

Ontario Public Health Standards Mapping to the YWC Program

Background Information

The Ontario Public Health Standards (updated in June 2021) are a set of guidelines and requirements that were developed by the Ministry of Health to ensure that Public Health Units are providing consistent and quality public health services (Ontario, 2021). The core functions and outcomes are outlined in the document and the relevant ones have been summarized below. Use this table to find out how the YWC Program aligns with and meets the specific criteria outlined in the standards.

Who is this resource for?

Document	Primary Audience	Rationale
Ontario Public Health Standards	Public health staff (e.g., public health nurses, health promoters)	Public health professionals need to follow the public health standards Aligning the YWC Program with the Ontario Public Health Standards ensures that public health professionals work within their scope of practice Provides credibility to the program's evidence-based approach

Ontario Public Health Standards Mapping to the YWC Program

Ontario Public Health Standards (Ontario, 2021)					
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Foundational Standard					
Population Health Assessment (pp. 19-20)	Public health practice responds effectively to current and evolving conditions and contributes to the public's health and well-being with programs and services that are informed by the population's health status, including social determinants of	The board of health is aware of and uses data to influence and inform the development of local healthy public policy and its programs and services.	Y	The YWC program is informed and shaped by local school data through collaboration with public health nurses. This information is used to help shape the program goals for the school.	Planning for Change

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	health and health inequities.				
		Planning and delivery of local public health programs and services align with the identified needs of the local population, including priority populations.	Y	Each health unit can determine how the YWC program should be shaped to fit the local context and population priorities.	All phases
		Resources are allocated to reflect public health priorities and reallocated, as feasible, to reflect emergent public health priorities.	N/A		
		Relevant public health practitioners and community partners receive timely information regarding risks in order to take appropriate action.	N/A		

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		The public, community partners, and health care providers are aware of relevant and current population health information.	Y	The YWC Program is informed by and tailored to address the local health needs and context of the school. All YWC Committee members are aware of the school's population health information to help shape decision-making and program implementation.	All phases
		Relevant community partners have population health information, including information on health inequities, necessary for planning, delivering, and monitoring health	Y	The YWC Program focuses on engaging youth that may be experiencing health inequities. Information regarding health	All phases

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		services that are responsive to population health needs		<p>inequities and other priorities are discussed throughout the entire process from assessment to implementation and evaluation. All committee members are aware of the school's population health information to help shape decision-making and program implementation.</p> <p>The program's emphasis on mental health promotion also provides a focus on</p>	

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				reducing systemic barriers that result in mental health inequities.	
Healthy Equity (pp. 20-23)	Public health practice results in decreased health inequities such that everyone has equal opportunities for optimal health and can attain their full health potential without disadvantage due to social position or other socially	The board of health achieves timely and effective detection and identification of health inequities, associated risk factors, and emerging trends.	N/A		

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	determined circumstances.				
		Community partners and the public, are aware of local health inequities, their causes, and impacts.	Y	The YWC Program is informed by and tailored to address the local health needs and context of the school.	All phases
		There is an increased awareness on the part of community partners of the impact of social determinants of health on health outcomes and increased support for actions to decrease health inequities.	Y	Through the implementation of the YWC Program, the school community gains an increased understanding of the determinants of health on mental health outcomes and how to seek support.	All phases

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		Boards of health implement strategies to reduce health inequities	Y	The Public Health Nurse on the YWC Committee helps to support the implementation of activities to improve mental health promotion and reduce health inequities.	All phases
		Community partners implement strategies to reduce health inequities.	Y	The YWC Committee implements activities and programs that promote mental health and reduce health inequities in the school setting.	Making Change Happen
		Priority populations are meaningfully engaged in the	Y	It is recommended that the YWC Committee	All phases

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		planning of public health interventions.		consist of representatives from diverse and priority populations to represent the entire school community.	
		Indigenous communities are engaged in a way that is meaningful for them.	Y	It's recommended that the YWC Community engages Indigenous communities from the outset, from all phases.	All phases
		Multi-sectoral collaboration informs development of local strategies to decrease health inequities.	N/A	Not specifically, however, each school YWC Committee can determine opportunities for	Making Change Happen

