

A photograph of two children, a girl in the foreground and a boy in the background, standing in a sunlit forest. They are both wearing backpacks and have their arms outstretched, smiling. The ground is covered with purple flowers, and the background is filled with tall trees and green foliage.

# Building Foundations for Healthier Communities

Public Health at Work in Algoma  
2024 Report to the Community



*Algoma*  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
Santé publique Algoma



# A Message from the Board of Health Chair

In 2024, Algoma Public Health continued to fulfill its mandate to promote and protect the health of all people in Algoma through programs, partnerships, and evidence-informed action. As a local public health agency, our role extends beyond individual care to advancing population health—ensuring that the conditions in which people live, work, learn, and age, support well-being for everyone.

A cornerstone of this work is the ongoing assessment of our region's health. This year, we released the Community Health Profile, a comprehensive population health assessment informed by more than 2,000 indicators across multiple data sources. The Profile provides a detailed look at the health status of Algoma's population, including social determinants of health, health behaviours, access to services, and patterns in morbidity and mortality. It serves as a critical foundation for setting public health priorities and aligning collective action to address health inequities.

Across all programs—from safe food and water, to emergency preparedness, chronic disease prevention, oral health, and harm reduction—Algoma Public Health continues to respond to local needs with professionalism, compassion, and commitment to equity. We are grateful to our dedicated staff, our Board of Health, and our many community partners whose contributions help make this work possible.

Together, we are building the conditions for a healthier, more equitable future in Algoma.

**Sally Hagman**

Chair, Board of Health

**Dr. John Tuinema**

Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO

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## 2024 Board of Health

Member	Approved by
Sally Hagman (Chair)	Township of Blind River, Township of Spanish, Township of North Shore
Luc Morrisette (1st Vice-Chair/ Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee)	City of Elliot Lake
Deborah Graystone	Province of Ontario
Julila Hemphill	The Municipality of Wawa, Township of White River, Township of Dubreuville
Don McConnell, (2nd Vice-Chair/ Chair of the Governance Committee)	Province of Ontario
Loretta O'Neill	City of Sault Ste. Marie
Matthew Shoemaker	City of Sault Ste. Marie
Sonia Tassone	City of Sault Ste. Marie
Suzanne Trivers	Town of Thessalon, Municipality of Huron Shores
Jody Wildman	Town of Bruce Mines, Village of Hilton Beach & Townships of Hilton, Jocelyn, Johnson, Laird, Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional, Plummer Additional, Prince, St. Joseph, Tarbutt Township



# Healthy Growth and Development

**GOAL:** To achieve optimal preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth, parental, and family health in Algoma.



- The birth rate for Algoma is **7.1 live births per 1,000 people**, which is an average of **870** babies per year in Algoma.
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful and potentially traumatic events that occur within the first 18 years of life and increase likelihood of negative outcomes; infants born into a family that has been involved with child protective services, has concerns about money or has a parent with a mental illness are examples of ACEs that are impacting Algoma more than the rest of Ontario.
- APH provides supports and programs to promote resiliency and optimal early childhood growth and development in families and is increasing access to development data for Algoma's preschool-aged children.
- Across the program, there are public health nurses, family support workers, a registered practical nurse, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



**686**

calls to new moms within 48 hours of new baby being born:

Blind River: **38**

Elliot Lake: **50**

Sault Ste. Marie: **570**

Wawa: **28**



**544**

individuals received breastfeeding support:

East and North

Algoma: **27**

Sault Ste. Marie: **517**



**870**

appointments provided for services including birth control, STI testing, pregnancy care and options, and related support.



**25**

partners on the Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma Child and Family Network that APH co-chairs.



**13**

partners collaborating with APH for the Nurturing Algoma research project.

## Leading the Nurturing Algoma research project

Nurturing Algoma is a collaborative project with agencies across Algoma and researchers from SickKids and Queen's University to support children from infancy to youth.

As the second community to join the national Canadian Database of Development, Infancy to Six, Algoma plays a key role in building Canada's first preschool development database. The project promotes developmental screening in the first five years which is a critical period for brain development and lifelong health.



