

ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER 2024

MONTHLY REPORT

DIRECTOR - LINDA BEERS, MPH



Health Department Highlights

FALL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

- Overdose Awareness
- Recovery Day
- Credible Mind
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Men's Health
- Safe/Moderate Drinking



Essex County, NY Health

Published by Lindsay Sprague-Java

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• August 31 at 6:00 AM •

Overdose Awareness Day.



COVID, FLU, RSV



PANDEMIC RESPONSE REPORT

2020 - 2022*

*This report was published in 2024 and includes review of 2019 (pre-pandemic) Department activities.

DATA –reporting starting October 1st

VACCINES – offering Moderna; Fluarix, Fluzone, Abrysvo

- offering clinic for county employees
- *Safety net provider*

TESTS – providing OTC iHealth tests upon request

-testing county employees to access COVID paid leave

YEAR 12 INCENTIVE PROGRAM

March 2024 It was suggested during a year-12 performance incentive funding webinar with NYSDOH that LHDs contact their NYSDOT Regional Representative for assistance in developing active transportation plans.

- Our Chronic Disease Outreach Coordinator followed up with a Zoom call to NYSDOT Regional Representative Celeste Harp and was informed of funds specifically available to help communities that are not part of a metropolitan transportation organization (MTO). *(lots of meetings and emails ensued)*
- **JUNE 2024** NYSDOT agreed to fund two active transportation corridor studies
 - Willsboro \$50,000
 - Lewis \$50,000
- **July/August 2024** NYSDOT agreed to fund 1 more study
 - Keene was agreed upon because it is in the top 6 towns for traffic crashes in Essex County for FFY 2023, and well positioned for a successful TAP application
- Planning one RFP for all three towns to maximize dollars with an engineering firm.
 - Plan is drafted.
 - Waiting for confirmation from NYSDOT as to the amount funded for Keene to issue the RFP.
 - Meeting with NYSDOT/Keene on 9/10 - hoping to confirm the amount
- End goal is to apply for TAP funding to pay for the recommendations of the studies
 - TAP funding is a 2 year cycle - next application to be issued sometime in 2025

ECHD Program Data – August (unless otherwise noted)

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

CHA Progress Updates & Special Reports

NYS recently released its 2025-2030 State Health Improvement Plan, known as the Prevention Agenda. While some of the priorities are familiar, the new Domains center on health-related social needs that often influence health outcomes across a lifespan. Essex County is well versed in the factors that drive health outside of healthcare delivery and our long-standing collaborations with human service agencies mean that we are poised to adapt to this change. That said, there are challenges in placing so many complex issues of a “societal fabric nature” in the public health bucket when funding streams and core programmatic areas do not well align.



Communicable Disease

Communicable Disease Surveillance/Epidemiology Investigations – No Update

Respiratory Illness investigations (Flu, COVID, RSV, TB) - **79**

GI Illness (Water/Foodborne) Illness Investigations - **3**

STI/Hepatitis & HIV Investigations - **14**

Arthropod-borne (Mosquitos and Ticks) Disease Investigations - **57**

Food Safety/Outbreak Investigations – **0**

Other Investigations (Strep pneumo invasive, Invasive Group A/B Strep) - **1**

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**

Note: contracts between Planned Parenthood of Greater NY and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England are now executed ensuring coverage across the county for residents.

Rabies Prevention Program

Rabies Vaccine Clinics – **1** (Ray Brook)

