

YORK REGION PUBLIC HEALTH 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The Regional Municipality of York works to keep its residents healthy. York Region Public Health professionals deliver a range of programs and services to prevent disease, protect the health and safety of residents and promote healthy lifestyles and environments.

As one of Ontario's 36 health units, York Region Public Health is directed by the Ontario Public Health Standards.

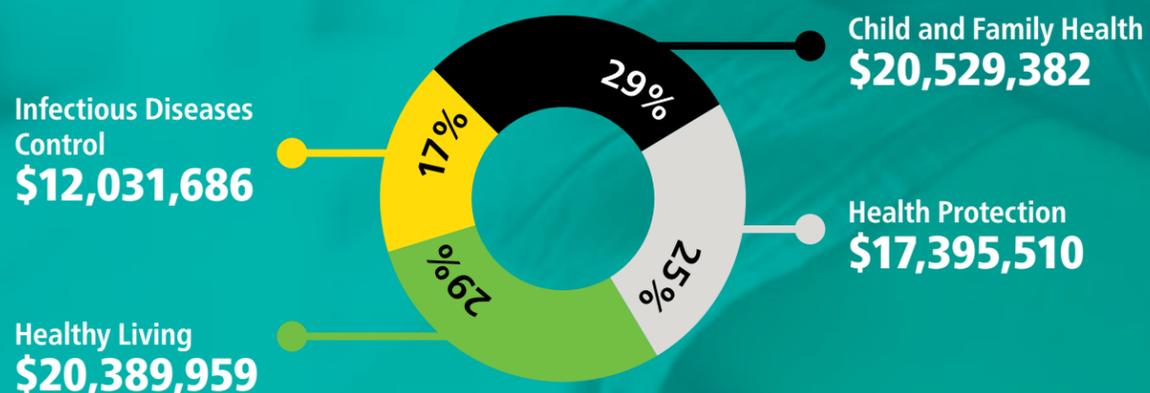
Public Health's main functions:

- To assess and monitor the health of communities and populations at risk to identify health problems and priorities
- To formulate public policies designed to solve identified local and national health problems and priorities
- To assure that all populations have access to appropriate and cost-effective care, including health promotion and disease prevention services

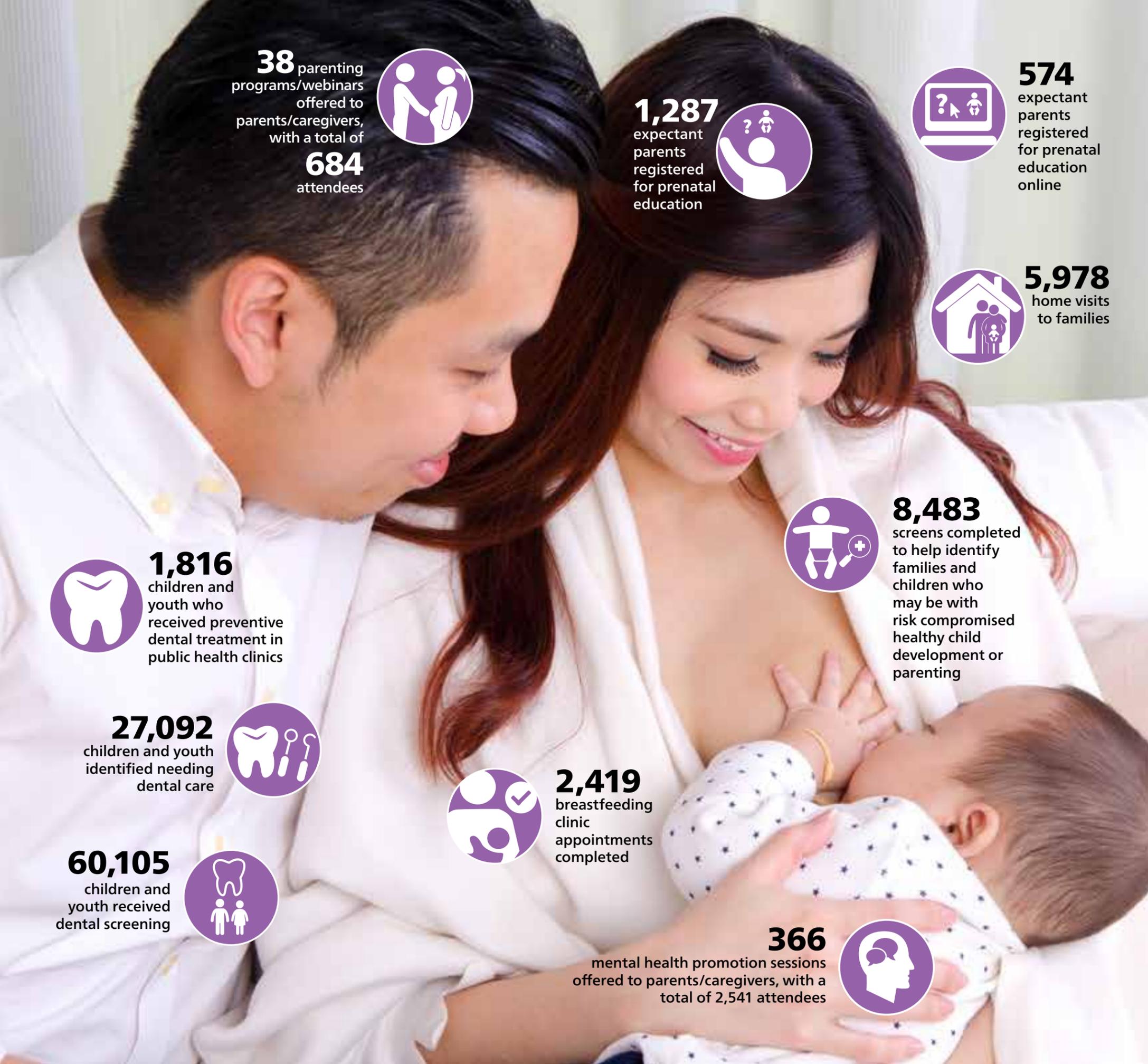
Source: WHO Centre for Health Development. *A glossary of terms for community health care and services for older persons* [Internet]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2004 [cited 2016 Oct 3]. Available from: who.int/kobe_centre/ageing/ahp_vol5_glossary.pdf