**6** public health nurses (PHNs) were trained in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy to help support perinatal mental health in Algoma. Some PHNs received advanced training and participate in a Community of Practice to share mental health strategies with all APH Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) home visiting staff.

# School Health

**GOAL:** To achieve optimal health of school-aged children and youth through partnership and collaboration with school boards and schools in Algoma.



- 19.1% of students in grades 7–12 in the North report riding in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol, in the past year.
- Fruit and vegetable consumption is low in children and youth in Algoma.
- APH partners with local organizations to increase knowledge and skills in Algoma's children and youth and promote environments that support positive behaviours for health through programs like Get Home Safe and Rainbow Food Explorers.
- Across the program, there are public health nurses, a health promotion specialist, a registered dietitian, and clerical support.



## Get Home Safe

- **386** students from 5 high schools across Algoma took part in Get Home Safe Events; over half (55–61%) reported an increase in knowledge and awareness of substance use, safe ways to get home, and where to find support.



*The Get Home Safe Event was a great way to increase awareness... and students' understanding of drug and alcohol use. The event allowed students to not only utilize the interactive tools, but also to engage in conversation, ask questions and become familiar with the adults and resources available in the school. By having the event include the APH school nurse, the mental health and addictions nurse, the school mental health worker and our OPP community liaison officer, students could become more familiar and comfortable with these adults in the event they ever require support. Overall, we were very happy with the outcomes of the event!*



– Participating school mental health worker



## Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program (NFVP)

- **11,483** students in every elementary and intermediate school across Algoma received fruits and vegetables through the NFVP.
- **78%** of students said that the NFVP helps them eat more fruit and vegetables.



## Rainbow Food Explorers promotes food neutral classrooms

- **4** schools in Algoma piloted the program to support hands-on, fun learning about healthy eating.
- **100%** of elementary schools in Algoma now have kid-safe knife-kits and toolkits to support Rainbow Food Explorers in their schools.



*My Grade 2 students are so engaged when they get to be Rainbow Food Explorers. They're connecting Canada's Food Guide to what they eat and trying new foods like red peppers, blueberries, and pears - all in a pressure-free environment. These lessons will stay in my program moving forward.*

– Teacher, Northern Heights elementary school

# Oral Health



**GOAL:** To achieve optimal oral health in school-aged children and seniors and reduce the burden of chronic disease related to oral health in Algoma.

- Approximately **3 in 10** students entering school in Algoma, had current or a history of tooth decay.
- Only **3 in 10** senior residents in Algoma reported having dental insurance coverage.
- APH helps ensure school-aged children and older adults across Algoma have good oral health.
- Across the program, there are registered dental hygienists, dental health educators, and clerical support.



**4,406** children had oral health screening in **54** schools:

- Elliot Lake & Area: **241**
- Sault Ste Marie: **3,474**
- North Algoma: **140**
- Central & East Algoma: **545**



**64** children were enrolled in Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) through school screenings. HSO provides oral health coverage for eligible children in need.



**1,409** community members were supported with oral health information and system navigation.



**142** community members received dentures:

- East and North Algoma: **78**
- Sault Ste. Marie: **64**



*The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) has helped Clarence and me so much. Before, we had trouble eating and constant dental issues. Clarence had no teeth for a long time - he was ashamed, spoke with a muffled voice, and avoided smiling. Now, with dentures, he can finally eat properly and enjoy his food again.*

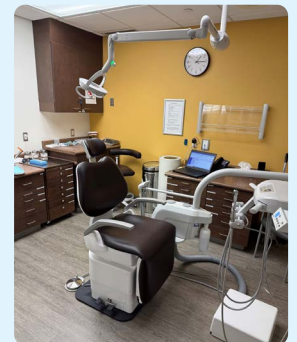
- Elizabeth and Clarence Leger



Photo: From left, Stacey, dental health educator, Elizabeth Leger, OSDCP client.

## To expand access and equity in oral health across Algoma, the oral health team:

- Delivered community presentations on the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) and Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO), providing application support, oral health demonstrations, and care navigation for eligible seniors and families.
- Completed prenatal appointments focused on oral hygiene during pregnancy and early infant care.
- Received additional training in 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion and Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA) to support inclusive, person-centred care.
- Installed a reclining dental chair at our Sault Ste. Marie office to enhance accessibility and client comfort.



