



Department Highlights –



April is one of the business grant months of the year with 6 grants: Public Health Preparedness, Rabies, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Car Seats, Highway Safety and the Immunization Action Program all needing report submission and/or new budgets! These relatively small grants help the Departments maintain the important work of serving our community.

ECHD Program Data – MARCH (unless otherwise noted)

Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Improvement Planning (CHIP)

- CHA/ARHN/Data Meetings – 2
- CHA/CHIP Partner Meetings – 1
- CHA Training/Webinars – 0
- NYSACHO CHA/CHIP Workgroup – 1

Program Coordinator, Andrea Whitmarsh, will be presenting key findings and priorities from the 2025 CHA and 2026-2030 CHIP.

Essex County Community Health Assessment 2025 and Community Health Improvement Plan 2026-2030

Presented By:
Andrea Whitmarsh

Presented Date:
04.13.2026

Presented To:
**Essex County
BOS - Human
Services
Committee**

Presentation of Key Findings and Priorities

Community Health Assessment, 2025
Community Health Improvement Plan, 2026-2030

Essex County Health Partners

- Essex County Health Department
- UVMHN - Elizabethtown Community Hospital
- Adirondack Health

Communicable Disease

Communicable Disease Surveillance/Epidemiological Investigations

- Respiratory Illness investigations (Flu, COVID, RSV, TB) - 100
- GI Illness (Water/Foodborne) Illness Investigations - 1
- STI/Hepatitis & HIV Investigations – 5
- Arthropod-borne (Mosquitos and Ticks) Disease Investigations – 6
- Food Safety/Outbreak Investigations – 0
- Other investigations – 0

Immunization Program

Clinics in the community - 0

Individuals immunized – 0

Healthcare provider, school nurse, day care provider or other public health detailing activities: 6 school contacts; 2 NYSIIS inputs

Screening Services

HCV Screenings - 0

HIV Screenings – 0

HCV and HIV screenings and information offered at North Country Community College Ticonderoga



TB Screening - 0

STI Screening Services – referrals and/or services rendered – 0

Rabies Prevention Program

Rabies Vaccine Clinics – 1 (Westport)

Pets Vaccinated – 77

Rabies investigations - 18

Specimens submitted for testing – 4 (all negative)

People approved for rabies post exposure prophylaxis – 5

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises – 1 (Medical Response and Surge Exercise)

Training/Continuing Education – 7

Volunteer Coordination – 1 (Incomplete Volunteer Notification Drill)

Plan Updates/Revisions – 2 (Revised Emergency Communications Plan and in process of revising Public Health Preparedness & Response Plan)

Meetings/Coalitions/Community Engagement– 3 (HEPC Meeting & Capital District PHEP Coordinators Monthly Meeting, Eastern Border Health Initiative)

*Highlights, campaigns, activities – Drafting Measles Exercise; met with Office of Emergency Services leadership for new staff introductions, discussion of county and LHD emergency preparedness plans, and opportunities for greater collaboration and coordination.

Chronic Disease

February 28, 2026 – March 31, 2026 Reporting Period

Public Health Detailing – 0

Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings & Highlights

Coalitions Coordinated by ECHD

- Well Fed Essex County Collaborative; - 1
- Tobacco Use Reduction Network (TURN) of Essex County – 1

Adirondack Food Systems Network – 1

NYS Community Food Collaborative – 1

Trainings and Webinars - 3

Campaigns & Awareness – 3

- #getfitessexcounty
 - March Madness
- Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
- Hit the Lake, Not the Vape
 - Spring/Summer Billboard in Moriah

Events - 0



Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (COOP)

Narcan Kits Distributed – 23

Groups Trained - 0

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

2026 ODs Non-Fatal/Fatal* – 4 Non-Fatal/2 Fatal

Second OFR (Opioid Overdose Review) Report attached.

Community Care Kiosks – Three (3) Community Care Kiosk Locations remain in place in Port Henry, Elizabethtown and Lewis.

