



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS) Quarterly summary: April 1 – June 30, 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 Q2 (April 1 – June 30, 2023):

Indicator	Total (April 1 – June 30)
# of needles collected	9,829
# of glass pipes collected	2,756
# of interactions with community members	2,057
# of referrals to community organizations	90
# of peer workers (as of June 30, 2023):	52
# of peer hours worked	973.25

Table 1

Key findings for this period:

- There were 1011 peer hours worked in Q1 of 2023. In Q2 there were less hours worked, and 13 less peers at the end of the quarter.
- Compared to Q1 of 2023, the number of needles collected in Q2 increased by 61.1 per cent and the number of glass pipes collected increased by 59 per cent.
- Interactions with community members have increased by 7.6 per cent since Q1 of 2023, and the number of referrals to community organizations has increased by 60.7 per cent.