



# BOARD OF HEALTH POLICY

APPROVALS	DATE APPROVED	INITIALS
BOH:	Res. No.: 11-2021	
SMT:		
MCC:		
IF APPLICABLE		
DIRECTOR		
JOHSC:		
PPL:		

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**SECTION:** BOARD OF HEALTH **POLICY NO.:** BH-02-25

**SUBJECT:** Research and Program Evaluation

**APPROVED BY:** Board of Health **POLICY DATE:** January 2021

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## 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that research and program evaluation projects conducted at or by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) are of sound methodological and ethical quality; supporting a culture of excellence in professional practice at TBDHU.
- 1.2. The consistent application of this policy will demonstrate fulfilment of the requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability - Public Health Accountability Framework.

## 2. POLICY

- 2.1. This policy applies to all members of the Board of Health of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.
- 2.2. The Board of Health will ensure that the requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability are met under the domain of Public Health Practice; including,
  - Establishment of procedures related to research ethics
  - Systemic processes to plan public health programs and services
  - Assessment and reporting on the health of local populations and existence and impact of health inequities
  - Measurement of client, community and stakeholder experience
  - Regular review of outcome data, including variances and remediation plans
- 2.3. To support these requirements, ethical guiding questions will be considered in all research and program evaluation activities. It is understood that operational components will be supported by the Foundational Standards Team of the TBDHU to ensure value, methodological quality, ethical standards, and feasibility.

### **3. APPLICABLE PROCEDURES**

There are no procedures with this policy.

### **4. DEFINITIONS**

- 4.1 **Research** means the organized and purposeful collection, analysis and interpretation of data. Research may involve the primary collection of new data or the analysis or synthesis of existing data and research findings.
- 4.2 **Program evaluation** means the systemic gathering, analysis, and reporting of data about a program to assist in decision-making. It includes quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method approaches.

### **5. REFERENCES**

- 5.1 Policy No. FST-xx-xx Program Evaluation Standards (*in development*)
- 5.2 [Public Health Ontario Ethics Review and Oversight Services](#)

### **6. APPENDICES/LINKS AND ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments with this policy.