



**“APHEO
has continued
to support excellence
in professional practice
and promoting the
integration of epidemiology
within public health
decision making
in Ontario.”**

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



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President's Message

The beginning of 2014 brought with it some interesting events and some harbingers of change for APHEO.

Through the contributions of its members, APHEO has continued to support excellence in professional practice and promoting the integration of epidemiology within public health decision making in Ontario.

APHEO, in support of its 2010 position on the move the National Household Survey from the long-form census, proposed a resolution to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) to advocate on behalf of small-area decision makers to improve data quality, either by re-instating the long form census or making available alternative data streams. The resolution was passed and APHEO followed up by communicating with various policymakers and agencies as well as supporting the private member's bill, C626, to re-instate the long form census and otherwise amend the Statistics Act. The bill was defeated in the beginning of 2015, but served as a rallying point for conversations about data quality for small area decision makers.

The work of a revitalized website committee has garnered APHEO with a new website. Read more about that in the website committee report.

The 2014 APHEO workshop, Core Indicators - Making it Count in Public Health, was a great success. As opportunities to meet face-to-face and exchange ideas become less common, the exceptional work of the conference committee and the exuberance and interest of the attendees made this an event to remember.

As APHEO approaches the closure of the 2013 to 2015 strategic plan, the new website has vastly improved APHEO's web presence. APHEO has continued its advocacy for high quality data and continues to provide useful educational experiences to the membership. The next planning cycle in particular will be a challenging one. Because APHEO revenues have become more based on membership fees in recent years, despite APHEO's excellent financial position, future planning will need to consider how best to continue to sustainably foster the unique and creative community of practice that is APHEO.

Cameron McDermaid
APHEO President 2014





2014 Workshop

The 2014 APHEO Workshop - Core Indicators - Making it Count in Public Health- was held at The Eaton Chelsea hotel in Toronto, Ontario on September 15th and 16th.

The goal of the workshop was to enhance professional excellence and to advance the practice of epidemiology with respect to APHEO's Core Indicators.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- To increase awareness and knowledge of current and evolving tools and analytical methods relevant to public health epidemiologists and other health professionals and researchers.
- To provide a platform for health professionals to share, discuss, and learn about innovative ways to use the Core Indicators information.
- To provide learning opportunities for clear and understandable communication of analysis results for public health professional use as well as to the general public.
- To provide a forum for public health professionals to present unique ways in which they have used the Core Indicators.
- To provide networking opportunities for epidemiologists and other public health professionals.
- List and describe various social media platforms and online resources

In total, the workshop had 93 participants and was open to APHEO members as well as any interested public health professionals and students.

Workshop evaluation results indicated that the majority of respondents (93%-98%) agreed that the workshop objectives were addressed. All presentations were well received and found to be informative, useful and applicable to the local health unit context. Participants also appreciated the opportunity to network with colleagues and discuss their ongoing professional activity in relation to the Core Indicators.

Planning Committee:

Brenda Guarda (Co-Chair), Ahalya Mahendra (Co-Chair), Ruth Diaz-Chambers, Erin Graves, Mary-Anne Pietrusiak, Suzanne Fegan, Narhari Timilshina

Submitted by
Brenda Guarda





Website Working Group

The APHEO Website Working Group is a standing-committee that provides periodic reviews of the Association's presence on the Internet and provides recommendations to the APHEO Executive for future innovation as well as assisting in their implementation. During 2014, the main focus of the Working Group was the re-design of the APHEO website and development of a forum.

Key 2014 Accomplishments

The working group finalized an RFP for the website redesign and development project including the addition of an integrated forum. Proposals were reviewed and Lifeline Design was selected to take on the project. The group reviewed the organization of the current website and proposed a reorganization of the hierarchy. Feedback was provided on a 1st proof produced by Lifeline Design and a presentation of these proofs was coordinated for the September APHEO Workshop. Further feedback and testing was provided as content transfer began and the new site developed.

Committee Members:

Sherri Deamond (chair), Alanna Leffley, Virginia McFarland, Caitlyn Paget, Michelle Policarpio, Lee Sieswerda, Lise Trotz-Williams

Submitted by

Sherri Deamond





Capacity Building for Small, Rural and Northern Health Units

Formed in 2011, this work group was formed to promote collaboration among small, rural and northern Health Units to address some of the challenges and develop solutions in order to comply with the Ontario Public Health Standards. The working group focuses on the areas of population health assessment, surveillance, research and program evaluation.

