

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

**City of Englewood
Department of Health**



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Municipal Alliance Coordinator

CONSULTANTS

Dr. Marjorie Jones, MD Pediatrician
Sheryl Pabatao & Salvatore Ferlise III ... Registered Environmental Health Specialist

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

The Englewood Health Department continues to identify and address the health needs of our community. Focusing on education and illness prevention, it provides needed services to all Englewood residents. In late August 2024, Dr. Shatrujan Bastola retired as Director of Health Services/Health Officer. James Fedorko currently serves as interim Health Officer, while Deborah Baldwin serves as interim Director. Both bring experience and knowledge to the roles.

We are proud to note that The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute has awarded Englewood its 2024 Mayors Wellness Campaign “Healthy Town” award for promoting health and wellness through community-based programs. As one of only 31 municipalities in the State receiving this honor, our city has been recognized as one that addresses the physical and mental health needs of its residents, as well as any public health challenges that may arise.

During the year, the dedicated and skilled Health Department staff managed matters related to communicable diseases, adult and child health, vital statistics, and environmental health and food safety, while maintaining compliance with regulatory requirements. The Health Department has been a strong and visible presence within the city. In partnership with Englewood Health, church and community leaders, and other community organizations, a number of health fairs, wellness events and initiatives were conducted at various locations. These well-received activities provided not only education but testing and evaluation, provision of vaccines, and distribution of information regarding additional resources when needed. Our partnership with the Municipal Alliance continues as we strive to maintain a Stigma-Free environment, supporting those living with mental health and addiction challenges. Volunteers provided additional support to the Department.

We thank the Mayor, City Council and City Manager for their ongoing support of the Health Department and its endeavors. Their support for our annual budget enables the Department to continue its work and remain prepared for future health needs. As well, two grants complement our mission.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as President, and along with the entire Board, look forward to the year ahead.

Stephanie Davis
President, Board of Health

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

First, many thanks to our Board of Health members who serve on a volunteer basis. The Board meets once a month, except in August, and provides guidance throughout the year. They ensure that the department provides a competent workforce and creates/enforces policy to protect the health of residents.

As you may be aware, the Director of Health Services/Health Officer retired at the end of August 2024. You may not know that licensed Health Officers are scarce, making recruitment difficult. In the meantime, I have been covering the administrative functions of the department as Acting Director. A former Health Officer for Englewood, James Fedorko, has been the interim Health Officer.

With financial assistance from several grants, we were able to purchase some updated equipment and software for the office. In addition, staff have developed new programs for our residents and purchased a wide selection of items to give away at public events. It is our hope that these programs will continue after the grants are concluded.

A capital request enabled us to complete renovations in the nursing and health education section of the department. Also included was the kitchen/meeting room. This past year, new furniture was purchased for each of these areas.

Our Health Educator, Julie Green, received honorable mention (1st runner-up) in the Mayor's Wellness Challenge "Champion of Health" award. A number of the new programs offered were initiated by Ms. Green. She has improved community health by introducing inclusive, socially engaging programs and expanding community wellness programs for residents.

The staff continue to deliver existing programs. These include, but are not limited to, TASE/VASE (Tobacco/Vape Age of Sale Enforcement), rabies vaccination clinic, child and adult vaccinations, chronic disease management, wellness challenges, substance use prevention, and mental health education.

Finally, my thanks to the staff who strive to achieve the Department's goals and continue to address the needs of the community.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Baldwin
Acting Director of Health Services
Public Health Consultant

VITAL STATISTICS & LICENSING

CAUSES OF DEATH (PRIMARY) Englewood Residents		2022	2023	2024
CDC ranking as of 2022				
1	Heart Disease	46	49	49
2	Cancer	43	34	27
3	Accidents (Unintentional Injury/Overdose)	*	7	6
4	COVID-19	14	*	*
5	Stroke / Cerebrovascular Disease	12	9	13
6	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (incl COPD)	8	14	11
7	Alzheimer's/Dementia (and complications of)	23	21	29
8	Diabetes	*	*	*
9	Kidney/Renal Diseases	11	12	9
10	Liver Disease/Cirrhosis			*
11	Other Causes	51	50	69
12	Pending Investigation	0	0	*
TOTALS		212	201	220

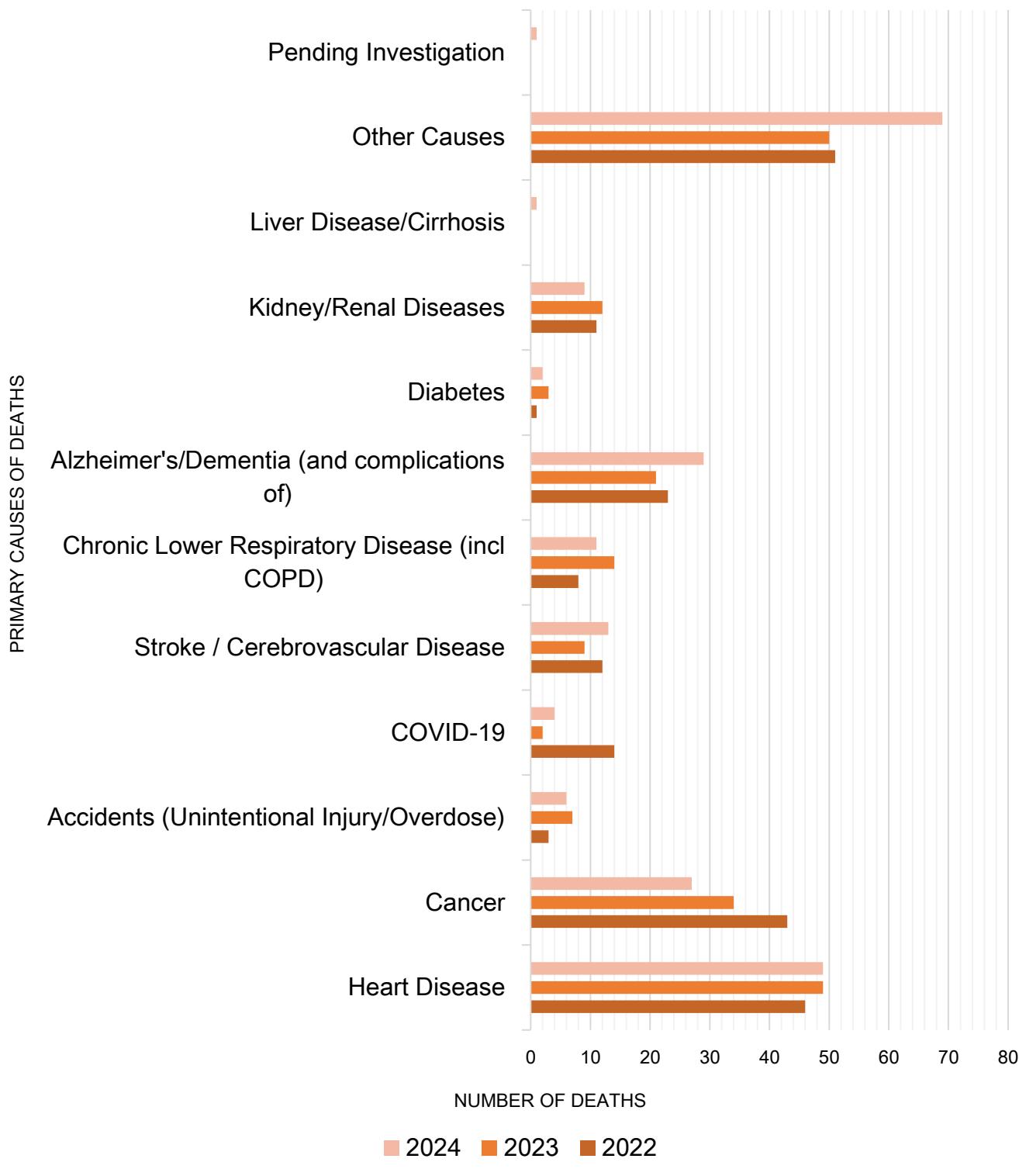
Cancers included 6 cases each of breast and lung cancer; fewer than 5 cases each of liver, brain, colorectal, pancreatic, bladder, endometrial, gastrointestinal, leukemia, mesothelioma, prostate, and unspecified metastatic cancers. Accidental deaths include fewer than 5 cases of substance overdose.

