

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2023**

### **CAMDEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER HEALTH SERVICES  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

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*Making It Better, Together.*



Dear Citizens:

I am very pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report for the Camden County Department of Health and Human Services. The Department is among the oldest County Health Agencies in South Jersey, being established in 1968. Camden City and Cherry Hill Township were originally independent health departments that joined the County Health Department in our early history. That being accomplished all 36 municipalities are served by a single health agency.

I am pleased to inform you that the County Health Department became the first to be accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board in New Jersey. This is a great achievement from the long and tedious work performed by the staff of the Health Department. Oftentimes, the role and services that the Health Department provides are overshadowed by more visible programs within County Government. Compared to other agencies, public health is critical to servicing and assessing the needs of Camden County constituents.

If we look at the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we see tremendous gains in health and longevity associated with sanitation, hygiene, development of antibiotics, vaccines, healthy water supply all of which have been contributed by public health. The Camden County Health Department was instrumental in saving lives in our most recent COVID-19 Pandemic. County Government stood at the forefront of the Pandemic working countless hours to provide the best service to the community.

Historically, Public Health prevention and programs have not been appropriately valued, since often we look at medical remedies to create good health. Frequently we overlook the fact that often good health can be effectively achieved by personal behavior, a healthier environment, progressive health policy and availability of health care access for all people.

The challenges today in 2023 have not disappeared but evolved and changed over the decades. The challenges today include overall reduction of health care costs through education and personal behavior, structural changes that will create cost reductions and operational efficiency for our County Public Health Agency assessing the impact of public health played out with increases in years of healthy living by all our residents.

Program changes focus on collaboration with community resources to reduce chronic diseases, empowering individuals to have a healthy lifestyle, developing sound public health policy and continuing our success in controlling infectious diseases.

The Annual Report will highlight the goals and accomplishments of the Camden County Health Department. Please take a moment to review and comment regarding our findings. We can be reached at [Caryelle.Lasher@camdencounty.com](mailto:Caryelle.Lasher@camdencounty.com) or [Virginia.Betteridge@camdencounty.com](mailto:Virginia.Betteridge@camdencounty.com)

Sincerely,

Virginia Betteridge, Commissioner  
Department of Health and Human Services

# *Mission Statement*

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The Mission of Camden County Government is to improve the Quality of life for all Camden County residents by providing and assuring access to quality services and programs which are cost effective and responsive to local needs.

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# *Public Health*

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## **What is Public Health?**

Public Health views its patient as the entire Community and seeks to reach people before they become ill. The major distinction between public health and health care is that the public health focus is on preventing or delaying disease while health care treats disease. Public Health encompasses the entire community, small or large, and strives to create a healthier community that reduces health care cost and adds to years of active life.

## **Core Public Health Functions**

- Assess and monitor the health of communities and at-risk populations to identify health problems and priorities.
- Formulate public health policies with community and government leaders to address local and national public health programs and priorities.
- Provide all populations with access and appropriate cost effective care including health promotion, disease prevention and follow-up evaluation.

## **Why should we invest in Public Health?**

In 1999, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a list of the top 10 public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These findings show that public health advances have been largely responsible for increasing life span of populations; over twenty five of the thirty years of increased longevity can be credited to public health initiatives. These public health initiatives include development of antibiotics, vaccines, clean water and a safer food supply. Medical advances account for less than 4 years of increased longevity for the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since 1900 findings show the average life expectancy for Americans has increased by about 30 years. This has made a dramatic reduction in mortality for young children.

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## Public Health Accreditation The First County in the State of New Jersey

The purpose of the accreditation process is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of the Camden County Department of Health. Camden County Health Department achieved accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation status sends an important message to our partners and community that our organization meets national standards and provides services in a manner that all residents should come to expect from their health departments. The national standard seeks to advance the quality and performance of all health departments. Our participation in this program indicates our commitment to the continuous improvement of our health department's services. (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services)



### Quotes from two well-known and respected Public Health Leaders

*“Public health programs help keep disease rates down, which in turn keeps health care costs down. It’s going to be hard to get the economy healthy again if our workers and our health care system are both sick.”--Jeff Levi, PhD, Executive Director of TFAH, 2010.*

*“The financial crisis makes it more important than ever for the country to make prevention a top priority. Even in these troubled times, prevention is an investment we can count on to deliver a big payoff—sparing millions of people from developing preventable diseases while saving billions in health care costs.”--Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA President & CEO Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.*

# *Ten Essential Health Services*

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1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people regarding health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce the laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and ensure healthcare when it is otherwise unavailable.
8. Ensure a competent local public health system and a competent personal healthcare workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research innovative solutions to health problems.

# ***Programs and Services provided by Camden County Department of Health & Human Services Community Health Services Division***

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## ***Office of County Health Officer***

- Promote Local Health Services
- Public Health Policy initiatives
- Public Health Advocacy

## ***Health Education Promotion & Disease Prevention***

- South Jersey Community Health Needs Assessment Collaborative
- Mobilizing Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP)
- Health Education Counseling and Education
- Public Health & Community Planning
- Smoking Cessation/Cancer Prevention
- Camden County Mobile Services
- Suicide Prevention Education and Training
- Matter of Balance Fall Prevention Program
- Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

## ***Public Health Emergency Preparedness***

- Medical Reserve Corps
- Risk Communication
- NJLINCS Health Alert Network
- Preparing for an Emergency
- Bioterrorism Response Program

## ***Communicable Disease***

- Disease Field Investigations
- Epidemiology
- HIV/AIDS testing and counseling
- Rabies Control
- Reportable Diseases
- STD Program (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)

## ***Public Health Nursing***

- Adult Health Screenings
- Community Outreach
- Immunizations (children and adults)
- Tuberculosis Program



***Office of Mental Health and Addiction***

- Prevention
- Education
- Adolescent/Adult
- Treatment
- Women

***Special Child Health Program***

- Well Child Services
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Management
- NJ FamilyCare
- Case management

***Division of Environmental and Consumer Health Services***

- Emergency Response for Hazardous Materials
- Food Surveillance
- Multiple Dwelling Housing Inspections



