

# 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](https://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!