2016 Public Health Annual Report — Budget

In 2016, York Region Public Health's budget was \$70,346,537. Costs are shared by The Regional Municipality of York and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, with the Ministry providing 75 per cent of the funding for most programs. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) also funds 21 per cent of the total Child and Family Health (CFH) division amount.



Note: the MCYS portion of the CFH is 21% (\$4,401,635) of the total CFH amount



38 parenting programs/webinars offered to parents/caregivers, with a total of **684** attendees



1,287 expectant parents registered for prenatal education



574 expectant parents registered for prenatal education online



5,978 home visits to families



1,816 children and youth who received preventive dental treatment in public health clinics



8,483 screens completed to help identify families and children who may be with risk compromised healthy child development or parenting



27,092 children and youth identified needing dental care



2,419 breastfeeding clinic appointments completed



60,105 children and youth received dental screening



366 mental health promotion sessions offered to parents/caregivers, with a total of 2,541 attendees



CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH

Supporting healthy child development for parents and families

The Child and Family Health division supports healthy child development from preconception to school transition. The division offers prenatal classes, breastfeeding clinics and support, parenting education and resilience building, and home visits through the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program. Registered Nurses call all mothers in the first few days after being home with a new baby to answer questions and provide support. In addition, the division provides dental screening for preventive or urgent treatment for children and youth including assistance to find a dentist and applying for help with the cost of children's dental care.

Introduction of breastfeeding walk-in clinics

In March 2016, York Region Public Health implemented walk-in breastfeeding clinics as part of a pilot project. Prior to this, breastfeeding clinics were available by appointment only. The goal was to increase the percentage of mothers receiving hands-on assistance with breastfeeding concerns within zero to one day of requesting support.

In March 2016, the walk-in breastfeeding clinic pilot was launched at two out of five clinic locations. After the walk-in model was implemented, there was a 29 per cent average increase in the number of women able to receive zero to one day service for their first appointment at the pilot sites. In 2016, York Region received Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) Designation. A BFI goal includes assistance with breastfeeding concerns being available within 24 hours and routine follow-up available within 48 hours after discharge. The breastfeeding program is currently investigating expanding the walk-in clinic model into its other locations to further reduce wait times.