## *Office of Mental Health & Addiction*

SERVICE / ACTIVITY - 2023	Total Individuals:
Calls to the unit - information / referral	1089
Addiction Warmline (24-hour, 7 day-a-week)	68
SA Education Services	359
SA Prevention Services	244
Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Outreach (Encounters)	1918
Patient Family Education	336
Outpatient Opioid Maintenance	60
Standard Outpatient Treatment	98
Intensive Outpatient Treatment	116
Halfway House	11
Sub-Acute Detox	22
Residential Rehab (Adults)	16
Residential Adolescents	1
Transportation	160
Recovery Specialist (post overdose in ER)	15
Recovery Mentor Services	1377
Recovery Support Groups (Post-completion of Treatment)	845
Case Management Recovery Support	681
Drug & Alcohol Intensive Case Managers	237
Sober Living (State Funding)	356
Sober Living (Operation SAL)	243
Certified Peers in Homeless Shelters (Innovation Grant)	159
Emergency Shelter Placement	5
Substance Abuse Vocational Education	130
Narcan Education/ Training	429
Other Narcan County Trainings	338
Narcan Kits	767
Short-term Residential (Operation SAL)	6
Recovery Specialist (post overdose in ER - Operation SAL)	26
Sub-Acute With. / Mgmt. (Adult - Operation SAL)	10
Municipal Alliance Programs Scheduled/Provided**	450
IDRC- 12 (scheduled)	1594
IDRC- 48 (attended)	96
<b>Total Served by County/Grant Funding - Substance Abuse</b>	<b>12262</b>

Addiction Awareness Task Force Funded Programs	
Project SAVE Referrals 2023 # Enrolled in Project SAVE 2023: <b>945</b>	1402
Post Overdose Grief Support HALO	111
<b>Events held by the County</b>	
REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE MEMORIAL	1000
OMHA Team Outreaches Facilitated	49
Approximate # served at OMHA Team Outreaches:	1747
REAL SPORTS** (APPROXIMATE)	1200
SOBER SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT	150
<b>Total Residents Served</b>	<b>5649</b>
MENTAL HEALTH	
Oaks Wrap Around Services Program:	165
MHASWNJ Boarding Home Residents Socialization Program:	753
Oaks Mentally Ill Shelter Services Program:	170
*OF THESE # referred into treatment = <b>127</b>	
Oaks Payee and Financial Planning Services Program:	61
<b>Total Served by County Funding – Mental Health</b>	<b>1149</b>
LAWSUIT FUNDED PROGRAMS	
Mental Health Navigator Program (in coordination with Project SAVE)	79
Educating Seniors - Substance Use	127
Cooper - REACH (Narcan in the ER Post Non-fatal Overdose)	20
Cooper Mobile Buprenorphine Unit (Pilot)	238
School Behavioral Clearances	152
Post Crisis Case Managers	174
NOPE (Narcotics Overdose Prevention Education)	8833
Peer Led Recovery Center (Camden City)	271
CPRS Expansion in CC Shelters	29
Case Mgmt. Expansion for Emergency Placement	14
Total Served by Lawsuit Funding :	<b>9937</b>
<b>Total served by all Office of Mental Health &amp; Addiction Programs in 2023</b>	<b>29007</b>

## SERVICE SNAPSHOT

### Mental Health, Alcohol and Substance Abuse

- Information and Referral
- Community Substance Abuse Planning
- Education/Prevention
  - Evidenced based education/prevention
  - Student Assistance Counselor services

### Early Intervention

- In-jail assessments and referral
- Second Chance didactic substance abuse intervention/education

### Treatment and Recovery Supports

- Withdrawal Management
- Short-term Residential
- Intensive Outpatient
- Outpatient
- Opiate Maintenance
- Recovery Specialists
- Recovery Mentors
- Vocational Support
- Sober Living
- Patient / family substance abuse education
- Boarding Home Socialization
- Wrap-around Services
- Emergency Shelter Placement
- Payee Services
- Intoxicated Driver Resources (12-hour, 48-hour)



## Office of Mental Health & Addiction: 2023 in Review

### In the area of substance misuse:

In 2023, most of our subcontracted agencies were operational. Our office oversees funding for both mental health and substance misuse disorders. Our primary foci for substance misuse are prevention, education, early intervention, and recovery support. We have secured grant to cover the cost of a mobile van to be used to provide outreaches in the streets. Secondary to manufacturing delays, the vehicle did not arrive until September 2023.

At the same time the mobile van arrived, we lost our outreach employee, Joseph Panchella to retirement. By September 2023, Mr. Panchella was replaced.



On average and dependent upon the weather, the mobile outreach van was utilized at least once but sometimes two times a week. The locations are selected by the Camden County Police Department. The goal is to be out in high-drug-activity-areas where we can engage community members who are likely to be meeting criteria for treatment and harm reduction services.

The good news is, overdoses and naloxone administrations by law enforcement in the county decreased. They are down from 3137 in 2018 to 1769 in 2023. This may reflect an increase in the availability of Narcan or, hopefully, a decrease in the number of individuals who engage in illicit opioid use. However, secondary to the lethality of fentanyl, we continue to realize a significant number of suspected overdose related fatalities.

Additionally, a newer entrant into Camden County's illicit drug market was xylazine. This drug is manufactured for **veterinary** 'use only' but because of its sedating effects and decreased cost, it is becoming a bigger part of the scene and problem. Outside of sedation, it causes necrosis, and it is wreaking havoc for persons with opioid use disorder throughout the county.

The area where we continue to see the most significant growth is in sober living environments. We created a program to be able to keep clients in the sober living environments longer. This assisted in reducing relapses. It also provided clients with stronger senses of security. We secured funding from the Homeless Trust Fund which additionally provided longer stays for sober living residents.

In 2021, we received a grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) which covered the cost of 2 Certified Peer Recovery Specialists (CPRS) in 2 of Camden County's shelters.

Both our Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT) grant from the NJ Department of Health and Innovation Grant from New Jersey Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services was extended another year. In the case of the OFRT. The Innovation Grant was modified to provide 2 full-time CPRS in two of our five homeless shelters. In 2023, with pharmaceutical lawsuit settlement funds, we were able to expand this program to all 5 shelters. Through this program, we are able to link some of the most vulnerable residents in the county to treatment and harm reduction services. The end result is fewer overdoses and overdose related fatalities.

We received a grant at the end of 2022 from the CDC Foundation to bring together Public Health with Public Safety to design and implement a pilot project that would harness the assets of both to reduce overdoses and overdose related fatalities in the county. More specifically, we worked with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, Camden Coalition, Camden County Jail and a treatment provider to review overdoses going back 3 years. Once identified, those individuals were contacted to assess where they what their needs were at the current time and the data was analyzed. We were offered an opportunity to present these findings at the National Rx Summit in Atlanta in the spring of 2023 which we did with the other participants.

