

Community Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment



**Adirondack Community
Action Programs, Inc.**

Head Start/Early Head Start

Essex County, New York

July 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

The 2022 Community Needs Assessment identifies strengths, challenges, and barriers to self-sufficiency of those living in poverty in Essex County in northeastern New York.

The Community Assessment is intended to guide future program planning, to meet community needs, to build on the current strengths and resources of local communities, and to assist in reducing identified barriers to self-sufficiency for families in poverty, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The quantitative and qualitative data gleaned from the Community Assessment process will be used by leadership and governing bodies to make informed decisions including, but not limited to:

- ◆ Determination of long- and short-range program goals, objectives, and priorities;
- ◆ Types of services most needed for families living in poverty;
- ◆ Geographic areas to be served, if additional funding is available, or if limitations in the amount of resources make it impossible to serve the entire service area;
- ◆ Locations of centers and/or services; and
- ◆ Criteria that define the special populations of children who will be given priority for recruitment and selection for early childhood services.

METHODOLOGY

The Community Needs Assessment has been developed per the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS). HSPPS Standard *1302.11 Determining Community Strengths, Needs and Resources* (right) outlines the information that must be included and analyzed about each grantee's Early Head Start and/or Head Start funded area.

Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc. (ACAP) utilized the services of Spiridis Consulting LLC to facilitate the Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS) Community Assessment and survey processes, research and analyze data, and compile the final report. As available, data reflecting the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been included.

Methods utilized for the collection of quantitative and qualitative data included:

- community and parent surveys;
- local, state, and federal data resources;
- 2020 Census Bureau data; and
- American Community Survey, 2020 Five Year estimates*.

*The American Community Survey (ACS) collects and produces information on social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics about the U.S. population. The ACS is an official Census Bureau survey that is part of the decennial census program. Every year, the Census Bureau contacts over 3.5 million households nationwide to participate in the ACS. The survey is sent to a percentage of households monthly. These data are used to track shifting demographics and learn about local communities.¹

Spiridis Consulting utilizes 5-Year ACS estimates due to smaller margins of error than 1-year estimates.

HSPPS 1302.11 Determining Community Strengths, Needs and Resources

- ◆ The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak.
- ◆ Children in foster care, children experiencing homelessness, and children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to children by community agencies;
- ◆ The education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;
- ◆ Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- ◆ Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- ◆ Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and approximate number of eligible children served;
- ◆ Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and
- ◆ Strengths of the community.

KEY FINDINGS

Throughout the Community Assessment process, data trends, strengths and challenges have been identified. Below are key findings and data trends that most impact services for at-risk children/families and those living in poverty in Essex County. Key factors in 2022 include the following: rapidly increasing inflation on goods and services and families needing to prioritize their greatest needs; lasting COVID-19 impacts on housing, the inability to pay increasing housing prices, and the fear of eviction; the lack of jobs with pay to sustain families; and the lack of infant/toddler center-based care for working families.

POPULATION

- While the NY and U.S. populations grew by 4.2% and 5.2% respectively between 2010 and 2020, Essex County's population declined by 5.1% (-1,989). Lake Placid (-16.2%), North Elba (-16.5%), Saranac Lake (-9.6%), and Wilmington (-12.8%) saw significant population declines, while Keeseville (+61.5%) and Schroon (+13.7%) saw substantial growth. The highest populations are in Moriah (4,716), North Elba (7,480), Saranac Lake (4,887), and Ticonderoga (4,789).

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- There is currently no Early Head Start (EHS) funding in Essex County to serve infants/toddlers in poverty in a center-based setting. There are approximately 138 infants/toddlers in poverty.
- ACAP has the only home visitation program for children ages 0-5/pregnant women in Essex County (72 EHS and 8 HS). Therefore, home visiting services are available for approximately 52% of low income children ages 0-3. Further, there are an estimated 83 pregnant women in poverty.
- There are an estimated 588 preschoolers in the county, with 92 living in poverty. ACAP has funding for 115 Head Start (HS) children. There are 44 half-day and 141 full-day Pre-K slots in Essex County, totaling 185. School Districts with pre-k include Bouquet Valley (25 half-day); Crown Point (20 half-day & 30 full-day); Keene (3 half-day); Lake Placid (37 full-day); Minerva (6 half-day); Moriah (37 full-day); Ticonderoga (15 half-day); and Willsboro (12 full-day). Bouquet Valley provides pre-k for both 3 and 4 year olds, while remaining districts enroll 4 year olds.
- In Essex County, there are just 6 child care centers (Keeseville, Ray Brook, Saranac Lake), not including Head Start or Pre-K slots; these child care centers have capacity to serve 54 infants, 79 toddlers, and 138 preschoolers, totaling 271 slots for children ages 0-5. In addition, there are 14 Family Day Care programs in 9 towns with a capacity of 84 and 11 Group Family Care programs in 6 towns with a capacity of 128; both of these programs serve children ages 6 weeks – 12 years.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- Essex County's minimum wage is \$13.20/hour (\$31,200 annually). The 2022 Federal Poverty Level for a family of two is \$18,310/annually; therefore, a single parent with one child who is working full time at minimum wage is considered *above* the Federal Poverty Level and may be ineligible for poverty-level programs.

- The living wage (the rate a full-time working individual must earn to adequately support the family and cover expenses) for one adult and one child is \$32.37 in Essex County. An adult with one child who is making minimum wage (\$13.20/hour) earns just 40.8% of the living wage.
- The median household income in Essex County is estimated at \$58,109, substantially less than the median household income of New York (\$71,117) and the U.S. (\$64,994).
- Inflation rose considerably in 2021 and continues in 2022, adding a greater cost burden on families. The annual U.S. inflation rate was 8.6% for the 12 months ended May 2022—the steepest increase since 1981. In contrast, inflation was 5% in May 2021 and .6% in May of 2020.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the average change over time in consumer goods and services. In the past 12 months ending May 2022, the CPI in the NY-Newark-Jersey City area increased 6.3% overall. Already struggling families are now trying to further stretch their earnings and/or assistance from local, state, and federal entities. Especially impacted are families whose income is low, but high enough to make them ineligible for assistance. Increases include:

Consumer Price Index in New York-Newark-Jersey City Area—May 2022

	1-Month Percent Change (from April 2022)	12 Month Percent Change (from May 2021)
All Items	0.5%	6.3%
Apparel	4.0%	5.5%
Food	0.7%	9.6%
Gasoline	12.6%	53.4%
Household Energy	5.3%	26.1%
Housing	0.6%	4.3%
Medical Care	-0.1%	4.4%
New and Used Vehicles	-6.3%	7.9%
Recreation	-0.1%	7.8%
Transportation	0.0%	12.6%

The estimated poverty rate for children under 5 years old in Essex County is 15.7%, compared to NY (19.7%) and the U.S. (19.1%). An estimated 1,469 children under age 5 reside in the county, with 230 children (138 infants/toddlers and 92 preschool-aged children) living in poverty. Places with the highest numbers of poverty for children under age 5 are in Moriah (129) and Port Henry (86%).

Children under Age Five in Poverty in Essex County (Estimates)

	Children Under 5	Population Under 5 in Poverty	Infants and Toddlers*	Infants/Toddlers in Poverty	3 and 4 Year Olds*	3 and 4 Year Olds in Poverty
Essex County	1,469	230 (15.7%)	881	138	588	92

*Estimated infants/toddlers (60%) and 3- & 4-Year-olds (40%) Source: American Community, 2020 5-Year Estimates

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

- For eligibility determination, the Office of Head Start has expanded its interpretation of “public assistance,” to include SNAP. Young children in SNAP households are now considered categorically eligible; this is intended to help families more easily apply to HS/EHS. The 2022 monthly average of households receiving SNAP in Essex County is 1,991 (3,417 people), an increase of 4.6% from 2019.

During PY 2020-2021, 51.2% of ACAP HS/EHS families were receiving SNAP upon enrollment, compared to 41.5% of HS/EHS families in NY and 47% of HS/EHS families nationally.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- As of July 5, 2022, in NY State there have been 32 reported deaths of children ages 0-9 due to COVID-19, which represents .1% of deaths. Of the 32 reported child deaths due to COVID-19, 7 children had at least one of the top 10 identified comorbidities (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, cancer).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Essex County experienced 1 opioid overdose death in 2019. In 2020, there were 3 opioid overdose deaths (7.9 death rate per 100,000 people), significantly lower than New York State (excluding New York City) at 21.8 per 100,000. Between January 2021 and June 2021, there were 8 opioid deaths in Essex County (total opioid death data for 2021 are not yet published.)

FAMILY SURVEY (KEY FINDINGS)

The Community Assessment process included a survey for HS/EHS families. A total of 67 families (63 HS families, 2 HS/EHS families, 2 EHS families) responded. Refer to the Survey section for full results.

To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted employment for you and/or another head of the household?

	Percent of Respondents
Still employed the same number of hours and with the same pay.	50.8%
Hours and/or pay were cut.	9.0%
Temporarily laid off.	7.5%
Lost job permanently.	11.9%
Unemployed prior to COVID-19 and still unemployed.	11.9%
Retired or on disability.	9.0%

To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your housing?

	Percent of Respondents
I still have housing. My housing status has not changed.	86.6%
I have been unable to pay my rent or mortgage, but still have housing.	7.5%
I have been evicted or am facing eviction.	0.0%
I am living with family/friends because I am unable to afford housing.	6.0%
I am homeless.	0.0%

To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your stress level and/or wellness?

	Percent of Respondents
My stress level and wellness have remained the same as before the pandemic.	46.3%
I experienced general feelings of depression (fear, sadness, and/or loneliness), but am now feeling better.	13.4%
I experienced general feelings of anxiety (racing thoughts, frequent worry, or fear), but am now feeling better.	25.4%
I continue to experience general feelings of depression (fear, sadness, and/or loneliness).	11.9%
I continue to experience general feelings of anxiety (racing thoughts, frequent worry, fear).	14.9%
I visited a counselor or a doctor to assist with my stress/anxiety and or depression.	14.9%
The level of violence has increased in my home.	1.5%
The use of substances (drugs, alcohol) has increased in my home.	1.5%
Other	4.5%

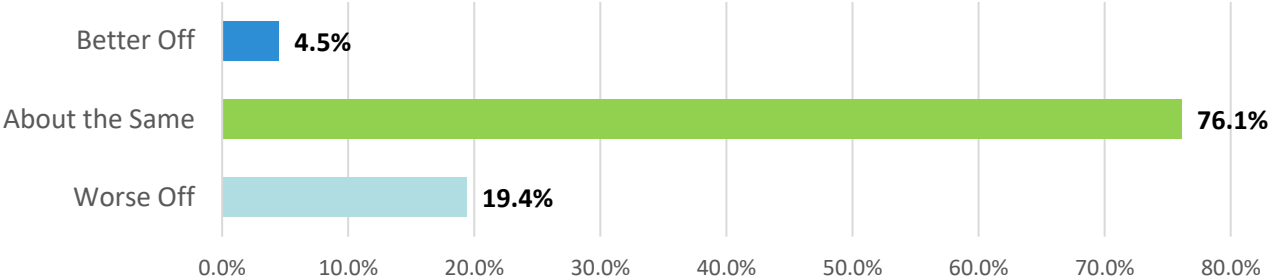
Ranking	2022 Family Survey Greatest Areas of <i>Major Challenge</i>	Percent of Respondents
1	Dealing with My Child's Behaviors	16.4%
2	Paying for Utilities (electricity, water, heat)	14.9%
	Managing and Budgeting Money	14.9%
3	Feelings of Anxiety and/or Depression	13.4%
4	Having or Finding Affordable and Safe Housing	10.5%
5	Access to Quality, Affordable Child Care for my Infant/Toddler	9.0%
	Access to Quality, Affordable Child Care for my Preschooler	9.0%
	Access to Affordable Mental Health/Behavioral Health Services	9.0%
	Access to Affordable Dental Care	9.0%
	Access to Phone Service	9.0%

Ranking	2022 Family Survey Greatest Areas of both <i>Major Challenge</i> and <i>Somewhat of a Challenge</i>	Percent of Respondents (Weighted Average)
1	Paying for Utilities (electricity, water, heat)	49.3%
2	Dealing with My Child's Behaviors	46.3%
	Managing and Budgeting Money	46.3%
3	Feelings of Anxiety and/or Depression	43.3%
4	Access to Affordable Dental Care	25.4%
5	Lack of Reliable Transportation	23.9%
6	Having or Finding Affordable and Safe Housing	19.4%
	Access to Quality, Affordable Child Care for my Infant/Toddler	19.4%
	Access to Quality, Affordable Child Care for my Preschooler	19.4%
	Access to Phone Service	19.4%
7	Access to Affordable Medical Care/Insurance	18.2%
8	Having or Finding a Job with a Wage to Support My Family	17.9%
9	Access to Computer/Internet	16.4%
10	Access to Affordable Mental Health/Behavioral Health Services	14.9%

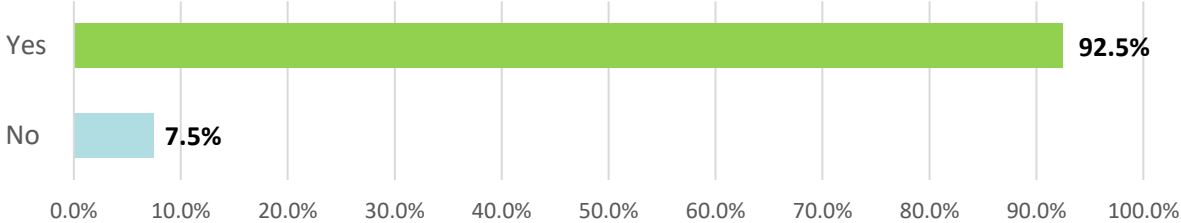
Has your family been directly affected (past or present) by a drug problem in the community?

	Percent of Total Respondents
Yes	10.5%
No	82.0%
I prefer not to respond.	7.5%

Compared with one year ago (pre-COVID), is your family financially:



Do the hours of the Head Start program meet your family's needs?



Comment: Those that indicated “no” preferred a 7:30 or earlier drop-off time or needed afterschool care to accommodate parents’ work hours.

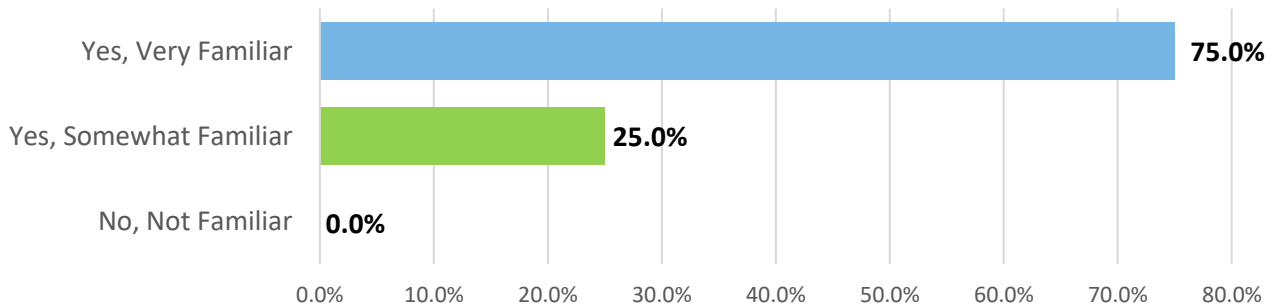
COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY (KEY FINDINGS)

A survey was distributed to community organizations. The analysis represents 40 responses.

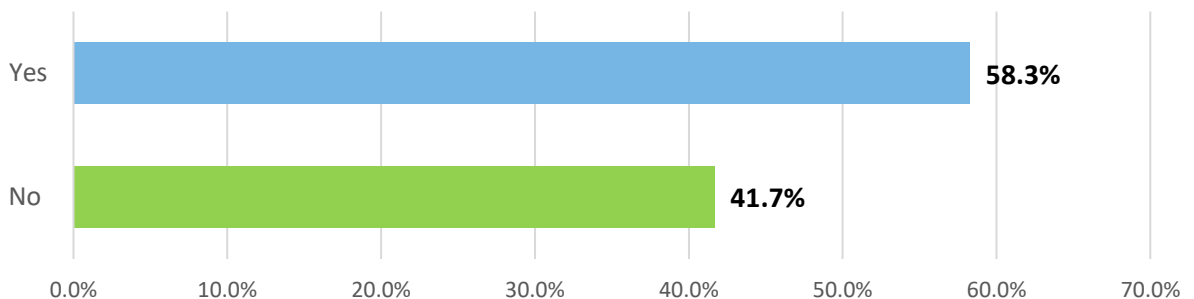
Barriers to Self-Sufficiency: What are the top (3) Community Conditions that most often prevent families from moving from poverty to self-sufficiency in your community?

