

A CHECK-UP ON THE MUNICIPAL ROLE IN HEALTH

AMO
Conference
August 2018



MUNICIPAL INTEREST

- Municipal governments concern themselves with broader health issues because overall population health is essential to the economic and social well-being of communities.
- AMO's over 400 municipal members play a significant role in the public and health care systems, one that is often overlooked by the Province.
- Municipal governments are partners in the funding and delivery of several provincial health programs.
- Residents are looking to their municipal councils to represent their community interests concerning health care to the institutions, providers, and the Province.

Issues that motivate to vote municipally

> Healthcare/Services offered by the city

20%

> Electing a good leader/
Benefit of communities

16%

> Infrastructure

9%

> Tax increases

8%

> Fiscal management

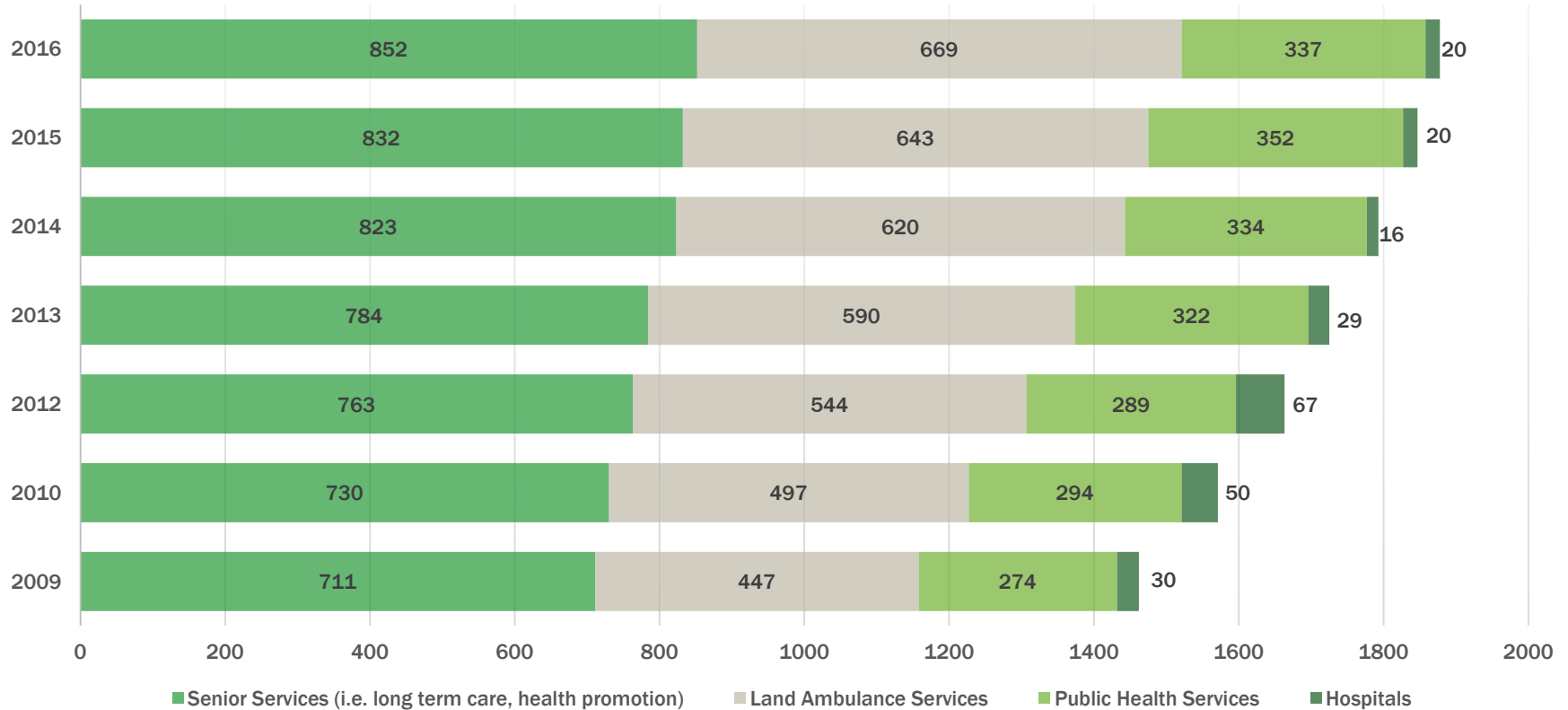
8%

> Housing

8%

MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTION

MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEALTH OPERATING EXPENSES (\$ IN MILLIONS)



