

VCH Healthy Public Policy Unit:

Innovation for public policy capacity in the public health system

Juan Solorzano

Executive Director Population Health, Vancouver Coastal Health

Canadian Network for Health in All Policies

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Land acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge that Vancouver Coastal Health facilities and services are located on the shared and unceded homelands of 14 First Nations.

Today we are grateful to join you on the unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) nation.



The Healthy Public Policy Unit (HPPU) at Vancouver Coastal Health

Addressing the root causes of health problems to promote population health and health equity for residents across the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region

Health in All Policies

Multi-sectoral approach highlights connections and synergies to shape policies within and outside health

Upstream focus

Understand the foundational influences on health and focus on policy solutions that address root causes



Health equity

Address systemic, avoidable disparities in social, economic, and environmental conditions that influence health

Healthy communities

Collaborate with local governments to build communities that support and protect health for everyone

What do public health teams need for policy work?

A mandate

In BC Public health has a mandate for healthy public policy

BC Public Health Act | Section 73(3) Local Public Health Issues

Advise local government on public health (promotion & protection) issues, bylaws, policies



BC Public Health Act | Section 83 Role of Local Government

Must delegate liaison for health, report health hazards, and consider advice provided by health officer

MHO Duties & Responsibilities

Provide evidence-based opinions.

Collaborate across sectors.

Advocate for public health and vulnerable groups.

Communicate with the public and elected officials on local health issues.

Contribute to regional health planning.

Community Charter | Section 8(3) Public Health Bylaws

Protect health & enhance well-being with public health bylaws. Must consult health board or MHO



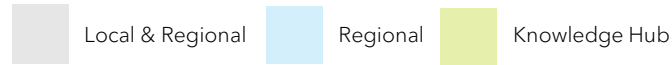
Local Government Act | Part 13 Regional Growth Strategies

Must consult provincial governments and agencies about Regional Growth Strategies