Indicator	Percentage of Respondents
High Cost of Child Care (birth- age 5)	62.5%
Lack of Jobs that Pay a Living Wage	57.5%
Lack of Transportation	45.0%
Substance Abuse	32.5%
High Costs of Housing	30.0%
Low Educational Attainment	25.0%
Lack of Job Skills	17.5%
Undiagnosed/Untreated Mental Health Issue	12.5%
Lack of Available Jobs	5.0%
Cultural Oppression in Local Communities	5.0%
High Costs of Health Care/Insurance	5.0%
Burden of High Debt	2.5%
Poor Credit History	0.0%
Illegal Immigration/Undocumented Status	0.0%

Are you familiar with ACAP's Head Start/Early Head Start program?



Have you referred a parent, family, or pregnant woman to ACAP's HS/EHS program in the past year?



DATA SUMMARY

Throughout the Community Assessment process, both strengths and challenges have been identified. Below is a summary of demographic information and data trends from the Community Assessment. For detailed information regarding any statistic, refer to the full narrative. Not all Community Assessment data have been included in this summary. As available, data sources reflecting the 2020 Decennial Census and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been included.

Notes: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, a referenced year refers to a calendar year. A Program Year (PY) is reflective of 12-month data collected on the Program Information Report (PIR) that is submitted to the Office of Head Start annually in August. A School Year (SY) refers to the public school year. Fiscal Year (FY) and Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) may also be utilized.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- While the U.S. population grew by 5.2% and NY's population grew by 4.2% between 2010 and 2020, Essex County's population declined by 5.1%. Substantial population declines were in Lake Placid (-16.2%), North Elba (-16.5%), Saranac Lake (-9.6%), and Wilmington (-12.8%). Significant population growth occurred in Keeseville (+61.5%) and Schroon (+13.7%). The highest populations are in Moriah (4,716), North Elba (7,480), Saranac Lake (4,887), and Ticonderoga (4,789).
- Essex County has an estimated 0-4 age population of 4% (1,506 children), less than New York State (5.9%) and the United States (6%). Essex County has a higher population of people aged 65 and older (23.5%), compared to New York State (16.5%) and the United States (16.0%).
- Following are the racial/ethnic demographics of Essex County: White (91.2%); African-American (1.8%); Asian (.6%); Native American/Alaskan Native (.2%); Other Race (.8%); and Multiple Races (5.3%). The Hispanic population is 2.6% (978 people), lower than NY (19.5%) and the U.S. (18.7%).
- Following were the racial demographics of enrolled ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start children during PY 2020-2021: White (91.4%); Bi-Racial (7.4%); and Unspecified (1.2%). Of enrolled children, 6.8% were Hispanic/Latino.
- Following are the most substantial changes in Essex County's racial/ethnic demographics between 2010 and 2020: White population decreased by 7.9% (-2,874 people); Black population decreased by 37.9% (-372 people); and Multiple Races increased by 302% (+1,229 people). The Hispanic/Latino population decreased by 1.5% (-15 people).
- Of Essex County's population, 4% (1,499 people) are estimated to be foreign-born; of these, 50.6% have become naturalized U.S. citizens and 49.4% are non-citizens.
- Of the population in Essex County, 93.8% speak English only, 2.5% speak Spanish, 3.2% speak Indo-European languages, .1% speak Asian languages, and .3% speak Other Languages.
- Of enrolled K-12 students in Essex County during SY 2020-2021, less than 1% (7 students) were English Language Learners.
- During PY 2020-2021, 98.2% of enrolled ACAP HS/EHS families spoke English, 1.2% spoke Spanish, and .6% spoke a Middle Eastern/South Asian language.

- Of children in Essex County, 19% are estimated to be living in single-parent households, lower than NY at 26%. During PY 2020-2021, 60% of ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start families were two-parent households and 40% were single-parent households. In comparison, 53.9% of enrolled HS/EHS families in New York and 40.6% of HS/EHS families nationwide were two-parent families.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- ACAP maintains funding for 187 children/pregnant women (107 HS center-based, 8 HS children home-based, 72 EHS home-based) in Essex County. Keeseville is located in both Essex and Clinton counties. Joint Council For Economic Opportunity has funding to serve HS children in Keeseville. There is currently no EHS funding in Essex County to serve infants/toddlers in poverty in a center-based setting.
- During SY 2021-2022, there were 44 half-day and 141 full-day pre-k slots in Essex County, for a total of 185 pre-k slots including the following districts: Bouquet Valley (25 half-day); Crown Point (20 half-day & 30 full-day); Keene (3 half-day); Lake Placid (37 full-day); Minerva (6 half-day); Moriah (37 full-day); Ticonderoga (15 half-day); and Willsboro (12 full-day). Bouquet Valley provides pre-k for both 3 and 4 year olds, while the remaining districts enroll 4 year olds.
- In Essex County, there are just 6 child care centers (Keeseville, Ray Brook, Saranac Lake), not including Head Start or Pre-K slots; these child care centers have capacity to serve 54 infants, 79 toddlers, and 138 preschoolers, totaling 271 slots for children ages 0-5. In addition, there are 14 Family Day Care programs in 9 towns with a capacity of 84 and 11 Group Family Care programs in 6 towns with a capacity of 128; both of these programs serve children ages 6 weeks – 12 years.
- ACAP has the only home visitation program for children ages 0-5/pregnant women in Essex County (72 EHS and 8 HS). Therefore, home visiting services are available for approximately 52% of low income children ages 0-3. Further, there are an estimated 83 pregnant women in poverty.
- Center-based child care in New York is estimated at \$15,028 for an infant and \$27,092 for an infant and a 4 year old. Family child care is estimated at \$10,972 for an infant and \$21,112 for an infant and a 4 year old. A single parent spends 54% of income on infant care and nearly 97% of income on two children. A married family with two children living at the poverty line, would need 108% of income to afford child care.

BIRTH OUTCOMES AND PREGNANT WOMEN

Following are the most recent birth outcome data in Essex County:

- 10.6% of births in were premature, compared to 10.4% in New York;
- 8.6% of births were low-birth weights, compared to 8% in New York;
- 55.4% of births were to un-married parents, compared to 38.3% in New York;
- The infant mortality rate was 3.0%, compared to 4.4% in New York;
- The rate of teen births was 17.1 per 1,000 births, compared to 11.9 per 1,000 in NY.
- Of births in Essex County, 29.6% were to mothers on Medicaid or with no insurance. There are an estimated 83 eligible pregnant women in Essex County.

DISABILITIES

- In 2019, .3% of children birth to 1 years of age and 3.2% of children birth-three years of age in Essex County received Early Intervention services.
- During PY 2020-2021, 20% of enrolled ACAP EHS children and 28.7% of ACAP HS children had diagnosed disabilities, exceeding the Head Start Program Performance Standard of 10% enrolled children with disabilities. Of enrolled HS children, 26.9% were diagnosed with speech/language impairments and 1.9% were diagnosed with non-categorical/developmental delays.
- During SY 2020-2021, 13 school district preschool children in Essex County had diagnosed disabilities. Of Essex County K-12 students, 20% (683) had diagnosed disabilities.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and business closures, unemployment claims in Essex County peaked in April 2020 at a staggering 19.5%, higher than New York State (15.1%). As of May 2022, Essex County’s unemployment rate had dropped to 3%, compared to New York State at 4.1%.
- The civilian labor force in Essex County dipped in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and business closures. The May 2022 labor force is slightly lower (-30 workers) than May 2019.
- Essex County’s minimum wage is \$13.20/hour (\$31,200 annually). The 2022 Federal Poverty Level for a family of two is \$18,310/annually; therefore, a single parent with one child who is working full time at minimum wage is considered above the Federal Poverty Level.
- The living wage (the rate a full-time working individual must earn to adequately support the family and cover expenses) for one adult and one child is \$32.27 in Essex County. An adult with one child who is making minimum wage (\$13.20/hour) earns just 40.8% of the living wage.
- The median household income in Essex County is estimated at \$58,109, considerably less than the median household income of New York (\$71,117) and the U.S. (\$64,994).
- The annual U.S. inflation rate was 8.6% for the 12 months ended May 2022—the steepest increase since 1981. In contrast, inflation was 5% in May 2021 and .6% in May of 2020.

Consumer Price Index in New York-Newark-Jersey City Area—May 2022

	1-Month Percent Change (from April 2022)	12 Month Percent Change (from May 2021)
All Items	0.5%	6.3%
Apparel	4.0%	5.5%
Food	0.7%	9.6%
Gasoline	12.6%	53.4%
Household Energy	5.3%	26.1%
Housing	0.6%	4.3%
Medical Care	-0.1%	4.4%
New and Used Vehicles	-6.3%	7.9%
Recreation	-0.1%	7.8%
Transportation	0.0%	12.6%

- The estimated poverty rate of the general population is 10.2% (3,520 people) in Essex County, compared to New York at 13.6% and the U.S. at 12.8%. Of Essex County's population in poverty, 9.8% of non-Hispanic Whites (3,272 people), 50.4% of African-Americans (62 people), 39.7% of Native Americans (29 people), and 19.5% (119 people) of the Multi-Racial population are living in poverty. Of the Hispanic/Latino population, 24.2% (143 people) are in poverty.
- The estimated poverty rate for children under 5 years old in Essex County is 15.7%, compared to NY (19.7%) and the U.S. (19.1%). There are an estimated 1,469 children under age 5 with 230 children (138 infants/toddlers and 92 preschool-aged children) living in poverty. Places with the highest numbers of poverty for children under age 5 are in Moriah (129) and Port Henry (86%).
- An economically disadvantaged student is a member of a household that meets Federal income poverty eligibility guidelines for free and reduced price meals or free milk. Of K-12 students, 53% in Essex County were economically disadvantaged during SY 2020-2021.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

- The 2022 monthly average of households receiving SNAP in Essex County is 1,991 (3,417 people), an increase of 4.6% from 2019. During PY 2020-2021, 51.2% of ACAP HS/EHS families were receiving SNAP upon enrollment, compared to 41.5% of HS/EHS families in NY and 47% of families nationally.
- Monthly SSI recipients in Essex County decreased by 5.8% between April 2019 and April 2022. During PY 2020-2021, 8% of ACAP HS/EHS families were receiving SSI at enrollment, compared to New York HS/EHS families (4.8%) and HS/EHS families nationwide (6.4%).
- Monthly TANF recipients in Essex County decreased by 36.6% (-45 recipients) and child recipients declined by 29.4% (-30 children) between April 2019 and April 2022. During PY 2020-2021, 0% of ACAP HS/EHS families were receiving TANF at enrollment, compared to New York HS/EHS families (14.1%) and HS/EHS families nationwide (7.1%). In 2019, 7.7% of ACAP HS/EHS families were receiving TANF at enrollment.
- During PY 2020-2021, 55.2% of ACAP HS/EHS families were receiving WIC services upon enrollment, compared to 46.7% of HS/EHS families in New York and 51.5% of HS/EHS families nationally.

EDUCATION

- The estimated rate of adults aged 25 and older without a high school diploma is 9.5% in Essex County, compared to 12.8% in New York and 11.5% in the U.S. Of the Hispanic population in Essex County, 23.1% (260 people) do not have a high school diploma. The rate of those with a Bachelor's Degree in Essex County is 29.8%, less than NY at 37.5% and the U.S. at 32.9%.
- During PY 2020-2021, 93.7% of ACAP HS/EHS families had a high school diploma or higher degree, compared to New York HS/EHS families (71.4%) and HS/EHS families nationwide (79.6%).

- The 2021 four-year high school graduation rate in Essex County was 91%. Graduation rates were 74% for economically disadvantaged students, compared to 96% for non-economically disadvantaged students. The graduation rate among students with disabilities was 76%.

FOSTER CARE

- As of June 30, 2022, there were 58 children (all ages) in foster care in Essex County.
- During PY 2020-2021, 8.2% (13 children) of ACAP HS/EHS children were in foster care, significantly higher than 1.8% of HS/EHS children in New York and 3.8% of HS/EHS children nationally.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Essex County has areas/populations that are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas, Medically Underserved Areas, and/or Medically Underserved Populations (refer to narrative).
- Following are COVID-19 data from the New York State Health Department, as of July 5, 2022:
 - In NY State there have 32 reported deaths of children ages 0-9 due to COVID-19, which represents .1% of deaths. Of the 32 reported child deaths due to COVID-19, 7 children had at least one of the top 10 identified comorbidities (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, cancer).
 - There have been 56,585 COVID-related fatalities in NY as reported through the Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS). Of deaths, 92.2% had at least one comorbidity (e.g., cancer, hypertension, diabetes, coronary artery disease, dementia) and 86.4% were people aged 60 and older. In Essex County, there have been 64 deaths among patients with confirmed cases of COVID-19, as reported through HERDS.
- Essex County is ranked among New York's healthier 62 counties, 19th for Health Outcomes and 13th for Health Factors. Health factors are predictors of how healthy communities can be in the future. Health outcomes represent a county's current health.

Low rates of uninsured residents (5%), low air pollution, elevated social associations, and high percentages of high school graduation rate (90%) positively impact the health of residents. Adult smoking (18%), excessive drinking (24%), adult obesity (31%), high ratios of primary care physicians to patients (2,630:1), and low percentages of residents with some college (56%) are areas that most negatively impact the health of residents.

- Nationally, 16.2% of youth ages 10 to 17 have obesity. Of youth from families in the lowest-income group, 23.1% have obesity, compared to 8.1% of those in families from the highest-income group. Of New York youth ages 10 to 17, 11.5% have obesity, giving the state a ranking of 45. Of New York children ages 2 to 4 in the WIC program, 14% have obesity; this is a decrease from 16.1% in 2010.

The adult obesity rate is estimated to be 31% in Essex County, compared to New York—currently ranked 46th in the nation with a 26.3% adult obesity rate.

During PY 2020-2021, 30.6% of ACAP HS children had obesity, critically higher than New York (16.7%) and HS children nationally (18.4%). Also, 16.7% of ACAP HS children were overweight.

HOMELESSNESS

- The Essex and Franklin Counties Continuum of Care (CoC) conducted a Point-In-Time Homeless Count in January 2022. The count does not include those doubled up with other families due to financial constraints. Following are 2022 results of identified homeless individuals:
 - 37 households and 43 individuals were experiencing homelessness;
 - 9.3% (4 persons) were under age 18;
 - 100% were sheltered (emergency shelter);
 - 32.6% were female, 62.8% were male, and 4.6% identified as transgender;
 - The racial composition included: White (74.6%); Native American/Alaskan Native (20.9%); African-American (2.3%); and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (2.3%);
 - 2.3% were Hispanic; and
 - 4.6% were chronically homeless.
- Public school data shows that 18 students in Essex County were identified as homeless during SY 2020-2021; of these, 88.9% were doubled up with other families due to financial constraints, 11.1% were in shelters, and no students were unsheltered.
- During PY 2020-2021, 7.6% (12 children) of enrolled ACAP HS/EHS were identified as homeless per the McKinney-Vento Act, compared to 5.5% of HS/EHS children in New York and 6.1% of HS/EHS children nationwide. In 2019, 2.2% of ACAP HS/EHS children were identified as homeless.

HOUSING

- Cost burdened households are those with costs exceeding 30% of total household income. Of housing units in Essex County, an estimated 24.5% are cost burdened, lower than New York State (36.9%). Cost-burdened rental households in Essex County are even higher (43.3%).
- Effective June 24, 2022, New York announced that the 2022-23 state budget includes additional funds to support the ERAP. As a result of additional funding, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) is actively reviewing and processing eligible ERAP applications submitted through March 31, 2022.
- The 2022 monthly Fair Market Rent in Essex County for a two-bedroom rental is \$844, requiring a housing wage of \$16.23/hour. For rent to be affordable for an adult earning minimum wage (\$13.20/hour), monthly rent must be \$686 or less.

FOOD INSECURITY

- According to Feeding America, the 2019 child food insecurity rate in Essex County was 17%, higher than New York (15.8%) and the United States (15.2%). (2020-2022 data are not yet available).
- On June 24, 2022, Congress passed the Keep Kids Fed Act, a bipartisan bill to help mitigate the impact of the loss of the child nutrition waivers which were due to expire on June 30, 2022. This bill increases reimbursements to schools and child care centers, supports access to summer meals, and streamlines access to healthy meals for children in family child care.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Over 100,000 Americans died from a drug overdose from April 2020 to April 2021, a 30% increase from the prior one-year period. In 2020, there were 4,979 drug overdose-related deaths in New York, a 37% increase (3,634 deaths) from 2019.
- Essex County experienced 1 opioid overdose death in 2019. In 2020, there were 3 opioid overdose deaths (7.9 death rate per 100,000 people), significantly lower than New York State (excluding New York City) at 21.8 per 100,000. Between January 2021 and June 2021, there were 8 opioid deaths in Essex County (total opioid death data for 2021 are not yet published.)

TRANSPORTATION

- Of households, 8.4% in Essex County are estimated to not have a vehicle, compared to 29% in New York State and 8.5% in the United States.

