
ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER 2024

MONTHLY REPORT

DIRECTOR - LINDA BEERS, MPH



Health Department Highlights

RECOVERY DAY

Essex County Heroin & Other (ECHO) Prevention Coalition member agencies hosted an inaugural Recovery Day event at Hunter Way Farm in Moriah on September 28. Made possible by Opioid Settlement Funds earmarked for the distinct purposes of supporting people in treatment & recovery and reducing stigma, this event is the culmination of a yearlong campaign to reframe how we think about substance misuse and addiction here in the North Country. Even with a beautiful fall weekend packed with lots of other local and regional events, the turnout and feedback was fantastic!

Addiction recovery focus of community event

BY LUCA GROSS Press-Republican Sep 30, 2024



The primary goal of the Recovery Day event was to bring the community together to celebrate and destigmatize recovery. To that end, multiple community businesses and organizations set up activity booths for attendees to enjoy.
LUCA GROSS/P-R PHOTO



STAFF UPDATES

After a summer without any nursing staff in Public Health, ECHD welcomed Susanna Cushman to the team in late September. Susanna fills one of two vacant nursing positions, having accepted the Public Health Nurse role while the RN position remains open.

COVID & FLU



With a nurse on staff again, we are readying ourselves for cold and flu season - and planning for the annual employee vaccine clinic. We are aiming for an **October 28** clinic, where both flu and COVID vaccines will be available to employees and their household members/covered dependents. Stay tuned for more information as we finalize details.

ECHD Program Data – September (unless otherwise noted)

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

CHA Progress Updates & Special Reports



As another Community Health Assessment cycle approaches, ECHD is planning to launch a Community Needs Survey, similar to previous cycles. The survey, a collaboration with our local hospital partners UVMHN-ECH and Adirondack Health, will feature questions that assess the health and healthcare landscape of Essex County, as well as social needs that influence the health of our residents. Promotion of the survey will begin in November 2024.

Communicable Disease

Communicable Disease Surveillance/Epidemiology Investigations

Respiratory Illness investigations (Flu, COVID, RSV, TB) - **88**

GI Illness (Water/Foodborne) Illness Investigations - **4**

STI/Hepatitis & HIV Investigations – **12 (4 chlamydia, 1 gonorrhea, 2 syphilis, 5 hepatitis C – chronic)**

Arthropod-borne (Mosquitos and Ticks) Disease Investigations - **63**

Food Safety/Outbreak Investigations – **0**

Other Investigations (Strep pneumo invasive, Invasive Group A/B Strep) – **0**

*Highlights, campaigns, etc. – **planning a “Fur-Well” Rabies Clinic to be held in November, with the remaining rabies vaccine for 2024.**

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**

Stethoscope 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 – **0**

Pets Vaccinated - **0**

Rabies investigations - **13**

Specimens submitted for testing – **3**

Positive Specimens – 0 in September; 6 total for 2024

People approved for rabies post exposure prophylaxis – **3**

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises - 0

Training/Continuing Education - 10

Community Engagement/Collaborative Planning Meetings - 5

Volunteer Coordination – Attended an MRC Workshop, working on completion of deliverables to receive the MRC STTRONG Grant, updated the MRC Unit Profile, and updated active volunteer count.

Plan Updates/Revisions – 0; Essex CART Plan is in final review, reviewing and updating the Emergency Operations Plan and Emergency Communication Plan

Chronic Disease

Campaigns/Events - 3

Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings - 6

Public Health Detailing Screenings & Disease Concordant Care - 0

Direct Community Outreach Initiatives – 3

Training/Continuing Education – 2

September Health Campaigns:

