

ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

AUGUST 2024

MONTHLY REPORT

DIRECTOR - LINDA BEERS, MPH



DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS



I recently had the privilege of attending the NACCHO 360 Conference in Detroit, Michigan; it was a transformative experience for me as a Public Health Director in Essex County in addition to my role as NYSACHO President for New York State. NACCHO 360, organized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials, is a premier public health conference that brings together professionals from across the country to share knowledge, innovations, and best practices. This year's conference offered an array of in-depth trainings, workshops, and sessions focused on emerging public health issues, leadership, and community engagement. Each session provided valuable insights that I am eager to apply in my role to enhance the health and well-being of our community.

The comprehensive trainings I attended were instrumental in broadening my understanding of current public health challenges and solutions. Topics ranged from innovative approaches to combating infectious diseases to strategies for improving mental health services and addressing social determinants of health. One particularly impactful session was on leveraging data analytics to drive public health decisions, which highlighted the importance of data-driven strategies in creating effective health programs. These learnings are crucial as I continue to develop and refine programs in Essex County, ensuring they are both effective and responsive to the needs of our residents.

As the Public Health Director, my goal is to lead with informed and proactive strategies. Essex County is a region with unique health challenges, from its rural landscape to its diverse population. The knowledge gained from NACCHO 360 equips me with the tools and insights needed to address these challenges effectively. By integrating the latest public health practices and collaborative approaches learned at the conference, I am confident that our health department can continue to provide exemplary services and improve the health outcomes of our community. The conference not only enhanced my professional growth but also reinforced my commitment to advancing public health in Essex County.

Health Department Highlights

STAFF TURNOVER – UPDATE

Search is ongoing to fill the two (2) vacant nursing positions in Public Health. We have expanded advertising and promotion of these positions.

A Principal Account Clerk started in July. Welcome William Powell!!!

ACTIVE COMMUNITY EFFORTS UNDERWAY

Our Chronic Disease Outreach Coordinator is championing several projects related to complete streets and active community design, including:

- Coordinating a meeting with the NYS Department of Transportation and Essex County Department of Public Works to discuss the disbursement of funds (\$100,000) and planning process for corridor studies in the towns of Lewis and Willsboro. RFPs have been drafted and are under review.



- Participating in a Community Walking Assessment in the Town of Westport. Representatives from the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, the NYS Department of Transportation, the Town of Westport Safe Roads Committee, the Essex County Sheriff, Westport Town Council, the New York State Police, the Adirondack Park Agency, and Essex County Department of Public Works also participated.
- Ensuring completion of an Active Community Plan for the Town of Lewis and submission to the New York State Health Department, successfully meeting the eligibility requirements for Local Health Department Performance Incentive Funding. The Essex County Department of Health received confirmation from the New York State Health Department that it is additionally eligible for a "bonus award" from the Performance Incentive Funding due to submitting more than the required two modules.

ECHD SUMMER ROADSHOW



Back for a second year, ECHD is out on the road, bringing programs, services, resources, and information directly to our communities! ECHD's Family Health Program Staff collaborated for a Family Health Friday event at Ballard Park in Westport on July 12. Car seat checks, breastfeeding support, interactive games and giveaways were available to anyone that stopped

WIC CONNECTS LOCAL PEOPLE TO LOCAL FOOD

This summer WIC is working with The Essex Food Hub through a grant. To date this year, we have successfully distributed to 93 Essex County WIC families more than \$4K worth of local meat, yogurt, oats, and produce through our boxes, and distributed to more than 120 families, \$2K in local meat, yogurt, and produce through bulk donations. Some of the bulk foods distributed are pictured in the newsletter attached. Families receiving boxes are located in; Schroon Lake, North Hudson, Newcomb, Minerva, Bloomingdale, Westport, Saranac Lake, Lake Placid, Keene, Crown Point, Moriah, Port Henry, Wilmington, Elizabethtown, Ausable Forks, Keeseville, Willsboro and Ticonderoga.

The feedback has been great:

One family said, "I'm making frozen yogurt with the yogurt you sent us! And the beef! Wow! Thank you! Another family said, "You are really helping us stretch our food dollars. We are now able eat healthier as a family!"

The boxes will continue to be distributed every other week for the next 9 months.

ECHD Program Data – July (unless otherwise noted)

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

CHA Progress Updates & Special Reports

CHA/CHIP framework and cycle decisions are still pending at the state level.

In July, ECHD provided feedback to NYSACHO regarding framework and cycle preferences.

The CHA/CHIP Coordinator continues to participate in local and regional CHA meetings, as well as regional data sub-committee meetings to plan for the next assessment.

