

# ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

APRIL 2025

DIRECTOR - LINDA BEERS, MPH



## Director's Updates



### DID YOU KNOW?

Just **1** of the core/mandatory programs of Public Health is the Communicable Disease Program.

While temps heat up given the onset of spring, let's say **communicable disease** is a



## Communicable Disease Control

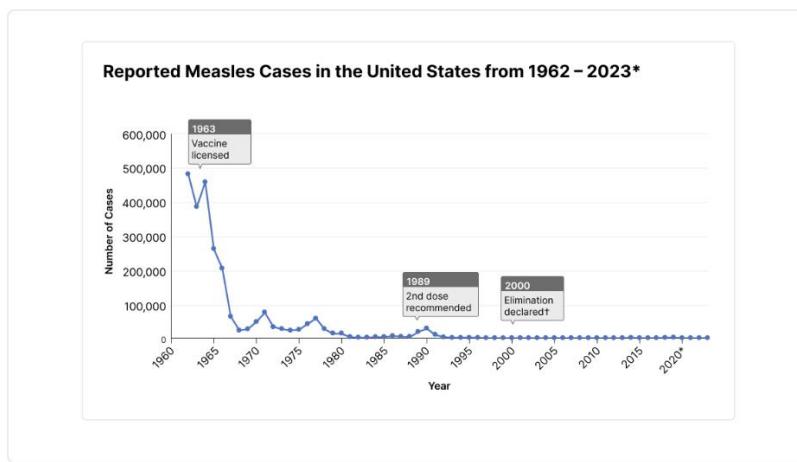
- General Communicable
- STD/HIV
- TB
- Immunization
- Rabies
- Arthropod (includes Zika as of 2016)



### Measles

Measles was historically “eliminated” in the US due to successful public health initiatives & **community immunity**.

Dr. MacDonald, the NYSDOH Commissioner championed the public health message regarding the measles vaccine:



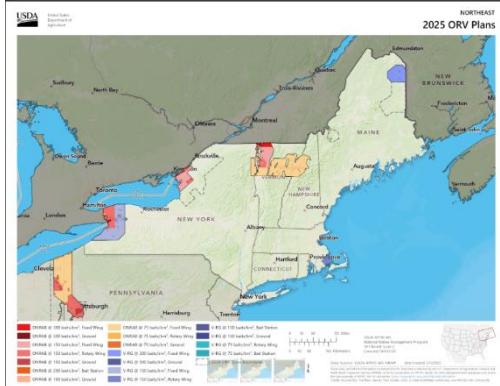
\*2023 data are preliminary and subject to change. †Elimination is defined as the absence of endemic measles transmission in a region for  $\geq 12$  months in the presence of a well-performing surveillance system.

*It's the best protection against measles.*



If you or child child has not yet had the measles vaccine vaccine, contact your healthcare provider today. Or always feel welcome to talk with one of our Public Health Nurses who know all about these safe and effective vaccines and can provide information.

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



A tentative plan for wild animal oral rabies vaccine bait drops is through the USDA is scheduled for 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



Families have seven (7) more opportunities to get their pets' faces spotlighted on our Round-of-A-Paws!

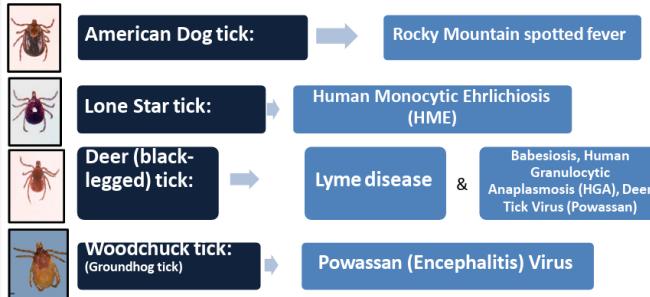
*Rabies is one of the most common reasons for calls to the Department during after hours, weekends and holidays.*

### Avian Influenza

The Department continues to field calls daily about dead birds and concern about transmission to humans, pets and livestock. Ongoing staff and public education continues to be a priority on this hot topic. The risk to the public for flu illness remains low, people are still concerned and want advice on what to do with dead birds they find or their pets have been exposed to while in their yards.