* Indicates counts less than 5.

Statistics show Englewood has had a consistent decrease in the birth rate from 2022 to 2024. The birth rate decreased by just over 1% in 2024 compared to 2023. However, births decreased by -8.41 % in 2024 compared to 2022. Despite the fact the rate of birth decreased the number of resident births showed very little change. Resident births between 2022 and 2024 dipped by -1.7%. Resident births between 2023 and 2024 dropped by less than 1%.

Death certificates, on the other hand, showed more consistency in the number of deaths over the three-year period between 2022, 2023 and, 2024. There is less than -2.5 difference between deaths filed between 2022 and 2024. There were 527 deaths filed in 2022, 516 deaths filed for 2023 and 514 in 2024. Although deaths filed decreased between 2022 and 2024 residency deaths show a mild fluctuation between of decrease from 2022 and 2023 with a slight increase in 2024. Resident deaths in 2024 increased by 9.45% over 2023 and by 3.77% over 2022.

2022-2024 Causes of Death (Primary) Englewood Residents



FINANCIAL DATA

REVENUE	2022	2023	2024
Operations			
Certified Copies, Amendments, Permits	146,409	140,023	127,356
Marriage/Civil Union/Domestic Partner License	2,240	2,772	5,628
Dog Licenses	2,482	3,864	2,436
Cat Licenses	268	561	443
Pet Late License Fees & Duplicate Tags & Hen License	908	414	763
Retail Food Licenses / Plan Reviews	69,190	63,134	60,795
Food Establishment Re-inspection / Late License Fees	1,898	4,122	4,092.50
Misc License (Pools, Temp Food, etc.)	21,459.50	21,819	24,968.50
FMC / FHC Course Registration	5,350	1,250	2,850
CHC User Fees		2,462	2,075
Mental Health First Aid Train/Stigma Free Englewood	1,797		
Misc Income (Copies, Notary, etc.)	126	104	26.40
Fee For Service (Mantoux, Flu/Other Vaccines)	580	1,050	1100
Total Operations Income	253,682.50	241,595	233,546.40
Grants			
EMHC Reach & Teach			
EHMC/Rutgers Healthy Community Collab			
Municipal Alliance: Sticker Shock			
Municipal Alliance: Stigma Free Initiative			
Bergen County: Stigma-Free & Wellness Initiative	5,754.10	5,754.10	5,754.10
Municipal Alliance			
Municipal Alliance: DMHAS	4,620	4,620	
Bergen County: Comm Devel Block Grant			
NJ ACCHO Emergency Prep (COVID19)			
NJ ACCHO Enhancing PH Capacity		427,132	-
NJ ACCHO Sustaining PH Capacity			168,049
NJ DOH COVID Strengthen PH Capacity	274,735		74,664
NJ DOH COVID Vaccination Supplemental Funding	50,000	-	-
Total Grant Income	324,735	437,506.10	248,467.10
REVENUE GRAND TOTAL	578,417.50	649,101.10	482,013.50

EXPENDITURES	2022	2023	2024
Contractual Services	40,430.14	13,217.01	29,417.26
Advertising	655.22	530	356.68
Postage	2,613.95	8,858.95	5,641.51
Printing/Binding	1,287.80	2,219.64	1,152
Vehicle Repair/Maintenance	-	-	-
Office Equipment – Servicing	555.58	223	
Specialized Services	22,134	36,279.01	2,800
Books, Publications	31	-	-
Office Supplies	4,530.63	5,372.81	3,312
Training Aids/Programs	2,485.98	1,319.93	-
Meetings, Conventions, Conferences	488.85	754.96	445
Uniforms & Accessories	2,080.48	66.49	2,774.64
Memberships	535	1,295	1,000
Travel Allowance	-	-	-
Office Furniture	-	-	-
Office Equipment	-	201.96	599.81
Motor Fuel & Lubricants)	774.55	339.50	296.58
Telephone & Telegraph	-	-	-
Other Materials & Supplies	948.87	2,438.60	3,499.22
Food & Drugs	-	1,903.60	3,425.44
Photo, Blueprint & Developing (Copiers)	5,004.99	8,140.65	4,319.37
Equipment Repair/Maintenance	-	-	-
Child Health Clinic	-	1,549.24	1,920.05
Reach & Teach	-	-	-
TASE (Tobacco Age of Sale Enforcement)	80	-	200
EXPENDITURE TOTAL			

