

Downeast Public Health Council

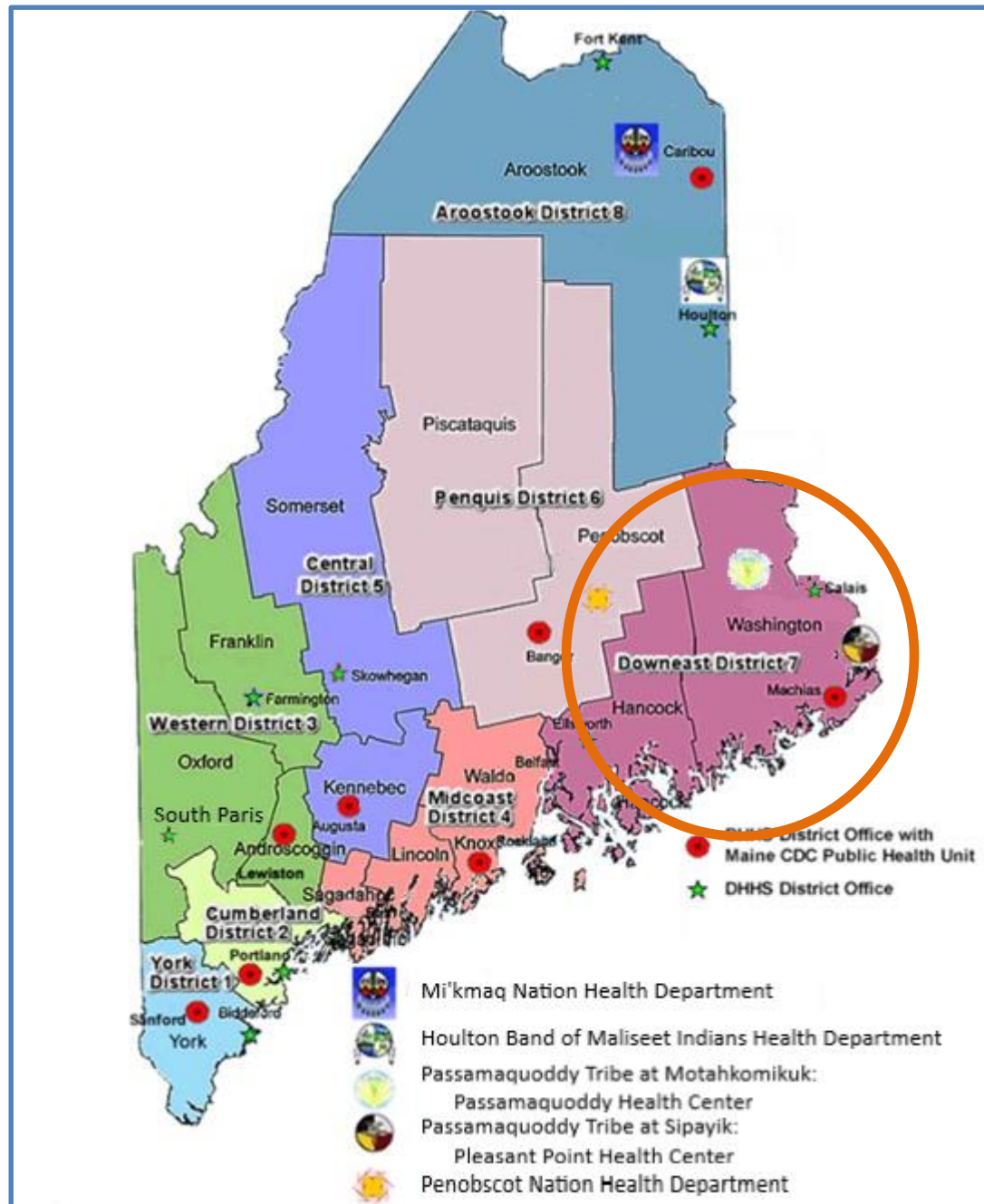
Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health
March 20, 2025 Meeting

Maria Donahue
Downeast SCC Representative

Angela Fochesato
Downeast SCC Chair



Where is Downeast?



Key Demographics

Hancock County

Population: 55,478 (2020)

Area: 2,345 square miles

Density: 24 persons per square mile

Service Centers

- Ellsworth
- Bar Harbor (MDI)
- Bucksport / Blue Hill

Other

- 300+ Islands & 14 Townships
- Agricultural (Blueberry)
- Acadia National Park

Washington County

Population: 31,095 (2020)

Area: 3,528 square miles

Density: 9 persons per square mile

Service Centers

- Milbridge
- Machias
- Calais

Other

- Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township and Pleasant Point
- 100+ Islands & 35 Townships
- Agricultural (Blueberry & Wreath)