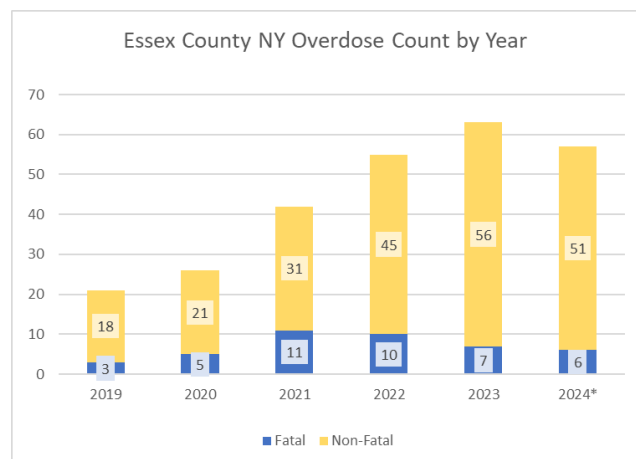
- Healthy Aging Month
 - 151 #Getfitessexcounty fitness bands with instruction cards and 167 jar openers with “BEFAST” stroke awareness messaging distributed to 8 senior housing/centers.
 - A Mobility and Aging presentation offered to 10 attendees at the Port Henry/Moriah Senior Meal Center, as part of a collaboration with Office for the Aging and Cornell Cooperative Extension – Essex County.
- Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
 - 83 “We Aim to Promote Health - Talk to Your Doctor about Prostate Cancer Screening” deodorizing urinal splashguards were delivered to 21 local businesses; mostly bars and restaurants.
- #Getfitessexcounty – “Back to School Boot Camp”



Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

Narcan Kits Distributed – 46

- 4 kits to ADK Dentist
- 1 Nalox Box to Flanagan’s Restaurant, containing 3 kits
- 1 Nalox Box to Paradox Brewery containing 3 kits
- 10 kits to Darrah & Darrah
- 12 kits to law enforcement agencies (10 to Sheriff and 2 to Ray Brook Correctional staff)
- 9 kits to community members
- 3 kits to Moriah Central School
- 2 kits to Willsboro Central School (4 kits disposed from Willsboro and Minerva Schools)



Groups Trained/Mailed – 0

Groups referred to Alliance for Positive Health for training: 0

SUDOR Submissions/ODs – 1 non-fatal; 0 fatal

Total Overdoses for the year: 57 (51 non-fatal; 6 fatal)

Trainings attended – 2

Events – 2; Recovery Day and Ray Brook Correctional Employee Health Event

Family Health

Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Babies born & families offered the Program – 22 (5 pending)

Families enrolled in the program - 2

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

Referrals out to programs and services – 1;

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) – 5 active; 12 pending confirmatory testing; 1 released with confirmatory testing stating capillary testing was falsely elevated.