# Immunization

**GOAL:** To reduce or eliminate the burden of vaccine preventable diseases through immunization in Algoma.



- Algoma's 7 year olds have received **85-95%** of the childhood immunizations recommended for their age (see the full table of coverage rates for 7 year olds below).
- Most school aged children and youth aged 7-17 years old were in compliance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act by the end of the 2023/24 school year.
- APH ensures vaccines in Algoma are safe, effective and accessible, including to populations particularly impacted by vaccine preventable diseases.
- Across the program, there are public health nurses, registered nurses, a registered practical nurse, and clerical support.



**49,000+** doses of vaccine were distributed to **54** healthcare facilities who administer publicly funded vaccines and receive annual fridge inspections by public health nurses.



Vaccinations administered in the school setting

- HPV: **2,015**
- Hep B: **1,945**
- Meningococcal: **1,278**
- Tdap: **908**



**5,706** letters were sent to families of children between 7-17 years of age with missing vaccine information; following this letter, **3,791** suspension notices were issued to prompt families to update vaccine records at APH to avoid school exclusion.



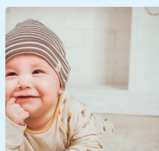
**159** catch-up clinics were held in APH offices to help children and youth get up to date with their immunizations, and **4** clinics were held in community locations to help increase access to childhood immunizations.



**15** immunization related communications were sent to healthcare providers.

## Expanding protection against RSV

In fall 2024, the Ministry of Health expanded eligibility for RSV immunization to include all infants under 1 year of age and children aged 12-24 months with certain high-risk medical conditions.



Between October 1 and December 31, APH provided RSV immunization appointments, as well as distributed **523** doses of RSV immunizations to healthcare providers across the district.

## Coverage rates for childhood immunizations (7 year olds, 2023-2024 school year).

Antigen	Algoma	Ontario
Diphtheria	86.6	69.9
Meningococcal	94.9	82.1
Measles	86.6	70.4
Mumps	86.3	70.2
Pertusis	86.6	69.8
Polio	87.1	70.2
Rubella	95.4	85.2
Tetanus	86.6	69.9
Varicella	85.4	68.6



# Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being

**GOAL:** To reduce the burden of chronic diseases of public health importance and improve well-being in Algoma.



- Fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity in those aged 12 years and older in Algoma are below recommendations and are significantly impacted by social, environmental and economic factors.
- APH partners with local organizations and communities to reduce barriers to buying healthy food or being physically active, supporting people in staying active, connected, and supported in their communities.
- An average of 17.6% of households in Algoma don't have enough money for food; APH monitors local food affordability and advocates for income-based solutions to reduce food insecurity.
- Across the program, there are public health nurses, a health promotion specialist, a registered dietitian, and clerical support.



**2** resources were developed and shared to raise awareness about food insecurity.



**2** Board of Health resolutions called for higher social assistance rates and more funding for health promotion and disease prevention, based on food affordability data.



**12** staff completed two full days of community engagement training.



**13** local, regional, provincial, and national committees include APH participation to help improve health and well-being; local committees include: Wawa and area Food Strategy, Transportation Group, East Algoma Mental Health Collaboration Committee and Sault Trails Advocacy Committee.

## Working together to improve community health

For years, Algoma Public Health and partners along the North Shore have identified transportation as a barrier to accessing basic needs, such as health services, food, and social activities. The North Channel Transportation Group is a collaborative of community partners including Algoma Public Health, municipalities, North Shore Health Network, Dr. HS Trefry Memorial Centre, Huron Shores Family Health Team, Algoma Manor, and Algoma District Services Administration Board working together to share information, identify transportation needs, and support each other in applying for funding that will address gaps.

In 2024 APH shared a funding opportunity through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund. With the support of APH, North Shore Health Network, and Huron Shores Family Health Team, the Town of Blind River received funding to organize transportation services that assist residents in attending appointments, accessing food, and participating in community activities.