Key 2014 Identified Priorities

- Updated Terms of Reference,
- Continue building an Orientation Binder for New Epidemiologists,
- Sharing of relevant documents and PHU reports, templates and syntax,
- Discussed challenges with NHS, as well as collaboration/ research activities with universities and PHO's LDCPs,
- Ongoing discussion of issues faced by rural and northern epidemiologists

Chair: Alanna Leffley

Co-chairs: Erica Clark, Andrew Kurc

Members: Gillian Alton, Susan Boston, Celine Butler, Carolyn Richards, Dinna Lozano, Brenda Guarda, Dorian Lunny, Lee-Ann Nalezty, Peggy Patterson, Marina Stegne, Sylvia Thompson-Nicholson, Renate van Dorp, Ramsey D'Souza/Laura Zettler

Submitted by
Alanna Leffley





Cancer Surveillance for Public Health Working Group (CSPHWG)

This working group was established to facilitate health unit access to, and use of, good quality cancer-related data. And, to establish effective communication regarding cancer surveillance between Cancer Care Ontario, Public Health Ontario and the Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario.

In order to support implementation of the Ontario Public Health Standards as they relate to cancer prevention, population health assessment and surveillance, the Working Group was:

- Establish a clear process whereby health units may obtain timely data, including data for areas smaller than the census division;
- Establish mechanisms to train and support public health epidemiologists on cancer analysis techniques;
- Establish a forum for member agencies to share findings, methods, and data quality issues.
- Assess the sustainability of the processes, mechanisms, and forums that have been established through this Working Group.

Areas of Focus in 2013-14

- Access to Cancer Screening data
- Review of Cancer Indicators as part of the Core Indicators for Public Health process
- PHO/CCO discussions of broader surveillance picture in Ontario for cancer and associated risk factors.

Established: May 2011

Current Members: Anne-Marie Holt, Chair 2014 (APHEO), Mary-Anne Pietrusiak (APHEO), Jeremy Herring (PHO), Elaina MacIntyre (PHO), Beth Lowcock (CCO)

Submitted by
Anne-Marie Holt





Core Indicators Working Group

This working group systematically defines and operationalizes a core set of health status indicators using the Ontario Public Health Standards as a framework. It promotes the use of the indicators and encourages public health units and other to adopt the indicators as defined and generate them for their areas.

Subgroups and Highlights:

Social Determinants of Health (Lead: Virginia McFarland): completed four Core Indicators this year. An additional seven Core Indicators are in progress such as Aboriginal Population, Commuting Population and Sense of Community Belonging.

The Built Environment (Lead: Ahalya Mahendra): completed three Core Indicators this year and are working on several others including Posted Speed Limits, and Food Environments.

Reproductive Health (Lead: Mary-Anne Pietrusiak): currently working on five new Core Indicators including Gestational Weight Gain, Maternal Mental Health and Substance Misuse in Pregnancy.

Preventable Mortality (Lead: Sherri Deamond): created Potentially Avoidable Mortality – the sum of potentially treatable and potentially preventable deaths among persons under age 75 – based on methodology from the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Injury and Substance Misuse Prevention (Lead: Suzanne Fegan): developed the Core Indicator Alcohol Attributable Hospitalizations for Selected Chronic Disease and Injuries which is currently under review.

Child and Adolescent Health Subgroup (Lead: Fangli Xie): a newly formed group that will be revising seven indicators including Child and Adolescent Mortality and Hospitalizations, Children with Dental Treatment Needs and Fluorosis Index.

(continued)





Core Indicators Working Group (continued)

2014 Accomplishments:

- A three-year operational plan was developed. This included a reorganization of the Core Indicators (completed this year) in accordance with the “Alignment of the APHEO Core Indicators with the Ontario Public Health Standards”. The next step will be to develop a schedule that prioritizes Core Indicators for revision and development in the coming years.
- The APHEO 2014 Workshop highlighted the Core Indicators. The goal was to further professional excellence and to advance the practice of epidemiology with respect to the Core Indicators, as well as to increase awareness and knowledge of current and evolving analytical methods relevant to our work. It was a huge success and highlighted the excellent work of members involved with the Core Indicators project.
- Becky Blair and Mary-Anne Pietrusiak from the Reproductive Health Sub-Group presented “Development of a Public Health Core Indicator on Gestational Weight Gain using BORN Data” at the BORN webinar on October 16, 2014.
- The Core Indicators brochure was revised, printed and distributed at the APHEO 2014 workshop.
- Review and updating the “Alignment of the APHEO Core Indicators with the Ontario Public Health Standards” is in progress.
- The CIWG advocated to the MOHLTC for continued support for IntelliHEALTH in lieu of JoAnn Heale’s retirement.
- An ad-hoc group, Small Counts and Proportions, was established that aims to develop guidelines for data analysis, interpretation and release of information based on small counts or proportions.
- Subgroup changes:
 - > The Child and Adolescent Health subgroup was formed.
 - > Healthy Eating Active Living subgroup was retired, as Core Indicators were completed.
 - > The Cancer subgroup will reconvene in the near future.

