



**Mill Towns
Public Health**
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Mill Towns Public Health

2025 Report

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Acronyms

ACO.....	Animal Control Officer
BOH.....	Board of Health
CHAMP.....	Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs
CHD.....	Center for Human Development
CNPP.....	Community Naloxone Purchasing Program
CPR.....	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
DART.....	Drug Addiction Recovery Team
DPH.....	Department of Public Health
FY.....	Fiscal Year
HCAT.....	Hampton County Addiction Taskforce
LCIT.....	Ludlow Community Intervention Team
LCSW.....	Licensed Clinical Social Worker
MEHA.....	Massachusetts Environmental Health Association
MHOA.....	Massachusetts Health Officers Association
MPH.....	Master of Public Health
MTPH.....	Mill Towns Public Health
NEHA.....	National Environmental Health Association
OUD.....	Opioid Use Disorder
PFT.....	Palmer for Tomorrow
PHE.....	Public Health Excellence
PV.....	Pioneer Valley
RAFT.....	Residential Assistance for Families in Transition
SUD.....	Substance Use Disorder
SSA.....	Shared Services Agreement
QHSUA.....	Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance

About Us

Mill Towns Public Health is comprised of four municipalities: Ludlow, Palmer, Warren, and West Brookfield. The goal of Mill Towns Public Health is to increase staff capacity and expertise and to deliver better health protections, programs, and outcomes.

The Public Health Excellence (PHE) Grant aims to strengthen local public health systems in Massachusetts by fostering collaboration, building capacity, and ensuring compliance with public health standards. Designed to address resource disparities and enhance operational efficiency, the grant encourages municipalities to work together through shared service models that optimize the use of resources, expertise, and personnel. By pooling these assets, municipalities can overcome individual capacity limitations, expand their research, and deliver a broader range of constant, high-quality, and equitable public health services to the communities they serve.

For more information on the PHE Grant:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-health-excellence-grant-program>

To learn more about Mill Towns Public Health (MTPH): <https://ludlow.ma.us/mill-towns-public-health/>

Staff

Erin McMurray, MPH

Shared Service Coordinator

March 2024-Present

VACANT

Regional Social Worker

Ashley Jediny, LCSW May 2024-September 2025

Tessa Obuchowski

Regional Health Inspector

June 2025-Present

VACANT

Regional Public Health Nurse

Felix Garcia

Contracted Title V Agent

August 2024- Present

Our Work

Professional Development

Shared Staff are encouraged throughout the year to pursue professional development opportunities that will advance their knowledge and service delivery to residents throughout the Shared Service Agreement (SSA). Featured below is an overview of the professional development opportunities that staff have completed in 2025.

- Suicide Prevention Training
- Overdose Prevention and Narcan Train-the-Trainer Class
- Together for Hope Conference
- Mass Municipal Opioid Abatement Conference
- Homeless Response Training
- HCAT Monthly Meetings
- National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training Program
- Mass Municipal Opioid Abatement Conference
- Engaging Individuals Reluctant to Housing or Services Training
- MHOA Conference
- Public Health and the New Media Webinar
- Rural Realities Webinar
- ServSafe Managers Course
- Body Art Training
- Housing Code Pro Training
- MEHA Yankee Conference
- Model Tobacco Sales Regulation Info Training
- Training Hub Tier 2 Food Training
- NEHA Rodent Control Foundations: Behavior, Risks, and Real-World Challenges
- PV Tobacco Regulations Training
- Lead Determinants Training

Community Events

Shared staff attend community events during the year throughout SSA communities. With the main goal being to increase residents' knowledge of services and resources offered through Health Departments, Boards of Health and outside organizations. During community events Shared staff are available to answer questions, debunk misinformation and distribute educational materials to the public. The list of events attended in 2025 is as follows:

- Last Night in Ludlow (Feb. 22nd)
- Slide into Summer Safely (June 16th)
- Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce Farmers Market (July 11th)
- West Brookfield Senior Center Tabling Event (July 17th)
- Warren's Concert in the Park Vendor Night (July 18th)
- Palmer's National Night Out (Aug. 5th)
- Community Day at Palmer Green Estates (Aug. 14th)
- Ludlow's Health Fair (Sep. 6th)
- Palmer Senior Center's Health Fair (Sep. 29th)
- Falling into Fun in Ludlow (Oct. 4th)
- Ludlow Senior Center's Health Fair (Oct. 17th)

Shared Service Coordinator

Erin McMurray, MPH has held the position of Shared Service Coordinator since March of 2024. Working daily to support the PHE grant and ongoing programming; McMurray's daily tasks include reporting to the Department of Public Health (DPH) on the grants budget and progress of grant objectives, attending monthly meetings, supporting shared staff, and responding to community's public health needs to increase knowledge and positive health changes in residents throughout the Mill Towns.