A talented team

HPPU – September 2023

Organization chart

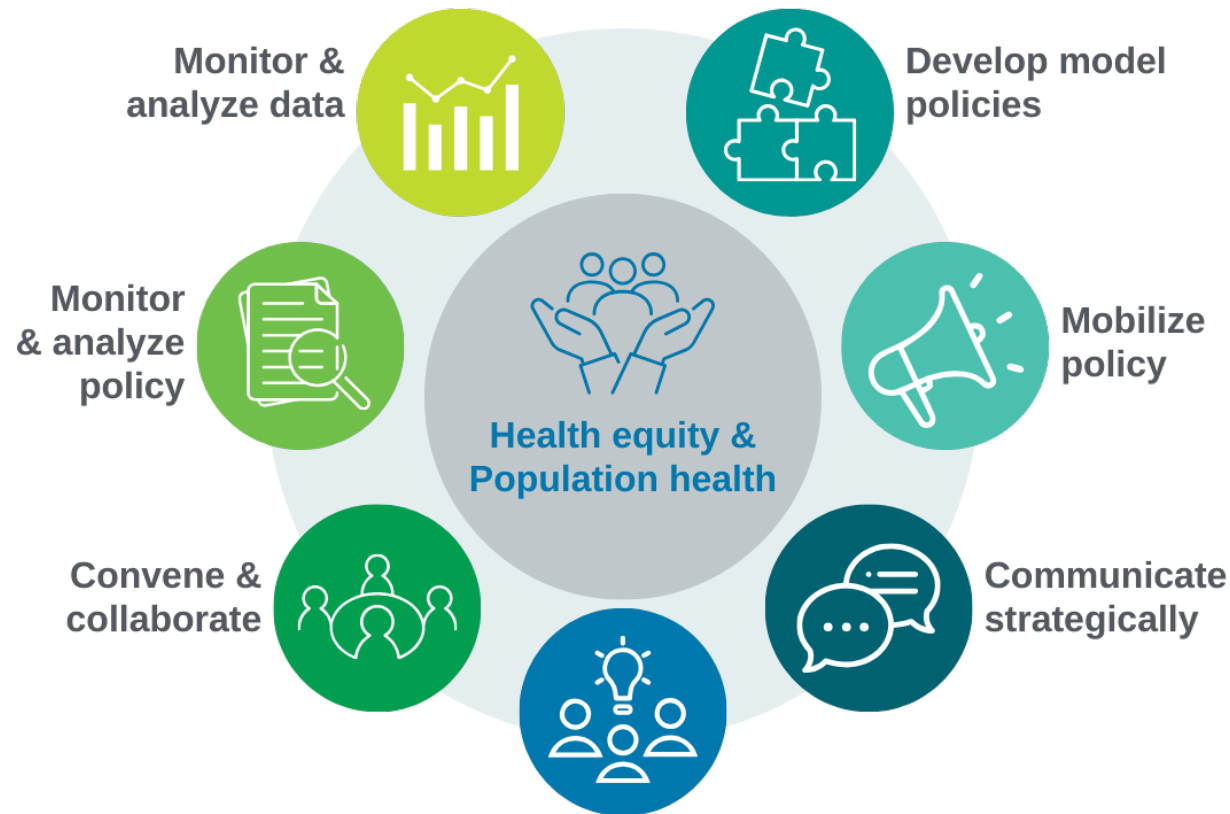


A skill set and expertise to fulfill our key functions and services

Identify and monitor local or regional population health issues with data-driven and evidence-based approaches

Monitor and analyze policy and program options and apply an evidence-based systems approach to support implementation

Collaborate with partners and communities to co-create policy initiatives in a culturally relevant and equity-oriented way



Co-create standardized policy frameworks and templates for adapted use in various community contexts

Monitor policy windows, co-design campaigns, and effectively champion healthy public policies and services across the region

Visualize data and share information tailored to reach diverse audiences and enable impactful policies and initiatives

Public health leadership

Bridge capacity gaps and advance healthy public policy practices that promote population health and wellbeing

A team structure that reflects the key functions



Knowledge Hub

Support

Policy context, data, analysis, public health expertise, communications, strategy, tools, competencies.

Policy analysts
KT & Communications
Practice, Research & Evaluation



Local/Regional

Influence

Relational approach & contextual knowledge to engage proactively and respond to policy windows.

Senior Policy Leads
Project Manager
Injury Prevention



Public Health

Collaborate

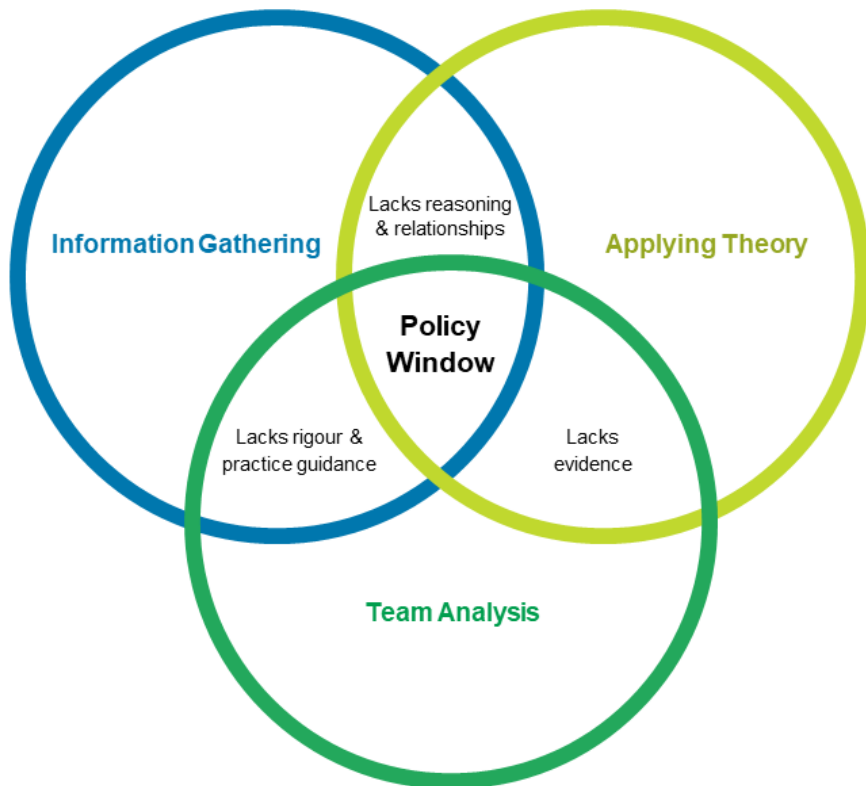
Surveillance data & policy monitoring. Mandate, expertise & moral authority.

Public Health Surveillance Unit
Medical Health Officers
VCH Healthy Communities Teams

How do we go about working on policy?

