



*Algoma*  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Santé publique Algoma



# Protecting health. Supporting communities.

Public Health in Algoma  
**2025 Report to the Community**

2025

# Content

Message from the BOH Chair / Medical Officer of Health & CEO.....	03
2025 Board of Health .....	04
Healthy Growth and Development .....	05
School Health .....	06
Oral Health.....	07
Immunization .....	08
Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being .....	09
Substance Use and Injury Prevention.....	10
Infectious Diseases .....	11
Food Safety .....	13
Safe Water .....	14
Healthy Environments.....	15
Foundational Standards.....	16
Our Workforce.....	18
2025 Funding of Local Public Health .....	19
References.....	21

# Message from the Board of Health Chair / Medical Officer of Health & CEO

In 2025, Algoma Public Health (APH) continued to serve our clients and work with community partners toward our shared vision: **Health for all. Together.** We're pleased to share APH's 2025 Annual Report with you to highlight our work this past year.

Some of APH's services are easily visible and familiar – whether you were one of the 628 new moms we called after the birth of a new baby, one of 4,510 kids who got screened by our oral health team, one of 11,483 students who accessed fruits and veggies as part of the Northern Ontario Fruits and Vegetables Program, or someone who got one of the 66,758 doses of publicly funded vaccines we distributed to health care providers across the district.

Other APH work is done with partners, often behind the scenes, to find ways to make our local environments, policies, and communities healthier. Expanding Nurturing Algoma developmental screening to 47 partner sites district-wide and sharing key findings and next steps from the Toxic Drugs in Algoma report with 48 municipal leaders and service providers are two examples of how APH worked collaboratively in 2025 to reorient local systems toward better opportunities for health.

Even if you have never visited an APH office or spoken with one of our team members, chances are, you have benefited from the work of your local public health team at APH this past year. From the peace of mind that comes from our routine inspections of all restaurants, pools, and hair

and nail salons, to staying informed via exposure advisories in the media when an outbreak of measles infected 151 Algoma residents, the APH team is here to protect the health of our communities and all Algoma residents.

With a multidisciplinary team of 163 employees based at APH offices across Wawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Blind River, and Elliot Lake, we are a part of the Algoma communities we serve, and we are committed to our organizational values of excellence, respect, collaboration, and accountability & transparency. APH's work is funded through provincial and municipal tax dollars – all of which come from the same citizens. In 2025, all of APH's programs and services cost Algoma residents 51 cents a day or \$187 per year per person. On average, Algoma municipalities contribute about 1% of their revenues toward funding APH.

Local public health services are not expensive, and they are critical and foundational to community health and wellbeing. In fact, much of our upstream and preventive work can be both life-saving and cost-saving. On behalf of the APH team and Board of Health, we thank all Algoma residents for investing in local public health, and we extend our gratitude to our many community partners with whom we have the privilege of working.

**We look forward to continuing our work, in partnership, to realize our vision of health for all. Together.**



**Suzanne Trivers**  
**Chair, Board of Health**



**Dr. Jennifer Loo**  
**Medical Officer of Health/CEO**

# 2025 Board of Health

Member	Approved By
Sally Hagman	Township of Blind River, Township of Spanish, Township of North Shore
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
Luc Morrissette	The City of Elliot Lake
Sonny Spina	The City of Sault Ste. Marie
Sonia Tassone	The City of Sault Ste. Marie
Suzanne Trivers (Chair)	Town of Thessalon, Municipality of Huron Shores
Jody Wildman (1st Vice-Chair)	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
Natalie Zagordo	The City of Sault Ste. Marie



# Healthy Growth and Development

## GOAL

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

The birth rate in Algoma was 6.75 live births per 1,000 people in 2025, representing a total of 877 births.

Of the 877 babies born, 79.3% of women said they planned to breastfeed only.

We increased local knowledge and understanding of the needs of Algoma families with infants and children by focusing on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and infant and early mental health (IEMH).

Across the program we have public health nurses, family support workers, a health promotion specialist, a research assistant, a registered dietitian and administrative support.

628



calls to new moms within 48 hours of new baby being born:  
**Blind River: 27**  
**Elliot Lake: 46**  
**Sault Ste. Marie: 532**  
**Wawa: 27**

59



people were trained at one of four sessions as part of Nurturing Algoma to build local capacity and support developmental screening for children across the region.

