



SLSP | SHARED LIBRARY
SERVICES
PARTNERSHIP

Report

2019-2022

©2022

SUMMARY

Since March 2012, the Shared Library Services Partnership (SLSP) funded by Public Health Ontario (PHO) has delivered library services to 22 health units across Ontario.

Despite fluctuations in standard operating procedures and remote working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the SLSP provided access to a library professional, health information, timely resources, and research guidance to support evidence-informed decision-making needs.

CORE SERVICES

The SLSP maintains the following core library services with client health units as per the SLSP Service Level Agreement:

- **Comprehensive Literature Searching:** systematic and unbiased identification, retrieval, and bibliographic management of research studies to inform public health decision making
- **Article Retrieval:** provision of rush document requests or standard delivery within 1 – 2 business days
- **Reference Questions:** short answers on a variety of topics (e.g., citation identification, non-legal advice regarding copyright inquires, etc.)
- **Library-Related Training:** facilitated research training
- **Help Desk Support:** technical support when using library resources and services
- **Material Loans:** delivery of books and reports

IN ADDITION

The SLSP is committed to **reducing provincial duplication** through interagency collaboration, provision of support to Public Health Ontario Library, standardization of peer reviewed search strings, and province-wide collection and distribution of information on a variety of topics.

HOW DOES THE SLSP REDUCE DUPLICATION?

Library Staff

1. With permission, SLSP librarians share requests and gather search language from one another to efficiently supply results on research topics.
2. The SLSP shares and standardizes search language, to provide quick turnaround time on high quality systematic searches for clients.
3. Library staff share topical, evidence-based resources to raise awareness and reduce duplication of effort.

Health Units

1. When a health unit engages an SLSP librarian to support a research project, staff questions may be sent to the Ontario Public Health Library Association (OPHLA) members to see if:
 - a) another health unit is working on a similar request,
 - b) there is potential to build on a previous project, or,
 - c) staff may be able to collaborate and share resources.
2. As noted in the Auditor General report, there has been “significant duplication of effort and instances of variation in the depth of the research and type of information gathered.”^{1 pp.529} Collaboration for larger in-depth research projects helps reduce duplication and standardize methodological approaches.

¹ Office of the Auditor General of Ontario. Annual report 2017. Volume 1. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2017. Chapter 3, section 3.10, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care: public health: chronic disease prevention; p. 527-69. Available from: <https://collections.ola.org/ser/9093/2017/2017vol1.pdf>

