

# A MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR

Linda Beers, MPH



In lieu of our traditional newsletter this February, we are pleased to share our 2025 Impact Highlights. This year marks my sixteenth with the department, and I remain proud of our collective efforts to improve the health of the people living in Essex County.

As we look ahead, our focus is on strengthening rural healthcare and implementing strategic planning for the future.

We invite you to click through the flipbook below to explore the full report of our activities and achievements by clicking the link below.

## Key Accomplishments & Milestones

- **Innovative Access to Care:** The department launched Community Care Kiosks in three locations in the county to provide wellness and safety supplies at no cost. These units offer access to items such as condoms, first aid kits, sunscreen, gun locks, Narcan, fentanyl test strips, tick kits and more.
- **Community Voice & Data 2025:** Served as a cycle year for the Community Health Needs Survey. 562 residents shared their perspectives on local health challenges they face. This survey has led to our completion of the 2026-2030 Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan.
- **Community Campaigns:** Our outreach efforts included the launch of the See Our Trails, Not Our Jails campaign, designed to reduce DWIs and prevent alcohol-related incidents. Additionally, we debuted a new anti-vaping campaign on the Port Henry billboard, featuring a design chosen by local students.

## Looking Ahead

With the completion of our 2025 Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan, we now have a clear roadmap to guide our initiatives through 2026 and beyond. Our commitment remains steadfast: ensuring that public health departments, hospitals, and healthcare providers continue to serve as your most trusted sources of health information.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in building a healthier Essex County.



**HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT**

# ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

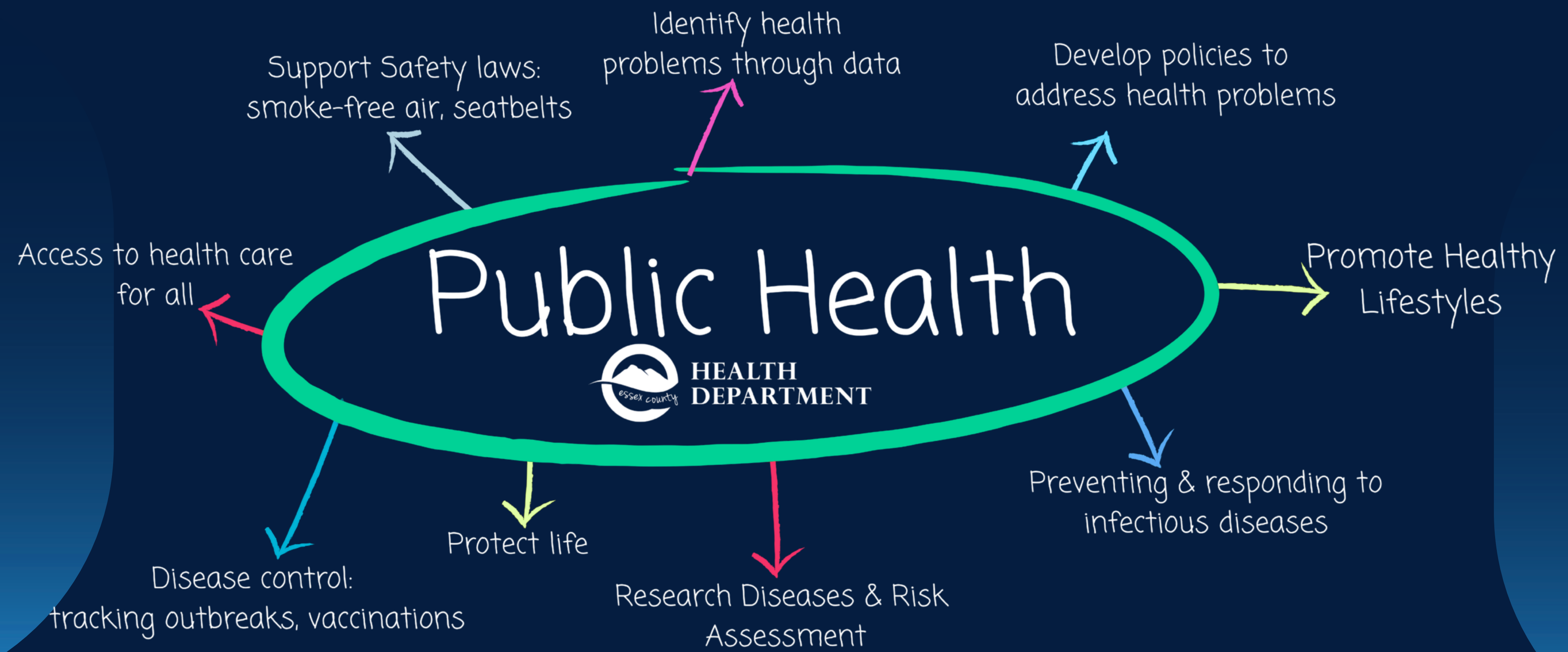
## 2025 Impact Highlights



HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT



# HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & MILESTONES

## Community Care Kiosks

The department launched health kiosks providing supplies at no cost.

These units offer first aid kits, condoms, sunscreen, Narcan, fentanyl test strips, tick kits and more!



ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY CARE KIOSK