Communicable Disease

Communicable Disease Surveillance/Epidemiology Investigations – No Update

Respiratory Illness investigations (Flu, COVID, RSV, TB) - 41

GI Illness (Water/Foodborne) Illness Investigations - 2

STI/Hepatitis & HIV Investigations - **8**
Arthropod-borne (Mosquitos and Ticks) Disease Investigations - **75**
Food Safety/Outbreak Investigations – **4 (Outbreaks at Camps)**
Other Investigations (Strep pneumo invasive, Invasive Group A/B Strep) - **3**

Immunization Program

Clinics in the community - **0**
Individuals immunized - **0**
Healthcare provider, school nurse, day care provider or other public health detailing activities - **0**
IQIP visits - **0**
Stethoscoop meetings – **0**

Screening Services

HCV Screenings - **0**
HIV Screenings - **0**
TB Screening - **0**
Referrals to Planned Parenthood for STI Testing – **0**

Rabies Prevention Program

Rabies Vaccine Clinics – **1 (Chesterfield)**
Pets Vaccinated - **83**
Rabies investigations - **41**
Specimens submitted for testing – **16**
Positive Specimens – 0 (July); 5 total for 2024
People approved for rabies post exposure prophylaxis – **24**

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises - **0**
Training/Continuing Education - **8**
Community Engagement/Collaborative Planning Meetings - **4**
Volunteer Coordination – **0**; Working on confirming CART volunteers
Plan Updates/Revisions – **0**; Essex CART Plan and PHAD Plan are in review

Chronic Disease

Campaigns/Events - **1**
Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings - **5**
Public Health Detailing Screenings & Disease Concordant Care - **0**
Direct Community Outreach Initiatives – **3**
Training/Continuing Education – **0**

UV Safety Month – promotion of sun safety →



Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

Narcan Kits Distributed - **4**
Groups Trained/Mained – **2**
Groups referred to Alliance for Positive Health for training: **2**
SUDOR Submissions/ODs – **3 non-fatal; 1 fatal**
Total Overdoses for the year: 49 (44 non-fatal; 5 fatal)

Family Health

Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Babies born & families offered the Program – **27 (3 pending acceptance/declination)**
Families enrolled in the program - **5**

Families that were sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program – **18**

Referrals out to programs and services – **0**;

Reached through Little Feeders Support Group – **0** in-person sessions provided; **0** Facebook Live sessions

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead Cases open (elevated lead levels in pregnant women or children) – **7** active; **11** pending confirmatory testing; **2** closed as no longer elevated/Venus confirmed not elevated

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

Car Seat Program

Car seat check clinics – **4** (Tech Check Tuesdays)

Car seats checked - **6**

Car seats issued as new & installed – **3**

Training attended – **0**



School Nurse Stetho-Scoop Monthly Meeting

On hold for summer months

Sexual/Reproductive Health Program

Schools/Camps/Groups – **0**

Classes – **0**

Students reached - **0**

CAP Pack Distribution - **45** Ticonderoga Street Fest; **100** to UVMHN-ECH for health centers; **30** ECHD front lobby

Children's Services

Early Intervention

Referral received in to the program - **4**

Children found eligible & enrolled (have a plan) - **37**

Children awaiting evaluation - **2**

Speech Therapy - **24** receiving; **6** waiting

Occupational Therapy - **1** receiving; **4** waiting

Physical Therapy - **4** receiving; **0** waiting

Special Instructional Services - **6** receiving; **8** waiting

Preschool Program

Children in process of evaluation, referrals - **12**

Children enrolled - **104**

Children waiting for services: **37** Counseling – **9**; Occupational Therapy – **24**; Physical Therapy – **2**; Speech Therapy – **13**; Special Education Itinerant Teacher - **11**

Children Attending Center Based Classrooms in County - **0**; Out of County - **8**

Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs

Children enrolled – **30**

Program Updates: Ticonderoga School received their approval to open the 8:1:1 Preschool Special Education Program. The program is already full with a waitlist. The class will start September 5 and has enrollment from Moriah, Crown Point and Ticonderoga.

We have had a drop in our speech waitlist due to a preschool provider losing students to the kindergarten transition and able to pick up those in the southern region. Some had been waiting 6 months or more for the service.