Additionally with pharmaceutical lawsuit settlement funds we were able to provide a Mental Health Navigator for Project SAVE, a Children & Adolescent Behavioral Health Clearance Clinician for the schools, a clinician to facilitate and educate in the schools about opioids (program called NOPE), we purchased nearly 500 NaloxBoxes and placed them strategically around the county (this is GIS mapped), every school in the county has NaloxBoxes (opioid overdose emergency response kits). We are offering older adult substance misuse education and an evidenced-based program called 'Strengthening Families' to at risk families. We purchased and disseminated both fentanyl and xylazine test strips.

Overdoses are being addressed by every level in the county. This office, through 2 of our subcontractors were able to train over 700 people to respond to an overdose, additionally, with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office and University of Penn Nursing Program, we were able to launch a county branded overdose response virtual reality video.

We established a relationship with our EMS crews and began supplying fentanyl awareness and substance misuse contact information.

In 2023, we were the only county selected to present at the New Jersey Division of Mental Health & Addiction's Annual Opioid Summit and we presented at New Jersey Association of Counties. We presented lawsuit settlement funded programs.

The Municipal Alliance program is up and running. The Alliance Coordinator has been working with GCADA (now the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder GCSUD) to ensure quality program is available throughout the municipalities. Between our efforts and those of our sub-contractors," we were able to provide approximately 20,000 units of service to the public through all the services we fund.

**In the area of mental health:**

We hosted a number of Mental Health First Aid Trainings. We received a grant to enhance, recruit and retain Disaster Response Crisis Counselors (DRCCs) from the New Jersey Disaster and Terrorism Branch (DTB). DRCCs are trained to be on call and ready to respond in the event of a disaster with evidenced-based understanding of how to assist folks who have been impacted with basic behavioral health support.

We were reviewing how to increase mental health service through lawsuit settlement funds, primarily by supplying a county funded mental health urgent care. However, secondary to the 988 changes, and accompanying federal dollars, the state (2024) advertised for a state funded Crisis Stabilization Center.

We hosted suicide prevention efforts, advertised LGBT linkages to care, participated with the Camden County Prosecutor’s Office a Mental Health Walk – for May 2023’s Mental Health Awareness Month.

We participated in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s Annual Suicide Prevention Walk at Cooper River.

We expanded a program to add case-managers to follow-up with Crisis Assessments not leading to inpatient hospital admissions as well as case-management for persons with serious mental illness referred to respite in order to better link them to services.

Our efforts remain on increasing access treatment, decreasing stigma related to both mental health and substance use disorders, reducing overdoses and ensuring anyone with those needs has the information they require to make a responsible decision in regard to their substance or mental wellness.

The following table highlights much of the work that is funded by OMHA. In 2012, the Office of Addiction Services funded approximately 9 licensed substance abuse treatment services as well as prevention/education. In 2023, we funded approximately 43 different mental health and substance misuse prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery support programs throughout the county. Our goals are to continue these services and programs for efficacy while ensuring that we are improving the mental health and wellbeing related to substance misuse for all the county residents we serve.

## *Public Health Nursing and Special Child Health*

### Childhood Lead Poisoning Program

Lead Case Management Services	60	100
Lead Inspections	0	13
Lead Screenings	6	70

### Immunization Program

Immunizations (Children's)	1863
Flu Shots	62
Pre-School aged	394
School aged	1449

Adult Vaccines	4415
Flu	1489
COVID	2650
Other Adult Vaccines	276

### South Jersey Regional Chest Clinic (Tuberculosis Program)

Clinic Visits	576
New Cases	17
Direct Observation Therapy	2130

The Southern Regional Specialty Chest Clinic was initiated in 2008 by Camden County Health Department at the request of New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. The program is staffed by both County Health Department and Cooper University Hospital. Cooper University Hospital provides Infectious Diseases Specialists who are well versed in the treatment of Active Tuberculosis of the Lungs and non-pulmonary sites. This group is headed by Henry Fraimow, MD, who is a member of the State TB Medical Advisory Board.



The TB Nurse Case Manager, for Cooper University Hospital, acts as a liaison between the State TB Program, Cooper University Hospital, and the Camden County DHHS. The Case Manager provides nursing assessment, teaching and monitoring of the patient with TB. She also conducts contact investigations, to provide early detection of new TB cases and treatment to exposed clients with latent TB infection. The County Health Department provides additional staffing for nursing and support services. All those seen in the Southern Regional Specialty Chest Clinic benefit from a “one stop shopping” model, as we provide Mobile x-ray services, on site lab technician, Sputum Induction booth, Physician and nursing assessments, and provision of needed medications.



The Regional Clinic provides expert TB Consultation to surrounding counties who may have drug resistant TB or extra-pulmonary TB, or clients who have difficulties during their treatment.

The Regional Clinic provides service to patients and case managers from Atlantic Co., Atlantic City, Gloucester, Burlington, Salem, Cumberland, Ocean, Cape May, Mercer and Middlesex counties, in addition to our own cases here in Camden County. The patients

receive their medications daily by DOT, Directly Observed Therapy. In addition, they are monitored closely for medication tolerance and side effects. This enables a thorough treatment plan and ensures that treatment is completed as the Standards of Care require. The TB clinic also provides medical assessment to those new immigrants who have been flagged by the CDC for evaluation once in our country.

### *Special Child Health Case Management Unit*

Average active caseload	1025
Unduplicated number of children served	3560
New referrals	1706
New SSI referrals	1010
<b>Grant Year Camden County Constituents Catastrophic Award</b>	<b>116,185.00</b>

The Special Child Health program is County based and provides Case Management. The Unit is funded in part through the New Jersey Department of Health and the Camden County Board of Commissioner’s. Services are provided regardless of financial status. The Special Child Health



Case Management Program assists families with children who have developmental delays and health needs. Any child through the age of 21 who has a birth defect, a serious illness, has difficulty walking, talking, and understanding or is at risk of developing a disabling condition, is eligible for services.

Case managers work with both children and their parents. These professionals assist families through the maze of the health services system and other related systems for the purpose of meeting individual needs. Specifically, the case managers assist with obtaining hearing aids and orthotics; payment of catastrophic bills; support groups; home nursing care; education and other needs.