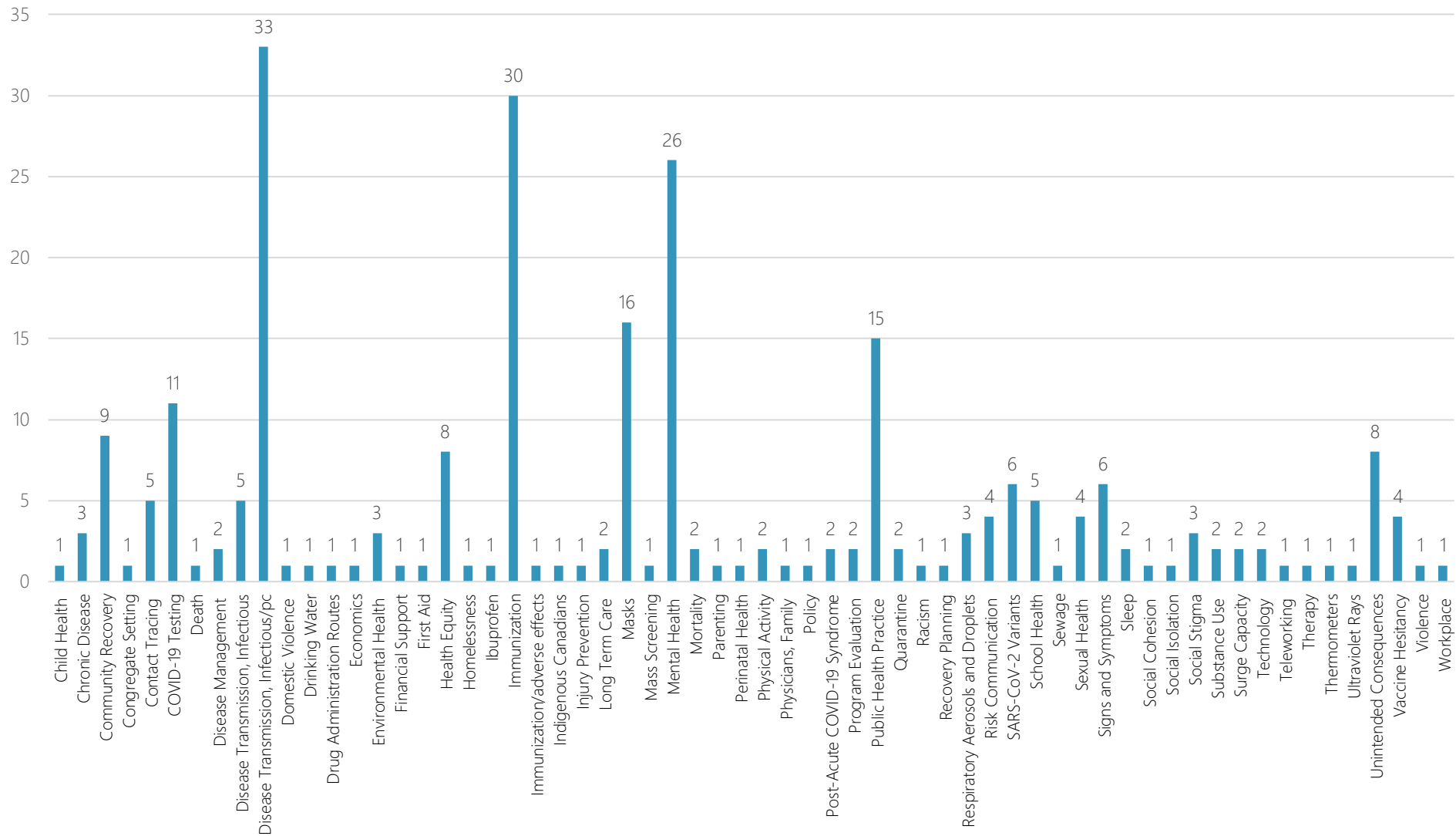
PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH TOPICS

The table below provides an overview of **585 topics** submitted to SLSP libraries from October 2019 – September 2022. While not all questions are the same, joint search language, shared health resources, and facilitation of collaborative work on similar topics helps increase capacity for evidence-based research.

Topic	# of Topics	Topic Continued...	# of Topics
Absenteesim	1	New Canadians	1
Botulism	2	Oral health	10
Breastfeeding	3	Parenting	13
Built Environment	1	Peer Model	7
Cancer Prevention	1	Perinatal Health	8
Cannabis	11	Pharmacies	1
Child Day Care Centres	1	Physical Fitness	4
Chronic Disease	5	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis	2
Community Health Services	1	Public Health Practice	19
Congregate Setting	1	Quality Improvement	1
COVID-19	214	Recovery Planning	1
Dental Health	5	Remote Work	4
Diet, Healthy	10	Residence Characteristics	3
Disaster Planning	4	Respiratory Tract Infections	2