Submitted by
Suzanne Fegan





BORN PH Working Group Update 2014

The Better Outcomes Registry and Network collects detailed information about pregnancy, birth and childhood across the province. BORN includes encounter information from a number of sources and creates one record for all mothers and infants in Ontario. Local public health units use the data from BORN to conduct population health assessment under the Ontario Public Health Standards (2008). Currently, 32 health units have access to both the standard reports and the data cube.

The BORN PH Working Group advocates for access to BORN data for public health purposes and acts as a communication mechanism between local public health units, Public Health Ontario and BORN. The working group began in October 2013.

2014 Accomplishments:

In 2014, the working group has collated feedback from APHEO members related to the standard reports and the data cube. The feedback is being prioritized and will be shared with BORN for response. The working group is also developing a manual which can be used by public health epidemiologists to help understand, use and report BORN data.

In October 2014, BORN released a document entitled “Providing Geography While Protecting Privacy – The BORN Information System Solution for Public Health”. This was work done to protect the privacy of First Nations communities while providing

health units with the information needed to do population health assessment. The methodology was developed in consultation with the BORN-PH working group, and a subgroup of representatives from some of the rural health units with First Nations reserves located in within their catchment areas.

BORN is currently in the process of adding historic Niday Perinatal Database into the BORN Information System. Data for the fiscal years 2010/11 and 2011/2012 will be added into the system, providing health units with full calendar year data for 2011 forward. Local BORN administrators will be informed when this process has been completed.

Committee Members: Nancy Ramuscak (Peel), Amira Ali (Ottawa), Caryn Thompson (Toronto), Denis Heng (York), Marc Lefebvre (Sudbury), Karin Hodenadel (Public Health Ontario), Naomi Schwartz (Public Health Ontario), Erin Graves (BORN), Paula Morrison (BORN), Ann Sprague (BORN)

Past members: Paul Fleiszer (Toronto), Gillian Alton (Oxford), Mary-Anne Pietrusiak (Durham).

Submitted by
Nancy Ramuscak





Leadership Competencies Expert Advisory Committee

The Community Health Nurses of Canada (CHNC) in partnership with the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) and the Manitoba Public Health Managers Network (MPHMN) received funding from Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to develop a set of leadership competencies for use by seven disciplines in public health (nursing, community medicine, public health nutrition, health promotion, epidemiology, environmental health/inspection, public health dentistry). Project steps include:

- an environmental scan that includes a scoping review of the literature
- an on-line survey of the membership of each professional disciplinary association to gather perspectives on the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed of public health leaders
- a series of focus group discussions with leaders in public health in Canada, and
- the development of competency statements through a Delphi Process.

This project extends the leadership competencies incorporated in the Core Competencies for Public in Canada (PHAC, 2008) and the discipline-specific competencies of seven public health professional groups. APHEO membership provided feedback along the way and participated in the online survey as well as the focus groups.

The Leadership Competencies Expert Advisory Committee (EAC) was established to provide a forum for public health professionals, from each of the seven public health disciplines and key public health organizations, to offer expert advice and insight related to the creation of public health leadership competencies. The objectives of the expert advisory committee and responsibilities of its members include:

- Ensure the interests of their respective discipline group and/or organization is considered in the development of the leadership competencies.
- Provide a sounding board to test ideas and/or answer questions that may arise.
- Identify potential resources to consider for the literature review.
- Identify potential candidates to participate in the focused group discussion and national consultation processes to obtain consensus on the leadership competencies.
- Provide feedback on draft documents as requested.
- Provide general support as the project moves forward.

