



NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS

NJACCHO General Membership Meeting

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

9:30AM

Business Meeting Agenda

Agenda Item	Speaker
Call to Order & Approval of Minutes (November, 2023)	Chris Merkel
Treasurer Report	Margy Jahn
CEHA Update (9:45am)	Walter Beland
OLPH Update (10:00am)	Jamie Weller
President Report	Chris Merkel
Executive Director Report	Linda Brown
New Jersey Cannabusiness Association (10:30am)	Scott Rudder
Consultant Updates	Sylvia Bookbinder, James McDonald
New to Public Health (N2PH) recap (11:15am)	Cohort attendees
Needs Assessment Results	Linda Brown
Open forum	General Membership

Written reports available online: www.njachho.org

Treasurer Update

MARGY JAHN



County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) Update

WALTER BELAND

A solid blue horizontal bar spanning the width of the slide at the bottom.

Office of Local Public Health Update

JAMIE WELLER



President Update

CHRIS MERKEL

Executive Director Update

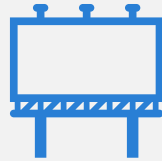
LINDA BROWN



Highlights



Communication Strategies



Marketing Campaign – more with
Needs Assessment



Commissioner Meeting

Professional Development Opportunities

- **Regional Risk Communication Trainings**

- DATES TBA – Late April

- **Regional Media Spokesperson Trainings**

- April 12th – Morris County
- May 23rd – Rowan College at Gloucester
- June 7th – Hamilton

- **Dale Carnegie**

- Leadership Training for Manager (Cumberland County) – 3/12, 3/19, 3/26
- Develop Your Leadership Potential (Camden County) March 22 – May 23; ½ day sessions
- Open Enrollment

- **MRC Strong Regional Trainings**

- May 8th – Stockton University
- May 13th – Conference Center at Montclair State University
- May 14th – Conference Center at Mercer

- **MAPP 2.0 Training**

- June 5th & 6th – Freehold
- June 10th & 11th – Public Safety Academy, Wayne

- **2nd Annual Communicable Disease Conference**

- June 12th – Forsgate Country Club

Course Sponsorships



BEAM

Applications
Due by 2/23



CPM

Applications
Due by 2/23



CIC

Applications
Due 3/1



New Jersey Cannabusiness Association

SCOTT RUDDER

Consultant Updates

JAMES MCDONALD

SYLVIA BOOKBINDER

PHEP Update ICS 100 Webinar Series

Part 1:

February 21st;
2:00pm



21 Feb.

Part 2:

March 6th;
2:00pm



6 Mar.

Part 3:

March 20th;
2:00pm



20 Mar.

CDC Capabilities Survey

Capability 1: Community Preparedness



Capability 6: Information Sharing



Capability 4: Emergency Public Information & Warning



Capability 13: Public Health Surveillance & Epidemiological Investigation



New to Public Health (N2PH) Updates

- Presentations:
 - Danielle Pagani, Ridgewood HD
 - Denice Rimple, Burlington County HD
 - Jenna Bruno, Ringwood HD
 - Justin Winfrey, Passaic County HD





EBP

Dog Bite Program

Danielle Pagani, MPH, CHES



Background

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) claim more than 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs each year in the United States. Over 800,000 receive medical treatment and children are the most likely to be bitten and severely harmed. AVMA claims, New Jersey was among the top 10 states to report dog bites in 2021. From January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, 35 dog bites were reported to the Ridgewood Health Department. Dog bites can lead to physical and emotional harm as well as infectious diseases, including rabies. If left untreated, rabies can be fatal.

Purpose / Objectives

- Reduce the occurrence of dog bites within the community
- Prevent the transmission of infectious diseases, especially rabies
- Educate children on how to approach dogs (both familiar and unfamiliar)
- Educate dog owners on signs of aggression/ dangerous behavior and importance of rabies vaccine
- Assist community stakeholders with developing/ adjusting public policies

Methods

- Collaborate with community partners (Tyco Animal Control and/or Kathy Santo Dog Training) to provide a 30-minute presentation on dog safety tips to each of the elementary schools in Ridgewood (six total)
- Collaborate with Ridgewood Library and community partners (Tyco Animal Control and/or Kathy Santo Dog Training) to host community-wide workshop on dog behavior and rabies protocol
- Conduct community outreach at 2024 Daffodil Festival on dog safety tips
- Meet with Parks and Recreation Department and Central Business District Advisory Committee (CBDAC) to develop a campaign and identify where signage of dog safety tips can be placed community-wide (open spaces/ parks/ walkable paths)
- Meet with schools and childcare settings to identify dog policy on school grounds
 - If none, work with school/ childcare setting to establish a policy