Disease Management	5	Risk Communication	2
Disease Transmission, Infectious/pc	8	Rural Health	2
Economic Evaluation	2	School Health	7
Education	1	Sendentary Behavior	1
Employees	5	Sentinel Surveillance	1
Environmental Health	18	Sexual Health	13
Food Security	2	Sleep	3
Gambling	1	Social Captial	1
Gonorrhoea	1	Social Interaction	1
Health Care Providers	1	Social Isolation	1
Health Communication	5	Social Media	3
Health Disparity, Minority and Vulnerable Populations	8	Sociodemographic Factors	2
Health Equity	18	Stigma	4
Health Policy	6	Substances	23
Health promotion	5	Sun Safety	2
Health Services Accessibility	2	Surveys and Questionnaires	2
Hepatitis C	1	Technology	4
HIV	1	Teleworking	5
Homelessness	7	Therapy Animals	1
Hospitals	3	Tobacco and E-Cigarettes	7
Immunization	7	Trichloroethylene	1
Indigenous Canadians	3	Tuberculosis	1
Infant Health	1	Violence	4
Injury Prevention	2	Vision Disorders	1
Long-Term Care	2	Wastewater	1
Low Income	2	Weight Prejudice	1
Lyme Disease	1	Wounds and Injuries	7
Mental Health	30	Grand Total	585