Ludlow Health Fair

The Ludlow Health Department hosted a health fair on September 6th, 2025, from 10am-1pm, at the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club. 15 vendors, listed below, tabled at the event promoting an array of resources and services that are offered to Ludlow residents. The purpose of the event was to expand upon residents' knowledge of organizations and initiatives that are local to Ludlow that community members can utilize. This includes taking Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) classes, gaining access to medical equipment, and support for mental health and substance use disorders.

Ludlow Police Department	Center for Human Development (CHD)
Ludlow Fire Department	Big Y
Encompass Health	Commission on Ludlow Disability
Tapestry	Gandara Center
Everest Recovery	Ludlow Animal Control Officer (ACO)**
Hampton County Addiction Taskforce (HCAT)	Ludlow School System
Ludlow Boy Scout Pack 1774	Ludlow Boys & Girls Club
Ludlow Health Department/Mill Towns Public Health	Massachusetts Behavioral Health Helpline*

*The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line RSVP'd to the event but had an emergency day of and cancelled

**ACO got called to an emergency and had to leave her table unattended. This ended up being staffed by High School Volunteers.

The event was well received from both vendors and participants, and the Ludlow Health Department is anticipating hosting the event again next fall.

Opioid Abatement Funding

McMurray has been working closely with the Town of Palmer on preventative and response programming that would support individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) and align with the State's objectives for the Opioid Abatement Funding that the town has received. Through the creation of the group Palmer for Tomorrow (PFT) consisting of community members working or living in Palmer, the group meets monthly at the Palmer Public Library.

PFT launched a survey in August of 2024 that ran for a year from August 2024 to August 2025 collecting community responses on how the residents of Palmer wanted to see the funds spent. Announcement of the survey was published in the Palmer newspaper, posted on flyers around town, and mailed to Palmer residents via postcards. The survey was created using Google Form with paper copies available at the Palmer Public Library and Town Hall. A total of 228 responses were collected and compiled into a report that Emma Berthiaume the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance (QHSUA) Epidemiologist completed. A copy of the results can be found in Appendix A, pg. 18-24.

Through the survey results the PFT group decided on a mini grant model for disbursing the funds.

Organizations looking for funding have the opportunity to apply via an application found on Palmer's Town Website, when completed the application is to be submitted to pftgrants@googlegroup.com for the PFT committee to review. All funding requests must fall into at least one of the following seven program objectives as outlined by the State of Massachusetts:

1. Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Treatment
2. Supporting people in treatment or recovery
3. Providing connections to care for people who have or are at risk of developing OUD
4. Harm Reduction
5. Addressing the needs of criminal justice-involved persons
6. Supporting pregnant or parenting women and their families, including babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
7. Preventing misuse of opioids and implementing prevention education

Health Initiatives

Overdose Prevention

Erin McMurray and Ashley Jediny started off 2025 by expanding the Community Naloxone Purchasing Program (CNPP) that Ludlow had become a part of in January of 2023. Together Jediny and McMurray contacted stakeholders in Warren and West Brookfield to gain support in launching the CNPP program. The Shared Staff presented the CNPP program to the Select Boards, and the proposed plan to install NaloxBoxes in each of the Town's Town Halls, Police Stations, and Senior Centers, with a possibility to expand. The Selectboard in West Brookfield voted for approval of the program on December 10th, 2024, and the Selectboard in Warren voted for approval of the program on December 12th, 2024.

In January of 2025 NaloxBoxes were installed in Warren and West Brookfield in the following locations:

Warren

- (1) Town Hall
- (1) Police Department
- (1) Fire Department

West Brookfield

- (2) Town Hall Bathrooms
- (1) Senior Center

Expanding the CNPP program in Ludlow was possible as well, installing a new box at:

Ludlow

- (1) Everest Recovery

Additionally, through the CNPP Mill Towns Public Health is able to offer free Naloxone (also referred to as Narcan) the overdose reversal drug, free to community members throughout Ludlow, Palmer, Warren and West Brookfield. Naloxone is stocked in NaloxBoxes through the CNPP in Ludlow, Warren and West Brookfield*.

In 2025 **330**** doses of Naloxone were distributed throughout Ludlow, Palmer, Warren and West Brookfield by the Shared Staff.

*Palmer stocks NaloxBoxes located in the town through the Drug Addiction Recovery Team (DART)

**This number is heavily skewed by 192 doses going to a single organization.

CPR Classes

Erin McMurray started teaching American Red Cross CPR classes to the public, currently out of the Ludlow Town Hall. Classes are held monthly with the possibility for groups to set up their own private class. In 2025 32 people were certified in Adult CPR.

