



Public Health Advisory Committee Report

June 2025

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Communicable Disease

Hot Topic – Immunizations

U.S. Cases in 2025

Total cases

1088

Age

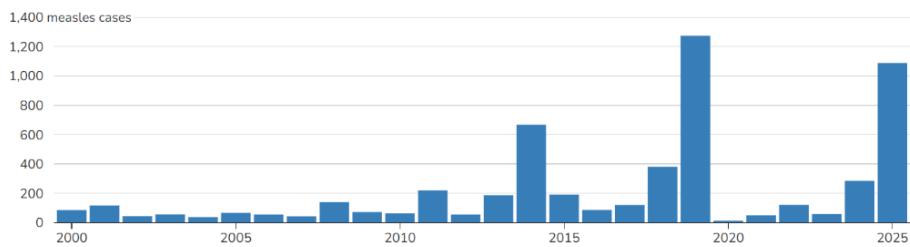
Under 5 years: 322 (30%)
5-19 years: 407 (37%)
20+ years: 349 (32%)
Age unknown: 10 (1%)

Vaccination Status

Unvaccinated or Unknown: 96%
One MMR dose: 2%
Two MMR doses: 3%

Measles was historically “eliminated” in the US due to successful public health initiatives & **community immunity**. As of May 29, 2025 there are over 1,088 cases in the United States. There have been 2 pediatric deaths and 1 adult death.

2000-Present* **1985-Present***



NYSDOH Public Service Announcement



Dr. MacDonald, the NYSDOH Commissioner championed the public health message regarding the measles vaccine: *It's the best protection against measles.*

Local Public Service Announcement



The Department is launching its latest Public Service Announcement with its Medical Director, Dr. Michael Celotti, encouraging parents to talk with their providers about the best way for their children to stay healthy today & into the future.

The PSA will be launching soon on local TV spots!

Immunization Quality Improvement Program (IQIP)

(4313314 = ACIP Child Immunizations Recommended by age 2)

- Visit 25% of healthcare providers months 2, 6, 12 each year
- Wilmington & Ticonderoga, Moriah, Etown
- Conduct VCF & VFA program “audits” & work with champions to select goals on how to improve immunization rates

Increase 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 rates (as reported in NYSIIS) according to target listed below					
	County 2024 Rate	County 2025 Rate	State 2025 Rate	Category	Annual Targeted % Increase
4:3:1:3:3:1:4	57.14%	58.66%	63.63%	Low	5%

Increase HPV vaccination coverage among county girls and boys aged 13 years					
	County 2024 Rate	County 2025 Rate	State 2025 Rate	Category	Annual Targeted % Increase
HPV	13.64%	11.17%	23.57%	Low	4.5%



Vaccine Program

Additional Sub-Target Communities

- Amish: Outreach to Amish community: 12 bags with coloring sheets, crayons, and MMR information passed to Amish farm stands and non-Amish individuals in community who are “phone hubs” to pass out to Amish folks.
- Immigrants: working to establish trust & connect to primary care providers.

Using funds from the Public Health Infrastructure Grant, the Department was able to update its inventory with a new **vaccine refrigerator and freezer** that arrived at the end of May. The units that were in the clinic room at the Department will become the required back-up units that are maintained at the Public Safety Building.

SCHOOL VACCINE SUPPORT



April

- NYSDOH Measles travel advisory & measles update
- H5N1 avian flu updates
- HIPPA/FERPA FAQs
- NYS Center for School Health Contact Info & Conference

May

- NYSDOH immunization rate numbers for youth & students

June

School Nurse In-Service Topics

ECHD Relationship & Reproductive Health School Health Topics

School Nurse In-Service Planned for August 28th



TB Prevention Program

ECHD was notified of two (2) Class B TB arrivals. Refugees, immigrants and other arrivals are evaluated for TB disease during their overseas medical exams prior to departure and given a TB status. Then, upon arrival in the US, LHDs are asked to follow-up with another medical evaluation within 90 days.