HEALTHY LIVING

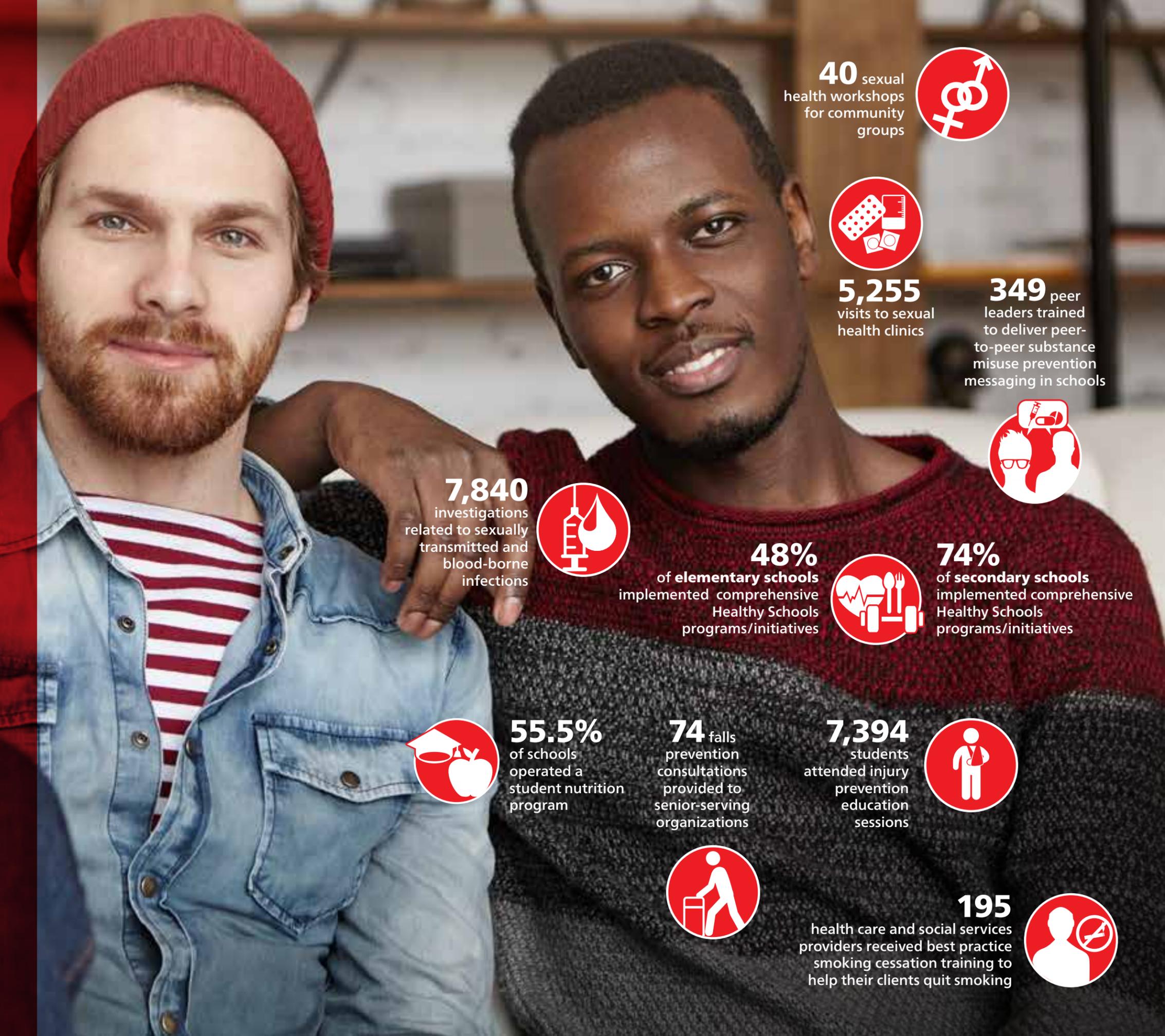
Promoting and supporting health and wellness for children, youth, families and seniors

The Healthy Living division promotes healthy, safe, and resilient communities through 18 distinct Public Health programs. The division focuses on health promotion, disease prevention, program surveillance and evaluation, health emergency planning, sexual health promotion and sexually transmitted and blood-borne infection follow-up.

Improving access to sexual health clinic services

In 2016, the sexual health clinics and sexual and blood-borne illness (SBBi) teams implemented an outreach project with the goal of improving access to sexual health clinic services and increasing knowledge of sexually transmitted infection (STI) and blood-borne infection (BBI) prevention strategies. The project targets marginalized homeless populations in York Region who traditionally do not access sexual health clinics.

