### **#057-23 - Examining Food Insecurity in Post-Secondary Students in Ottawa research project**

Chronic Diseases and Injury Prevention branch of OPH partnered with University of Ottawa to identify if food insecurity is an issue in post-secondary students via survey and interviews. The study conducted an environmental scan of resources that students can use to access food - on-campus and off-campus that are within walking distance - and proposed evidence-based and sustainable short and long-term solutions that post-secondary institutions can do to reduce food insecurity in this target population.

### **#058-23 - Considering the Challenges of Highly Mediatized Experts in Leadership roles, in Long-Term Public-Sector Emergencies, and Applicable Cross-Disciplinary Resilience Strategies, Practice and Policy**

Led by the Royal Roads University, the goal of this study was to provide data which may indicate the necessity of support mechanisms for experts in leadership roles in public health, and to consider what those support mechanisms may be. The Senior Leadership of OPH participated as key informants in this study.

### **#059-23 - Risk of HIV among Public Health Practitioners**

Led by the Carleton university, this study aims to understand how public health practitioners work with HIV-related tests and data. The Public Health Medicine Unit of OPH participated in this study as key informants.

### **#060-23 - Study examining decentralization in the provincial public health systems of Alberta and Ontario**

Led by the University of Toronto, this study aims to validate emerging findings and gain insights on how decentralization shapes the activities that local public health units undertake in responding to a key public health issue, the opioid overdose crisis. The Public Health Medicine unit of OPH participated in this study as key informants.

### **#061-23 - Integrated data for healthier Ottawa neighbourhoods**

Led by the University of Ottawa, the Ottawa Neighbourhood Study (ONS) combines data from different sources to mobilize evidence about Ottawa neighbourhoods for residents and stakeholders. It aims to generate insights and analyze relationships between neighbourhood indicators and socioeconomic characteristics of neighbourhoods to identify trends and inequities. The Epidemiology unit of OPH partners with the research team to support the planning and implementation of the research study.

### **#062-23 - Feasibility study of community engagement approach to recruitment and retention of marginalized populations in longitudinal biomonitoring research on environmental chemicals**

In collaboration with University of Ottawa and Health Canada, the Supportive Health Environment branch of OPH will explore a community-based approach to fostering understanding, trust, and potential interest among people living in marginalizing circumstances in becoming involved in health research on environmental chemicals.