Background

• BC Public Health Act:
  • Mandate for Chief MHO to report to their Board

• 2016/17 Report:
  • Key public health issues of the last year

• Full report:
  http://www.vch.ca/public-health
Focusing on Early Childhood Development

Vulnerability is increasing

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN THE VCH REGION IDENTIFIED AS VULNERABLE*

*Defined as vulnerable on one or more areas of the EDI
Focusing on Early Childhood Development

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)

An evidence-based program that partners specialized public health nurses with first-time mothers, experiencing (or vulnerable to) socioeconomic disadvantage, from early pregnancy into a child’s second year of life.

Support for School Success

A program designed to provide health and developmental screening for children in specific Vancouver neighbourhoods. Early identification of developmental issues means that children can access specialists and other supports.
Improving Immunization Rates

Kindergarten Booster Coverage

Our actions helped to close the gap in vaccine coverage rates between urban communities on the North Shore and the rest of VCH.

![Graph showing Kindergarten Booster Coverage from 2009/10 to 2015/16]

- URBAN COMMUNITIES ON THE NORTH SHORE
- VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH
Improving Immunization Rates

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING ABOUT IT?

Our immunization team has been working hard to increase vaccination coverage in the region, by focusing on the following:

- Increasing access to kindergarten drop-in clinics in community locations
- Immunizing kindergarten students in schools
- Promoting immunizations in the media to support vaccine readiness
The Risks of Lead Exposure in Drinking Water

WHY DOES REDUCING EXPOSURE TO LEAD MATTER?

Exposure to lead at unsafe levels can lead to health issues, including developmental delays in children, and cardiovascular and kidney issues in adults.

Before 1989 lead was commonly used in water pipes as a component of solder. Therefore, the potential for lead contamination of drinking water remains a concern, especially in buildings with older pipes.
The Risks of Lead Exposure in Drinking Water

OUR APPROACH TO THE ISSUE

Monitoring & Responding to Complaints
Drinking Water Officers assess the safety of water systems in a “Source to Tap” approach by reviewing the entire spectrum of source protection, treatment and disinfection of water systems.

VCH Health Protection routinely monitors the levels of various chemicals, including lead, contained in our public water systems at the community level.

Training and Mitigation
You can prevent exposure in buildings where lead is present in pipes, by flushing the pipes on a regular basis. That reduces the time that water spends in contact with lead before being consumed.

Monitoring: 2016 Testing lead levels at older schools across the VCH Region
The current Maximum Acceptable Concentration for lead is 10 µg/L according to the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.

Of the older schools tested in 2016, 21% exceeded this level before flushing pipes, but all were below the level after flushing pipes.

Mitigation Solution: Support schools in developing a regular pipe flushing program. “VCH School Flushing Program Development Guide” was provided to assist school districts on how to assess their school’s water system in order to develop a regular flushing program.
Culture Matters for Indigenous Health

• Multiple community consultations identified need for increased access to Elders and other cultural services

• What are we doing about it:
  – Aboriginal Cultural Competency Policy
  – Creation of Elders in Residence Program
Social Connections Impact Our Health

- Whistler: 82%
- Bowen Island: 82%
- Powell River: 78%
- Gibsons: 77%
- Coastal Rural: 74%
- West Vancouver/Lions Bay: 74%
- Rural Sunshine Coast: 73%
- Sechelt: 71%
- Squamish: 71%
- District of North Vancouver: 66%
- City of North Vancouver: 63%
- Richmond: 56%
- Metro Vancouver: 55%
- Vancouver: 53%
- BC Average: 67%

% of Community Members with Strong/Somewhat Strong Sense of Community Belonging
Social Connections Impact Our Health

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

In 2016/2017, VCH Population Health awarded $3.3 million in grants to 58 organizations to support 68 community-based initiatives strengthening social connectedness within vulnerable populations across VCH.

Example: Combatting the Social Isolation of Disability

People with disabilities often become socially isolated, inactive, depressed and immersed in the medical system. Since 2002, VCH has been funding Spinal Cord Injury BC’s Peer Support Program to connect people with disabilities in community through multi-faceted peer support networks. 1,063 people participated in 2016-2017 with 92% reporting that they made new friends or connected with new people as a direct result.
Provincial Drug Overdose Emergency

Fentanyl Detected Deaths in BC

In 2016, 967 illicit drug overdose deaths occurred in the province. Fentanyl was detected in more than half of all illicit drug deaths.
Provincial Drug Overdose Emergency

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

New Services

6 Overdose Prevention Sites and the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) opened. The Overdose Prevention Sites have had 61,768 visits and responded to 438 overdose events between December 2016 and April 24, 2017. The MMU received 2,798 visits and 589 overdose presentations (as of April 7). Health Canada approved an exemption for a new supervised injection service at the Powell Street Getaway, which opened June 28, 2017. A second application is underway.

Naloxone Distribution

16,579 Take Home Naloxone (THN) kits dispensed in the VCH region in 2016.

Outreach

Spikes on Bikes engages people using illicit drugs in public spaces for both overdose prevention education (including THN) and to intervene in overdose emergencies. The Overdose Outreach Team provides connections to addictions care and support to clients in the VCH region who have recently experienced opioid overdose and/or are at high risk for overdose.