### **NJ Birth Defects History and Purpose**

The Registry is a comprehensive, confidential database that provides data that can be used for epidemiological and statistical purposes for children with specific birth defects. New Jersey legislation, NJSA 26:8-40.2 mandates reporting to the Registry all children diagnosed with a birth defect from birth through five years of age. The Registry was upgraded from paper to a state-of-the-art electronic system in 2009, allowing the entities mandated to report conditions an improved and expedited process of registering and referring infants and children.

Once a child is registered, a copy of the registration is sent to the Special Child Health Services Case Management Unit in the child's county of residence to promote access to preventive and primary care for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN).

### **Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)**

EHDI is a national public health initiative that supports the '1-3-6' Guidelines: screening every newborn for hearing loss prior to one month of age, completing diagnostic audiologic evaluation prior to three months of age for infants that do not pass their hearing screening, and early intervention enrollment by no later than six months of age for children diagnosed with hearing loss. In 2002, New Jersey passed a law requiring hearing screening for all newborns. The New Jersey EHDI program offers technical support to hospitals on their newborn hearing screening and follow-up programs. New Jersey EHDI tracks the number of infants screened and how many children are identified with hearing loss in a timely manner. New Jersey EHDI works with health care providers, local and state agencies that serve children with hearing loss, and families to ensure that infants and toddlers receive timely hearing screening and diagnostic testing, appropriate habilitation services, and enrollment in intervention programs designed to meet the needs of children with newly identified hearing loss. Special Child Health Case Management Unit is a key communicator between and among diagnosticians, family, Early Intervention and State.

### **Newborn Bloodspot Screening**

New Jersey law requires that every baby born in New Jersey be screened for disorders that can cause serious health problems. All babies born in New Jersey are required to be tested for sixty (60) disorders within 48 hours of birth. One heel prick provides enough blood to test for all fifty-nine disorders.

Newborn bloodspot screening is a comprehensive program that includes laboratory testing, follow-up of results, and if necessary, examination and treatment by a qualified specialist. Early detection and treatment of the disorders on the newborn screening panel can prevent lifelong disabilities, including intellectual and developmental disabilities, and life-threatening infections. Any child testing positive is referred to the Special Child health Case Management Unit for follow up and support.

**Screening for CCHD in New Jersey** New Jersey was one of the first states to require CCHD screening in newborns. Beginning August 31, 2011, birthing hospitals in New Jersey need to screen newborns for CCHD before discharge to home. Serious problems can be prevented or addressed if CCHD is found shortly after birth. These children are referred to Special Child Health Case Management Unit.

**Autism Registry** The primary purpose of the Autism Registry is to link families to special child health case management services, which are county based coordinated service providers that have many years of experience and knowledge of local, county, and statewide resources available to families of children with special health care needs. Most recently (2021) Autism New Jersey formed a partnership with the NJ Department of Health's Special Child Health Services (SCHS) Case Management Units (CMU) as the designated Autism Resource Specialist.

# *Health Education Promotion and Disease Prevention*

## *Health Education Unit* Camden County Health Connection

The Camden County Health Connection promotes community wellness on site at county workplaces, health fairs, senior centers, public housing complexes, homeless shelters, nutrition sites, shopping centers and community organizations. The Camden County Health Connection is a mobile unit, which enables our Health and Human Services Department to extend the reach and availability of our health screening and disease risk assessment services provided at our health centers. The Camden County Health Connection houses an experienced staff of health educators to provide a wide range of health-education and lifestyle-management programs that empower children and adults to take control of their health and improve their well-being. The mobile unit enables the Health Department to increase access to health promotion, disease prevention and early detection programs for cancer, heart disease, diabetes and stroke in Camden City and southern Camden County. These services include health education on the following:



- Blood sugar screenings
- Blood pressure screenings
- Cholesterol screenings
- Chronic Disease Management Training programs
- Stroke Risk Assessment Screenings
- Referrals for community health care services
- Health education, support and counseling
- Follow-up health care services

Support groups such as the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, tobacco treatment and counseling, health seminars and skills-building workshops are also conducted upon request.

These services do not replace regular visits to a primary care physician, but rather emphasize the importance of annual check-ups and help arrange care for people who need them. The overall goal of the Camden County Health Connection is to link this region to needed health services such as health insurance, health care, social services and community health resources. The Camden County Health Connection serves as a health education resource center composed of

videos, books, brochures and web-based action-oriented tools to assist residents of all ages in the importance of preventive care.

### **Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership: Approach to Public Health in Camden County (MAPP)**

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) is a community health assessment process developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials and federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). MAPP is intended to help local public health system entities work collaboratively to assess and improve community health and quality of life. The local public health system includes academic institutions, community nonprofit organizations, foundations, health care institutions and providers, libraries, religious and fraternal organizations, schools, social service agencies and other entities that provide public health services and share information about health issues with community residents.

Camden County Health Department collaborated with hospitals, health systems and health departments within Gloucester, Camden and Burlington counties, to: 1) identify, analyze and address health problems; 2) assess applicable data; 3) develop measurable health objectives and indicators; 4) inventory community health assets and resources; and 5) develop and implement coordinated strategies to improve health. This effort was entitled the Tri-County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Collaborative. The CHNA is conducted every three years.

Through collaborative efforts, the community health needs assessment built on prior work of the Camden County MAPP Coalition, local health systems, hospitals, Senior Services Division, Environmental Health and Community Health Services Divisions, and community, emergency and public health preparedness partners. The assessment was also conducted to comply with requirements set for the in the Affordable Care Act, as well as to further the health department's commitment to community health population health management. The CHNA collaborative was built on existing community relationships and developed strategic partners and increased its collaborative approach to community health improvement. In the 2019 CHNA, findings from this community health needs assessment was utilized by the South Jersey Health Collaborative to prioritize public health issues and develop a community health implementation plan focused on meeting the identified community needs. See the current CHNA here: <https://www.camdencounty.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-needs- assesment.pdf>

### **Health Education and Promotion Programs**

#### *Take Control of Your Health: Chronic Disease Self-Management Program*

The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP), developed at Stanford University, is an effective self-management education program for people with chronic health problems or people who take care of others with chronic health problems. In Camden County, the CDSMP is known as *Take Control of Your Health*. New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) provide statewide guidance and oversight for CDSMP. In collaboration with community partners, the Health Department presents a series of workshops, which are given once a week

for six weeks, in community settings such as senior centers and housing sites throughout the County. This program, is facilitated by two trained leaders, one or both of whom have chronic diseases themselves. These sessions enables people with chronic illnesses to learn ways to self-manage their condition and take charge of their life.