As part of the project, partnerships were established with the Aids Committee of York Region and with four emergency housing facilities in York Region. Public Health Nurses (PHNs) visit these facilities monthly and provide interactive education sessions on a variety of sexual health topics based on client preference. The PHNs also provide onsite testing for HIV, STIs, BBIs, pregnancy and access to free condoms. As a result of this project, PHNs have diagnosed and treated STIs, increased the number of clients accessing sexual health clinics and provided support to sex trafficking victims who wanted to leave the sex trade. Outreach has increased the accessibility of health related interventions for this population.



40 sexual health workshops for community groups



5,255 visits to sexual health clinics

349 peer leaders trained to deliver peer-to-peer substance misuse prevention messaging in schools



7,840 investigations related to sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections



48% of elementary schools implemented comprehensive Healthy Schools programs/initiatives



74% of secondary schools implemented comprehensive Healthy Schools programs/initiatives



55.5% of schools operated a student nutrition program

74 falls prevention consultations provided to senior-serving organizations



7,394 students attended injury prevention education sessions



195 health care and social services providers received best practice smoking cessation training to help their clients quit smoking



186
rabies
vaccines
dispensed



1,524
inspections of
pools, splash
pads, receiving
basins, wading
pools and spas



104
migrant
farm worker
accommodations
inspections



119 inspections
of small drinking
water systems
763 adverse
drinking water
quality incidents
investigated

1,064
animal
exposure
and rabies
investigations



102,642
street and environmentally
sensitive catch basins
treated with larvicide to
prevent the spread of
mosquitoes which carry
West Nile Disease

54 tanning
salons inspected
for compliance
with the
*Skin Cancer
Prevention Act*



41
IPAC Lapse
Investigations
and **19**
required
posting

1,424
personal
services
setting
inspections



484 IPAC inspections
in long-term care homes
and child-care centres,
lodging homes, homes
for special care, group
living residences and
children residences



4,228
people certified
through YorkSafe
Food Handler
certification



3,162
tobacco and
electronic
cigarette vendor
inspections



11,043
food premise
inspections

HEALTH PROTECTION

Inspecting and monitoring places where we work, live and play

The Health Protection division delivers programs and services to reduce the incidence and spread of infectious diseases, food and water-borne illnesses and other environmental health hazards. Key strategies include education, monitoring, inspection, enforcement and policy development. Programs include food safety, rabies control, safe water, vector-borne diseases, infection prevention and control, health hazard prevention and management and tobacco/electronic cigarette education and control.

Transparency through posting Infection Prevention and Control Lapse Investigation Reports

Since October 2015, York Region Public Health has investigated reports of possible infectious disease transmission as a result of improper Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) practices in the community, known as an "IPAC Lapse." Investigations are conducted in the following settings:

- Personal services settings such as nail salons and spas
- Settings not routinely inspected such as clinical offices, medical clinics and dentist offices
- Settings where a regulated health professional is involved such as physician or dentist

Investigations will often involve the IPAC practices of a regulated health professional. Concerns should also be shared with the appropriate regulatory college of the health professional, if applicable, as they operate in the interest of the public.

Public Health units are required to post all IPAC Lapse investigation reports on their website and outline the details of each investigation. In 2016, 19 reports were posted to york.ca

INFECTIOUS DISEASES CONTROL

Reducing the impact of infectious diseases

The Infectious Diseases Control division delivers programs and services to reduce the burden of infectious diseases and build capacity for disease prevention through health protection and promotion initiatives. The division investigates cases and outbreaks of reportable infectious diseases (not including sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections), conducts ongoing disease surveillance, manages the supply and distribution of publicly funded vaccines to community health care providers, provides school and community based immunization clinics and enforces the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*.

Protecting York Region's school children through immunization

In 2016, York Region Public Health implemented an inclusive, comprehensive and collaborative approach to enforce Ontario's *Immunization School Pupils Act*, while minimizing the number of 7 and 17 year old students suspended from school for not having their immunization records up to date. Information letters to parents were re-written to be client-focused, improving clarity and direction. This resulted in lower volumes of questions from parents and schools and a higher number of completed immunization records submitted. Other activities to increase compliance included:

- Multiple letters and phone call reminders to students at risk of suspension
- Communicating enforcement activities with physicians and school boards to elicit their support
- Dedicated phone lines to respond to parent's questions and book student immunization appointments

Additional evening, school-based and suspension-day immunization clinics were provided for students requiring additional vaccinations. Combined, these efforts resulted in the suspension of only 425 (2.5 per cent) students out of nearly 17,000 at risk of suspension. Over 70 per cent of suspended students were back in class within one to two days.



