

# Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

**Lambton County 2022-2025**



# Acknowledgments

The creation of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for Lambton County was a collaborative effort. Thank you to the many individuals that provided valuable input and shared personal experiences, and to the following partners for your efforts in the development of the plan:

## *Community Safety and Well-Being Oversight Committee*

City of Sarnia, *Emergency Management and Corporate Security*  
County of Lambton; *Infrastructure & Development Services Division, Public Health Services Division, Social Services Division*  
Lambton County Council  
Lambton Police Services Board  
Municipality of Lambton Shores  
Ontario Provincial Police, Lambton Detachment  
Sarnia Police Services  
Village of Point Edward

## *Advisory Committee*

Bluewater Health  
Canadian Mental Health Association, Lambton-Kent  
Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation  
Conseil scolaire catholique Providence  
County of Lambton; *Public Health Services Division, Social Services Division*  
Lambton-Kent District School Board  
Sarnia- Lambton Ontario Health Team  
Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society  
Sarnia-Lambton Native Friendship Centre  
Sarnia Police Services Board  
St. Clair Catholic District School Board  
Town of Petrolia  
Township of Warwick Recreation Services  
Village of Point Edward Fire and Rescue  
Village of Point Edward Police Services Board

## *Data Gathering Group*

Canadian Mental Health Association, Lambton-Kent  
County of Lambton; *Public Health Services Division, Social Services Division*  
Lambton-Kent District School Board  
Ontario Provincial Police, Lambton Detachment

## *Project Consultant*

DU B FIT Consulting (Nancy Dubois, Principal Consultant)

# Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg, inhabited these lands at the time of transfer to the Crown by treaty. Lambton County was part of the Huron Tract Purchase, which was transferred under Treaty #29 in 1827, and also includes lands associated with the Sombra Township Purchase transferred under Treaty #7 in 1796, and Long Woods Purchase transferred under Treaty #21 in 1819. We also acknowledge the earlier Indigenous people who travelled these lands in the time of the Wampum treaties.

We acknowledge that we are all treaty people, with our own set of rights and responsibilities. Treaties are a foundational part of our society, and the settlement of Lambton County within a treaty area was made possible through the treaty process. The existence of treaties is proof that the first settlers of what is now Canada acknowledged First Nations as sovereign people and negotiated Nation to Nation. By understanding the colonial history of Canada we can renew our relationships with each other and move towards meaningful reconciliation.

Further, it is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Today, we are part of this same land that sustains all life, and it is the sacred responsibility of all people to ensure that the environment remains protected. Finally, we acknowledge that the inherent languages of the Anishinaabeg preclude any English/French meaning.

We acknowledge that Lambton County is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.



# Message from the Warden



On behalf of the Oversight Committee for the Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan for Lambton County, I am proud to introduce this plan to the community. This plan was developed based on the direction provided by the Ministry of the Solicitor General that emphasizes the importance of community safety and well-being as a shared responsibility by all members of the community, that requires an integrated approach to bring local government, First Nations, and community partners together to address a collective goal.

This plan represents over 1,000 community members and 20 community organizations, from a variety of sectors, providing input and guidance to its creation. I extend my gratitude to all who contributed, including to our eleven municipalities who agreed from the outset of our planning process to work together on one CSWB Plan for the County, including our three First Nations communities. The goal of our Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is to achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression. The success of society is linked to the well-being of every individual.

Following the review of local data and based on the voices of the community, five inter-connected priorities have been established for our communities:

- Community Safety;
- Housing and Homelessness;
- Mental Health and Addictions;
- Poverty; and
- Systemic Racism.

I am looking forward to the continued work in these priority areas to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.

Kevin Marriott

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Marriott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Warden, County of Lambton

# Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction 6
  - 1.1 Lambton County Overview 6
  - 1.2 Expectations of Local Community Safety and Well-Being Plans 7
  - 1.3 The Provincial CSWB Framework 8
  
- 2.0 Developing Lambton County’s Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 9
  - 2.1 Committee Structure 9
  - 2.2 Key Milestones 9
  - 2.3 Community Consultation 10
  - 2.4 What We Heard 11
  - 2.5 Asset Mapping 12
  
- 3.0 Lambton County’s Community Safety and Well-Being Priorities & Related Strategies 13
  - 3.1 Overview 13
  - 3.2 Community Safety 14
  - 3.3 Housing & Homelessness 16
  - 3.4 Mental Health & Addictions 18
  - 3.5 Poverty 20
  - 3.6 Systemic Racism 22
  
- 4.0 Next Steps 24





# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Lambton County Overview

Lambton County is a two-tier municipal government system; The Corporation of the County of Lambton serves as the upper tier, within county boundaries there are eleven lower tier municipalities: Brooke-Alvinston, Dawn-Euphemia, Enniskillen, Lambton Shores, Oil Springs, Petrolia, Plympton-Wyoming, Point Edward, Sarnia, St. Clair and Warwick (see Figure 1: Map of Lambton County). The area also encompasses the three First Nation communities of Aamjiwnaang First Nation Community, Walpole Island Bkejwanong Territory and Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation.

Lambton County is a growing community. Based on the 2016 Census, the population of Lambton County is 126,638; a 0.3% increase compared to 2011 (126,199)<sup>1</sup>. In comparison, the population of Ontario increased by 4.6% over the same period. The greatest population growth occurred in Petrolia and Plympton-Wyoming with declines seen in several smaller rural communities. In regards to population growth by age, the population of individuals 65 and older will have increased by 52% between 2016 and 2036 (as identified in Figure 2: Lambton County Population and Growth).

Within Lambton County, municipal governments and community stakeholders have an established history of working together to maximize resources and build community capacity which is exemplified with the approval for one County-Wide plan rather than an individual plan for each lower-tier municipality.