COVID-19 SUB-TOPICS RESEARCHED

The graph below provides a break down of the sub-topics for **214 COVID-19 research questions** received by SLSP librarians. For time sensitive COVID-19 requests, lists of resources and follow-up deliverables were forwarded to the Ontario Public Health Library Association members for dissemination to clientele.





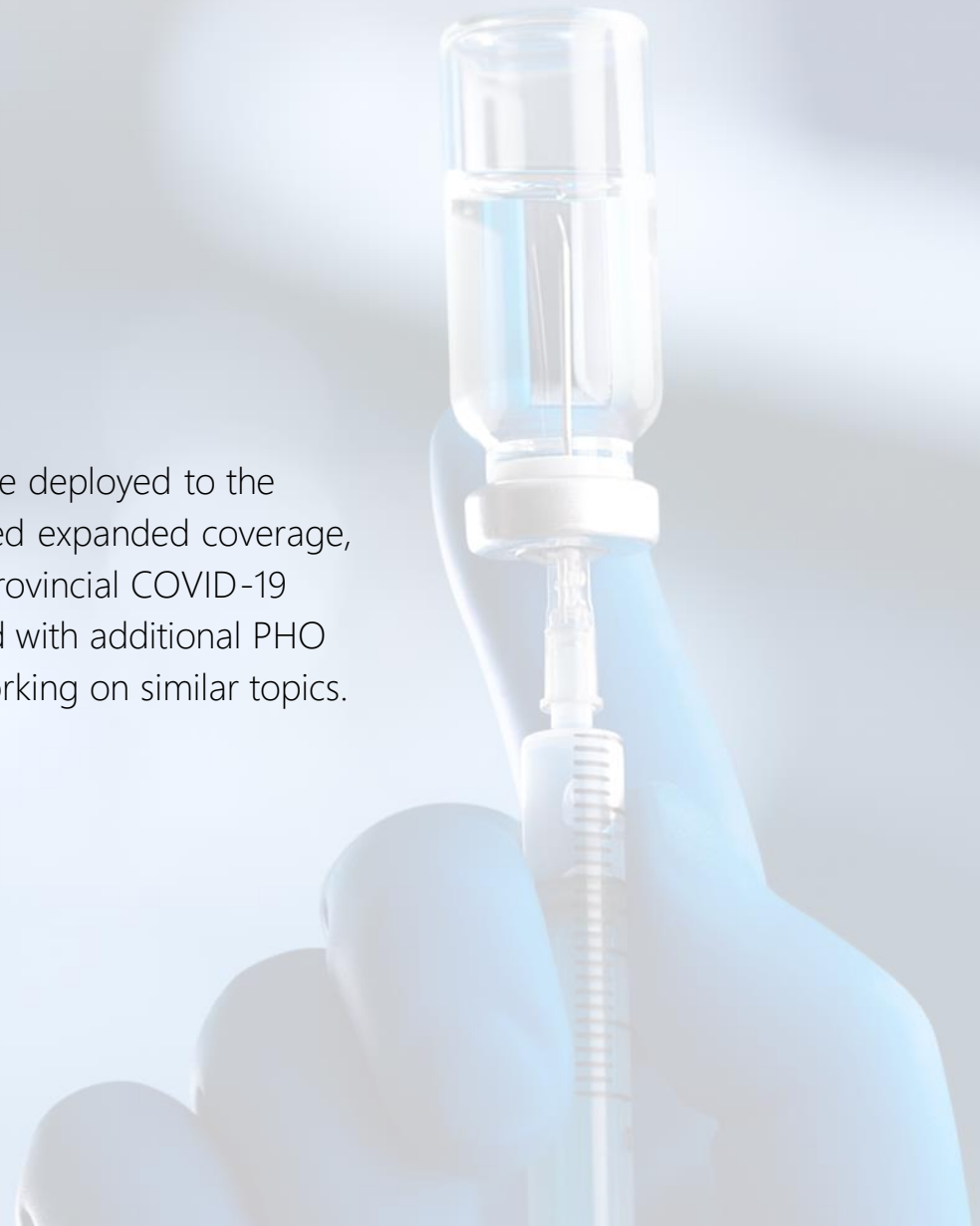
ADDED VALUE

In addition to core library services and provincial collaboration, SLSP libraries support client health units in the following ways:

- Online Support: access to databases, online resources, full text articles and training