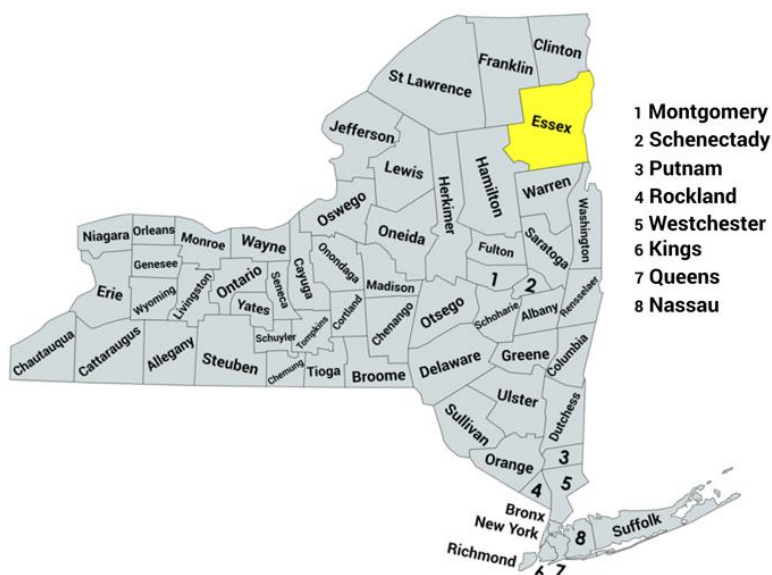
GEOGRAPHY

With 20.2 million residents, NY is the fourth most populous state. New York State is bordered by New Jersey and Pennsylvania to the south and Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont to the east. The state has a maritime border with Rhode Island, east of Long Island, as well as an international border with the Canadian provinces of Quebec to the north and Ontario to the northwest. The southern part of the state is in the Atlantic coastal plain and includes Long Island and several smaller associated islands, as well as New York City (NYC) and the lower Hudson River Valley. The state's most populous city, New York City, makes up over 40% of the state's population. As of January 2020, two-thirds of the state's population lived in the NYC metropolitan area.

Essex County is in the northeastern part of New York State, just west of Vermont along the eastern boundary of the State. The eastern boundary of Essex County is Lake Champlain, which serves as the New York – Vermont border. The highest natural point in New York—Mount Marcy at 5,344 feet—is in the Town of Keene. The Au Sable River forms a partial northern boundary for the county.

Essex County is a rural county nestled in the scenic Adirondacks, the largest forest preserve in the continental U.S. and is home to the picturesque mountain village of Lake Placid. The county seat is the hamlet of Elizabethtown. The county is located 2 hours south of Montreal, Canada, and 3-4 hours northwest Boston. The population is 37,81. Essex County has a total area of 1,916 square miles, of which 1,794 square miles are land and 122 square miles (6.4%) are water. It is the second-largest county in NY by land area and third-largest by total area.

Essex County's economy is driven by a variety of industries including hospitality/lodging (e.g., Adirondacks, Lake Placid), Health Care & Related Services (e.g., Medical Health Center, ARC) Manufacturing (e.g., International Paper, IMERYS Wollastonite), Educational Services, Retail Trade, and Correctional Facilities (e.g., Moriah Incarceration Facility, Adirondack Correctional Facility).



DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION

While the U.S. population grew by 5.2% and New York's population grew by 4.2% between 2010 and 2020, Essex County's population declined by 5.1% (-1,989 people). Between 2010 and 2020, populations declined in many locations including the following: Lake Placid (-16.2%); North Elba (-16.5%); Saranac Lake (-9.6%); and Wilmington (-12.8%). Between 2010 and 2020, sizable population growth occurred in Keeseville (+61.5%) and Schroon (+13.7%) Places with the highest populations include Moriah (4,716), North Elba (7,480), Saranac Lake (4,887), and Ticonderoga (4,789).²

Population Changes (2010-2020)

Location	Location Type**	Population		Population Change 2010-2020	
		2010	2020	Count	Percent
Essex County		39,370	37,381	-1,989	-5.1%
Au Sable Forks	CDP	559	509	-50	-8.9%
Chesterfield	Town	2,455	2,476	21	0.9%
Crown Point	Town	2,024	2,042	18	0.9%
Elizabethtown	Town/CDP	1,163	1,203	40	3.4%
Essex	Town	671	621	-50	-7.5%
Jay	Town	2,506	2,486	-20	-0.8%
Keene	Town	1,105	1,144	39	3.5%
Keeseville*	CDP	1,815	2,931	1,116	61.5%
Lake Placid	Village	2,521	2,113	-408	-16.2%
Lewis	Town	1,382	1,293	-89	-6.4%
Minerva	Town	809	773	-36	-4.4%
Mineville	CDP	1,269	1,327	58	4.6%
Moriah	Town	4,798	4,716	-82	-1.7%
Newcomb	Town	436	418	-18	-4.1%
North Elba	Town	8,957	7,480	-1,477	-16.5%
North Hudson	Town	240	250	10	4.2%
Port Henry	CDP	1,194	1,150	-44	-3.7%
Saranac Lake*	Village	5,406	4,887	-519	-9.6%
Schroon	Town	1,654	1,880	226	13.7%
Schroon Lake	CDP	833	921	88	10.6%
St. Armand	Town	1,548	1,446	-102	-6.6%
Ticonderoga	Town/CDP	5,042	4,789	-253	-5.0%
Westport	Town/CDP	1,321	1,320	-1	-0.1%
Willsboro	Town/CDP	2,025	1,905	-120	-5.9%
Willsboro Point	CDP	Not Available	382	-----	-----
Wilmington	Town/CDP	1,253	1,093	-160	-12.8%
Witherbee	CDP	347	385	38	11.0%

*not wholly in Essex County **CDP refers to Census Designated Place

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census

AGE

Essex County has an estimated 0-4 age population of 4% (1,506 children), less than New York State (5.9%) and the United States (6%). Essex County has a higher population of people aged 65 and older (23.5%), compared to New York State (16.5%) and the United States (16.0%).³

Population by Age Groups

	0-4	5-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Essex County	4.0%	12.0%	6.8%	12.1%	11.1%	13.7%	16.8%	23.5%
New York State	5.9%	15.0%	9.2%	14.7%	12.5%	13.1%	13.2%	16.5%
United States	6.0%	16.4%	9.3%	13.9%	12.7%	12.7%	12.9%	16.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020 Five-Year Estimates

Children Ages 0-4

Location	Count	Percent of Population
Essex County	1,506	4.0%
New York State	1,140,669	5.9%
United States	19,650,192	6.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020 Five-Year Estimates

PRIMARY LANGUAGE

Of the population in Essex County, 93.8% speak English only, 2.5% speak Spanish, 3.2% speak Indo-European languages, .1% speak Asian languages, and .3% speak Other Languages.⁴

During PY 2020-2021, 98.2% of enrolled ACAP HS/EHS families spoke English, 1.2% spoke Spanish, and .6% spoke a Middle Eastern/South Asian language.⁵

Of enrolled K-12 public school students in Essex County during SY 2020-2021, less than 1% (7 students) were English Language Learners.⁶

Languages Spoken at Home

	English Only	Spanish	Indo-European	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other Languages
Essex County	93.8%	2.5%	3.2%	.1%	.3%
New York	69.7%	14.7%	8.7%	5.1%	1.8%
United States	78.5%	13.2%	3.7%	3.5%	1.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020 Five Year Estimates

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Following are the racial/ethnic demographics of Essex County: White (91.2%); African-American (1.8%); Asian (.6%); Native American/Alaskan Native (.2%); Other Race (.8%); and Multiple Races (5.3%). The Hispanic population is 2.6% (978 people), lower than NY (19.5%) and the U.S. (18.7%).⁷

Following were the racial demographics of enrolled ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start children during PY 2020-2021: White (91.4%); Bi-Racial (7.4%); and Unspecified (1.2%). Of enrolled children, 6.8% were Hispanic/Latino.⁸

Non-Hispanic Population by Race (Percent)

Location	White	Black African-American	Asian	Native American	Native Hawaiian	Other Race	Multiple Races
Essex County	91.2%	1.8%	0.6%	0.2%	0.0%	0.8%	5.3%
New York	55.2%	14.8%	9.6%	0.7%	0.1%	10.9%	8.7%
U.S.	61.6%	12.4%	6.0%	1.1%	0.2%	8.4%	10.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census

Non-Hispanic Population by Race (Count)

Location	White	Black African-American	Asian	Native American	Native Hawaiian	Other Race	Multiple Races
Essex Co.	34,102	676	229	78	12	306	1,978
New York	11,143,349	2,986,172	1,933,127	149,690	10,815	2,210,633	1,767,463
U.S.	204,277,273	41,104,200	19,886,049	3,727,135	689,966	27,915,715	33,848,943

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census

Population By Hispanic Origin

Location	Hispanic Population (Count)	Hispanic Population (Percent)	Non-Hispanic Population (Count)	Non-Hispanic Population (Percent)
Essex County	978	2.6%	36,403	97.4%
New York State	3,948,032	19.5%	16,253,217	80.5%
United States	62,080,044	18.7%	269,369,237	81.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census

Following are the most significant changes in Essex County’s racial/ethnic demographics between 2010 and 2020: White population decreased by 7.9% (-2,874 people); Black population decreased by 37.9% (-372 people); and Multiple Races increased by 302% (+1,229 people). The Hispanic/Latino population decreased by 1.5% (-15 people).⁹

2010-2020 Population Change by Race (Count)

County/ Location	Non-Hispanic							Hispanic or Latino
	White	Black African- American	Asian	Native American Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Other Race	Multiple Races	
Essex Co.	-2,874	-372	-31	-25	-1	100	1,229	-15
New York	-705,328	-24,843	510,138	1,001	777	115,487	394,812	531,100
U.S.	-5,122,185	2,254,139	5,153,427	4,595	140,453	1,087,053	7,583,494	11,163,011

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census

2010-2020 Population Change by Race (Percent)

County/ Location	Non-Hispanic							Hispanic or Latino
	White	Black African- American	Asian	Native American Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Other Race	Multiple Races	
Essex Co.	-7.9%	-37.9%	-11.9%	-25.3%	-12.5%	303.0%	302.0%	-1.5%
New York	-6.2%	-0.9%	36.3%	1.9%	14.6%	141.5%	121.1%	15.5%
U.S.	-2.6%	6.0%	35.6%	0.2%	29.2%	179.6%	127.1%	20.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census

2010-2020 Population Change by Hispanic Origin

Location	Hispanic or Latino Population Change (Count)	Hispanic or Latino Population Change (Percent)	Non-Hispanic Population Change (Count)	Non-Hispanic Population Change (Percent)
Essex County	-15	-1.5%	-1,974	-5.1%
New York	531,100	15.5%	292,042	1.8%
United States	11,163,011	20.6%	11,100,922	4.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census

FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

Of Essex County's population, 4% (1,499 people) are estimated to be foreign-born. Of the foreign-born population, 50.6% have become naturalized U.S. citizens and 49.4% are non-citizens.¹⁰

Foreign-Born Population

	Foreign-Born Population		Foreign-Born Population with Citizenship		Foreign-Born Population without Citizenship	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Essex County	1,499	4.0%	759	50.6%	740	49.4%
New York	4,372,167	22.4%	2,551,469	58.4%	1,820,698	41.6%
United States	44,125,628	13.5%	22,456,684	50.9%	21,668,944	49.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020 5 Year Estimates

FAMILY STRUCTURE

As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, a family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. Of children in Essex County, 19% are estimated to be living in single-parent households, lower than NY at 26%.¹¹

Children in Single-Parent Households

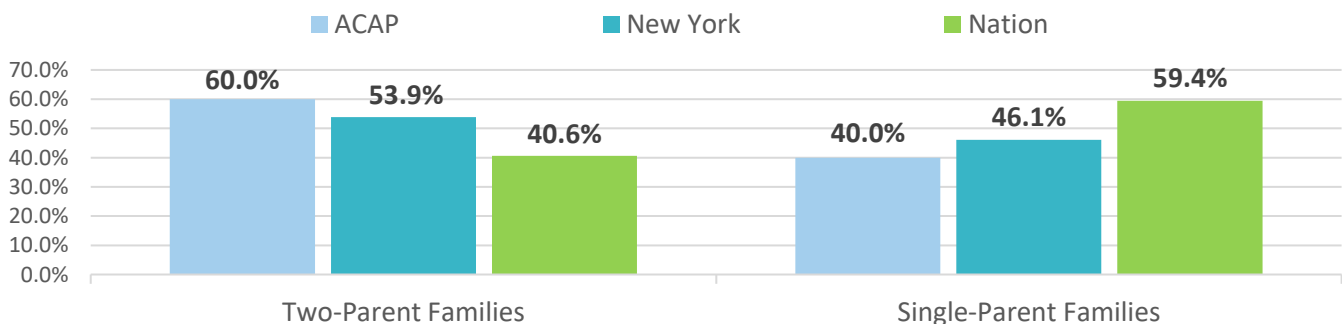
	Single-Parent Households
Essex County	19%
New York	26%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020 Five Year Estimates

During PY 2020-2021, 60% of ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start families were two-parent households and 40% were single-parent households. In comparison, 53.9% of enrolled HS/EHS families in New York and 40.6% of HS/EHS families nationwide were two-parent families.¹²

Structure of Head Start/Early Head Start Families

Source: Program Information Reports



EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

ACAP maintains funding for 187 children/pregnant women (107 HS center-based, 8 HS children home-based, 72 EHS home-based). There is no center-based EHS funding in Essex County.

ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start Funded Enrollment

Location*	Head Start		Early Head Start	
	Center Based	Home Based	Home Based	Center Based
Au Sable Forks	18	0	9	0
Elizabethtown/Lewis/Westport	17	0	9	0
Lake Placid	15	0	9	0
Moriah	18	0	18	0
Saranac Lake	20	0	9	0
Ticonderoga	19	0	18	0
County-Wide	0	8	0	0
Total	107	8	72	0

*Keeseville is in Essex and Clinton counties. Joint Council For Economic Opportunity has Head Start funding in Keeseville.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) is the entry point for public education in New York. The goal is to provide four-year-olds with high quality, research-based instruction that increases the number of children who enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

During SY 2021-2022, there were 44 half-day and 141 full-day pre-k slots in Essex County, for a total of 185 pre-k slots. School Districts with pre-k enrollment slots include the following: Bouquet Valley (25 half-day); Crown Point (20 half-day & 30 full-day); Keene (3 half-day); Lake Placid (37 full-day); Minerva (6 half-day); Moriah (37 full-day); Ticonderoga (15 half-day); and Willsboro (12 full-day). Bouquet Valley provides pre-k for both 3 and 4 year olds, while the remaining districts enroll 4 year olds.¹³

Pre-K Enrollment by School District in Essex County (SY 2021-2022)

School District	Ages Served	Half-Day Pre-K	Full-Day Pre-K	Total Pre-K
Essex County	3 & 4	44	141	185
Bouquet Valley CSD	3 & 4	0	25	25
Crown Point CSD	4	20	30	50
Keene CSD	4	3	0	3
Lake Placid CSD	4	0	37	37
Minerva CSD	4	6	0	6
Moriah CSD	4	0	37	37
Ticonderoga CSD	4	15	0	15
Willsboro CSD	4	0	12	12

Source: New York State Education Department

HOME VISITATION PROGRAMS

“Studies show that maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting can be effective at improving maternal and child outcomes and yielding strong returns on investment for states and communities. Voluntary home visiting strengthens families with young children by meeting with families in their homes and directly providing or connecting families with health, mental health, parenting, and other supports and services, depending on each family’s unique needs.”¹⁴

ACAP has the only home visitation program for children ages 0-5/pregnant women in Essex County (72 EHS and 8 HS). Home visiting services are available in Essex County for approximately 52% of low income children ages 0-3.