Total items dispensed in March:

Tubby Tester	0
Personal Hygiene kits	8
Sunblock	0
Emergency plan	0
First Aid Kits	47
Forehead thermometer	5
CAP packs	9
Narcan kits	13
Fentanyl test kit	32
Xylazine test kit	2
Nail kits	38
Shoe deodorizer	15
Duterra bags	5
Gun locks	33
Tick remover kits	21
Gloves	8
Resistance bands	12
Deet wipes	0

Environmental Health

Air, Water and Food Health & Safety

Air Safety/Quality/Excessive Heat Alerts - 0

Public Water Notices

Boil Water Orders – 1 (Jay 3/10, lifted 3/12)

Blue-Green Algae Notices – 0

Climate and Health

Activities – Year-round sunscreen use continues to be encouraged and promoted through education and product distribution in the Essex County Health Department Lobby.

Family Health

Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Babies born & families offered the Program – 20 (3 pending)

Families enrolled in the program – 3

DSS Collaboration Families - 0

Families that sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program – 14 (includes one set of twins)

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:

Active Children - 18

Pending confirmatory testing - 5

Released with confirmatory testing stating capillary testing was falsely elevated – 1

Released due to not following up on venous confirmatory testing – 0

Conversation started with UVHN Lab Leadership to open conversations about improving lead venous draws could be improved.

Car Seat Program

Car seat check clinics – 0 (Tech Check Tuesdays are set to begin on May 5! Additional community seat checks are currently being planned. Residents are always welcome to call and schedule an appointment.)

Car seats checked - 3

Car seats issued as new & installed – 3



ECHD has started the planning process for our **second annual Community Baby Shower!** This special event, themed “Locally Grown,” aims to support expecting and new parents with children under 1 by connecting them to local resources, offering education around breastfeeding, safe sleep, car seat safety etc., and strengthening community connections.

School Nurse Stetho-Scoop Monthly Meeting – 2 in-person; communication sent to all school nurses.

Meeting covered Statewide Respiratory Surveillance, RSV recommendations, influenza B case activity, AED grant fund sources, Pre-K and Kindergarten Roundup planning, Center for School Health Discontinuation, and Health Department Annual Nursing In-service planning.

Sexual/Reproductive/Relationship Health Program

Schools/Camps/Groups – 3

Classes/Students - 5/115

CAP Pack Distribution – 23

Children's Services

Early Intervention

Referral received in to the program - **9**
Children found eligible & enrolled (have a plan) - **27**
Children awaiting evaluation - **6**
Speech Therapy - **7** receiving; **40** waiting
Occupational Therapy - **6** receiving; **5** waiting
Physical Therapy - **4** receiving; **3** waiting
Special Instructional Services - **8** receiving; **2** waiting

Preschool Program

Children in process of evaluation, referrals - **18**
Children enrolled - **81**
Children waiting for services
 Counseling - **2**
 Occupational Therapy - **9**
 Physical Therapy - **1**
 Speech Therapy - **13**
 Special Education/Itinerant Teacher - **8**
Children Attending Center Based Classrooms
 In County - **19** Out of County - **4**

Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHN)

Children enrolled – **42**

WIC

Target Enrollment – **600**
Enrolled - **495**
Women enrolled - **88**
Infants (0-1) enrolled - **94**
Children (1-5) enrolled - **313**
High Risk Families - **34**
Nutrition Education sessions – **164**
 In person - **16**
 Remote - **81**
Referrals made to other programs/services - **95**
Breastfeeding Initiation Rate – **82%**

This month, Essex County WIC has continued our collaboration with Essex Food Hub to provide food boxes to local WIC families and with ADK Action to provide cards that can be used to purchase local food. This has helped supplement the WIC food package and helps support local food producers.

We are also excited to report that the USDA has made major revisions to the WIC food package based on feedback from researchers, WIC nutritionists, and WIC families. Starting in April, WIC benefits will be expanded to include more fruits and vegetables, an increased variety of plant-based options, an increased variety of whole grains, more yogurt, and canned fish.

Home Health Care

February 22, 2026 – March 22, 2026 Reporting Period

Referrals accepted - **41**
Patients receiving services - **114**
Nursing Services - **71**
Physical Therapy - **68**
Occupational Therapy – **23**
Speech Therapy - **2**