Car Seat Inspections

In March of 2025 McMurray completed the National Child Passenger Safety Certification bringing the ability to complete car seat inspections throughout the SSA. Inspections are scheduled on an as needed basis and promoted through the Mill Towns Webpage and the Ludlow Health Department newsletter.

In the News

The Shared Service Staff were featured in the Ludlow Register three times over the course of the year. In January Ashley Jediny wrote an article to be featured in the register, the

article emphasizes Mill Towns Public Health's services to the community, how the Shared Staff work in collaboration with the Health Departments/Boards of Health, and upcoming events the team is attending.

The other articles featured the Shared Staff at events in Ludlow such as the Health Fair the Health Department hosted and Falling into Fun.

Refer to Appendix B, pg. 25-29 to view articles.

Regional Social Worker

Ashley Jediny, LCSW held the position of Regional Social Worker from May 2024 to September 2025. During her time as Regional Social Worker, Jediny would attend community events, host drop-in hours with at the Hubbard Memorial Library in Ludlow, meet with stakeholders such as the Ludlow Community Intervention Team (LCIT) or West Brookfield Senior Center. She assisted resident's dependent of their needs, including completing applications such as the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP) or Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT), to find food resources, elderly care, or shelter for houseless individuals.

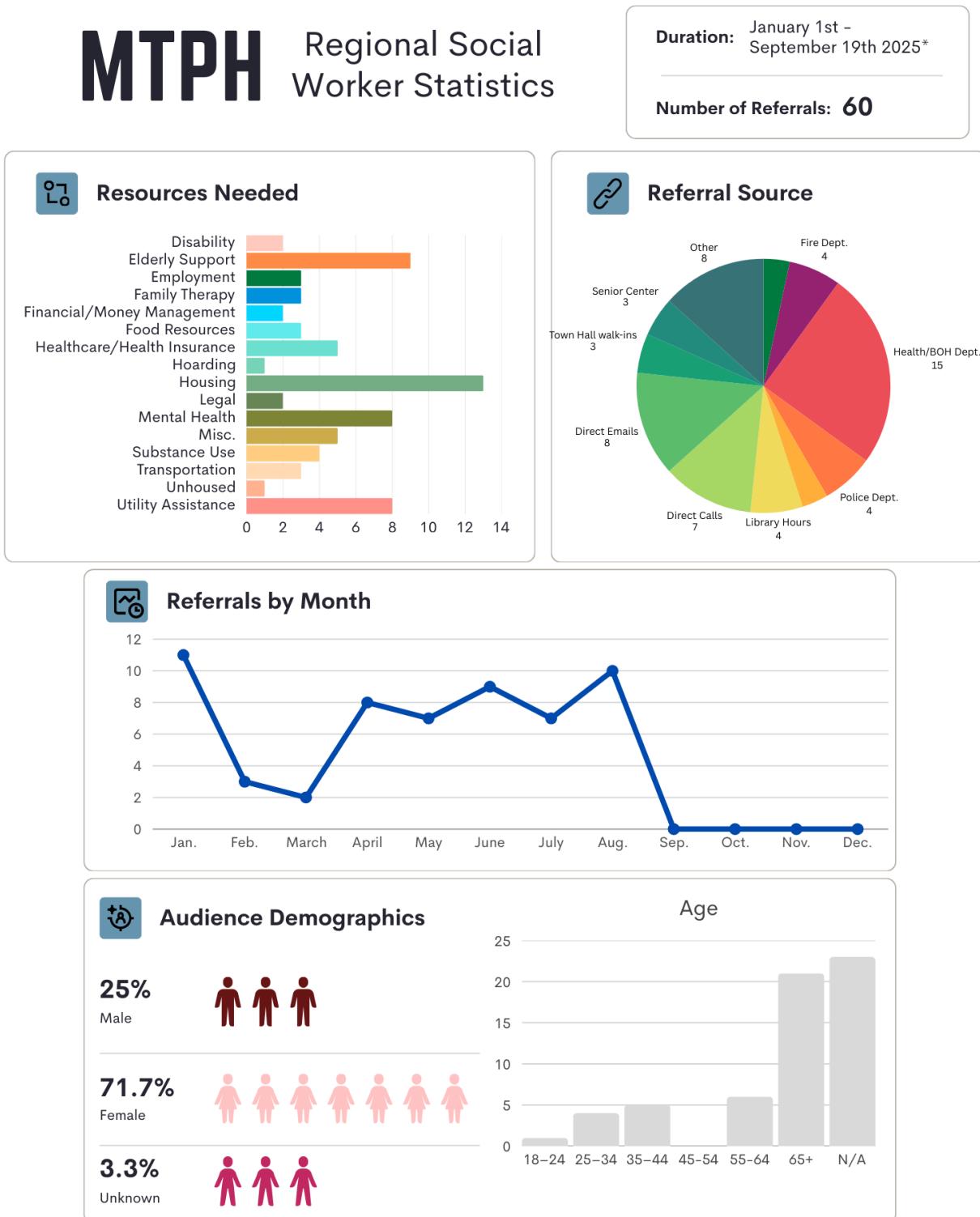
Referrals

The information below is tracked from January 1st to September 19th, 2025. During the year the Regional Social Worker received 60 referrals from various sources throughout the SSA, referral data has been categorized in six ways: *Resources Needed, Referral Source, Referrals by Month and Audience Demographics (age and gender)*. Figure 1 compiles data from all four towns in the SSA, Appendix C through F on pg. 26-29 features data specific to each town.

LCIT