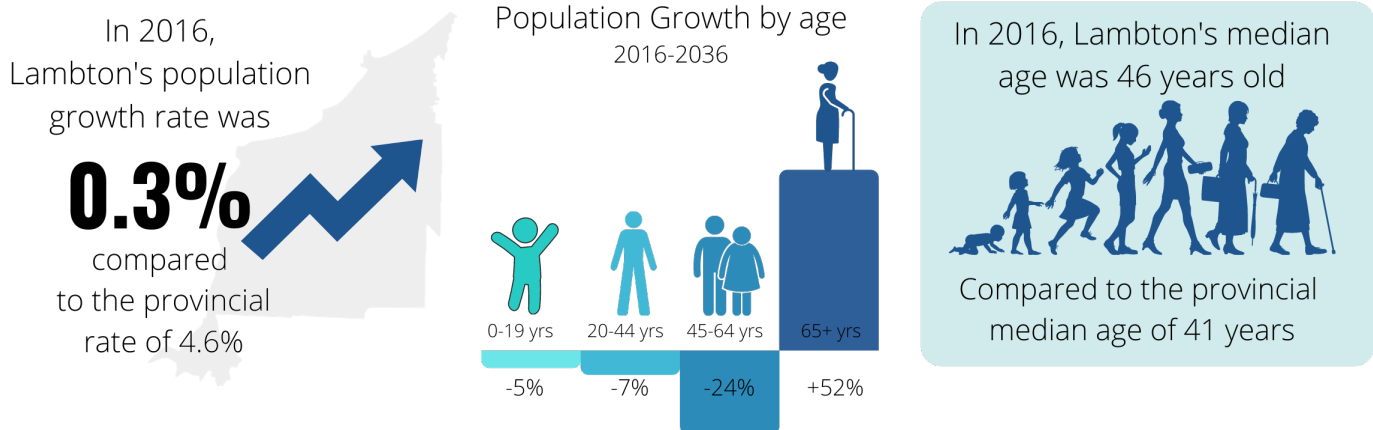


Figure 1: Map of Lambton County

Currently in Lambton County, the Anishinabek Police Services, OPP Lambton Detachment, Sarnia Police Services (jurisdiction in Aamjiwnaang First Nation Community) and Walpole Island Police Services work to meet the ever-changing needs of the community while providing safety and security to all residents of Lambton County. As Lambton County continues to grow, it is important to maintain high levels of safety and continue to enhance the well-being of residents and communities that are vulnerable due to social, economic and/or health related risk factors. A key step in addressing these issues is the development of Lambton County's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. This multifaceted plan, built by committed community partners, is a testament to our shared commitment to address current and emerging issues with a focus on systemic change and upstream prevention.

This plan, with its focus on community support that promotes equity, inclusion and health and wellness, can be transformational for our community. At its foundation, the plan will work to build a culture of fairness, equity, and access to opportunity where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income and social and cultural expression.

Figure 2: Lambton County Population and Growth



## 1.2 Expectations of Local Community Safety and Well-Being Plans

In accordance with Provincial legislation through the Ministry of the Solicitor General<sup>2</sup>, as part of the [Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019](#) and the [Safer Ontario Act \(2018\)](#), municipalities are required to develop and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB)<sup>3</sup>. The legislation specifies working in partnership with a multi-sectoral advisory committee comprised of representation from the police service board and other local service providers in health/mental health, education, community social services and children/youth services.

The ultimate goal of a CSWB Plan is to achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income and social and cultural expression.

According to the Ministry of the Solicitor General, a CSWB Plan must include the following core information:

- Local priority risk factors that have been identified based on community consultations and multiple sources of data;
- Evidence-based programs and strategies to address those priority risk factors; and
- Measurable outcomes with associated performance measures to ensure that the strategies are effective and outcomes are being achieved.

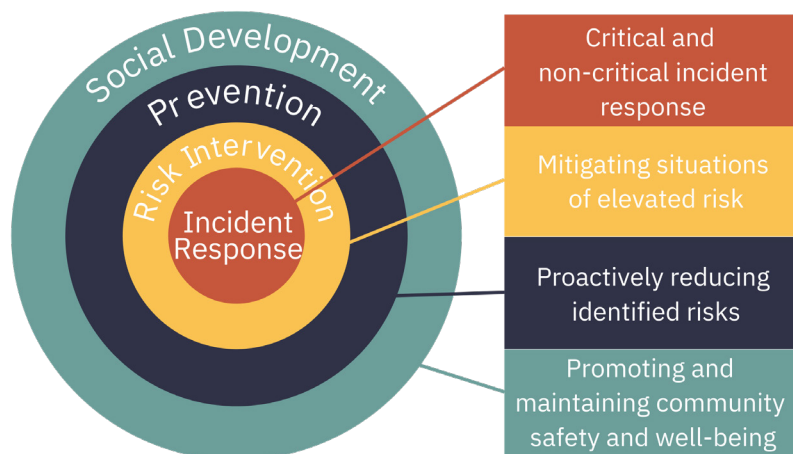


## 1.3 The Provincial CSWB Framework

The [Provincial CSWB Planning Framework](#) was released by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and outlines the provincial approach to community safety and well-being<sup>4</sup>. The framework, consisting of four levels of community safety planning intervention (Social Development, Prevention, Risk Intervention and Incident Response), is intended to guide municipalities, First Nations communities and partners in developing local plans. According to the Ministry of the Solicitor General, developing and implementing strategies that are proactive and focused on social development, prevention and early intervention reduce the financial burden of crime.

CSWB Plans are intended to be holistic and require planning at all levels of intervention. Such a plan recognizes it is beneficial to maximize efforts in the prevention of the cause of issues and therefore reduces harm to individuals before a situation escalates into a crisis. This will help prevent increased demand for more costly interventions involving police and other emergency response systems. By creating stronger social safety nets, individuals will be provided with the services and support they need in order to live their most vital and productive lives while also enjoying safety in their communities. Implementing cost-effective interventions benefits communities financially and results in less need to invest in incident responses since there will be less reliance on such services.

Figure 3: Provincial CSWB Planning Framework: Zones of Intervention



**Social Development:** Addressing the underlying causes of social issues through upstream approaches that promote and maintain individual and community wellness. This includes opportunities for employment, income, adequate housing, access to education and other supports that promote social and economic inclusion.

**Prevention:** Applying proactive strategies to known and identified risks that are likely to result in harm to individuals or communities if left unmitigated.

**Risk Intervention:** Identifying and responding to situations of acutely elevated risk and mobilizing immediate interventions before an emergency or crisis-driven response is required.

**Emergency Response:** Circumstances that require intervention by first responders such as police, paramedics and other crisis-driven services in the human services system.