Home Visitation Model/Program	Home Visiting Capacity in Essex County
Early Head Start (ACAP)	72
Head Start (ACAP)	8
Healthy Families NY	0
Maternal & Infant Community Health	0
ParentChildPlus	0
Parents as Teachers	0
Power of Two	0
Nurse Family Partnership	0
SafeCare	0

CHILD CARE

Child Care Capacity

In Essex County, there are 6 child care centers (Keeseville, Ray Brook, Saranac Lake), not including Head Start or Pre-K slots. These 6 child care centers have capacity to serve 54 infants, 79 toddlers, and 138 preschoolers, totaling 271 slots for children ages 0-5. In addition, there are 14 Family Day Care programs in 9 towns with a capacity of 84 children and 11 Group Family Care programs in 6 towns with a capacity of 128 children; both of these programs serve children ages 6 weeks – 12 years.¹⁵

Child Care Capacity in Essex County

(Does not include Head Start or UPK)

Location/ District	Child Care Center Capacity			Family Day Care*		Group Family Care*	
	Infants	Toddlers	Preschool	# of Facilities	Capacity	# of Facilities	Capacity
Essex County	54	79	138	14	84	11	128
AuSable Forks	0	0	0	1	6	0	0
Bloomingtondale	0	0	0	2	12	0	0
Crown Point	0	0	0	1	6	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	1	12
Jay	0	0	0	0	0	1	12
Keene Valley	0	0	0	1	6	0	0
Keeseville	21	24	57	3	18	0	0
Lake Placid	0	0	0	2	12	4	48
Lewis	0	0	0	0	0	2	24
Mineville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Henry	0	0	0	0	0	2	20
Ray Brook	8	15	17	0	0	0	0
Saranac Lake	25	40	64	0	0	0	0
Ticonderoga	0	0	0	1	6	0	0
Westport	0	0	0	2	12	1	12
Willsboro	0	0	0	1	6	0	0

*Ages 6 weeks-12 years Sources: NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Child Care Council of Essex, July 2022

Quality of Care

QUALITYstarsNY is New York's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for early childhood programs, providing support and resources to improve and sustain high quality across the state. According to the QUALITYstarsNY website, 9 child care programs are engaged in the QRIS program in Essex County.¹⁶

Cost of Child Care

Annual center-based child care in New York State is estimated at \$15,028 for an infant and \$27,092 for an infant and a 4 year old. Family child care is estimated at \$10,972 for an infant and \$21,112 for an infant and a 4 year old. A single parent spends 54% of income on infant child care and a single parent spends nearly 97% of income on two children. A married family with two children living at the poverty line, would need 108% of income to afford child care.¹⁷

Annual Price of Child Care		
Center		Home
\$15,028	Infant Care	\$10,972
\$27,092	Infant and a 4 year old	\$21,112

Child Care Subsidy

The family's eligibility for a child day care subsidy is based on the need for care, service unit size and household gross income. The household must be programmatically eligible and financially eligible and must also use an eligible provider. As of July 2022, households under the 200% of Poverty Level are eligible for subsidy.¹⁸

In May 2022, New York announced a \$2 billion to increase the number of families receiving child care financial assistance and the amount child care providers are paid for their essential services. The \$2 billion in childcare subsidies includes \$894 million in New York State Child Care Block Grant new funding passed in the recent State Budget, more than \$500 million in funds previously allocated to local departments of social services districts that remains unspent, and more than \$600 million in existing COVID-19 pandemic funding.

The funding, managed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), will expand the initial eligibility levels for families in August 2022 to up to 300% of the federal poverty level (\$83,250 for a family of four), up from 200%, extending eligibility to hundreds of thousands of young children in New York.¹⁹

BIRTH OUTCOMES AND PREGNANT WOMEN

Following are the most recent birth outcome data in Essex County from the NY State Dept. of Health:²⁰

- 10.6% of births in Essex County were premature, compared to 10.4% in New York;
- 8.6% of births in Essex County had low-birth weights, compared to 8% in New York;
- 55.4% of births in Essex County were to un-married parents, compared to 38.3% in New York;
- The infant mortality rate was 3.0%, compared to 4.4% in New York;
- The rate was 17.1 per 1,000 births to teens in Essex County, compared to 11.9 per 1,000 in NY.
- During the 3-year period, 841 babies were born in Essex County; this was an average of 280 births annually. Of births in Essex County, 29.6% were to mothers on Medicaid or with no insurance. Therefore, there are an estimated 83 eligible pregnant women in Essex County.

Birth Outcomes

Location/Zip Code	Births 2016-18 (3 Years)	Percent of Births					Teen Rates Per 1,000	
		Premature Birth	Low Birth Weight	Un- Married Parent	Medicaid Or Self-Pay	Late or No Prenatal Care	Teen Birth Rate	Pregnancy Rate
New York State	686,326	10.4	8.0	38.3	49.9	5.5	11.9	23.9
Essex County	841	10.6	8.6	55.4	29.6	7.3	17.1	22.7
Schroon Lake (12870)	45	13.3	11.1	28.9	11.1	4.7	0.0	0.0
Ticonderoga (12883)	80	10.0	7.5	60.0	17.9	9.0	17.4	19.9
Bloomington (12913)	27	3.7	0.0	44.4	22.2	3.7	19.6	19.6
Crown Point (12928)	21	14.3	9.5	47.6	30.0	10.0	6.8	20.4
Elizabethtown (12932)	25	8.0	8.0	56.0	28.0	8.0	22.2	33.3
Essex (12936)	11	18.2	9.1	54.5	72.7	9.1	*	*
Jay (12941)	26	7.7	11.5	42.3	38.5	0.0	0.0	10.4
Keeseville (12944)	106	10.4	11.3	58.5	47.2	16.0	22.4	25.6
Lake Placid (12946)	123	6.5	7.3	38.2	18.7	5.7	8.7	14.0
Lewis (12950)	18	0.0	0.0	66.7	44.4	5.6	*	*
Mineville (12956)	28	10.7	3.6	64.3	42.9	10.7	*	*
Moriah (12960)	10	0.0	0.0	50.0	10.0	10.0	*	*
Port Henry (12974)	17	0.0	0.0	76.5	41.2	5.9	23.3	23.3
Westport (12993)	25	8.0	0.0	40.0	48.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
Willsboro (12996)	38	7.9	2.6	39.5	36.8	13.2	14.2	21.3
Wilmington (12997)	15	0.0	0.0	53.3	33.3	0.0	8.3	25.0

*Population of fewer than 30 teens are suppressed for confidentiality reasons. Source: NY State Dept. of Health

DISABILITIES

The NY State Early Intervention Program (EIP) is for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. Part C services under IDEA are provided for families and children birth up to age 3 who have a confirmed disability or established developmental delay in one or more of the following areas of development: physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional, and/or adaptive.²¹ Essex County's Early Intervention program is administered by the [Essex County Health Department](#). Most services are provided in the home, child care setting, Head Start, or other community setting. In 2019, .3% of children birth to 1 years of age and 3.2% of children birth-three years of age in Essex County received Early Intervention services.²²

Children Served by Early Intervention in Essex County (Percent)

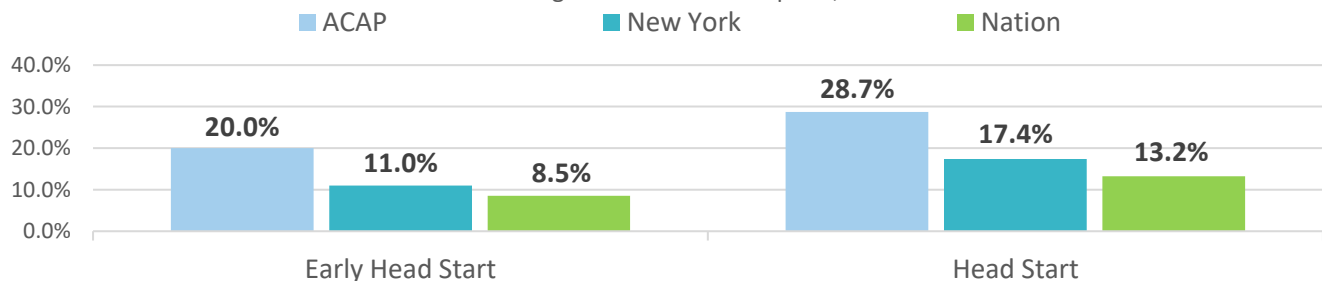
	2017	2018	2019
Birth – 1 Year	.3%	.7%	.3%
Birth – 3 Years	3.8%	4.1%	3.2%

Source: New York State Department of Health

During PY 2020-2021, 20% of enrolled ACAP Early Head Start children and 28.7% of ACAP Head Start children had diagnosed disabilities, exceeding the Head Start Program Performance Standard of 10% enrolled children with disabilities. Of enrolled Head Start children, 26.9% were diagnosed with speech/language impairments and 1.9% were diagnosed with non-categorical/developmental delays.²³

Early Head Start/Head Start Children with Disabilities

Source: Program Information Reports, 2020-2021



The NY State Education Department oversees a statewide preschool special education program with school districts, municipalities, approved providers, and parents. Evaluations and planned individual or group instructional services or programs are provided to eligible children, ages 3-5, with a disability that affects their learning. LEAs provide Part B services under IDEA to students ages 3 through 21.

During SY 2020-2021, 13 school district preschool children in Essex County had diagnosed disabilities. Of Essex County K-12 students, 20% (683) had diagnosed disabilities.

After a decade of struggle to keep open the special education preschool in Essex County, the Children's Development Group of Keeseville closed on June 30, 2022, leaving at least 10 children without a special education preschool placement.²⁴

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, “People are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior 4 weeks, and are currently available for work. The remainder—those who have no job and are not looking for one—are counted as ‘not in the labor force.’ Many who are not in the labor force are going to school or are retired. Family responsibilities keep others out of the labor force. Since the mid-1990s, typically fewer than 1 in 10 people not in the labor force reported that they want a job.”²⁵

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and temporary and permanent closures of many businesses, unemployment claims in Essex County peaked in April 2020 at a staggering 19.5%, higher than New York State (15.1%). As of May 2022, Essex County’s unemployment rate had dropped to 3%, compared to New York State at 4.1% and the United States at 3.4%.²⁶

Monthly Unemployment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	April 2022	May* 2022
Essex	4.6%	4.7%	4.5%	4.1%	3.6%	3.4%	3.5%	3.3%	4.4%	4.7%	4.4%	3.7%	3.0%
NY	7.0%	7.5%	7.1%	6.7%	5.7%	5.3%	4.9%	4.5%	5.3%	5.1%	4.7%	4.2%	4.1%
U.S.	5.5%	6.1%	5.7%	5.3%	4.6%	4.3%	3.9%	3.7%	4.4%	4.2%	3.8%	3.4%	3.4%

*Preliminary Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the civilian labor force in Essex County dipped in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and business closures. The May 2022 labor force is slightly lower (-30 workers) than May 2019 (pre-pandemic).²⁷

Civilian Labor Force

	May 2018	May 2019	May 2020	May 2021	May 2022
Essex County	16,531	16,469	16,190	16,224	16,439

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

WAGES

Minimum Wage

The minimum wage in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester increased on December 31, 2021, to \$15/hour. All large and small employers must pay a minimum wage of \$15/hour. In other parts of New York, including Essex County, the minimum wage is \$13.20/hour.²⁸

A full time (2,080 hours per year) minimum wage worker in Essex County earns \$13.20/hour (\$31,200/annually). The 2022 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family unit of two is \$18,310/year; therefore, a single parent with one child who is working full time at minimum wage is considered above the FPL.²⁹

Living Wage

Living wage is the hourly rate that a full-time (2,080 hours annually) working individual must earn to adequately support the family and cover day-to-day expenses. The living wage needed to support one adult and one child is \$32.37 in Essex County.³⁰ A full-time working adult with one child who is making minimum wage (\$13.20/hour) earns just 40.8% of the living wage in Essex County.

Living Wage in Essex County

1 Adult				2 Adults (1 Working)				2 Adults (Both Working)			
Number of Children				Number of Children				Number of Children			
0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
\$17.00	\$32.37	\$41.07	\$54.80	\$25.65	\$30.58	\$36.50	\$39.79	\$12.83	\$17.90	\$23.59	\$27.78

Notes: 1) For this model, the assumption is that the sole provider is working full-time (2080 hours per year). 2) For two adult families where one adult is not in the labor force, one of the adults is assumed to be employed full-time while the other non-wage-earning adult provides full-time childcare for the family's children. Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2022 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family/Household	Poverty Guideline
1	\$13,590
2	\$18,310
3	\$23,030
4	\$27,750
5	\$32,470
6	\$37,190

* For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,720 for each additional person

INCOME

The median household income in Essex County is estimated at \$58,109, significantly less than the median household income of New York (\$71,117) and the U.S. (\$64,994).³¹

Mean/Median Household Income

	Total Households	Average (Mean) Household Income	Median Household Income
Essex County	16,182	\$77,483	\$58,109
New York State	7,417,224	\$105,304	\$71,117
United States	122,354,219	\$91,547	\$64,994

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020 Five-Year Estimates

INFLATION

The annual U.S. inflation rate was 8.6% for the 12 months ended May 2022—the steepest increase since 1981. In contrast, inflation was 5% in May 2021 and .6% in May of 2020.³²

Inflation Rate

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2022	7.5	7.9	8.5	8.2	8.6								
2021	1.4	1.7	2.6	4.2	5.0	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.4	6.2	6.8	7.0	4.7
2020	2.5	2.3	1.5	.3	.1	.6	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2
2019	1.6	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.3	1.8
2018	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.2	1.9	2.4

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services needed for daily living (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, fuel). Prices are collected monthly in 75 urban areas nationwide from approximately 6,000 housing units and 22,000 retail establishments (e.g., department stores, supermarkets, gas stations). Taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included.³³

In the past 12 months ending May 2022, the New York-Newark-Jersey City area CPI increased:³⁴

- 6.3% overall;
- 5.5% for apparel;
- 9.6% for food (14.6% for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs);
- 53.4% for gasoline;
- 26.1% for household energy;
- 4.3% for housing;
- 4.4% for medical care;
- 7.9% for new and used vehicles (16.7% for new vehicles and 17% for used cars and trucks);
- 7.8% for recreation; and
- 12.6% for transportation.

Consumer Price Index in New York-Newark-Jersey City Area—May 2022

	1-Month Percent Change (from April 2022)	12 Month Percent Change (from May 2021)
All Items	0.5%	6.3%
Apparel	4.0%	5.5%
Food	0.7%	9.6%
Gasoline	12.6%	53.4%
Household Energy	5.3%	26.1%
Housing	0.6%	4.3%
Medical Care	-0.1%	4.4%
New and Used Vehicles	-6.3%	7.9%
Recreation	-0.1%	7.8%
Transportation	0.0%	12.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

POVERTY

The estimated poverty rate of the general population is 10.2% (3,520 people) in Essex County, compared to New York at 13.6% and the U.S. at 12.8%. Of Essex County's population in poverty, 9.8% of non-Hispanic Whites (3,272 people), 50.4% of African-Americans (62 people), 39.7% of Native Americans (29 people), and 19.5% (119 people) of the Multi-Racial population are living in poverty. Of the Hispanic/Latino population, 24.2% (143 people) are in poverty.³⁵

General Population in Poverty

	Count	Percentage
Essex County	3,520	10.2%
New York	2,581,048	13.6%
United States	40,910,326	12.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 2020 Five-Year Estimates

Population in Poverty by Race/Ethnicity

	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Asian	Native American Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Other Race	Multiple Races	Hispanic/Latino
Essex Co.	9.8% 3,272	50.4% 62	5.4% 5	39.7% 29	15.8% 3	10.9% 30	19.5% 119	24.2% 143
New York	10.1%	20.4%	14.4%	22.6%	23.8%	23.4%	17.3%	20.9%
U.S.	10.6%	22.1%	10.6%	24.1%	16.8%	19.7%	15.1%	18.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 2020 Five-Year Estimates

The estimated poverty rate for children under 5 years old in Essex County is 15.7%, compared to NY (19.7%) and the U.S. (19.1%). An estimated 1,469 children under age 5 reside in the county, with 230 children (138 infants/toddlers and 92 preschool-aged children) living in poverty. Places with the highest numbers of poverty for children under age 5 are in Moriah (129) and Port Henry (86%).³⁶

Children under Age Five in Poverty in Essex County (Estimates)

	Children Under 5	Population Under 5 in Poverty	Infants and Toddlers*	Infants/Toddlers in Poverty	3 and 4 Year Olds*	3 and 4 Year Olds in Poverty
Essex County	1,469	230 (15.7%)	881	138	588	92

*Estimated infants/toddlers (60%) and 3- & 4-Year-olds (40%) Source: American Community, 2020 5-Year Estimates

Children Under 5 in Poverty (Estimates)

Location	Children Under 5	# of Children in Poverty	% of Children in Poverty
Au Sable Forks	0	0	0.0%
Chesterfield	67	18	26.9%
Crown Point	63	2	2.6%
Elizabethtown	4	0	11.0%
Essex	7	1	8.9%
Jay	66	3	3.9%
Keene	28	7	25.0%
Keeseville	96	6	6.2%
Lake Placid	67	12	17.9%
Lewis	23	1	4.3%
Minerva	37	16	43.2%
Mineville	111	43	38.7%
Moriah	373	129	34.6%
Newcomb	2	0	0.0%
North Elba	14	0	0.0%
North Hudson	12	2	14.3%
Port Henry	142	86	60.6%
Saranac Lake	304	44	14.5%
Schroon	65	9	13.8%
St. Armand	47	2	3.1%
Ticonderoga	281	12	4.3%
Westport	6	4	72.7%
Willsboro	50	13	26.0%
Willsboro Point	5	1	14.3%
Wilmington	7	0	3.0%
Witherbee	14	1	5.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 2020 Five-Year Estimates

An economically disadvantaged student is a member of a household that meets Federal income poverty eligibility guidelines for free and reduced price meals or free milk. Of K-12 students, 53% in Essex County were economically disadvantaged during SY 2020-2021.³⁷

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP enables low-income families to buy nutritious food with Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards. SNAP recipients spend their benefits to buy eligible food in authorized retail food stores/Farmers' Markets. The gross monthly income eligibility standard is typically 185% of the Federal Poverty Level.