## NO COST SUPPLIES

FOR OUR DAILY LIVES

# COMMUNITY HEALTH

2025 was a cycle year for the Community Health Needs Survey

562 Survey Participants!

## COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY 2025 - WHAT RESIDENTS TOLD US:

# We're All Ears...

Most important features of a strong, vibrant, healthy community:



Fill out our Community Health Needs Survey



Affordable housing



Livable wages



Access to healthcare



Safe neighborhoods



Good schools

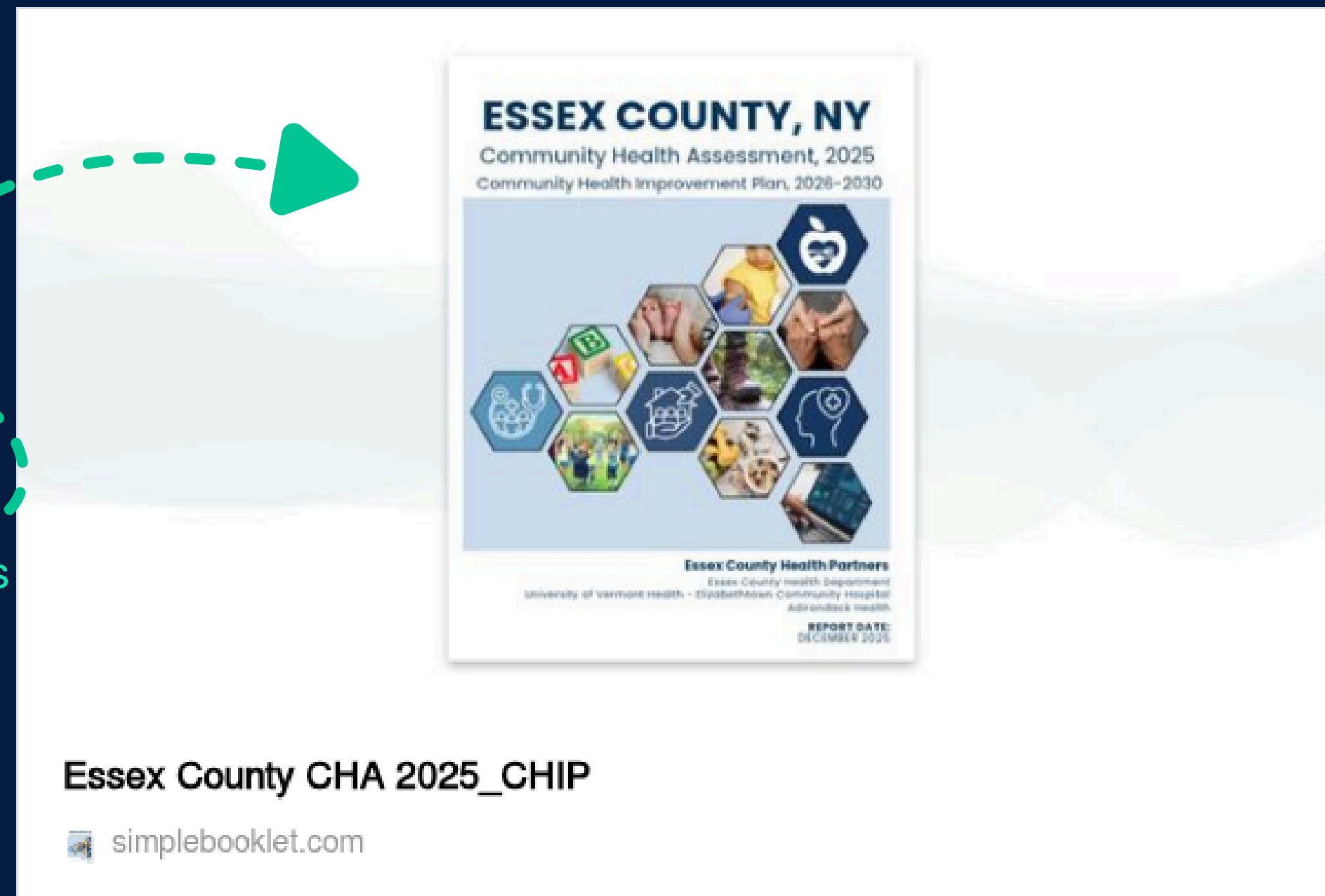
These were followed by:  
a clean environment and resources for older adults.

