

# Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program

Family and Community Health Division

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# Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC)

## Program Description

- HBHC is a free voluntary home visiting program.
- 100% funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.
- Evidence-based program with significant cost benefits over the lifetime of the child.

# Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC)

## Program Goal

- Optimize newborn and child healthy growth and development and reduce health inequities for families receiving services.

# Council's Strategic Priorities 2023-2026

**Effective  
Region**


**Green and  
Resilient  
Region**

**Equitable  
Region**

**Prosperous  
Region**

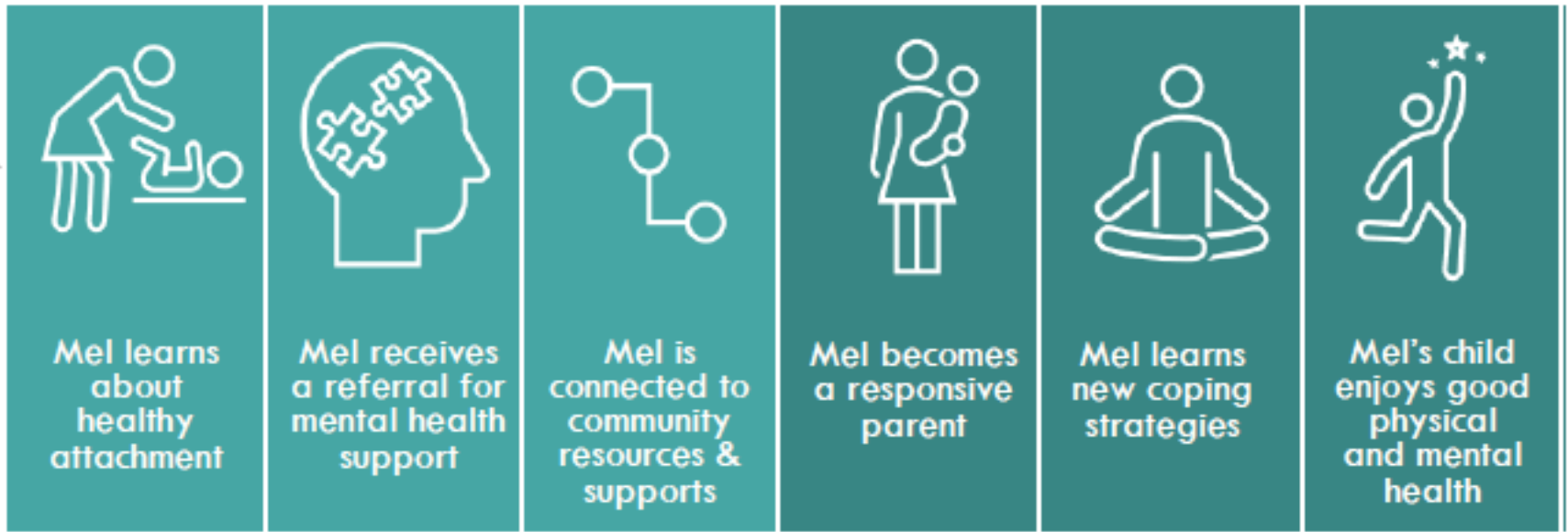
# Service Delivery Model

- Screening
- Intake and Assessment
- Home visiting

 MEL WAS OFFERED THE HBHC SCREEN POSTPARTUM.

The Public Health Nurse contacted Mel after receiving the screen. She offered Mel the **Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Home Visiting Program.**

**HBHC INTERVENTION** → **OUTCOMES...**





JANE WAS **NOT OFFERED** THE HBHC SCREEN POSTPARTUM.

Risk factors were not identified. Without support, Jane is less able to cope with day to day life or develop the responsive relationship needed for optimal child development.

NO INTERVENTION



OUTCOMES...



