



OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH  
**2025**  
ANNUAL REPORT

## Message from the Mayor

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) and the City of Ottawa share a strong tradition of collaboration and partnership, and 2025 has been no different. The work of OPH and the City truly embody the *Team Ottawa* approach of serving residents. Day-after-day my City of Ottawa colleagues and most importantly Ottawa residents see the important work of OPH throughout our community.

From the heart of downtown to rural neighbourhoods, OPH's presence is felt around the clock and across the city, tackling challenges like mental health, substance use, vaccine-preventable diseases, ensuring healthy growth and development.

Recently, I had the opportunity to tour OPH's newest dental clinic in Orléans. The clinic plays a vital role in delivering oral health services to residents who experience barriers to accessing this fundamental aspect of preventive health care.

Whether through Neighbourhood Health and Wellness Hubs or home visits for programs like Healthy Babies, Healthy Children, OPH is there to ensure health services are accessible to Ottawa.

Their expertise and partnership extends beyond places we associate with health. OPH provides an important voice in how our City is planned and used by residents in their everyday lives.



They provided guidance and support through the development of our new Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Review, as well as our Transportation Master Plan. These insights help ensure decisions on some of our most important and impactful policies reflect the health needs of our community.

Reflecting on our shared accomplishments in 2025, I am confident in OPH staff that they will continue the *Team Ottawa* approach to tackle different challenges the City will face moving towards a healthier Ottawa for all residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Sutcliffe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Sutcliffe  
Mayor  
City of Ottawa

## Message from the Chair of the Board of Health

The past year was one of meaningful change and progress for the Board of Health and Ottawa Public Health (OPH). We had the pleasure of appointing Dr. Trevor Arnason as our new Medical Officer of Health. Together, we continued to advance our public health mandate while finding new ways to respond to the evolving needs of our community.

This year, the Board continued to make progress on the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan and its vision of “All people and places in Ottawa are healthy and thriving”. We moved forward with important priorities addressing community health needs such as **Ottawa’s Overdose Prevention and Response Strategy** and championing health and housing initiatives and access to primary care services in collaboration with Ontario Health Teams. We deepened our commitment to healthy environments, in recognition that where we live, work and play has a substantial impact on our health.

OPH and the Board of Health reinforced its commitment to health equity, diversity and inclusion, both within the organization and through collaboration with community and healthcare partners. We also continued to take action to address systemic barriers to health by engaging communities including Indigenous health and social system partners to co-create solutions.

Our work continues to be amplified through strong partnerships with other levels of



government and community and health system partners. These collaborations ensure alignment with provincial health priorities, access to resources and coordinated responses to emerging public health challenges, keeping Ottawa residents top of mind.

I want to express my gratitude to my fellow Board members and OPH employees for their dedication to service excellence and health equity, and to the many community partners who stand alongside OPH in making Ottawa a healthy city.

As we look ahead to 2026, this will be the final year for this Board, we remain focused on building stronger partnerships, addressing emerging health challenges and working to create a healthier, more inclusive City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Kitts', written over a white background.

Catherine Kitts,  
Chair, Ottawa Board of Health

## Message from the Medical Officer of Health

Over the past year, I have had the great honour of leading OPH into a new chapter guided by our strategic plan and grounded in collaboration for community health and well-being. As I reflect on 2025, I am struck by how much we have accomplished thanks to the dedication of the OPH team, the support of our city and health system partners, and the leadership of the Ottawa Board of Health.

Every day, the team at OPH works to ensure residents have access to critical public health services and programs that prevent illness and promote healthy lives. In 2025, we advanced several important priorities including bringing public health services, such as immunization, dental screening and healthy growth and development programming closer to communities. Neighbourhood Health and Wellness Hubs were a cornerstone of this prevention work to bolster health equity.

