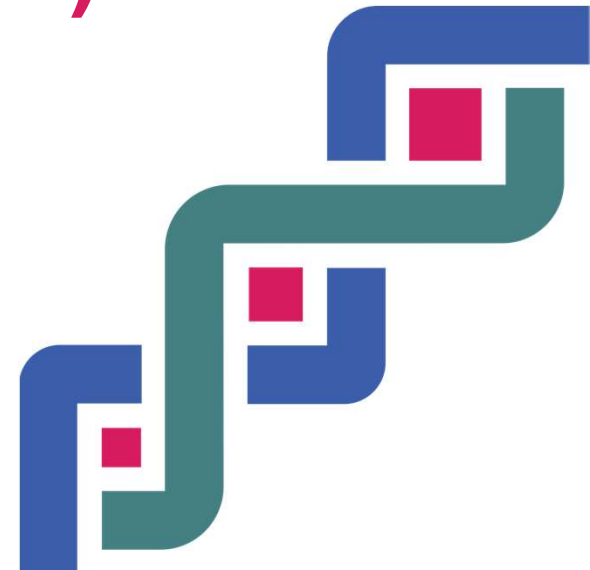




# Downtown East Toronto (DET) Ontario Health Team

An Orientation

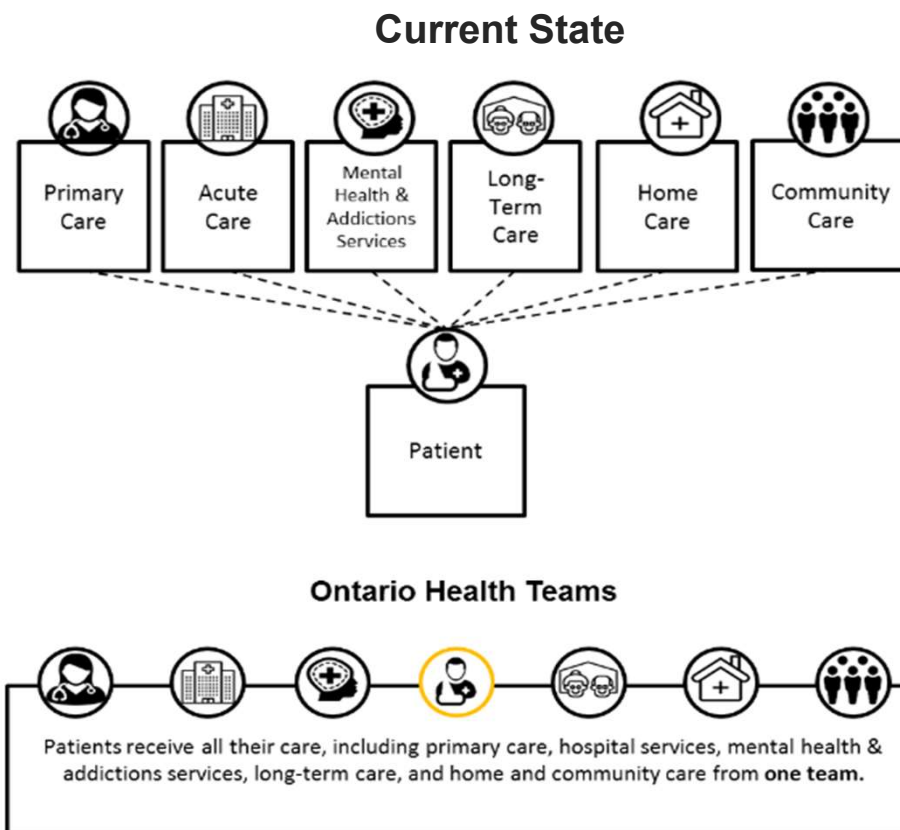
June 2025

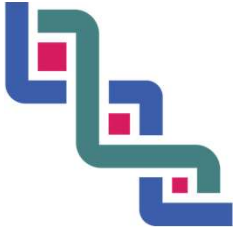


# Ontario Health Teams

## Objectives of OHT

- Advancing **coordinated** care for a **community within defined geographic location**
- Improving patients' and families' **access** and **navigation** across multiple care settings
- Leveraging **existing strengths of OHT members** as they work collaboratively