Topics covered include: 1) techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fatigue, pain and isolation, 2) appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, and endurance, 3) appropriate use of medications, 4) communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals, 5) designing and maintaining a healthy eating and exercise plan and 6) learning how to evaluate new treatments. In addition, program participants learn decision-making, action planning, and problem-solving skills. Each participant in the workshop also receives a copy of the companion book, *Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions*, and an audio relaxation tape, *Time for Healing*.

### **A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls**

Many older adults experience a fear of falling. People who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls is a program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults.



A Matter of Balance includes eight two-hour sessions for a small group led by a trained facilitator. This nationally recognized program was developed at Boston University.

During the class, participants learn to:

- View falls as controllable
- Set goals for increasing activity
- Make changes to reduce fall risk at home
- Exercise to increase strength and balance

A Matter of Balance is a program that emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls. Classes are held 2 times a week for 4 weeks for 2 hours each or 1 time per week for 8 weeks. This program is based on *Fear of Falling: A Matter of Balance*. Used and adapted by permission of Boston University.

### **QPR- Question, Persuade, Refer**

Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training which teach professionals and non-professionals alike, using the simple technique of “Question Persuade and Refer”, to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis, and how to get the person at risk the assistance they need.

In 2023, Health Education staff held 19 QPR workshop trainings for the following:

- Kennedy Towers in Camden
- Rutgers Nursing Students
- Cooper Hospital Case managers
- Bridge of Peace faith-based organization in Camden
- Camden City Schools
- Voorhees School Counselors
- Camden County Municipal staff from various towns

### Camden County Libraries: Ask a Public Health Educator

The Health Education unit has partnered with our Camden County Library System to provide lifesaving information to community members. Each month, our community service worker and health educators are available to answer questions about diabetes prevention, breast and prostate cancer prevention, tick and mosquito-borne diseases, nutrition and healthy eating, smoking cessation, you name it, we are ready to help and provide education and resources to keep our communities healthy.



### Food Trust Partnership



The goal of The Food Trust’s Healthy Corner Store Initiative is to expand the sale and marketing of affordable, nutritious food in corner stores in lower-income communities, which often have the lowest access to healthy foods and the highest rates of diet-related disease. As part of this initiative, community members receive a \$5 Food Buck to spend at the corner store. The Food Trust and the Camden County Health Education Unit brings valuable health education services and health screenings to Camden City residents.

#### Corner stores participated during 2023:

- Riverfront Supermarket, 130 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive Blvd, Camden
- Roldany Supermarket, 3150 Westfield, Ave., Camden
- Wendy Supermarket, 3325 Westfield Ave., Camden
- Luz Grocery 3920 Westfield Ave. Pennsauken
- Alex’s Grocery Store, 2150 Berwick Street, Camden
- Litwins Supermarket, 801 Elm St, Camden
- Juniors Supermarket, 2926 Federal Street, Camden
- New Village Supermarket, 1024 Carl Miller Blvd., Camden

### ***Food Trust Health Screenings***

<b>Health Screenings</b>	
Blood pressures	224
Cholesterol	161
Blood Sugar	84
BMI	228
Education/Referrals/Outreach	452
Mobile Clinic Events	15

#### **Health Education and information provided:**

- Cholesterol, Hypertension and Diabetes Risk Assessment
- Weight Management
- Nutrition and Exercise
- Medication Management
- Access to Care
- Cancer Risk and Screenings

### **Roots To Prevention Collaboration**



As a core partner of Roots to Prevention collaborative (RTP), Camden County’s Health Education team supports RTP’s main goal of increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables, which contribute to good health and reduces chronic disease risks. RTP educates individuals on how to grow their own fruits and vegetables in their backyards. RTP seeks to create new income opportunities through urban farming, by providing health education materials and resources necessary for those to succeed.

Camden County's Health Education team partners with iCreate, also part of RTP to host cooking demonstrations. iCreate is a film production company that is dedicated to helping early-stage startups to large enterprises succeed in the digital world. Camden City families film nutritionally smart cooking demonstrations at our state of the art Sustainability Building in our kitchen. The food items are donated by RTP. Our health education team provides support in nutrition education and the benefits of eating well balanced healthy meals.



## Health Promotion Initiatives in Tobacco Control

The mission of the Camden County Tobacco Control Unit is to eradicate tobacco use as a major public health problem by eliminating exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and preventing the onset of tobacco use through community mobilization advocacy, and education, enforcement and public policy development for the community and workplace while supporting smokers who want to quit with cessation services and resource information.



### Collaboration with Regional Partners

The Health Department has a strong, unique, and reciprocal partnership with New Jersey Prevention Network/Tobacco Free for a Healthy New Jersey on tobacco control issues in Camden County. This includes our membership in their statewide New Jersey Strategic Advisory Group on Tobacco serving both the Communication and Health Equity

Workgroups. whose priorities include the promotion of point-of-sale policies, smoke free multi-unit housing, tobacco free worksites, tobacco free college campuses, youth tobacco and vaping use prevention and smoke free outdoor ordinances.

In 2023, the Tobacco Control Unit first focused on clarifying the responsibility of the Camden County Department of Health Department in the requirements of the Tobacco Retail Establishment Exemption process when a tobacco retail establishment applies for an exemption to allow smoking indoors for the purpose of tasting tobacco products. The State of New Jersey, who developed the Tobacco Retail Establishment Exemption, has required local health entities, such as health departments, to send out to the application when tobacco businesses under its jurisdiction, request the required application. A letter from the Health Officer was developed, to inform businesses who are seeking or who are renewing their exemption, access to the NJ Administrative Codes and a link to the actual application. The completed application is sent to the Health Department for review and approval.

This year there were over 5 properties, in which non- smoking renters registered complaints to Environmental Health's Housing and Public Health Nuisance Complaint's unit regarding the odor of tobacco smoke entering their apartment or condominium. The Tobacco Control Unit



along with the Environmental Health addressed their concerns through site inspections, and follow-up with housing management on compliance and resolution. We also provided assistance, along with TFHNJ, to develop or to create a new tobacco policy or amend all leases.