Pets Vaccinated - **49**

Rabies investigations - **42**

Specimens submitted for testing – **20**

Positive Specimens – 1 (August - Westport); 6 total for 2024

People approved for rabies post exposure prophylaxis – **8**

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises - **0**

Training/Continuing Education - **5**

Community Engagement/Collaborative Planning Meetings - **3**

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 - **2**

Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings - **5**

Public Health Detailing Screenings & Disease Concordant Care - **0**

Direct Community Outreach Initiatives – **1 (5 Days - Essex County Fair)**

Training/Continuing Education – **0**

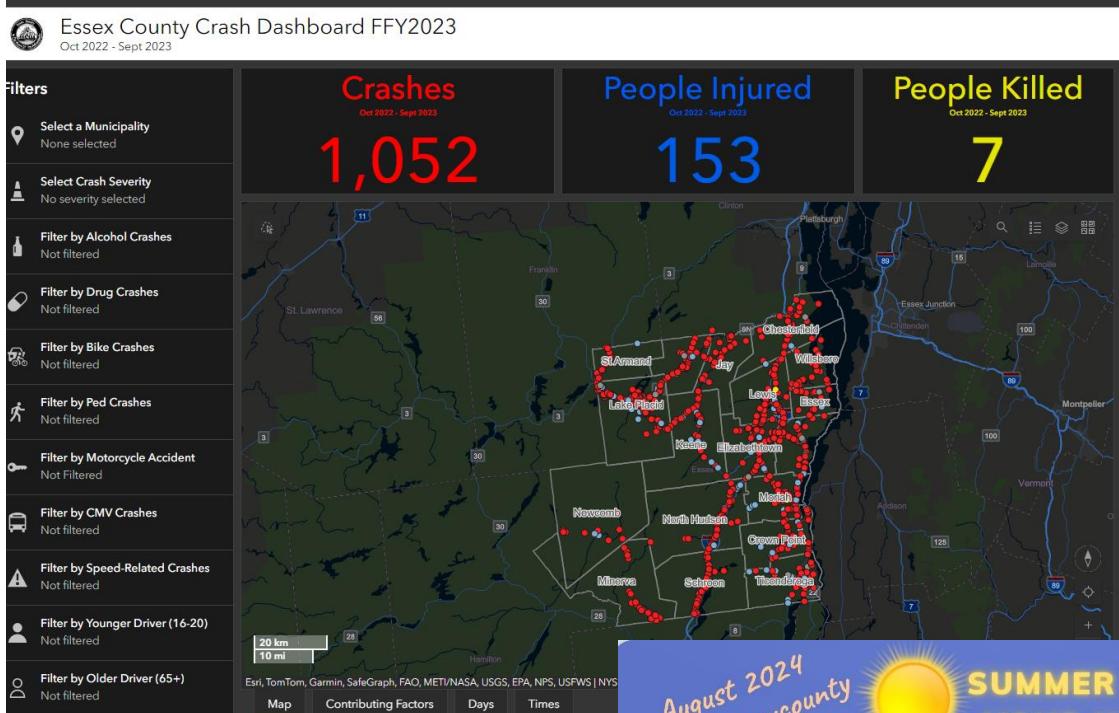
- Advocated for, and received approval of funding from the New York State Department of Transportation for an active transportation traffic study in the Town of Keene.
- The Essex County Health Department was recently granted access to the Essex County Crash Data Hub from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. This hub provides detailed traffic crash data for all of Essex County federal fiscal years 2020 – 2023, and can be filtered by location, type of crash, contributing factors, and other demographic data. Here are some examples of the type of data it provides:

Municipalities with the most crashes FFY2023

North Elba	Lewis	Ticonderoga
132	79	75
Total Crashes FFY2023	Total Crashes FFY2023	Total Crashes FFY2023
Schroon	Crown Point	Keene
71	56	52
Total Crashes FFY2023	Total Crashes FFY2023	Total Crashes FFY2023

Essex County Highway Safety Reports

Contact Crash Analyst Liaison Ben Engwer if you would like a highway safety report or presentation designed for your agency. Customized reports similar to those linked below can be created for any highway safety topic (e.g. Pedestrian crashes, Impaired crashes, Speed-related crashes, etc.), and for any range of time.



- Summer Sun Safety Month – Provided education and distributed sunscreen packets and DEET insect repellent wipes at the Essex County Fair
- #Getfitessexcounty “Summer Slay Your Way!!! Spell your name workout”.

Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

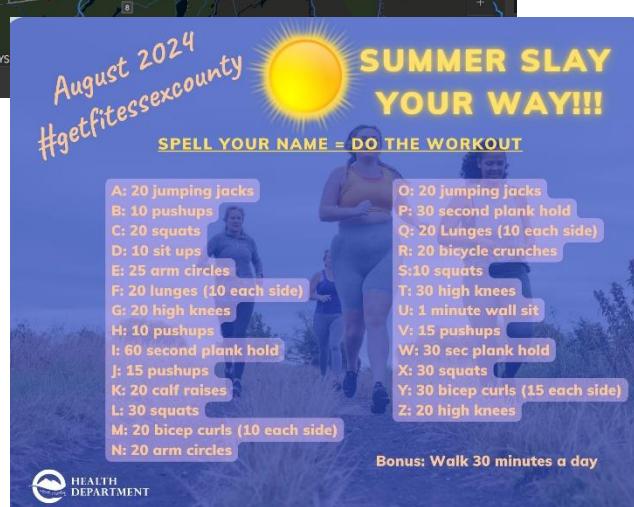
Narcan Kits Distributed - **13**

Groups Trained/Mained - **0**

Groups referred to Alliance for Positive Health for training: **0**

SUDOR Submissions/ODs – **3** non-fatal; **0** fatal

Total Overdoses for the year: **55** (49 non-fatal; 6 fatal)



Family Health

Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Babies born & families offered the Program – **18**

Families enrolled in the program - **1**

Families that were sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program – **17**

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

Resources provided on daycare subsidy and WIC. Two mothers that previously declined the program reached out for in-person lactation support and were provided that assistance at ECHD.