WIC – see above highlights and attached flyer

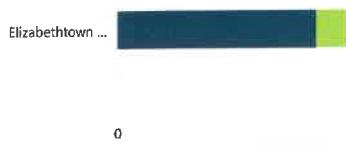
Home Health Care – see attached

Admissions

Essex County Nursing Services

Admissions by Type & Business Unit*

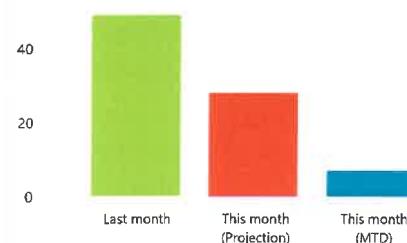
● Admission ● Readmission



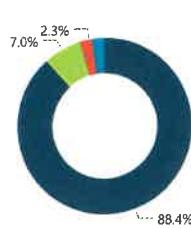
Admissions by Business Unit*



Admission Comparisons & Projections



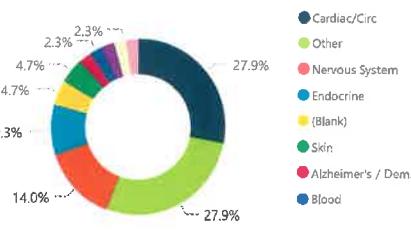
Admissions by Primary Payer*



Admission Trend



Admissions by Diagnosis*

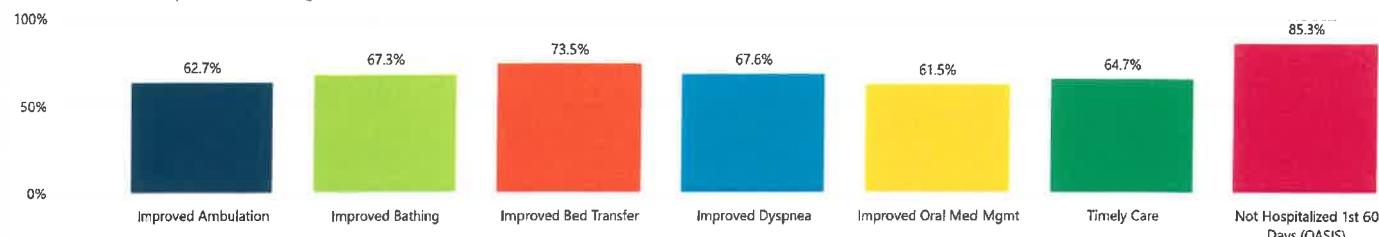


* Default date range: Last 30 days

5 Star (Quality of Patient Care)

Essex County Nursing Services

Home Health Compare Star Rating Measures



Discharges

Essex County Nursing Services

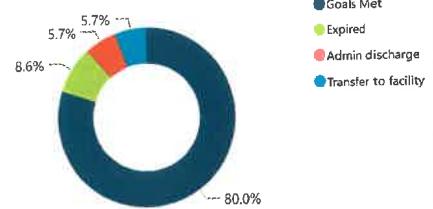
Discharges by Business Unit*



Discharge Comparisons & Projections

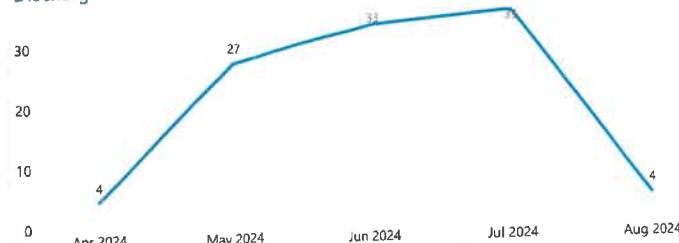


Discharges by Reason*

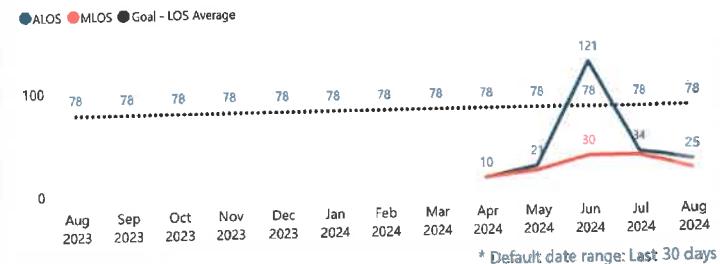


* Default date range: Last 30 days

Discharge Trend



LOS Trend



* Default date range: Last 30 days



WIC SUMMER 2024

UPCOMING

Keep an eye out on our social media platforms for more info!

- **8/1 - 8/7** World Breastfeeding Week
- **8/16** Farm Animal Bananza at Craigardan
- **8/20** You-Pick at Creative Kitchen Garden
- **9/21** Adirondack Harvest Festival



WIC N' PICK

Every summer we host our WIC N' Pick program with our partners, **Craigardan** and **Creative Kitchen Garden**. At Craigardan, our participants learn about gardening, beekeeping, and the animals at the farm. At Creative Kitchen Garden, they are able to pick flowers, herbs, and produce to bring home.

We are so lucky to have the ability to offer these unique experiences to families year after year. Our 2024 program is on track to be our biggest yet with many new families coming to join us!



FOOD PICK UP

Essex County WIC is fortunate enough to be working with the **Essex Food Hub** through the Local Foods for Local Families grant and **Juniper Hill Farm** to provide our WIC families with free local produce. We greatly appreciate their efforts to make local food accessible!

• Plums	• Greens
• Cherries	• Cucumbers
• Squash	• Carrots
• Zucchini	• and more!

We receive fruits and veggies on a weekly basis and bag them up for our families to take home. We have participants stop by our Elizabethtown office as well as having pick up points around the county when possible.

WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

August 1 - 7, 2024

This year's theme is Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All. Here at WIC, we provide education and guidance from our peer counselor and lactation consultant as well as pumping supplies to our participants.



WIC N' PICK DATES

Craigardan (10am-12pm): **Creative Kitchen** (5-7pm):

- August 16
- August 30

- August 20
- September 3
- September 17

ESSEX COUNTY WIC

Follow Us!



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