Pre-School and Kindergarten Immunization Outreach



During May & June accepted at
Boquet Valley, Moriah, Ticonderoga



[Overview](#) [For Providers](#) [For Counties](#) [Data](#)

Overview

The New York State Department of Health's Refugee Health Program is responsible for administering health assessments for [eligible refugees and newcomers to New York State](#) ([tinyurl.com](#)) (excluding New York City) within 90 days of arrival. The program has contracted providers across the state who complete health assessments and screenings for eligible arrivals. The refugee health assessment is designed to:

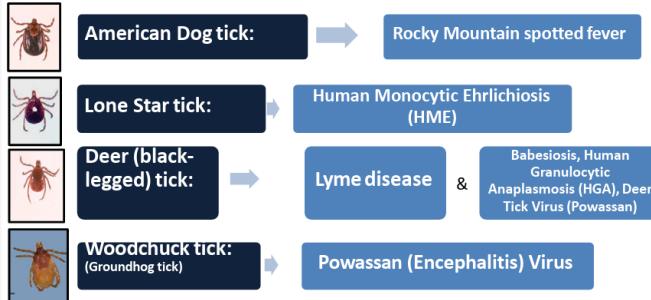
- identify individuals with health conditions not observed during or developing after the overseas exam
- initiate appropriate immunizations
- ensure individuals with identified health conditions are referred to primary and specialty care
- provide an orientation to the U.S. healthcare system and education on the availability and utilization of health services
- individual health promotion and population health protection



Tick-borne Disease Outreach

Tickborne illnesses have attachment transmission timeline variances of 15 minutes (Powassan) to

Tick-borne Disease Transmission



48 hours (Lyme, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis).

We significantly increase our public health education this time of year.

Analysis of tick-borne disease data shows increasing cases by disease by age group.

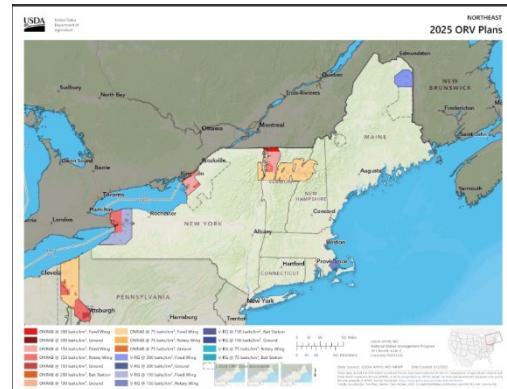
Rabies Prevention Program

Oral Rabies Vaccine Bait Drop Program – May 4-10, 2025

Wild animal oral rabies vaccine bait drops through the USDA is occurred May 4-10, 2025.

Baits will be dropped by fixed wing aircraft covering Peru south to Westport and from the lake westward inland.

This schedule being in spring is a shift from previous years.



Rabies Prevention & Control Program Staff Training

To ensure increased capacity to respond to rabies response, an intense and comprehensive internal training to cover all aspects of the program was conducted to include:

- *Laws & Regulations
- *Policy Overview/Flow
- *Intake/Exposure
- *Human Exposure
- *Domestic Animal Confinement
- *Specimen Submission

- *Post Exposure Prophylaxis
- *Animal Quarantine
- *Clinics

1 Raccoon + May 2, 2025 (Westport)

Rabies is one of the most common reasons for calls to the Department during after hours, weekends and holidays.

Summer Camp Outreach



With the permitting Environmental District Office, Public Health is reaching out to all summer camps as we work together to ensure health & safety for youth regarding communicable diseases and rabies during the summers in Essex County.

There are 12 overnight camps; 12 days camps planned in 2025.



Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises – **1** MRSE (Medical Response and Surge Exercise and After Action Review completed
Training/Continuing Education – **25**

Community Engagement/Collaborative Planning Meetings – **15**

Volunteer Coordination – Updated MRC Unit Profiles

Plan Updates/Revisions –

- MRC Playbook and SUV Policy for final MRC STTRONG Grant deliverables
- Public Health Asset Distribution Plan (PHAD) for approval in June
- Emergency Operations Plan under review

Community Health Assessment & Improvement Planning



COMMUNITY SURVEY

Efforts to engage the community included outreach for 3 live Facebook drawings of \$50 Visa gift cards for valuable input. This helped garner 562 responses (short of the 1,000-1,200 goal we set but more than last large survey (485)).

STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

Back in February Linda sent out an invite to participate in a Stakeholder Survey through our collaborative Adirondack Health Institute 7-County region.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PLANNING SESSION

June 23rd 11 AM – 2 PM

UVMHN Elizabethtown Community Hospital. Lunch will be provided.

Environmental Health

Air, Water and Food Health & Safety

Air Safety/Quality Alerts - **0**

Public Water Notices - **1** (1 issued 04/13/2025 & lifted 04/16/2025; town of Newcomb)

Blue-Green Algae Notices - **0**

Climate and Health

Initiatives – Year 13 NYSDOH Performance Incentive focuses on Climate and Health

Activities – Developed plan to meet all eight tracking measures (seven required tracking measures, and one bonus) of the incentive program by their required due dates.

Sun safety messaging began for the summer months.





HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health Unit

Family Health

**DIRECTOR AND STAFF
RECOGNIZED AT STATEWIDE
CONFERENCE**

Recently received the Outstanding Contribution for Rural Local Health Department Services Award for their vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment to improving maternal and child health in Essex County.

JESSICA DARNEY BUEHLER
ELIZABETH TERRY

GOALS: Increase participation in the Baby Steps to Bright Futures Program & WIC; Build Trust

With warm nomination from Linda Beers, Public Health Director, staff were recognized by NASACHO for the Baby Steps to Bright Futures Universal Home Visiting Program at the annual Public Health Conference in Ithaca, NY.

Community Baby Shower - August 4th, 2025

Pregnant Women &
those with babies up to 1 year

Health Education
Community Resources & Referrals
Fun Activities
Photo Station
Car Seat Checks
Preparing to Breastfeed Info
Nurses to Discuss Immunizations



Community Baby Shower

Public Health Outreach Coordinator, **Hillary Drake**,
earned the **Certified Lactation Consultant Certification!**

This will expand her work with new mothers and families in the Baby Steps to Bright Futures Program and working with the Child Find children under Early Intervention.

There are **3 CLCs** at the Essex County Health Department!

Little Feeders Circle of Support are scheduled for Wednesdays throughout the summer across Essex County and in locations to make it accessible and fun.

- Specific topics are scheduled for each month!
- Car Seat Checks also available at each session!

Little Feeders Circle of Support

New, expectant, & experienced parents UNITE!

In Person Breastfeeding Support Groups & 2025 Events

All groups ran by Certified Lactation Counselors!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
JAYCEE PARK, CHESTERFIELD
10-11AM

National Safety Month

Poison Control information from Upstate Poison Control.

For questions or additional information call the Essex County Health Dept. at 518-873-3500

CAN'T MAKE IT IN PERSON?
CHECK OUT OUR BLOG -
LITTLE FEEDERS:
VIRTUAL VILLAGE

Tech check **FREE Car Seat Check**
TUESDAYS **10a - 1p** **Every Tuesday**
5/6 - 10/21 @ECHD

Child Passenger Safety Technical Conference

Three (3) Pop up car seat events scheduled for June!

- The Club House Daycare - June 2nd, 3-5pm
- Little Feeders Circle of Support Lactation Support Group - Jaycee Park Keeseeville - June 4th, 10-11am
- Moriah Early Head Start group – June 6th, 3-4pm

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

8-10 Active cases

We try to go out with Environmental Health for every visit.

We work to make a connection to assistance with Adirondack Roots & Pride of Ticonderoga for cases where significant home improvements & restoration is needed. Working with 1 cross-care case – Lead Program Staff, DSS, County Manager.

Sexual & Reproductive Health

Actively engaged with School education this spring!

Schools/Camps/Groups -7

CAP Pack Distribution – **74** (ECHD Lobby and Community Care Kiosk)

Outreach – School Counselor Summit; Health Fair UVMHN-ECH Ticonderoga;

NCCC Saranac Lake Health Fair



Community Care Kiosks

In collaboration with partners, a tangible difference in the lives of Essex County residents is being made through Community Care Kiosks through 3 locations in Essex County: Essex County Public Safety Building in Lewis; Essex County Department of Motor Vehicles in Elizabethtown, and Mountain Lakes Services in Moriah.

The vending is similar to a snack vending machine, except all health items are at no cost and may include items like:



- First Aid kits - Help treat minor common accidents & prevent further damage and help wounds heal faster and more effectively.
- Fever monitoring strips - Body temperature provides cues to onset of infection, inflammation, and antigenic responses, as well as indicating efficacy of treatment
- Bath water testing cards – to prevent scalding or burns that can happen in seconds in hot water
- Tick kits - Removing ticks promptly and identifying them can help prevent the spread of diseases and other infections
- Condom Access Program (CAP) packs - Promoting safe sex practices remains a key strategy in preventing sexually transmitted infections.
- Insect Repellent - Staying safe from mosquito bites and other insect-borne illnesses is essential.
- Sunscreen – Protecting against harmful UV rays is vital for preventing skin cancer.
- Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips - To help identify the presence of fentanyl and Xylazine in drugs
- Naloxone (Narcan) - This lifesaving medication can reverse opioid overdoses, empowering bystanders to intervene in an emergency.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises –

- 1 Tabletop Discussion exercise- Explosion at Essex County Fairgrounds
- 2 Real Word Event-
 - Boil Water Notice: Saranac Lake
 - Fridge Temp Excursion and Sensaphone notification error.