Anticipate and create windows of opportunity for policy action

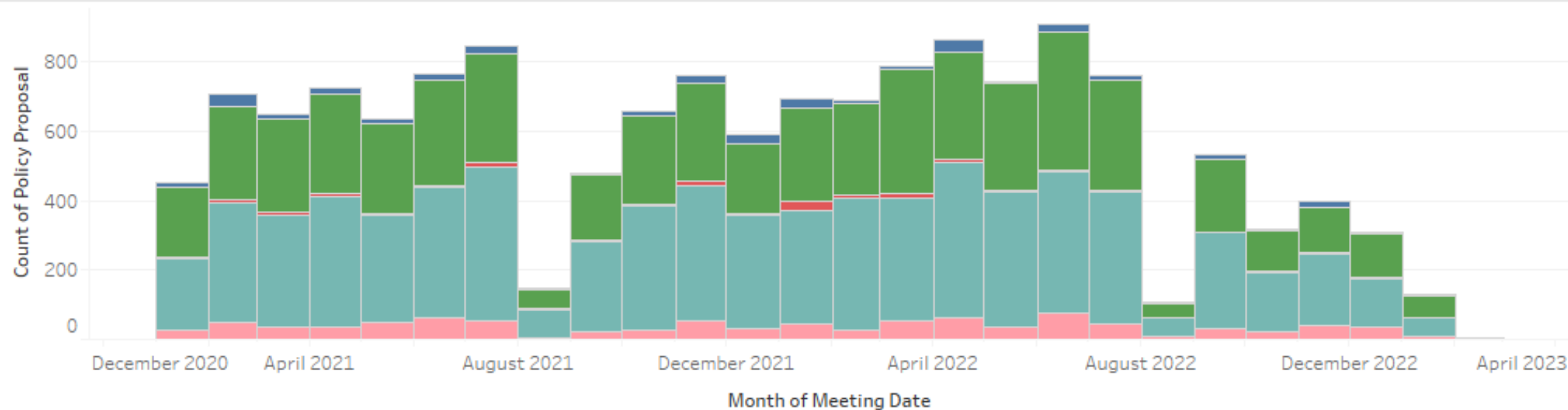
Policy Monitoring Framework



Policy Analysis & Monitoring

- Legislative cycle and media monitoring of priority policy areas
 - Government and advocacy coalition activities, news, social media
- Allows team to be proactive, take advantage of policy windows, develop and mobilize informed policies, and track policy outcomes
- Tableau dashboard (PAM)
- CRM for engagement and network development

Figure 1. Municipal council data count of policy proposals by theme over time



Theme ■ Harm Reduction ■ Housing ■ Mental Health ■ Unclassified ■ Youth Children

Filters

Location
(All) ▼

Meeting Date
05 Jan 2021 08 Feb 2023
🕒

Download date
27 Jan 2022 15 Feb 2023
🕒

Section
(Multiple values) ▼

Theme
 (All)
 Harm Reduction
 Housing
 Mental Health
 Unclassified
 Youth Children

Keyword 1

Keyword 2

Add keywords above to search and filter results accordingly.

Table 1. List of Municipal council policy proposals (N= 13,233)