We also built on our mission to promote and protect the health and wellbeing of all people in Ottawa by addressing the root causes of poor health outcomes. We continued to create the conditions that allow people to thrive including through collective work on climate action and emergency preparedness in collaboration with city partners. We continued to build our organizational capacity through innovations in technology, including the expansion of our Collaborative Health Record system and use of digital dashboards, which increase efficiency and enable tracking of progress and performance through measurable outcomes. These advances are not only



improving service delivery but enhancing client and resident satisfaction by enabling information-sharing. Ultimately, their further development will allow us to clearly measure and improve the community impacts of our work.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will emphasize the importance of building strong, enduring partnerships with our public, community, and health partners as we enter the final year of Ottawa Public Health Strategic Plan (2023-2027). This is the roadmap that centres all of our efforts on equity, prevention, and impact. Lastly, I want to sincerely thank my colleagues at OPH as well as the Board of Health members, for their guidance and thoughtful insights in confronting the public health challenges we have faced over this last year, and for recognizing our significant organizational accomplishments and the value of the work we do every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Arnason". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Trevor Arnason,  
Medical Officer of Health



## OPH By the Numbers

- **Saving** young lives: administering **66,000+** doses of routine vaccines to children and youth to prevent infectious diseases (e.g., meningitis, measles) and HPV-related cancers
- **Protecting** oral health: screening for **35,000+** school children, dental care for **7,000** residents – including **3,000** seniors
- **Protecting** from West Nile virus and mosquito-borne diseases: Larvicide treatment for **100,000** catch basins
- **Protecting** our community from the spread of infectious diseases: responding to reports of infectious diseases affecting an average of **7000** Ottawa residents
- **Safeguarding** our community from food-borne infections: conducting food safety inspections across **5,500+** food premises
- **Supporting** families: **8,000** home visits- helping babies and children get a healthy start in life
- **Monitoring** the health of Ottawa residents and raising awareness of important issues that affect health, such as **food insecurity**, which currently affects 1 in 4 households
- **Engaging** with our Community: **24,636+** Social Media post “shares” in both official languages
- **Helping** residents stay informed: keeping **8** online public health dashboards up to date in both official languages
- **Promoting** open data: sharing **46 health datasets** with the community through Open Ottawa to support transparency and community research
- **Responding to illness** in our community: investigating nearly **8,700** reports of diseases of public health significance in 2025



## Key Achievements

### Immunization & Infectious Disease Control

In 2025, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) remained vigilant in monitoring and responding to measles activity across Ontario. OPH investigated twelve people diagnosed with measles, which was the highest number of people testing positive in several decades. OPH acted swiftly to contain exposures and provide guidance to affected individuals, helping maintain a low risk to the general population. Province-wide, Ontario saw significant measles activity, with over 2,300 individuals testing positive and over 160 hospitalizations, with nearly 90% of individuals being unimmunized. Each measles investigation requires diligent coordination across OPH, with several teams involved, often resulting in an enhanced response to mobilize and coordinate resources.

Preventing measles through vaccination continued to be a cornerstone of

OPH's work. Throughout the year, OPH emphasized the importance of routine immunizations, particularly during the back-to-school season. Surveillance efforts reviewing school-aged children's records led to substantial improvements in compliance, reducing gaps in immunization coverage among 7- and 17-year-olds. OPH also supported families who faced barriers to accessing vaccines, administering thousands of routine childhood immunizations, including measles-containing vaccines, in partnership with community organizations such as through Kids Come First and the OPH's partnerships in the Neighborhood Health and Wellness Hubs.

In October 2025, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr Kieran Moore, officially declared the measles outbreak in Ontario over. Despite this declaration, OPH continued to investigate a number of people diagnosed with measles likely connected to travel outside the Province. This is a reminder that Ottawa is at risk

of importations of measles cases and we need to maintain high levels of vaccination against measles to prevent local outbreaks. I would like to thank Ottawa residents for their efforts in ensuring that they are up to date with all their vaccinations and remind them that if they are unsure of their measles immunization status or have any questions they can go to our website at [ottawapublichealth.ca/measles](https://ottawapublichealth.ca/measles) or speak with their primary care provider.