# Brief History of the DET OHT

- Approved as an OHT in November 2020
- As per application requirements, identified two initial priority populations:
  1. People unhoused, or experiencing housing precarity
  2. Individuals struggling with mental health or addiction
- Developed and implemented a Strategic Plan for 2023-26
- Launched its operational structure and several system integration projects – see website for details:  
<https://detoht.ca/>
- Continues to grow with new initiatives and new members



# DET OHT's Vision Statement

*To provide our community with seamless access to inclusive, high quality, and responsive care through one connected system of diverse providers and community members who enthusiastically embody holistic approaches to improving population and individual health and well-being.*

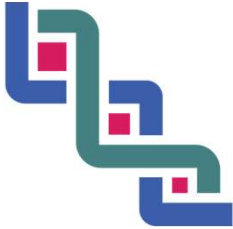
# DET OHT Strategic Plan 2023-2026: Guiding Principles



## Guiding Principles

<b>Client and Family Centered Care</b>	Patients, families, caregivers and the communities we serve are at the forefront of our decisions. Our <i>Patient Client Caregiver Declaration of Values</i> underlines this commitment and serves as the foundation for the services we provide
<b>Health Equity</b>	Health Equity and a population health approach are embedded in all aspects of our work in order to prioritize support to individuals and communities who are most in need of our services
<b>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion</b>	We recognize and acknowledge inequity and are intentional to ensure that our policies, objectives and initiatives are built on the principles and lens of diversity, equity and inclusion
<b>Collaboration</b>	Transparent and meaningful collaboration with all OHT members are vital components to healthy partnerships. We recognize that each of our members brings value, wisdom, knowledge and experience to our OHT work which allows us to work respectfully together and appreciate each member's contribution towards our end goals
<b>Quality Improvement</b>	Building on our successes and challenges, we are open to continuous learning and embody evidence-informed and continuing learning principles to guide our decisions and improve the work we do together
<b>Responsive Leadership</b>	Iterative and generative leadership leads to responsive leadership. It helps us to be active on the issues that impact the communities we serve and holds us accountable for those actions

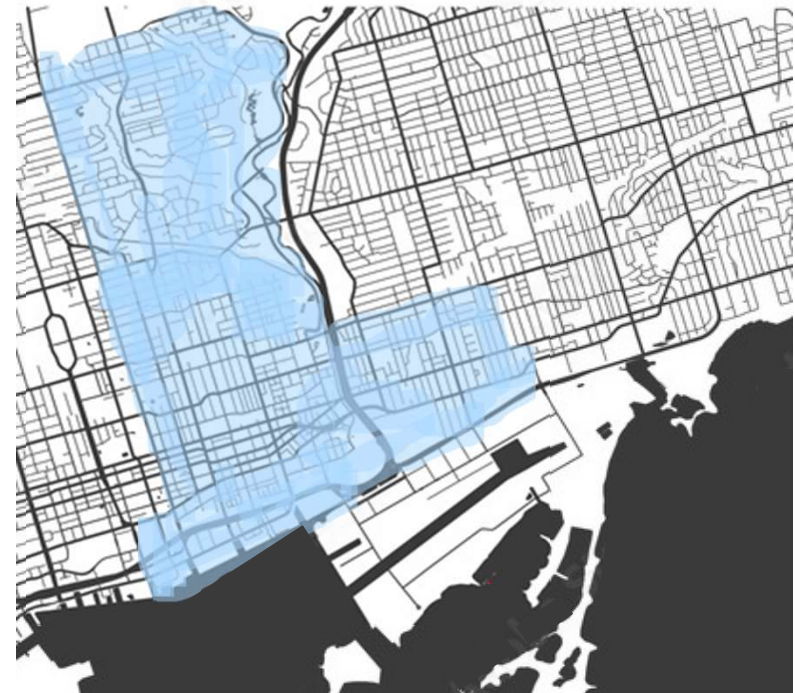
# Population Profile and Context



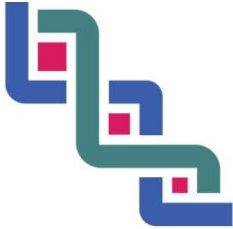
# Catchment Area

The Downtown East area is bound by:

- **St. Clair Avenue** on the North
- **Lake Ontario** on the South
- **Yonge Street** on the West
- and the **Don Valley Parkway** on the East, including an expansion up to 21 Park Rd., north of Bloor