*Regional working groups are a great way to learn about strengths and unique solutions have been developed for our residents. Northern Ontario, specifically Algoma, is home to a lot of strategic thinkers with boots-on-the-ground experiences. Our priority is to ensure that our vulnerable populations have affordable and reliable access to medical, social, and grocery stops.*

- Karen Bittner, Director of Facilities and Community Services, Town of Blind River



# Substance Use and Injury Prevention

**GOAL:** To reduce the burden of preventable injuries and substance use in Algoma.



- Overall, rates of substance use are higher in Algoma.
- The toxic drug crisis impacts the North differently compared to Southern Ontario; the rate of opioid toxicity deaths in Algoma was nearly three times the provincial rate in 2024.
- APH works closely with community partners across Algoma to report on local substance use-related harms and to support the safety and wellbeing of people who use substances.
- Across the program, there are public health nurses, a registered practical nurse, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



**12,886**

naloxone  
doses  
distributed.



**1,015**

individuals  
trained to use  
naloxone.



**1**

community  
assessment  
report on  
toxic drugs  
released.



**40**

community partners  
attended Community  
Action on Toxic Drugs  
workshop.



**7**

media stories  
about the  
Toxic Drugs  
report.



**12**

local, regional, and  
provincial committees  
we participate in to  
share knowledge and  
coordinate action.

## Community assessment and next steps



In February 2024, APH hosted a Community Action on Toxic Drugs Workshop which brought partners from a variety of different sectors to learn about programs and services available in Algoma and strategize on improving health outcomes in our communities. The workshop was part of an ongoing community assessment aimed at understanding how the current toxic drug crisis has impacted the region and identifying next steps for a community response.

The final report [Toxic Drugs in Algoma: Community Assessment and Next Steps](#) centres the voices of people with lived and living experience and the partners who support them. It highlights the need for cross-sector collaboration to close system gaps, improve care, and build supportive, respectful communities.

# Infectious Diseases



**GOAL:** APH supports infection prevention and control through disease monitoring, case and contact management, testing and treatment for priority populations, facility inspections, and helping community partners to prevent infections and outbreaks in Algoma.

- Infectious syphilis rates have risen since 2019, with Algoma's 2024 rate remaining above the provincial average at **48.4 cases per 100,000 people**.
- APH supports infection prevention and control (IPAC) in our community through monitoring of reportable diseases to inform public health action, case and contact management of reportable diseases, access to testing and treatment for priority populations, inspection of facilities to protect the public, and supporting facilities and partners throughout Algoma in creating environments that prevent infection and outbreaks
- Across the program, there are public health inspectors, public health nurses, a nurse practitioner, a registered practical nurse, an environmental assistant, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



**86**

inspections completed of licensed daycares.



**232**

inspections completed of personal service settings.



**48**

inspections completed in congregate living settings.



**70**

mosquito traps from **14** Algoma sites were tested for West Nile Virus; **2** cases reported in the past 10 years.



**57**

ticks processed for Lyme disease; **9** cases of Lyme disease over the last 10 years.



**262**

rabies investigations were completed, including exposure assessments and treatment when needed; there were no human rabies cases in the past 10 years.

## Building healthy careers together: partnering with Sault College

We've had the opportunity to connect with students in Sault College's **Child Care and Personal Service (e.g., hair salons, nails, tattoos, etc)** programs to help prepare them for their future careers. All essential tools for creating safer environments for these areas are taught.

Sessions focused on hand hygiene, cleaning, disinfection, and regulatory requirements — building student confidence while fostering strong partnerships with APH.

## Vector-borne partnership with the University of Guelph

Algoma Public Health partnered with the Canadian Lyme Sentinel Network (CaLSeN), part of the Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network (CLyDRN).

APH conducted tick dragging at five Algoma sites to collect Ixodes scapularis and environmental data (e.g., soil moisture, canopy cover, leaf litter). Results are shared with CaLSeN, contributing to Canada's first coordinated national surveillance effort for tick-borne diseases.

# Infectious Diseases



**859**

cases of reportable diseases managed by APH – **45%** of these cases were for STIs (chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis).



**24**

syphilis point of care testing opportunities provided throughout Algoma (**8** community-based events and **16** drop-in days at APH's Sault Ste. Marie office).



**64**

point of care tests for syphilis completed.