## Health Equity & Community Engagement

In 2025, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) continued to advance health equity through strengthened partnerships, expanded community-based services, and culturally safer programming designed to meet the needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, and equity-denied residents in the low-income neighbourhoods. OPH deepened its engagement with Indigenous partners, including the Ottawa Inuit Synergy Group (OISG), Inuit service organizations, and the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA), to better understand community priorities and respond to emerging needs. OPH also maintained a strong presence at key community events such as the Ottawa Indigenous Student Career Fair, Odawa's 50th Anniversary Powwow, the Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival, the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Gathering, and the Wabano Health Fair, supporting relationship-building based on respect, reciprocity, and reflection.

A major achievement in 2025 was that our Neighbourhood Health and Wellness Hubs continued to be widely accessed by Ottawa residents. These hubs provided free, accessible drop-in health and social services in collaboration with City and community partners. These hubs offer vaccination services,



dental screenings, parenting support, employment and social services supports, and other health resources for residents facing systemic barriers to care. These hubs, located in the low-income neighbourhoods, also served as key access points for children and youth requiring routine or school-based vaccines, including those without a primary care provider or OHIP.

To address gaps in routine childhood immunization and help families stay up-to-date, OPH also contributed to catch-up immunization initiatives in partnership with community pediatric and youth-focused health networks. Through collaborations such as the Kids Come First “Vaccinate and Up-to-Date” initiative, OPH supported pop-up and community-based clinics aimed at helping children who missed routine vaccinations access timely immunization, especially in neighbourhoods where access to primary care is limited. These services were delivered both through OPH's community vaccination clinics and through Neighbourhood Health and Wellness Hubs, which continued to offer drop-in COVID-19, flu, and routine vaccines for high-risk and underserved populations.

OPH also worked closely with Indigenous partners to enhance culturally safer access points within these services, including delivering culturally informed Parenting in Ottawa Drop-ins, dental services, and vaccination supports for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis families. This integrated model of care strengthened OPH's ability to meet people where they are, geographically, culturally, and socially, while reducing systemic barriers that have historically prevented equitable access to essential health services.

Together, these initiatives reflect OPH's commitment to reconciliation, equity, and community-driven service delivery, ensuring that residents most impacted by social and structural barriers receive the care and support they need to thrive.

## Mental Health & Substance Use

In 2025, OPH advanced key collaborative efforts to prevent harms related to mental health and substance use health issues.

OPH strengthened community-wide suicide prevention efforts through training, early intervention, coordination and collaboration across health and social services sector, such as leading the **Suicide Prevention Ottawa Network**. In 2025, over 500 intermediaries received suicide prevention training from OPH, with 95% of those trained reported feeling better prepared to talk about suicide. To support the mental health of the community, OPH built the capacity of over 3,200 intermediaries, prioritizing those serving equity-denied populations, enhancing equitable access to mental health resources and services to support early risk identification and timely support. OPH also expanded its Youth Peer-to-Peer program, **Youth Connections Ottawa**, now operating in six community locations.

Further, OPH continued to coordinate the **Overdose Prevention and Response Task Force**, made up of 45+ partners working together to advance **Ottawa's Overdose Prevention and Response Strategy**, and expanded the Community Naloxone Partnerships, which now totals over 40+ health, social service and community partners. To enhance prevention, OPH expanded the Party Safer initiative, which is now included in the City's Special Events By-law. **PartySafer.ca** has become a central tool for preparing event organizers and attendees to stay safer before, during, and after events across Ottawa. As well, OPH has supported over 4,000 people at community and large-scale events with substance use health resources and system navigation, delivered in-person overdose prevention and response training to over 1,000 participants, and distributed 1,325 naloxone kits to those at risk.

## Sexual Health & STBBI

OPH's Sexual Health Services (SHS) offers testing and treatment for Sexually Transmitted and Bloodborne Infections (STBBIs), as well as contraception. The SHS also offers STBBI testing via **GetaKit**, an online service. STBBI testing and treatment, and birth control are available in the community, thus the SHS's focus is on providing services to those who face barriers to accessing care. In 2025, the SHS had over 6000 visits with approximately 93% of clients belonging to equity-denied groups.