Public Health Unit

District	Offices	Program	Referral/Contact	Staff
Downeast Public Health District	Ellsworth DHHS 17 Eastward Lane Ellsworth, ME 04605	Public Health Nursing	1-888-644-1130	Cynthia Grass (Supervisor) (Tel.) 207-356-2452 Stephanie Lavigne (Tel.) 207-263-4462 Catherine MacDonald (Tel.) 207-214-3982 Kerri Jones (Tel.) 207-271-8067
		Machias DHHS 38 Prescott Drive Machias, ME 04654	Health Inspection	1-800-821-5821
	Calais DHHS 338 North Street STE 1 Calais, ME 04619	Epidemiology	1-800-821-5821	Maura Lockwood
		Drinking Water - Non-Municipal Water System Inspector	207-287-2070	Scott Whitney (Tel.) 207-592-0578
		Drinking Water - Municipal Water System Inspector	207-287-2070	Mary Bourque (Tel.) 207-441-5328
		District Public Health Liaison	207-255-2017	Alfred May (Tel.) 207-263-4975
		Public Health Educator	207-255-2017	Kawther Mohamed

Communications

Newsletter

Downeast Public Health Council February 2025 Newsletter



- [Partner Highlight: Hancock County EMA](#)
- [National Cancer Prevention Month](#)
- [Bulletins](#)
- [Events/ Trainings](#)
- [News](#)
- [HANA](#)

Partner Highlight: Hancock County EMA



What is Emergency Management?

Emergency management is a key component of government public health safety services developed in the 1970s. Proactive public administrators found that all natural disasters, technology emergencies, and human-caused disasters require the same emergency response procedures in order to save lives, defend property, and protect the environment.

History of Maine Emergency Management Agency

The Maine EMA was established in 1940 as the Maine Civil Defense and Public Safety Agency, until its name was changed to the present in 1987. The authority of emergency management in Maine comes from the Maine Civil Emergency Preparedness Act ([Maine Title 37-A, Chapter 13](#)), that requires each of Maine's political subdivisions to appoint an EMA director.

Function of EMA

EMA coordinates emergency operations before and after disasters at all governmental levels and is in charge of planning, prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation to and from disasters. The first line of defense in emergency management is the local government. When many agencies are responding to a threat or disaster that goes beyond the scope of mutual aid or when multiple regional communities are affected by a disaster, EMA coordinates response and recovery.

Hancock County EMA

Next Downeast Public Council Meeting
Friday, March 21, 2025
10:00 - 12:00 PM
Zoom

For Council information, please contact [Al May](#).



[Downeast Public Health Council Facebook Page](#)

[Downeast Public Health Council Website](#)

[Maine PDP \(Downeast District\) Website](#)

To become a member of the Downeast Public Health Council please fill out our [Membership Application](#).

Downeast Public Health 2024 Priority Committees

Prevention Committee: Angela Fachesato, Chair

Older Adult Health and Safety Committee: Darin Zaros, Chair

Emergency Operations and Response Committee: Andrew Sankey, Chair

Mental Health Primary Care Education Committee: Tracy Parker, Chair

2024 Ongoing Topics

Health Literacy

Palliative Care and Hospice

Maternal and Child Health

Events/ Trainings

[DHPP history and timeline website](#)

February 25-27
[LD306: Public Information Basics](#)

For more information, contact [Al May](#).

Facebook

Annual District Report

Council Work

2025 Meeting Dates: Attendance in 2024 Range 20 to 40

January 17, March 21, May 16, July 18, September 19, November 21

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PREVENTION

- Increase number of opportunities for education on reducing risk factors for diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease.
- Increase the percentage of screenings for pre-diabetes, cancer and hypertension/CVD.

MENTAL HEALTH: PRIMARY CARE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Increase awareness and education of mental health risk factors and to introduce a new community-based crisis response practice.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS RESPONSE & HEALTH CARE

- Increase the percentage of CMS-regulated healthcare facilities that meet CMS requirements for having and testing an emergency operations and response plan.

OLDER ADULTS HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Increase the percentage of older adult home assessments to reduce risks of injuries and improve safety of homes.
- Increase the percentage of older adult dental assessments by implementing alternative forms of annual visits and promoting oral health home assessments.

Key Data

Indicator	Hancock	Washington	Maine
Female Breast Cancer Deaths (rate)	18.0	19.6	16.7
Life Expectancy (years)	78.3	74.3	78.6
All Cancer New Cases (rate)	518.6	588.7	476.0
Heart Attack Deaths (rate)	30.8	45.7	24.6
Melanoma Skin Cancer New Cases (rate)	40.5	38.5	26.6
Lyme disease New Cases (rate)	331.0	122.1	191.4
Cognitive Decline (percent)	9.1%	11.0%	9.2%
Rate of Years of Potential Life Lost	7,892.8	11,389.3	7,811.8
Alcohol-associated New Cancer Cases (rate)	142.4	174.7	135.4
Injury Deaths (rate)	95.6	165.5	99.4
Current cigarette smoking adults (percent)	19.8%	23.3%	15.6%
Tooth Loss adult (percent)	16.4%	29.5%	18.6%
Smoked During Pregnancy (percent)	9.4%	19.0%	9.1%

Thank You

Maria Donahue, Downeast SCC Rep

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Angela Fochesato, Downeast Chair

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Al May, Downeast District Liaison

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