# 2. Developing Lambton County’s CSWB Plan

## 2.1 Committee Structure

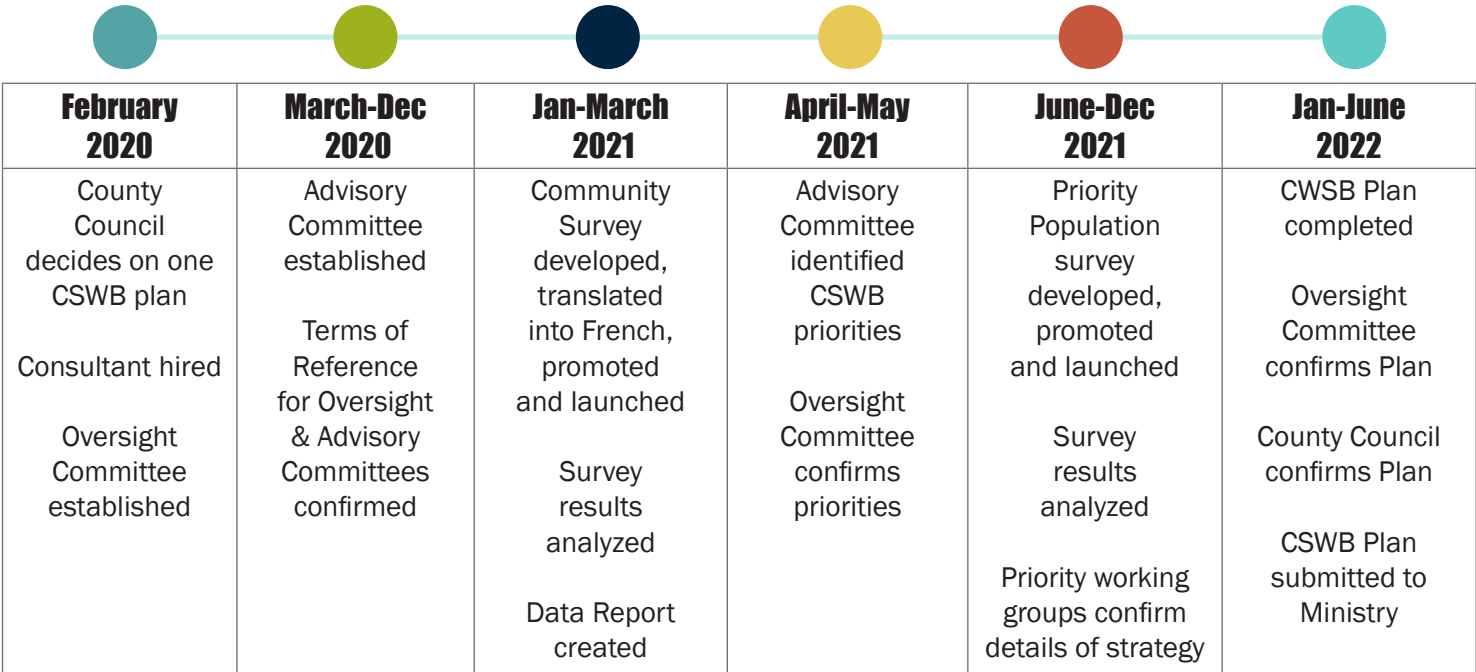
The Corporation of the County of Lambton retained DU B FIT Consulting to conduct community consultations and devise the contents of the plan. To provide guidance and oversight to the development of the plan, four groups were established to develop a plan that builds on the levels of intervention for community safety and well-being:

1. The Oversight Committee was the accountable group to County Council to ensure the Ministry requirements were met and manage the budget for the planning process. This group also made the decisions regarding the components of the CSWB Plan.
2. The larger Advisory Committee was created to represent the broader community sectors required through the Ministry of the Solicitor General for this CSWB planning process.
3. A Data Collection Group was established to compile and review local data sets and identify indicators for Lambton County’s evaluation framework plan.
4. A working group was developed for each identified Priority. Working groups played a pivotal role in identifying gaps in the community and identified effective strategies and initiatives that would enhance the safety and well-being of Lambton County.

A combination of methods was used to identify local priorities for the plan as determined by DU B FIT Consulting, the Oversight Committee and the Advisory Committee.

## 2.2 Key Milestones

Figure 4: Lambton County CSWB Plan Key Milestones



## 2.3 Community Consultation

Opportunities for discussion, engagement and learning were a crucial component to the development of the CSWB Plan. In addition, the engagement process provided an opportunity for the community to ensure that the plan focuses on identified priorities of Lambton County residents. Consultation periods with residents and stakeholders sought community perspectives through the following engagement methods:

1. Stakeholder conversations gathered input from organizations, coalitions and other entities with connections to diverse groups within the community and supported the identification of leadership roles for future CSWB Plan actions.
2. Two surveys were conducted in order to engage residents of Lambton County on topics related to safety, health and well-being; one was open to any resident of Lambton County and a second survey was specific to individuals with living/lived experience. The consultation process sought input on key community issues requiring action. More than 1,150 people participated in the consultation process.

The [Community Safety & Well-Being Data Report](#) serves as a summary report of data accumulated regarding the plan and was developed with the intention to be used by the project's Advisory Committee as they worked to establish Lambton County's recommended priorities.

### *Community Survey*

A [community wide survey](#) was launched for the better part of March, 2021. A subsequent survey, which was offered in French, ran from March 29th through April 7th. The sample for the community survey variations were non-random as any eligible resident was able to participate. Community input was sought through 42 questions that were largely adapted from other CSWB community surveys across Ontario.

Promotion of the survey was completed primarily through social media and other electronic means, via posting the digital assets on organizational websites and sharing the link with the various networks associated with the members of the two local CSWB committees. The survey received an analytic sample of 802 surveys.

### *Lived/Living Experience Survey*

Through data analytics, it was identified that the sample size of the community survey was not reflective of the community; explicitly, those with lived/living experience. To ensure this vulnerable population was included in the identification of the priorities, a [second survey](#) was developed specific to priority populations; data samples were collected through service outlets providing in-person services within the community.

Members from the Poverty Reduction Network generated areas of questioning and identified agencies best suited to reach the intended population and could assist the individuals in the collection of data. The resulting survey of 11 questions was made available between October 20, 2021 and November 3, 2021. Individuals with lived/living experience were provided an honorarium for their time and effort in sharing their personal experiences.

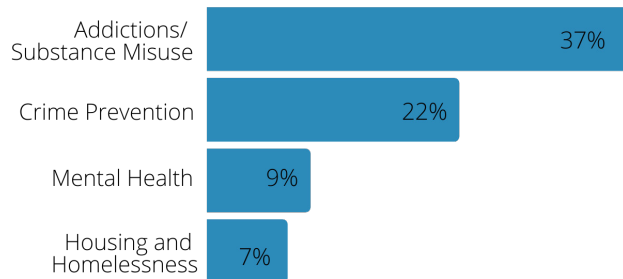
## 2.4 What We Heard

The data below provides a summary of ‘what we heard’ from Lambton County residents throughout the community engagement process which began on March 9, 2021 and closed on April 7, 2021. Data collection through community engagement was used to help inform the priorities and strategies selected for Lambton County’s Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

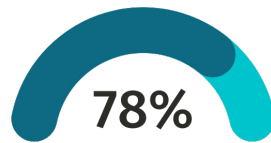
### Improving Safety and Well-Being

Where do you feel improvements are needed to increase safety and well-being in your community?