Outcomes or Intended Outcomes

- Number of dog bites will decrease in Ridgewood
- The need for post exposure prophylaxis will decrease
- Children will become more careful with dogs
- Dog owners will address aggressive behavior
- Schools and childcare settings will enforce their policy to keep dogs off school grounds
- Various community partners and stakeholders will make a collaborative effort in dog bite prevention

Evaluation / Conclusions / Implications

- Monitor number of dog bites each month and compare to previous data reports
- Survey participants that attend community workshop to identify if program goals were met
- Survey dog owners to identify if signage is being well received
- Survey school and childcare administrators regarding policy adherence from parents/guardians/staff



EBP Benefits of Standardization of Retail Food Inspections

Denice A. Rimple, LPN, REHS



Background

CDC estimates that 48 million people get sick, one hundred twenty-eight thousand are hospitalized and 3,000 die from a foodborne illness annually (2023). **Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS)** are the first line of defense in recognizing food safety hazards and identifying potential risk factors that may lead to foodborne illnesses in a retail food setting. **Problem:** Every inspector has a different way of conducting a retail food inspection. **AIM:** To train all new food inspectors employed by the Burlington County Health Department to conduct standardized retail food inspections based on the **US FDA 2017 Food Code** as well as **NJAC8:24 Retail Food Code**.

Purpose / Objectives

Purpose: Standardizing inspections will lead to a decrease in foodborne illness outbreaks.

Objectives (1) Teach inspectors how to prepare for retail food inspections. (2) Educate inspectors on safe food handling techniques. (3) Assist inspectors in performing environmental assessments and implementing risk factor control methods. (4) Train inspectors in identifying critical temperatures for food safety. (5) Identify contaminated equipment and poor personal hygiene during inspections. (6) Identify unsafe food sources.

Methods

Evidence-Based Resources

- NJDOH
- National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
- US FDA
- NJACCHO
- Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)

Teaching Materials

- Retail Food Protection Industry Educational Materials
- Retail Food Industry/Regulatory Assistance & Training
- Retail Food Protection: Employee Health and Personal Hygiene Handbook
- 2017 FDA Food Code
- NJAC8:24 Retail Food Code

Funding

- NJACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program
- NEHA-FDA RFFM Grant Program
- AFDO- Retail Program Standards Grant.

Outcomes or Intended Outcomes

Short-Term

(1) Teach inspectors the nine standards of standardization to promote knowledge and skills to conduct a standardized inspection. (2) Assist inspectors in identifying foodborne illness risk factors and implement food code interventions—train inspectors in identifying critical temperatures for food safety.

Long-Term

(1) All inspectors shall be standardized within one year of training. (2) Detect outbreaks and decrease the incidence of foodborne illnesses. (3) Promote good retail food practices and increase food safety knowledge. (4) Improve food safety communication. (5) Promote mentorship and leadership guidance in food safety practices.

Evaluation / Conclusions / Implications

Adoption & Sustainability

(1) Burlington County shall train all new inspectors in standardized retail food inspections. (2) New inspectors shall be able to prioritize risk factors and assess potential food-borne illness hazards. (3) Identify barriers to safe food handling in retail food operations. (4) Identify barriers to safe hygiene practices. (5) Conduct annual retail food inspections of businesses to ensure safe operating and cleanliness.



Melodies for the Mind

Jenna Bruno, MPH, CHES

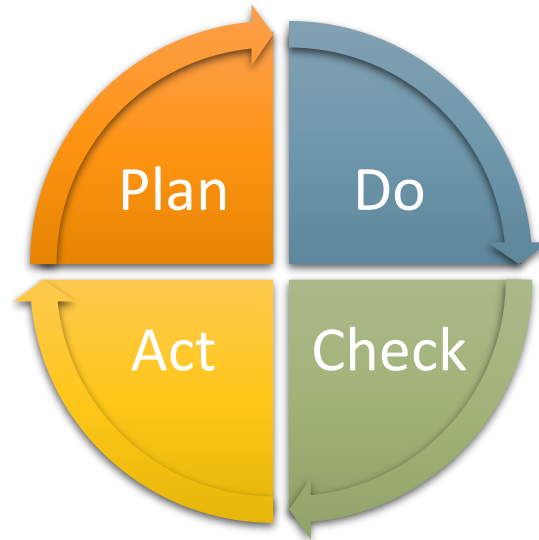


Background (Plan)

- Completed a community risk needs assessment about Ringwood as a whole.
- Superintendent, Teachers, Nurses, & other stakeholders were interviewed.
- Assessment found that children were having difficulties focusing throughout class.
- Teachers and nurses identified symptoms of anxiety since returning to school since previously school was held virtually

Conclusions/ Implications (Act)

- Program was held during recess which was a hurdle.
- Students wanted the program for upcoming year after winter break.
- No need for school psychologist for next sessions.
- Program will be adopted for other grades.