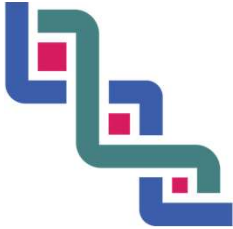




## DET OHT Population\*: A Breakdown

- There are 139,248 people attributed to the DET
- When comparing the attributed population to the rest of Ontario, there are:
  - **Slightly more women** (51.8% vs. 50.5%)
  - **More new arrivals to Ontario** (16.5% vs. 12.5%)
- Mental health and addictions (MHA): 25% have accessed care for their mental health in the last 2 years (compared to 19% across Ontario)
- Other health needs: 0.9% received long-term home care (PDR)





## Priority Population: People Unhoused or Experiencing Housing Precarity (PUEHP)

- As of April 2021, approximately 7,347 people are unhoused in Toronto\*
  - ~742 are unsheltered (staying outdoors), an increase of 39% from 2018
- **60% of people who are unhoused in Toronto identify as members of racialized groups, with 31% being Black\***
- **LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly youths, are overrepresented among people who are unhoused\***
- The average wait time for subsidized housing in Toronto ranges from 8-15 years<sup>+</sup>
- 3 of the 10 city's poorest census tracts are in DET (MOH, 2018)

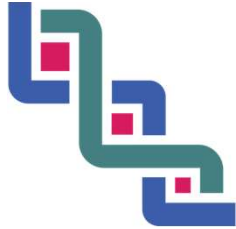


[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

\*City of Toronto. Street Needs Assessment. Toronto, Canada: City of Toronto; 2021. URL: <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ec/bgrd/backgroundfile-171729.pdf>

+City of Toronto. Subsidized housing listings. Toronto, Canada: City of Toronto; 2019. URL: <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/employment-social-support/housing-support/rent-geared-to-income-subsidy/subsidized-housing-listings/>





# Health Needs of PUEHP

- We know that **people unhoused or experiencing housing precarity have complex health needs**; in Toronto, 28% have reported having three or more health challenges\*
- On average, unhoused folks experience **4 times higher annual health costs** than matched populations with housing, and are less likely to be formally rostered to a primary care practice<sup>#</sup>
- **Accessible mental health and addictions care is especially important for this population:**
  - 50% of PUEHP in Toronto reported having a mental health issue\*
  - 42% of PUEHP in Toronto reported having a substance issue\*, 27% of which reported using a treatment facility
  - In 2022, 25% of individuals who died from accidental opioid toxicity in Toronto were PUEHP, compared to 16% in the rest of Ontario<sup>+</sup>
- SMH receives 45% of all Toronto ED visits by PUEHP and 44% of all inpatient stays for PUEHP (internal SMH data)

\*City of Toronto. Street Needs Assessment. Toronto, Canada: City of Toronto; 2021. URL: <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ec/bgrd/backgroundfile-171729.pdf>

<sup>+</sup> Toronto Public Health. Data on Toronto opioid toxicity deaths from the Opioid Investigative Aid. Toronto, Canada: Toronto Public Health; 2019. URL: [https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/8d4b-TOIS-Coroner-Data\\_Final.pdf](https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/8d4b-TOIS-Coroner-Data_Final.pdf)

<sup>#</sup>Richard, L., Carter, B., Nisenbaum, R., Brown, M., Gabriel, M., Stewart, S., & Hwang, S. W. (2024). Disparities in healthcare costs of people experiencing homelessness in Toronto, Canada in the post COVID-19 pandemic era: a matched cohort study. BMC Health Services Research, 24(1), 1074. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-024-11501-2>

## Priority Population: Individuals Struggling with Mental Health or Addiction (MHA)



- Of the DET OHT attributed population, **over 33, 000 people or 25% have accessed care for their mental health in the last 2 years** (compared to 19% across Ontario)\*
- 39% of the suspected overdose calls to paramedics in Toronto are occurring within neighbourhoods in the DET<sup>+</sup>
- From our partners we've heard that caring for people living with MHA conditions is a priority
  - There is a high prevalence of mental health admissions for PUEHP
  - DET OHT partners spend **\$88.7M annually** caring for people living with MHA conditions

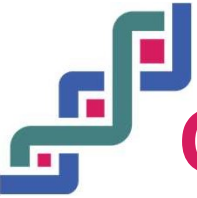


<sup>x</sup> Ontario Community Health Profiles Partnership. Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (OHTs). Canada: OCHPP; 2022. URL: <https://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca/>

<sup>\*</sup> Toronto Public Health. Calls to Paramedic Services for Suspected Opioid Overdoses

Geographic Information. Toronto, Canada: City of Toronto; 2023. URL: [https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/859b-CallsforSuspectedOpioidOverdoses\\_GeographicInformation.pdf](https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/859b-CallsforSuspectedOpioidOverdoses_GeographicInformation.pdf)

# DET Primary Care Network (PCN)



# Ontario Health: Vision and Objectives of Primary Care Networks

## Vision

PCNs will connect, integrate, and support primary care providers within OHTs to improve the delivery and coordination of care for patients.