Your Most Trusted Sources of Health Information (top 3):

- Healthcare providers
- Health departments
- Hospitals

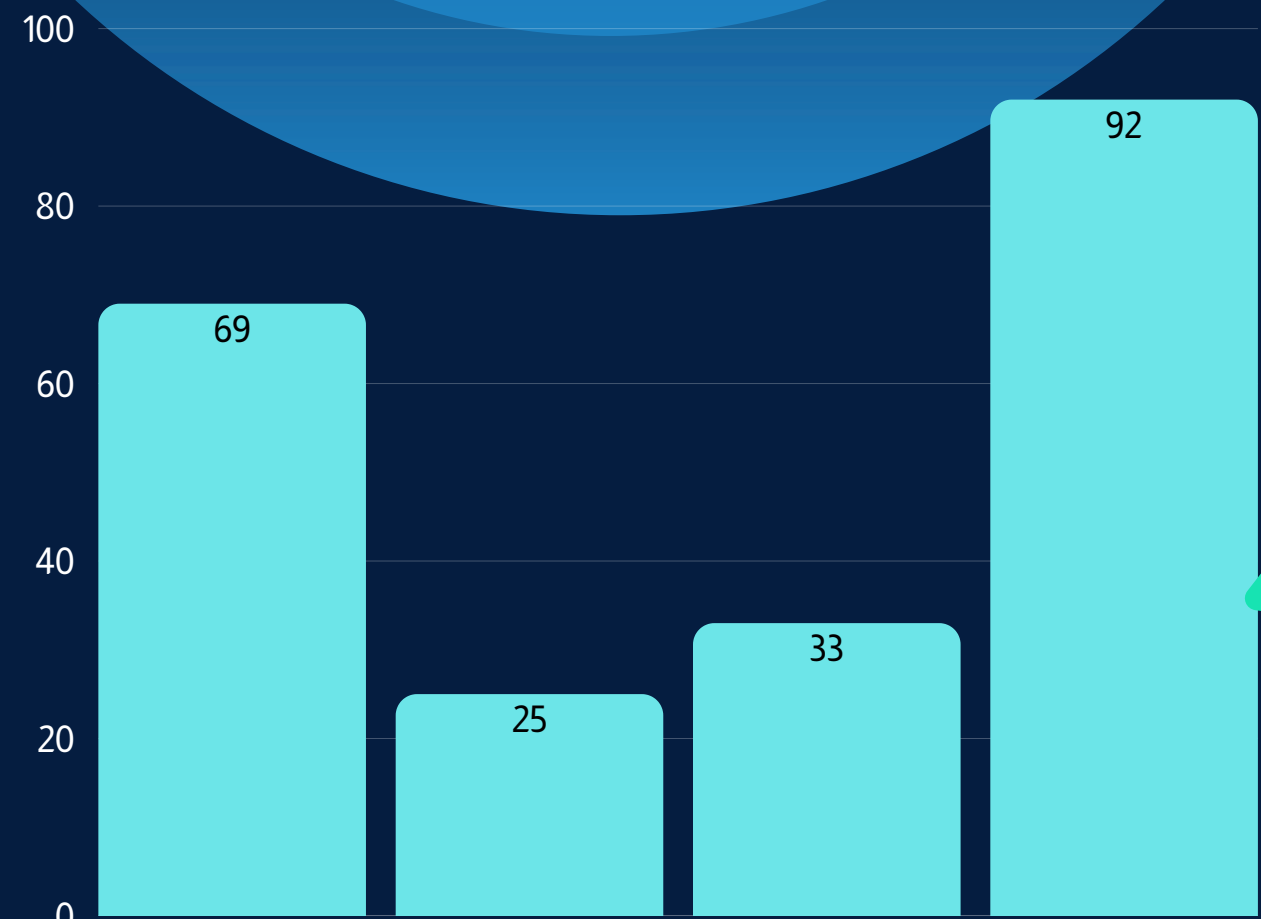
# COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT COMPLETE!