To further increase accessibility to STBBI treatments, the Sexual Health Services team runs the "STI Med Program." The program provides primary care providers in the community with publicly-funded medications to treat their patients for STBBIs at no cost to the patients. Timely treatment helps to decrease the risk of complications and prevent further transmission and reinfections.

To date, over 125 community partners have joined the Program and in 2025 the Program distributed approximately 5000 doses of STI medications.

To reduce the transmission of STBBIs and unintended pregnancies, the SHS team also runs a program called “Sex it Smart.” This program provides condoms, oral barriers and lubricants at no cost to community partners for redistribution to Ottawa residents. In 2025, the program distributed approximately 600,000 safer sex products to over 100 community partners.

OPH’s STBBI case and contact management team follows up on all Ottawa reports of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV. In 2025, the STBBI team followed up on 4,647 infections.

The team works to prevent transmission by collaborating with community practitioners and clients to ensure testing, guideline-based treatment, and referrals for individuals and their contacts. They also aim to reduce long-term complications of chronic or latent infections through treatment, counseling, and ongoing engagement in care.

OPH’s partners with community-based services, to support those facing barriers to care, ensure access to testing, treatment, as well as HIV PEP or PrEP to eligible individuals diagnosed with or at risk of specific STBBIs.

As of June 2025, OPH’s SHS and STBBI Case Management teams are both in a shared electronic medical record system (Telus CHR). With a secure and integrated platform for communication, the teams can coordinate more effectively and deliver a higher standard of care for clients diagnosed with STBBIs, by ensuring timely support and streamlined processes, resulting in better overall outcomes.

## Oral Health

In 2025, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) made significant progress in expanding access to high quality, publicly funded dental care, with a particular focus on improving services for low-income seniors. This work aligns directly with OPH’s commitment to equity, prevention, and increased access to essential health services for residents across the city. quality, publicly funded dental care, with a particular focus on improving services for low income seniors. This work aligns directly with OPH’s commitment to equity, prevention, and increased access to essential health services for residents across the city.

This year marked the completion of OPH’s newest dental clinic, located at 255 Centrum Boulevard in Orléans. Finalized in March 2025, the Centrum Dental Clinic represents a major expansion of OPH’s capacity to meet rising community needs. Provincial infrastructure investments, totaling \$2.3 million for the new site, have enabled OPH to increase potential clinic capacity to up to 27,000 appointments per year. The Centrum location alone is expected to support up to 5,000 appointments annually, including critical dental care for more than 2,200 additional seniors enrolled in the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP). Demand for senior services continues to grow rapidly, with OSDCP enrollment in Ottawa expanding from approximately 2,500 in 2020 to 11,000 by 2024.

In parallel, OPH strengthened its integration with the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), which now covers millions of Canadians, including over 1 million Ontarians who have already received care. The CDCP is helping reduce financial barriers and redirect residents from emergency departments

to appropriate preventive and restorative dental care. OPH's dental clinics, including the newly added Centrum location, now support clients enrolled in Healthy Smiles Ontario, OSDCP, Ontario Works, Essential Health and Social Supports (EHSS), and the CDCP, ensuring a coordinated, accessible continuum of public dental services the community can rely on.

Through expanded clinics, strengthened partnerships, and continued advocacy for sustainable funding, 2025 marked a pivotal year in OPH's work to advance equitable, accessible oral health care for residents of all ages, especially Ottawa's growing senior population.

### **Healthy Growth and Development (HGD) Program**

In 2025, the Healthy Growth and Development (HGD) program successfully integrated its nine-week, group-based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) program as a core service. This program is offered to women who are pregnant or parenting a child up to 18 months and experiencing symptoms of depression, anxiety, worry, anger, or overwhelm. During the year, the program was expanded to serve French-speaking clients and Fathers.

The fathers' CBT program is currently delivered as part of a research project (a randomized controlled trial) in collaboration with McMaster University, to evaluate its effectiveness for fathers and fathers-to-be.