Most valued service provided by local government

> Health care

17%

> Public works/
Infrastructure

14%

> Safety and
emergency services

13%

> Water

8%

> Garbage/Recycling
pick up

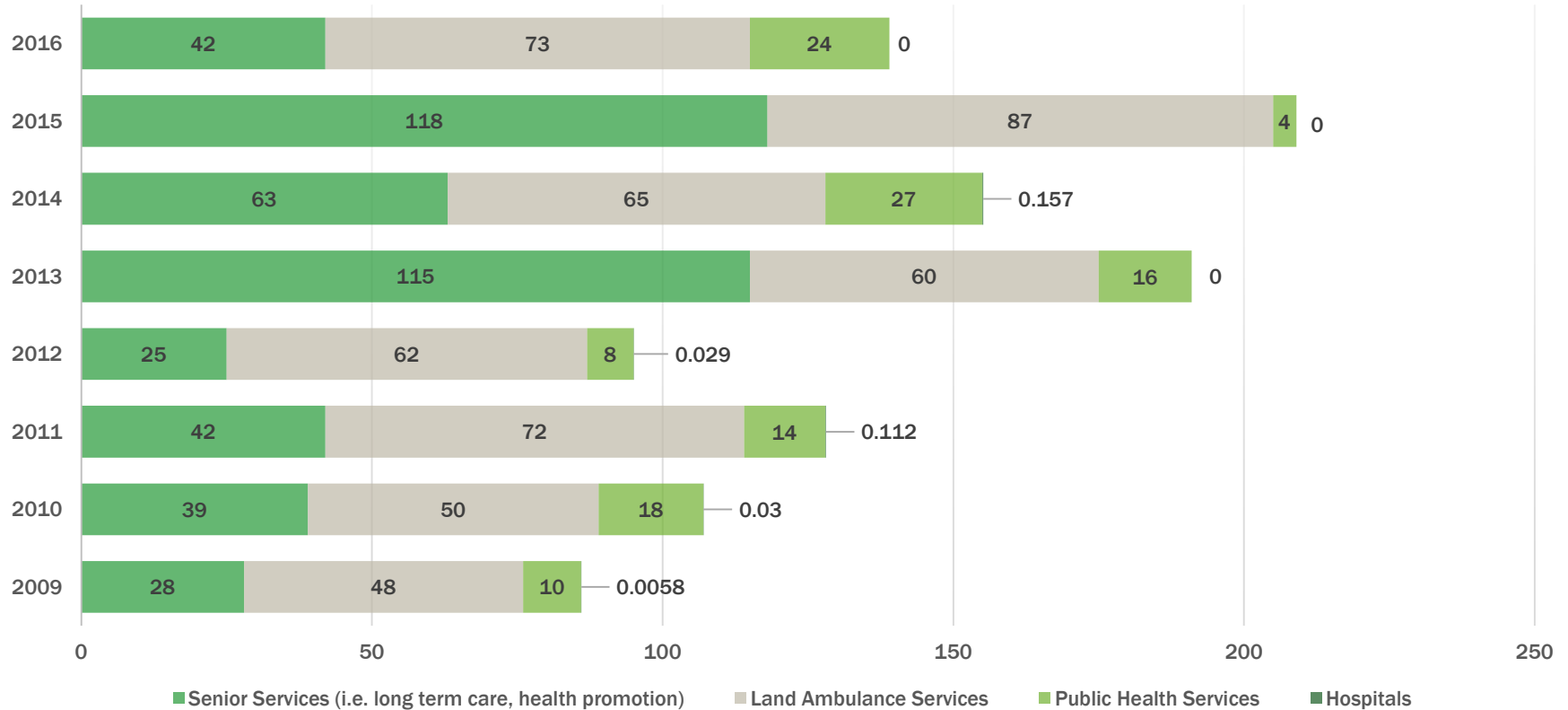
6%

> Nothing

5%

MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTION

MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEALTH CAPITAL EXPENSES (\$ IN MILLIONS)





MUNICIPAL ROLE

- Municipal governments are continuing to involve themselves in planning and advocating about the health care system.
- It is appropriate that the municipal sector have a well-considered voice that is heard regarding health care and public health transformation, policy and planning decisions.
- AMO's members question why they are funding health care, an area of provincial jurisdiction and one that was never intended to be funded off the municipal property tax levy.

PRINCIPLES – MUNICIPAL ROLE

Recommendations are based on the following principles:



PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE TRANSFORMATION

Further, public policy for health transformation should be driven by the following principles:

1. Strengthen Patient-Centered Care

2. Improve Access to High Quality Health Services

3. Equity in Health Outcomes

4. Flexible/One Size Doesn't Fit All

5. Sustainability

6. Good Public and Fiscal Policy

7. Good Governance and Funding

8. Good Planning

9. Accountable

10. Transparent



MUNICIPAL ENGAGEMENT

- Engagement with AMO and member municipal governments as an order of government, not merely a stakeholder is needed and appropriate.
- This is especially important on the cost-shared programs such as public health, long-term care, and Emergency Medical Services.
- An important step is for the Province to mandate in legislation a municipal voice into health care service planning and decision-making by the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs).