### Tick-borne Illnesses

#### Tick-borne Disease Transmission



Tickborne illnesses have attachment transmission timeline variances of 15 minutes (Powassan) to 48 hours (Lyme, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis).

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

## Department Highlights



### 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.

### ECHD Program Data – March (unless otherwise noted)

#### Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning

CHA/ARHN/Data Meetings – 2

CHA/CHIP Partner Meetings - 2

CHA/CHIP Progress Updates & Special Reports -

Our Community Health Needs Survey is still active and accepting responses. We have a goal of receiving 1,000 survey responses from Essex County residents and we are about halfway toward reaching that goal. In the months of March, April and May, we are doing a drawing for a \$50 gift card (using donated funds) for anyone who completes the survey and enters the drawing. Contest rules are on our website. Our first drawing event, featured on Facebook Live, was viewed over 8,600 times!



#### Communicable Disease

##### Communicable Disease Surveillance/Epidemiology Investigations

Respiratory Illness investigations (Flu, COVID, RSV, TB) - 167

GI Illness (Water/Foodborne) Illness Investigations - 2

STI/Hepatitis & HIV Investigations - 8

Arthropod-borne (Mosquitos and Ticks) Disease Investigations - 15

Food Safety/Outbreak Investigations - 0

Other investigations – 1

##### Immunization Program

Clinics in the community - 0

Individuals immunized - 0

Healthcare provider, school nurse, day care provider or other public health detailing activities:

Two nurses attended the annual NY State Immunization Conference. Topics covered: Vaccine preventable disease update; VFC/VFA updates from NYDOH; insider tips from local health department staff on different county immunization programs and tips for navigating the current immunization culture; NYSIIS updates; Perinatal Hepatitis B prevention statistics and strategies; Health Department personnel experiences with farm workers through clinics; consortia meetings with neighboring counties; school immunization update; and workshop on vaccination communication given by Frameworks.

## **Screening Services**

HCV Screenings - **1**  
HIV Screenings - **1**  
TB Screening - **1**  
STI Screening Services –referrals and/or services rendered – **0**

## **Rabies Prevention Program**

Rabies Vaccine Clinics – **1** (**Westport**)  
Pets Vaccinated - **98**  
Rabies investigations - **8**  
Specimens submitted for testing – **1** (negative)  
People approved for rabies post exposure prophylaxis – **1**

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## **Emergency Preparedness & Response**

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises – **1** MRSE (Medical Response and Surge Exercise)  
Training/Continuing Education – **10**  
Community Engagement/Collaborative Planning Meetings – **6**  
Volunteer Coordination – Submitted the MRC Playbook and SUV Policy for final MRC STTRONG Grant deliverables; updated MRC Unit Profile; entered MRC Activity (Rabies Clinic)  
Plan Updates/Revisions – final updates/edits are being made to the Public Health Asset Distribution Plan (PHAD)

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## **Environmental Health**

### **Air, Water and Food Health & Safety**

Air Safety/Quality Alerts - **0**  
Public Water Notices  
    Boil Water Orders – **2**  
    (1 issued 03/02/2025 & lifted 03/07/2025; 1 issued 03/13/2025 & lifted 03/15/2025 – both in town of Jay)  
    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.

Initiatives –

· 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. Of the 954 cases of tick borne illnesses reported in Essex County from 2020 through 2023, over half (489 cases) were in the 60+ age population. The second highest incidence was reported in people 50 – 59 years old.

Activities –

· 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.