24



partner organizations supported service delivery for Nurturing Algoma across 47 sites throughout Algoma.  
**North Algoma: 3 partners**  
**Central Algoma: 3 partners**  
**East Algoma: 4 partners**  
**Sault Ste. Marie: 14 partners**

In 2025, six new Nurturing Algoma Data Sharing Agreements were signed to support this growing network.

## Nurturing Algoma expands access to developmental screening

In 2025, the Healthy Growth and Development Program expanded access to developmental screening across Algoma through the Nurturing Algoma Project. This work was supported through partnerships with the Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma Child and Family Network and new community partners across the district, including the Sault Ste. Marie Community Career Centre, helping improve access to supports for immigrant families.

Nurturing Algoma was also featured at provincial and national conferences, including the 2025 Infant and Early Mental Health Expanding Horizons Conference and the 2025 Ontario Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program Conference, highlighting Algoma’s collaborative approach to supporting infant and early childhood development.



**In 2025, the Nurturing Algoma project included the completion of 765 developmental screens with children and families.**



*[Participating in Nurturing Algoma] makes us able to see that we’re really helping [the families] because it’s not just that we’re doing a survey and that’s it. We’re looking beyond that and we’re trying to help find solutions while they’re waiting or give them information to help them while they’re waiting.*

**– Participant in Nurturing Algoma**





# School Health

## GOAL

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

21% of youth aged 5 to 17 reported feeling anxious, nervous, or worried weekly.

91% of youth 12-19 years-old ate less than 5 servings of fruit and vegetables per day.

The School Health program uses an integrated approach by working with school boards, schools, parents, and students to address health related priorities. Public health nurses are aligned with all school boards and schools in Algoma to help provide school communities with policy development, curriculum support, classroom presentations, assistance with school health events, and participation on school committees.

Across the program, we have public health nurses, a dietitian, public health inspectors, a health promotion specialist, dental educators, dental hygienists and administrative support.

23



presentations were delivered to Grade 7 students across Algoma to promote the CARD (comfort, ask, relax, distract) system, helping reduce stress about needles and build confidence in vaccines.

25



council and committee meetings were attended at school communities across Algoma.

23



classroom presentations were delivered on a variety of topics including vaping, hand washing, effects of smoking through pig lung demonstrations and more.

### Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program (NFVP)



11,483 elementary and intermediate students across Algoma received fruits and vegetables through the NFVP.

“

Students surveyed showed they are much more at ease about vaccination and the public health nurses' presentation definitely covered many of the questions students tend to ask teachers and school staff. Public health nurses should definitely continue to deliver this presentation each year.

– Mark Hindermeier  
Grade 7/8 Teacher - Grand View Public School

”

## 22 Welcome to Kindergarten events:

we attended these events to support a healthy start to school.



## 14 school events and fairs attended

to support conversations with students about mental health, wellbeing, and other health priorities.





# 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 1 in 4 children 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.

Expanded capacity to help community members access oral health information and dental services in the community.

Across the program, we have registered dental hygienists, dental health educators, administrative support, and contracted dentists.

4,510



children had oral health screening in 54 schools across Algoma.

159



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

1,407



community members were supported with oral health information and system navigation.

9



oral health providers were contracted to provide oral health services to eligible community members across Algoma.

100%



All of oral health team staff completed evidence-based education on health inequities and the social determinants of health to better support diverse communities across Algoma.

“Our family is so grateful for this program being accessible ... Miigwech for being so gentle and caring”  
- Jena Rose Heise

## Improving access to dental care for children

We began providing in-house treatment services through Healthy Smiles Ontario for eligible children, reducing barriers to access.

From September to December, 41 children completed comprehensive oral health treatment.





# Immunization

## GOAL

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

In Fall 2024, letters were sent to 3,755 families of students that APH was missing vaccine records for. Follow-up enforcement efforts were focused on students in grades 9 to 11, and a total of 549 suspension orders were issued to students in those grades. About 75% of their immunization records were updated in time, which avoided them from being suspended from school.

By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, vaccine coverage in Algoma ranged from 71% to 87% for the various immunizations required under the ISPA. Furthermore, 59.7% and 63.3% of 12 year olds were fully immunized against HPV and Hepatitis B respectively. These vaccines are not mandatory for school, but highly recommended, and typically given in grade 7 as a series of two doses.