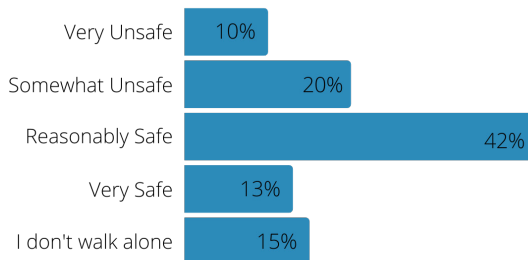
*top 4 responses*



### Satisfaction with Personal Safety in the Community



### Perceived Safety when Walking Alone After Dark

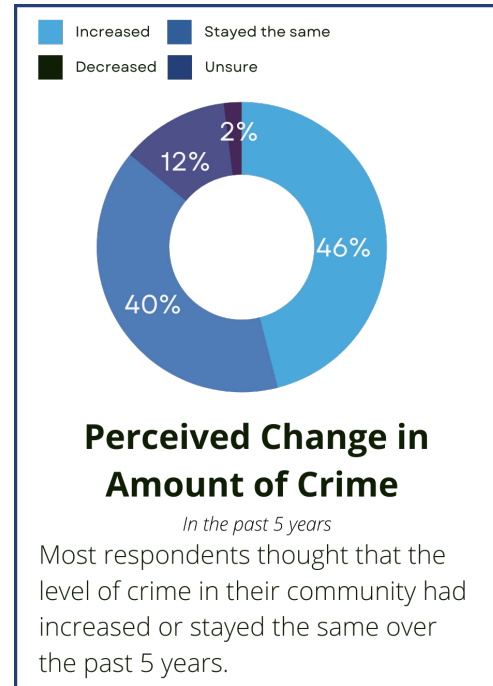


### Perceived Crime Level Compared to Other Areas of Ontario

*In the past 5 years*



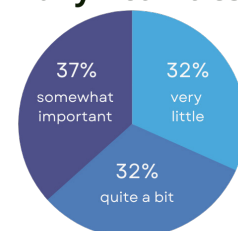
47% of respondents thought that the level of crime in their community was lower than or the same as other areas of Ontario. Generally, this perception is accurate with respect to violent crime, but not non-violent crime.



85%

of survey respondents agree that the role of policing in ensuring community safety is extremely or very important.

### Perception Regarding how Crime or Safety Impact One's Daily Activities



## 2.5 Asset Mapping

In accordance with the Provincial CSWB Planning Framework, identifying current resources was recommended as a means to help identify where there is already work underway in the community and therefore avoid duplication, identify existing strengths and resources and determine where there may be gaps in services or required resources. Two specific types of assets were gathered for the development of the plan: local plans that are already in place that relate to safety and/or well-being and committees that are currently in place. To date, leading stakeholders in Lambton County have been proactive in working to improve health and social outcomes by addressing inequity and how our systems and structures affect people's circumstances and opportunities. Through system mapping, it was determined that we would leverage existing plans and priorities and mobilize existing partnerships and efforts.

Community safety and well-being is broad and multi-faceted. It encompasses many areas and intersects with many sectors. A combination of research, a review of existing data and community reports and input from residents and community stakeholders was used to identify where to focus collaborative efforts for this first iteration of the plan. Data and research inputs includes:

- Statistics and data related to community safety and well-being topics supplemented our understanding of current state and trends in Lambton County;
- An environmental scan and program mapping inventoried the existing programs and services within the community that support the various aspects of community safety and well-being;
- An inventory of related initiatives, research and programs provided context of the existing landscape to ensure that the plan will complement the work already underway across the County while promoting solutions that are unique to Lambton County; and
- Current community plans and frameworks developed by stakeholders and community agencies were analyzed to extract themes and information to help inform the development of the plan.

Identified initiatives and strategies, which align with community safety and well-being planning, have provided Lambton's CSWB Plan with predetermined actions based on current and future needs, best practices and insights from our community. From the large number of plans and strategies identified in the Asset Map section of the [Data Report](#), the following were specifically used in identifying the priorities and the specifics for each priority, such as indicators:

- [Canadian Community Health Survey \(2017-2018\)](#);
- [Lambton County Emergency Response Plan \(2019\)](#);
- [Housing & Homelessness Plan \(2020-2024\)](#);
- Lambton County Drug & Alcohol Strategy (Draft Version)
- [Lambton Detachment OPP Action Plan \(2020-2022\)](#);
- [Mental Health Profile, Lambton County \(2018\)](#);
- [Ontario Health Team Full Application Submission - "Innovating Together for Better Health\\*":](#)
- [Petrolia Community Well-Being Master Plan \(2018\)](#);
- [Sarnia Police Service Business Plan \(2020-2022\)](#)

It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list of initiatives and strategies related to the identified five priorities; other plans and community initiatives that support community safety and well-being will be identified to support future iterations of the plan.

\* In November 2020, the provincial government approved the Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team as an official Ontario Health Team.

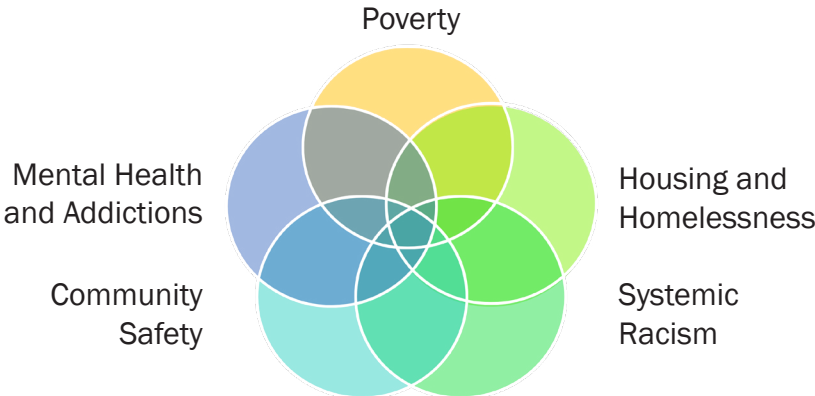


# 3. Community Safety and Well-Being Priorities & Related Strategies

## 3.1 Overview

Lambton County’s CSWB Plan consists of strategies and actions that fall within the four levels of intervention while focusing our efforts on social development and prevention. Ultimately, the goal is to reduce the need for incident response for downstream issues. Five areas of focus were identified and approved by the Advisory Committee: community safety, housing and homelessness, mental health and addictions, poverty and systemic racism. The determined priorities address the most pressing issues that Lambton’s residents identified as needing to be addressed first in our community. It is recognized that there are many interconnections between the priorities and there is no hierarchy within the five priorities, as depicted in the figure below:

Figure 5: Lambton County CSWB Plan Priorities



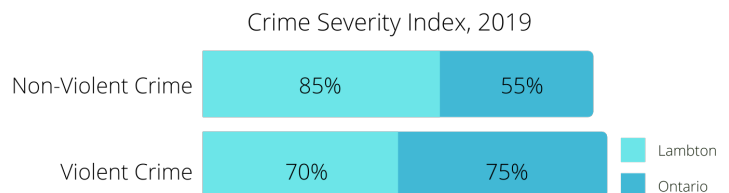
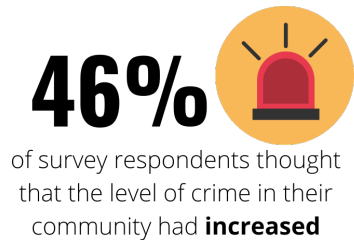
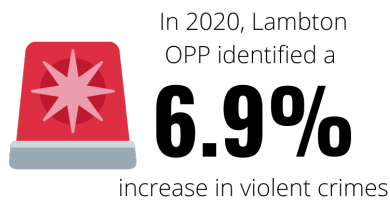
For each priority, a corresponding working group was formed to identify established community strategies and initiatives that will continue to support each priority area, determine specific outcomes and indicators to measure the success of the Plan and to identify new initiatives that ensure Lambton County maintains high levels of safety and enhances the well-being of residents and communities.



To support the community safety pillar, Lambton County is committed to collaborating with community partners to develop co-response models that focus on prevention, harm reduction and risk intervention strategies to improve the overall well-being of the community. To date, there is not a lead organization or committee that is responsible for this work; as we move into implementation a lead entity will be identified for this priority.

## Desired Outcomes

- Reduction and prevention of harm and victimization (violent crime, property crime, illicit drugs);
- Improve the transition process between police and hospital staff;
- Maximization of Mental Health Engagement and Response Team resources; and
- Enhance the delivery of service to and interaction with the public.



## Community Spotlight: Mental Health Engagement and Response Team



Lambton OPP and Sarnia Police both have a Mental Health Engagement and Response Team (MHEART), which are mobile crisis response units that combine collaboration between the Canadian Mental Health Association Lambton-Kent, Bluewater Health and either Sarnia Police or Lambton OPP. With the goal of reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and unnecessary or inappropriate entry into the criminal justice system, the team works together to engage individuals in crisis, de-escalate situations, assess client needs and connect people with treatment and resources.

MHEART responds to emergency and non-emergency police calls related to a mental health or substance abuse crisis. Activations come primarily from Sarnia Police 911 dispatch, however, the team is also activated by CMHA and Bluewater Health psychiatry. MHEART staff conduct a mental health assessment of the person in crisis and determine if intervention is required through apprehension pursuant to the Mental Health Act or a referral should be made to local mental health providers.

# Strategies to Support Community Safety

- Continue to utilize and support the Sarnia Police and OPP’s Mobile Crisis Response efforts for mental health related calls for service;
- Continue to use of residential and business assessments, particularly within rural communities as a proven strategy for reducing property related crime and victimization;
- Continue to offer fraud prevention initiatives, for residents and vulnerable populations (such as seniors);
- Continue to provide educational sessions with vulnerable persons and groups relating to cyber and financial crime;
- Increase officer training and exposure through CMHA and mental health nurses assigned to patrol with officers;
- Continue to use of crime prevention strategies such as “Lock it or Lose it”; and
- Share information with the community regarding relevant incidents to both raise awareness and assist in solving crime.



Evaluation Plan	Domain	Indicator Title	Indicator(s)
	Crime (By municipality/ <i>Indigenous Community</i> )	Crime Severity Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime Severity Index for non-violent crime</li> <li>• Crime Severity Index for violent crime</li> </ul>
		Overall Crime Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rate (per 100,000) of reported incidents of total crime</li> <li>• # of community calls relating to violent crime, property crime and drug related incidents</li> </ul>
		Criminal Investigative Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of investigations by typology (e.g. sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse, thefts, frauds and homicides)</li> <li>• # of investigations for registered vulnerable persons</li> </ul>
	Emergency Response (By municipality/ <i>Indigenous Community</i> )	Demand for Crisis Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call volume for MHeart (Sarnia Police and Lambton OPP)</li> <li>• # of individuals accessing MHeart</li> <li>• Call Outcomes (voluntary transport, involuntary apprehension, apprehended under existing order, no grounds for apprehension)</li> </ul>
		Emergency Room Wait Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average wait time in Emergency Room</li> <li>• Involuntary apprehension rate by platoon</li> </ul>
		Service Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results from customer satisfaction surveys as reviewed and reported to the Police Services Board, the Chief of Police, and Aamjiwnaang Council</li> <li>• # of community information sessions aimed to increase awareness of community resources</li> <li>• # of fraud prevention workshops delivered</li> <li>• Attendance at events sponsored by community groups</li> </ul>
		Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of individuals supported through Victim Services</li> <li>• Reporting on traffic statistics and Motor Vehicle collisions</li> <li>• # of individuals accessing Lambton Elderly Outreach Crisis Intervention and Assistance Program</li> <li>• # of people registered as vulnerable persons</li> </ul>

# Housing and Homelessness

[The County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan \(2014-2024\)](#) was revised in 2019 to address current and emerging issues within Lambton County. As identified in the plan, there was an increase in those at risk of becoming homeless and a steady increase in the number of identified homeless individuals in Lambton County. Since the redevelopment of the plan, complexities in retaining housing have increased nearly doubling the wait list for Rent-Geared-to-Income housing and increasing the number of individuals staying in shelters<sup>5</sup>.

As the plan’s actions influence the full spectrum of the housing continuum from absolute homelessness to private market housing for people of all ages and varying degrees of abilities, it has been determined that the updated plan will form the basis for the work outlined in Lambton’s CSWB Plan for the Housing and Homelessness priority.

Figure 6: Lambton County Housing Continuum



Further, the Housing and Homelessness Plan provides our community with specific actions based on current and future needs, best practices and insights from our community, as well as time-lines and targets to progress towards its goals. It has been identified that the Housing & Homelessness Community Advisory Board will provide oversight for this Priority.