LONG-TERM CARE HOMES

- Long-Term Care Homes have evolved since its inception from primarily residential care for seniors to becoming health care providers for an increasingly complex patient group with high acuity needs.
- Providing this service has become increasingly costly and administratively burdensome in a highly regulated sector. It is questionable whether municipal property taxes should top up provincial funding for what is essentially a primary health care service.



LTCH (CONTINUED)

- AMO has asked the Province for greater flexibility on the type of seniors' services that municipal governments provide which may or may not include long-term care homes.
- For those municipal governments wishing to continue to provide long-term care, a review of the funding model and a greater role for AMO in provincial policy, planning, and funding decisions is needed.



MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS

- The mental health of residents that municipal governments serve can have impacts on the ability to access services.
- Municipal governments and District Social Service Administration Boards and our staff are on the front-lines and often the first point of contact with people presenting with mental health conditions and addictions.
- Further conversation is needed to determine the appropriate and adequate provincial role in addressing mental health and addictions among residents in municipalities.



OPIOID CRISIS RESPONSE

Summary:

- The opioid crisis is affecting communities' right across the province.
- Municipal governments and Public Health Units are responding in various ways.
- More provincial support of these local efforts within the context of a multi-faceted strategy and a provincially funded action plan is needed.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- At its core, ambulance service is health care. Municipal governments currently have this responsibility for local delivery under legislation and co-fund it from the property tax base.
- Measures are needed to mitigate against rising costs and to ensure that the Province pays its actual cost-share proportion.
- Municipal governments need a greater role in provincial policy making and planning. It is not fair or reasonable that the Province makes all the decisions on the EMS service that municipal governments cost-share. Pay for say needs to be addressed constructively.



EMS (CONTINUED)

Outstanding Issues:

- Rising call volumes
- Dispatch Improvements
- Non-Urgent Transfers



EMS (CONTINUED)

Outstanding issues:

- Fire-Medic
- Community Paramedicine funding



PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

- Municipal governments play a role in attracting health care professionals to underserved jurisdictions by providing incentives and promoting the local community.
- It is not appropriate nor fair for municipal governments to respond to this primary care issue using the property tax base.
- A critical examination of a new way forward with greater provincial leadership and funding is required to improve access to health services across Ontario.



HOSPITALS

Summary:

- Hospital funding and community planning issues are a challenge for Ontario's municipal governments.
- Hospital funding should not be provided from the property tax base.
- A 'government-to-government' conversation on the municipal role in relation to hospitals is needed and long overdue.



PUBLIC HEALTH

- Municipalities play a major role, often as the employer, and have significant responsibilities in delivering public health services.
- With roots as a municipal responsibility, but also considering the province-wide interest in public health, it is appropriate that it is a provincial-municipal cost-shared system. This should be enshrined in legislation, not just as a matter of policy.
- As the representative for municipal co-funders, AMO needs a greater role and voice in provincial policy, planning, and funding decisions.
- AMO remains opposed to the recommendations by the Expert Panel which proposed unnecessary and radical restructuring, and urges the new government not to consider or adopt them.



INDIGENOUS HEALTH

- Indigenous people living in Ontario face lower health outcomes when compared to non-Indigenous Ontario residents.
- The provincial and federal governments should do more to promote and support Indigenous developed and delivered health services in municipal, First Nation, and other community settings.
- More support to municipal-Indigenous collaboration in service provision with tools and resources wherever appropriate to maximize health outcomes for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous municipal service users is needed.
- A review of the funding mechanisms for transportation and accommodation services as well as support services that are needed when Indigenous People must travel to regional hubs to access health care.



OTHER HEALTH INTERESTS

Cannabis Legalization

Accessibility

Healthy Built Environment

Housing – Social and Supportive



LOOKING FORWARD

- At a strategic level, municipal governments need to consider their evolving role and participation in both health planning and provision as it becomes more patient-centric and community driven.
- The municipal role within a broader province-wide vision for health care needs clear articulation.



NEXT STEPS

- AMO staff are developing the policy discussion paper.
- Target date for release to the AMO Membership - Fall 2018.
- Discussions with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and other relevant ministries is expected.
- If you have input into the policy paper, please contact mjacek@amo.on.ca.



DISCUSSION

Audience is encouraged to share:

- Your thoughts on broader health interests that municipal governments need to represent their local resident interests.
- Experience in your municipality engaging with LHINs and/or the Ministry on health care planning and funding.
- Pressures on cost-shared services such as EMS, Public Health, or Long-Term Care.



AMO Annual Conference 2018