Across the program, we have public health nurses, a registered practical nurse, and administrative support.

6,638



calls to our vaccine phone line that connects health care providers and the public to our immunization team.

66,758



publicly funded vaccine doses were distributed to healthcare providers and used at APH clinics across Algoma, helping ensure a reliable vaccine supply for the community.

95



vaccine fridge inspections completed. Public health nurses visited health care providers across Algoma to ensure vaccines were stored safely and remained effective.

3,635



vaccinations administered in the school settings.  
**Human Papillomavirus (HPV): 1,449 doses**  
**Hepatitis B: 1,356 doses**  
**Meningococcal: 830 doses**  
At school clinics, HPV-9 and hepatitis B are given as a series of 2 doses. Meningococcal vaccine requires just one dose.

154



doses of measles-containing vaccine were given during a measles outbreak in the spring and summer. The outbreak occurred in a community with lower vaccination rates. Nurses from the Immunization Team conducted 15 community outreach clinics to offer vaccines and help protect residents from measles.

## Total number of immunization clinics offered across the Algoma district

Location	Total clinics*	ISPA Catch-up Clinics
Blind River	55	4
Elliot Lake	49	2
Sault Ste. Marie	337	65
Wawa	61	7
<b>All of Algoma</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>78</b>

\*"Total Clinics" includes all clinic types that were offered in 2025: routine publicly funded vaccines, travel vaccines, outreach (newcomer support, food banks, shelters, etc.) ISPA catch-up, vaccine clinics taking place in a school setting, measles outreach and respiratory (flu/COVID-19/RSV) clinics.

## Protecting against tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough (Tdap)

High school students need a booster dose of Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. This is due 10 years after they received their previous dose, which is typically given between 4–6 years of age. This vaccine can be given at school by APH with parental consent. In 2025, public health nurses gave 386 Tdap shots in high schools. Students may also get this vaccine from their doctor or at an APH clinic. By the end of the 2024–2025 school year, 83.6% of 17 year olds were up to date with their Tdap vaccine.



# Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being

## GOAL

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

74.5% of people in Algoma report feeling a strong sense of belonging to their local community.

68% of residents in Algoma report having very good or excellent mental health, while 72% of adults and 80% of youth (ages 12-17 years old) report usually being happy and interested in life.

From 2016–2021, the rate of eating disorders in Algoma went up 85% (from 15.4 to 28.5 per 10,000 people).

We promote mental health by building resiliency, creating supportive environments, and strengthening protective factors to prevent mental illness and promote mental wellness.

Across the program, we have public health nurses, a registered dietitian, health promotion specialists, and administrative support.

19



community partners working with families and youth from Algoma participated in “Body-Inclusive Practice: Knowledge to Action” training to support eating disorder prevention work.

10



staff completed two full days of community engagement training; a total of 22 staff have received this training since 2024.

### 22 committees advancing health and well-being

Through participation in local, regional, provincial, and national committees, we help shape policies, share local insights, and strengthen partnerships that support healthier communities.

**8 local committees in Algoma**  
**1 regional (Northern Ontario)**  
**12 provincial**  
**1 national**

12



presentations were delivered to all teams and the Board of Health to launch APH’s Mental Health Promotion Framework.

3



letters of support were provided to community partners working towards improving built & social environments.

### Mental Health Promotion and Youth Well-Being

In 2025, we launched a Mental Health Promotion Framework to guide mental health promotion across programs and services. The framework reinforces the role of mental health as an essential part of overall health and well-being.

Work also continued to support children and youth through the Nurturing Algoma research project and planning for Planet Youth Algoma, a district-wide initiative focused on promoting positive mental health, preventing youth substance use, and supporting healthy development.

11



partners from communities between the North Shore and Wawa joined a new Eating Disorders Algoma Prevention community coalition led by registered dietitians to support eating disorder prevention efforts across Algoma.

“As a psychologist and researcher working in Northern Ontario, I see firsthand the importance of upstream, community-driven prevention. Planet Youth offers a structured, data-informed approach that empowers communities to take ownership of youth wellbeing. I believe this initiative can strengthen protective factors, enhance community connectedness, and create lasting improvements in mental health across the Algoma region.”

