



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS) Quarterly summary: January 1 – March 31, 2023

Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS) is a project aimed at addressing improper needle disposal in the community. The program is funded by Region of Waterloo Public Health and implemented by Sanguen Health Centre in partnership with area municipalities and participating BIAs. After a successful pilot in Cambridge, phase two involves further expansion into Kitchener and Waterloo. Cambridge operations began in January 2021 and after a short planning period, the program launched in Kitchener in March and Waterloo in April 2021. WINS aims to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Reduce the number of discarded needles in the community.
2. Increase meaningful employment opportunities for people with barriers to traditional employment.
3. Educate people who use substances of proper disposal options, when opportunities exist.
4. Create a positive community response and increase community engagement related to harm reduction and substance use.

Data summary for Q1 (January 1 – March 31, 2023):

Indicator	Total (Jan 1 – March 31)
# of needles collected	6,100
# of glass pipes collected	1,733
# of interactions with community members	1,912
# of referrals to community organizations	56
# of peer workers (as of March 31, 2023):	23
# of peer hours worked	1,011

Table 1

Key findings for this period:

- There were 1,194.5 peer hours worked in Q4 of 2022. In Q1 there were less hours worked, with two additional peers at the end of the quarter.
- Compared to Q4 of 2022, the number of needles collected in Q1 decreased by 30.8 per cent and the number of glass pipes collected decreased by 14.8 per cent.
- Interactions with community members have decreased by 19.5 per cent since Q4 of 2022, with the number of referrals to community organizations decreasing by 42.3 per cent as well.
- Indicators for Q1 2023 have decreased in comparison to Q4 of 2022. However, the program ran for less total amount of days in Q1 2023 due to inclement weather. The indicators for Q1 2023 exceed those from Q1 of 2022 in all areas, aside from referrals to community organizations.