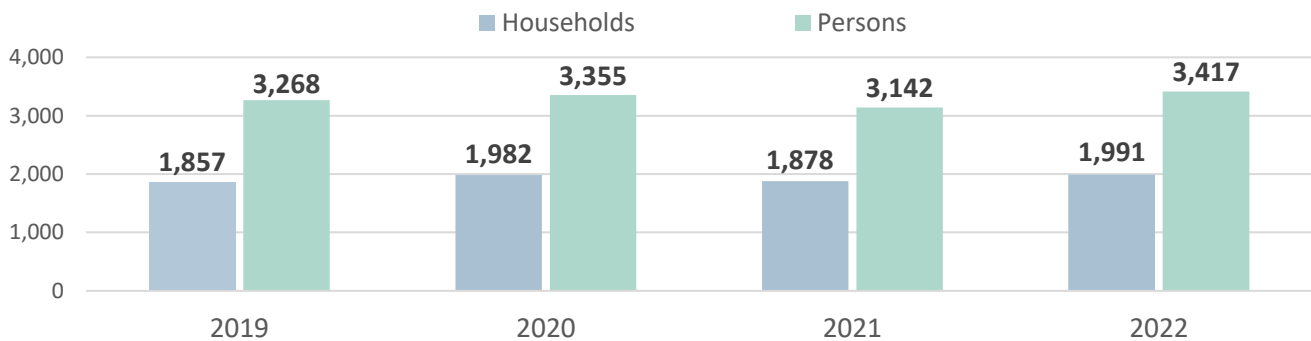
While the federal public health emergency remains in effect, NY SNAP households are eligible to receive Emergency Assistance supplemental SNAP benefits in the amount that will bring them up to the maximum SNAP monthly benefit level for their household size or a supplement of \$95—whichever amount is greater. Maximum SNAP benefit levels (effective October 2021) can be found [here](#).³⁸

NY State continues to distribute Pandemic EBT food benefits to households with eligible children who receive free school lunch under the National School Lunch Act. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance is distributing Summer P-EBT, which provides eligible students with \$375 in food benefits.³⁹

The 2022 monthly average of households receiving SNAP in Essex County is 1,991 (3,417 people), an increase of 4.6% from 2019.⁴⁰

Monthly Average Households Receiving SNAP in Essex County

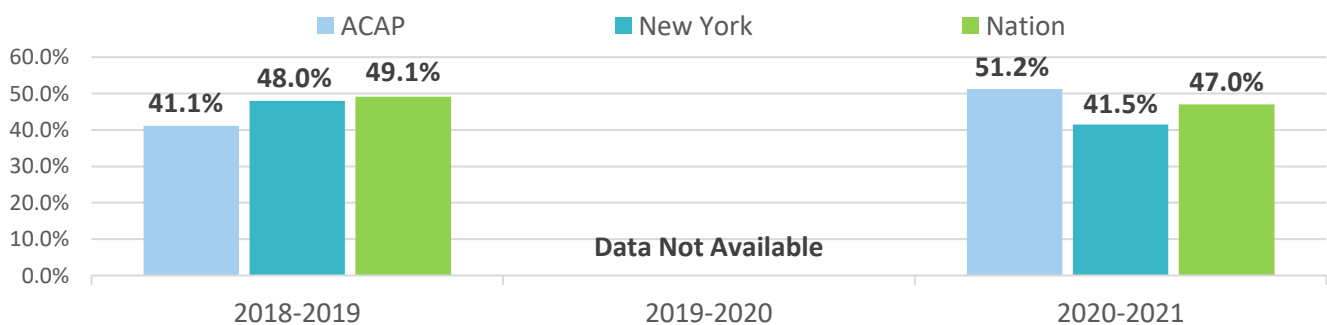
Source: Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



During PY 2020-2021, 51.2% of ACAP HS/EHS families were receiving SNAP upon enrollment, compared to 41.5% of HS/EHS families in NY and 47% of HS/EHS families nationally.⁴¹

Head Start Families Receiving SNAP at Enrollment

Source: Program Information Reports



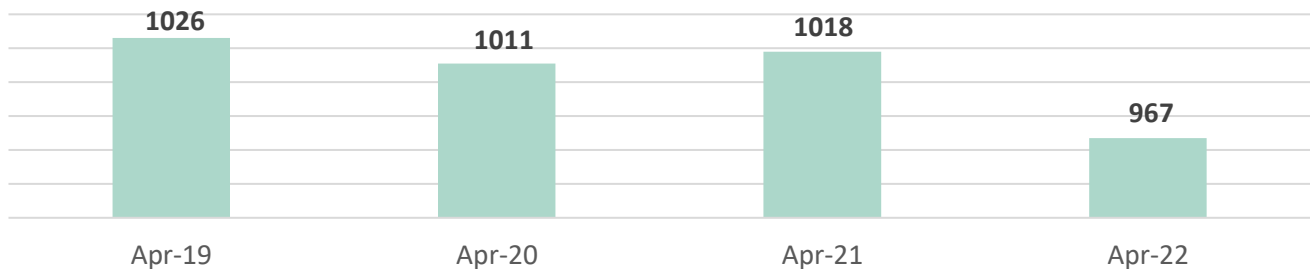
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INSURANCE (SSI)

SSI pays monthly benefits to people with limited income and resources, including those who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older. Children who are disabled may also get SSI. The 2022 monthly maximum federal amounts are \$841 for an eligible individual, \$1,261 for an eligible individual with an eligible spouse, and \$421 for an essential person; this represents a 5.9% increase from 2021.⁴²

Monthly SSI recipients in Essex County decreased by 5.8% between April 2019 and April 2022.⁴³

SSI Recipients in Essex County, NY

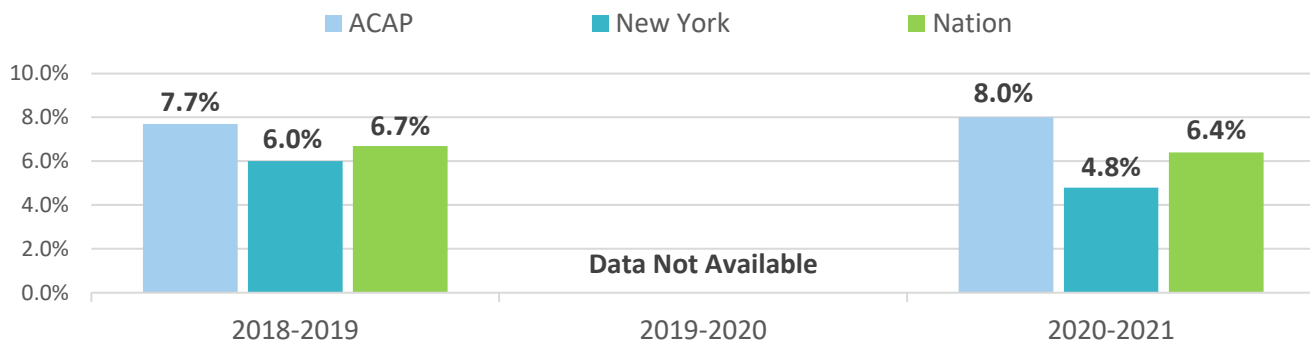
Source: NY State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



During PY 2020-2021, 8% of ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start families were receiving SSI at enrollment, compared to New York HS/EHS families (4.8%) and HS/EHS families nationwide (6.4%).⁴⁴

Head Start/Early Head Start Families Receiving SSI at Enrollment

Source: Program Information Reports



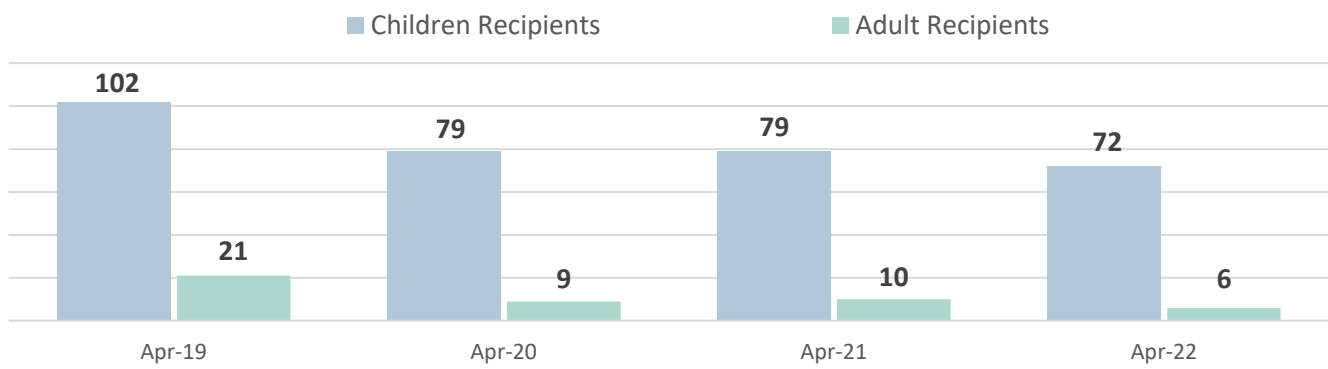
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

Family Assistance (FA) provides cash assistance to eligible, needy families that include a minor child living with a parent(s) or a caretaker relative. FA operates under federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) guidelines. Under FA, eligible adults are limited to receiving benefits for a total of 60 months in their lifetime. Once this limit is reached, the adult and all members of his/her household are ineligible to receive any more FA benefits. Parents and other adult relatives receiving FA and who are determined to be able to work must comply with federal work requirements.

Monthly TANF recipients in Essex County decreased by 36.6% (-45 recipients) and child recipients declined by 29.4% (-30 children) between April 2019 and April 2022.⁴⁵

Family Assistance (TANF) Recipients in Essex County, NY

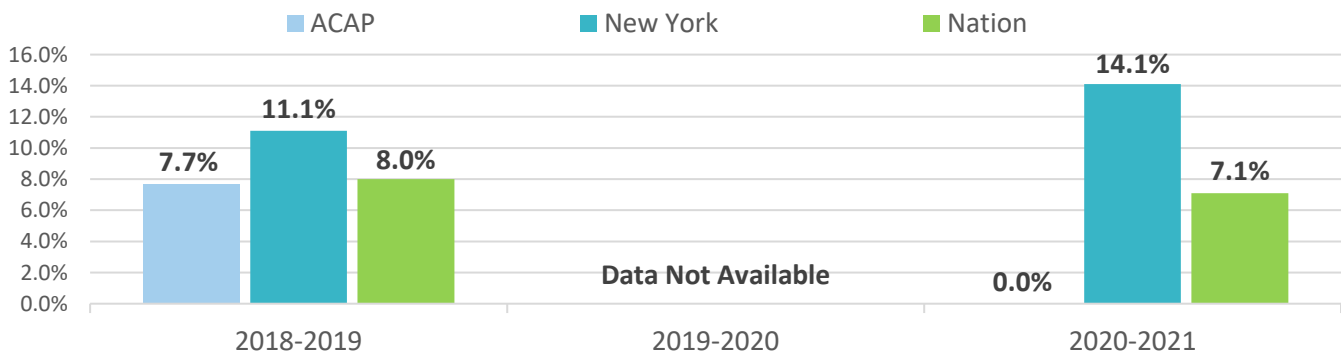
Source: NY State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



During PY 2020-2021, 0% of ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start families were receiving TANF at enrollment, compared to New York HS/EHS families (14.1%) and HS/EHS families nationwide (7.1%). In 2019, 7.7% of ACAP HS/EHS families were receiving TANF at enrollment.⁴⁶

Head Start/Early Head Start Families Receiving TANF at Enrollment

Source: Program Information Reports



WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

WIC is a supplemental nutrition program funded by the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) and administered locally by [Essex County Health Department](#). WIC locations are in Au Sable Forks, Elizabethtown, Keeseville, Lake Placid, Moriah, Port Henry, Schroon Lake, and Ticonderoga.

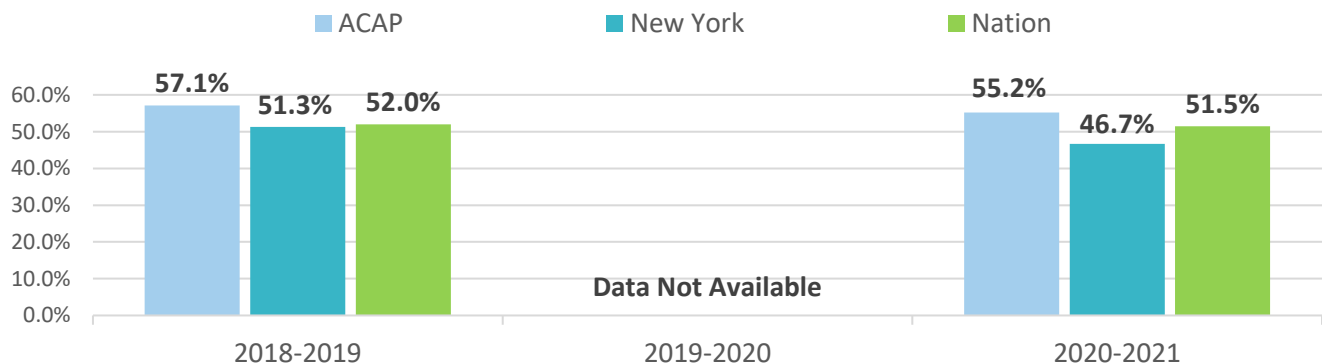
WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and an eWIC card to purchase approved foods at authorized grocery stores. During summer months families receive funds to use at local Farmer's Markets for fresh produce. Eligible recipients must be NY residents (not required to be a U.S. citizen), be pregnant or breastfeeding, and/or have a child younger than age 5 and a gross household income not exceeding 185% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. A family is income eligible for WIC if it receives Medicaid, Food Stamps or TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families).⁴⁷

The average monthly 2021 WIC benefit per person in New York was \$49.56, compared to \$51.71 in FY 2020.⁴⁸

During PY 2020-2021, 55.2% of ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start families were receiving WIC services upon enrollment, compared to 46.7% of HS/EHS families in New York and 51.5% of HS/EHS families nationally.⁴⁹

Head Start/Early Head Start Families Receiving WIC Services at Enrollment

Source: Program Information Reports



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The estimated rate of adults aged 25 and older without a high school diploma is 9.5% in Essex County, compared to 12.8% in New York and 11.5% in the United States.⁵⁰ Of the Hispanic population in Essex County, 23.1% (260 people) do not have a high school diploma.⁵¹ The rate of those with a Bachelor's Degree in Essex County is 29.8%, less than NY at 37.5% and the U.S. at 32.9%.⁵²

Education Levels

Location	Population Age 25+	No High School Diploma (Count)	No High School Diploma (Percent)	HS Diploma or Higher	Bachelor's Degree+
Essex County	28,740	2,735	9.5%	90.5%	29.8%
New York	13,649,157	1,743,890	12.8%	87.2%	37.5%
United States	222,836,834	25,562,680	11.5%	88.5%	32.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 2020 Five Year Estimates

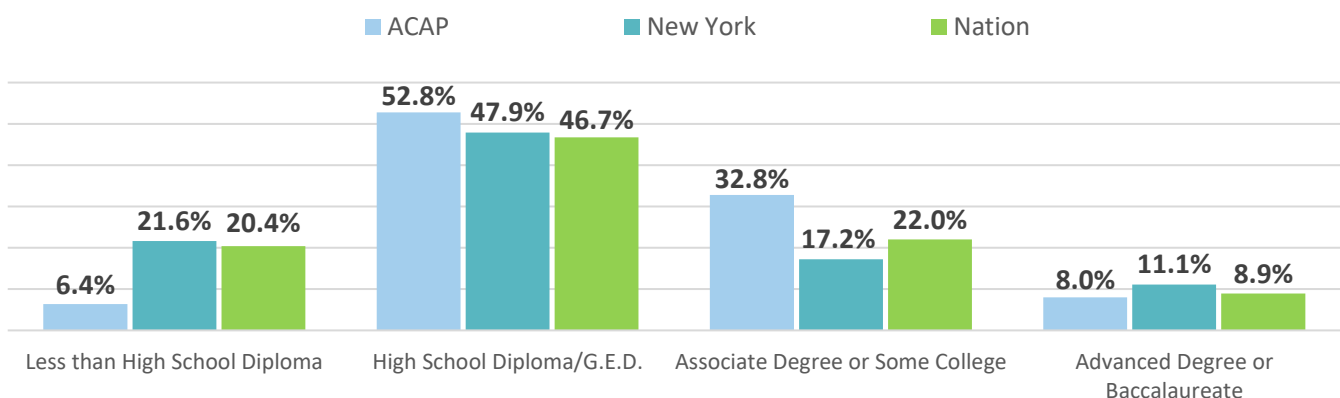
Population with No High School Diploma by Race/Ethnicity