APHEO Representative: Brenda Guarda

Submitted by
Brenda Guarda





alpha Report

The association of local Public Health agencies (alpha) is a non-profit organization that provides leadership to Boards of Health and public health units in Ontario. Our members include Board of Health members, Medical and Associate Medical Officers of Health, and senior public health managers. We advise and lend expertise to members on the governance, administration, and management of health units. alpha also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective, and efficient public health system in Ontario.

alpha is made up of Public Health Units, Boards of Health, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health, and Affiliates, of which APHEO is one. The benefits of membership include advocacy, communication, education, and representation.

Key 2014 Accomplishments

- Held joint conference with the Association on Ontario Health Centres, “Prevent More to Treat Less – Public Health and Primary Health Care Together”. This conference explored ways in which the two health sectors can collaborate.
- alpha also held a symposium titled “Public Health Challenges and the Science of Persuasion”, which focused on learning how to be persuasive when communicating public health issues.

- Passed and followed up with the following resolutions: population health data, e-cigarettes, smoke-free housing, community water fluoridation, breast-milk substitutes and prevention services in dental health.
- Throughout the year alpha advocated to government leaders and key players on priority public health topics such as the oral health program consolidation, Bill C-626 Statistics Act, Smoke Free Ontario enhancements, the Ontario poverty reduction strategy, Health Kids Community Challenge, performance indicators, mandatory immunizations, public health funding review, and menu labelling bills.
- alpha started releasing semi-monthly updates to keep their members apprised of the latest news in public health.

Submitted by

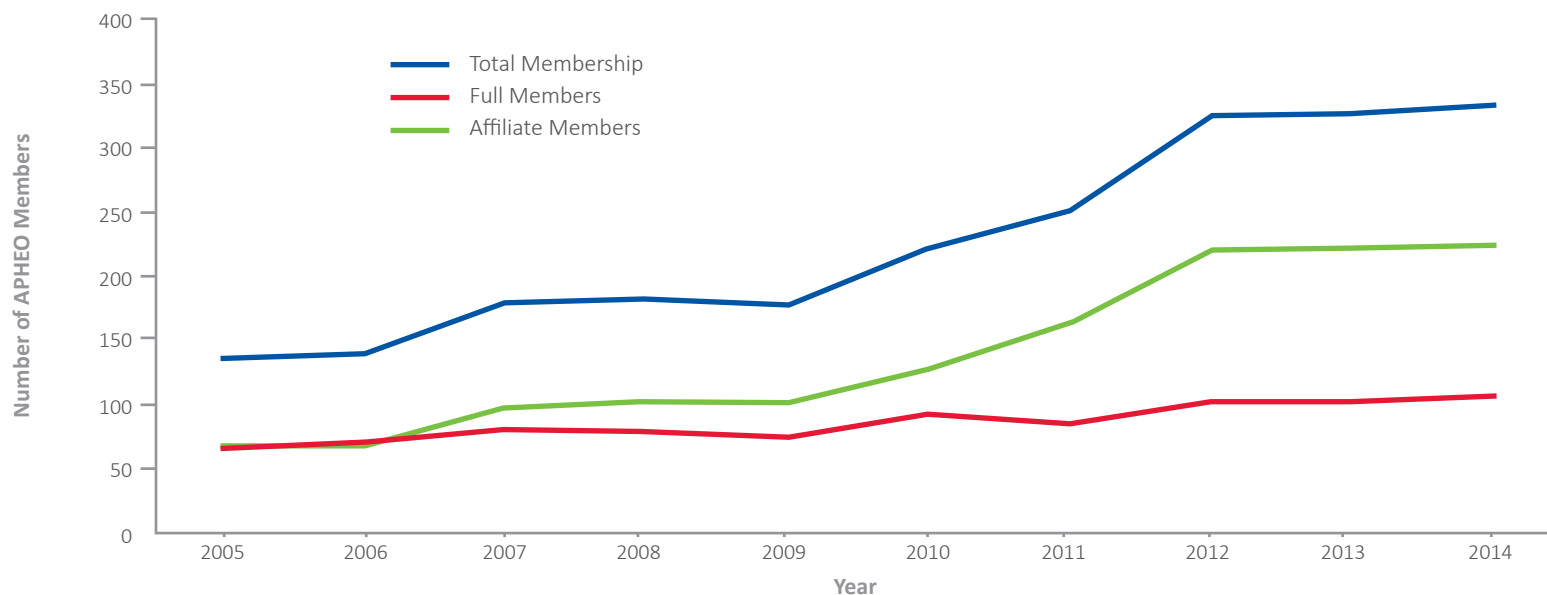
Celine Butler: APHEO Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alpha) representative





Membership Report

In 2014, APHEO had a membership consisting of 334 members (109 Full and 225 Affiliates), which was an increase of seven members over our 2013 year-end totals. This was the second consecutive year where membership has stayed relatively stable after large increases seen between 2009 and 2012. Our full members represent 34 of the 36 health units in Ontario while our affiliate members represent 23 of the 36 health units and 55 other various organizations. The figure below shows APHEO's growth over the past 10 years.