In the past year, 125 clients participated in one of eight sessions offered to mothers, while 12 clients joined the fathers' CBT intervention group.

Both the French and Father's program are available to eligible participants across Ontario.

Client feedback has been positive: 95% of surveyed participants in the women's CBT groups reported improved mental health, and 98% noted enhancements in their mood, relationships, parenting, and confidence. These outcomes demonstrate that the CBT Steps to Wellness program is addressing a critical community need through an accessible, free service that benefits parents and their families in Ottawa and throughout Ontario.

### **Health Information and Public Engagement**

In 2025, OPH's Health Information and Public Engagement team, supporting the communications requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards, delivered clear, multilingual, and timely public messaging. The team handled 405 media requests and interviews, issued 18 PSAs (guided by new PSA tools), launched a bi-weekly "Your Health" segment with Bell Media, and supported 14 ICS responses, including December's pediatric flu surge. A quality over quantity shift on social (-18% posts) drove a substantial increase in impressions, +92.7% increase in shares, and +400% link clicks; HIPE also expanded to Bluesky and sunset activity on X to reduce misinformation risks. Targeted creative and ads extended reach to priority audiences for example, rural well water safety (430k+ reached), Kids Come First vaccination bookings (+50% clinic fill), and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) enrolment, advancing OPH goals on health equity and prevention.



## Protecting Ottawa's Health

Over the past year, OPH's efforts remained firmly focused on protecting Ottawa's health by responding to emerging risks, strengthening prevention programs, and supporting residents through targeted community partnerships.

One notable initiative was the well water education campaign for private well owners, which focused on increasing awareness of well water testing across urban and rural communities. Staff delivered water bottles directly to city neighbourhoods, using these interactions as an opportunity to promote Public Health Ontario's free well water testing program. In addition to in person outreach, the campaign significantly expanded its digital presence through more targeted online ads, strategic use of social media channels, and refreshed web content to reach residents who rely on digital platforms for public health information.

Together, these combined digital and in-person approaches strengthened public

understanding of the importance of routine testing, particularly for private wells that are not subject to routine monitoring, and helped remove barriers to participation through accessible, community-focused outreach. The campaign also played a role in supporting the City's response to drought conditions by emphasizing the importance of routine testing during periods of low groundwater levels, when water quality can be more vulnerable to change.

The team also made important strides in recreational water safety, working closely with Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services to modernize the approach to beach water quality monitoring. Together, partners shifted the focus of messaging away from reliance on daily sampling results and toward promoting a precautionary approach to swimming in open water. This change better reflects environmental realities such as rapidly changing weather and water conditions, while also allowing for a more efficient, risk-based use of sampling

resources. The collaboration highlights the value of interdepartmental partnerships in aligning public messaging with current evidence and best practices.

OPH continued to experience increased demand, with the rabies team responding to a substantial rise in investigations this year. Over 2,400 residents were followed up in relation to potential rabies exposures, reflecting both increased public awareness and the growing complexity of animal human interactions. Despite this surge, the team maintained timely follow up and clear communication with residents and health care providers to ensure appropriate risk assessment and management. While OPH continues to deliver strong public facing communications, rising inquiries related to animal exposures, vector borne diseases, and other environmental health concerns have underscored the need to refine our communication approach and better target key audiences. Strengthening outreach in this way will help manage increasing demand and ensure residents continue to receive timely, clear guidance.

The OPH team continued to manage an elevated burden of outbreaks in the community, requiring rapid response, sustained coordination, and clear guidance to affected settings. Additionally, there was a noticeable increase in reports of suspected infection-prevention and control (IPAC) lapses, which are very time-intensive to investigate, as well as personal service complaints driven in part by the emergence of innovative and unregulated treatments across the city. This shift resulted in additional education and outreach to proprietors to reinforce proper infection



prevention and control principles, supporting both client safety and regulatory compliance.