**31** congregate living settings (CLS) partners engaged with APH's Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub Team (e.g., retirement homes, group homes, shelters, etc.):

- Sault Ste. Marie: **18**
- Elliot Lake and area: **6**
- Central and East Algoma: **4**
- North Algoma: **3**



**87** IPAC services provided to CLS partners throughout Algoma (e.g., IPAC education or training, review of IPAC policies and procedures, review of outbreak management plans, support to implement IPAC best practices, etc.):

- **55%** of services provided in Sault Ste. Marie
- **30%** in North Algoma
- **15%** in East Algoma

## APH participates in the Syphilis Point of Care Rapid Testing and Immediate Treatment research study (SPRITE)

Infectious syphilis rates continue to rise in Algoma and across Ontario, with higher risk among underserved populations such as people who are street-involved, use drugs, or identify as 2SLGBTQIA+.

To improve access to testing and treatment for these communities, Algoma Public Health joined the SPRITE study in 2024. Funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and Public Health Ontario, SPRITE involves seven public health units across the province. APH hosted successful community-based syphilis point-of-care testing events by working with people with lived and living experience and community partners, including the HIV & AIDS Resource Program, Wawa Food Bank, and the Elliot Lake Beehive (Canadian Mental Health Association). These partners played a key role in helping to promote these community-based events.



# Food Safety



**GOAL:** To prevent or reduce the burden of food-borne illness in Algoma.

- From 2020-2024, the average rate of food-borne illnesses in Algoma was **34 cases per 100,000 people** (42 cases in 2024).
- APH helps prevent local and new risks of food-borne illness, to reduce the number of people who get sick from food, and partners with the community to promote food safety.
- Across the program area there are public health inspectors, an environmental assistant, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



**26** food handler courses offered:

- Sault Ste. Marie: **22**
- Elliot Lake: **2**
- Wawa: **2**



**97** food safety complaints were reviewed within 24 hours.



**1,057** food inspections:

- Sault Ste. Marie: **793**
- Blind River: **72**
- Elliot Lake: **75**
- Wawa: **117**



**559** food handlers certified:

Sault Ste. Marie: **474**  
Blind River: **8**  
Elliot Lake: **17**  
Wawa: **30**



**186** temporary event food permits issued:

- Sault Ste. Marie: **93**
- Blind River: **35**
- Elliot Lake: **18**
- Wawa: **40**



Food safety campaign:

- **704** entries
- **942** engagements
- **1,304** webpage views

## Helping newcomers learn about food safety

Public Health Inspectors partnered with the New to the Sault program to help newcomers learn safe food handling and storage. By attending events and offering practical, culturally relevant advice, inspectors made food safety information clear, accessible, and easy to apply.

## Home-based kitchens



Home-based kitchens are becoming more common in the Algoma region. Public health inspectors offer pre-opening checks and advice. APH's website explains the requirements and makes it easy for home-based kitchen business owners to connect with a public health inspector for a home kitchen inspection permit.

# Safe Water

**GOAL:** To prevent or reduce the burden of water-borne illness related to drinking and recreational water in Algoma.



- From 2020-2024, the average rate of water-borne illnesses in Algoma was **12 cases per 100,000 people (15 cases in 2024)**.
- APH helps reduce the incidence of water-borne illnesses in Algoma and protect the public through a multi-barrier approach that includes monitoring water quality to inform public health action, supporting operators of drinking water systems and promoting public water safety.
- Across the program area there are public health inspectors, an environmental assistant, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



## Safe drinking water campaign

In 2024, Algoma Public Health launched a social media campaign focused on safe drinking water. The campaign raised awareness about how to stay safe when drinking water—at home, while camping, or travelling in the region.

Through interactive posts, quizzes, and easy-to-share content, we encouraged public engagement and made water safety information more accessible. We also updated the drinking water section of our website to better support the public and small drinking water system operators with clear tools and resources.