**The Tobacco Control Unit covers the following:**

- **Adult and Youth Tobacco Education and Resources:**  
Identifies tobacco control issues or opportunities by providing education, solutions and resources including quit information, to individuals, municipalities and schools, colleges, and workplaces.
- **Tobacco Complaints and Compliance**  
Works along with Environmental Health Housing Complaints, in the investigation and follow-up of tobacco control complaints. After gathering information from the complainant to identify any possible violations, the Environmental Health Housing and Tobacco Control unit develop a plan which can include, possible onsite inspections, follow-up with to housing management and housing ownership on compliance and resolution of the complaint.
- **Municipal Smoke Free Ordinances**  
The Tobacco Control educates the municipalities on the adoption of smoke free/ tobacco free ordinances and programs that can be adopted on the local level, such as: ordinance instituting 100% smoke and/or tobacco-free outdoor spaces, a point-of-sale ordinance, smoke-free housing ordinance. Towns are encouraged to support tobacco-free businesses and instituting a youth tobacco/vaping education and outreach program.



Quit Survival Kits, and Nicotine Replacement Therapy information

**2023 Annual Local Boards of Health Summit**

**Role of a Local Board of Health?**

In New Jersey, by law, every municipality is charged with establishing a local board of Health which is responsible for ensuring the development and implementation of public health policy and programs in the community.

**2023 Local Boards of Health Summit:**

The Camden County Department of Health and Human Services and the Camden County Board of

Commissioners invited members of the Local Boards of Health, Green Teams, Planning Boards and other community representatives to attend the Camden County Local Boards of Health



**Camden County Local Boards of Health Summit**  
Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
9:00 AM-12:30 PM

**“Making it Better Together”**  
**Comprehensive Approaches to Public Health**  
**For Better Community Outcomes**

Camden County Department of Health and Human Services  
Virginia Betteridge, Commissioner  
Dr. Paschal Nwako, County Health Officer  
Caryelle Lasher, Department Director

held at the Camden County Boat House at Cooper River on October 10, 2023. “Making it Better Together”: Comprehensive Approaches to Public Health for Better Community Outcomes”.

This year’s Summit presentations covered the “Community Health Needs Assessment Priorities”, “BeSMART for Kids: Safe Firearms Storage Saves Lives”, and “Local Licensing: A Public Health Approach to the Tobacco Retail Environment”. All three focused on protecting youth and families assuring better health outcomes in Camden County municipalities.

Supported by data, protecting youth from suicide by firearms and unintentional shootings by promoting safe firearm storage is lifesaving. Sixty percent of deaths from firearms in the U.S. are suicides and firearm injuries are now the leading cause of death among Americans under 20.

“Local Licensing: A Public Health Approach to the Tobacco Retail Environment” presented by experts from New Jersey Prevention Network/ Tobacco Free for a Healthy New Jersey, focused on how municipalities can help with the public health issue of underage vaping. Besides providing vaping educational programs through the schools, the municipalities can work with the Department of Health in identifying the businesses that are selling tobacco and vape products to underage youth by passing local tobacco control laws of density and proximity, require licenses to sell tobacco products, nicotine dispensing devices and nicotine products, and restrictions on the sale of menthol products.

# *Communicable Disease Prevention and Control*

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## **Communicable Disease Prevention and Control**

The Communicable Disease Unit offers services to prevent the spread of disease. There are specific programs dealing with AIDS/HIV, Tuberculosis Control, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Rabies Control, and Reportable Diseases.

### **Monkeypox**

Beginning in May of 2022 New Jersey experienced increased cases of Monkeypox cases leading to the declaration of a statewide outbreak. The cases declined and the outbreak was declared over in May of 2023.

- Out of the 389 cases that were reported and investigated 46 were identified as confirmed, probable, or possible during this outbreak timeframe. The appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) treatment was offered to all close contacts. We held one post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) clinic.

### **Disease Investigation**

Communicable Disease epidemiology is a cornerstone of public health practice to prevent illness and protect the public's health. The Camden County Department of Health and Human Services' Communicable Disease program is responsible for county-wide surveillance and investigation of more than 70 disease conditions reportable to public health by laboratories, health care providers, and facilities. Reports of communicable diseases are investigated and tracked to identify outbreaks or trends that require public health action or community education. Investigations aim to identify the source of infection so public health control measures can be implemented to prevent further disease spread. The data collected through our investigations about the local burden of disease, risk factors, and disease trends is used to develop appropriate education, guidance, and infection control recommendations to be shared with our residents, healthcare providers, schools, and community partners.

### **AIDS/HIV Program**

Free and anonymous/confidential HIV counseling and testing is offered at both of our two Health Clinics. HIV Counselors provide risk reduction education and referrals to PrEP services.

### **Sexual Health Clinics**

The Camden County Sexual Health Clinics provide free and confidential testing and treatment of all sexually transmitted infections. Last year we provided sexual health services to nearly 1,000 residents. Clinic staff works alongside Health Educators to provide sexual health education and promotion presentations for healthcare providers, community organizations, and health fairs.

## Rabies Control

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus found in the saliva of a rabid animal. Rabies infection can occur when infected saliva from a rabid animal contaminates a bite or open wound, a scratch, or a mucous membrane. There is no known effective treatment for human rabies once symptoms develop, but rabies can be prevented if rabies post-exposure prophylaxis is given shortly after exposure. Communicable Disease staff work closely with local Animal Control Officers to investigate domestic and wild animal bites, coordinate rabies testing, and provide technical assistance to residents, veterinarians, physicians, and municipal officials. The Camden County Department of Health and Human Services provides rabies vaccine to support 30 rabies vaccination clinics throughout the county.