100

STAFFING

14.5ETE

13ETE

Note: In 2024, services were charged to Contractual Services instead of Specialized Services. Office supplies, specialized services, training aids/programs, other materials & supplies, memberships, etc. expenditures were charged to the NIACCHO and SLPHC grant.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Animal Bites/Quarantine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Complaint Investigation • Animal Bite Report • Dog Confinement • Rabies Vaccination Clinic 	In collaboration with the Bergen County Animal Control team, the Environmental Health Unit investigates animal complaints and bite investigations. Rabies education is provided as awareness that fatality could occur for lack of understanding to consider prophylactic treatment after a bite incident. The Department facilitates an annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic, which is free of cost to resident's dogs and cats.
Board of Cosmetology and Consumer Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beauty, Barber, Braiding & Nails • Tattoo • Permanent Make-up • Massage Spas 	Board of Cosmetology inspections at hair, nail and spas are conducted throughout the year to ensure all shops and employees within our jurisdiction are licensed for public safety. Body Art Inspections are performed in accordance with NJAC 8:27-1
Emergency Response & Enforcement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Call • Conditional Re-Inspection • Notices of Violation • Summons 	Weekly, one employee of the unit must be available for Emergency Calls and respond rapidly. Enforcement is the unit's most utilized tool, but it always comes after education. The department is dedicated to educating residents/business owners when a violation occurs by issuing a Notice of Violation and allowing an abatement opportunity, rather than just issuing citations.
City License Inspections/OPRA Request <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Occupancy • Certificate of Continued Occupancy • Plan Review • OPRA 	Plan Reviews, Certificate of Occupancy and Certificate of Continued Occupancy inspections are conducted when an establishment is new or has gone through a change of ownership or a renovation. This is to ensure the establishment is up to code. Open Public Records Act requests are requested through the City Clerk's Office, which are then forwarded to the proper department.

<p>Environmental Nuisance Complaints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noise ● Odor ● Garbage ● Sewage ● Noxious Weeds ● Rodents ● Insects/Pest (bees) ● Mosquitoes 	<p>Nuisance complaints are resolved through educating the public on violations in accordance with the Englewood Health Revised Nuisance Codes Chapter 505, 1-6. At times summonses are issued which require presenting cases in Municipal Court to obtain positive resolutions. Educational materials are also provided on our website and during outreach events.</p>
<p>Temporary Events, Educational Outreach & Trainings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Educational Infographics and Food for Thought News bulletin ● Food Safety Training ● Food Safety Demonstration Class ● Temporary Events ● Tobacco Education Survey ● Norovirus Outreach and Education 	<p>Throughout the year, the Environmental team offers guidance and educational materials to the public and retail food establishments. This includes Food Safety Training to food establishment employees, distribution of the Food for Thought newsletter to all retail food establishments, and conducting the Tobacco Education Surveys to Tobacco Retailers. A series of temporary food establishment inspections were conducted and vendors received a combination of inspection of both educational pamphlets to ensure food safety during events.</p> <p>Temporary Events and Outreach</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NAACP Health Fair 2. Dr. Seuss "Read Across America" 3. Congregation Ahvath Torah "Block Party" 4. Englewood Recreation Department - "Extravaganza" & "Spooktacula" 5. Farmers Market 6. 4TH OF JULY Fireworks Celebration 7. Sizzling Sidewalks 8. Nia Harmon Caribbean Festival 9. Harmon Concierge Car Show 10. Memorial Day Classic Car Show 11. Englewood Fire Department BBQ 12. Farmers Market 13. Ideal Lodge Fish Fry 14. Englewood Family Reunion 15. Community Baptist Church Picnic 16. Englewood Public School "Back to School Fair" 17. Elisabeth Morrow Back to School Fair 18. Flat Brook Nature Association's "Great Fall Festival" 19. Jabari Society's- "Juneteenth Celebration" and "Back to School" Events

Educational Trainings

20. Englewood Health Department "Family Wellness Fair"
21. Englewood Police Department "Movie in the Park"
22. Dr. Grieco PTO Trunk or Treat
23. Englewood Public Schools "Back to School" Event
24. Bergen Pac Gala
25. Community SDA Church "Keep Hope Alive Community Impact" Event
26. Christmas Tree Lighting
27. Menorah Lighting
28. Englewood Night Market
29. Crescent Lighting

Environmental staff attended several trainings during 2024, which aid to the continuous educational outreach programs needed to serve the community. These consist of the following:

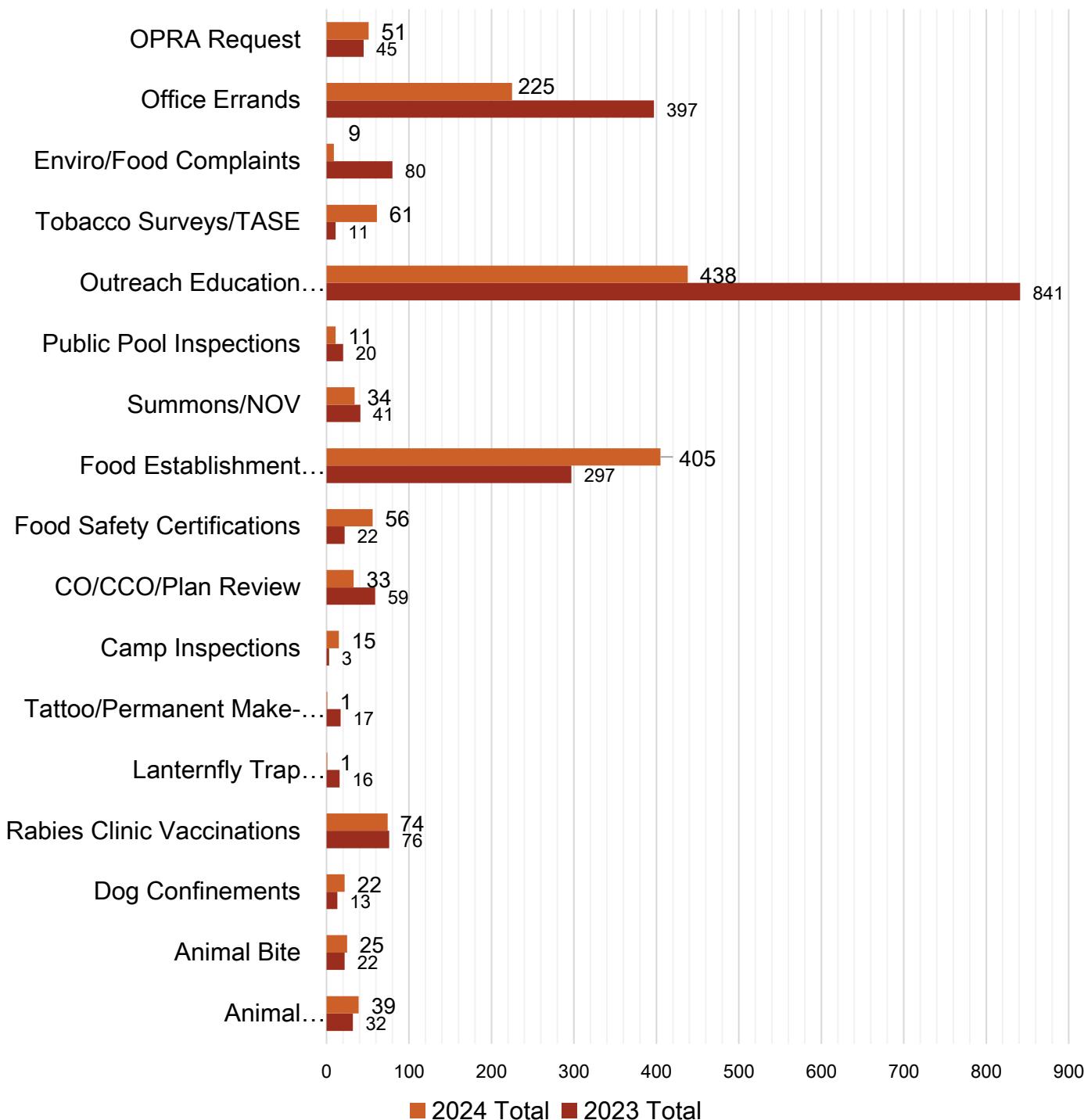
- Deer Symposium
- Molluscan Shellfish Traceability
- Food Safety Culture and Food Management Systems
- Noise Enforcement Certification
- Mental Health Training
- Certified Pool Managers Course
- Spatial Data Logistics (SDL)
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- ©Narcan Training
- Chronic Disease Self-Management Peer Leader Training
- Actors Fund OEM Drill
- FEMA ICS-100
- FEMA IS-700.B
- Pool and Spa Operation Course
- Food Handler Course
- Animal in Public Health Training
- Rabies Refresher Training
- Avian Flu Awareness Webinar