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				multi-sectoral collaboration.	
Effective Public Health Practice (pp. 24-25)	Public health practice is transparent, responsive to current and emerging evidence, and emphasizes continuous quality improvement.	Public health programs and services are reflective of local population health issues, the best available evidence, new public health knowledge, and adapted to the local context.	Y	The YWC Program is evidence-informed and is adapted to the local context (with support of the Public Health Nurse). This information is used to help shape the program goals for the school.	Making Change Happen Sustaining Change
		Public health programs and services are modified to address issues related to program effectiveness.	Y	The YWC Program is continuously monitored throughout the implementation and evaluation process	Making Change Happen Sustaining Change

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				and can be modified at any time.	
		Public health practitioners, policy-makers, community partners, health care providers, and the public are aware of the factors that determine the health of the population.	Y	The YWC Program emphasizes the knowledge of protective and risk factors for mental health. Youth-led activities increase the knowledge of the factors impacting population health.	All phases
		Public health research and knowledge exchange activities are reflective of effective partnerships with community researchers,	Y	The YWC Program is a partnership with the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO).	N/A

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		academic partners, and other appropriate organizations.			
		Public health communication strategies reflect local needs and utilize a variety of communication modalities to ensure effective communication.	Y	The YWC Program is tailored to the needs of local context and local communication modalities	All phases
		The public and community partners are aware of ongoing public health program improvements.	Y	The public health nurse will provide program improvements and updates as necessary.	Making Change Happen Sustaining Change
		The public and community partners are aware of inspection results to support making evidence-informed choices.	N/A		
		Ongoing program improvements enhance client and community	Y	The YWC Committee can implement	Making Change Happen

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		partner experience and address issues identified through various means.		ongoing improvements to the YWC Program delivery process based on feedback and evaluation results.	Sustaining Change
Emergency Management (p. 28)	To enable consistent and effective management of emergency situations.	The board of health is ready to respond to and recover from new and emerging events and/or emergencies with public health impacts.	N/A		
Program standards					
School Health (pp. 52-54)	To achieve optimal health of school-aged children and youth through partnership and collaboration with	The board of health is aware of and uses data to influence and inform the development of local healthy public policy and its programs and	y	The YWC Program is informed and shaped by local school data through collaboration with the public health nurse. This information	Planning for Change

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	school boards and schools.	services related to the health of school-aged children and youth.		is used to help shape the program goals for the school.	
		Board of health programs and services are designed to address the identified needs of the community, including priority populations, associated with the health of school-aged children and youth.	Y	Each health unit can determine how the YWC Program is shaped and deliver to fit the local context and population priorities.	Planning for Change Making Change Happen
		There is a decrease in health inequities related to the health of school-aged children and youth.	Y	The YWC Program focuses on engaging youth that may be experiencing health inequities. hh program's emphasis on mental health promotion also	Making Change Happen Sustaining Change

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				provides a focus on reducing systemic barriers that result in mental health inequities.	
		School boards and schools are aware of relevant and current population health needs impacting students in their schools.	Y	The YWC Program is informed by and tailored to address the local health needs and context of the school.	All phases
		School boards and schools are meaningfully engaged in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of public health programs and services relevant to school-aged children and youth.	Y	The YWC Program is built on a collaborative partnership between the school (students, staff, principal), school boards, and local health unit. All participants are	All phases

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				meaningfully engaged throughout the entire process from development and implementation to evaluation and ongoing maintenance of the project.	
		School boards and schools have the knowledge, skills, and capacity needed to act on the factors associated with the health of school-aged children and youth.		Training and resources on mental health promotion are provided at the start of the program's implementation to ensure everyone has the foundational understanding of mental health among	All phases

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				school-aged youth. Additional knowledge and resources from external evidence-based sources can be accessed through links from the toolkit. The Public Health Nurse can also provide evidence-informed data and research.	
		School-based initiatives relevant to healthy living behaviours and healthy environments are informed by effective partnerships between boards of health, school boards, and schools.	Y	The YWC program is a collaborative partnership between boards of health (PHN), school boards, and schools, and is based on mental	All phases