## Chronic Disease

Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings & Highlights

Nutrition (Well Fed) - 4

Tobacco - TURN - 3

Public Health Detailing Screenings & Disease Concordant Care Promotion – 6 (Social media posts, coasters, stadium seats)

Campaigns/Events – 3

- Colorectal Cancer Month – “45 is the new 50”
- Get Fit Essex County Challenge – March Madness
- Active Transportation – see Department Highlights section on Page 3 of this report

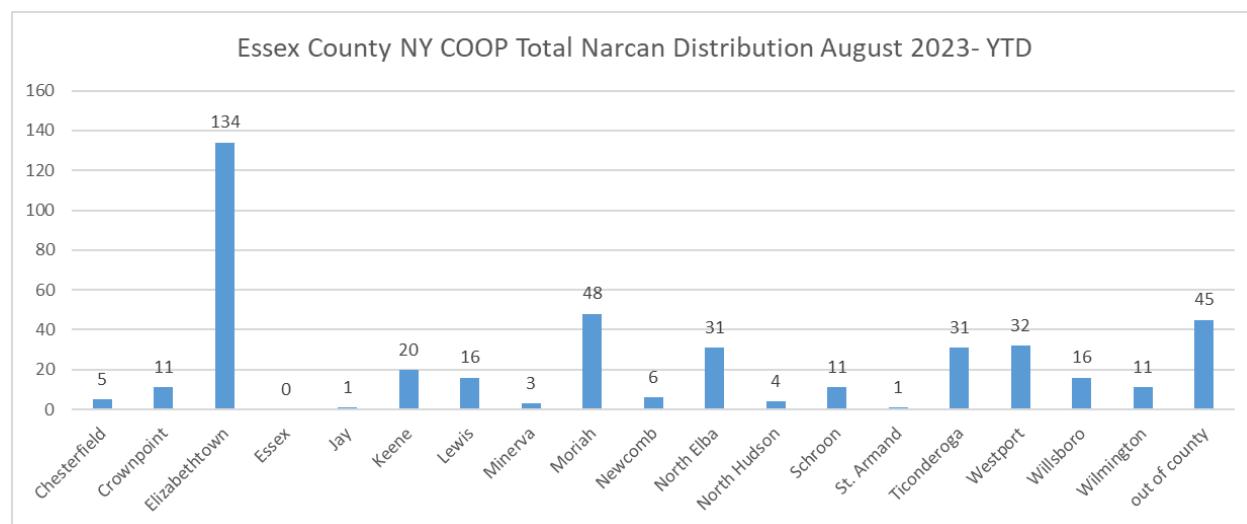
## Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

Narcan Kits Distributed - 75

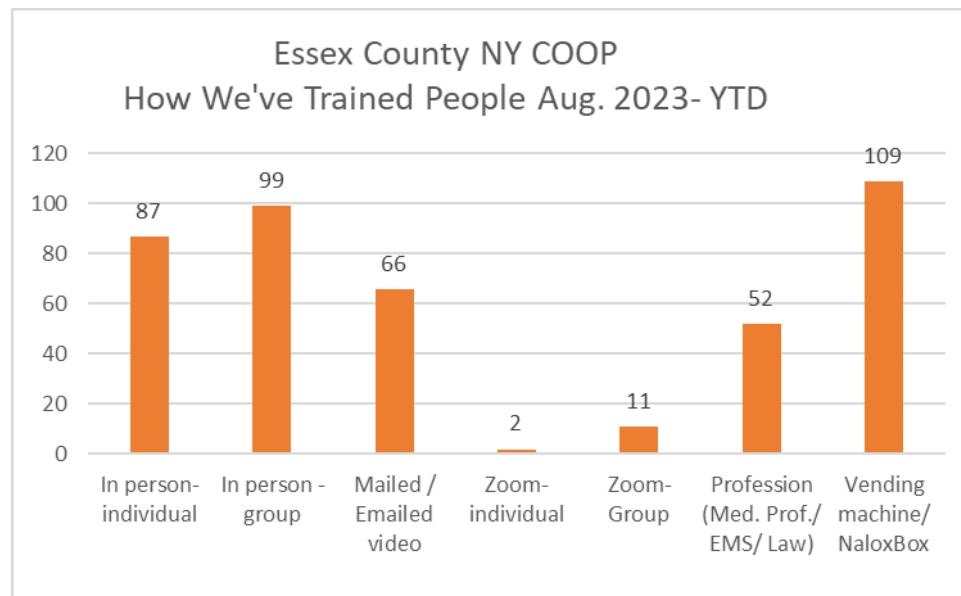
Groups Trained - 0

SUDOR Submissions/ODs – 0 Non-Fatal; 0 Fatal

Total ODs Year-to-date – 14 (12 Non-Fatal; 2 Fatal)



\* Elizabethtown totals due to Community Care Kiosk, NaloxBoxes, and location of agencies that have staff trained to administer naloxone.



