

Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS)

Quarterly Summary: January 1 – March 31, 2022

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 Q1 (January 1 – March 31, 2022):

Indicator	Total (Jan 1 – Mar 31)
# of needles collected	5,349
# of glass pipes collected	938
# of interactions with community members	1,838
# of referrals to community organizations	200
# of peer workers (as of Mar 31, 2022):	26
# of peer hours worked	1,371

Key Findings for this period:

- The program continues to increase the number of peer hours worked. In Q3 of 2021, peer workers worked 978 hours. The number of hours increased to 1,257 in Q4 of 2021 and to 1,371 in Q1 of 2022.
- Compared to Q4 of 2021, the number of needles collected in Q1 of 2022 increased by nine per cent and the number of glass pipes collected remained approximately the same.
- Interactions with community members remained consistent, while referrals to community organizations have nearly tripled this quarter compared with Q4 of 2021.