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

In celebration of Breastfeeding Week at the beginning of August, ECHD announced the expansion of our Little Feeders Circle of Support to the online world! New videos will be posted weekly to support families on their breastfeeding journeys.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead Cases open (elevated lead levels in pregnant women or children) – **5** active; **11** pending confirmatory testing; **2** 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 – **4** (Tech Check Tuesdays)

Car seats checked - **1**

Car seats issued as new & installed – **0**

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 - **16** Essex County Fair; **100** to UVMHN-ECH for health centers

Children's Services

Early Intervention

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

Children found eligible & enrolled (have a plan) - **36**

Children awaiting evaluation - **0**

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 - **11**

Children enrolled - **52**

Children waiting for services: **17** Counseling – **4**; Occupational Therapy – **11**; Physical Therapy – **0**; Speech Therapy – **7**; Special Education Itinerant Teacher - **7**

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

Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs

Children enrolled – **30**

Program Updates: Our staff member, Hillary Perkett, completed Car Seat Technician training in August!

WIC

Target Caseload – **600**

Current Enrollment - **519**

High Risk Participants - **34**

Nutrition Education sessions/contacts – **160**

Referrals made to other programs/services - **56**

Breastfeeding initiation rate – **85%**

\$ Redeemed (spent) through the WIC program - **\$26,195**

WIC has been working with the Essex Food Hub on the Local Food for Local Families Grant distribution. In July, 91 WIC families throughout the county received a total of \$18,513 of local food in addition to their WIC benefits. Pictured right is an example of what each box contained.



Some initial feedback from families:

"Just wanted to say thank you for the chicken and veggies. I made stir-fry last night and my kids said it was the best!"

"Hi, I don't know if anyone has thanked you for this cabbage. I have a new appreciation for it this year and am cooking it and chopping it in salads!"

"Ladies, I continue to feel like I can't thank you enough for all you are doing to help feed us such healthy and delicious food. And tell the sheep farmer's I'll take their yogurt over Stewart's ice cream any day!"

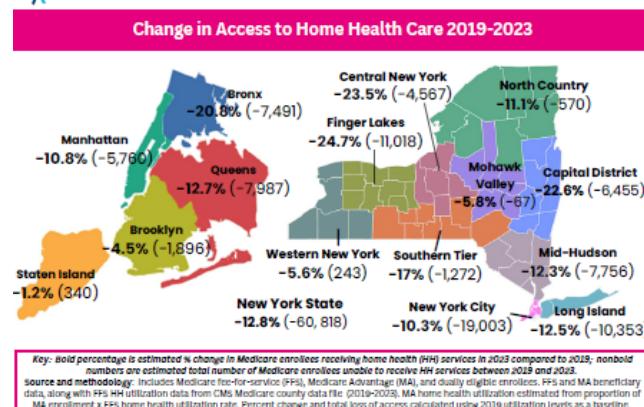
"I put blueberries and peaches from the box into the sheep's milk yogurt and it was so good, and my family loved it."

"Thank you so much for the local plums! I put them in my blender and made plum baby food."

"The meat and veggies have really helped me stretch my food dollars. Thank you for the recipes."

Home Health Care

VNS Health Home Health Care in Crisis Across NY State



Key: Bold percentage is estimated % change in Medicare enrollees receiving home health (HH) services in 2023 compared to 2019; nonbold numbers are estimated total number of Medicare enrollees unable to receive HH services between 2019 and 2023. Source and methodology: VNS Health analysis of CMS Medicare enrollment and utilization data, along with FFS HH utilization data from CMS Medicare enrollment data file (2019-2023), MA home health utilization estimated from proportion of MA enrollment x FFS home health utilization rate. Percent change and total loss of access calculated using 2019 utilization levels as a baseline.

CONGRESS: Stop Harmful Cuts Impacting Home Health Access

To increase bed capacity for new patients, hospitals are desperately trying to discharge more patients to home health agencies. But years of persistent workforce shortages made worse by major Medicare cuts have left tens of thousands of NYS residents without needed home health care.

- CMS slashed Medicare home health reimbursement by 19.89% from 2020-24, and is proposing an additional **-4.06%** payment reduction for 2025, bringing the combined total cuts to **23.96%**.**
- Wage index cuts worsen the impact** in many NYS regions: NYC and Westchester will receive an additional **-4.2%** cut wage index cut; Long Island receives an additional **-5%** cut.
- MA plans typically pay 30% less than FFS, and use Medicare FFS cuts to justify their rates.**

NY DELEGATION: Please co-sponsor and pass the Preserving Access to Home Health Act (S.2137/H.R.5159) to stop CMS from making permanent and temporary payment cuts

-12.8% est. change in home health access from 2019 to 2023 in NYS.

60,000 est. total Medicare enrollees who needed but did not receive home health care 2020-2023.

19.89% total Medicare home health payment cuts 2020-2024 (FFS).

8.2% - 9% proposed CY2025 payment cut in NYC, LI, Westchester (PDGM budget neutrality and wage index adjustment).

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