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## Family Health

*Public Health Outreach Coordinator, Hillary Drake, earned the Certified Lactation Consultant Certification!*  
This will expands 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.

### Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Babies born & families offered the Program – **27** (7 pending)

Families enrolled in the program - **5**

Families that were sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program - **15**

Referrals out to programs and services - **2**

### Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead Cases open (elevated lead levels in pregnant women or children) & ensure appropriate follow-up care – **8** active; **11** pending confirmatory testing;

**3** released with confirmatory testing stating capillary testing was falsely elevated

Lead levels screenings performed by our Department - **0**

Home visits/environmental assessments completed this month for children with confirmed elevated lead levels - **0**

### Car Seat Program

Car seat check clinics - **0**

Car seats checked - **4**

Car seats issued as new & installed – **4**

### School Nurse Stetho-Scoop Monthly Meeting

Topics Covered: **Measles** and **H5N1 avian flu** updates, policy around sports exclusion due to illness, oxygen tank policy, importance of up-to date measles (MMR) immunizations in children and adults. Four school nurses reached directly and all county school nurses were emailed the meeting minutes.

### Sexual/Reproductive Health Program

Schools/Camps/Groups - **3**

Classes/Students – **5** classes; approximately **70** students

CAP Pack Distribution – **37** (ECHD Lobby and Community Care Kiosk)

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## Children's Services

### Early Intervention

Referral received in to the program - **10**

Children found eligible & enrolled (have a plan) - **27**

Children awaiting evaluation - **6**

Speech Therapy - **8** receiving; **11** waiting

Occupational Therapy - **1** receiving; **0** waiting

Physical Therapy - **4** receiving; **2** waiting

Special Instructional Services - **9** receiving; **1** waiting

### Preschool Program

Children in process of evaluation, referrals - **19**

Children enrolled - **85**

Children waiting for services

Counseling - **5**

Occupational Therapy - **5**

Physical Therapy - **4**

Speech Therapy - **15**

Special Education/Itinerant Teacher - **16**

Children Attending Center Based Classrooms

In County - **9**

Out of County - **8**

## Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs

Children enrolled – **35**

## WIC

Target Enrollment – **600**

Enrolled - **515**

Women enrolled - **105**

Infants (0-1) enrolled - **104**

Children (1-5) enrolled - **306**

High Risk Families - **40**

Nutrition Education sessions – **151**

In person - **45**

Remote - **106**

Referrals made to other programs/services - **55**

Breastfeeding Initiation Rate – **87%**

Essex County WIC and the Essex Food HUB were recently highlighted in the NYS WIC Association quarterly newsletter for their collaboration with the NY Food for NY Families Grant. See attached newsletter.



Just got the first food box and it is incredible!!! We will definitely be having it for dinner tonight 😊

Text from WIC program participant

The two agencies will continue to collaborate and support WIC families with funding from Mother Cabrini. This will provide a bi-weekly food box of prepared or partially prepared meals for 60 WIC families. Pictured above is the first meal (Butternut squash macaroni and cheese, apple spice cake, pork sausage, and apples). All foods are sourced from local farms. This has also allowed WIC to receive a Charlie Cart. This is a mobile, fully stocked kitchen on wheels. This will allow WIC to do food demonstrations at WIC Clinics, WIC-N-Pick events and outreach events in the community. Charlie Cart pictured below.



## Home Health Care

New Patients Admitted into ECHD Home Care – **44**

Patients Safely Discharged from Program – **34**

Home Visits Made (01/26/25-02/26/25) – **1,002**

Miles Driven by Staff (January) – **4,981**

Diagnoses of Admitted Patients – Diabetes, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Cancer, Strokes, Heart Failure, Flu, Sepsis, Surgical Recovery, IV Medication for Infection, Joint Replacement, Fractures, Wounds, Repeated Falls, Pulmonary Embolism, Trauma, Post-partum Complications, and New Colostomy