

BOARD OF HEALTH POLICY

APPROVALS	DATE APPROVED	INITIALS
BOH:	Res. No.: 80-2026	
SLT:	N/A	N/A
MCC:	N/A	N/A
IF APPLICABLE		
DIRECTOR	N/A	N/A
HR:	N/A	N/A
PPL:	N/A	N/A

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

SUBJECT: Research, Program Evaluation, and Other Evidence Generating Activities

APPROVED BY: Board of Health **POLICY DATE:** September 2026

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that research, program evaluation, continuous quality improvement, and enhanced or non-routine surveillance activities conducted at or by 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 application of this policy will demonstrate fulfilment of the related requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards.

2. POLICY

- 2.1. The Board of Health will direct administration to implement and maintain organizational policies, procedures and processes that support research and evaluation activities across the organization.
- 2.2. The Board of Health will direct administration to ensure that organizational policies, procedures and processes related to research, program evaluation, continuous quality improvement and enhanced surveillance.
 - Align with the Ontario Public Health Standards, ethical requirements, and recognized public health and research best practices, and comply with applicable legislation, and;
 - Support evidence-informed decision-making, continuous quality improvement and accountability across the organization.

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.
- 4.3. **Continuous quality improvement** means continuous and ongoing effort to encourage changes in processes to address identified problems, and improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- 4.4. **Enhanced or non-routine surveillance** is the collection of data beyond routine surveillance as required by the Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for programs, services, and accountability in accordance with the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

5. REFERENCES

- 5.1. [Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability](#)
- 5.2. [Public Health Ontario Ethics Review and Oversight Services](#)
- 5.3. [Public Health Ontario Framework for the Ethical Conduct of Public Health Initiatives](#)

6. APPENDICES/LINKS AND ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments with this policy.