Methods/ Intervention (Do)

- Created a program for middle school students to enhance focus and find new effective ways to cope with anxiety and depressions.
- Music combines three learning behaviors: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic.
- Use a Likert scale and other surveys to begin.
- Melodies for Your Mind ran for 6 weeks with a total of 8 seventh graders that were hand picked by teachers.

Outcomes/ Results (Check)

- Students were very shy and since individually picked nobody had a friend within group.
- By the end of the sessions, the students became friends.
- Teacher noticed a student doing a breathing exercise prior to an exam.



Narcan Distribution & Education In Passaic County



Justin Winfrey, MSW – Passaic County Department of Health Services

Background

- In 2021 alone, **more than 100,00 in the U.S. died from an overdose.**
 - In NJ, from 2020-2022, there was over **75,000 overdose cases**
 - In Passaic County, from 2020-2022, **4,000+ overdose cases were reported**
- Narcan Nasal Spray is an effective, miracle harm reduction tool that can reverse an overdose and in essence, save lives.
 - Estimated that over **15,542 Narcan Kits were used in NJ over the course of 2022**
- However, information on this tool and its utility appears to be limited within the County of Passaic especially within disadvantaged communities and minority populations.
- Barriers such as access, lack of information, mistrust, and stigmatization keep many within the community from acquiring this life-saving harm reduction tool

Purpose / Objectives

- **Purpose:** Increase free Narcan distribution and education throughout the Passaic County population including at-risk communities, organizations, and the public.
- **Objective:** Provide Narcan nasal spray kits and education throughout the community through tabling events, Conferences, community activities, partnerships, and outreach.
- **Closing the Need-Service Gap**

Methods

- Partnered with the following organizations:
 - OASIS
 - YMCA of Paterson
 - Clifton Health Department
 - Passaic County Human Services
 - Mental Health Association
 - Prospect Park Police Department
 - Wanaque Reserve
 - Montclair State University
- Performed outreach at many tabling events and conferences
- Production of Narcan Educational Tri-Fold
- Networking
- Organizing Harm Reduction focused Conference at Montclair

Outcomes or Intended Outcomes

Short-Term:

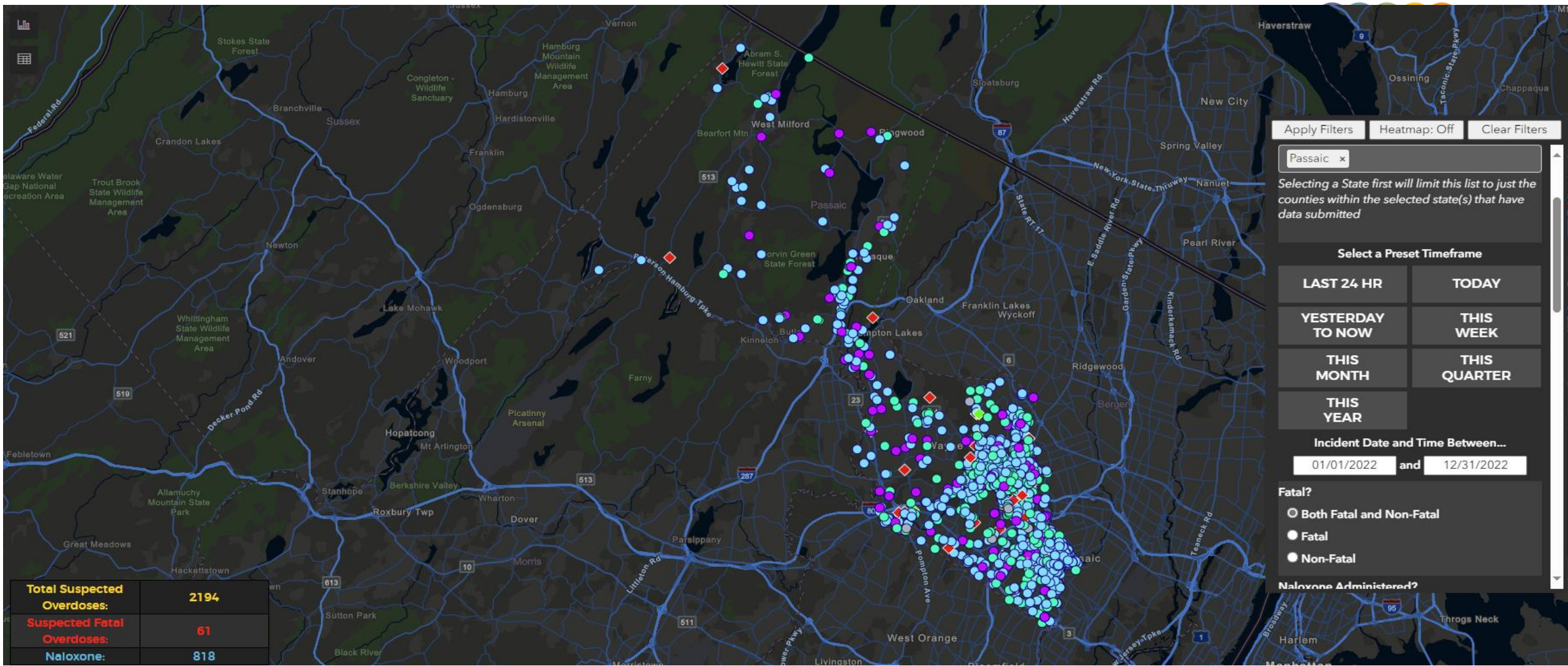
- Provided 480 Narcan Kits throughout Passaic County
- Referred 7 organizations to Narcan training for their staff
- Through the tabling events and Conference event, community workers/leaders are aware of Narcan and/or are willing to receive training on its use
- Findings illustrated that nearly 51% of individuals that saw the Narcan spray did not know what it was.