- **222** contest entries
- **444** likes, shares, and comments on social media



**35**  
beaches  
inspected.



**123**  
inspections of the  
43 pools & spas in  
Algoma.



**15**  
drinking water  
advisories  
issued.



**60**  
private drinking water  
system consultations  
completed.

## Additional training to better support the 255 small drinking water systems (SDWS) across Algoma

Algoma has large rural areas and unorganized territories. Rural and unorganized territories have more SDWS compared to larger urban areas which have access to municipal water systems. To ensure safe water is available to the public through SDWS, four public health inspectors (PHIs) attended a SDWS course which increased understanding of the operation of a SDWS. This included information on drinking water sources and treatment requirements as well as providing PHIs with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with a variety of water treatment and testing equipment commonly used.

# Healthy Environments



**GOAL:** To reduce exposure to health hazards and promote the development of healthy built and natural environments that support health and mitigate existing and emerging risks, including the impacts of a changing climate in Algoma.

- Over the last 10 years, climate change has increased how often we experience extreme heat and this is expected to continue to increase by 2030.
- The increased number of wildfires impacts air quality across Canada; poor air quality is associated with more Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease-related emergency department visits.
- APH addresses health risks, monitors climate change data to guide public health actions and reduces health hazards through health promotion.
- Across the program area there are public health inspectors, an environmental assistant, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



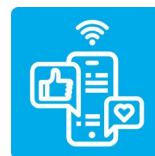
**184**

health hazards investigated (e.g., sewage, pests, indoor/outdoor air quality).



**28**

community partners engaged in pre-season heat outreach.



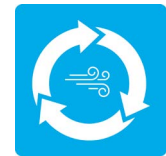
**12**

social media alerts for weather events issued.



**1**

heat event emergency plan developed for Algoma.



**4**

PurpleAir Sensors installed:  
East Algoma: **3**  
North Algoma: **1**

## Expanding air quality monitoring across Algoma



PurpleAir sensors have been installed to support health in a changing climate.

In partnership with Meteorological Services of Canada, Algoma Public Health is helping fill air quality data gaps by installing low-cost PurpleAir sensors in areas without existing monitoring. These sensors track fine particulate matter in real time, giving communities timely information to make healthier decisions—especially during wildfire season.

Following municipal consultations in 2023, four sensors were installed in 2024, with more planned as availability grows.



# Foundational Standards

GOAL: To protect and promote health across Algoma by identifying and putting our peoples' health needs first; to make a difference by using best available evidence and improving the impact of our programs; to prepare, respond to and recover from emergencies that impact public health in Algoma.



- The Foundational Standards include population health assessment, effective public health practice, health equity and emergency management; these standards guide all public health work at APH.
- The Foundations and Strategic Support Team (FASST) and the Communications Team at APH support the agency in integrating the foundational standards into all programs, and carry out agency-wide projects.
- Across these teams, there are planning and evaluation specialists, a research and policy advisor, an Indigenous engagement facilitator, a data analyst, an epidemiologist, a health equity nurse, and a communications coordinator.



**266**

agency requests for FASST support completed (e.g., support with literature reviews, report writing, data collection, surveys, ethics, evaluations, and Indigenous engagement).



**87**

media requests responded to, helping to share important public health information with our communities.



**18**

municipal emergency planning meetings attended; APH also co-led **3** community training sessions and led **4** emergency planning exercises.



**60%**

of employees attended live smudging and cultural safety training, with recordings available for those unable to attend.



**102**

partners attended the launch of the Community Health Profile with **14** news stories published.



## Community Health Profile

Algoma Public Health released our updated [Community Health Profile \(CHP\)](#) in 2024. This profile is a fulsome population health assessment of our communities, developed using over 60 data sources and 2000 indicators for demographics, social determinants of health, mortality, morbidity, health behaviors, health services and health and wellness. The CHP contains important health data for the region that can be useful in practice and for organizational planning.

# Foundational Standards



## Maamwesying Ontario Health Team and Algoma Public Health sign collaboration agreement



In 2024, Maamwesying Ontario Health Team and Algoma Public Health signed a formal agreement to work together in support of Indigenous health and well-being. Through this partnership, both organizations are committed to creating culturally safe spaces in the health system and ensuring that Indigenous individuals and families can access the care they need, when they need it.

This agreement reflects a shared commitment to reconciliation, health equity, and Indigenous-led approaches to care and public health.