Weekly, Jediny met with LCIT to go over referrals that came in directly from calls the Police and Fire Department received. Data from those referrals is not displayed below.

Figure 1



*Ashley Jediny worked as the Regional Social Worker from January 1st – September 19th 2025, referrals have not been taken after September 19th 2025.

Regional Health Inspector

Tessa Obuchowski started her post as Regional Health Inspector on June 9th of 2025. Being mentored by Emily Quinn (Ludlow's Health Inspector) Obuchowski gained the confidence and knowledge to conduct routine food inspections, housing inspections, and the response protocol to nuisance complaints that are reported to Health Departments/BOHs throughout the SSA. Obuchowski has held public hearings at Board of Health meetings, attended housing court, in addition to learning the most up to date Public Health Regulations to implement food safety in food establishments throughout the SSA.

Inspections

Figure 2 breaks down the 114 inspections Obuchowski has completed since June '25, breaking the data down into what type of inspection it was, when and where the inspection was completed.

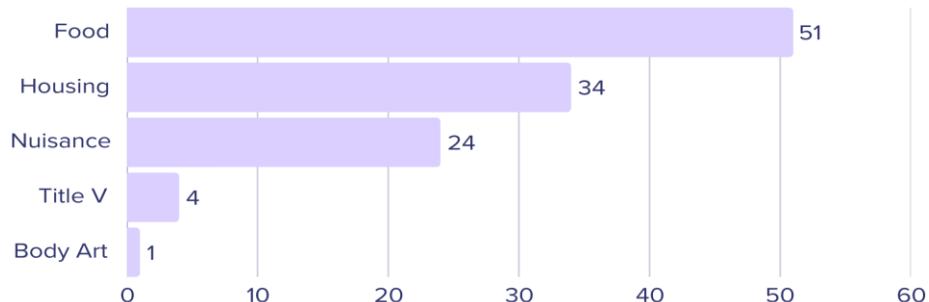
Figure 2

REGIONAL HEALTH INSPECTOR 2025* REPORT

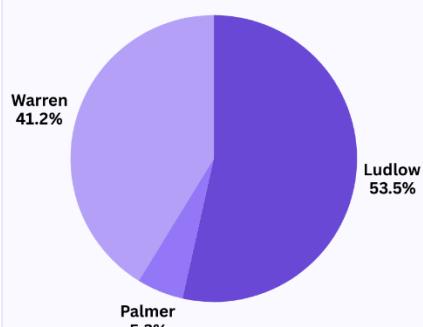
Total Number of Inspections
114



Type of Inspections



Inspections by Town



Percentage of the total 114 inspections completed in each town from July to December.

Inspections by Month



*The Regional Health Inspector was hired on June 9th 2025, the data displayed above is from June through December of 2025.

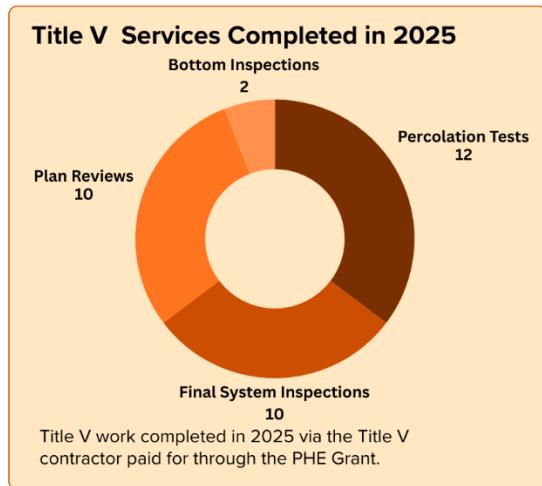
Regional Public Health Nurse

The Regional Public Health Nurse position has been vacant for all of 2025. The job description was taken down to be reexamined and posted at a later date. In the spring of 2025, a survey was sent out to the members of the SSA to reevaluate the needs of each community; according to the survey results the need for a full-time Regional Health Inspector and a part-time Public Health Nurse was determined. The SSA will move forward with hiring for a part-time Public Health Nurse in 2026, the job posting is set to become live in January 2026.

