

Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS)

Quarterly Summary: – July 1, 2022-September 30, 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 Q3 (July 1 – September 30, 2022):

Indicator	Total (July 1 – Sept 30)
# of needles collected	10,695
# of glass pipes collected	1837
# of interactions with community members	3061
# of referrals to community organizations	148
# of peer workers (as of Sept 30, 2022):	24
# of peer hours worked	1,472.5

Key Findings for this period:

- The number of peer hours worked in Q3 of 2022 has remained relatively consistent with Q2, with 1 additional peer at the end of the quarter.
- Compared to Q2, the number of needles collected in Q3 increased by 26 per cent and the number of glass pipes collected increased by 17 per cent.
- Interactions with community members have increased by 25 per cent since Q2, although the number of referrals to community organizations has decreased by 22 per cent from Q2.