Long-Term:

- Created new lasting partnerships with various organizations (see to the left for list) that we plan to collaborate with soon
- Refer organizations and individuals interested in Professional Narcan Training

Conclusions/Implications

- Public interactivity and outreach works well in increasing awareness and education within the public populace and is substantially successful in gradually eliminating stigmas/myths
- Adoption & Maintenance:
 - Work with organizations focused on providing basic needs (clothing, food, shelter)
 - Enhancing distribution in culturally diverse populations (Hispanic, Arabic, etc.)
 - Expand education on Narcan with high school students through partners that work with that population



Needs Assessment Results

LINDA BROWN

Team Acknowledgement

Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs facilitated the process

- Kristin Curtis, MA, Associate Director of Research
- Carla Villacis, MA, Research Project Coordinator I



Research Methods

- Online survey
 - Performance scales for mission statement
 - Other satisfaction measures
 - Open-ended questions: e.g. recommendations, priorities
 - 63 respondents
- Interviews
 - Familiarity and satisfaction with mission statement
 - Strengths and goals across NJACCHO's areas of focus
 - Recommendations for improvement
 - 31 participants
- Every county represented between survey and interview responses

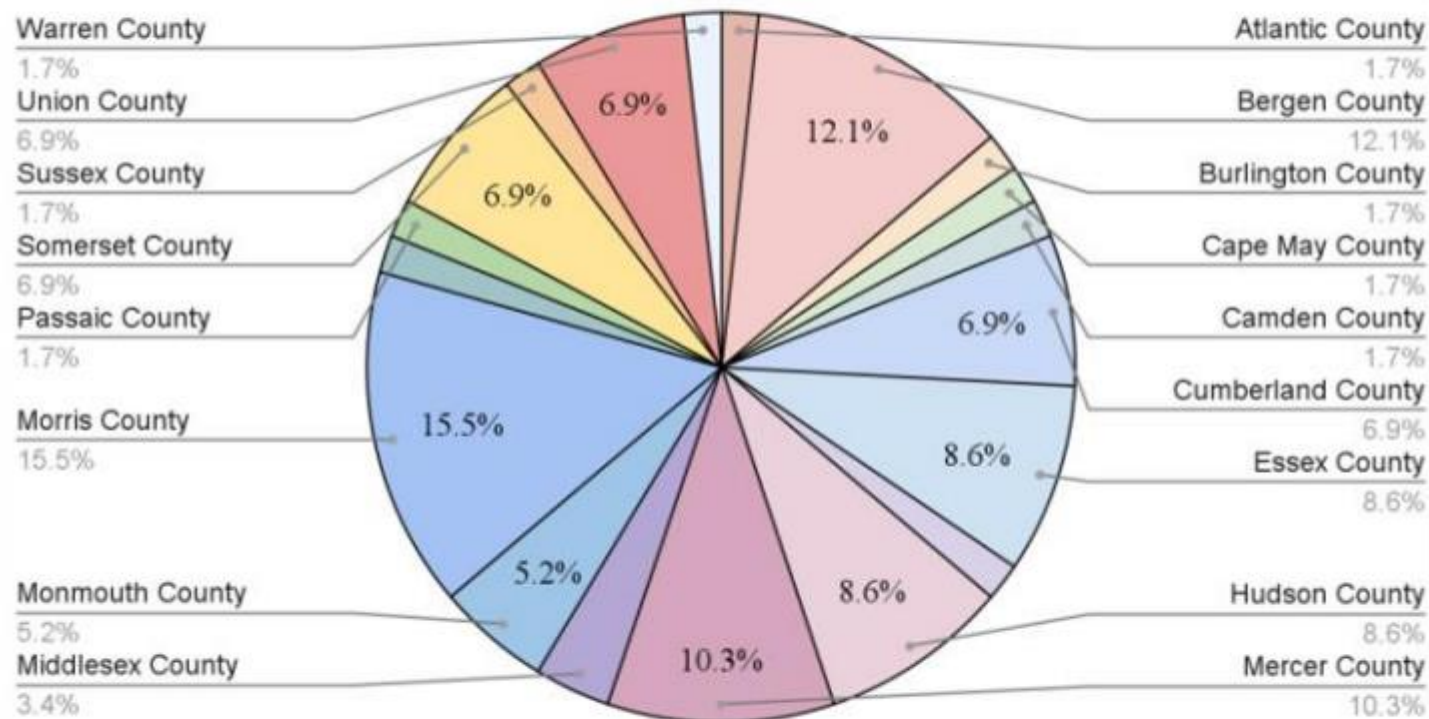


RUTGERS

UNIVERSITY | CAMDEN

Senator Walter Rand Institute
for Public Affairs

Survey participants' distribution by county



Themes in Results

General Public Health System

NJACCHO Performance



RUTGERS

UNIVERSITY | CAMDEN

Senator Walter Rand Institute
for Public Affairs

NJACCHO Engagement

Strengths:

- Responsive leadership
- Many ways to engage
- Networking opportunities
- Accessible professional development
- Advocating power
- Promotes collegiality

Recommendations:

- Diversify leadership
- More in-person networking
- Regular feedback surveys
- Spaces to discuss special interests/needs
- Increase communication of high-level discussions
- More structure during meetings

Communications and Data Sharing

Strengths:

- Forum and NJACCHO members as resources

“.. If I have a question I can log onto NJACCHO. I could throw a question out there to a group and hopefully get some answers. It builds cohesion among our public health officials...”