Title V

Title V services are contracted out by MTPH for participating communities in the SSA. Felix Garcia has been the Contracted Title V Agent since August 2024, offering Percolation Tests, Bottom Inspections, Final System Inspections, and Plan Reviews for residents throughout the SSA. This service is offered in every town, and it is at the discretion of the Health Department/BOH how often they use these contracted services. Figure 3 breaks down the services the Title V contractor was used for throughout 2025.

Figure 3



Budget

Mill Towns Public Health has been granted \$449,442.07 annually from FY25 through FY27. An expense report breakdown for FY25 (ranging from July 2024 through June 2025) is below in Table 1. The FY25 budget was approved by the Department of Public Health in September of 2024, revisions to the budget were made in June of 2025 in an effort to spend down the contracted amount granted to the SSA.

Table 1

FY25 Budget			
Program Component	Budgeted	Revised Budget	Total Spent
Program Support Staff	237,473.24	219,308.59	148,047.17
Fringe Benefits/Payroll Taxes	77,981.97	77,981.97	12,019.18
Consultant	10,000	10,000	2,075.00
Health Communication	6,000	17,379.65	17,379.65
Inspection Supplies	2,000	2,000	1,926.15
Membership Fees	3,000	3,000	1,863.10
Nursing Supplies	4,000	4,000	3,898.58
Technology Hardware	5,920.95	6,020.95	5,456.57
Technology Software	21,630.00	25,590.00	25,590.00
Travel	5,250.00	5,250	3,287.36
Facility Operations	2,769.60	2,869.60	2,823.63
Training/Credentialing	6,000	8,625.00	8,486.34
Agency Admin Support	67,416.30	67,416.30	33,470.47
Total Amount	449,442.07	449,442.07	266,323.20

The contracted amount for the SSA is received in three payments:

Payment 1: Received in September '24 \$224,721.03

Payment 2: Received December '24 \$112,360.52

Payment 3: DEFERRED*

*The third payment was deferred in FY25 due to unspent funds resulting from the vacancies of the Public Health Nurse and Regional Health Inspector.

Adjustments were made to the FY26 budget based on spending habits in FY25.

Training/Credentialing and Travel line items were increased to offer more training opportunities to municipal and shared staff. While line items such as Technology Hardware and supplies for the Health Inspector and Nurse were decreased. The FY26 budget is listed below in Table 2.

Table 2

FY26 Budget	
Program Component	Budgeted
Program Support Staff	243,921.56
Fringe Benefits/Payroll Taxes	70,807.20
Consultant	10,000
Health Communication	4,500

Inspection Supplies	1,500
Membership Fees	2,750
Nursing Supplies	3,000
Technology Hardware	2,250
Technology Software	21,960.00
Office Supplies	1,500
Telecommunication	2,100
Travel	6,737.00
Facility Operations	1,500
Training/Credentialing	9,500
Agency Admin Support	67,416.31
Total Amount	449,442.07

Payment 1: Received July '25 \$224,721.03

Payment 2: Anticipated receival January '26

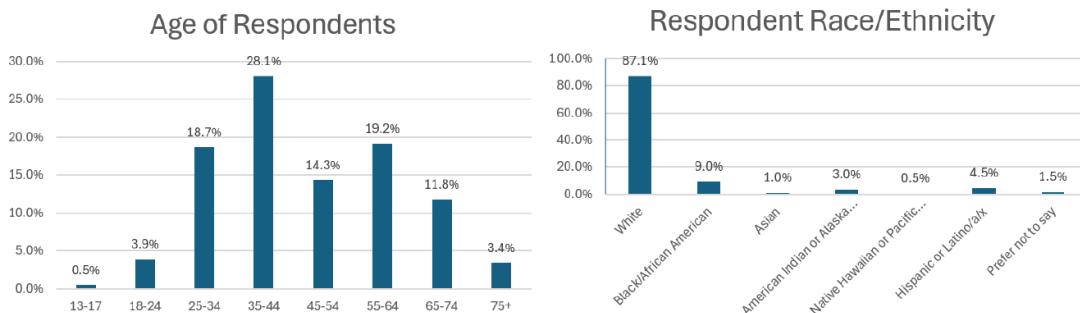
Payment 3: Anticipated receival May '26

Thank You

As we enter 2026 the Shared Staff would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our collaboration partners whose dedication and partnership have been instrumental in our successes throughout 2025. Together, we have strengthened our collective impact across the region. We look forward to continuing this important work together in 2026!

