

Air Quality is one of the 21 core programs that were earmarked for a provincial initiative designed to strengthen the public health infrastructure of health authorities with an evidence-based core functions framework.

The assessment of Fraser Health practices are described in the area of Air Quality compared to the BC Ministry of Health Air Quality Core Model Paper and the improvement strategies to better match this evidence based program model.

Fraser Health has focused activities relating to air quality around responding to public complaints about air quality issues, supporting the FH Tobacco Reduction Strategy, and actively participating in air quality improvement plan development and related discussions. Three key areas for improvement were identified:

- Need to develop a Fraser Health strategic plan for air quality.
 - There is a need to clarify the role between FH and those key stakeholders having specific legislative responsibilities in air quality.
- Improved air quality data collection and analysis.
 - There may be a need to collect and/or access specific air quality data, and to analyze the data from a health perspective.
- Training and support for the Public Health Inspectors (PHIs).
 - Education and practice support for PHIs to ensure that staff are aware of current air quality resources. Should FH expand its role on air quality issues, PHIs will require training on current air quality practices.
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This Performance Improvement Plan focuses on the areas of Leadership and Strategic Direction, Air Quality Strategies, Advocacy and Community Development and Surveillance, Evaluation and Monitoring. These areas were chosen as they provide greatest opportunity for improvement. Actions in these areas have the greatest potential for success as they are expected to yield the greatest impact on population health while making the best use of existing Fraser Health resources.

Performance Improvement Targets—Surveillance, Assessment and Intervention – Outdoor Air

Goal/Outcome	Indicator	Targets	Time Period
<p>Develop a strategic plan that clarifies FH role in air quality including the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and assessing concentrations of ambient air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify FH involvement in these activities. (FH will not become responsible for monitoring outdoor air quality.) Assess the impact of key air pollutants on the health of public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify FH role and partnerships Working with other sectors to build agreement on strategies, realistic target levels and implementation mechanisms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify FH role in advocacy • Clarify the degree of FH engagement in key air quality issues Advising and informing community air quality coalitions/networks about key air quality issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine and clarify the degree of FH engagement with these bodies Participate in community air quality management planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify FH strategy and extent of engagement Identify PHI training needs and develop a training plan 	<p>Presence of a strategic plan that includes these considerations</p>	<p>Approved FH Air Quality strategic plan</p>	<p>March 31, 2009</p>
<p>Develop a method of collecting and/or accessing data that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Level/concentration of pollutants in ambient air ✓ HA surveillance reports to the public ✓ Patterns of asthma events ✓ Patterns of respiratory events ✓ Level of knowledge about air quality among the public 	<p>Presence of a strategic plan that identifies the method to collect or access the required data and report out on these outcomes</p>	<p>Approved FH Air Quality strategic plan</p>	<p>March 31, 2009</p>

Performance Improvement Targets—Surveillance, Assessment and Intervention – Indoor Air

Goal/Outcome	Indicator	Targets	Time Period
<p>Develop a strategic plan that clarifies FH role in air quality including the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess indoor air quality in buildings that house the most vulnerable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define FH role in the monitoring and assessment of indoor air quality Assess air quality in buildings where there is a suspected risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify FH role for air quality testing and assessment Determining impact of key air pollutants on the health of the public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify FH role in assessing impact of key air pollutants on the health of the public Support for inter-sectoral community-based coalitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define FH strategic direction as it relates to advocacy and involvement with community-based coalitions Reduction of exposure to toxic and hazardous substances with major health impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify FH role in the reduction of exposure Identify PHI training needs and develop a training plan 	<p>Presence of a strategic plan that includes these considerations</p>	<p>Approved FH Air Quality strategic plan</p>	<p>March 31, 2009</p>
<p>Develop a method of collecting and/or accessing data that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Proportion of homes with ETS, especially homes with children ✓ Proportion of public-use buildings which serve the most vulnerable, that have acceptable levels of air quality ✓ HA surveillance reports to the public ✓ HA programs to assess hazardous or toxic substances in indoor air ✓ Policies pertaining to increasing indoor air quality ✓ Level of carbon monoxide poisoning (not fire-related) 	<p>Presence of a strategic plan that identifies the method to collect or access the required data and report out on these outcomes</p>	<p>Approved FH Air Quality strategic plan</p>	<p>March 31, 2009</p>

Performance Improvement Targets—Education and Awareness – Indoor/Outdoor Air

Goal/Outcome	Indicator	Targets	Time Period
<p>Develop a strategic plan that clarifies FH role in air quality including the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information to enhance public awareness about effective interventions to reduce the adverse effects of air pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify FH role and extent of involvement in educating the public about air pollution (indoor and outdoor) Media releases and public service announcements on air quality health effects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define FH education strategic direction Identify PHI training needs 	<p>Presence of a strategic plan that includes these considerations</p>	<p>Approved FH Air Quality strategic plan</p>	<p>March 31, 2009</p>
<p>Gain a better understanding about the current level of knowledge about air quality among the public</p>	<p>Identify a method for collecting or accessing the required data and reporting on this indicator</p>	<p>Approved FH Air Quality strategic plan</p>	<p>March 31, 2009</p>