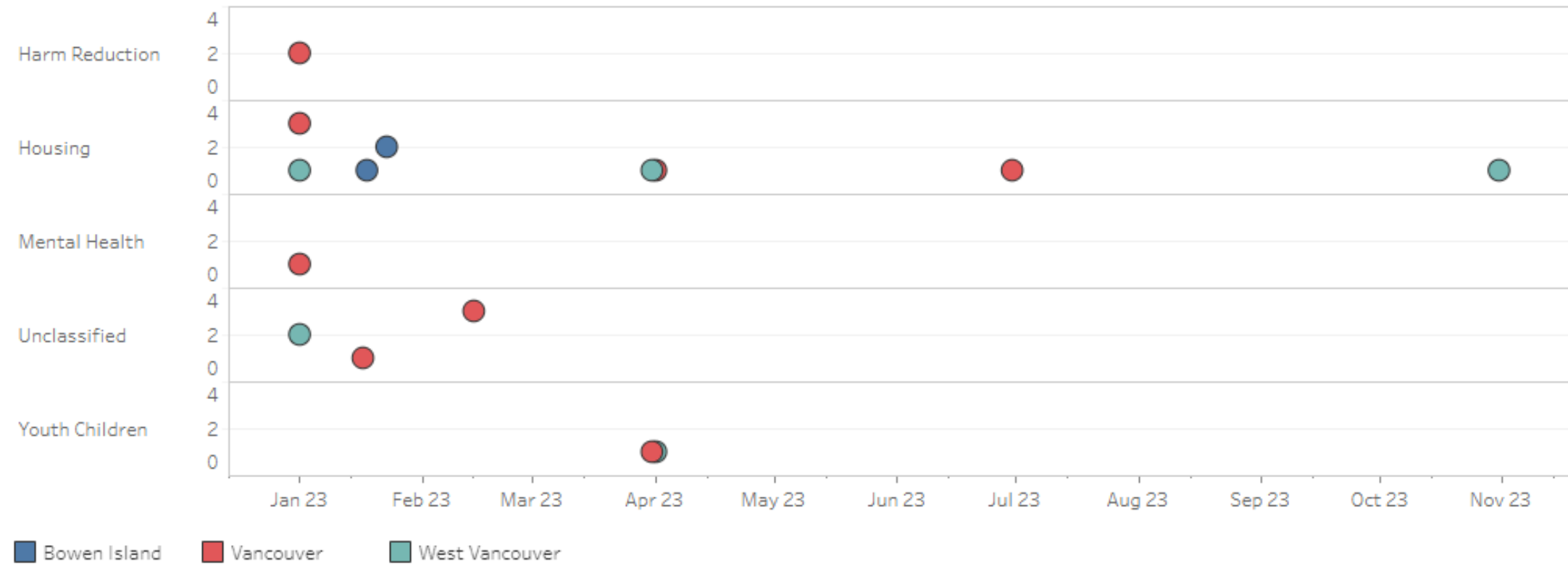
Location	Meeting Date	Section	Policy Proposal	Theme	Submitter
Bowen Island	Jan 2023	Agendas	Councillor Fast Opposed	Unclassified	
			RES#23-35 It was Moved and Seconded That Council approve the age..	Unclassified	
			Special Council Meeting January 30, 2023 BUSINESS ARISING FROM T..	Housing	
		FILEHEAD	Special Council Meeting January 30, 2023 Adopted on February 13, 2..	Housing	
		New Business	ADJOURNMENT By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 10:..	Unclassified	
			Move to a Closed meeting. RES#23-37 It was Moved and Seconded That Council move to a Closed Council meeting to discuss items pursu..	Harm Reduction Housing	
Dec 2022	Agendas	Page 1 of 7 Regular Council Meeting December 12, 2022	Unclassified		
		RES#22-596 It was Moved and Seconded That Council approve the ag..	Unclassified		

Policy Dashboard

Last updated:
Mar 31 2023, 14:26

Figure 1. Upcoming policy proposals by policy theme, date and Municipality

Municipality



Filters

Location
(All)

Meeting Date
05 Jan 2021 - 08 Feb 2023

Download date
27 Jan 2022 - 15 Feb 2023

Future Date
Jan 23 - Dec 23

Section
(Multiple values)

Theme

- (All)
- Harm Reduction
- Housing
- Mental Health
- Unclassified
- Youth Children

Table 1. Future policy proposals

Inform policy with knowledge curation and strategic influence



Policy Studio Process: A systematic approach to develop comprehensive and evidence-based healthy public policy strategies

- Enhance team competencies
- Build issue-specific knowledge
- Strengthen internal and external collaboration
- Creates a theory of change for policy advocacy
- Based on UBC Policy Studio approach
- Stages are non-linear, iterative and non-consecutive

How do we continue to develop healthy public policy as a core public health practice?

Cast a wide net to enhance capacity for healthy public policy

Diverse team training & experience

Public health & health sciences
Public engagement & planning
Policy analysis & advocacy
Governance & politics

Leveraging & building tools & competencies

Public health data & mandate
Policy monitoring
KT & engagement
Data vis & communications



Leadership support & organizational buy-in

Chief MHO as champion
Internal validation from outset
Broad support for upstream
population health approach

Collaboration with HPP leaders & innovators

NCCHPP & other NCCs
GNHiAP/CNHiAP
Health agencies (e.g. BCCDC)
Non-profit organizations

Implement systems and structures to support practice

Lead for Research, Practice & Evaluation

Reflexive practice, capacity building, strategy

Project management and collaboration

SmartSheet, Slack, Teams, SharePoint

HPP Scholars Program

BCAHL partnership to host post-secondary students for special projects

Knowledge production

Research engagement to understand population health issues and/or support HiAP practice

HPP Practitioner Portal (SharePoint Site)

Tools, frameworks, templates, case studies, webinars, dashboards, external links, archive

Healthy Public Policy Packages

Topic overview with focus on HPP action and strategic communication

Capacity Building Programming

Facilitated interactive sessions on priority topics or processes:
Local Government 101, Working with MHOs, Understanding Power, Framing, etc.

Tell the story of how we influence public policy

- 1 Show the value of HPPU processes and practice
- 2 Illustrate the collective impact of HPPU work

