

STATE OF THE REGION'S HEALTH 2003 *Focus on Foodborne Disease*

Introduction

The State of the Region's Health report is published annually as a summary of the health status of residents of Peel region. It is intended to highlight key health issues and trends for the population of Peel.



The *State of the Region's Health 2003* report focuses on foodborne disease; that is, illnesses acquired by the consumption of contaminated foods or beverages.

This report describes the occurrence of selected foodborne diseases that are caused by microorganisms (bacteria, parasites and viruses) in Canada, Ontario and Peel region. These include campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, amebiasis, giardiasis, shigellosis, yersiniosis, hepatitis A and infections caused by verotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (VTEC). It also outlines what is known about general food safety practices and the origins of foodborne disease.

At the end of this report, a section titled *Peel Health Facts* (see page 24) highlights the most recent health indicator data for Peel region, including population; leading causes of mortality, premature mortality and hospitalization; and selected reproductive health statistics.