Despite these challenges, the team completed over 11,000 inspections across a wide range of regulated settings, including restaurants, pools, personal service settings, childcare centres, and long-term care and retirement homes. This significant inspection volume represents meaningful progress toward meeting ministry mandated inspection targets and reflects the dedication and resilience of employees working in Environmental Health, term care and retirement homes. This significant inspection volume represents meaningful progress toward meeting ministry mandated inspection targets and reflects the dedication and resilience of Environmental Health staff.

Together, these accomplishments demonstrate OPH's continued commitment to protecting and promoting community health through collaboration, innovation, and strong regulatory practice.



## Innovation & Efficiency

In 2025, OPH focused on leveraging technology as an enabler of innovation, efficiency and collaboration through ongoing business systems transformation, adoption and use of artificial intelligence, and by expanding and refining its open data program.

### Business Systems Transformation

OPH continues to transform the way it delivers service by automating manual processes and replacing legacy technology with modern business systems. OPH worked with Ministry partners to inform the development of a planned, provincial public health digital platform. In alignment with these efforts, expanded use of the Telus CHR platform for clinical programs and Hedgehog for environmental health program are key initiatives that:

- Improve quality of care through more accurate and accessible client information

- Enhance client safety by reducing documentation errors and providing treatment alerts
- Increase efficiency by streamlining business processes and automating tasks with AI powered workflows
- Improved population health management through access to better quality data for analysis of trends and patterns in population health

### Artificial Intelligence (AI): Applied and Generative

Building on these business system transformations, OPH has begun to harness embedded AI-powered innovations offered by our vendors, with potential to deliver significant process efficiencies and leverage AI more generally to support our work. Examples of how OPH plans to leverage Applied-AI include:

- AI-powered workflows to efficiently manage incoming laboratory requisitions embedded algorithms to assist in

analyzing diagnostic imaging, and

- AI-scribe for clinical charting to improve provider/client interactions

Additionally, OPH has developed a generative AI (Gen-AI) adoption and maturity model to guide use of this evolving technology to create content and support day-to-day administrative tasks. The OPH GenAI Maturity Model aligns with City use policies and platform standards and consists of 4 stages of AI maturity; Informal, Defined, Integrated and Strategic. The maturity model spans multiple years and highlights continuous quality improvement, risk assessment, and agile practices as key enablers for advancing AI maturity.

### Open Data: Advancing Transparency and Public Engagement

OPH strengthened its commitment to open government by expanding and refining its open data program. This initiative ensures that health information is accessible, actionable, and supports evidence-based decision-making across sectors.

OPH's open data inventory now includes over 35 datasets, 20 of which are updated throughout the year, spanning diverse public health domains:

- Communicable Disease Surveillance (e.g. outbreaks, testing, vaccination coverage)
- Environmental Health (e.g. beach water sampling results)
- Substance Use and Harm Reduction (e.g. confirmed and suspected drug overdose-related ED visits and deaths, needle drop box data)
- Population Health and Chronic Disease (e.g. food affordability scenarios)

Each dataset is bilingual (English and French) and published through the City of Ottawa's Open Data portal, ensuring accessibility for researchers, community organizations, and residents. In 2025, OPH added new datasets, such as Food Affordability in Ottawa 2025, and enhanced outbreak reporting. Our open data program enables:

- **Research and Policy Development:** Academic institutions and health partners use OPH datasets to study disease trends
- **Community Action:** Non-profits and advocacy groups leverage data for targeted interventions, such as harm reduction and food security programs
- **Public Transparency:** Residents gain insight into local health trends, fostering trust and informed decision-making

## Organizational Development

Enriching our workplaces is a key pillar of Ottawa Public Health's 2023–2027 Strategic Plan. In 2025, OPH continued to strengthen its workforce through leadership development, mentorship, and initiatives that support diversity, equity, inclusion, and Indigenous cultural safety.

### Building Leadership Capacity

The pandemic created unique experiential learning opportunities, with many employees taking on new leadership roles. OPH launched data-informed leadership development programs tailored to emerging, experienced, and established leaders.

- **Established leaders** participated in training sessions designed around self-identified learning needs.