Appendices

Appendix A: Palmer Opioid Abatement Community Needs Survey Results

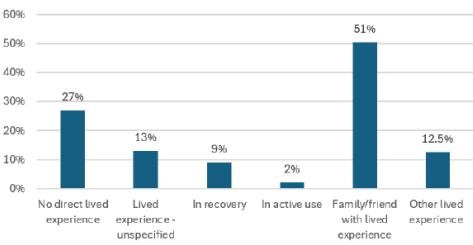


SURVEY SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

LIVED EXPERIENCE

- Additional responses include:
 - "I was an active addict for over 13 years and have been on suboxone for maintenance for over 10 years"
 - "I have been on methadone and IT WORKS if you want to be clean"
 - "Lost a nephew. Worked for HCSD and the state caring for those in recovery as a nurse case manager."
 - "I have lived experience having pain management prescriptions halted without cause due to the opioid epidemic."
 - "My son died from 2 years of substance abuse at the age of 19"
 - "I have experience witnessing classmates fall into opioid use."

Respondent Lived Experience



OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT

- **Top 3 responses**
 - Treat trauma for individuals using/addicted to opioids and their families (35.5%)
 - Support withdrawal management services (30.1%)
 - Expand treatment options (28.6%)
- **Other relevant responses**
 - “Counseling or services to help people reintegrate into society = maintain jobs, learn good financial habits, therapy to learn new coping skills, and manage their emotions”
 - “I honestly believe there needs to be a methadone clinic because there aren't any within 25 minutes driving times and with so many addiction issues there should be more options to residents of Palmer.”
 - “Peer recovery center”
 - “Rehab facility”
 - “Perhaps grant funded low cost access to outpatient therapists”

CONNECTIONS TO CARE

- **Top 3 responses**
 - Support the work of emergency medical systems (39.5%)
 - Fund services or training to encourage early identification and interventions (39%)
 - Support school-based services related to OUD (19.5%)
- **Other relevant responses**
 - “Support withdrawal tools/programs”





- **Top 3 responses**

- Provide outreach and focus on building relationships with people who are not yet in treatment (63.2%)
- Provide harm reduction trainings (56.9%)
- Increase availability of Narcan with training and education to community (48%)

- **Other provided responses**

- Support developing overdose prevention centers in the region (42.2%)
- Support syringe service programs (28.4%)





SUPPORTING PREGNANT/PARENTING WOMEN & FAMILIES INCLUDING BABIES WITH NAS

- **Top 3 responses**

- Home visiting program for parents in recovery (45.6%)
- Peer-led support for pregnant, postpartum, and parenting women with a history of substance use (29.9%)
- Pregnant/postpartum and family residential treatment programs (23.5%)



- **Top 3 responses**

- Support programs, policies, and practices that have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing drug misuse among youth (34.3%)
- Support access to mental health services and supports for young people (29.9%)
- Support community collaborations in developing and implementing a strategic plan for substance misuse prevention (19.1%)

- **Other provided responses**

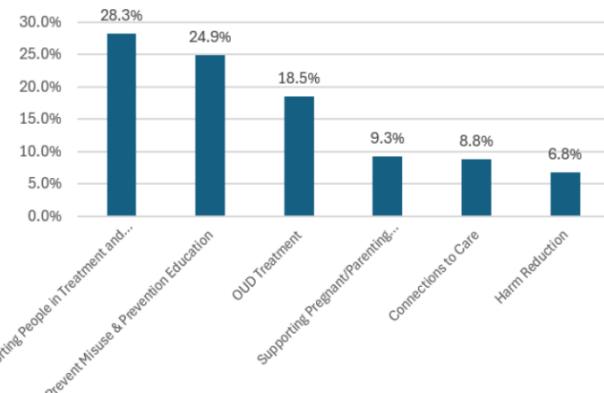
- Support school-based interventions (14.2%)

- **Other relevant responses**

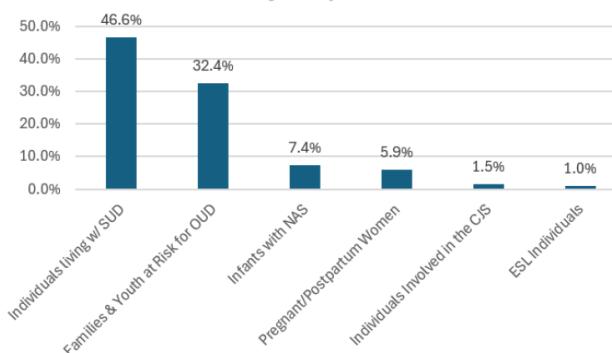
- “Kids aren’t going to come forth about drug use, teachers could be given trainings to identify drug abuse!”
- “Support learning from locals who have experienced family drug struggles and have overcome their battles and are now able to see the path clearly. Ask for community speakers”

