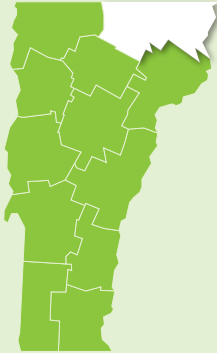


Orleans & Northern Essex Region

About the Region



Orleans and Northern Essex counties contain some of Vermont's most beautiful lakes, mountains, and farmland. Families have access to recreational opportunities that people travel from all over to enjoy. However, the region also has the state's highest child poverty rates and poorest health outcomes. Despite a historic lack of early care and education programs, partners are building innovative collaborations to meet the needs of children and families.

Successes

- Engaged hundreds of children and families in play and celebration at "Parade of the Young Child" and "Dabble Day".
- Collaborated with partners on professional development and strategies for social and emotional wellbeing.
- Hosted community conversations to better understand issues facing families with young children.

Current Status

CHILD POPULATION

under age 9

2015:
2,539 Children
2011:
2,625 Children

DECLINED
-3.4%

STARS PARTICIPATION

2017*:
59 Programs
2010*:
29 Programs

IMPROVED TO
81.9%

IMMUNIZATION RATES

ages 19-35 months

2016:
296 Children
2013:
296 Children

IMPROVED TO
69.2%

CHILDREN IN DCF CUSTODY

under age 9

2015:
28 Children
2012:
13 Children

INCREASED TO
11.0 RATE PER 1000

Strategies for 2017-18

The Orleans Northern Essex Building Bright Futures regional council has prioritized social and emotional skill building for caregivers and children in recent years. The council's goal is to raise awareness of the importance of developing social and emotional competencies in early childhood as a foundation for all future learning.

- Developed a common language among caregivers through support of professional development and family friendly community events.
- Established regional team for Early Multi-Tiered Systems of Support implementation in early care and learning environments.
- Embedded Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework in community projects.

Another key strategy for the council is addressing the critical lack of child care capacity in the region, particularly for infants and toddlers.

Percent of All Students Ready for Kindergarten 2015-2016 & 2016-2017 School Years

Supervisory Union (SU) /District (SD)	2015 - 2016	2016-2017
Essex North SU	76.9%	83.3%
North Country SU	74.9%	80.5%
Orleans Central SU	81.9%	84.6%

*As of June for each year