Topics included budget planning, risk communication, change management, and healthy public policy. Participants reported greater confidence and valued the practical, OPH specific content identified learning needs. Topics included budget planning, risk communication, change management, and healthy public policy. Participants reported greater confidence and valued the practical, OPH specific content

- **Experienced supervisors and managers** who had not completed training during the pandemic took part in a tailored program co developed with the City's Learning Centre. The program combined leadership courses with coaching circles, helping participants strengthen core competencies and build supportive peer networks
- **Emerging leaders** were invited to join a new Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)informed succession program. Fifty-five employees self identified as future leaders and began foundational training, coaching circles, and mentorship in late 2025, with programming continuing through 2026

### Advancing Indigenous Cultural Safety

OPH continued its work toward Indigenous Health, Rights & Reconciliation by recognizing Indigenous Health as distinct from health equity and expanding learning opportunities across the organization.

- Five Blanket Exercises were held in 2025, offering experiential learning on the history of Indigenous–non Indigenous relations

- The Indigenous Cultural Safety Advisory Circle hosted a Learning Circle on Two-Eyed Seeing, supporting culturally safe practice and partnership-building
- Staff accessed additional training through Wabano, San'yas, and the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council
- OPH implemented its first culturally reflective hiring process for an Indigenous Health Specialist, co-developing the process with Indigenous partners, integrating culturally informed interview questions, and ensuring representation from Indigenous staff or community members on the selection panel

### Strengthening Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

OPH also advanced several recommendations from its DEI Audit:

- Human resource processes were strengthened through scenario-based training focused on identifying and dismantling systemic barriers in recruitment, mentorship, advancement, and retention
- OPH launched a microaggression policy and procedure, giving employees a clear, accessible process to report concerns and seek support

While work continues, 2025 marked meaningful progress toward building a workplace that is inclusive, supportive, and reflective of the communities OPH serves.

# 2025 Ottawa Public Health Budget

## Where the Funding Comes From

- Provincial and other funding:
  - Ministry of Health \$48.4 million
  - Ministry of Children Community and Social Services \$5.4 million
- Municipal: \$31.2 million
- Total funds received: \$85 million

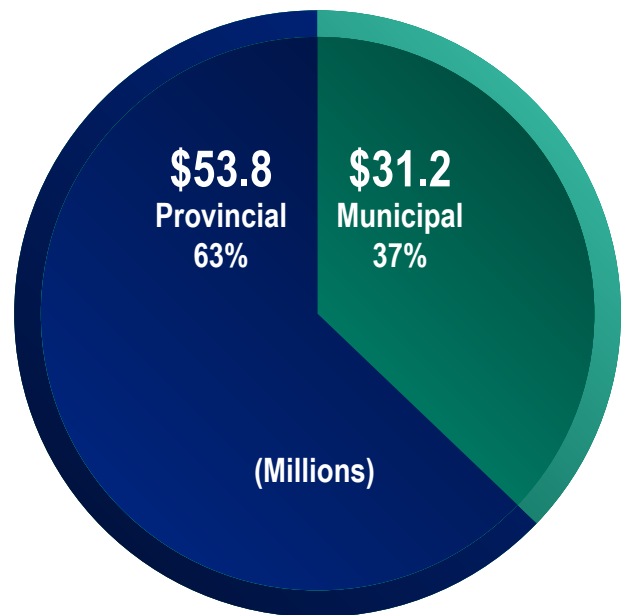
## Where the Funding Goes

### Provincial Programs

- Provincially Mandated Public Health Programs: \$ 70.4 million
- Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Programs: \$5.4 million
- Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program: \$3.4 million
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination Programs: \$568,000
- Indigenous Public Health Programs: \$298,000

### Supplementary Programs

- 100% City Programs \$2.6 million
- HIV/AIDs programs: \$184,000
- Childhood Immunization, also known as Kids Comes First, Programs: \$863,000
- Misc Programs: \$304,000



## Connect with us

### Connect

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Facebook ([/ottawahealth](https://www.facebook.com/ottawahealth))

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