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# ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER 2023

MONTHLY REPORT

DIRECTOR - LINDA BEERS, MPH



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## Chronic Disease

Essex County Health Department is raising awareness for men's health issues in "Mo-vember". The department is distributing carpenter's pencils and mini screwdriver/flashlight toolkits with the slogan "get your tools checked", and deodorizing urinal screens with the message "we aim to promote health", encouraging men to speak to their doctors about prostate cancer screenings.

November 16, 2023 is the Great American Smokeout with raises awareness about quitting smoking. The Department plans to participate by building on a popular Facebook from October asking people "why did you quit smoking?" It generated 35 responses and online discussion. The post for the Great American Smokeout will ask people to share how they quit smoking in order to help and support others to quit. Statewide, the 2021 smoking prevalence rate is 12.0%, whereas the rate of adults who smoke in Essex County is higher at 14.5% (Prevalence of Current Smoking Among Adults in New York State by County, NYS BRFSS 2021, Bureau of Tobacco Control StatShot Vol. 15, No.2/July 2023).

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## Family Health

With September being Baby Safety Month, the Family Health program submitted a proposal to the Safe Kids Adirondack coalition requesting \$1,000 worth of funding to assist families in making homes safer for Essex County children. Items such as household safety kits, baby gates, cupboard locks, toilet locks, electrical outlet covers along with educational materials will be purchased and distributed to families in need that are enrolled in the Baby Steps to Bright Futures Home Visiting Program, those that receive WIC, and those that can provide demonstrate a financial hardship. Providing families with resources to assist them in childproofing, as well as information surrounding best practices for safe sleep and car seat use, we can empower parents to take necessary steps towards keeping Essex County babies safe and healthy.



In November, we are also introducing our Monthly Stetho-Scoop: ECHD & School Nurse Office Hours. These brief Zoom meetings will allow us to stay connected with our school health professionals, while covering timely topics and allowing for opportunities for school nurses to engage with their peers. Our first session, scheduled for November 7, will cover the topic of required school immunizations.

## Communicable Disease

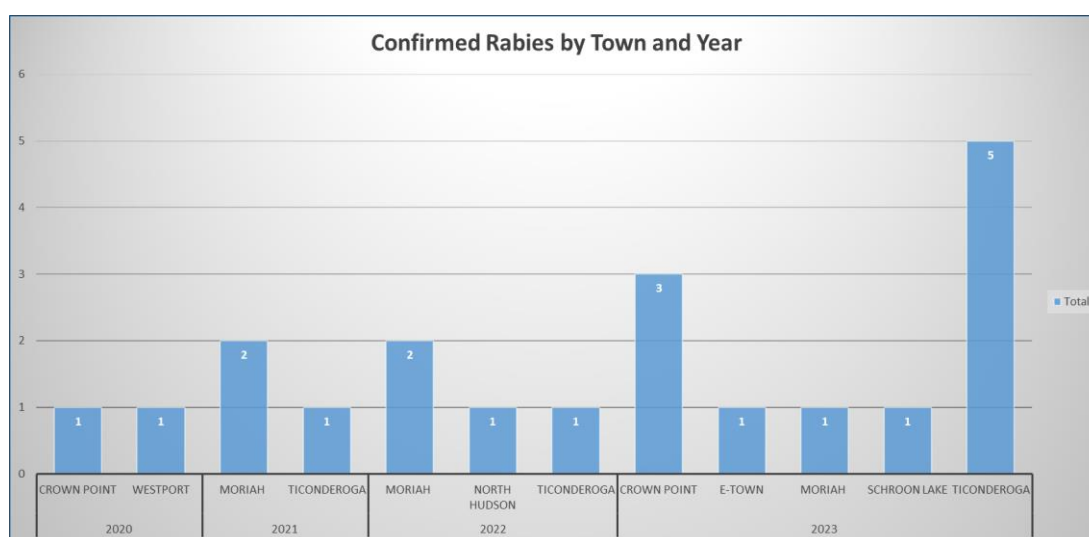
2023 to date:

General Communicable Disease	Total #	Rabies	Total #
Communicable Disease Labs	1,517	Rabies Investigations	199
CD Labs (excluding flu, Lyme, COVID)	109	Specimens Sent for Testing	72
New CD Cases	1,144	Positive for Rabies	11
New CD Cases (excluding flu, Lyme, COVID)	85*	Clinics Offered	6
Lyme Labs	348	Total Confinements	100
Anaplasmosis New Cases	50*	Total Animals Vaccinated	630
Babesiosis New Cases	5*	Total RPEP Recipients	57

\*All investigated - we do not investigate flu, Lyme, or COVID

\*\*STDs and Hepatitis/HIV are all separate from the data listed above.

\*70 doses remaining after final *scheduled* clinic - BONUS clinic held 11/02 in Elizabethtown\*



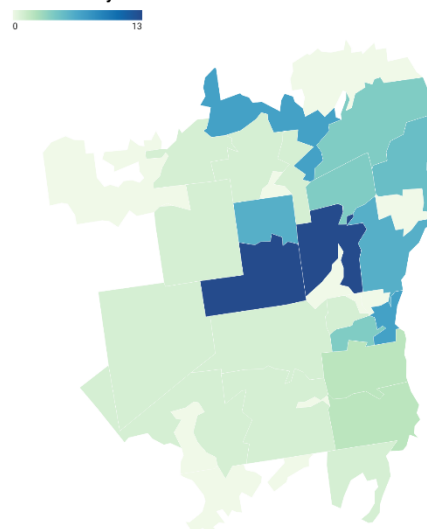
## ECHD COOP Program

We received our first supply Narcan materials for our Community Opioid Overdose Prevention (COOP) Program on August 17<sup>th</sup>. We had a small supply that we received from the Alliance for Positive Health in the interim.

From August 17 – September 29:

- 82 Kits were distributed
- 42 people were trained "in person" at our community events (Including board members training)
- 30 Kits have been requested and Mailed (4 were requested by school personnel and 2 by Library staff)
- Five People at the Public Defender's Office were trained, with each given a second kit so one could be carried with them and one could be left at the office or given to people, as needed.

Essex County Narcan Distribution 2023 YTD



Map data: © Esri, TomTom North America, Inc., United States Postal Service • Created with Datawrapper

## National Home Care and Hospice Month Begins This Week

November is National Home Care and Hospice Month is a time to celebrate all that you give and accomplish as clinicians (nurses, home health aides, therapists), administrators, agency boards and supporters;

A time to celebrate the thousands of patients and families, their resolve, reliance and zeal for community life and independence; and,

A time to tell the public, the media, policymakers and all elected leaders all about who and what home care is, what it means to the lives and health of citizens and what it means to the entire health care system.

Every chance you get, “talk home care” to the community, to your referral partners and literally to all who need to hear the words home care and hospice and understand what it is. Do something every day to make home care and hospice stand out.

Every community has blue signs reminding citizens of their hospitals and directing them to the nearest hospital location. What about home care?

This is an overwhelming time in health care, in home care and in society. Major decisions are in-play that could profoundly benefit or cripple the home care and hospice system.

Take this moment, as we segue into National Home Care and Hospice Month, to stand out for our services and patients. Be seen, be vocal, and be heard.

Over the course of this month, the Home Care Association will be working at all levels to emphasize this time of Home Care and Hospice Month, and the home care agencies, hospices, managed long term care plans, waiver programs, consumer directed services, allied support organizations and vendors, and all who work tirelessly and impeccably to make New York’s home care system the very best in the world.

Make every day count during this important month!

Recap from HCA “The Situation Report” October 30, 2023 Volume 8, Issue No. 38