Location	Non-Hispanic						Multiple Races	Hispanic
	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Native Hawaiian	Other Race		
Essex County	8.2% 2,198	25.8% 257	29.0% 27	42.0% 27	0.0% 0	37.2% 178	12.5% 48	29.1% 260
New York	8.3%	15.6%	20.4%	17.5%	17.1%	34.3%	17.5%	28.6%
U.S.	9.3%	13.3%	12.7%	19.4%	13.2%	36.1%	15.0%	29.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 2020 5-Year Estimates

During PY 2020-2021, 93.7% of ACAP HS/EHS families had a high school diploma or higher degree, compared to New York HS/EHS families (71.4%) and HS/EHS families nationwide (79.6%).⁵³

Level of Education of Early Head Start/Head Start Families



The 2021 four-year high school graduation rate in Essex County was 91%. Graduation rates were 74% for economically disadvantaged students, compared to 96% for non-economically disadvantaged students. The graduation rate among students with disabilities was 76%.⁵⁴

4 Year High School Graduation Rate

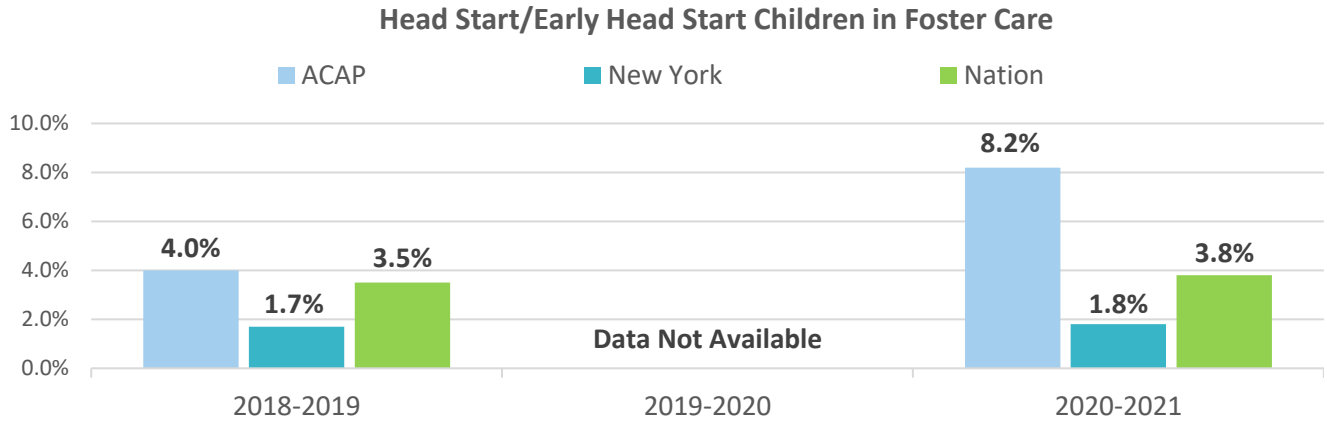
Location/ District	All Students	Not Economically Disadvantaged	Economically Disadvantaged	Students With Disabilities	Homeless
Essex County	91%	96%	74%	76%	s
Boquet Valley	93%	95%	91%	100%	
Crown Point	95%	100%	88%	s	
Keene	100%	100%	100%	s	
Lake Placid	90%	97%	73%	67%	
Minerva	89%	s	s	s	
Moriah	84%	94%	67%	57%	
Newcomb	100%	s	s	s	
Schroon Lake	100%	100%	s	s	
Ticonderoga	91%	48%	11%	83%	
Willsboro	89%	100%	82%	60%	

Source: NYS Dept. of Education *2020-21 Graduation Rates s = Data suppressed, not applicable, or unavailable

FOSTER CARE

As of June 30, 2022, there are 58 children (all ages) in foster care in Essex County.⁵⁵

During PY 2020-2021, 8.2% (13 children) of ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start children were in foster care, significantly higher than 1.8% of HS/EHS children in New York and 3.8% of HS/EHS children nationally.⁵⁶ Data from 2019-2020 is not available due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA/HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA

According to the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), “Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs) are areas or populations designated by HRSA as having too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty or a high elderly population.” Medically Underserved Populations are known as MUPs.⁵⁷

Some geographic areas (county or service area), populations (e.g., low income or Medicaid eligible), and facilities (e.g., federally qualified health center—FQHC or other state or federal prison) have too few primary care, dental, and mental health providers and services. HRSA works with state partners to determine which of these should have shortage designations known as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), and are, therefore, eligible to receive certain federal resources.⁵⁸

Medically Underserved Area/Population in Essex County

Discipline	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Medical Underservice Score*
Primary Care	Medically Underserved Area	Minerva town	54.4
Primary Care	Medically Underserved Population HPSA	Low Income - East Central Essex	0.0
Primary Care	MUP Other Population Governor’s Exception	Hudson Headwaters	0.0

*Represents the Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) score. The lowest score (highest need) is 0; the highest score (lowest need) is 100. In order to qualify for designation, the IMU score must be less than or equal to 62.0, except for a Governor designation, which does not receive an IMU score. The score applies to the MUA or MUP as a whole, and not to individual portions of it. Source: Bureau of Health Workforce

Health Professional Shortage Areas in Essex County

Discipline	Designation Type	HPSA Name	HPSA Score*
Primary Care Dental Health Mental Health	Correctional Facility	FCI - Ray Brook	12
Dental Health	Medicaid Eligible Population HPSA	ME-Essex County	16
Mental Health	Geographic HPSA	Essex County	15

* HPSA Score developed by the National Health Service Corps in determining priorities for assignment of clinicians. Scores range from 0 to 26 where the higher the score, the greater the priority. Source: Bureau of Health Workforce

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Following are data from the New York State Health Department, as of July 5, 2022:⁵⁹

- In NY State there have been 32 reported deaths of children ages 0-9 due to COVID-19, which represents .1% of deaths. Of the 32 reported child deaths due to COVID-19, 7 children had at least one of the top 10 identified comorbidities (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, cancer).
- There have been 56,585 COVID-related fatalities in NY as reported through the Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS). Of deaths, 92.2% had at least one comorbidity (e.g., cancer, hypertension, diabetes, coronary artery disease, dementia) and 86.4% were people over age 60.
- In Essex County, there have been 64 deaths among patients with confirmed cases of COVID-19, as reported through HERDS.

COVID-19 Fatalities by Race/Ethnicity

	Hispanic	Black	White	Asian	Other
New York State Excluding NYC	7%	12%	75%	3%	3%
New York City	34%	28%	27%	7%	4%

Source: New York State Department of Health, HERDS, July 5, 2022

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

Essex County is ranked among the healthier counties in New York, 19th of 62 counties for Health Outcomes and 13th of 62 counties for Health Factors. Health factors (health behaviors, clinical care, social & economic factors, physical environment) represent issues that, if modified, can improve length and quality of life. They are predictors of how healthy communities can be in the future. Health outcomes represent a county's current health and reflect the physical and mental well-being of residents through measures representing length and quality of life experienced in the community.

Low rates of uninsured residents (5%), low air pollution, elevated social associations, and high percentages of high school graduation rate (90%) positively impact the health of residents. Adult smoking (18%), excessive drinking (24%), adult obesity (31%), high ratios of primary care physicians to patients (2,630:1), and low percentages of residents with some college (56%) are areas that most negatively impact the health of residents.⁶⁰

2022 County Health Rankings for the 62 Ranked Counties in New York

County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	County	Health Outcomes	Health Factors
Albany	22	6	Dutchess	15	12	Madison	9	17	Putnam	1	3	Sullivan	61	58
Allegany	43	36	Erie	46	29	Monroe	39	31	Queens	12	52	Tioga	24	20
Bronx	62	62	Essex	19	13	Montgomery	59	57	Rensselaer	30	14	Tompkins	2	4
Broome	49	41	Franklin	40	60	Nassau	4	1	Richmond	18	27	Ulster	25	28
Cattaraugus	60	59	Fulton	56	54	New York	5	10	Rockland	7	11	Warren	27	9
Cayuga	33	43	Genesee	38	16	Niagara	53	50	Saratoga	3	2	Washington	34	32
Chautauqua	55	48	Greene	51	51	Oneida	52	45	Schenectady	44	24	Wayne	41	30
Chemung	58	53	Hamilton	29	40	Onondaga	32	25	Schoharie	36	21	Westchester	6	5
Chenango	57	37	Herkimer	31	42	Ontario	8	7	Schuyler	16	39	Wyoming	17	22
Clinton	28	33	Jefferson	42	49	Orange	14	26	Seneca	48	46	Yates	23	34
Columbia	13	18	Kings	20	61	Orleans	54	55	St. Lawrence	35	47			
Cortland	45	23	Lewis	26	44	Oswego	47	56	Steuben	37	35			
Delaware	50	38	Livingston	11	15	Otsego	21	19	Suffolk	10	8			

Source: www.countyhealthrankings.org

County Health Rankings

	Essex County	New York State
Adult Smoking	18%	13%
Adult Obesity	31%	26%
Access to Exercise Opportunities	100%	88%
Excessive Drinking	24%	19%
Uninsured	5%	6%
Primary Care Physicians	2,630:1	1,180:1
Dentists	3,070:1	1,210:1
Mental Health Providers	600:1	310:1
Some College	56%	70%
Severe Housing Problems	13%	28%
Long Commute-Driving to Work	31%	39%

OBESITY

According to the Centers for Disease Control, “Body Mass Index (BMI) is commonly used to determine childhood weight status. BMI is calculated by dividing a person’s weight in kilograms by the square of height in meters. For children and teens, BMI is age- and sex-specific and is often referred to as BMI-for-age. A child’s weight status is different from adult BMI categories. Children’s body composition varies as they age and varies between genders. Therefore, BMI levels among children and teens need to be expressed relative to other children of the same age and sex.”⁶¹

Child—Weight Status Category	Child—Percentile Range
Underweight	Less than the 5th percentile
Healthy Weight	5th percentile to less than the 85th percentile
Overweight	85th to less than the 95th percentile
Obesity	95th percentile or greater

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

New York is currently ranked 46th in the nation with a 26.3% adult obesity rate. In comparison, New York’s 2010 adult obesity rate was 24.7%.⁶²

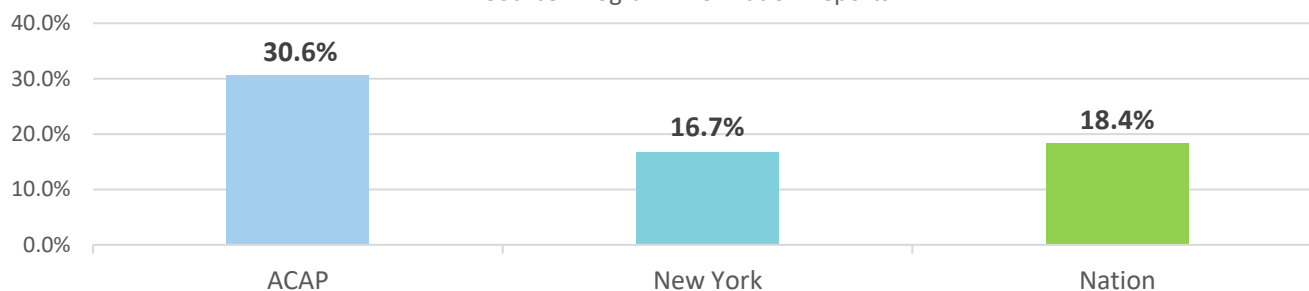
Nationally, 16.2% of youth ages 10 to 17 have obesity. Of youth from families in the lowest-income group, 23.1% have obesity, compared to 8.1% of those in families from the highest-income group. Of New York youth ages 10 to 17, 11.5% have obesity, giving the state a ranking of 45.⁶³ Of New York children ages 2 to 4 in the WIC program, 14% have obesity; this is a decrease from 16.1% in 2010.⁶⁴

The adult obesity rate is estimated to be 31% in Essex County, higher than New York at 27%.⁶⁵

During PY 2020-2021, 30.6% of ACAP Head Start children had obesity, critically higher than New York Head Start children (16.7%) and Head Start children nationally (18.4%). In addition, 16.7% of ACAP Head Start children were overweight.⁶⁶

Head Start Children with Obesity

Source: Program Information Reports



HOMELESSNESS

The Essex and Franklin Counties Continuum of Care (CoC) conducted a Point-In-Time Homeless Count in January 2022. The count does not include those doubled up with other families due to financial constraints. Following are 2022 results of identified homeless individuals:⁶⁷

- 37 households and 43 individuals were experiencing homelessness;
- 9.3% (4 persons) were under age 18;
- 100% were sheltered (emergency shelter);
- 32.6% were female, 62.8% were male, and 4.6% identified as transgender;
- The racial composition included: White (74.6%); Native American/Alaskan Native (20.9%); African-American (2.3%); and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (2.3%);
- 2.3% were Hispanic; and
- 4.6% were chronically homeless.

There are 14 emergency shelter beds, 10 transitional housing beds, and 36 permanent housing beds for a total of 60 beds for people experiencing homelessness in Franklin and Essex counties.⁶⁸

CoC Name: Franklin, Essex Counties CoC

	Family Units ¹	Family Beds ¹	Adult-Only Beds	Child-Only Beds	Total Yr-Round Beds	Subset of Total Bed Inventory		
						Chronic Beds ²	Veteran Beds ³	Youth Beds ³
Emergency, Safe Haven and Transitional Housing	3	12	12	0	24	n/a	2	0
Emergency Shelter	1	2	12	0	14	n/a	2	0
Transitional Housing	2	10	0	0	10	n/a	0	0
Permanent Housing	8	20	16	0	36	2	14	0
Permanent Supportive Housing*	8	20	14	0	34	2	12	0
Rapid Re-Housing	0	0	2	0	2	n/a	2	0
Grand Total	11	32	28	0	60	2	16	0

Source: HUD Exchange

Public school data shows that 18 students in Essex County were identified as homeless during SY 2020-2021. Of students in Essex County that were identified as homeless, 88.9% (16 students) were doubled up with other families due to financial constraints and 11.1% (2 students) were in shelters. No students were identified as unsheltered.⁶⁹

Essex County Students (Pre-k - 12) Identified as Homeless, SY 2020-2021

School District	Homeless Count	Primary Nighttime Residence of Homeless Students			
		Doubled Up (Due to Financial Constraints)	Hotel/Motel	Shelters	Unsheltered*
Essex County	18	88.9%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
Boquet Valley	0				
Crown Point	0				
Keene	0				
Minerva	s				
Moriah	7				
Newcomb	0				
Lake Placid	5				
Schroon Lake	s				
Ticonderoga	s				
Willsboro	0				

s = suppressed (1-4 students identified as homeless)

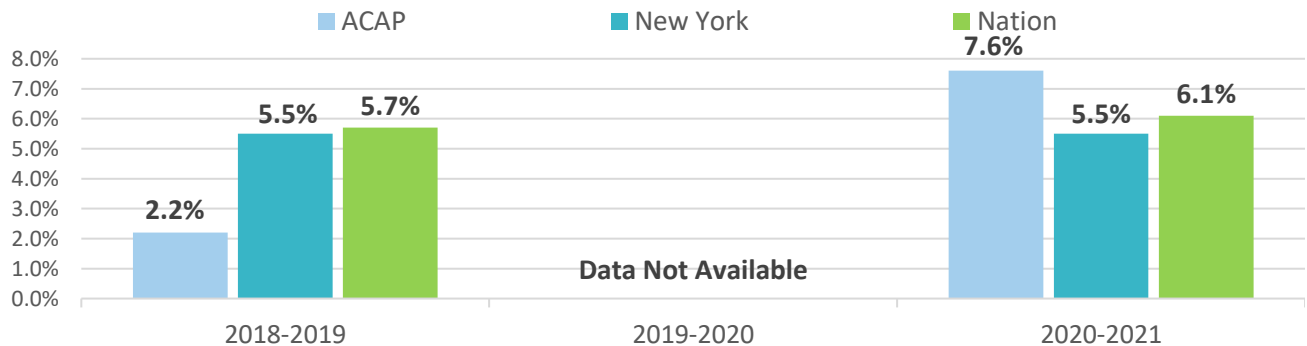
* cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, or abandoned buildings

Source: The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students

During PY 2020-2021, 7.6% (12 children) of enrolled ACAP HS/EHS were identified as homeless per the McKinney-Vento Act, compared to 5.5% of HS/EHS children in New York and 6.1% of HS/EHS children nationwide. In 2019, 2.2% of ACAP HS/EHS children were identified as homeless.⁷⁰

Head Start/Early Head Start Children Experiencing Homelessness

Source: Program Information Reports



HOUSING

Cost Burdened Households

Cost burdened households are those with costs exceeding 30% of total household income. Of housing units in Essex County, an estimated 24.5% (3,970 households) are cost burdened, lower than New York State (36.9%).⁷¹ Cost-burdened *rental* households in Essex County are even higher (43.3%).⁷²

Cost Burdened Households

	Cost Burdened Households	Cost Burdened Rental Households	Cost Burdened Owner Occupied Households w/ Mortgages	Cost Burdened Owner Occupied Households w/o Mortgages
Essex County	24.5%	43.3%	23.2%	14.5%
New York	36.9%	48.6%	32.6%	18.6%
U.S.	30.4%	45.7%	27.3%	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 2020 Five-Year Estimates

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

The state of New York delivered nearly \$1.4 billion for renters during the pandemic and exhausted its initial Emergency Rental Assistance funding. Effective June 24, 2022, New York announced that the 2022-23 state budget includes additional funds to support the ERAP. As a result of additional funding, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) is actively reviewing and processing eligible ERAP applications submitted through March 31, 2022.⁷³

Fair Market Rent

The Fair Market Rent rate (FMR) established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is used as a basis for paying federal housing assistance programs like the Housing Choice Voucher Program (often called “Section 8”). Fair Market Rent is determined by conducting a nationwide survey each year. FMR prices are gross rent prices, meaning they include utilities.

