



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health
FROM: Bryna Warshawsky, Acting Medical Officer of Health
DATE: 2012 October 18

MIDDLESEX-LONDON'S COMMUNITY HEALTH STATUS RESOURCE

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 123-12 re "Middlesex-London's Community Health Status Resource" be received for information.

Introduction

The Foundational Standards of Ontario Public Health Standards 2008 requires that health units use health statistics and trends to plan their programs and services. In addition, the standards state that these health statistics be shared with the public and community partners, including health care providers. http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/oph_standards/ophs/progstds/pdfs/oph_s_2008.pdf (pages 15 and 16).

To meet this requirement, the Health Unit has developed an on-line Community Health Status Resource. The Resource provides statistics about disease and health trends in the Middlesex-London population and the factors that contribute to these trends including social, economic, physical, and behavioural factors. The resource was developed by the Health Unit's Epidemiologists, Ms. Sarah Maaten, Ms. Evelyn Crosse and Ms. Alison Locker and the Health Unit's Data Analyst, Mr. Bernie Lueske.

Using the most current local data available and in accordance with the standards for using this data (the Ontario Public Health Indicators framework), the Community Health Status Resource provides a comprehensive picture of the status of population health in Middlesex-London. It will be of use to Health Unit staff to inform policy and program decisions. It will also be of interest to local health professionals, policy and decision-makers, community partners, service providers and the general public.

Content of the Online Resource

The Community Health Status Resource can be accessed at the following <http://communityhealthstats.healthunit.com>. It provides information about the following topics:

- Demographics – characteristics of the population
- Social Determinants of Health – social and economic factors that contribute to health
- Deaths – leading causes of death in the population
- Hospitalizations – leading reasons for being admitted to hospital
- Lifestyle Behaviours – behaviours associated with chronic illnesses and injuries
- Injuries – causes of unintentional and intentional injuries
- Chronic Diseases – common chronic illnesses and cancer prevention by screening
- Communicable Diseases – illnesses that spread from person to person
- Reproductive Health – pregnancies, births and associated behaviours
- Child Health and Development – health and behaviours of children up to 19 years of age
- Environment – health protection from the physical environment

Numbers of events and rates of events are presented to give the reader a sense of how common a health event, such as births or deaths, is in the community. Comparisons by age and sex help to identify priority groups which may require special attention. Rates are compared between Middlesex-London, the province and the Peer Group (the average of a group of other Ontario health unit areas determined to be similar to Middlesex-London) when possible. Time trends are used to help determine whether this community is improving or getting worse with regard to particular health outcomes. Maps are also used to present some comparisons between neighborhoods.

Population health data does not exist, or cannot be reported, for all public health topics or sub-populations in Middlesex-London. Efforts will be made, however, to expand and update this Community Health Status Resource as appropriate data become available.

Public Launch

The Community Health Status Resource was publicly launched on October 9th at a media conference held at the Health Unit. Along with local media, community partners were invited to attend and see a demonstration of this new on-line resource. Initial feedback has been very positive. Further information on the new resource and how to access it will be disseminated to community partners.

A presentation on the new resource will be provided to Board of Health members at the October 18, 2012 meeting.

This report was prepared by Ms. Evelyn Crosse, Ms. Alison Locker, and Ms. Sarah Maaten, Health Unit Epidemiologists.



Bryna Warshawsky, MDCM, CCFP, FRCPC
Acting Medical Officer of Health

This report addresses the following requirement(s) of the Ontario Public Health Standards:

Foundational Standard:

- #1: The board of health shall assess current health status, health behaviours, preventive health practices, health care utilization relevant to public health, and demographic indicators in accordance with the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008 (or as current).
- #2: The board of health shall assess trends and changes in local population health in accordance with the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008 (or as current).
- #3: The board of health shall use population health, determinants of health and health inequities information to assess the needs of the local population, including the identification of populations at risk, to determine those groups that would benefit most from public health programs and services (i.e., priority populations).
- #5: The board of health shall provide population health information, including determinants of health and health inequities to the public, community partners, and health care providers, in accordance with the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008 (or as current).