Click/tap through key pages of the report



# PROGRAMS & SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

● Vaccines Given



Vaccine For Children Doses  
Vaccine for Adult Doses  
All Other Private Doses  
EC Employee Flu Clinic Doses

## Communicable Disease Control:



Our team managed 1,181 respiratory illness investigations



428 arthropod-borne disease cases



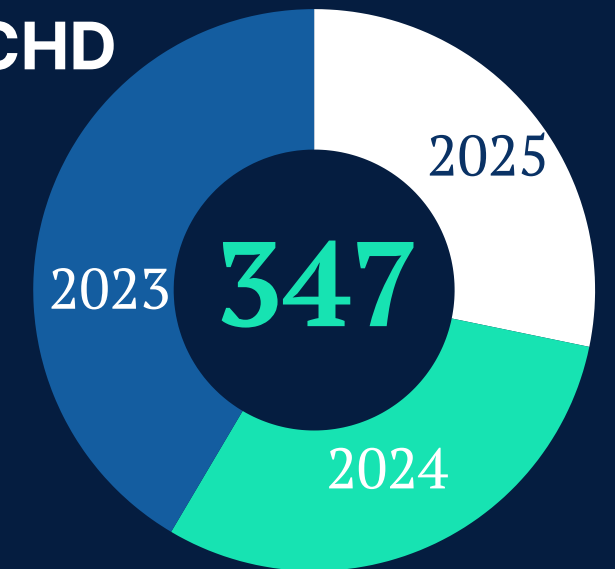
We also launched the Let No Tick Stick public service announcement in the fall of 2025.

## Vaccine Outreach

- 219 Total Doses Administered
- 94 Safety Net Doses (VFC/VFA)
- 92 Employee Flu & COVID Doses

