

# Health Data Analyst



## What do you like best about your job?

Taking raw data and turning it into useable information that is used in evidence based decision making to refine and shape programs within the Region gives me great satisfaction. I am constantly intrigued at gaining more insight into the growing, and fascinating community we live in.

## Describe your typical day?

Typically most of my day is spent working, independently, at a computer using statistical software (such as SAS), and other programs (Excel, Word, ArcGIS, etc.) to analyze data and create reports in collaboration with my epidemiologist and data analyst teammates. There are also occasional meetings with public health planners, program managers, and external partners to determine their data needs.

## How are you making a difference?

I make a difference by providing timely evidence for programs to determine gaps and find efficiencies based on what the numbers are telling us in order to make well-informed choices about programs and populations of interest.

## What do you like about working or living in Waterloo Region?

The region has everything that one could need in big city amenities, such as transit, trails, and entertainment options, but with small town friendliness. The community has, and continues to be, very forward thinking and interconnected. From farmers, to CEOs, to students, everyone in the community is always investing back in the community to make it a better place to live, work, and play.

## Why did you choose to work for Region of Waterloo Public Health?

I love the community, and for the reputation of the staff. Having the opportunity to work with people within public health, and across the Regional corporation that are provincially, nationally, and even internationally renowned was very influential in my decision making. After working with and learning from my colleagues, it is obvious that their care, passion, and dedication to improving the community, differentiates them from others.



## What would you tell someone considering a career as a Health Data Analyst?

The least appreciated skill in the analyst's toolkit is the ability to communicate results effectively. Effective communication through data visualization is both science and art, and a role within public health that is of growing importance. All Health Data Analysts can analyze data, but it takes expert skill to turn that analysis into insight, and to communicate those insights effectively to those who need to know, when they need to know. Imagination and creativity in problem solving are two other qualities that serve successful analysts well, as is the desire to constantly seek efficiency; automation of routine tasks becomes more important with each passing day as more and more data sources become real-time).

### Areas you could work in:

- Epidemiology and Health Analytics

### Qualifications you need:

- Master's Degree in public health, health sciences, statistics or health informatics and six months experience in population health data analysis and management, or a Bachelor's Degree in a related field plus two years experience in population health data analysis and management
- Ability to extract, manipulate, analyze and interpret health data using statistical software
- Knowledge of database development management and analysis

### Wage/salary range:

- Approximately \$56,300 to \$70,500 annually (2015 rates)



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### Region of Waterloo Public Health

519-575-4400, TTY: 519-575-4608

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