**– Teryn Bruni PhD**  
**Assistant Professor,**  
**Department of Psychology,**  
**Algoma University**



# Substance Use and Injury Prevention

## GOAL

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

The North continues to experience this crisis differently from the rest of the province. In 2025, the rate of drug-related deaths in Algoma was 2.25 times higher than the province (37.09 per 100 000 vs. 16.43 per 100 000, respectively).

Almost 80% of 2025 drug-related deaths in Algoma occurred in private residences. This highlights the importance of providing harm reduction messaging, such as the risks of using drugs alone, and addressing stigma to help reduce barriers to accessing services.

Drug-related deaths in Algoma also occurred in hospitals (10%), in vehicles (4%), in hotels/motels (4%), and outdoors (4%).

We continuously monitor substance-related harms and trends in Algoma and work collaboratively across sectors to plan interventions that are meaningful to our communities.

Across the program, we have public health nurses, a health promotion specialist and administrative support.

597



people trained to administer naloxone throughout Algoma, and 12,338 doses of naloxone distributed.

732



views of the Toxic Drugs in Algoma webpage.

78%



of APH teams trained on structural stigma.

37



community partners receive local drug warnings to inform community action.

17



committees were broadly engaged at the local, regional, provincial, and national levels.

**Local: 4**  
**Regional: 5**  
**Provincial: 6**  
**National: 2**

48



municipal leaders and service providers attended three presentations in Wawa, Elliot Lake, and at the Algoma District Mayors Meeting to learn about findings from the Toxic Drugs in Algoma report and discuss next steps.

3



media stories and one information session generated accurate and informed reporting on toxic drugs in the community.

### Toxic drug report: Next steps and partner work

In 2025, we took action on recommendations from the Toxic Drugs in Algoma report:

- Trained staff to better understand and reduce stigma, helping make services more welcoming
- Shared information about the National Overdose Response Service (NORS), which helps keep people safe if using drugs alone
- Worked with partners on projects, including relocating the Needle Exchange Program with the Group Health Centre in Sault Ste. Marie
- Supported Village Media's Turning the Tides initiative

Strong partnerships are key to reducing barriers, connecting people to services, and saving lives.

“

*“Through collaboration between Group Health Centre, Algoma Public Health and Drug Strategy partners, we work together to reduce harms related to toxic drug use in Sault Ste. Marie by prioritizing safety, improving access to care, and actively reducing stigma through informed, community-driven responses.”*

**– Kim Roth**  
*Hep Care Program*  
*Group Health Centre*

”



# 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.

In 2025, the rate of syphilis in Algoma was much higher than in Ontario (61.5 compared to 25.0 per 100,000 people).

In 2025, the rate of invasive streptococcus pneumoniae in Algoma was more than twice the rate in Ontario (24.6 compared to 11.6 per 100,000 people).

Across the program, we have public health nurses, public health inspectors, a nurse practitioner, a registered practical nurse, health promotion specialists, an environmental assistant, an infection prevention and control practitioner and administrative support.

1,436



cases of reportable disease managed, 25.1% (361) were sexually transmitted infections (STI).

151



cases of measles were managed, including 148 confirmed and 3 probable cases.

1,305



visits to the Nurse Practitioner for sexual health services (which include treatment and testing for sexually transmitted infections, cervical cancer screening, contraception) focusing on clients without access to primary care.

265



individuals who work in congregate living settings and community agencies were trained on Infection Prevention and Control practices.

### Containing a measles outbreak in Algoma

From April to August 2025, we managed an outbreak of 151 measles cases. We worked in collaboration with local health care providers and community agencies. Public Health Nurses visited the homes of those who had measles to provide health teaching, establish early case identification, and coordinate access to treatment when necessary. We worked with communities to promote awareness of the symptoms of measles, promote immunization, and prevent further transmission. The outbreak was successfully contained.



### HIV education for health care providers

We partnered with Sault Area Hospital and the HIV & AIDS Resource Program (GHC-HARP) to hold two HIV education sessions for local health care professionals. About 30 people attended each session, including physicians, nurses, and community partners. Participants valued the local information and the focus on reducing stigma.