Recommendations:

- Be more strategic with emails
- Encourage more interaction in the forum
- Develop channels for the exchange of public health data and formal protocols
- Create a repository for tools that could be standardized
- Privacy of public health professionals' personal information



RUTGERS

UNIVERSITY | CAMDEN

Senator Walter Rand Institute
for Public Affairs

Staffing and Professional Development

Strengths:

- Good quality and availability of programming
- Trainings qualify for license renewal credit
- Funding for staff training
- Network of experienced Health Officers

Recommendations:

- Partnerships with higher education institutions
- Preparation for the license exams
- More trainings to earn credits
- Balance administrative and field trainings
- Invest in recruitment and staff retainment
- Accessible subject matter experts
- Mentorship between Health Officers

Financial Support and Funding

Strengths:

- NJACCHO understands flexible funding
- NJACCHO sets reasonable requirements
- Funding for staff development

Recommendations:

- For NJACCHO to manage more grants
- More avenues to fund staff salaries
- Funding for prevention > response
- Funding to obtain unfunded department resources (e.g. vehicles, uniforms, technology)
- **SUSTAINABLE FUNDING**

Advocacy for Public Health

Strengths:

- Prompts important discussions among members
- Connects to legislators and grant makers

Recommendations:

- Increase public health messaging
- Self-advocacy language for public health professionals
- Advocate for flexible funding
- Public Health Priority Funding



RUTGERS

UNIVERSITY | CAMDEN
Senator Walter Rand Institute
for Public Affairs

Overarching Recommendations

- More representation at the state level
- Bring attention to public health as a priority outside of times of crisis
- Invest in the preparation of future health professionals
- Secure sustainable funding
- Unity among public health professionals

Next Steps



Strategic Planning Process



Public Health Marketing Campaign



Public Health Retreat

Open Forum

Upcoming Trainings / Events

- Additional training

Register online!

www.NJACCHO.org



Thank you!

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 11

REGISTER FOR TRAININGS/MEETINGS ONLINE: WWW.NJACCHO.ORG