The 2022 monthly FMR for a modest two-bedroom rental in Essex County is \$844.⁷⁴ The housing wage for a 2-bedroom rental is \$16.23/hour.⁷⁵ For rent to be affordable for an adult earning minimum wage (\$13.20/hour), monthly rent must be \$686 or less.⁷⁶

2022 Fair Market Rent (FMR)

Essex County

Efficiency	One-Bedroom	Two-Bedroom	Three-Bedroom	Housing Wage for 2-Bedroom
\$691	\$739	\$844	\$1,162	\$16.23

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Policy Development and Research

FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity refers to the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) measure of lack of access to a sufficient amount of food for an active, healthy life for all household members, and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household’s need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

According to Feeding America, the 2019 child food insecurity rate in Essex County was 17%, higher than New York (15.8%) and the United States (15.2%).⁷⁷

Child Food Insecurity

	2017	2018	2019
Essex County	17.1%	18.6%	17.0%
New York State	17.6%	16.9%	15.6%

Source: Feeding America

Note: When the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, anxiety about paying for and accessing enough food began to mount. Feeding America leveraged its understanding of the relationship between food insecurity and drivers (e.g., unemployment, poverty) to generate 2020 and 2021 projections of how food insecurity may have changed as the economic crisis unfolded. Feeding America no longer considers these projections current.⁷⁸

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Over 100,000 Americans died from a drug overdose from April 2020 to April 2021, a nearly 30% increase from the prior one-year period, according to CDC data. In 2020, there were 26 fatal overdoses per 100,000, or a total of 4,979 drug overdose-related deaths in New York State. In 2019, there were 19 fatal drug overdoses in the state per 100,000 residents, or a total of 3,634.⁷⁹ During this time period, the country was suffering through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, as well as the increased presence of the synthetic opioid fentanyl.

Essex County experienced 1 opioid overdose death in 2019. In 2020, there were 3 opioid overdose deaths (7.9 death rate per 100,000 people), significantly lower than New York State (excluding New York City) at 21.8 per 100,000. Between January 2021 and June 2021, there were 8 opioid deaths in Essex County (total opioid death data for 2021 are not yet published.)⁸⁰

Opioid Overdoses

Year	Location	Total Opioid Overdose Deaths	Opioid Overdose Deaths per 100,000	Heroin Overdose Deaths per 100,000*	Opioid Overdose Deaths per 100,000* (including Fentanyl)	Outpatient Emergency Dept. Visits Per 100,000
2019	Essex County	1	2.6	0.0	0.0	28.9 (11 visits)
	New York Excluding NYC	1,685	15.0	4.6	14.2	49.0
2020	Essex County	3	7.9	0.0	0.0	s (s)
	New York Excluding NYC	2,438	21.8	4.8	21.2	55.0
Jan. - Sept. 2021	Essex County	8	Not Available	0.0	Not Available	Not Available
	New York Excluding NYC	1,732	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available

*Victims may have multiple drugs in system s = Data for indicators related to hospitalizations and emergency departments are suppressed for confidentiality purposes if there are fewer than 6 discharges.

Source: New York State Department of Health

The [Essex County Heroin and Opioid Prevention Coalition's](#) mission is, "To prevent and reduce heroin and opiate abuse and addiction in Essex County through education, awareness, and support and enhancement of existing programs and resources."

TRANSPORTATION

Of households, 8.4% in Essex County are estimated to not have a vehicle, compared to 29% in New York State and 8.5% in the United States.⁸¹

Households with No Motor Vehicle

	Total Households	Households with No Motor Vehicle (Count)	Households with No Motor Vehicle (Percent)
Essex County	16,182	1,366	8.4%
New York	7,417,224	2,149,235	29.0%
United States	122,354,219	10,344,521	8.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020 Five-Year Estimates

The [Essex County Public Transportation](#) (ECPT) provides regularly scheduled bus service in towns throughout the county. Bus routes and schedules can be found [here](#). Connections can be made in AuSable Forks and Keeseville to Clinton County public transit buses.⁸²

Ride share services such as Uber and Lift are available in Essex County and surrounding counties, although it is often cost prohibitive as a regular use of transportation.

SURVEYS

FAMILY SURVEY

As part of the Community Assessment process, a survey was given to Early Head Start/Head Start families. A total of 67 families responded.

1. To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted employment for you and/or another head of the household? (Please choose only 1 answer.)

	Percent of Respondents
Still employed the same number of hours and with the same pay.	50.8%
Hours and/or pay were cut.	9.0%
Temporarily laid off.	7.5%
Lost job permanently.	11.9%
Unemployed prior to COVID-19 and still unemployed.	11.9%
Retired or on disability.	9.0%

Comments:

- Changed to a better job.
- Have to work more.
- Started job.
- Worked seasonally, can't [work seasonally] now due to hours.
- Had to work overtime for two years.

2. To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your housing? (Choose 1 answer only.)

	Percent of Respondents
I still have housing. My housing status has not changed.	86.6%
I have been unable to pay my rent or mortgage, but still have housing.	7.5%
I have been evicted or am facing eviction.	0.0%
I am living with family/friends because I am unable to afford housing at this time.	6.0%
I am homeless.	0.0%

Comments:

- I own my own house.
- Just bought a house.

3. To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your stress level and/or wellness? (Please choose ALL that apply.)

	Percent of Respondents
My stress level and wellness have remained the same as before the pandemic.	46.3%
I experienced general feelings of depression (fear, sadness, and/or loneliness), but am now feeling better.	13.4%
I experienced general feelings of anxiety (racing thoughts, frequent worry, or fear), but am now feeling better.	25.4%
I continue to experience general feelings of depression (fear, sadness, and/or loneliness).	14.9%
I continue to experience general feelings of anxiety (racing thoughts, frequent worry, or fear).	14.9%
I visited a counselor or a doctor to assist with my stress/anxiety and or depression.	14.9%
The level of violence has increased in my home.	1.5%
The use of substances (drugs, alcohol) has increased in my home.	1.5%
Other	4.5%

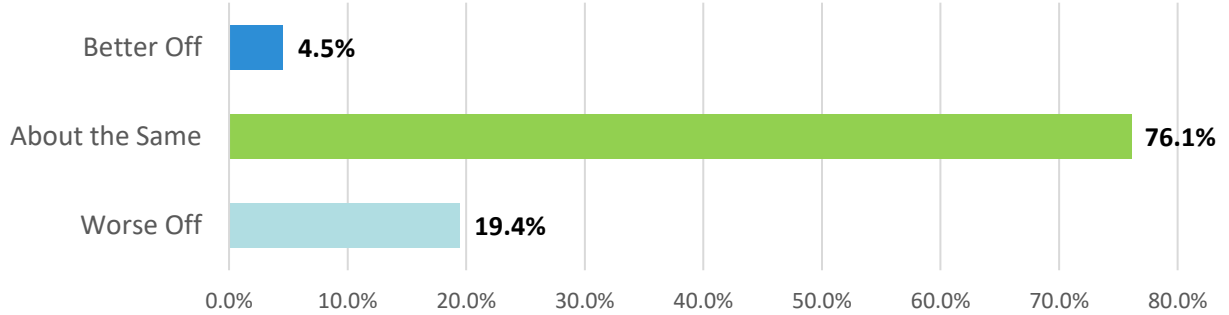
Comments:

- I have a mental health disorder as well as ADHA and learning disorders. I have counselors and a psychologist so this just added a little more to my plate.
- Increased the stress level in house with all that live there.

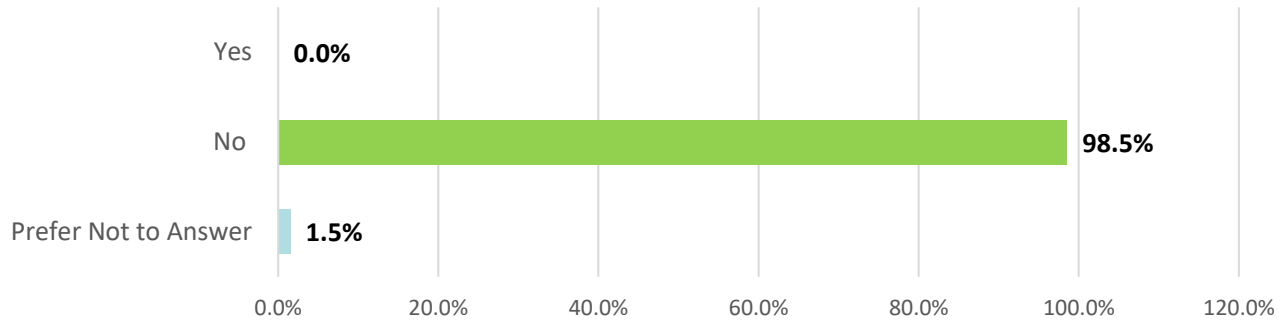
4. Has your family recently experienced any challenges with the following (within last 12 months)?

	Never or Rarely	Some-times	Always or Often	Not Applicable
Having or Finding Affordable and Safe Housing	61.2%	9.0%	10.5%	19.4%
Having or Finding a Job with a Wage to Support my Family	62.7%	10.5%	7.5%	19.4%
Paying for Utilities (electricity, water, heat)	38.8%	34.3%	14.9%	11.9%
Access to Affordable Mental Health/Behavioral Health Services	65.7%	6.0%	9.0%	19.4%
Support for My Child with Disabilities	56.7%	9.0%	1.5%	32.8%
Immigration Concerns	56.7%	0.0%	1.5%	41.8%
Access to Quality, Affordable Child Care for my Infant/Toddler	56.7%	10.5%	9.0%	23.9%
Access to Quality, Affordable Child Care for my Preschooler	62.7%	10.5%	9.0%	17.9%
Dealing with my Child's Behaviors	46.3%	29.9%	16.4%	7.5%
Access to Adult Education Options (e.g., GED, college)	56.7%	1.5%	3.0%	38.8%
Family Member in Jail/Prison	55.2%	4.5%	3.0%	37.3%
Lack of Language Translation Services	58.2%	3.0%	1.5%	37.3%

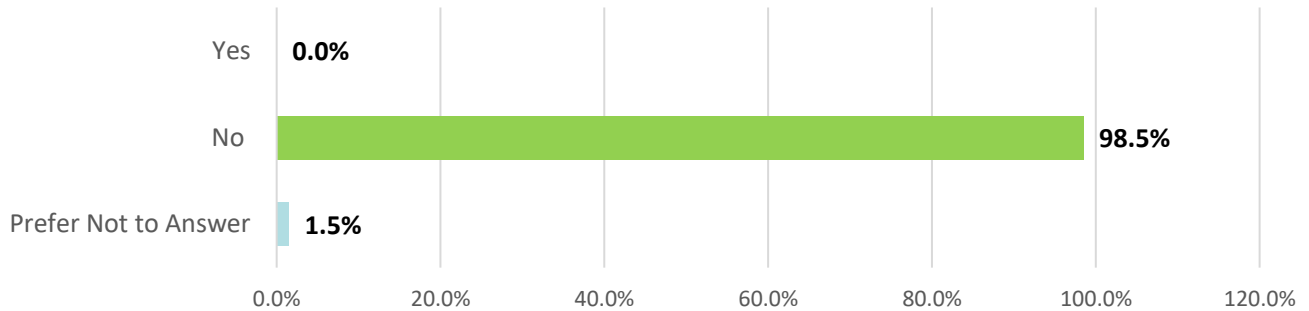
5. Compared with one year ago (pre-COVID), is your family financially:



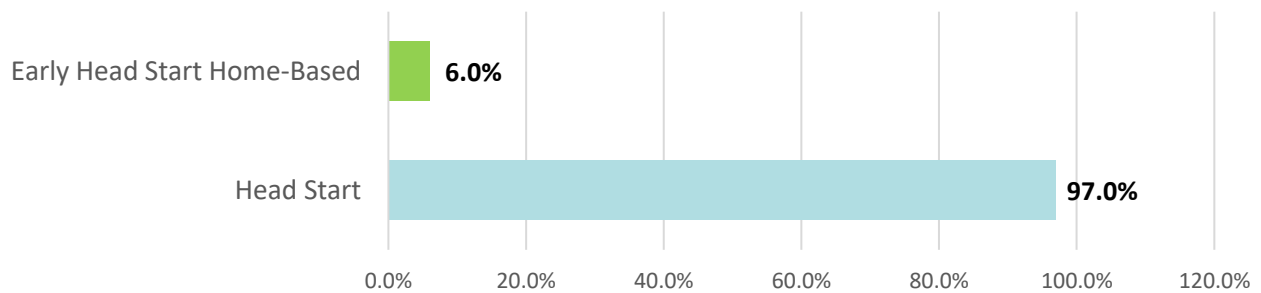
6. Within the past year, has your family received different treatment due to your race/language/or religion? (treated differently than others, treated unfairly, or excluded from activities)?



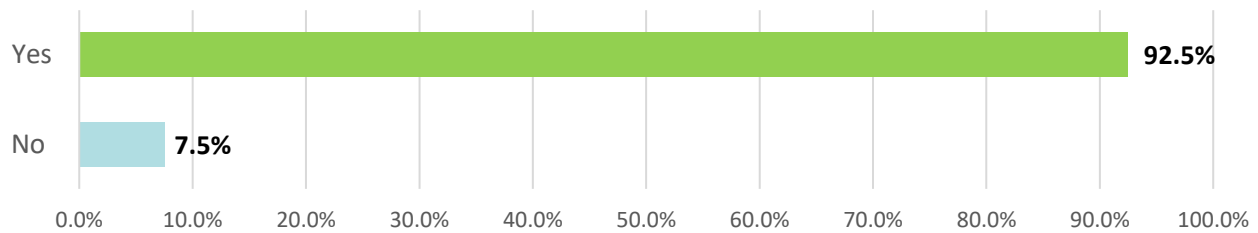
7. Within the past year, has your family had fear or concern about your safety due to your race/language/or religion?



8. In which program(s) is your child (children) enrolled? (Check all that apply)



9. Do the hours of the ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start program meet your family's needs?



Comments:

- Wish it was 7:30 drop-off.
- Work 7:30-5:00 but they accommodated early drop-off.
- The hours aren't compatible.
- Afterschool care [needed]

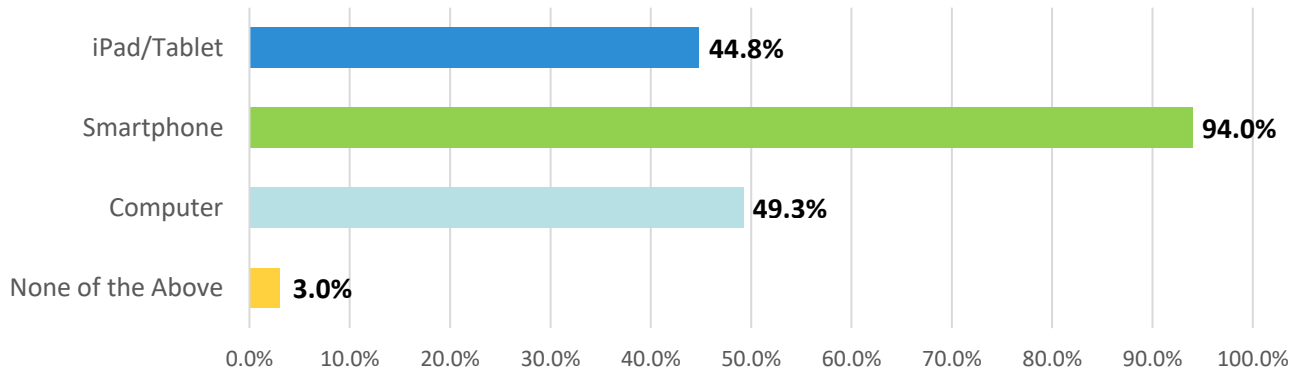
10. What hours does the head of household work?