# Infectious Diseases

Over the past 10 years, the rate of Lyme disease in Algoma was 0.66 cases per 100,000 people.

Over the past 10 years, the rate of West Nile virus in Algoma was 0.25 cases per 100,000 people.

**85**



inspections of licensed daycares were completed.

**142**



inspections of personal service settings were completed.

**277**



rabies investigations were completed. Investigations include exposure assessments and treatment.

**315**



ticks were identified in the Algoma Region. 40 were classified as the species carrying a risk of Lyme disease.

## Building healthy careers together: partnering with Sault Area Hospital ID

We joined Sault Area Hospital Infectious Disease rounds to teach them about ticks and the illnesses they can spread. This teamwork helped care providers learn more about the connection between the work done.

## Keeping communities informed and prepared

A public health inspector worked with the EarlyON Centre in the Algoma District to teach people about diseases spread by bugs like mosquitoes or ticks. This growing partnership helps keep communities safe and prepared.



During the summer, 14 mosquito traps were set across Algoma biweekly for 5 weeks. After mosquitos were caught, they were sent to be tested for West Nile Virus.



# Food Safety

## GOAL

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

Over the past five years, there were about 20 cases of food-borne illness per 100,000 people in Algoma.

We respond effectively to mitigate local and emerging risks of food-borne illness and reduce incidence of food-borne illness

Across the program, we have public health inspectors, a health promotion specialist, an environmental assistant and administrative support.



**265**

people completed our Food Safety Handler course:  
**Sault Ste. Marie: 178**  
**Elliot Lake: 38**  
**Blind River: 17**  
**Wawa: 38**



**177**

special event food permits were issued to help ensure food served at community events is safe.  
**Sault Ste. Marie: 80**  
**Elliot Lake: 43**  
**Wawa: 28**



**118**

food safety complaints were responded to. Food safety complaints are reviewed by a Public Health Inspector within 24 hours.

### Food safety inspections

To help protect the health of residents across Algoma, public health inspectors completed 1,402 food safety inspections:

**Blind River: 163**  
**Elliot Lake: 125**  
**Sault Ste. Marie: 972**  
**Wawa: 142**

### Supporting students with essential food safety skills

Public health inspectors taught the safe food handler course to high school students in Elliot Lake and Blind River. The goal is to help students learn about food safety and prepare them for future jobs in food service. This partnership gives students important skills they can use daily.



### Food safety in remote communities

Three public health inspectors completed 7 food safety inspections in remote parts of North Algoma. These areas could only be reached by boat or float plane. These inspections help make sure food is handled safely, even if the location is hard to get to.





# Safe Water

## GOAL

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

Over the past five years, there were about 201 cases of water-borne illness per 100,000 people in Algoma.

APH helps protect the public from water-borne illnesses by monitoring water quality, supporting drinking water system operators, and promoting safe water practices across Algoma.

Across the program, we have public health inspectors, a health promotion specialist, an environmental assistant, administrative support and environmental health summer students.

27



water quality incidents were responded to.

11



drinking water inspections were completed in remote parts of North Algoma. These places could only be reached by a boat or float plane. These inspections help to make sure the public has safe drinking water.

40



pools and spas were inspected across the Algoma District. These inspections help to make sure safe recreational water is available to the public.

2



public health inspectors completed training to support the 248 Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS) across the Algoma District.

190



information requests for private water systems were completed.

7,191



views of our online beach map. The map shows active beach warnings across Algoma and helps residents know when water quality may be unsafe and extra caution should be used.



**NEW**  
Public Health Ontario (PHO)  
**Online Water Testing Portal**

- 1 Collect Your Sample
- 2 Submit Your Info
- 3 Drop off your sample
- 4 Access Report Online

No paper registration required!  
Scan or visit PHO's Well Water Testing webpage:  
[publichealthontario.ca/waterportal](http://publichealthontario.ca/waterportal)

## A simpler way to access water test results

We worked with the Public Health Ontario Laboratory to help residents use the new online water testing portal. Residents can now submit water samples and view test results online, and our staff are available to answer questions about the results.



# 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.

Between May and October 2024, the rate of heat related emergency department visits in Algoma was 28.8 per 100,000 people, including visits like heat exhaustion, heat edema and sunburns.