- Research Assistance: differentiated from training and literature searching, research assistance is consultative in nature and includes the librarian as part of a team
- Custom Tools: www.slsp.ca website, live online searches, newsletters, standardized peer reviewed shared language spreadsheet, and more

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

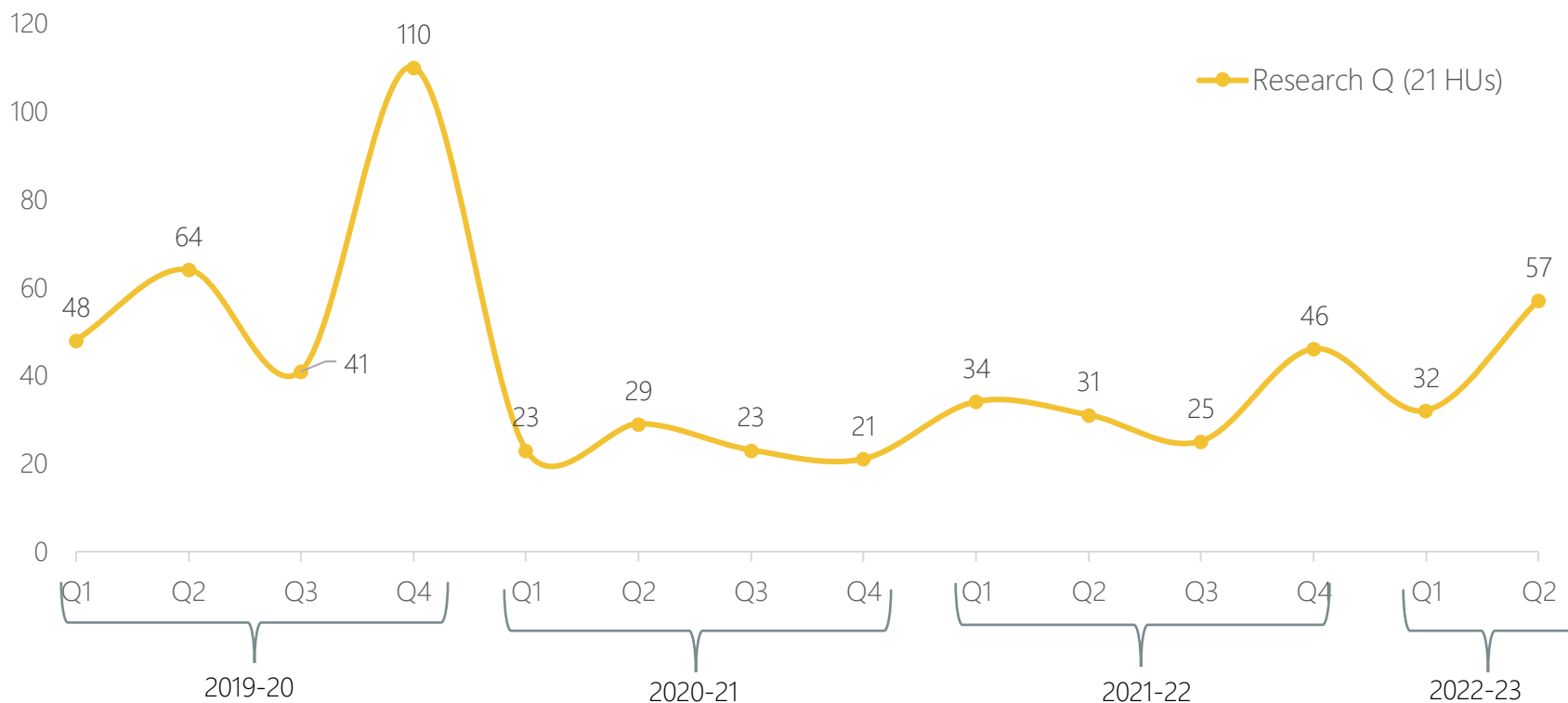
During the pandemic, some SLSP library staff were deployed to the COVID-19 response. Remaining SLSP staff provided expanded coverage, supported rush research requests, assisted with provincial COVID-19 projects, disseminated timely information, assisted with additional PHO projects, and connected client health unit staff working on similar topics.



