

Program/Service Information Report

Healthy Families

2019

To: Board of Health

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Prepared By: Mary Anne Kozdras, Program Manager, Healthy Families

Approved By: Rita Isley, Director of Community Health and Chief Nursing Officer

Submitted By: Dr. Nicola J. Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Key Points

- The Healthy Families program covers the following program areas: Healthy Babies, Healthy Children (HBHC); Breastfeeding Clinics; Let's Talk Parenting; and In-Person Prenatal classes.
- In 2019, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) Nurses (PHNs) within the HBHC program provided 2559 home visits. The Blended Home Visiting program, which includes a PHN and a family visitor, provided 2089 home visits
- Key HBHC program benchmarks and indicators have been achieved. Furthermore, locally determined outcome indicators were also met.

Program Requirements

Compliance with OPHS and Accountability Indicators:

In compliance

Not in compliance. If not in compliance, provide additional information about the variance and how it will be addressed.

Highlights

HBHC Program

The HBHC program is funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (Ministry). The program is one of the requirements in the Ontario Public Health Standards to be delivered in accordance with the HBHC Program Protocol requirements. The Board of Health provides HBHC programming to families during the prenatal period, birth and up to the transition to school age. The selected program approach enables a universal screening assessment when a child is born. The purpose of the program is to improve early child healthy growth and development and reduce health inequities for families obtaining services (HBHC Program Protocol, 2018). This encompasses a goal that leads to the promotion of optimal physical, cognitive, communitive and psychosocial development in children.

HBHC program components consist of:

- service and system integration;
- access to information and resources;
- early identification and intervention screening;
- assessment, blended home visiting services;
- service coordination;
- referral to/from community services; and
- research and evaluation (HBHC Program Protocol, 2018).

Assessment criteria to determine family eligibility to the Blended Home Visiting program is defined by Ministry benchmarks. Both local and Ministry criteria assist in defining the blended home visit ratios, family goals and duration of the visiting program. In 2019, all locally determined outcome indicators and key HBHC program benchmarks and indicators have been achieved.