MOST IMPORTANT AREA OF FOCUS FOR PALMER

Most Important Area of Focus



Priority Populations



POPULATIONS TO PRIORITIZE

- Additional responses include:
 - “We need to better study this: which of these groups are more prevalent in the Palmer area?”
 - “All of the above”
 - “Everyone”

OTHER RESPONSES

- "Victims of domestic violence need support"
- "Sports for the children to keep them from starting [using drugs] some family cannot afford for their children to play"
- "Money to families whose lives have been ruined by this" – responded this for every question
- "Open creative outlet locations for therapeutic healing with family safe environments, Like art rooms to allow free expression. Jam hall to release feelings with a sound proofed area. A learning kitchen for families to learn together through the stages of recovery"
- "Work with youth, particularly from troubled/abusive families to promote confidence, support, and the showing children that they have the ability for children to succeed"
- "Put funds towards a coffee shop or space in Palmer to work"
- "Treatment for people who need opioids to safely use them"
- "Teach the outcome of years of drug use to young children. If we should scare children away from anything, drugs is the main worry. My dad showed me a website with photos of drug users before, during and after. The change scared me to see and I never was tempted towards anything of the type. I strongly feel it had a lot to do with this simple lesson."
- "Develop a program to get people into treatment as soon as they are ready (not have to wait weeks) or more importantly, to provide funds so that people can continue treatment until well not leave when insurance says to stop, also continued support to families and especially children of those affected"

OPEN RESPONSES

THEMES

- Housing
- Closer resources, including methadone clinic and recovery center
- Education around opioids and stigma reduction
- Employment opportunities
- Continuing support for individuals in recovery

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Significant interest in supporting individuals living with substance use disorder access treatment
- Second highest interest in prevention strategies, particularly for youth and families
- Access to treatment was another constant theme, particularly methadone clinics as well as both inpatient and outpatient care
- Some 'off topic' responses provided insight into other needs for the Palmer community

Appendix B: Register News Articles Featuring Mill Towns Public Health

Mill Town Public Health at Hubbard and around town

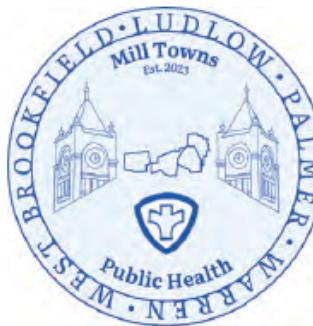
By Ashley Jediny, LCSW
Shared Services Social Worker
Erin McMurray
Shared Services Coordinator

LUDLOW—In 2023, the Town of Ludlow Health Department created and joined a collaborative called the Mill Towns Public Health.

It was established in 2023 through the State Action for Public Health Excellence grant and officially hit the ground running in March 2024. The Public Health shared staff work in collaboration with the Health Departments in Ludlow, Palmer, Warren, and West Brookfield. Their role is to help the departments meet their minimum standards, improve upon services, assist in finding out the health needs in each town and figuring out how to address them, and bridging the gap between access to resources and care.

Happening around Ludlow:

The Shared Services Social Worker has partnered with the Hubbard Memorial Library in Ludlow to hold “Social Services Drop-in Hours”. The Drop-in Hours are held on the first Wednesday of every month from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. in the second-floor conference room in the



library. The public can meet with our Social Worker to get connected with a wide range of resources including help with food insecurity, housing applications, health insurance, substance use, mental health and much more. She also always has an array of goodies such as first aid kits, Narcan, ChapStick, and hats to hand out to those who show up! If you can't make it to the drop-in hours, please feel free to reach out to the Shared Services Social Worker via phone or text message at 413-750-8504.

Our Shared Services Coordinator is currently offering monthly CPR/AED classes through the American Red Cross located at Ludlow Town Hall for all community members to sign up for, with hopes of offering child/infant classes for new parents,

guardians, and childcare providers in the future.

Mill Towns Public Health will be in attendance at the upcoming 250th Last Night Celebration at the Ludlow High School, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Feb. 22. They will have a table at the event and will be providing free resources to the public, so make sure to stop by and say hello!

The shared staff currently consists of a Shared Services Coordinator and a Shared Services Social Worker, with two vacant positions for a Public Health Nurse and Part-time Health Inspector that will serve all four towns.