UTILIZATION OF SERVICES

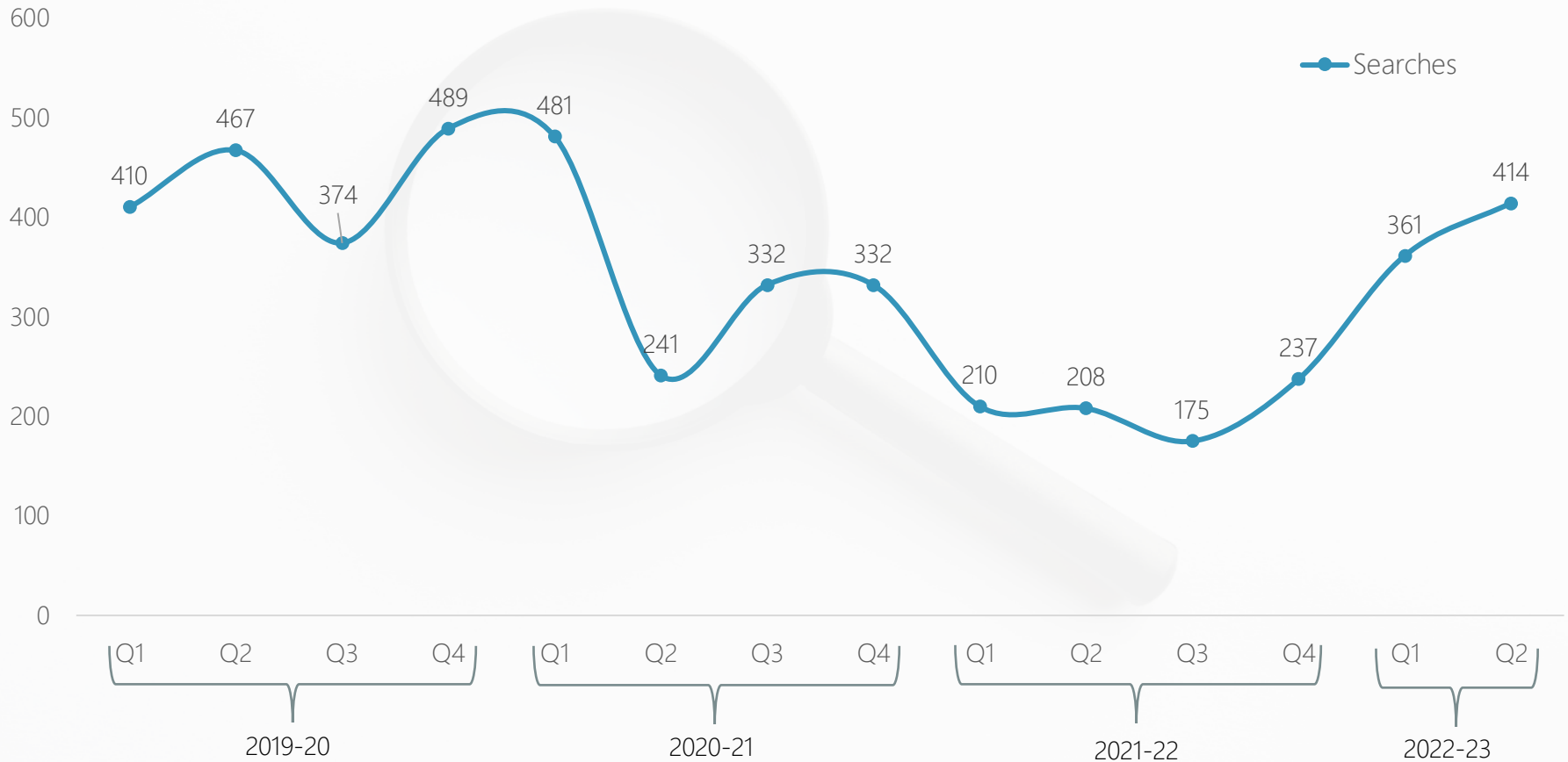
The following graphs demonstrate the number of client requests from all **22 SLSP client health units** combined from April 1st, 2019, to September 30th, 2022. In line with the rapidly evolving landscape of COVID-19, the library experienced a decrease in requests from clients during periods of high community infection and vaccine roll-out, as deployed health unit staff continued work within COVID-19 response teams and immunization clinics.