### Desired Outcomes

- Increase and sustain supply and appropriate mix of affordable housing;
- Increase supports that meet people’s needs to achieve housing stability; and
- Eradicate homelessness

The following data was reported in [Lambton County’s 2021 Point in Time Count](#):



**236**  
individuals reported they were experiencing homelessness

**59,458**  
days of homelessness were reported in the 2021 point in time count





**66%**  
report "high rent" as the primary challenge for securing housing



There are 830 County-owned Social Housing units

In 2019, 35 households were in receipt of a portable housing benefit



**14%** of tenant households were in subsidized housing





## Community Spotlight: Supportive Housing Program



With funding through the Social Infrastructure Fund and the Home For Good Program, the County of Lambton has partnered with the Canadian Mental Health Association for the Supportive Housing Program. This program offers access to case management and rental assistance to individuals coping with mental health and addictions.

In 2020, CMHA continued to leverage their existing resources to provide appropriate support to 81 individuals while also providing housing allowances to offset the cost of rent.

## Strategies to Support Housing and Homelessness

As this plan is all encompassing for housing and homelessness initiatives, it was identified that two of the four housing and homelessness goals will be incorporated into the CSWB Plan. The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan will work alongside the existing Housing and Homelessness Plan and will aim to address any gaps that are not already considered. As such, the Housing and Homelessness Priority will not include specific goals, strategic objectives or outcomes but rather will support those of existing initiatives:

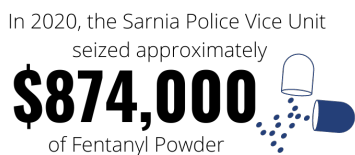
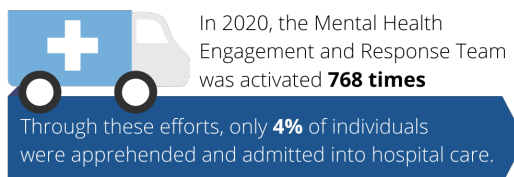
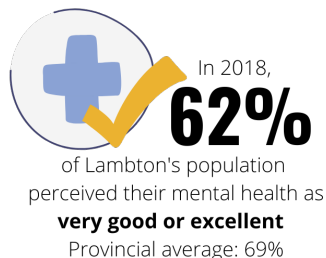


	Domain	Indicator Title	Indicator(s)
<b>Evaluation Plan</b>	Affordable Housing	Financial Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Median monthly shelter cost for rented dwellings</li> <li>• % of households that spend more than 30% of income on shelter (owners and tenants)</li> <li>• Households in subsidized housing</li> </ul>
		Increase in Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of affordable rental units built with the assistance of government funding</li> <li>• # of affordable units created</li> </ul>
	Homelessness	Housing Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of households staying in emergency and transitional accommodations with an assessment completed/an individualized housing plan developed</li> <li>• # of applications/referrals to housing services completed within 21 days of entering the homelessness system</li> </ul>
		Reduce Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of emergency shelter stays</li> <li>• # of individuals that identify as chronic and episodic homeless</li> <li>• # of households that were previously homeless in receipt of affordability assistance and housing related supports</li> </ul>

# Mental Health and Addictions



Throughout the community engagement and asset mapping processes, mental health and addictions were identified as key themes across all groups and demographics. The [Mental Health Profile Lambton County 2018](#), the 2021 Budget Submission from Addictions & Mental Health Ontario entitled “Road Map to Recovery” and the efforts identified in the draft version of the Drug and Alcohol Strategy for Lambton County illustrate the high need in the community to address mental health and addictions. Lambton’s Ontario Health Team Mental Health Table has been and will continue to be the lead on this Priority.



## Community Spotlight: Ryan's House



Ryan's House, established in 2020, is a Phase II Residential Withdrawal Management facility, operated by Mental Health and Addiction Services at Bluewater Health. The 30-day program augments a seven-bed withdrawal management unit at the hospital where people stay an average three to five days.

The 12-bed home-like facility is designed to help those transitioning out of the hospital's withdrawal management unit, allowing additional time and support to develop a recovery plan and work on their next steps. Through ongoing support, the program provides residents a structured and supportive environment. Ryan's House is also expected to increase recovery success and to reduce readmissions to the hospital's detox unit.

## Desired Outcomes

- Increase mental well-being through greater social connections and meaningful involvement;
- Enhance community and organizational capacity for mental health promotion and substance use prevention action;
- Reduce the stigma of problematic substance use and addictions;
- Increase access to problematic substance use and addiction services; and
- Coordinate intake and referral pathways and care delivery amongst community agencies, health care and the community policing and enforcement sector.

# Strategies to Support Mental Health and Addictions

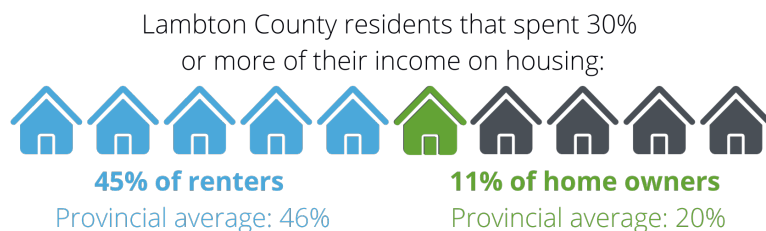
- Lambton OPP and Sarnia Police will continue to provide mental health screening to assist officers responding to people experiencing a mental health crisis and support interactions with Mental Health professionals;
- Continue to advocate for withdrawal management programs and facilities;
- Continue to see community partners work together to implement the Working Together for Kids Mental Health Strategy to support better outcomes for children and youth with mental health needs;
- Identify opportunities to support the development of ACCESS Open Minds Sarnia-Lambton, mental health and addictions youth space for youth 11 to 25 years old and their families who are seeking fast access to education, assessments, counsellings and treatment; and
- Lambton County’s Drug and Alcohol Strategy, currently in draft version, will lead community efforts according to the three identified pillars: Harm Reduction and Treatment, Demand Reduction and Supply Reduction. Many existing initiatives fall within these pillars that are focused on the strategic priorities of:
  - Communities that are safe, resilient and support healthy choices.
  - People who are compassionate and trauma informed.
  - Services that work for everyone.