## Communicable Disease and Surveillance

*Reports from Laboratories, Hospitals, Medical Providers, Public Health. Counts include Confirmed, Probable and Possible cases as defined by the New Jersey Department of Health Communicable Disease Service*

DISEASE NAME	Counts
ALPHA-GAL SYNDROME	34
AMOEBIASIS	2
BABESIOSIS	31
BORRELIA MIYAMOTOI	0
BOTULISM - INFANT	0
BRUCELLOSIS	0
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	88
CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS INFECTION 200	3,374
CHOLERA - NON O1/O139	1
CHOLERA - O1	0
CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE	2
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	10
CYCLOSPORIASIS	3
DENGUE FEVER - DENGUE	9
EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS(EEE)	0
EHRlichiosis/ANAPLASMOSIS - ANAPLASMA PHAGOCYTOPHILUM (PREVIOUSLY HGE)	6
EHRlichiosis/ANAPLASMOSIS - EHRlichia CHAFFEENSIS (PREVIOUSLY HME)	11
EHRlichiosis/ANAPLASMOSIS - EHRlichia EWINGII	1
FOODBORNE INTOXICATIONS - CIGUATERA	0
FOODBORNE INTOXICATIONS - MUSHROOM POISONING	0
FOODBORNE INTOXICATIONS - SCOMBROID	0
GIARDIASIS	14
GONORRHEA	1,232
GONORRHEA - UNCOMPLICATED 300	0
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE	19
HEPATITIS A	5

HEPATITIS B	0
HEPATITIS B - ACUTE	5
HEPATITIS B - CHRONIC	123
HEPATITIS B - PERINATAL	0
HEPATITIS C	84
HEPATITIS C - ACUTE	11
HEPATITIS C - CHRONIC	467
HEPATITIS C - PERINATAL	0
INFLUENZA, HUMAN ISOLATES - TYPE 2009 H1N1	117
INFLUENZA, HUMAN ISOLATES - TYPE A (SUBTYPING NOT DONE)	2,137
INFLUENZA, HUMAN ISOLATES - TYPE A H1	0
INFLUENZA, HUMAN ISOLATES - TYPE A H3	11
INFLUENZA, HUMAN ISOLATES - TYPE B	476
LEGIONELLOSIS	8
LEPROSY (HANSEN DISEASE)	0
LISTERIOSIS	2
LYME DISEASE	273
MALARIA	6
MONKEYPOX	1
MULTISYSTEM INFLAMMATORY SYNDROME (MIS)	0
MEASLES	3
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE (NEISSERIA MENINGITIDIS)	1
MUMPS	1
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS - 2019 NCOV	14,881
PERTUSSIS	8
POWASSAN	0
SALMONELLOSIS - NON TYPHOID	87
SALMONELLOSIS - PARATYPHOID FEVER	2
SALMONELLOSIS - TYPHOID FEVER	2
SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING E.COLI (STEC)	11
SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING E.COLI (STEC) - NON O157:H7	0
SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING E.COLI (STEC) - O157:H7	0
SHIGELLOSIS	21
SPOTTED FEVER GROUP RICKETTSIOSIS	10
STD OTHER - PARTNER SERVICES	84
STREPTOCOCCUS AGALACTIAE (GBS)	1
STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE	60
STREPTOCOCCUS PYOGENES (GAS)	1
STREPTOCOCCUS PYOGENES (GAS) - WITH TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME	5
STREPTOCOCCUS PYOGENES (GAS) - WITHOUT TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME	64
SYPHILIS - CONGENITAL 790	10

SYPHILIS - PRIMARY 710	29
SYPHILIS - SECONDARY 720	37
SYPHILIS -ALL OTHER STAGES	250
TULAREMIA	1
VANCOMYCIN-INTERMEDIATE STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (VISA)	0
VARICELLA	9
VIBRIO INFECTIONS (OTHER THAN V.CHOLERAЕ SPP.)	4
WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)	3
YERSINIOSIS	8
ZIKA VIRUS - INFECTION, NON-CONGENITAL	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,156</b>

# *Public Health Emergency Preparedness*

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## **Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program**

The Camden County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Unit has been in existence for over 20 years. Currently the program is led by our Public Health Emergency Notification Systems Coordinator (PHENS) and includes a Health Education/Risk communicator (HERC), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator, and more recently a COVID Generalist, COVID Social Support Coordinator, COVID Epidemiologist, and COVID Coordinator. The purpose of the program is to ensure immediate and adequate response to any acts or threats of bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreak, and other public health threats or emergencies. On a scheduled basis the Unit acts to keep response plans up to date, provides education and ongoing training to all department staff, and uses response drills to improve timeliness and evaluate our proficiency. Planning, training, and exercising for an all-hazards approach allows us to prepare for a wide range of emergencies. Response drills exercise various aspects of our work which include, but not limited to monitoring disease patterns, communicating risk, providing information to contain the spread of disease, prophylaxis for vulnerable populations using oral medications or immunizations, and receiving and distributing supplies and medicines to our medical community and partners. Partners include County Emergency Management, local Hospitals, County Prosecutor's Office, County Office of Education, and Regional County Health Departments along with several others.

The unit also oversees many of the grants the county receives from the state and federal level, including the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant (PHEP), Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure (ELPHI), County Health Infrastructure Funding (CHIF), and the COVID -19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding (VSF). **The unit manages a total of approximately 10 million dollars in funding.**

## **Camden County Medical Reserve Corps**

Our Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of approximately 320 volunteers receives regular training on topics such as family preparedness; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); Pet Disaster Preparedness; Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR); Incident Command System (ICS); Hurricane Preparedness; Fixed Facilities; Psychological First Aid, Compassion Fatigue; Self Care; Human Trafficking; Mass Dispensing; Vaccine Safety and Handling; and "You are the Help Until Help Arrives."



The goals and objectives of the MRC are to have all volunteers current with documentations and core trainings; focus on volunteer retention and volunteer engagement; introduce and implement new volunteer recruitment methods; and seek new funding opportunities to sustain and grow the MRC unit. The mission of the Camden County MRC is to provide a cadre of both professional and community volunteers to assist the county in times of a public health crisis.