Between December 2024 and February 2025, the rate of cold related emergency department visits was 45.9 per 100,000 people, including visits related to hypothermia, frostbite, and other cold weather injuries.

APH addresses health risks, monitors climate change data to guide public health action and reduces health hazards through health promotion.

Across the program, we have public health inspectors, a health promotion specialist, an environmental assistant and administrative support.

133



health hazard complaints were investigated by a public health inspector.

77



current contacts engaged in our pre-season heat outreach messaging.

4



employees took part in training about equity and climate change. The training explained how local buildings and services work, and the impacts of climate change. Employees also learned how to use climate data to find changes over time and effectively plan.

## Air quality monitoring across Algoma



Through 2025, PurpleAir sensors remain active in Algoma. These sensors give extra information about air quality in different areas across the district and help guide public health programs. You can visit the [Air Quality Page](#) to learn more and look at the [UNBC air quality map](#) to see if your area has a sensor.



## Using data to prepare for extreme heat

We developed a heat dashboard that collects information from across the district each year. The dashboard helps track trends over time, supports planning for extreme heat, and helps emergency management teams respond during heat events and guide local emergency planning.



# 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 manager of emergency and preparedness response, a health equity nurse, a communications coordinator, and a multimedia coordinator.

210



agency requests for FASST support completed; from literature reviews to ethics, evaluation to community engagement, report writing to data collection and analysis, FASST was here for it!

278



agency requests for communications support, including graphic design, media relations, social media, website content, and strategic communications.

100+



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

### Building FASST capacity to support public health

In 2025, FASST strengthened our knowledge and skills in areas including community engagement, Indigenous data sovereignty, Black health, grant writing, continuous quality improvement, trauma informed practices, and equity focused emergency preparedness and climate change adaptation, so that we can better support our public health teams.

We also worked with Public Health Ontario, Ottawa Public Health, and Public Health Sudbury and Districts to identify ways to measure and support progress in healthy public policy. Healthy public policy helps create healthier communities by considering health in decisions related to housing, education, employment, transportation, and the environment.

### Building community understanding through local media

We hosted a Toxic Drug Information Session for local media to support accurate and evidence based reporting on the opioid crisis. The session brought together reporters from Village Media who are covering the Turning the Tide initiative, which explores local responses to the toxic drug crisis and shares the experiences of people affected.

Reporters learned about local trends, factors contributing to the crisis, and the range of responses available, including harm reduction, treatment, and prevention. By building relationships with local media and providing clear, accessible information, we helped support informed and compassionate reporting on complex public health issues.



# Foundational Standards

154



employees and learners participated in 7 guided Truth Walks around the Shingwauk Indian Residential School site and buildings, concluding with a reflective sharing circle. Our learning and reflection were supported by Serena Hill, a community engagement specialist with the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre and local Knowledge Carriers Elizabeth Edgar-Webkamigad and Makayala Webkamigad. Miigwech!



## Honouring stories, teachings, and community

Guided by the principles of respect, commitment, trust, and self determination, our Truth and Reconciliation Committee supported learning, reflection, and relationship building throughout the year. Staff participated in activities that honoured Indigenous languages, stories, medicines, and teachings, including learning opportunities led by Indigenous Knowledge Carriers and Elders, a book club featuring Indigenous authors, and participation in the Shingwauk Residential Schools Truth Walk. We also collaborated with Indigenous health partners to support the development of a Truth and Reconciliation Strategy and co created an art piece with local Anishinaabekwe artist Lucia Laford reflecting the organization’s ongoing journey toward Truth and Reconciliation.



17



municipal emergency planning meetings attended.  
**SSM & Area: 3**  
**Central and East Algoma: 10**  
**Elliot Lake & Area: 2**  
**North Algoma: 2**

280



calls to the APH after-hours on-call system responded to.



In 2025, we activated our emergency response plan to support a coordinated response to measles in Algoma. Clear roles, regular meetings, and timely information sharing helped support communication and decision making throughout the outbreak.

We worked closely with hospitals, health care providers, daycares, summer camps, and First Nations and Métis partners to support the community and reduce the spread of measles. Teams across the organization coordinated outbreak reporting, information management, public communications, health care provider updates, and media responses. During the outbreak, we:

- Held 16 information sessions with partners,
- Shared 4 updates with health care providers, and
- Issued 6 news releases

After the outbreak ended, feedback was gathered from staff and community partners to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities to improve future emergency responses.