Submitted by
Adam van Dijk: APHEO Secretary





Treasurer's Report

2014 was a year of growth and change for APHEO. There was a moderate amount of financial activity for APHEO with two standout activities: fall workshop and re-design of the APHEO website.

The APHEO website committee secured the services of Lifeline Designs to re-design the website, with payment being made in installments according to key development milestones. By the end of 2014, 79% (\$6937.07) of the total website re-design quote had been remitted to Lifeline Designs.

The 2014 financial report shows the revenues received and expenses incurred in 2014. Revenues continue to be driven by membership with some additional revenue from web services. Projected revenue from membership and website revenue were underestimated in the 2014 budget by \$1801.73. The fall workshop was one of the highest attended APHEO events to date. However, the workshop was overspent by \$13,380.02. Non-discretionary and discretionary budgeted amounts were

under spent, in part due to safety margins around items like teleconference calls. APHEO was able to maintain support for teleconferences aligned with educational sessions to defray meeting expenses for our general meetings.

The assets and liabilities of APHEO as of December 31st, 2014, shows cash assets of \$70,650.70 and the GIC investment is \$10,528.97. Going into 2015, APHEO finances look to be in good shape.

Submitted by
Gillian Alton: APHEO Treasurer



2014 Budget YTD



Projected Revenues	2014 Budget	YTD
Membership	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,614.53
Website Revenue	\$ 300.00	\$ 487.20
2014 Workshop		\$ 16,209.50
Total	\$ 8,300.00	\$ 26,311.23

Nondiscretionary Operational Expenses

Executive teleconferences	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 274.13
Executive transition meeting	\$ 300.00	\$ 216.78
General meetings		
– teleconferences	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 0.00
General meetings expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 2,048.18
Website Maintenance	\$ 500.00	\$ 700.40
Mailing costs (Courier fees, postage, etc.)	\$ 100.00	\$ 28.82
Total	\$ 6,530.00	\$ 3,268.31

Discretionary Operational Expenses

Annual Report	\$ 600.00	\$ 0.00
Gifts	\$ 350.00	\$ 0.00
APHEO Exec member travel support	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 102.12
APHEO rep attending constituent society meetings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,184.39
Promotion	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Membership Drive	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Student Sponsorship:		
APHEO Membership and other		\$ 0.00
Elaine Hector Student Award	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Software	\$ 500.00	\$ 230.52
On-line Registrations	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 4,150.00	\$ 1,517.03

Special Projects

Incorporation	\$ 3,152.56	\$ 0.00
BORN Working Group	\$ 800.00	\$ 199.74
Website Review Committee	\$ 1000.00	\$ 207.41
Website update	\$ 3,246.78	\$ 0.00
Website RFP	\$ 8,770.00	\$ 6,937.07
Policy Review	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.00
2014 Workshop	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 29,589.52
2013 Conference	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 6,086.49
Encumbrances	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 6,086.49

Budget expenditures as of 31-Dec-2014

Summary of 2014 YTD

Revenues	\$ 26,311.23
Operational expenditures	\$ 4,785.34
Special projects expenditures	\$ 36,933.74
Subtotal	-\$ 15,407.85
Encumbered expenditures (2015 Conference)	\$ 6,086.49
Total	-\$ 21,494.34

Summary of YTD Assets

Bank account balance (as of December 31, 2014)	\$ 70,650.70
GIC (as of December 31, 2014)	\$ 10,528.97
Total	\$ 81,179.67





Executive Committee

President

Cameron McDermaid

Ottawa Public Health

Vice President

Lise Trotz-Williams

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit

Secretary

Adam van Dijk

Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health

Treasurer

Gillian Alton

Oxford County Public Health & Emergency Services

Member at Large

John Barbaro

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)
representative

Celine Butler

Timiskaming Health Unit

Member at Large

Alanna Leffley

Grey Bruce Health Unit

Past President

Vacant