*Algoma Public Health is honoured to become a collaborative partner to walk alongside Maamwesying in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation. Maamwesying's leadership demonstrates the importance of self-determination and placing Indigenous health in Indigenous hands. Working*

*together, we can pool our collective strengths to advance health promotion, protect against disease and injury, and embrace inclusive strategies that prioritize health equity for all.*

- Dr. Jennifer Loo, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of Algoma Public Health.

## Honouring Indigenous Languages, art, and relationships

In 2024, we worked alongside Indigenous partners to create more welcoming and culturally safe spaces across our offices. Guided by the Talking Together to Improve Health principles—respect, commitment, trust, and self-determination—this project brought Indigenous languages and artwork into our public health spaces as a visible reflection of our shared journey toward Truth and Reconciliation.



We are grateful to Language Carrier and Elder Barb Nolan for providing Anishinaabemowin translations and to Missanabie Cree Cultural Language Facilitator Matthew Wesley ᐱᐅᐅ for providing Ililimowin translations (ᐱᐅᐅ Cree language).

Ceremonies were held at each APH office with contributing artists and Indigenous partners to honour the artwork and the relationships it represents. These efforts reflect APH's ongoing commitment to reconciliation, reducing health inequities, and supporting Indigenous-led approaches to health and wellness.

# 2024 Funding of Local Public Health



<b>Municipal Levies</b> <i>District of Algoma</i>	<b>\$ 4,440,568</b>
<b>Public Health Funding</b> <i>Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care</i>	<b>\$ 13,874,568</b>
<b>Community Health Funding</b> <i>Ministry of Children &amp; Social Services, North East Local Health Integration Network, Algoma Family Services</i>	<b>\$ 1,518,416</b>
<b>Fees, Other Grants &amp; Recoveries</b>	<b>\$ 641,695</b>
<b>Total for 2024</b>	<b>\$ 20,475,247</b>



## Financial fact! Did you know...

Local public health is funded by provincial and municipal taxpayer dollars.

In 2024, public health programs and services cost Algoma residents **\$182/person** for the year, or **50 cents/person/day**, based on a **112,764** census population estimate of 2021 for the District of Algoma Health Unit.



# Connect with Public Health

*Join the Conversation*



@algomahealth

## *Phone*

**Blind River:** 705-356-2551 or 888-356-2551

**Elliot Lake:** 705-848-2314 or 877-748-2314

**Sault Ste. Marie:** 705-942-4646 or 866-892-0172

**Wawa:** 705-856-7208 or 888-211-8074

## *Email*

[contact@algomapublichealth.com](mailto:contact@algomapublichealth.com)

## *Website*

[algomapublichealth.com](http://algomapublichealth.com)



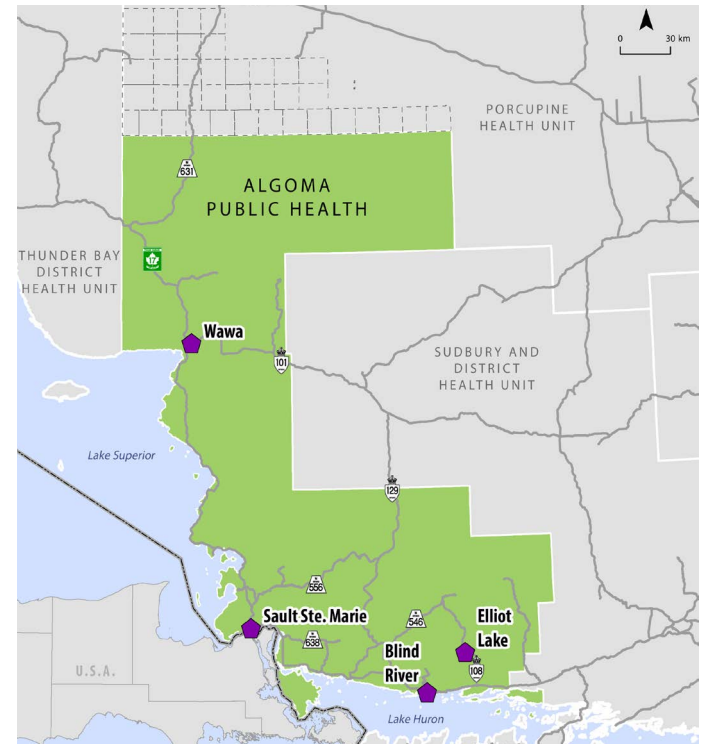
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# THANK YOU

Algoma Public Health serves a vast area of over 41,000 square kilometres.

