

Local Public Health Action on Affordable Housing in Ontario

Findings from public health units (PHUs) across Ontario



Top 5 reasons PHUs should address affordable housing:

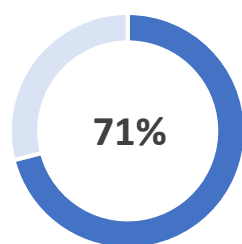
- 1. Community need.** Access to safe, affordable housing is an important determining factor for a person's health.
- 2. The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS).** OPHS require PHUs to engage in multi-sectoral collaboration with municipalities and stakeholders in decreasing health inequities, including social determinants of health such as housing.
- 3. Window of opportunity.** Ontario's housing affordability crisis is recognized as a top priority by provincial and municipal governments. Opportunities exist to leverage and align with government initiatives.
- 4. Many are doing it.** Only a small minority of PHUs reported never being involved in affordable housing (3/27).
- 5. Widespread recognition that there is more to do.** Vast majority of PHUs reported that they would like to be more engaged in affordable housing (26/27).

How are PHUs addressing affordable housing?

81% Raising awareness/education

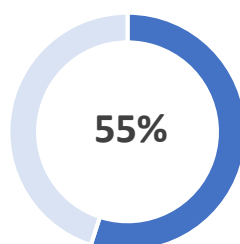
70% Advocacy

What housing issues are PHUs addressing?

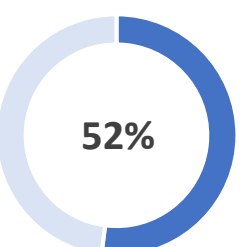


Health hazards and contaminants

Barriers to access and/or retain affordable housing + homelessness



55%



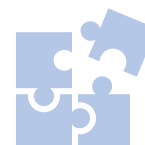
Location of affordable housing within healthy complete communities

How can PHU leadership teams strengthen action on affordable housing?



Learning opportunities for PHUs:

- Health hazards
- Location in proximity to healthy complete communities and services
- Barriers to accessing and/or retaining affordable housing
- Quality of life in affordable housing
- Surveillance and data collection
- Homelessness



To build capacity and expertise, PHUs would benefit from:

- Access or sharing of evidence, best practices and examples of successful initiatives
- Collaboration and knowledge building of local affordable housing services
- Development of strategies, guidelines, frameworks and tools to guide public health action
- Collection of data on linkages between affordable housing and health
- Alignment with political initiatives that place affordable housing as a priority in municipalities

OPHA

[Click here for full survey report](#)