

Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS)

Quarterly Summary: April 1 – June 30, 2021

Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS) is a two-year pilot 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. 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, 2021):

Indicator	Total (April 1 – June 30)
# of needles collected	3,394
# of glass pipes collected	704
# of interactions with community members	1,738
# of referrals to community organizations	173
# of peer workers (as of June 30, 2021)	17
# of peer hours worked	726

Key Findings for this period:

- Interactions with community members (+70%) and referrals to community organizations (+144%) both increased since Q1.
- The program continues to ramp up with the number of peer hours worked having increased significantly. In Q1, peer workers worked 411 hours, however, in Q2, they worked 726 hours.
- Compared to Q1, the number of needles collected increased by 33 per cent and the number of glass pipes collected increased by 77 per cent due to the increase in the number of peer hours worked each month.