

Message from the Medical Officer of Health

The annual State of the Region's Health report highlights important health issues and trends affecting the more than one million residents of the Region of Peel. The 2007 report focuses on the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Over the past 25 years, the trends in HIV incidence, risk factors and transmission dynamics have changed significantly. While transmission of HIV from one person to another is increased amongst those who engage in such behaviours as unprotected sex with multiple partners or sharing injection drug use equipment, HIV can also affect those who may not think of themselves as being "at risk". Heterosexual transmission of HIV has been increasing. Of particular concern is the potential for HIV to spread into the population of youth who are at risk for infection with other sexually transmitted infections such as gonorrhea and chlamydia.

Understanding the trends in the dynamics of HIV transmission and progression to AIDS is essential in addressing this important health issue. This report also contains recommendations to assist Public Health staff in delivering programs to increase awareness and to reduce transmission of HIV and AIDS in Peel and to enhance the quality of life of people who are living with HIV/AIDS.

Peel Public Health is committed to working with individuals and organizations in the public and private sectors to prevent illness and promote good health. The information in this and other Peel Public Health status reports is intended to help chart a course to better health for everyone in Peel.



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Medical Officer of Health