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				health promotion which includes the promotion of healthy living behaviours and healthy environments	
		School-aged children, youth, and their families are aware of factors for healthy growth and development.	Y	The YWC program emphasizes the importance of mental health promotion for healthy growth and development. Youth-led activities increase the knowledge of the importance of mental health promotion.	All phases

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		There is an increased adoption of healthy living behaviours among school-aged children and youth.	Y	A goal of the YWC program is to increase the adoption of healthy living behaviours among youth to improve mental health outcomes.	Making Change Happen Sustaining Change
		The board of health achieves timely and effective detection and identification of children and youth at risk of poor oral health outcomes, their associated risk factors, and emerging trends.	N/A		
		Children and youth from low-income families have improved access to oral health care.	N/A		

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		The oral health of children and youth is improved	N/A		
		The board of health and parents/guardians are aware of the visual health needs of school-aged children.	N/A		
		Students and parents/guardians are aware of the importance of immunization.	N/A		
		Children and youth have up-to-date immunizations according to the current Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario and in accordance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act.	N/A		
Substance Use and Injury	To reduce the burden of	The board of health is aware of and uses data to influence and inform	Y,	The YWC program is informed and shaped	Making Change Happen

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Prevention (pp. 56-58)	preventable injuries and substance use.	the development of local healthy public policy and its programs and services for preventing injuries, preventing substance use, and reducing harms associated with substance use.		by local school data through collaboration with the Public Health Nurse. This information is used to help shape the program goals for the school.	Sustaining Change
		Board of health programs and services are designed to address the identified needs of the community, including priority populations, associated with the prevention of injuries, preventing substance use, and reducing harms associated with substance use.	Y	Each Health Unit can determine how the YWC program is shaped and deliver to fit the local context and population priorities.	All phases
		Priority populations and health inequities related to injuries and substance use have been identified	Y	The YWC program focuses on engaging youth that may be	All phases

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		and relevant data have been communicated to community partners.		experiencing health inequities. Additionally, the program's emphasis on mental health promotion means that there is a focus on reducing systemic barriers that result in mental health inequities.	
		There is a reduction in population health inequities related to injuries and substance use.	Y	The YWC's focus on mental health promotion and reduction of substance use harms can assist in reducing health inequities.	Making Change Happen Sustaining Change

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		Community partners are aware of healthy behaviours associated with the prevention of injuries and substance use, which includes reducing the harms associated with substance use.	Y	The YWC program provides a foundational understanding of the protective healthy behaviours associated with mental health promotion.	All phases
		Community partners have knowledge of and increased capacity to act on the factors associated with the prevention of injuries, including healthy living behaviours, healthy public policy, and creating supportive environments	Y	Training and resources on mental health promotion are provided at the start of the program's implementation to ensure everyone has the foundational understanding of mental health among	All phases

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				school-aged youth. Additional knowledge and resources from external evidence-based sources can be accessed through links from the toolkit. The public health nurse can also provide evidence-informed data and research.	
		Community partners have knowledge of and increased capacity to act on the factors associated with preventing substance use, and reducing harms associated with substance use, including healthy living behaviours	Y	Training and resources on mental health promotion are provided at the start of the program's implementation to ensure everyone has	All phases

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		and developing personal skills, healthy public policy, and creating supportive environments		the foundational understanding of mental health among school-aged youth. Additional knowledge and resources from external evidence-based sources can be accessed through links from the toolkit. The Public Health Nurse can also provide evidence-informed data and research.	
		Community partners, policymakers, and the public, including priority populations, are meaningfully engaged in the planning,	y	The YWC Program is built on a collaborative partnership between the school (students,	All phases