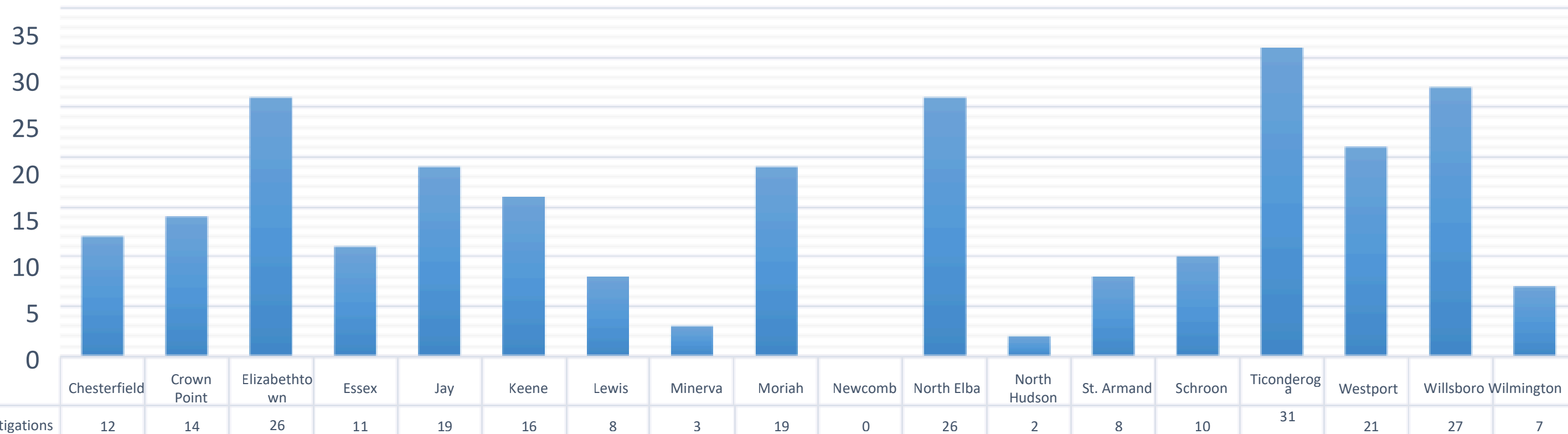
# RABIES WATCH

## Number of Animal Bites (by pets) Reported to ECHD




Rabies investigations\*

### 2025 Rabies Investigations by Town



\*Data includes *all* rabies investigations, including domestic animal bites, exposures to wild animals, animal submissions.\*

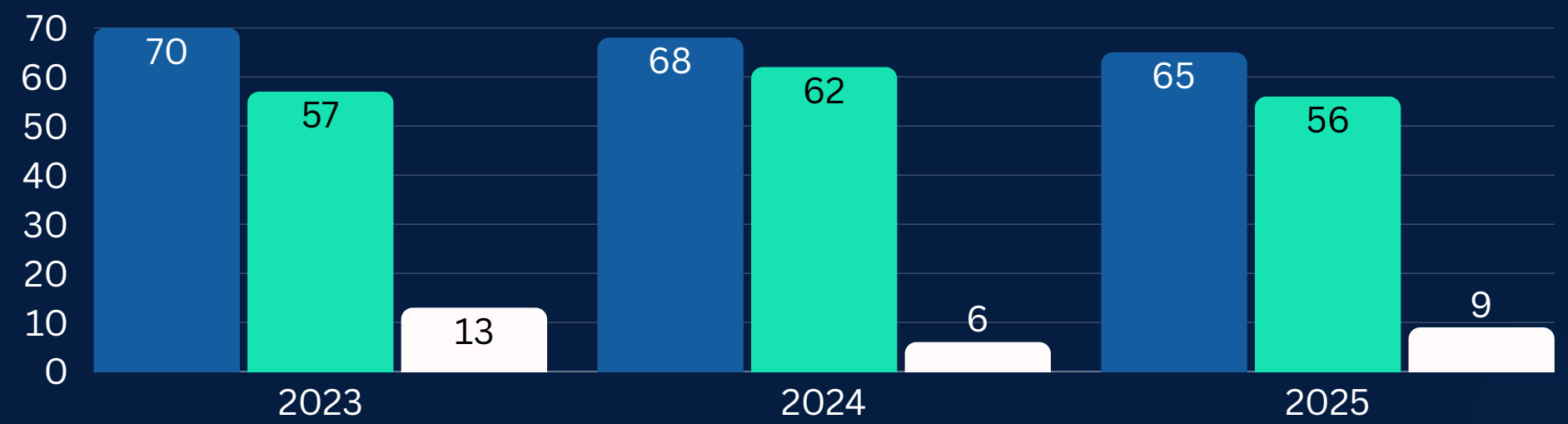
# RABIES WATCH cont.