Retail Food Program Inspections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Care Facilities • Churches & Synagogues • Daycare Centers • Mobile Food Trucks • Retail Food Establishments • Schools 	Food Establishments <p>Retail Food Safety includes the delivery, storage and preparation of the foods, the consumer's consumption and or purchase. REHS conduct inspections established under Chapter 24 of the New Jersey State Sanitary Code, to ensure the safety of the public. This occurs by way of unannounced inspections. The inspection includes, but is not limited to: observation of food handling, proper temperature control of food items, and general cleanliness and storage of food. New Jersey State Code only requires one inspection per year.</p>
Recreational Inspections- Pools and Day Camps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pools pre-operational and routine inspections, re-inspections if necessary • Plan Review for new pool installation • Review of weekly water quality testing 	Pool Safety <p>Compliance with the New Jersey Chapter 26 of the Recreational Bathing Code is the standard for the inspections of pools. Englewood has nine semi-public pools and two public pools, each of which undergoes a yearly pre-opening inspection. During the course of each inspection, a pool is checked for water quality/proper chemical levels, adequate safety equipment, properly certified lifeguards and that there are no hazards to the public. In addition, spot checks are conducted throughout the season, as well as reviewing weekly water quality analyses reports.</p>
Youth Camp Inspections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Camp policies and activity • Pre-operational and routine inspections, re-inspections if necessary 	Youth Camps <p>Englewood Youth Camps provide seasonal activities and life learning skills. All camps must be registered with the NJ Department of Health & Senior Services, and inspections are conducted per NJAC 8:26 Youth Camp Standards code. The inspection covers areas such as proper ratios of staff to campers, staff licensing and background checks, and that proper medical staff is available.</p>

Smoke Free Air Act & TASE/ESDE	<p>New Jersey's Smoke Free Air Act protects workers to ensure a safe workplace and breathe smoke-free in public places they visit. The law affects the following types.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any enclosed location at which a person may perform service or labor. • Restaurants and bars • Child care centers • Health Care facilities and nursing homes • Retail stores • Theaters, libraries, museums and art galleries <p>Tobacco Age of Sale/Electronic Smoking Device (ESD) Enforcement inspections are performed to verify the sale of a tobacco product or electronic smoking device to a person 21 years of age and younger. This is a violation of NJAC 2A-170-51.6.</p>
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Environmental Health Unit Inspection Activity		
	2023	2024
Animal Complaints/Inspections	31	37
Animal Bite	22	25
Dog Confinements	13	22
Rabies Clinic Vaccinations	76	74
Lanternfly Trap Disbursement	16	1
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up/Salons	17	1
Camp Inspections	3	15
CO/CCO/Plan Review	59	33
Food Safety Certifications	22	56
Food Establishment Inspections	297	405
Summons/NOV	41	34
Public Pool Inspections	20	11
Outreach Education Notifications	841	438
Tobacco Surveys/TASE	11	61
Enviro/Food Complaints	80	9
Office Errands	397	225
OPRA Request	45	51
Total	1992	1500