# Our Workforce

## GOAL

To support the continued strength of our organization and the sustainability of public health services across Algoma through workforce planning, recruitment, retention, and professional development.

Our workforce is at the heart of public health in Algoma. Our human resources (HR) team is committed to maintaining a skilled, sustainable, and responsive workforce to meet the evolving needs of the diverse, rural, and northern communities we serve.

Across this team, we have HR coordinators and a payroll and benefits assistant.

163



employees across four office locations in Algoma. Approximately 90% are permanent full-time staff, helping support stable programs, services, and long-term continuity across the organization. Located in:  
**Sault Ste. Marie: 141**  
**Elliot Lake: 8**  
**Blind River: 7**  
**Wawa: 7**

In 2025, we successfully piloted the use of electric and hybrid vehicles across Algoma. During the pilot, staff travelled nearly 50,000 kilometres, helping reduce program costs, paperwork, and wear on employees' personal vehicles. The pilot also supported our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and operate more sustainably.



20+



opportunities for employees to participate in workplace mental health, diversity, equity and inclusivity training.

## Investing in our people

Employees are supported in their personal and professional growth through training, wellness initiatives, and activities focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion. These opportunities help support employee well being, strengthen teamwork, and create a more welcoming and inclusive workplace.

In 2025, staff participated in:

- Mental health training through the Canadian Mental Health Association,
- Virtual tours of the Josiah Henson Museum of African-Canadian History,
- Local tours of the Métis Heritage Centre,
- LGBTQI+ inclusion workshops through Blooming Workspaces, and
- Employee wellness and engagement opportunities including Town Halls, Conversation Cafés, and access to a dedicated Wellness Room.





# 2025 Funding of Local Public Health

<b>Municipal Levies (District of Algoma)</b>	<b>\$ 4,840,220</b>
<b>Public Health Funding</b> <i>Ministry of Health</i>	<b>\$ 14,233,569</b>
<b>Community Health Funding</b> <i>Ministry of Children, Community &amp; Social Services, Ontario</i> <i>Health NE, Public Health Agency of Canada</i>	<b>\$ 1,491,459</b>
<b>Fees, Other Grants &amp; Recoveries</b>	<b>\$ 545,046</b>
<b>Total for 2025</b>	<b>\$ 21,110,294</b>

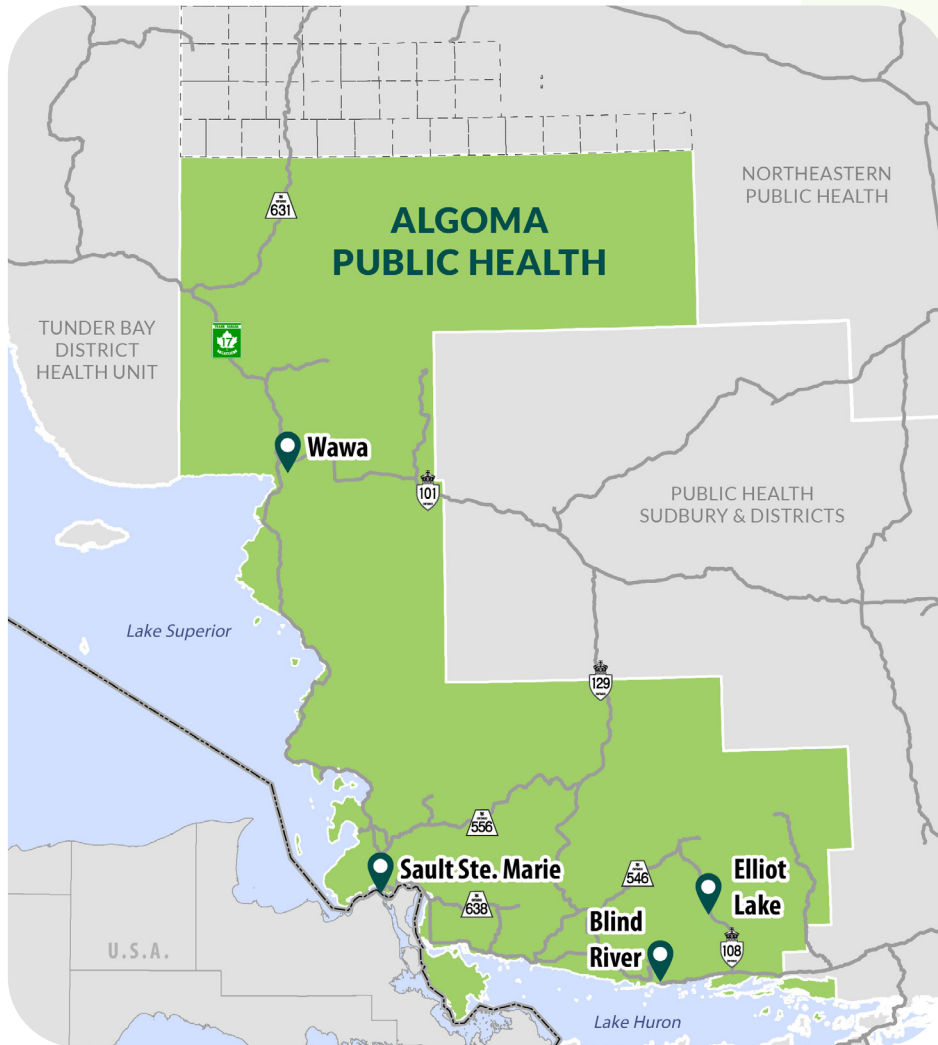
## Financial fact! Did you know...

