

Strengthening community-based mental health and addictions care

Partnering to make a difference

Provincial investments are making a meaningful difference to improve mental health and addiction (MHA) issues in Peel. This includes support through the **Wellness Response Assistance Program and for a new HART Hub**, with \$1.3 million earmarked for supportive housing services.

However, a significant and growing gap remains between service capacity and demand attributed to chronic underfunding.

The absence of a funding formula that accounts for Peel's rapid population growth and increasingly complex MHA challenges is leading to considerable pressure on acute care for community-based MHA services. To address this challenge, Peel Region needs targeted and sustainable funding that matches the scale and complexity of local need.

Targeted, upstream and sustainable investments

Peel Region appreciates the significant investments made to address community needs, including more than \$70 million annually for Paramedic Services, however, the need for resources continues to grow.

The province should prioritize and increase investment in upstream preventative community-based solutions that address MHA early — before crises occur.

One initiative that would help alleviate pressures is Peel's proposed Community Paramedicine MHA pilot program, which:

- targets individuals experiencing homelessness or who are precariously housed.
- eases the burden on emergency room departments while increasing access to specialized care.
- supports early intervention by community paramedics, combining shelter-based and mobile outreach approaches, integrated with existing community health, housing, and social services for vulnerable residents in Peel.

Provincial investment in upstream mental health and addictions supports such as this pilot is critical to strengthening community-based capacity to deliver preventative programming that improves health outcomes.



MHA pressures in Peel:

- Emergency department visits for MHA-related disorders rose to 19,216 in 2023, up 5% from 2022.
- More than 1,650 children and youth in Peel are on waitlists for core services.
- Wait times for services, such as counselling and intensive treatment, are almost 2 years.
- Between 2019 and 2024, Peel Paramedics responded to over 32,000 mental health related 911 calls. The highest proportion of these calls was from young adults aged 20 to 29 years (25.7%).
- In the same timeframe, Peel Paramedics responded to over 22,000 addictions/substance related 911 calls. The highest proportion of these calls was from those aged 30 to 39 years (24.6%).



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Mental health and addictions solutions

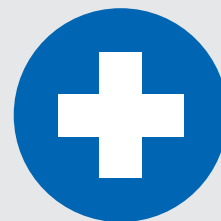
Population-based funding

Provincial funding that is based on population size and demographics, with adjustments for socioeconomic and geographic factors and inflation, is urgently needed in Peel.



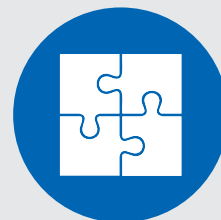
Additional capacity

Funding to increase community-based mental health and addictions capacity supports upstream preventative supports that can decrease pressure on acute care.



Investment in community paramedicine

Peel requires support for our Mental Health and Addictions pilot program to ensure individuals experiencing homelessness, precarious housing and MHA-related issues receive early intervention.



Peel Region MHA roundtable

In fall 2025, Peel Region is planning a roundtable aimed at identifying treatment-focused solutions to address the growing addictions crisis. This critical dialogue will help shape locally responsive, evidence-informed solutions that will improve access to care.

Key takeaway

Peel's population is expected to increase significantly over the next decade and pressures on MHA services are expected to worsen without provincial support.