**08 Clinics**  **713** ↑ 22% from 2024  
**Pets Vaccinated**

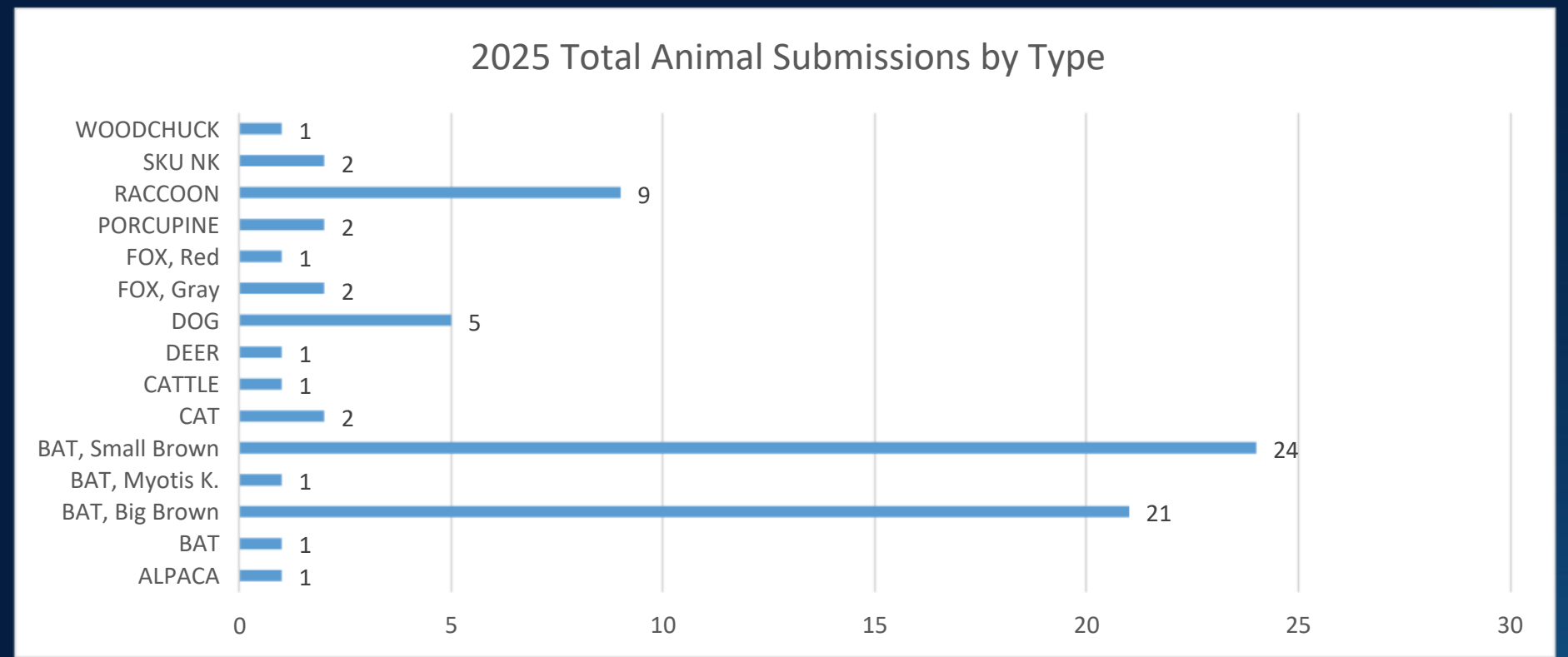


## Wild Animals Tested for Rabies Virus

● Submitted for Rabies Testing ● Negative for Rabies  
 ● Positive for Rabies

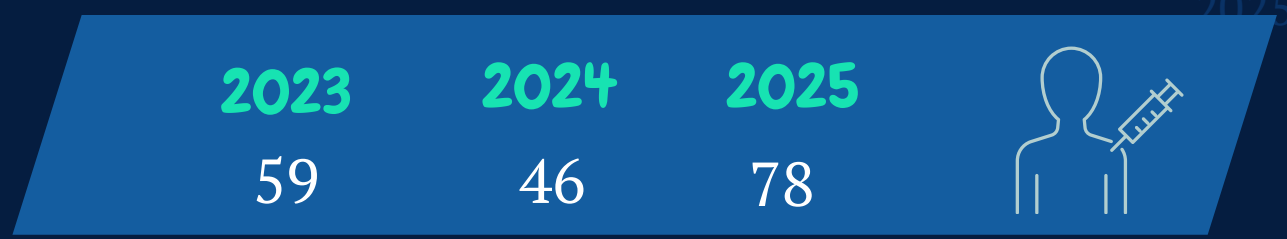


Specimens submitted for testing -



## Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

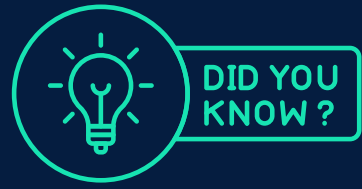
# of people who received PEP



When rabies status is unknown, PEP is offered



# BILLBOARD CAMPAIGNS



Port Henry is the only location to have billboards in the entire Adirondack Park, giving our messages maximum visibility.

You may have already seen our "See Our Trails, Not Our Jails" campaign materials—like our custom napkins, coasters, and pint glasses—at establishments throughout Essex County. This initiative is a reminder to residents and visitors: Don't drive, get a ride, and have a sober plan to reduce DWIs and prevent alcohol-related crashes that result in injury or death. ▼



▲ A Vape Prevention Focus Group surveyed students from three local middle/high schools for development of an anti-vape campaign. The winning campaign is currently featured on the billboard in Moriah, and will be utilized for on-going anti-vape messaging

# FAMILY HEALTH

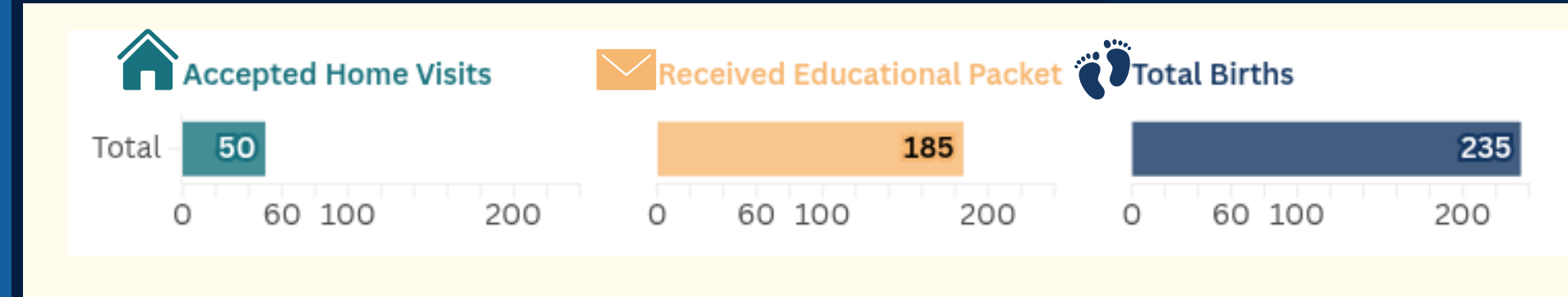
## Community-wide Baby Shower – year 1!

In August 2025, the Essex County Health Department hosted its first Community Baby Shower in Elizabethtown, welcoming nearly 50 new and expecting parents from across the county. The event connected families with local resources and provided education to families on topics like safe sleep, car seat safety, lactation support, and childhood vaccines. More than a dozen community partners participated. The strong turnout showed a clear community interest in supporting families with young children.