Chronic Disease Prevention

Year 12 Incentive Campaign Continues with Active Transportation Initiatives

- Our Chronic Disease Outreach Coordinator worked with the NYSDOT for three (3) bicycle/pedestrian counts to be conducted at high use intersections in the Town of Keene over Memorial Day weekend to supplement the active transportation corridor study that continues to be planned with the NYSDOT along the same roadway.
- The speed zone reduction to 40MPH in the Town of Lewis is the result of collaboration with the NYSDOT in ongoing active transportation safety initiatives.
- Selected the shortlist of firms and scheduled interviews for the active transportation studies in the towns of Lewis and Willsboro.
- Coordinated with the NYS DOT to finalize the plans for pedestrian count studies at three locations in the Town of Keene.
- Wrote and submitted a traffic safety grant to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to fund community outreach and education regarding pedestrian and young driver safety, speed, and impaired driving.

Campaigns

Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings & Highlights

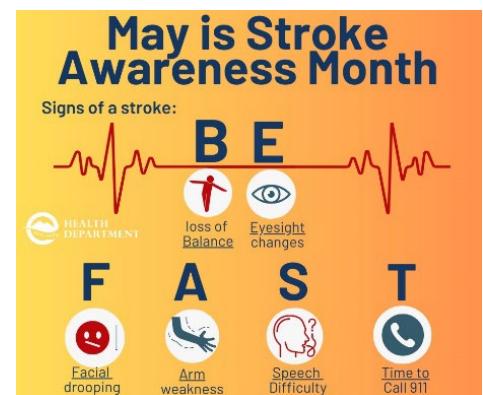
Nutrition (Well Fed) - 5

Tobacco - TURN - 9

Public Health Detailing Screenings & Disease Concordant Care Promotion – 18

Social media posts, coasters, stadium seats; fishing bobbers)

- Get Fit Essex County Challenge –monthly challenge #getfitessexcounty
- Collaborated with Mercy Care for the Adirondacks to provide tick borne illness awareness and prevention materials (DEET wipes, garden mats, tick kits, and sunscreen) to Mercy Care volunteers assisting older Essex County Residents.
- Attended the Adirondack Climate Summit in-person at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake and hosted by ACORN.
- Virtually (on-line) attended the Our Planet, Our Health: 2025 Climate Action Convention hosted at the Hopkins Bloomberg Center in Washington, DC. One of the keynote speakers was Senator Bill Frist, MD.
- April was Testicular Cancer Awareness Month - “Check your tackle” fishing bobbers were distributed to the community and planned for distribution at upcoming local fishing tournaments.
- Spring Into Health Fair at ECH – 30 people attended
- Older Americans Month – Collaborated with the Office for the Aging to distribute 100 cooling towels and heat related illness information to all the senior meal sites in Essex County.
- Stroke Awareness Month – Provided jar openers with BEFAST stroke awareness messaging for a healthy cooking class at the ECH Crown Point Health Center.





As another way to connect with people in our community, the Department is launching a monthly newsletter called **Living Well in Essex County**

Anyone can sign up to receive the newsletter in their email if that's how they prefer to get information from the Health Department.

The audience includes community members, Board of Supervisors, Public Health Advisory Committee, Professional Advisory Committee, schools, community based organizations, and friends of the Department that we work with through many networks and coalitions; anyone!

On-Call Service Collaboration & Efficiency Realized

The Department transitioned after-hours call services to the Office of Emergency Services in April. This transition has been incredibly smooth with the collaboration of the Departments of OES and IT and is saving the Department from expenses of private contract. This service ensures the Department meets its requirements to be available 24/7 for issues related to public health and home care.

STAFFING UPDATE

1 Outreach Coordinator to go out on Maternity leave in July

FISCAL UPDATES

Grants management

Statewide Financial System supposed to go into operations January 16, 2024; partial launch. System for the following grants:

- Lead
- WIC
- Children & Youth with Special Healthcare Needs
- Early Intervention

Bureau of Communicable Disease Control issues and manages through the Health Commerce System for just:

- Rabies

Bureau of Immunization Grants are managed under programs with email-only communication; including:

- Immunization Action Plan

Office of Health Emergency Preparedness manages grants through Health Research Institute (HRI); including:

- Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Public Health Infrastructure
- MRC Strong

NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee operates their own e-Grants platform for the following:

- Car Seat

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) award to Essex County supports:

- Baby Steps to Bright Futures Program; and
- Essex County Heroin and Other (ECHO) Coalition.

New York State Association of County & City Health Officials (NYSACHO) funds:

- None at this time

Private funds through Adirondack Foundation and Safe Kids Adirondack support:

- Baby Steps to Bright Futures Program.