Below is a breakdown of some of the volunteers we have on board:

Volunteer Type	Count
Advanced Practice Nurse	9
Dentists	6
EMS Professionals	31
LPNs	7
Medical Doctor	33
Pharmacist	6
Physician Assistants	3
Podiatrist	1
Registered Nurse	133
Respiratory Therapist	3
Veterinarian	2
Non- Public Health/Non-Medical	84



## ***Division of Environmental Health and Consumer Health Services***

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- Retail Food
- Recreational Bathing
- Body Art
- Tanning Salons
- Public Health Nuisance
- Multiple Dwelling Units
- Pet Shops & Kennels
- Right-To-Know
- Residential UST
- Noise
- Solid Waste Facilities
- Hazardous Materials Complaints
- Hazmat Emergency Response
- Integrated Pest Management
- Pesticide Enforcement
- Swimming Pool Discharge
- Vapor Recovery
- Idling
- Air Quality
- Private Wells
- Individual Sewage
- Public Health Emergency

### **Emergency Response (Hazardous Materials)**

#### *County Environmental Health Act (CEHA)*

Camden County Department of Health is certified by NJDEP to perform investigation, enforcement, and regulation of air pollution, solid waste disposal, recycling enforcement, emergency, and terrorism response, hazardous waste storage and disposal, underground storage tanks, surface and ground water pollution, and noise. In addition to directly providing these services, Camden County coordinates Hazardous Materials Emergency Response services through inter-local agreements with five local fire/hazmat units. Camden County's Hazardous Materials Response Unit is responsible for development and maintenance of standardized hazardous materials (*Hazmat*) and CBRNE (*Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive*) emergency response capability, capacity, and



competence. Camden County Department of Health and Human Services has highly trained and equipped personnel that respond to Hazmat and CBRNE emergencies and conduct environmental investigations in coordination with the N J Department of Environmental Protection (*NJDEP*), the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services (*NJDHSS*), and the N J State Police (*NJSP*) Special Operations Section.

The Hazardous Materials Response Unit provides exceptional hazardous materials and environmental response services to the citizens of Camden County. The unit handles a broad range of complaints each year from private citizens, business interests, industrial facilities, and other public agencies. They vary in nature from small residential spills of household chemicals and heating oil to large-scale industrial spills, fires, illegal dumping and over the road accidents involving cargo spills or releases of motor vehicle fluids. Our hazmat unit is available to respond to any Hazmat/CBRNE incident in Camden County on a 24 hour per day /365 day per year.

The Hazmat Unit continues to be involved in domestic preparedness planning for the county. The Unit Director regularly participates in planning meetings with Camden County OEM. Based on planning initiatives, response protocols may be revised to improve our response capabilities. Coordination with the county OEM and Fire Marshall has resulted in an integrated network of primary and secondary departments for mutual aid including Hazmat/CBRNE response and mass decontamination.

**Inspection totals for 2023 CEHA – 1,134**

### **CEHA Unit Septic and Well**

All individual sewage disposal system plan review, installation, repair, and compliance certificate are accomplished by our Septic and Well section. This group also is responsible for the review of private potable wells results & Private Well Testing Act information distribution. Recently our staff has begun a thorough evaluation of Public Non-community water systems within our County to ensure the proper compliance with Federal and State Regulations.

#### **SEPTIC SYSTEMS:**

- New Constructions – 5
- Repairs – 25
- Alternation Without Expansions – 155

#### **WELL SYSTEMS:**

- Inspections – 85

## Environmental Health Inspections

Retail Food	3,482		Hazardous Materials Complaints	32
Recreational Bathing	366		Hazmat Emergency Response	71
Body Art	58		Integrated Pest Management	20
Tanning Salons	11		Pesticide Enforcement	50
Tobacco/Vapor Retail Establishment	10		Youth Camp Pre-Operational Inspection	22
Public Health Nuisance	1,464		Swimming Pool Discharge	
Multiple Dwelling Units	273		Air Quality	10
Pet Shops & Kennels	95			
Right-To-Know	290		Private Wells	85
Residential UST	88		Individual Sewage	185

### Multiple Dwelling /Housing Complaints and Public Health Nuisance Unit

**The Camden County Health Department’s Multiple Dwelling/ Housing Unit** is an environmental program responsible for enforcing local and state housing codes. Ensuring that hotels, motels and multiple-family buildings of three or more dwelling units, as well as rental housing, are operating within Camden County, are properly maintained and do not pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of their residents, nor the community in general.

**Our Public Health Nuisance program** acts as liaison with municipal departments, boards, and commissioners in the pursuit of coordinating activities to eliminate blight and any foul source creating a public health nuisance to our communities.

These objectives are achieved by “BRIDGING THE GAP” between Municipal enforcing agencies, tenants and landlords, alike. By conducting investigations, with total equity, when receiving housing and public nuisance complaints. Ensuring compliance of all housing dwellings, hotels, motels and multiple dwellings, Condominiums, Cooperatives and Mutual Housing Corporations that fall within the definition of dwellings, and as such, are subject to its provisions. As well as public nuisances including but not limited to, trash and debris, unmaintained pools, causing breeding grounds for mosquitos, excessive dog feces, foul odors etc.

In addition to the Environmental Programs highlighted above the following services are also provided: *Air Pollution Control, Community Noise Control, Pet Shop & Kennel Inspections, Right*

*To Know (RTK), Public Recreational Bathing & Youth Camps, Residential Underground Storage Tank, Pesticide Investigation, Solid Waste Program, Tobacco Enforcement, Body Art, and Water Quality.*

TOTAL HOUSING COMPLAINTS PROCESSED/ABATED	2,388	TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE COMPLAINTS PROCESSED/ABATED	402
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**\*Discontinued Department of Community Affairs Inspections June 2022**

**Food Surveillance**

The Food Surveillance Unit’s purpose is the prevention of food borne illness which may derive from retail food establishments. To deliver this purpose this unit focuses its inspection efforts to facilities that may present a greater risk of food borne illness. This approach and enforcement of NJAC 8:24 are known as Risk-Based Inspection. Retail establishments must be inspected at least once during each year, school facilities are inspected twice each year. Additionally, a 24/7 Non-Hazardous Emergency Response system is in place to respond to fire and/or natural disasters involving food and/or health care facilities where a potential for contamination of food products exists. Annually retail food inspections are performed utilizing tablet computers. Inspection findings are captured and recorded during the course of each inspection and uploaded in real-time to our web-based inspection system.



*Benefits of Digital Inspections*

- Increased Productivity and Accountability.
- Electronic Record Management and Access.
- Provides Public Records Request (OPRA).
- Standardized Inspection Methods and Reporting.
- Improved Compliance.
- Reduction in Enforcement Actions.

### *Constituent Benefits*

- Educates consumer on inspection process and outcomes.
- Reports inspection results on facilities of consumer interest i.e. child's day care or school, local market, favorite restaurant, etc.
- Reports on emerging food related events i.e. food related bioterrorism, food recalls, facility closures, and food related outbreaks.

### *Industry Benefits*

- Standardized inspection format easy to read, interpret, and translate.
- Critical violations are printed first with timelines for correction.
- Establishment with a good inspection history will see increased business.

# Contact Information

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Making It Better, Together.