2023/2024 Enviro Activity



Abandoned Pool Complaint



CERT Course Search and Rescue Operation



Food Safety Demonstration
La Fonda Paisa



Englewood Night Market

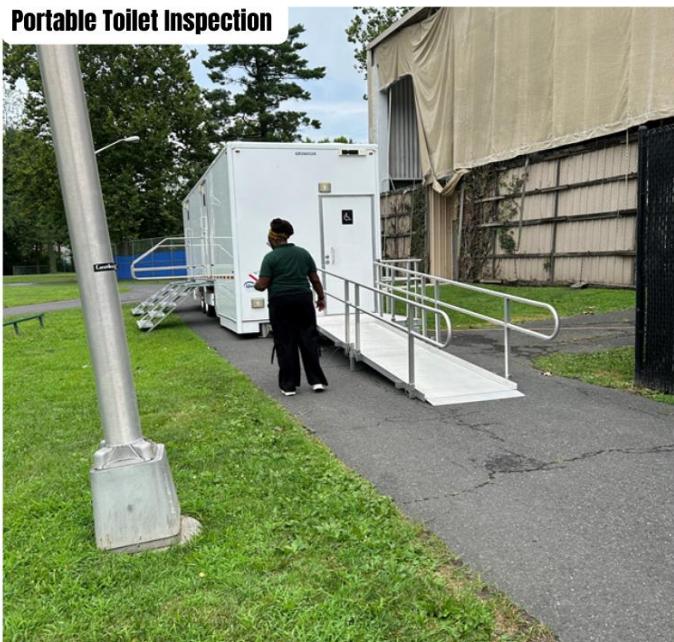


Environmental HEALTH 2024

Retail Garbage
Spot Check



Portable Toilet Inspection



Mushroom Complaint

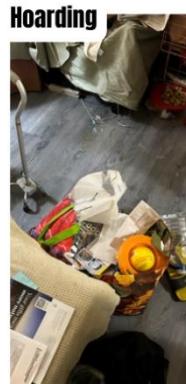


Englewood Family Wellness Weekend





Environmental HEALTH 2024



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

The Public Health Nursing unit plays a crucial role in promoting and protecting community health by delivering healthcare services aimed at vulnerable and underserved populations. Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department had established a strong reputation for its proactive initiatives and effective health programs, which contributed to improved health outcomes in the community. The challenges presented by the pandemic prompted the Nursing unit to adapt quickly to excel in its mission. In response to the emergence of new diseases, the Nursing unit has significantly expanded its outreach in the area of epidemiology and service offerings to ensure the public's well-being.

Adult Vaccine-Preventable Disease

The Health Department offers a vital program known as the Adult Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (317 Vaccine Program). This initiative provides affordable vaccines to uninsured adults, helping to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. The vaccines available through this program include those for COVID-19, Hepatitis A and B, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR), Meningococcal disease, Pneumococcal disease, Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap), Varicella (chickenpox), and Shingles.

This program is particularly beneficial for uninsured adults who require vaccinations for various reasons, such as changes in their residential status, employment requirements, academic policies related to school attendance, or overall well-being. By improving access to these essential vaccines, the Adult Vaccine Preventable Disease Program plays a vital role in promoting public health and preventing the spread of infectious diseases within the community. Vaccines can be received either by scheduling an appointment or by walking in.



Child Health Clinic – VFC Program

Another vital program offered is the Child Health Clinic which provides essential services to uninsured children and those enrolled in the State Health Insurance Plan A. This clinic focuses on preventive healthcare and offers services such as physical exams, immunizations, health screenings, Mantoux skin testing, and sports physical exams. The clinics are offered twice a month – every second and fourth Tuesday.

These services are available to both Englewood residents and non-residents, ensuring that children aged 0-18 in surrounding areas receive the healthcare they need.

Additionally, the vaccines are provided at no cost to participants. However, there is an administrative fee for the services provided.

Community Outreach

The Englewood Health Department successfully administered flu and COVID-19 vaccines to the community, reaching employees, Englewood residents, and those from surrounding areas. It also partnered with Buckley's Drug Store for vaccination clinics. These events were strategically held at accessible locations, including the Englewood Health Department, the Englewood Public Library, restaurants, and popular community events such as health fairs.

The initiative was designed to provide vaccinations and enhance health awareness throughout the community. During flu season, the department aimed to ensure that as many residents as possible received their flu shots and COVID-19 vaccines. Events featured trained health professionals who were available to address any questions or concerns and educate participants about the importance of the vaccines.



Communicable Disease Reporting

The Public Health Nurse will conduct surveillance for communicable diseases as needed, ensuring timely identification and reporting of potential outbreaks. In addition to this critical role, the Nurse has continued to provide valuable support to the Infectious Disease Preparedness Generalist within the department, collaborating on community education initiatives, vaccination programs, and response strategies to enhance public health awareness and safety.

Education and Training

To stay updated on procedures and changes in the public health environment, the Public Health Nurse attended various trainings, seminars, and webinars. These sessions covered the Vaccines for Children program, vaccine-preventable diseases, the New Jersey Immunization Information System documentation, and the New Jersey Inventory Management Order and Distribution System for vaccines. Topics also included communicable disease monitoring and reporting and immunization audits.

In addition to enhancing her knowledge, the Public Health Nurse provides annual training for staff involved in departmental clinic functions. This training includes instruction on the New Jersey Immunization Information System for vaccine entry and documentation, immunization school audits, and the department's daily operations.

School Immunization Audits

The mandate for school vaccinations, established by the New Jersey Department of Health, is enforced through audits conducted by the department. All students are required to be immunized according to the recommended vaccination schedule. School district personnel, such as nurses and administrators, are notified in advance of when these audits will occur. The Public Health Nurse sent a message indicating that the schools' immunization audit would begin in early January. Following this communication, the Public Health Nurse contacted all school representatives throughout January to schedule appointments for these audits, providing specific dates and times for each session.

The audit includes all students, regardless of whether they are enrolled in public or private educational institutions. This encompasses daycare centers, nursery schools, preschools, kindergartens, elementary schools, and high schools.

Both medical and religious exemptions from this mandate are allowed. A religious exemption must be based on documented religious beliefs and include specific language referencing "Religious" in the statement. It is a written statement from the child's parent or guardian which must be dated and signed. In contrast, a medical exemption can only be issued by a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine and certified nurse practitioners. It is important to note that a medical exemption must specify a defined period during which the child is unable to receive certain vaccinations for medical reasons.

Summary

The Public Health Nursing unit plays a vital role in enhancing community health through a wide range of services and programs. It provides immunizations, monitors communicable diseases, engages in community outreach, and offers staff training, ensuring that residents have access to essential health services. The continuous evolution and expansion of these programs demonstrate the department's strong commitment to addressing the changing health needs of the community.

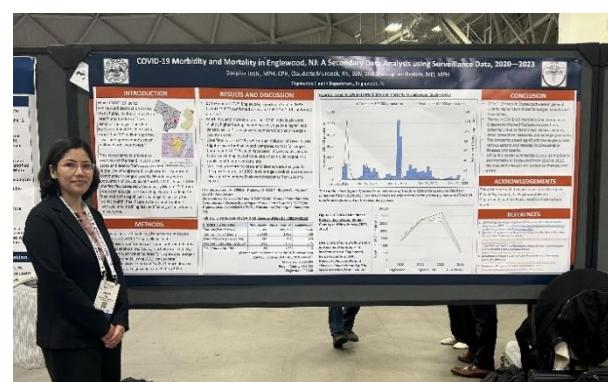
2024 Public Health Nursing Statistical Data	
DESCRIPTION	TOTALS
Adult Health	
TB Screenings	2
Vaccines Administered (Total)	206
Flu 317	175
- Flu (local funds)	27
- Buckley's Drug Store - School	16
- Buckley's Drug Store - EHD	5
Pneumococcal	2
Tdap/Menveo	16
MMR	4
Varicella	7
Child Health Clinic (CHC)	
Number of Sessions	20
Children Seen	127
Intakes (New Children)	84
Physical Exam Only	10
Physical Exam & Vaccine	70
Vaccine Only	47
Flu Vaccine Only	54
Mantoux Test	36
Immunizations	300
COVID-19	
Cases Reported	396
Hospitalizations	15
Deaths	<5
Vaccine EHD - Appt./Walk-In	12
Total Vaccine Clinics	7
Vaccine Home Visits	1
Vaccines Administered	41
Modena 18 & Older	50
Forms Completed	
Immunization Records	134
School Forms	218
Norovirus	
Cases Reported	86
Hospitalizations	<5
School Immunization Audits	
Schools Audited	20
Records Audited	1994