**Local public health is funded by provincial and municipal taxpayer dollars. These dollars come from the same taxpayers.**

In 2025, public health programs and services cost Algoma residents **\$187/person** for the year, or **51 cents/person/day**, based on a **112,764** census population estimate of 2021 for the District of Algoma Health Unit.



# Connect with Public Health



17,752



phone calls responded to across APH switchboards in 2025:

**Sault Ste. Marie: 9,771**

**Blind River: 4,493**

**Elliot Lake: 1,908**

**Wawa: 1,580**

## 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

## Website



www.algomapublichealth.com

# 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 2025.
- BORN Information System: 2025 [database]. Ottawa, ON: BORN Ontario [date extracted: Feb 2026].

## 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 2025.
- Statistics Canada. Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY): 2023 [data file]. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada [producer]; Toronto, ON: Ontario Ministry of Health [distributor].
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: nutrition and healthy weights snapshot: self-reported prevalence of consumption of vegetables and fruits [internet]. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2019-2020 [cited Feb 2026]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Nutrition-and-HealthyWeights>

## 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 2025.
- Oral Health Information Support System (OHISS): 2024-2025 school years [database]. Ontario Ministry of Health [date extracted: Feb 2026].
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: oral health. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario [cited Feb 2026]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Oral-Health>

## Immunization:

- Population health data for Immunization is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2025.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Immunization data tool: Immunization coverage for measles among 7-year olds and 17 year olds by public health unit, 2024-25 school year [internet]. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario
- [cited Feb 2026]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Immunization-Tool>

## Chronic Disease Prevention & Well-being:

- Population health data for Chronic Disease Prevention & Well-being is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2025.
- Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), Ontario Share File 2019-2020 [data file]. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada [producer]; Toronto, ON: Ontario Ministry of Health [distributor].

# References

## **Substance Use & Injury Prevention:**

- Population health data for Substance Use & Injury Prevention is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2025.
- Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario: 2025 [datafile]. Ontario Substance-related Death Database. Toronto, ON: Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario/Ontario Forensic Pathology Service (OCC/OFPS) [distributor].

## **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 2025.
- Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS): 2016-2025 [database]. Ontario Ministry of Health [date extracted: Feb 2026].

## **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 2025.
- Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS): 2016-2025 [database]. Ontario Ministry of Health [date extracted: Feb 2026].

## **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 2025.
- Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS): 2016-2025 [database]. Ontario Ministry of Health [date extracted: Feb 2026].

## **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 2025.
- National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS): 2024 [database]. Ontario Ministry of Health: IntelliHealth Ontario [data extracted: Feb 2026].
- Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance (ACES): 2024-2025 [database]. Kingston, Frontenac, and Lennox & Addington Public Health [date extracted: Feb 2026].

## **Foundational Standards & HR:**

- All program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2025.