

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

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Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. The St. Johnsbury Local Health Office serves towns in Caledonia, southern Essex and a portion of Orange counties. Some highlights of 2023 are below. For more information on our work and the areas we serve, visit

HealthVermont.gov/local/st-johnsbury



Pregnant People, Infants and Children

Our Women, Infants & Children (WIC) team received 1 of only 13 national Premiere Level 2023 WIC Breastfeeding Awards of Excellence.

- In 2023, our WIC Program helped more than 775 pregnant people, infants and children under 5. We offer **healthy food**, breastfeeding **support**, nutrition **education** and community service **connections**.
- We worked with Salvation Farms to give families free local fresh **seasonal produce**.
- To make our services **more accessible**, our staff provided tele-WIC and expanded to 5 community clinic sites, including 2 daycares.



Collaborations and Collective Impact

Our team participates in many collaborative efforts in our community. Some 2023 highlights include:

- **NEK Prosper!** - The Caledonia & Southern Essex County Accountable Health Community - working to leverage relationships and collaborative action to build community health equity.
- **NEK United** - Bringing together public health and community leaders to work towards advancing health equity and well-being for all. Our work together will bring limited national funding to our region.
- **Radon Test Kit Distribution** - Our pilot program worked with town clerks, librarians and health centers. It led to an increase in test kits distributed in Caledonia and Southern Essex counties.



Prepared and Responsive

Our team is prepared to respond to changing community needs and emerging public health threats. In 2023 our staff:

- **Investigated** reports of infectious diseases and outbreaks.
- **Vaccinated** uninsured or underinsured people with COVID, flu, Mpox and other immunizations.
- Distributed free **home drinking water test kits** after historic flooding affected many in our community.
- Joined the collaborative NEK long-term **recovery planning efforts** post-flooding.
- Supported the Northeast Kingdom **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** —contact us to volunteer!