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE IN 2024

The impact of COVID-19 further decreased in 2024. COVID-19 posed a health threat similar to other respiratory viruses like Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), especially for those at higher risk. As a result, CDC issued unified Respiratory Virus Guidance in March to provide a practical approach to protect against various respiratory illnesses. Since the end of the federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 in 2023, there continued to be a shift away from the emergency response phase to the recovery and maintenance phase in which COVID-19 has been addressed amidst many other public health threats. In Englewood, we continued to see a decrease in COVID-19 cases. Compared to 2023, there was nearly 33% decrease in COVID-19 cases in 2024. Apart from COVID-19, EHD received sporadic reports of waterborne and/or foodborne illnesses including Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Giardiasis, non-typhoidal Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*, *Vibrio* infections (excluding *V. cholerae* species), Yersiniosis, and Hepatitis B and C. Other diseases included respiratory and/or vaccine-preventable diseases like influenza, *H. influenzae*, Legionellosis, Pertussis (whooping cough), Varicella (chickenpox), *S. pneumoniae*, *S. pyogenes*, Mpox Clade II, and vector-borne illnesses including Dengue fever and Lyme disease. We received reports of some of these and a few other communicable diseases, which, upon further evaluation or investigation, did not meet the public health surveillance case definition or were found to be false positives. As a result, they may not be noted above. In addition to individual cases of these illnesses, EHD received a few outbreak reports of COVID-19, influenza, and norovirus, particularly in long-term care facility settings, but also a few in community and educational settings in 2024. EHD worked closely with the facilities reporting outbreaks and the Communicable Disease Service branch at the New Jersey Department of Health to manage these outbreaks. Nationally, in 2024, diseases such as Measles, H5N1 bird flu, Mpox Clade I, Pertussis, Dengue, Polio, and a few others made headlines. At local level, we continued our surveillance efforts to prevent and respond to these diseases as we realize that 'A health threat anywhere is a health threat everywhere.'

Highlight: COVID-19 Poster Presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) 2024 Annual Meeting & Expo

The Infectious Disease Preparedness Generalist had the opportunity to present a poster on COVID-19 Morbidity and Mortality in Englewood at the APHA 2024 Annual Meeting & Expo. The poster analyzed trends in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality among Englewood residents from 2020 to 2023. It was made possible with the contribution of the PHN Supervisor, former Health Officer, and other Englewood Health Department staff and supported by the Public Health Infrastructure Grant and City of Englewood.



HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health Education Unit consists of the Health Educator and the Local Health Outreach Coordinator. Together, they assess community needs and carry out health education and promotion initiatives aimed at promoting, maintaining, and improving the health of individuals, families, and the community. They organize activities and events for the public or specific groups, such as health fairs, discussion groups, educational presentations, training sessions, seminars, and more. Additionally, they promote healthy lifestyles and support effective behavioral changes by consistently planning, developing, and implementing community-based programs.



Additionally, both the Health Educator and Local Health Outreach Coordinator serve on various committees and coalitions to foster interagency collaboration within the public health sector and

address the needs of our community.

- ❖ *Englewood Municipal Alliance*
- ❖ *Englewood Partnership for Healthy Eating*
- ❖ *Englewood Stigma Free Task Force*
- ❖ *Bergen County CHIP Nutrition & Physical Activity Task Force*
- ❖ *Bergen County CHIP Mental Health Task Force*
- ❖ *Bergen-Hudson Chronic Disease Coalition*
- ❖ *Bergen County Prevention Coalition*
- ❖ *Community Chest Senior Loneliness Project Planning Committee*
- ❖ *Community Chest Teen Loneliness Project Planning Committee*
- ❖ *Horizon NJ's Community Health Education Advisory Committee*

Healthy Town 2024 Designation



The New Jersey Quality Institute has recognized the City of Englewood as a 2024 **"Healthy Town"** through the Mayors Wellness Campaign. This prestigious designation is awarded to municipalities that go above and beyond in promoting health and wellness through innovative programs including exercise, healthy eating, and mental health education. Englewood previously received this recognition in 2014 and was named a "Healthy Town to Watch" in 2023.

"The City of Englewood advanced to a Healthy Town in 2024, strengthening community engagement through creatively branded programs like March into Early Detection, Summer Steppers and Get Fit in the Fall. The Englewood Family Wellness Weekend was a standout event, bringing together over 80 organizations to provide health screenings, fitness activities, and resources

addressing food insecurity, social isolation, and health care access. Led by the Health Department, the MWC collaborated with local groups to ensure inclusive outreach, offering bilingual materials and free wellness programs.”

“Englewood is so proud to receive the Healthy Town Award acknowledging the hard work of our residents and our Health Department professionals,” said Mayor Michael Wildes.

Our city’s Health Educator, Julie Green, received an **Honorable Mention for the Mayors Wellness Campaign Champion of Health** in recognition of her dedication to improving community well-being. Through her innovative, inclusive, and socially engaging programs, Julie has expanded access to wellness initiatives that support both physical and mental health. Her hands-on approach and deep commitment to residents have made her a trusted resource and a familiar face in the community. By fostering meaningful relationships, she has helped create a more supportive and healthier Englewood.



Program Highlights

Spring into Wellness! Challenge



Each year, the Health Department hosts a wellness challenge for local residents in collaboration with the Bergen County Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP). This year's event, held from May 7th to June 13th, featured twice-weekly meetings with group exercise sessions, free blood pressure screenings, healthy meals, and exciting raffle prizes. Morning and evening sessions were offered to ensure accessibility. The six-week program aimed to reduce isolation and loneliness, while

being specifically designed to meet the needs of Englewood residents. It encouraged daily walks of at least 10,000 steps to boost health and lower cardiovascular risks.