## Objectives

Within the OHT, PCNs will have two core objectives:

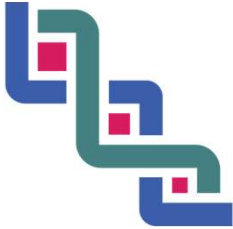
1. To organize the local primary care sector in OHT planning and provide a voice in OHT decision-making;
2. To serve as a vehicle to support OHTs in the implementation of local and provincial priorities.



# Ontario Health: Core Functions of a Primary Care Network

## Functions

1. The PCN connects primary care within the OHT.
2. The PCN serves as a vehicle for providing the local primary care sector's voice in OHT decision-making.
3. The PCN supports OHT clinical change management and population health management approaches.
4. The PCN facilitates access to clinical and digital supports and improvements for primary care.
5. The PCN supports local primary care Health Human Resource planning within the OHT.



# DET-OHT Primary Care Snapshot

- While the DET OHT has similar attachment rates as the rest of Ontario\*, the population served have **needs that vary due to identity and marginalization that require attention for equitable health outcomes**
  - The available data shows that **unattachment rate for folks who are unhoused is 57%, far higher than the provincial rate of 15%<sup>+</sup>**
- Of the attributed population, **15.9% were uncertainly attached to primary care**, compared to 15.1% in Ontario<sup>x</sup>
- Of those who are uncertainly attached, **54.2% did not receive any primary care in the last 2 years**, compared to 68.6% in Ontario.



<sup>x</sup>Ontario Community Health Profiles Partnership. Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (OHTs). Canada: OCHPP; 2022. URL: <https://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca/>

<sup>+</sup>Khandor, E., Mason, K., Chambers, C., Rossiter, K., Cowan, L., & Hwang, S. W. (2011). Access to primary health care among homeless adults in Toronto, Canada: results from the Street Health survey. Open medicine : a peer-reviewed, independent, open-access journal, 5(2), e94–e103





# Vision and Purpose of the DET-OHT PCN

**Vision:** To create a collaborative, person-centered healthcare system that ensures equitable, accessible, and comprehensive inter-professional primary care for all members of our community.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the PCN is to represent a collective voice for primary care in Downtown East Toronto and to provide strategic input on approach to OHT service delivery and planning as it relates to primary care.



# DET-OHT PCN Membership

- **Open to all Primary Care Clinicians and Organizations in the DET-OHT**
  - Family Physicians
  - Primary Care Paediatricians
  - Primary Care Nurse Practitioners
  - Primary Care Indigenous/Traditional Healers
  - Registered Nurses/Registered Practical Nurses
  - Occupational Therapists/Physiotherapists
  - Social Workers
  - Pharmacists
  - Midwives

# Downtown East Toronto Family Physician Network (FPN)



DOWNTOWN EAST TORONTO  
**Family Physician  
Network**

# About the DET-FPN

- The Downtown East Toronto Family Physician Network (DET FPN) is a collaborative network of family physicians from diverse practice models. We are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of patients and communities in Downtown East Toronto (DET) by sharing our unique knowledge and expertise as family physicians to inform local health system planning.
- The DET FPN is a signed member and active collaborative partner of the Downtown East Toronto Ontario Health Team (DET OHT). Currently, approximately 160 local family physicians are signed members of the DET FPN.



# DET-FPN Purpose

- To engage family physicians in DET to collaborate and identify system gaps, solutions, and priority areas for development and funding support.
- To act as a unified voice to communicate these opportunities and recommendations to health system partners and funders.
- To identify network family physicians to represent the FPN at the DET OHT Core Group and Working Groups in order to inform planning and implementation of the governance structures, programs and change initiatives of the DET OHT.

# DET-FPN Website



To learn more about the activities of the DET-FPN, including how to join us as a member, please visit:

<https://detoht.ca/det-fpn/>