Evaluation Plan	Domain	Indicator Title	Indicator(s)
	Mental Health	Self-Rated Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of population who rated their mental health as “excellent”, “very good” or “good”</li> <li>• Depression prevalence</li> </ul>
		Mental Health Supports and Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of calls to the Distress Line Sarnia-Lambton</li> <li>• Rate (per 100,000) of emergency department (ED) visits for mental health disorders (substance-related disorders, anxiety and mood disorders, personality disorders)</li> <li>• # of ED visits for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) with mental health and addictions conditions</li> <li>• # of TAY accessing ED for mental health and/or addictions</li> <li>• # of referrals to CMHA at time of discharge from hospital</li> <li>• # of Psychiatric Assessment Nurse (PAN) assessments and referrals</li> </ul>
		Self-Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-Harm related Hospitalization</li> </ul>
	Addictions	Opioid Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of naloxone kits distributed</li> <li>• # of Opioid overdose-related ED visits</li> <li>• # of Opioid overdose-related deaths</li> </ul>
		Substance Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking and vaping rate</li> <li>• % of population who exceed Canada’s Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking guidelines</li> <li>• # of deaths among Lambton residents due to alcohol and/or drug toxicity</li> <li>• Utilization rates of Residential Withdrawal Management Stabilization and Transition programs</li> </ul>

# Poverty



In comparison to similar regions in Ontario, Lambton County is performing well on a number of overall indicators of well-being<sup>6</sup>; however in recent years, Lambton County has faced an unprecedented threat by the hardships of increased private market rentals, increased food insecurity and a decrease in employment rates.<sup>7</sup> The many dimensions of poverty (material deprivation such as food, shelter, sanitation and safe drinking water, social exclusion, lack of education, unemployment and low income) work together to reduce opportunities, limit choices, undermine hope and, as a result, affect one's health.<sup>8</sup> As we move forward with the implementation of the plan, a leadership group will be required to identify new initiatives and move this work along.



**13%**

of residents lived in low income after tax\*



**25,668**

units of food were provided at food banks in 2020; a 30% increase in people accessing service since 2011

**\$88,219**

was Lambton's median family income in 2016  
Provincial average: \$91,089



In 2016,

**8.1%**

was Lambton's unemployment rate  
Provincial average: 7.4%



\*Low income status is determined based on the low income measure, after tax (LIM-AT).

## Community Spotlight: Lambton Circles®



In 2008, the County of Lambton's Child Poverty Task Force determined that Circles® was the most appropriate model to address and reduce poverty in Lambton County. In 2009, Circles® Lambton launched as the first Canadian Circles® Chapter. Since inception Circles® Lambton has supported hundreds of diverse families within Lambton County.

Circles® Lambton is a community collaborative poverty alleviation strategy, which helps people transition out of poverty by building intentional relationships across socio-economic classes, identifying barriers that keep people in poverty and implementing innovative solutions to reduce those barriers. The success of the Circles® model is based on collaboration between volunteers known as Allies who are matched with families and individuals experiencing poverty called Leaders. Experienced staff called Circles® Coaches work together with a multitude of community partners to support the Leaders' goals and plans of change to increase education and skills leading to full time sustainable employment.





## Desired Outcomes

- Reduce the number of individuals and families living in poverty; and
- Increase food security for all those in Lambton County.

## Strategies to Support Poverty Reduction

- Identify information sharing opportunities regarding community resources and support available to those in need, for example since the start of COVID-19, an ongoing community resource has been developed highlighting categories of services for Basic Needs (Income, Shelter and Food), Food Banks, Transportation, Safety & Security, Employment Services, Mental Health & Wellness, Legal & Advocacy, Education and Literacy, General Websites & Information);
- Continue to support the sustainability and expansion of the Huron Shores Area Transit that links rural communities between Sarnia and Grand Bend;
- Identify opportunities to advanced rural connectivity (Internet access, transportation options);
- Identify opportunities for further community programming fostered around Circles® poverty reduction strategies: crisis management, life stabilization, increased education, job placement and job retention;
- Continue the operation of the Mobile Market; a small network of organizations addressing food insecurities for vulnerable individuals during the summer and fall season; and
- Continue to provide community training opportunities such as, Getting Ahead and Bridges out of Poverty, both of which analyze the impact of poverty.

	Domain	Indicator Title	Indicator(s)
<b>Evaluation Plan</b>	Income	Private Household Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household median income</li> <li>• # of individuals with &lt;50% the median after-tax income</li> <li>• # of individuals in receipt of Ontario Works or ODSP</li> </ul>
		Low Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of population in private households living in low-income based on the LIM-AT</li> <li>• % of children (aged 15&lt;) living in low income households</li> </ul>
		Unemployment Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lambton County's unemployment rate</li> <li>• # of individuals (15-44) not in employment, education or training</li> </ul>
	Food Security	Household Food Insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Units of food provided at local food banks</li> <li>• Mobile Market Reporting (# of households, adults and children benefiting from the program and participation at each site)</li> </ul>

# Systemic Racism

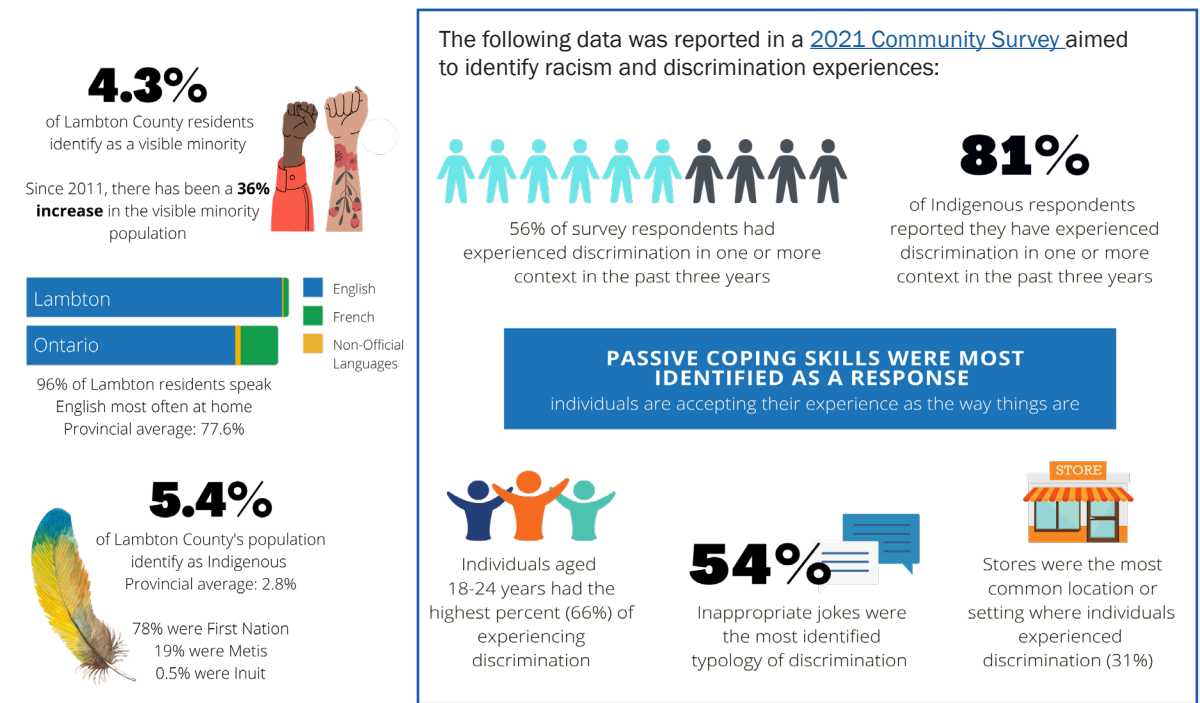


To align with [Canada's Anti-Racism Action Program](#), Lambton County will work toward initiatives and outcome-based activities in key areas of intervention:

- **Employment:** reducing barriers to hiring, leadership training and workplace skills training, encouraging partnerships between employers and employees in reducing barriers to obtaining and sustaining employment.
- **Social Participation:** promoting participation and reducing barriers in community sport, arts and culture and contributing to the enhancement of Lambton County being a diverse and inclusive region.
- **Justice:** promoting interventions for youth at risk, including encouraging positive exchange of views and co-creation of solutions between communities, Indigenous Peoples and the criminal justice system.

These particular sectors of intervention were identified by research and confirmed through the engagement of participants, as key areas within federal jurisdiction where racism and discrimination are most acutely experienced by Canadians.

Work in this priority is relatively new to the community, although a few significant groups have been created, concrete plans for future action are in the early stages of development. The Sarnia-Lambton Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Committee will serve as the ongoing leadership group for this Priority. The goals and objectives will move us, both as a community and a coalition of stakeholders, directly toward our vision of a community where everyone belongs.



## Desired Outcomes

- Increase awareness of and address racial discrimination issues;
- Increase awareness of the historical roots of racism and discrimination; and
- Increased public awareness of the barriers and challenges faced by racialized communities, religious minorities and Indigenous Peoples.

## Community Spotlight: Sarnia-Lambton Alliance Against Hate



Implemented in 2021, the Sarnia Lambton Alliance Against Hate (SLAH), is a collaborative partnership between the John Howard Society, the Sarnia Lambton Local Immigration Partnership, the Lambton Kent District School Board and the Sarnia Police.

SLAH works to connect with the community through events and educational opportunities, build partnerships, to identify an accurate representation of hate-motivated acts and to provide support to victims of hate-motivated acts.

## Strategies to Support the Reduction of Systemic Racism

- Expand the coordination and promotion of anti-racism, diversity, inclusion and anti-oppression related events, education and awareness;
- Collaborate with the Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership Council to develop forums aimed to address anti-racism practices within organizations (e.g., hiring practices, training);
- Identify opportunities to support Indigenous specific programming, such as Red Path, a healing circle addressing the needs of living life without violence and addictions management and AKWE:GO (All of Us), a program that provides support to meet the immediate needs of the Indigenous child through client-based activities that focus on social support, health and physical development, institutional intervention;
- Continue and build upon anti-racism strategies within local school boards;
- To align with the [Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination](#), the Sarnia-Lambton Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Committee is working to develop a framework for addressing racism and discrimination; and
- Support the Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership in the development of a framework for being welcoming and inclusive that municipalities across Lambton County can implement.

	Domain	Indicator Title	Indicator(s)
<b>Evaluation Plan</b>	Discrimination	Discrimination Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of respondents who experienced discrimination</li> <li>• Circumstances of experienced discrimination</li> <li>• # of total discriminatory acts</li> <li>• Presumed basis of experiences of discrimination</li> <li>• # of organizations that adopt an anti-racism campaign</li> </ul>
		Hate Crimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly reporting on hate-motivated crimes (location of hate-motivated crimes, context of hate-motivated crimes (physical/verbal abuse, threats etc), perceived reason for hate-motivated crime, # of people targeted)</li> <li>• # of victims supported through SLAH</li> </ul>
	Inclusive Community	Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of opportunities for visible minorities to connect across cultures, participate in events and activities and share their perspectives</li> <li>• # of community campaigns aimed to reduce discrimination and racism and encourage cultural competency</li> </ul>

## 4. Next Steps

Lambton County's CSWB Plan provides a road map for how partners can work collaboratively across different sectors toward a shared commitment of making Lambton a safer, more inclusive and connected community where all residents thrive. The plan provides an opportunity to take collective action and break down silos with a shared commitment towards equity and advancing well-being and safety. Across the five priority areas of focus, strategies and outcomes have been identified which aim to proactively support the safety and well-being of the community. Further, advocacy for resources and equitable policies and ongoing communication and engagement with community partners and residents will be key drivers of the plan. A key emerging trend identified in the data analytics of the community surveys was the need to foster a greater understanding of challenges the most vulnerable in our communities encounter and how these challenges affect the overall population; both directly and indirectly. Throughout the 3-year course of the plan and in future iterations, the CSWB Plan will continue to be responsive to emerging needs in Lambton County and will create ongoing opportunities for community engagement and involvement.

There is an important transition period pending as the group responsible for the CSWB planning process evolves into the group that will provide leadership to the Implementation Phase. Partners are working together to develop a detailed implementation plan which includes outlining key activities and working groups, establishing performance measures and ongoing community engagement. As we move into implementation, we will track our progress with monitoring and evaluation through robust data collection and data sharing.

The Oversight Committee has identified the following next steps that will assist with the implementation of the plan:

- Recruit the Leadership Team for the Implementation Phase;
- Identify leadership capacity for both the Community Safety and Poverty groups and build on those who have come together during the CSWB planning process;
- Determine what the accountability requirements will be for the CSWB Plan (e.g., annual update to County Council, progress reports to the Ministry as required (i.e., every 3-5 years);
- Develop an Evaluation Framework for the overall plan;
- Ensure there is a designated work group for each of the five CSWB priorities;
- Meaningfully engage the populations with lived/living experience and build their experiences into the development of new strategies; and
- Undertake community-wide awareness/education efforts to increase the understanding of the need for the CSWB initiatives overall.





# References

- 1 [Health Indicator Summary. Sociodemographic Profile. Lambton Public Health. May 2018.](#)
- 2 [Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1 \(ontario.ca\)](#)
- 3 [https://www.ontario.ca/page/community-safety-initiatives-and-resources#section-1](#)
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- 6 [Health Indicator Summary. Sociodemographic Profile. Lambton Public Health. May 2018.](#)
- 7 [Health Indicator Summary. Sociodemographic Profile. Lambton Public Health. May 2018.](#)
- 8 Loppie C, Wien F (2009). Health Inequalities and Social Determinants of Aboriginal People's Health. National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (Report). University of Victoria.