Lead levels screenings performed by our Department – 0

Car Seat Program

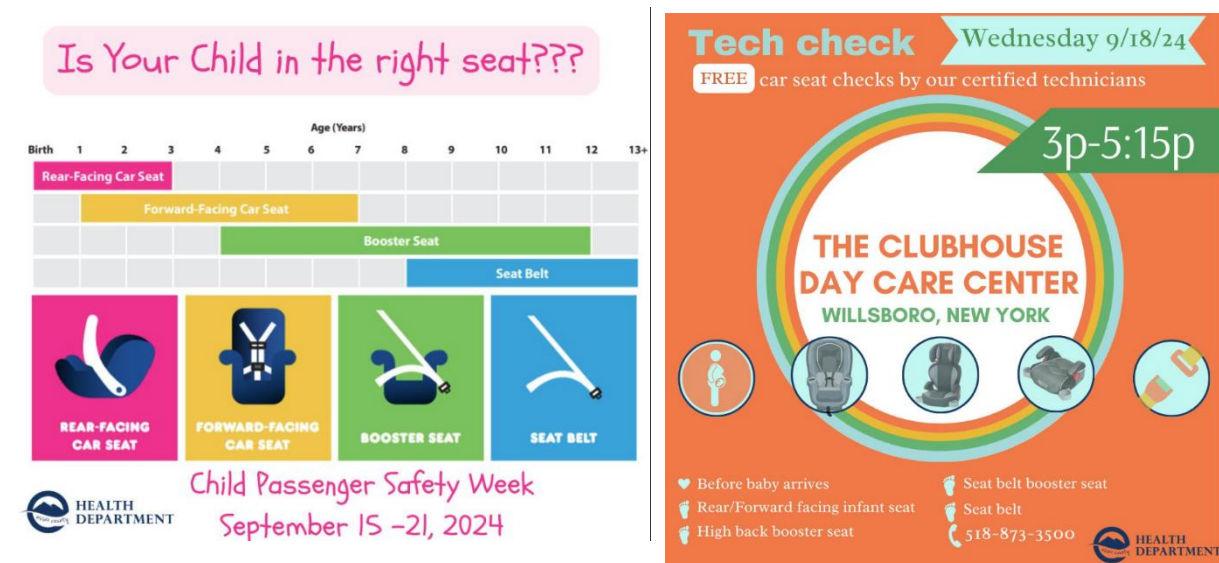
Car seat check clinics – 5

Car seats checked - 5

Car seats issued as new & installed – 1

Training attended – 0

In honor of Child Passenger Safety Week we offered a pop up car seat check at The Clubhouse Daycare Center in Willsboro!



School Nurse Stetho-Scoop Monthly Meeting

Goal to begin offering these meetings in the next couple of months, once our new nurse completes training/orientation.

Sexual/Reproductive Health Program

Schools/Camps/Groups – 1

Classes – 0

Students reached - 0

CAP Pack Distribution:

- New CAP location at Minerva Town Hall – placed **21** packs there in display
- Approved to place in Schroon Lake Town Hall; waiting for delivery of display
- **17** CAP packs were distributed at the Harvest Festival

Children's Services

Early Intervention

Referral received in to the program - **5**
 Children found eligible & enrolled (have a plan) - **22**
 Children awaiting evaluation - **3**
 Speech Therapy - **11** receiving; **3** waiting
 Occupational Therapy - **0** receiving; **2** waiting
 Physical Therapy - **3** receiving; **1** waiting
 Special Instructional Services - **6** receiving; **2** waiting

Preschool Program

Children in process of evaluation, referrals - **11**
 Children enrolled - **67**
 Children waiting for services: **26** Counseling – **2**; Occupational Therapy – **12**; Physical Therapy – **4**; Speech Therapy – **13**; Special Education Itinerant Teacher - **11**
 # Children Attending Center Based Classrooms in County - **8**; Out of County - **10**

Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs

Children enrolled – **30**

In September, The Children's Services Unit attended several community outreach events including Adirondack Harvest Fest and Recovery Day. Many families with young children attended these events. Kelsey made a fall themed photo booth for the Harvest Fest to engage children and as a draw towards our table where information on all Health Department programs was provided. Kelsey also attended the Special Needs and Disabilities Expo in Albany. Various agencies and programs tabled at this event, providing information on everything from Adaptive equipment and advocacy to wellness and therapeutic programs.



WIC

Target Caseload – **600**
 Current Enrollment - **573**
 High Risk Participants - **27**
 Nutrition Education sessions/contacts – **242**
 Referrals made to other programs/services - **94**
 Breastfeeding initiation rate – **85%**
 \$ Redeemed (spent) through the WIC program - **\$29,981**

WIC has been working with the Essex Food Hub on the **Local Food for Local Families Grant** distribution. From March 2024 through September 2024, 94 WIC families throughout the county received \$51,087 of local food, in addition to their WIC benefits.

A thank you from a WIC participant-

Thank you so much for putting together these local food boxes! My family has loved receiving them and they have offered a fun variety! I have been making overnight oats from the maple syrup and oats, the veggies have been delightful, the kids are obsessed with the fruit and I have really appreciated the variety of meats that come! We would not have been able to afford the quality of food (especially meat) you are offering, and I really value good quality, local foods. Especially at a time when food prices high, WIC and programs like this have really taken the edge off our grocery bill for a working family with two young kids. We are really loving this program, thank you for all the effort you are putting into it!

Home Health Care

In September, members of the New York State Congressional delegation issued a letter to President Biden, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The letter outlined disapproval of the CMS CY2025 proposed payment rule, which they say threatens the ability of home health care providers to care for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.

Previous (negative) payment adjustments since 2020 caused a significant decline in home health admissions across all regions of NYS, resulting in covered enrollees who needed but did not receive home health care from 2020-2023. In addition, NYS experienced a 13% decline in the number of active HHAs from 2019-2023, losing 19 agencies during this time.

The letter requests that the rule change be paused and further consideration given regarding how budget neutrality is determined in home health.