	Percent of Total Respondents
Day Shift/First Shift (typically 8:00/9:00 to 5:00)	55.2%
Afternoon Shift/Second Shift (typically 4:00 to midnight)	1.5%
Midnight Shift/Third Shift (overnight hours)	4.5%
Variety of Schedules/Swing Shift	17.9%
Not Applicable/Not Working	20.9%

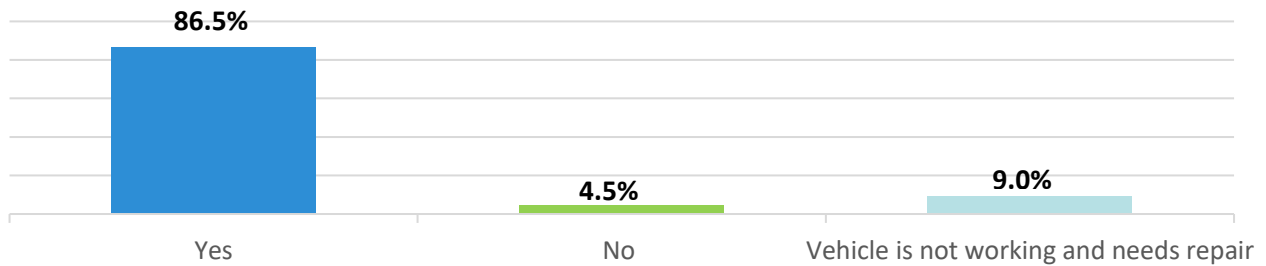
11. Has your family recently experienced any challenges with the following (within last 12 months)?

	Never or Rarely	Sometimes	Always or Often
Managing and Budgeting Money	53.7%	31.3%	14.9%
Access to Banking Services	88.1%	6.0%	6.0%
Access to Affordable Medical Care/Insurance	81.8%	10.6%	7.6%
Access to Affordable Dental Care	74.6%	16.4%	9.0%
Drug Abuse or Alcoholism in my Home	89.6%	9.0%	1.5%
Feelings of Anxiety and/or Depression (sadness, loneliness, worry, and/or fear)	56.7%	29.9%	13.4%
Violence in my Neighborhood	92.5%	4.5%	3.0%
Verbal or Emotional Abuse in your Home (excessive control, insults, threats)	94.0%	4.5%	1.5%
Having Enough Food to Feed My Family	82.1%	11.9%	6.0%
Access to Affordable Food/Produce	76.1%	16.4%	7.5%
Access to Phone Service	80.6%	10.5%	9.0%
Access to Computer/Internet	83.6%	9.0%	7.5%
Fear of Violence in your Home (hitting, threats, fighting)	95.5%	3.0%	1.5%
Lack of Reliable Transportation	77.6%	19.4%	3.0%

12. Which of the following devices do you use to access the internet? (Choose all that apply.)



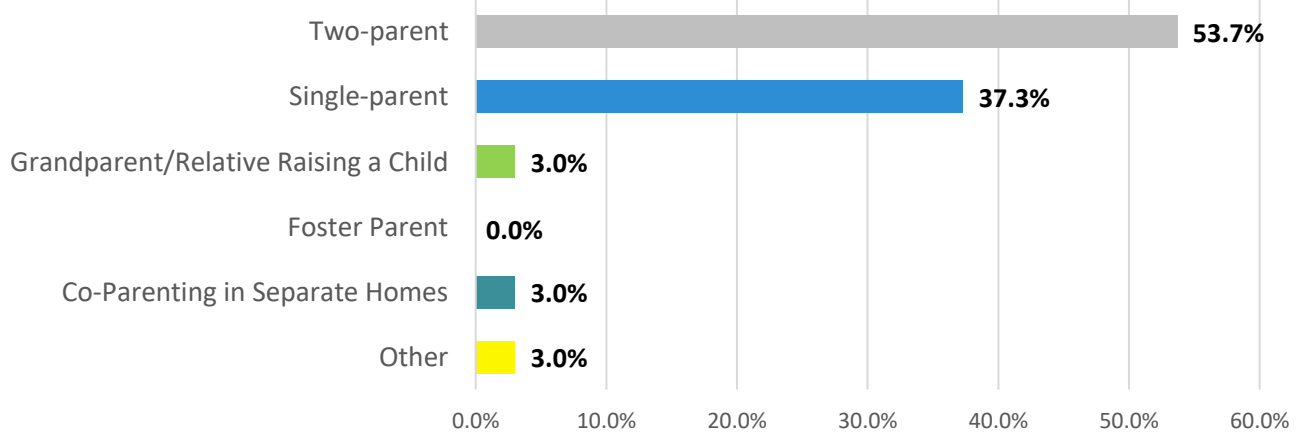
13. Do you have a vehicle?



14. Has your family been directly affected (past or present) by a drug problem in the community?

	Percent of Total Respondents
Yes	10.5%
No	82.0%
I prefer not to respond.	7.5%

15. Which best describes your family?



16. Including yourself, how many adults in your home are currently employed?

	Percent of Total Respondents
2 or more	38.8%
1	43.3%
0 (All adults are currently unemployed)	10.5%
Retired/On Disability	6.0%
Other	1.5%

17. Which race/ethnicity best describes you?

	Percent of Total Respondents
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0%
Black or African-American	1.5%
Hispanic, White	4.5%
Native American/Alaskan Native	0.0%
White, Non-Hispanic	91.0%
Multiple Races/Ethnicities	1.5%
Prefer not to respond	1.5%

18. What language(s) do you speak most often?

	Percent of Total Respondents
English	98.5%
Spanish	0.0%
Both English and Spanish	1.5%

19. What do you like MOST about your neighborhood/community?

Comments:

- Moose and the sense community
- Quiet (6)
- Close to my neighbors
- Everyone can be nice
- Quiet, peaceful good people
- Friendliness (2)
- It's small.
- The neighbors
- There are lots of children around.
- Quiet, feeling safe when my kids go outside and play.
- Amazing, quiet, don't have to worry about kids playing.
- For the most part everyone is very friendly and often willing to help their fellow community members.
- quiet, outside of town
- The North Country is beautiful and supporting community.
- safe and secure
- it's clean
- friendly and supportive
- Everything! (2)
- Small, Secluded, Quiet, Peaceful
- Low crime?
- Arizona is better
- Everyone gets along and quiet
- The help they offer
- Very quiet, nice neighborhood
- quiet. neighbors aren't close. safe
- Quiet and nice. Safe
- Nothing (5)
- quiet, friendly and feel safe
- we have good neighbors and we all get along.
- Resources
- family, hiking, fishing, area and home
- no issues with anybody
- support from community when house fire occurred
- Rural area
- Play parks for kids
- I like how it is a very safe and quiet neighborhood that is a small community. My children have a yard that they can play in and have places to ride their bikes.
- I like the close knit as well as the relatively safe area. Low crime, low pollution
- The amount of community connections/activities in the area
- The help and friendship

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

A survey was distributed to community organizations. The following analysis represents 40 responses.

- 1. Consider families living in poverty in your community(ies), including those to whom you provide direct services. Select the response that best describes to what extent each item is, or is not, CURRENTLY a challenge for families in poverty.**

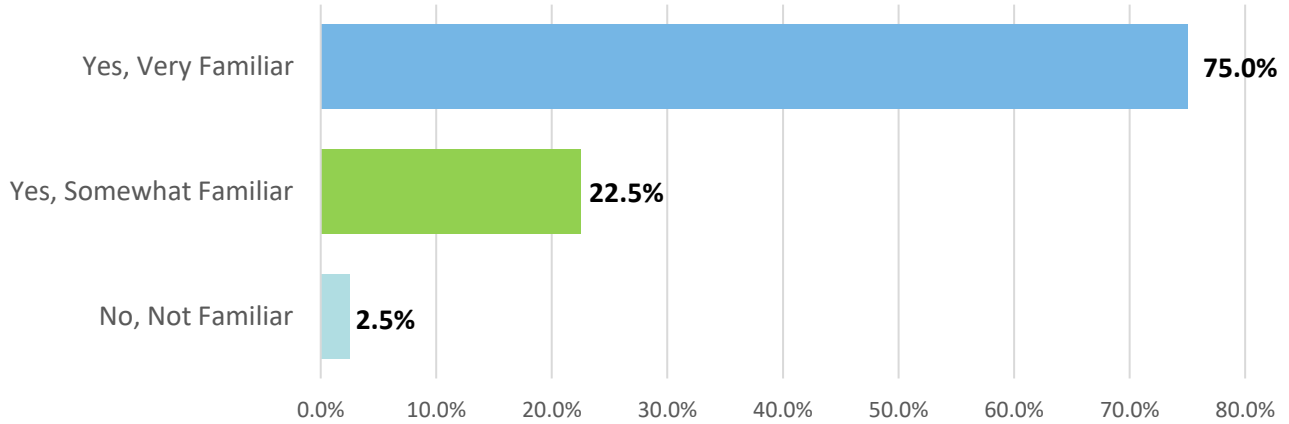
	Never or Seldom	Sometimes	Often or Consistently	No Opinion or Unsure
Access to Affordable Housing	7.5%	15.0%	72.5%	5.0%
Housing Eviction Concerns	7.5%	47.5%	25.0%	20.0%
Unemployment Resulting from COVID Shutdowns	7.5%	52.5%	17.5%	22.5%
Availability of Jobs which Pay a Living Wage	0.0%	20.0%	75.0%	5.0%
Access to Public Transportation	5.0%	15.0%	77.5%	2.5%
Access to Adult Education (e.g., GED, college)	7.5%	52.5%	15.0%	25.0%
Access to Job Training	10.0%	47.5%	22.5%	20.0%
Access to Affordable Medical Care/Insurance	2.5%	32.5%	50.0%	15.0%
Depression/Anxiety	0.0%	27.5%	67.5%	5.0%
Access to Mental Health Services	2.5%	35.0%	50.0%	12.5%
Access to Affordable Dental Services	2.5%	20.0%	62.5%	15.0%
Illegal or Prescription Drug Abuse	2.5%	25.0%	57.5%	15.0%
Immigration Concerns/Needs	42.5%	20.0%	2.5%	35.0%
Cultural Oppression (e.g., race, ethnicity, religion)	25.0%	37.5%	7.5%	30.0%
Access to Healthy Foods	7.5%	57.5%	35.0%	0.0%
Access to Services for Children with Disabilities	5.0%	47.5%	40.0%	7.5%
Access to Affordable Child Care (Infants/Toddlers)	2.5%	17.5%	77.5%	2.5%
Access to Affordable Preschool/Child Care (3-5)	0.0%	25.0%	67.5%	7.5%
Community Violence	25.0%	55.0%	10.0%	10.0%

- 2. Barriers to Self-Sufficiency: What are the top three (3) Community Conditions that most often prevent families from moving from poverty to self-sufficiency in your community?**

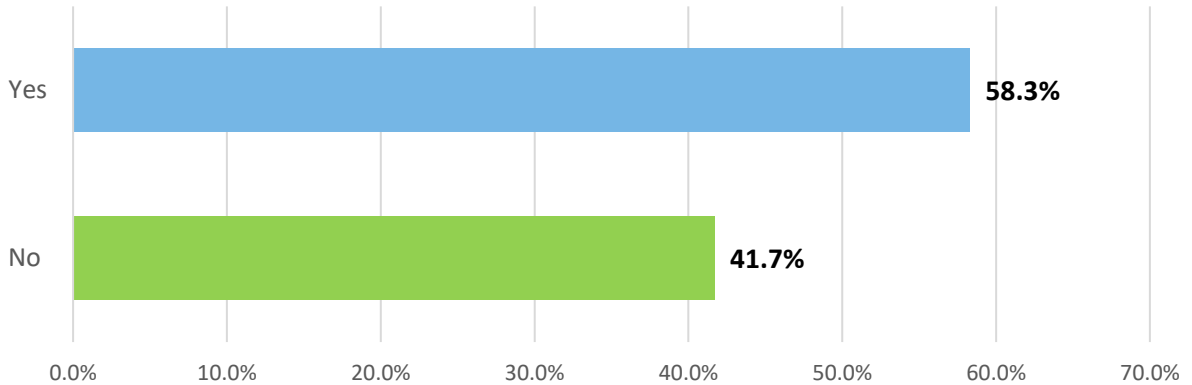
Indicator	Percentage of Respondents
Lack of Available Jobs	5.0%
Lack of Jobs that Pay a Living Wage	57.5%
Lack of Job Skills	17.5%
Low Educational Attainment	25.0%
High Cost of Child Care (Birth- Age 5)	62.5%
Lack of Transportation	45.0%
Poor Credit History	0.0%
Burden of High Debt	2.5%
Cultural Oppression in Local Communities	5.0%
High Costs of Health Care/Insurance	5.0%

Lack of Transportation	0.0%
Illegal Immigration/Undocumented Status	12.5%
Undiagnosed/Untreated Mental Health Issues	30.0%
High Housing Costs	32.5%
Substance Abuse	5.0%

3. Are you familiar with ACAP's Head Start/Early Head Start Program?



4. Have you referred a parent, family, or pregnant woman to ACAP's Head Start/Early Head Start program in the past year?



5. Please choose the response that BEST describes your current relationship with our organization.

	Percent of Respondents
Collaboration: Formal and interdependent system of working together for a common purpose; decision making is shared; roles and responsibilities are formalized.	35.0%
Partnership: Actively working together, (and possibly with another organization) toward one or more common community goals, which each member maintains an individual organizational agenda.	37.5%
Networking: Engaged in informal ways such as community meetings, events and/or referrals for the common purpose of community action.	15.0%
None: Would like to explore and develop a relationship.	2.5%
Other	10.0%

Other Comments:

- Staff (2)
- Service Provider
- Work directly with staff

6. Select the type of industry that best describes your organization. (Select only one.)

Answer Choices	Percentage of Respondents
Business	0.0%
Chamber of Commerce	0.0%
Church/Faith Community	0.0%
Child Care/Early Childhood	20.0%
Financial Institution	0.0%
Government	5.0%
Health Department	0.0%
Institution of Higher Education	0.0%
Medical or Dental Provider	0.0%
Non-Profit/Social Service Agency	35.0%
Public School/School District	20.0%
Public Safety (e.g., Fire, Police)	0.0%
Volunteer/Community Member	0.0%
Other	7.5%

Other:

- Mental Health Provider
- Recreational Sport Business Government Managed
- Work with families and communities to succeed in whatever their needs are and I'm many of the categories above.

7. Indicate the direct services your organization provides to at-risk, low-income families in the community. (Select all that apply.)

Answer Choices	Percentage of Respondents
Adult Education	42.5%
Alcohol/Drug Treatment	5.0%
Child Advocacy	45.0%
Child Care (Infants/Toddlers)	32.5%
Early Childhood or Child Care (Preschool)	47.5%
Child Care (School Age)	25.0%
Child Welfare	12.5%
Disabilities	22.5%
Domestic Violence	2.5%
English as a Second Language (ESL)	10.0%
Financial Health/Literacy	7.5%
Food Pantry	40.0%
Foster Care	2.5%
GED	22.5%
Health Care	12.5%
Housing/Section 8	7.5%
Homelessness	12.5%
Legal	2.5%
Literacy	17.5%
Mental Health	22.5%
Nutrition	40.0%
Parenting Education	50.0%
Public School/Education	25.0%
Public Protection/Safety	7.5%
Public Transportation	5.0%
Religious Ministries	0.0%
Unemployment	17.5%
Workforce Development	37.5%
Vocational Services	17.5%
Volunteerism	15.0%
None/Not Applicable	5.0%
Other	5.0%

Other Comments:

- Weatherization
- Providing energy conservation services to low-income homes

8. Indicate the age groups that your organization serves. (Select all that apply.)

Ages	Percentage of Respondents
0-2	65.0%
3-5	90.0%
6-18	77.5%
19-24	62.5%
25-44	57.5%
45-54	57.5%
55-64	52.5%
65+	52.5%
None/Not Applicable	0.0%

9. Please share any additional comments about your experience with our organization and/or the needs of families living in poverty in Essex County.

- Thank you! Let BRIEF know how the coalition can help get the word out about the survey and findings :)
- I often remind clients of our other services such as childcare, nutrition etc. But could admittedly use a more education on how they operate, income guidelines, sign-up process and so on.
- The children in this and surrounding communities are in great need of HS/EHS & Child Care Services among other programs. Unfortunately, these numbers will continue climb in the coming years if families and their children cannot receive some aid & assistance in these areas. These programs are desperately needed for our children in our community and they look forward to school and all the great things that come them that they may not otherwise get to experience.
- I've always had positive interactions with our local ACAP. Huge asset for our community...
- Head Start and ACAP are outstanding resources for those in need.
- ACAP does a wonderful of teaching PreK age students.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

For current community resource information in Essex County, visit <https://211ny4regions.communityos.org/adirondack> .

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