Organizations, such as North Hudson Community Action Corporation, Bergen New Bridge Medical Center and Wellpoint Insurance, provided valuable resources in English and Spanish. The Hope One Bergen County Mobile Recovery Van was on-site for several sessions providing mental health and addiction resources, peer-recovery support services and ©Narcan kits. We were even joined by the Director of Bergen County's Mental Health and Addiction Services, Shelby Klein. Englewood Health's Shirvan Family Live Well Center offered nutrition education and healthy meals while the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey presented a Pedestrian Safety session. Participants also received free access to the Holy Name Hospital Fitness Center and bottled water from Rica Water.



With registration open throughout, over 80 individuals participated, earning certificates of achievement and the top three winners receiving ShopRite gift cards. Ice Cream on Grand generously donated ice cream for participants on the final day. Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Summer Steppers PLUS Water Aerobics!



Our Summer Steppers PLUS Water Aerobics program quickly became a city-wide favorite! This six-week program began on July 23rd and encouraged all forty-eight registered participants to continue to stay active after the Spring into Wellness Challenge. This year, we incorporated one evening of stretching and walking Mackay Park's walking path and one morning of water aerobics at Mackay Pool each week. Parks and Recreation provided a lifeguard to ensure safety.



This program also featured summer safety education and community resource tables from many of the same organizations that participated in our spring challenge. Our participants even received special visits and words of encouragement from City Council President Charles Cobb and City Manager Bob Hoffman. Water for participants was generously donated by Rica Water. Evaluations were given in both English and Spanish and were overwhelmingly positive. In fact, this program was so popular, attendees stated they wanted water aerobics twice a week in 2025! Be on the lookout for our Water Wellness: Aqua Aerobics program in July 2025.

Healthy Kids, Happy Families



We had a great deal of fun providing programming specifically for children this year at King's Kid Learning Center, Westside Daycare, Camp Mackay, and Ebenezer Summer Camp. Our programs covered topics such as oral health, nutrition, summer safety, mental/emotional health, germs, and more!



Get Fit in the Fall!



They asked and we listened! When Englewood residents asked us to create a program where they could learn how to safely use the new outdoor fitness equipment at Mackay Park, we knew the Get Fit in the Fall program was the perfect opportunity to pilot an exercise program specifically for this equipment!



Our four-week fall program began on October 29th and featured a morning and evening session each week. We collaborated with Parks and Recreation as well as the Community Chest. Resource tables and free physical therapy consults were provided by Bergen New Bridge Medical Center and Core Care Plus Physical Therapy & Wellness. Water for our thirty-one participants was generously provided by Rica Water. Participants learned techniques to stay safe while using the new outdoor equipment.

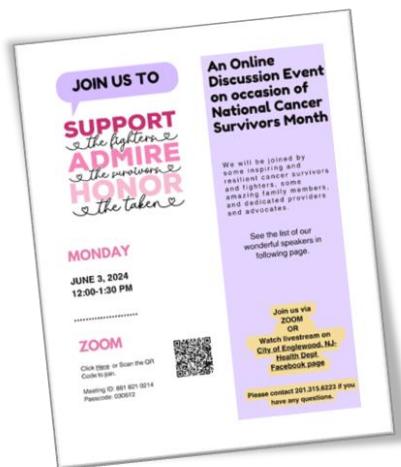
Walk and Talk with the Health Providers!

This summer, the Englewood Health Department organized a 'Walk and Talk with the Health Providers' program at the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center. The six-sessions walking program aimed to promote physical activity, prevent and control chronic diseases, and improve overall health and well-being of community. The program allowed the community to come together, discuss important health topics like hypertension, diabetes, and mental health, while walking through nature. It also strengthened connections between local healthcare providers and the community, fostering social ties that contribute to better health. The sessions provided valuable insights and encouraged relationships between healthcare professionals and participants outside of a work setting.



National Cancer Survivor's Month Online Discussion!

In honor of National Cancer Survivors Month, an online discussion event was held in June. This event aimed to recognize and honor the incredible strength and courage of cancer survivors while raising awareness about the challenges they face beyond diagnosis. A few distinguished cancer survivors shared their experiences with cancer diagnoses, offering words of hope and strength to other individuals and families affected by cancer. During the event, an oncologist, along with a few cancer advocates and community organizations, discussed available cancer support resources. Meanwhile, our Health Education Unit highlighted the Health Department's efforts in raising awareness and collaborations to provide free cancer screening services.



Health Promotion

Awareness Events

This year, the Englewood Health Department hosted many free community health screenings and awareness events throughout the year.

Event	Date	Location	Partnered Organizations	Free Screenings/ Services Offered
<i>Empower Your Health</i>	2/24/2024	108 W. Palisade Ave.	Screen NJ Women's Rights Information Center	Breast Cancer, Skin Cancer, and Lung Cancer Screening.
<i>March into Early Detection: National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and American Diabetes Alert Day</i> <i>Prevent, Protect, Screen!</i>	3/26/2024	2-10 N. Van Brunt St.	Screen NJ Diabetes Foundation North Hudson Community Action Corp.	A1C Check Breast Cancer, Skin Cancer, and Lung Cancer Screening.
	5/22/2024	2-10 N. Van Brunt St.	Screen NJ Team Management 2000 Well Care of NJ	Blood pressure, glucose, Hepatitis C, and HIV screening Breast Cancer, Skin Cancer, and Lung Cancer Screening.
<i>Level up Your Self Love, Check Your Status!</i>	6/28/2024	Veteran's Park- Corner of Dean St. and Depot Square South	Buddies of NJ	Free HIV screenings
<i>Hope One Mobile Recovery Van in the Farmer's Market</i>	7/19/2024 9/20/2024 10/25/2024	Veteran's Park- Corner of Dean St. and Depot Square South	Hope One Mobile Recovery Van	Provided information and resources about mental health and free ©Narcan kits were given to the public
<i>World Hepatitis Day</i>	7/26/2024	Veteran's Park- Corner of Dean St.	Team Management 2000	Blood pressure, glucose, Hepatitis C, and HIV screening

		and Depot Square South		
<i>National Preparedness Month Educational Outreach</i>	9/12/2024	2-10 N. Van Brunt St.	Hope One Recovery Van City of Englewood Office of Emergency Management	Distributed information about emergency preparedness, mental health resources and provided free ©Narcan Kits to the public
<i>Diabetes & Alzheimer's Awareness Event</i>	11/22/2024	31 Engle St.	Act Now Foundation Bergen County Dept. of Health Services Diabetes Foundation New Bridge Medical Center Team Management 2000	A1C Check Breast Cancer, Skin Cancer, and Lung Cancer Screening. Information about free Memory Screenings for detecting Alzheimer's early

Identifying the Social Determinants of Health

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) received federal funding which was used towards extending the Strengthening Local Health Capacity Grant for another fiscal year. The goal for the new fiscal year was for Local Health Departments to continue to prevent and address COVID-19 and infectious diseases as well as identifying the Social Determinants of Health within their municipality. According to Healthy People 2030, “the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are the condition in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect one’s health, functioning and quality-of-life.”