FIGURE 1. Home Visits in HBHC Program for 2019

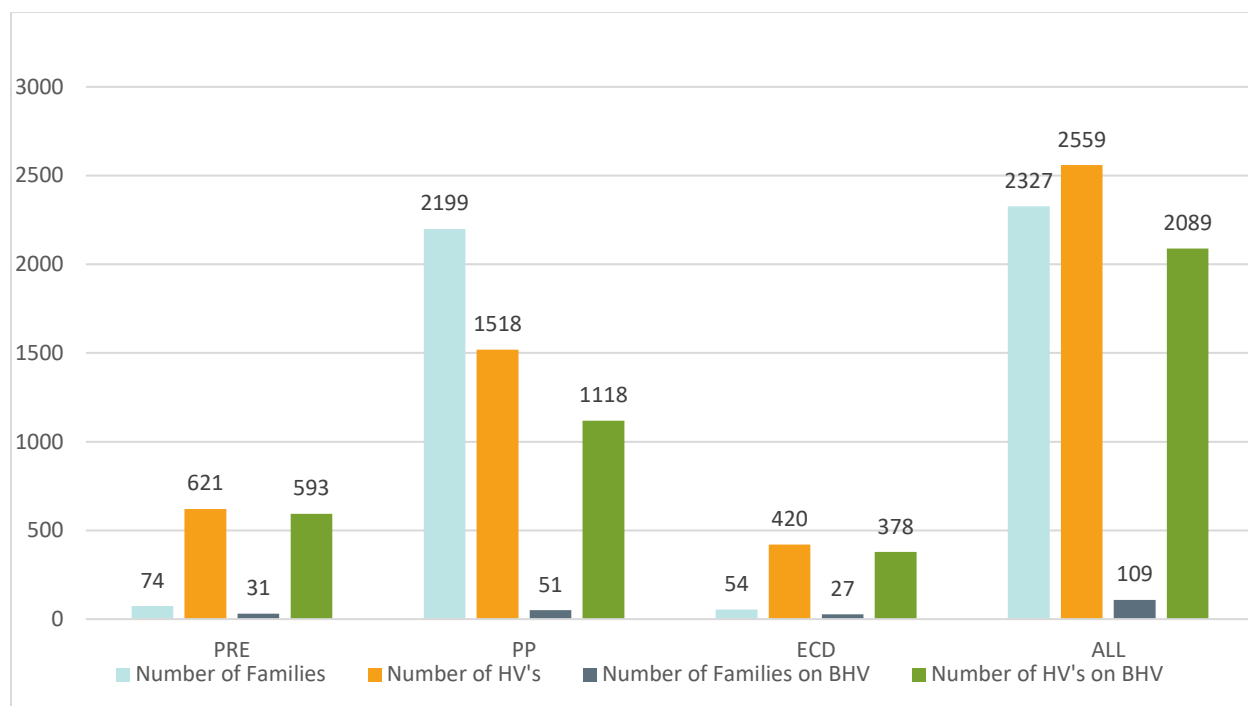


Figure 1 Home Visits in HBHC Program 2019. PRE: Prenatal Period, PP: Post-Partum Period, ECD: Early Childhood, HV: Home Visit, BHV: Blended home visit (nurse and family visitor)

Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding support is provided as a free service by PHNs, by phone, through the Let's Talk Parenting line or through one of our breastfeeding clinics.

PHNs provide comprehensive breastfeeding assessment and plan of care for families experiencing infant feeding challenges.

Currently, there are five (5) breastfeeding clinics offered throughout the region. Clinics are offered either by appointment or drop in at set hours. Shelburne and Mount Forest offer appointments to provide more streamlined services. Clinics in the larger sites, Guelph and Orangeville, are offered twice, per week, with drop-in times. Breastfeeding clinic locations include:

- Guelph – Early ON and Family Centre at Stone Road Mall;
- Fergus – Public Health Clinic;
- Mount Forest – Public Health Clinic;
- Orangeville – Public Health Clinic; and
- Shelburne – Mel Lloyd Centre Clinic.

Breastfeeding clinic visits have remained relatively steady during 2019. The number of initial and subsequent visits in 2019 was 1133. During 2019, the program was in the process of transitioning to an electronic format for documentation and capturing related statistical data and hence, incomplete data is available for 2019.

Let’s Talk Parenting Line

The Let’s Talk Parenting Line is free and confidential telephone support from a PHN covering a range of topics about pregnancy, parenting and child health from prenatal period to age six (6). Referrals are made to various programs and community resources are provided. The Let’s Talk Parenting Line is in its second year after it transitioned from “KidsLine for Growing Great Kids”, a comprehensive intake and referral line for six (6) agencies in 2017.

The number of parent calls to the phone line for 2019 was **858**. There were **622** referrals and recommendations made on various topics.

Table 1. Top Five Call Topics in 2019

Topic	# Calls
Breastfeeding	243
Health Administration/process	96
Child Health (0-4 years)	88
Health Care System Navigation	79
Child Development (0-4 years)	66
Total	572

Prenatal Classes

In 2019, the in-person prenatal program was in a year of transition as it transitioned to an online-only format. The in-person program was offered in Fergus, Guelph, and Orangeville locations with varying end dates within 2019 as the online format was enhanced. A decision was made to transition to the free online-only format as it provided easier accessibility and the ability to reach more clients.

The in-person prenatal classes that were based in Fergus ended on June 13, 2019, the in-person prenatal classes that were based in Guelph ended on July 16, 2019 and the in-person prenatal classes that were based in Orangeville ended on November 27, 2019. The total number of registrants that attended the remainder in-person classes in 2019 was 285 (Table 1). The vast majority resided in Guelph, Wellington or Dufferin counties.

The online prenatal program allows participants to receive information about healthy pregnancy, labour, birth, early parenting and breastfeeding. It can be completed at the client's own pace and in the comfort of their home.

Table 2. In Class Prenatal Series 2019

In-class prenatal attendance	Guelph	Fergus	Orangeville	Total
# Series	10	2	11	23
# Attended >= 50% of classes	104	8	107	219
# Complete no shows	19	9	22	50
Total Prenatal Series Registration	130	18	137	285

Related Reports

1. Program/Service Information Report BH.01.SEP0419.C13 – Healthy Families 2018.
2. Program/Service Information Report BH.01.APR0418.C07 – Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program.
3. BOH Report BH.01.JUN0618.R17 – Growing Great Kids System of Care: Access Point Transition.
4. BOH Report BH.01.SEP0518.R20 – Prenatal Evaluation.