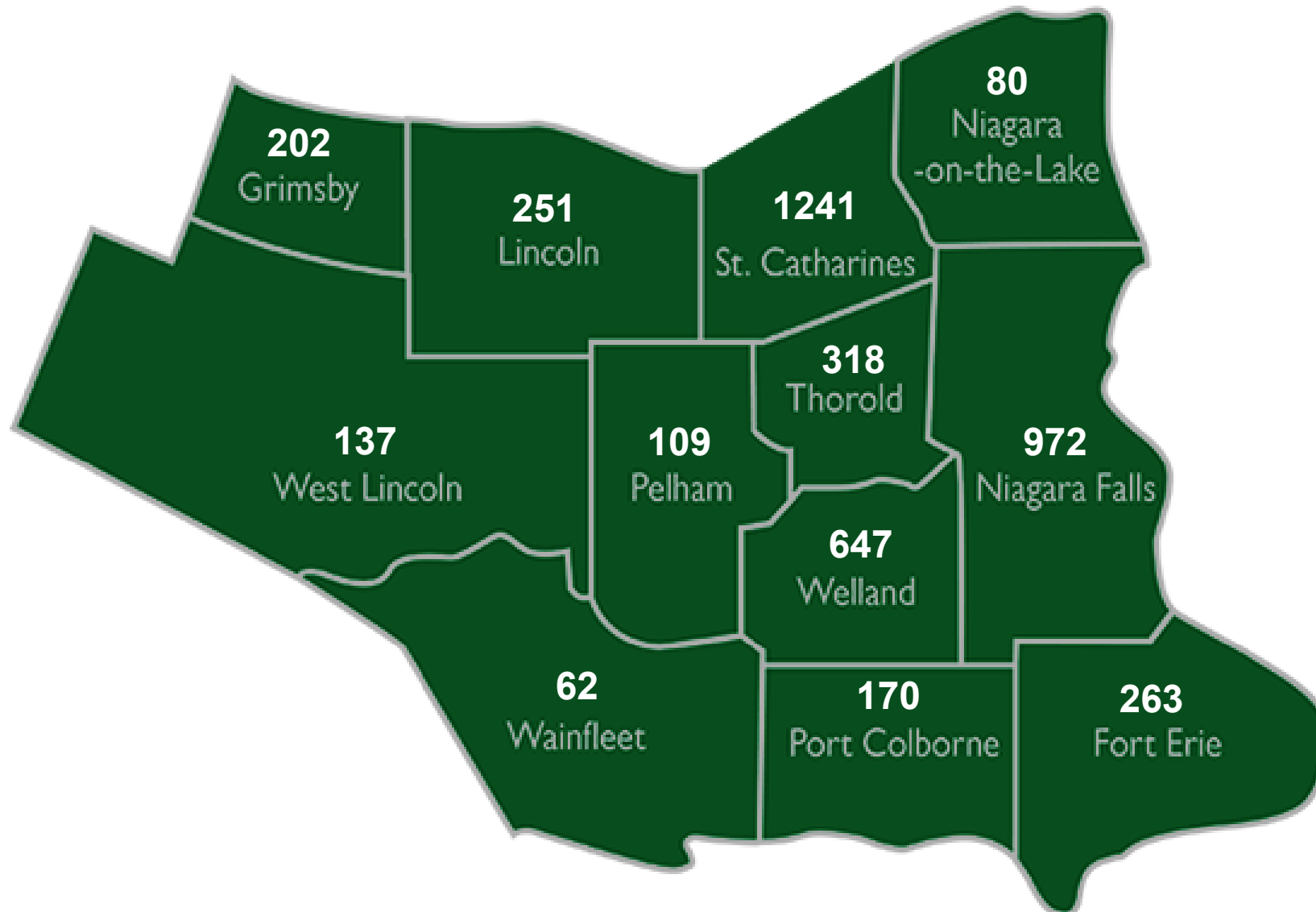
# Importance of HBHC program

The HBHC program has been recognized as a best practice for supporting young families and children.

- During the pandemic, senior leadership recognized the importance of maintaining HBHC.



# HBHC Screens by Municipality

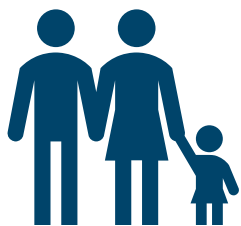


# Program Indicators for 2024

**4,452** HBHC screens were completed for babies/children in Niagara



**96%** of all live births in Niagara received an HBHC screen in 2024  
**59%** of babies/children screened “with risk”



**2,255** in person home visits were completed by public health nurses  
**2,548** hours spent in face-to-face interactions with clients

# Aligning with Provincial Priorities

Investing in HBHC is a cost-effective approach, with a return on investment of as much as **13 to 1** over the lifetime of the child.

Ministry of Children, Communities and Social Services (MCCSS) increased their investment to Niagara's HBHC program.

- The recent increase to program base funding a great step in furthering provincial investment in the HBHC program; however, this was the first increase since 2008.

# Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

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