of Research Questions (requests for research assistance on a public health topic)



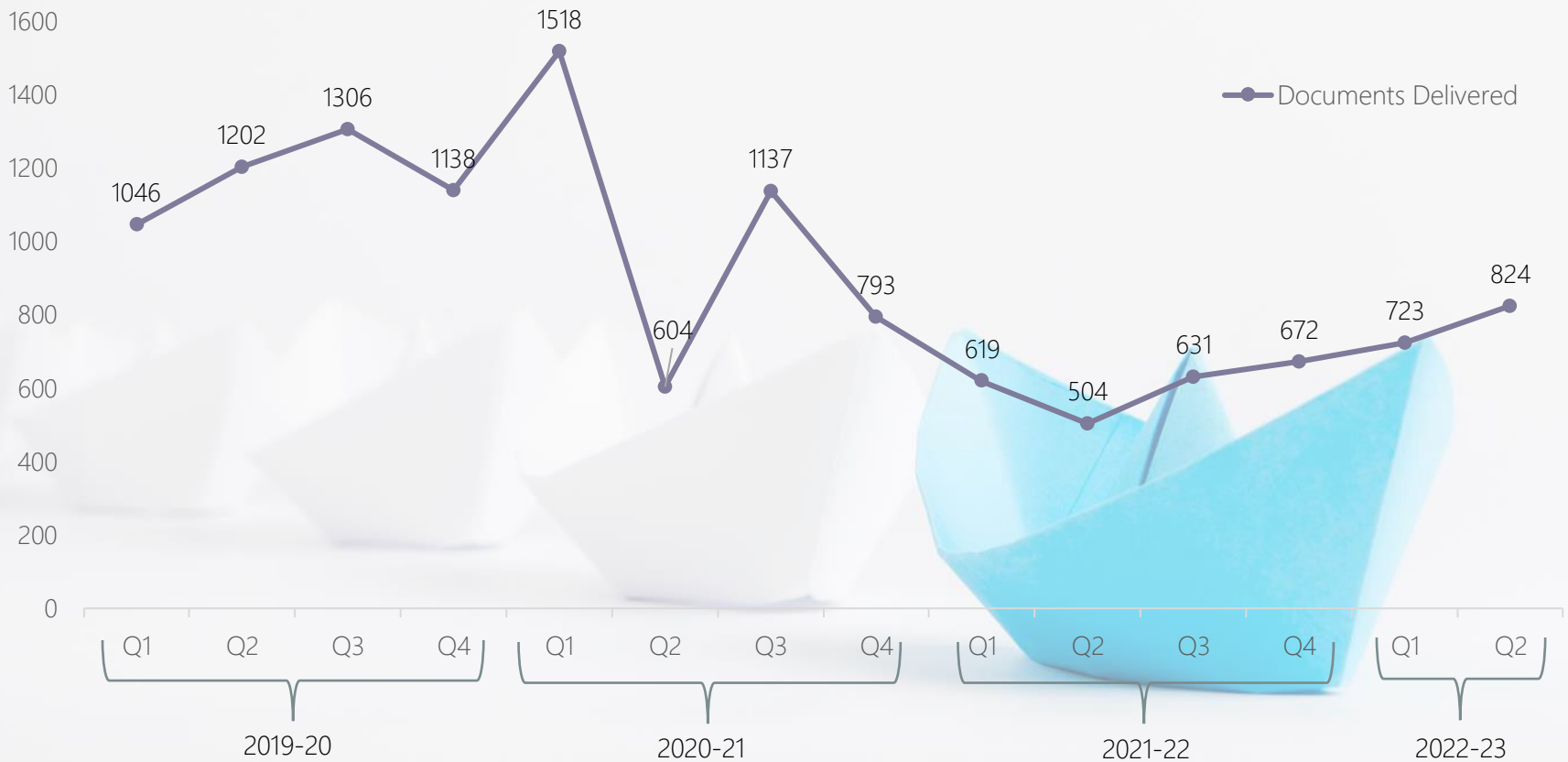
UTILIZATION OF SERVICES

of Searches Executed (individual databases and website repositories searched for a research question)



UTILIZATION OF SERVICES

of Documents Delivered (full text articles, books, and/or reports sent from in-house collections or via interlibrary loan)
The number of interlibrary loan requests decreased in 2021-22 due to an increase in open access COVID-19 research articles.