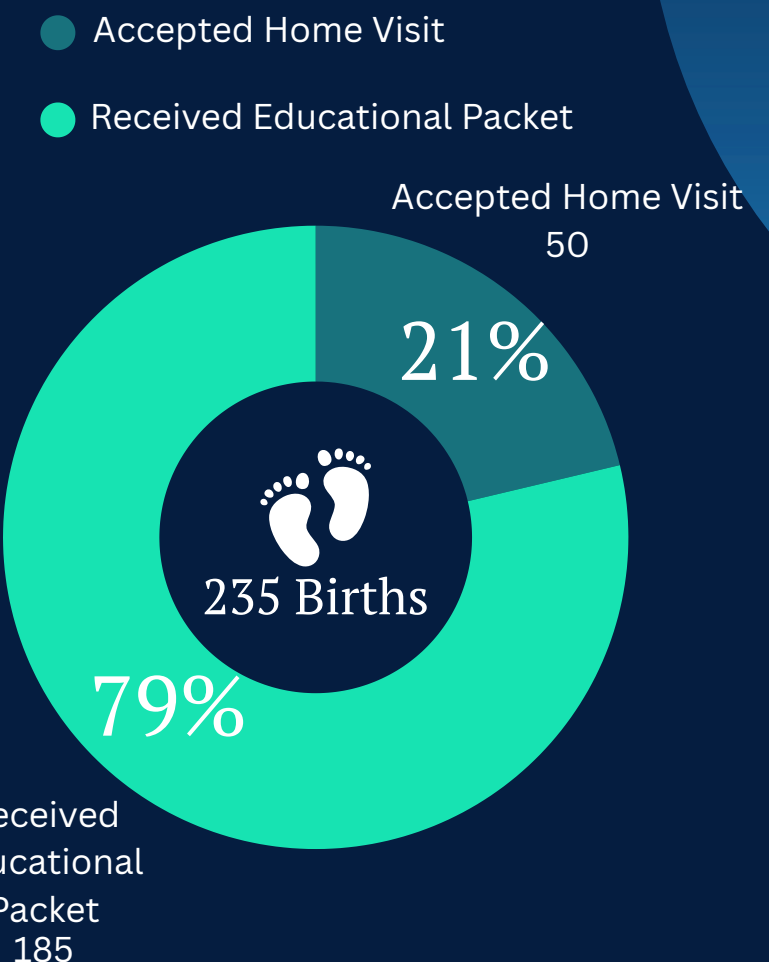


A voluntary universal newborn home visiting program. The program offers support to all with newborns during the first few weeks of life.

## Baby Steps to Bright Futures



In 2025, 100 % of families engaged with the Baby Steps Visit Program in some way.



# GROWING UP WITH CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Our Children's Services program ensures every child in Essex County has a healthy start by connecting families with essential health and educational resources.

## Preschool



To address rural travel distances and provider shortages, we support three innovative center-based classrooms located within local schools in Schroon Lake, Boquet Valley, and Ticonderoga.

**124** children were enrolled in services this year

**36** students served in specialized center-based classrooms.



**80%** of brain development occurs before age **3**

We managed 73 total referrals, with 44 children currently active in the program.



The Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs program—which currently serves **40** children—secured an additional **\$28,221** to support community inclusion.

# NOURISHING NEWS FROM WIC



**Total Enrollment:** We supported an average of 103 women, 107 infants, and 303 children monthly in 2025.

**Education & Nutrition Support:** Our team conducted 2,591 nutrition sessions, providing families with the knowledge and resources to make healthy choices.

**Referrals:** We made 972 connections to other essential services, ensuring a comprehensive safety net for our participants.

## Community Engagement

**WIC-N-Pick:** 102 families visited DaCy Meadow for fresh produce and farm-to-table experiences.

**Charli-Cart:** We held 10 interactive cooking demonstrations using our mobile kitchen to teach healthy meal preparation.

**WIC-mas:** Our annual holiday event served 120 families and 278 children.

WIC provides more than just nutrition assistance; it offers breastfeeding support, expert health guidance, and a community of care.



# HOME HEALTH

The Home Health program is a Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) providing skilled nursing, wound care, physical therapy, speech & occupational therapy, and telehealth.

Referrals in accepted in past 12 months - 623

Patients currently receiving services - 73

Nursing Services - 429

Physical Therapy - 353

Occupational Therapy Visits - 126

Speech Therapy - 8

Home Health Aide - 11

Tele-monitoring currently receiving - 40

Year 2025 initiatives for Homecare

Staff training on Medicare/Medicaid changes, documentation improvement for enhanced reimbursement, preparing for staff retirement and succession planning, hard wiring the EMR processes for clinical and billing operations, adding tele-monitoring units, working with referral sources to identify high readmissions that can be improved by referrals to home care, and providing equipment and supplies for staff to complete their jobs.





# LOOKING AHEAD

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