



Your local Family Health Team is a member of



The Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario works with and on behalf of family health teams as the advocate, champion, network, and resource center for Family Health Teams, to support them in improving and delivering optimal inter-professional care. Over 80% of FHTs belong to AFHTO.

[www.afhto.ca](http://www.afhto.ca)

## Family Health Teams



Ontario's innovation in team-based primary care:

- Improving access to health care
- Promoting health and reducing the impact of chronic disease
- Potential to reduce the total cost of care.

**How are Family Health Teams serving your community? ...**

## Family Health Teams improve access to care.

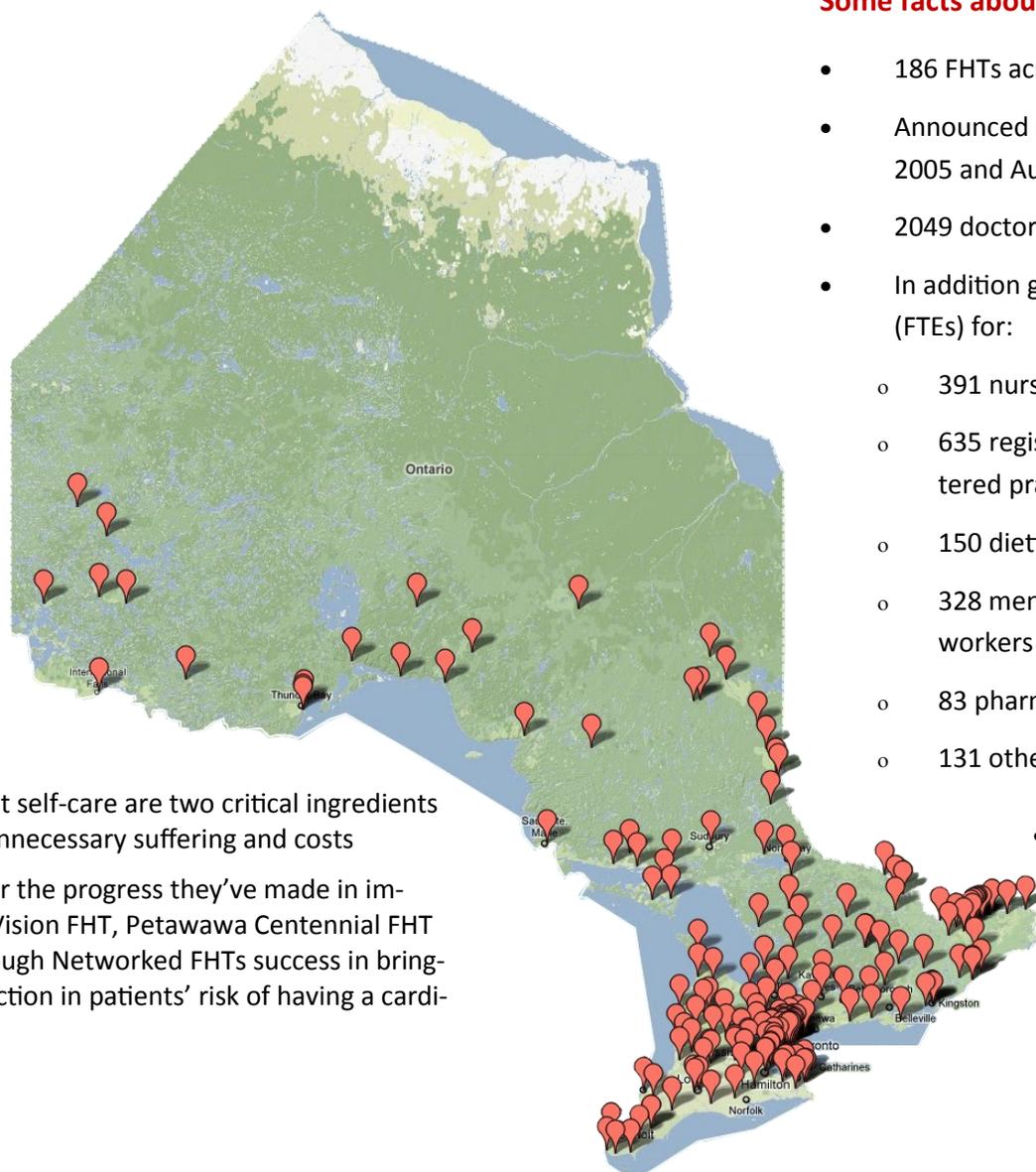
- “The first choice of Ontario’s family medicine residents is now to practice in FHTs.”  
*Dr. Walter Rosser, New England Journal of Medicine*
- FHTs have made it easier for rural and northern communities to recruit health professionals.
- FHTs have enrolled 550,000 patients who previously had no regular doctor.
- Many FHTs have reduced waits for appointments. Three have been profiled as case studies in Health Quality Ontario reports — Athens District FHT, North York FHT, and Smithville Medical Centre FHT.

## Family Health Teams promote health and reduce the impact of chronic disease.

- Interprofessional care and support for patient self-care are two critical ingredients to reduce risk, slow progression, and avoid unnecessary suffering and costs
- Health Quality Ontario profiled three FHTs for the progress they’ve made in improving the quality of diabetes care — New Vision FHT, Petawawa Centennial FHT and Timmins FHT. HQO also noted Peterborough Networked FHTs success in bringing together partners to achieve a 50% reduction in patients’ risk of having a cardiac event risk in the next 10 years.

## Family Health Teams have the potential to reduce the total cost of care.

- One in 3 Ontarians live with one or more chronic diseases. Health Quality Ontario reported these diseases are directly or indirectly linked to 55% of all health costs (*2011 Report*). If treatment targets were reached, HQO estimated we could avoid over 8,000 heart attacks, 4,000 strokes, 600 coronary bypass operations, 600 balloon angioplasties, 350 amputations, and 8,000 deaths (*2008 Report*).
- With interprofessional teams and a focus on chronic disease prevention and management, FHTs can reduce avoidable suffering, emergency visits and use of more expensive health services.
- With support to make full use of electronic medical records (EMRs) and performance measurement, FHTs could accelerate their ability to improve health and reduce the total cost of care for their patients.



## Some facts about Family Health Teams:

- 186 FHTs across Ontario
- Announced in five waves, between April 2005 and August 2010.
- 2049 doctors work in FHTs.
- In addition government funds positions (FTEs) for:
  - 391 nurse practitioners (NPs)
  - 635 registered nurses (RNs) and registered practical nurses (RPNs)
  - 150 dietitians
  - 328 mental health workers and social workers
  - 83 pharmacists
  - 131 other health professionals
- More than 2.6 million Ontarians — that’s one in five — are currently enrolled in Family Health Teams.