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		implementation, development and evaluation of programs and services for preventing injuries and substance use, and harm reduction.		staff, principal), school boards, and local health unit. All participants are meaningfully engaged throughout the entire process from implementation to development to evaluation and ongoing maintenance of the project.	
		There is increased public awareness of the impact of risk and protective factors associated with injuries and substance use.	Y	One of the main purposes of the YWC Program is to increase the awareness of the protective and risk	All phases

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				factors of mental health.	
		There is increased public awareness of the benefits of and access to harm reduction programs and services.	Y	The YWC Program is adapted to local needs, and topics of focus are selected at the local level.	All phases
		There is an increased adoption of healthy living behaviours and personal skills among populations targeted through program interventions for preventing injuries, preventing substance use, and reducing harms associated with substance use.	N/A	A goal of the YWC Program is to increase the adoption of healthy living behaviours among youth to improve mental health outcomes, and reduce substance use harms.	Making Change Happen Sustaining Change

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		Youth have reduced access to tobacco products and e-cigarettes	N/A		
		Tobacco vendors, e-cigarette vendors and other organizations that are subject to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 are in compliance with the Act.	N/A		
Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being (pp. 29-31)	To reduce the burden of chronic diseases of public health importance and improve well-being.	The board of health is aware of and uses data to influence and inform the development of local healthy public policy and its programs and services for the prevention of chronic diseases.	Y	The YWC program is informed and shaped by local school data through collaboration with the Public Health Nurse. This information is used to help shape the program goals for the school.	All phases

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		Board of health programs and services are designed to address the identified needs of the community, including priority populations, associated with the prevention of chronic diseases.	Y	Each health unit can determine how the YWC Program is shaped and delivered to fit the local context and population priorities.	All phases
		Priority populations and health inequities related to chronic diseases have been identified and relevant data have been communicated to community partners.	Y	The YWC Program focuses on engaging youth that may be experiencing health inequities. The YWC Program's emphasis on mental health promotion means that there is a focus on reducing systemic barriers that result in	All phases

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				mental health inequities.	
		There is a reduction in population health inequities related to chronic diseases.	Y	The YWC Program's focus on mental health promotion and reduction of substance use harms can assist in reducing health inequities.	Making Change Happen Sustaining Change
		Community partners are aware of healthy behaviours associated with the prevention of chronic diseases.	Y	The YWC Program provides a foundational understanding of the protective healthy behaviours associated with mental health promotion.	All phases

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		Community partners have knowledge of and increased capacity to act on the factors associated with the prevention of chronic diseases and promotion of wellbeing, including healthy living behaviours, healthy public policy, and creating supportive environments.	Y	Training and resources on mental health promotion are provided at the start of implementation of the YWC Program to ensure everyone has the foundational understanding of mental health among school-aged youth. Additional knowledge and resources from external evidence-based sources can be accessed through links from the toolkit. The public health nurse can also provide evidence-	All phases

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				informed data and research.	
		Community partners, policy-makers, and the public, including priority populations, are meaningfully engaged in the planning, implementation, development and evaluation of programs and services for the prevention of chronic diseases.	Y	The YWC Program is built on a collaborative partnership between the school (students, staff, principal), school boards, and local health unit. All participants are meaningfully engaged throughout the entire process from implementation to development to evaluation and ongoing maintenance of the project.	All phases

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		There is increased public awareness of the impact of risk factors, protective factors and healthy behaviours associated with chronic diseases.	Y	The YWC Program provides a foundational understanding of the protective healthy behaviours associated with mental health promotion.	All phases
		There is an increased adoption of healthy living behaviours among populations targeted through program interventions for the prevention of chronic diseases.	Y	The YWC Program aims to increase adoption of healthy living behaviours among youth to improve mental health outcomes and reduce substance use harms.	Making Change Happen Sustaining Change

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		Youth have decreased exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, including reduced access to tanning beds.	N/A		
		Tanning bed operators are in compliance with the Skin Cancer Prevention Act (Tanning Beds), 2013.	N/A		
		Food premises are in compliance with the Healthy Menu Choices Act, 2015.	N/A		

Reference:

Ontario. (2021). Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability. Retrieved from: <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-ontario-public-health-standards-en-2021.pdf>