This grant extension allowed the Englewood Health Department to continue funding the Local Health Outreach Coordinator and the Infectious Disease Preparedness Generalist positions until 6/30/2024. The findings of the Rapid Public Health Assessment completed by the Local Health Outreach Coordinator and the Infectious Disease

Preparedness Generalist identified the following as the major Social Determinants of Health in Englewood:

<i>Hunger</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Healthcare Coverage</i>
<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Support System</i>	<i>Community Engagement</i>	<i>Stress</i>	<i>Provider Availability</i>

Social Support Services

To tackle the major Social Determinants of Health in Englewood, the Englewood Health Department launched a new initiative, *Social Support Services*, under the Health Education Unit on September 1, 2023. Through this program, our Health Educator and Local Health Outreach Coordinator have provided free health counseling, referrals, and direct assistance to the community. Since its launch, the Health Education Unit has provided 91 health counseling sessions and supported 53 families, helping to bridge gaps in care and connect residents to vital resources.

Building Bridges and Filling Gaps

The Health Education Unit maintained our dedication to addressing the identified Social Determinants of Health within Englewood. There were eight locations in Englewood in where we provided recurring outreach and resources to the community. Those locations were:

- ❖ Bergen Family Center (Adult Day Program)
- ❖ Camp Mackay
- ❖ Center for Food Action
- ❖ Ebenezer Summer Camp
- ❖ Englewood Public Library
- ❖ Office of Concern
- ❖ Westside Daycare
- ❖ Women's Rights Information Center

Along with conducting outreach at permanent locations, the Health Educator and Local Health Outreach Coordinator took part in several health-focused community events throughout the year. These efforts aimed to promote our services to the public and foster partnerships with local organizations. Some of the events from this year included:

- ❖ Bergen Community College Community Health Week
- ❖ Bergen County Women's Health Expo
- ❖ Bergen Family Center's Harvest Festival

- ❖ Bergen New Bridge Medical Center Pride Event
- ❖ Community Seventh Day Adventist Church Health Expo
- ❖ Englewood Farmers Market
- ❖ Englewood Public Library – ESL Classes
- ❖ Englewood Police Department's Mental Health Awareness Event
- ❖ Englewood Police Department's Movie Night in the Park
- ❖ Englewood Public Schools Back to School Fair
- ❖ Englewood Public Schools Back to School Nights
- ❖ Metro Community Center's Open Store Event
- ❖ Spooky Skatetacula
- ❖ The Shirvan Family Live Well Center Nutrition Cook Off
- ❖ World Aids Day



Topics covered in 2024 included:

<i>Alcohol & Drug Abuse</i>	<i>Blood Pressure</i>	<i>Cancer</i>	<i>Cardiovascular Disease</i>	<i>COVID-19</i>
<i>Diabetes</i>	<i>Food Safety</i>	<i>Hand Hygiene</i>	<i>Influenza</i>	<i>Hepatitis</i>
<i>Nutrition</i>	<i>Obesity</i>	<i>Respiratory Syncytial Virus</i>	<i>Skin Cancer</i>	<i>Stress</i>
<i>Summer Safety</i>	<i>Vaccines</i>	<i>Violence</i>	<i>Mental Health</i>	<i>HIV/AIDS</i>

The Englewood Family Wellness Weekend (10/5/2024 and 10/6/2024): Honoring Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

The Englewood Health Department and The Hadnott Foundation proudly co-hosted the 3rd Annual October Health Fair on October 5th and 6th, 2024. This ongoing partnership reflects a shared commitment to enhancing community health. This year's fair was a tremendous success, drawing over 500 attendees and bringing together over 80 organizations and non-profits dedicated to

improving public health. By offering free screenings and resources, we reinforced trust within the community and provided vital preventative care to those in need. Some of the free health screenings included:

- ✓ HIV, Hepatitis C, BMI, and blood pressure checks
- ✓ Glucose and A1C screenings for diabetes detection
- ✓ Prostate cancer screenings
- ✓ Breast health education and cancer awareness

Additionally, the Englewood Health Department and New Bridge Medical Center provided free flu vaccines both days, administering over 100 flu shots to help keep our community safe this season!



Beyond healthcare, this event included a vibrant celebration of Hispanic Heritage. Attendees enjoyed cultural music and family-friendly activities, reinforcing the deep connection between community, culture, and health.



The success of this event would not have been possible without the unwavering support of The Hadnott Foundation, our community partners, volunteers, and sponsors, whose contributions helped make this initiative a reality. The Englewood Health Department remains committed to making healthcare more accessible and empowering individuals to take charge of their well-being. These events highlight the power of collaboration, showing how communities and organizations can come together to create a lasting impact and improve health for all.

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

STIGMA-FREE

The Office Manager/Sub-Registrar and Health Educator aim to promote the health and wellness of Englewood Residents by increasing their involvement with the Municipal Alliance. The Alliance works in partnership with businesses, schools, non-profit organizations and faith based organizations to promote public awareness, provide

education and share resources. The priority for this grant cycle is to reduce alcohol misuse, vaping, and underage drinking and cannabis use.



Throughout the year, our team remained committed to fostering a Stigma-Free Englewood by engaging with the community at various events. We aim to promote the message that mental health is integral to overall health. By creating supportive environments and fostering attitudes that embrace the acceptance and understanding of mental health conditions, we encourage individuals to seek help without fear of judgment or discrimination.

Community Programs

Throughout the year, our team participated in Alliance sponsored events and conferences that enhance their skills. Some of those activities included:

- Tree of Addiction Conference, sponsored by Center for Alcohol & Drug Resources
- Mental Health First Aid Training for youth and adults
- The 2024 Connections Conference, a Community Chest event dedicated to exploring strategies for combating the loneliness epidemic
- NJ/ASTHO Opioid Preparedness Exercise
- Englewood Police Department Mental Health Awareness Day
- Stigma-Free Symposium, hosted by Bergen County Stigma Free
- ©Narcan Training at Community Baptist Church & the Englewood Public Library
- Farmer's Market Outreach with the Bergen County Hope One Van
- Sticker Shock
- Timothy Shoemaker Chemical Substance Assemblies, McCloud & Dwight Morrow