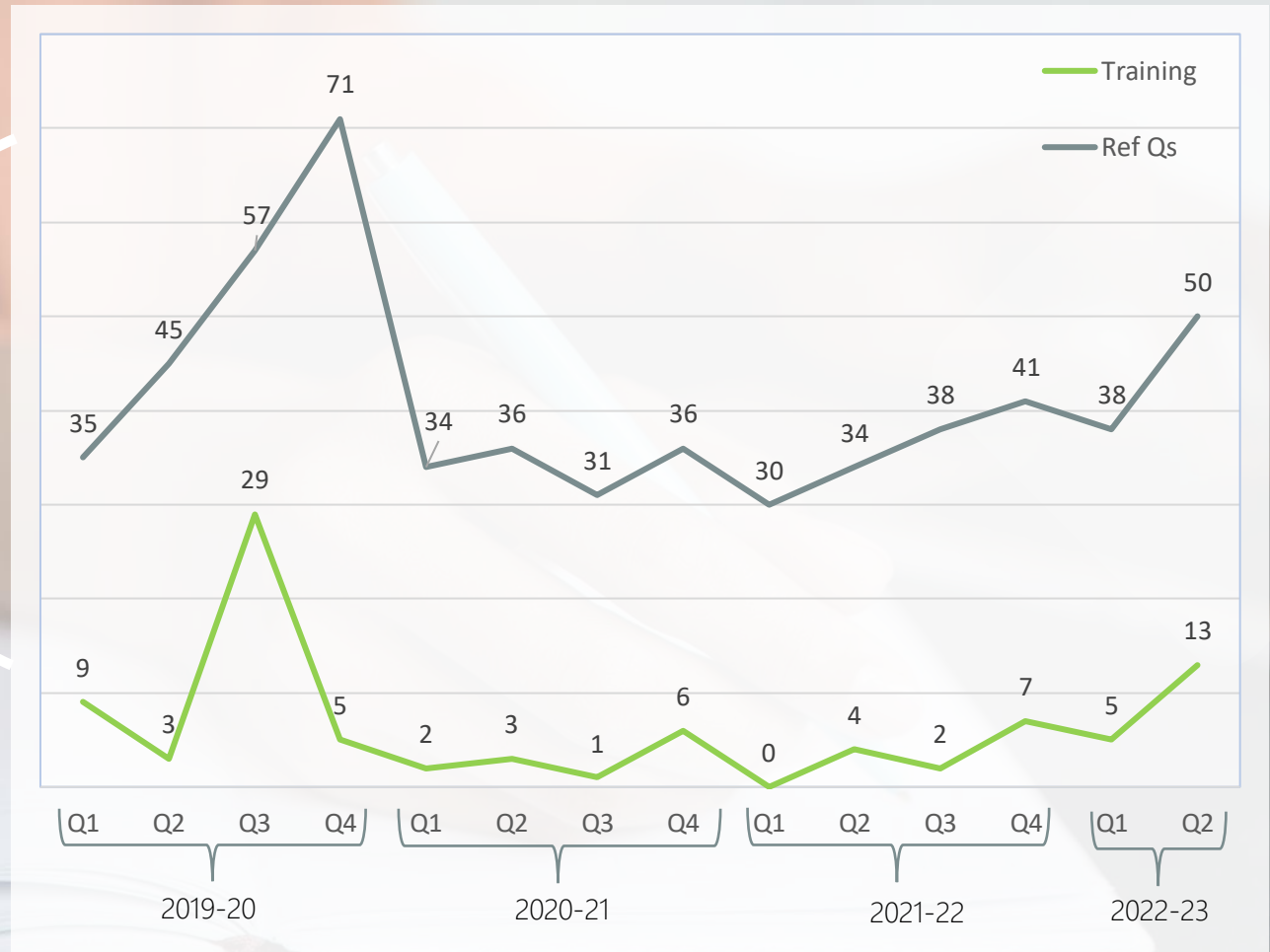
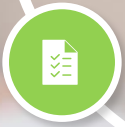


UTILIZATION OF SERVICES

of Reference Questions:
Quick questions
(i.e., citation verification,
bibliographic referencing,
suitability and verification of
websites, non-legal copyright
advice, etc.)



of Training Sessions/Consultations:
Total number of library
training sessions and
research consultations
(delivered in-person or
online)



NEXT STEPS

In addition to this Annual Report, the SLSP will be gathering feedback from our client health unit library liaisons to investigate evidence needs for 2022-23 to improve access to research services.

CLIENT HEALTH UNITS

1. Are encouraged to share this report internally with managers and program staff
2. Discuss potential supports required of the SLSP librarian during COVID-19 pandemic recovery and beyond
3. Consider literature searches or current content awareness that may be required to support operational planning activities (i.e., situational assessments)
4. Assess staff training needs (virtual or in-person)
5. Request assistance utilizing library journals, databases, or grey literature for evidence-informed decision making

For additional information or questions regarding SLSP services, please contact your SLSP librarian:

KFL&A Public Health

Email: library@kflaph.ca

Teams: jbeehler@kflaph.ca

Phone: 1-800-267-7875 ext. 1659

Middlesex London Health Unit

Email: library@mlhu.on.ca

Teams: valentina.young@mlhu.on.ca

Phone: 519-663-5317 ext. 5320

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Email: hublibrary@smdhu.org

Teams: amy.faulkner@smdhu.org

Phone: 1-877-721-7520 ext. 7368

Thunder Bay District Health Unit

Email: dlibrary@tbdhu.com

Teams: tracey.zurich@tbdhu.com

Phone: 807-625-8309