49 confirmed tuberculosis cases and **392** contact investigations



2,360 of reportable communicable disease cases investigated (excluding Tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections and blood-borne infections) **1,928** reportable communicable disease cases investigated that met disease-specific case definition (82 per cent)



Over **38,000** vaccine doses administered by public health staff at more than 870 clinics held by public health



739 vaccine storage fridges inspected of which 99.7 per cent were in compliance



678,368 vaccine doses distributed to community health care providers and public health clinics (valued at over \$30 million)



47,488 requests sent to York Region residents requesting updated immunization information for their children



PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Province of Ontario has introduced Public Health Accountability Agreements to outline terms and conditions of funding and performance expectations for public health units. Accountability Agreement performance measures are common across all public health units, but targets vary according to performance baselines. York Region Public Health met or exceeded the following performance results:

% of tobacco vendors in compliance with youth access legislation at the time of last inspection

% of secondary schools inspected once per year for compliance with section 10 of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*

% of tobacco retailers inspected for compliance with section 3 of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*

% of tobacco retailers inspected once per year for compliance with display, handling and promotion sections of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*

**Implementation status of NutriSTEP®
Preschool Screen**

Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFI) Status

% of high-risk Small Drinking Water Systems inspections completed for those that are due for re-inspection

% of suspected rabies exposures reported with investigation initiated within one day of public health unit notification

% of salmonellosis cases where one or more risk factor(s) other than "Unknown" was entered into iPHIS

% of influenza vaccine wasted that is stored/administered by the public health unit

% of refrigerators storing publicly funded vaccines that have received a completed routine annual cold chain inspection

% of MMR vaccine wasted

% of 7 or 8 year old students in compliance with ISPA

% of 16 or 17 year old students in compliance with ISPA

% of high-risk food premises inspected once every 4 months while in operation

% of moderate-risk food premises inspected once every 6 months while in operation

% of Class A pools inspected while in operation

% of public spas inspected while in operation

% of restaurants with a Certified Food Handler on site at time of routine inspection

% of personal services settings inspected annually

% of confirmed gonorrhoea cases where initiation of follow-up occurred within two business days

% of confirmed iGAS cases where initiation of follow-up occurred on the same day as receipt of lab confirmation of a positive case

% of laboratory confirmed *N. gonorrhoeae* cases treated according to guidelines

% of HPV vaccine wasted that is stored/administered by the public health unit

% of school-aged children who have completed immunizations for hepatitis B

% of school-aged children who have completed immunizations for HPV

% of school-aged children who have completed immunizations for meningococcus

YORK REGION PUBLIC HEALTH HAD A VARIANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

% of influenza vaccine wasted that is stored/administered by the public health unit

Explanation: Between September 1, 2015 and August 31, 2016, York Region Public Health (YRPH) handled approximately 350,000 influenza vaccine doses and wasted approximately 4,600 doses (1.3 per cent). According to the Ministry-defined accountability agreement formula, YRPH's influenza vaccine wastage was 96.5 per cent (337,750 doses wasted out of 350,000 doses handled). In early 2017, YRPH identified problems with the wastage formula with the Ministry. Although the indicator and YRPH's result could not be changed for the 2015/16 reporting year, the Ministry has since revised the indicator used to calculate influenza wastage for the 2016/17 influenza season.

3% of salmonellosis cases where one or more risk factor(s) other than "Unknown" was entered into iPHIS

Explanation: YRPH investigates reportable disease events to better understand sources of infection and risk factors which may contribute to illness. Our ability to reach a client and the client's ability to remember details about their illness, including behaviours that might have increased their risk of contracting the infection, have an impact on the information we are able to collect. In 2016, YRPH was unable to reach 8 per cent of our Salmonella cases (as compared with 4 per cent who could not be reached in 2015). These individuals did not respond to our request to contact public health and therefore were unable to be followed-up to obtain further information. As a result of this, YRPH could not collect information on potential risk factors from these individuals. This resulted in a decrease in the number of Salmonella cases with known risk factors in 2016 as compared with 2015.