

# Post-Pandemic Recovery Planning Report Summary: Health Care and Social Services in Sarnia Lambton

Detailed findings and recommendations for local stakeholders reported in the Post-Pandemic Workforce & Economic Recovery in Sarnia Lambton are available at [www.slwdb.org/pandemic-recovery](http://www.slwdb.org/pandemic-recovery).



## Highlight on Local Impacts

- Long term care homes reported shortages in care staff including nurses, PSWs, home aides and support staff.
- Levels of poor mental health were 4x higher than pre-pandemic and lowest level of life satisfaction in recorded history across Canada, according to Statistics Canada
- Mental health services, including in hospital care, were over-saturated with high acuity adult and youth cases
- Over 150 hotel room accommodations secured by Lambton County for displaced residents and our central food bank reported 4x its normal demand
- Social assistance services reported their lowest caseload in recent history; caseload is anticipated to grow as individuals seek to re-enter the post-pandemic labour force

## Highlights on Labour and Skills Shortages

- Second greatest decline in employment across industries in the region during the first wave of the pandemic
  - 7,200 fewer employees in November 2020 vs 2019
- Top local in-demand occupations (June 1 2020 - March 1 2021) were Home support workers including Personal Support Workers

Home support workers,  
housekeepers and  
related occupations  
(NOC 4412)

**524**

Registered & Licensed  
Practical Nurses  
(NOC 3233 + 3012)

**170**

Social and Community  
service workers  
(NOC 4152 + 4212)

**135**



Job posting data source:

**WISL**  
WORK IN SARNIA LAMBTON



## Recommendations for Strengthening our Local Workforce

- Continued active collaboration and partnerships supported by the Sarnia Lambton Social Services Network and Bluewater Health
- Ongoing adaptation of virtual models for client support services, including addressing accessibility issues and barriers
- Recruitment task force focused on filling the gaps and retaining skilled workers in the health care and social service workforce of Sarnia Lambton
- Skills development and training opportunities for in demand occupations that are accessible, affordable and flexible to accommodate the diverse lifestyles of learners