We are grateful for the strong partnerships we have with 21 municipalities, First Nations, Métis, Urban and Rural Indigenous communities, Amish and Mennonite communities, as well as various agencies and organizations across the region.

These collaborations are vital to our mission of promoting and protecting the health of our community and advancing health equity in Algoma.



# PUBLIC HEALTH

# References

## Healthy Growth and Development

- Population health data for Healthy Growth and Development is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: reproductive health. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; c2023 [cited 2023 Aug 9]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Reproductive-and-Child-Health/Reproductive>

## School Health

- Population health data for School Health is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: nutrition and healthy weights snapshot 2015–2020. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; c2023 [cited 2023 Aug 9]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Nutrition-and-Healthy-Weights>
- Boak, A., & Hamilton, H. A. (2024). Drug use among Ontario students, 1977–2023: Findings from the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS). Toronto, ON: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Available from: [https://www.camh.ca/-/media/research-files/osduhs-drug-use-report\\_2023.pdf](https://www.camh.ca/-/media/research-files/osduhs-drug-use-report_2023.pdf)

## Oral Health

- Population health data for Oral Health is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Algoma Public Health. Oral Health Information Support System (OHISS) [2023-2024 school years]. Ontario Ministry of Health. [data extracted Feb 2025].
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: oral health. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; c2023 [cited 2023 December 12]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Oral-Health>

## Immunization

- Population health data for Immunizations is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Immunization data tool: Immunization coverage for measles among 7-year-olds by public health unit, 2013-14 to 2023-24 school year. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; c2025 [cited 2025 Feb 28]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Immunization-Tool>



# References

## Chronic Disease Prevention & Well-being

- Population health data for the Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellbeing is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: nutrition and healthy weights snapshot 2015-2020: c2023 [cited 2023 Aug 9]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Nutrition-and-Healthy-Weights>
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: Physical activity snapshot: 2015/16-2020: c2023 [cited 2023 Aug 9]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Nutrition-and-Healthy-Weights>

## Substance Use & Injury Prevention

- Population health data for the Substance Use and Injury Prevention is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), Ontario Share File 2019-2020. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada [producer]; Toronto, ON: Ontario Ministry of Health [distributor].
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Interactive opioid tool. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; c2025 [cited 2025 Feb 28]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/substance-use/interactive-opioid-tool>
- Algoma Public Health (2025). Opioid-related health harms in Algoma. Available from: <https://www.algomapublichealth.com/healthy-living/substance-use-harm-reduction/opioids/local-data/>

## Infectious Disease

- Population health data for Infectious Diseases is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Infectious Diseases Query: Algoma Public Health Unit: Case counts and crude rates of reportable diseases by year, 2020-2024. [data extracted 2025 Feb 28].

## Food Safety

- Population health data for Food Safety is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Infectious Diseases Query: Algoma Public Health Unit: Case counts and crude rates of reportable diseases by year, 2020-2024. [data extracted 2025 Feb 28].

# References

## Safe Water

- Population health data for Safe Water is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Infectious Diseases Query: Algoma Public Health Unit: Case counts and crude rates of reportable diseases by year, 2020-2024. [data extracted 2025 Feb 28].

## Healthy Environments

- Population health data for Healthy Environments is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- SAQS Statistics (2018-2024). Air Quality Ontario. 2024.
- National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) [2013-2023]. Ontario Ministry of Health. IntelliHealth Ontario [data extracted: April 4, 2024].
- Environment and Climate Change Canada. Climate data for a resilient Canada: 2024. Available from: <https://climatedata.ca/>

## Foundational Standards

- Nunn, A., Perri, A.M., Gordon, H., Harding, J.P.D., Loo, C.K.J., & Tuinema, J. Opioid-related deaths in Northern Ontario in the early COVID-19 pandemic period. Can J Public Health (2024). <https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-024-00906-5>

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