Still looking to learn more about Mill Towns Public Health? They have a webpage on the Ludlow Health Department's website, highlighting what they've been up to, future events, monthly health topics, and access to many local resources. Additionally, they have a Facebook page, “Mill Towns Public Health” that they post health information on frequently. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Shared Services Coordinator at 413-583-5600 ext. 1269 or stop by the Health Department at the Ludlow Town Hall.



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Ludlow Health Department in collaboration with the Mill Towns Public Health; Health Department Administrative Assistant Tereza Crosby, MTPH Shared Services Public Health Coordinator Erin McMurray, MTPH Regional Health Inspector Tessa Obuchowski, MTPH Social Worker Ashley Jediny.

Health Department hosts Health Fair

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW — The Ludlow Health Department held the 2025 health fair Sept. 6 at the Randall's Boys and Girls Club where it was free to the public, fun for all ages, and

offered health resources to those local in town.

From CPR and first aid demonstrations from the Ludlow Fire Department, community partner showcase, and raffles, everyone left with more answers than questions.

Walking into the LBGC gymnasium, the communi-

ty with local business partners had tables set up that displayed resources, snacks, and department directors for people to meet face-to-face and ask questions. The first

Please see **HEALTH FAIR**
 Page 7

HEALTH FAIR from Page 1

table was the Ludlow Health Department in collaboration with the Mill Towns Public Health, who had Ludlow Health Director Paulina Matusik and Mills Towns Public Health Shares Services Public Health Coordinator Erin McMurray to speak on the various collaborations between departments and businesses to make the event possible.

"Ludlow is the host agency for the Mill Towns grant, which is why we are lucky enough to have all of our employees in Ludlow and working for all the towns. I've been working for the town for five years total and three years in my current role. My favorite part about being in public health is meeting people and getting to know our community needs. Learning how we can better support the town and expand our services. It's really important to connect with individuals because they are the ones we are looking to help. We focus on the population as a whole, making sure we are serving the entire community and in this case, all of our communities," said Matusik.

McMurray added, "We work in Ludlow, Palmer, Warren, and West Brookfield and essentially we fill in any gaps that the health departments need. I've been in my role for a year and a half, my favorite part is every day is different, you never really know what you're getting yourself into. I love how active of a job it is, you get to

go out in the community and do events like this. You really get to see the impact you have, it's not just a desk job you're sitting behind 24/7."

The gymnasium had departments such as the Ludlow Fire Department, the Ludlow Police Department, Hampden County Addiction Taskforce, Ludlow Public Schools, Commission on Disability, and various local businesses.

When asked about their favorite aspect of the town of Ludlow and what people may not be aware of, McMurray highlighted the different resources townspeople have. "It's all the services Ludlow has to offer, between their sharps disposal, social worker on staff, assistance with expired medications, help with wheelchairs and walkers; it's amazing."

Matusik continued, "Ludlow in particular is definitely connected with resources which is why we are having this health fair, almost everybody here is stationed within Ludlow and only two vendors are here that do not have a physical building in town. There's a lot available that people may not be aware of which is the purpose of this health fair. Echoing McMurray, we have a social worker that a lot of other health departments don't have, where they're able to connect residents to services like housing and food insecurity. We are a close-knit community, the vendors we have here we know personally outside of hosting fairs. I think that it's really special and important in helping build relationships

overdoses, and prevention across the county.

Hampden County Addiction Taskforce Coordinator Bradley Bodenstein and Care Coordinator Destiny Ware presented the HCAT's mission of addressing substance use disorder, drug

important programs and activities, I feel like it captures the entire population. From children to older adults and everybody in between, having and working with the LBGCC, Mill Towns, and various town departments, Matusik remarked on how the LBGCC is the center of Ludlow and only two vendors are here that do not have a physical building in town. There's a lot available that people may not be aware of which is the purpose of this health fair. Echoing McMurray, we have a social worker that a lot of other health departments don't have, where they're able to connect residents to services like housing and food insecurity. We are a close-knit community, the vendors we have here we know personally outside of hosting fairs. I think that it's really special and important in helping build relationships

was in attendance to ensure that local and municipal services, programs and meetings are available and accessible to persons with disabilities.

Ludlow Commission on Disability Member Christopher Harkins was in attendance to ensure that local and municipal services, programs and meetings are available and accessible to persons with disabilities.

"Every community either has a YMCA or boys and girls club, there are a lot of us all together, and it captures all the population that we are looking to serve," said Matusik.

McMurray commented about the turnout of the health fair and enjoyed seeing the people realize the resources available in their community. "If we could just reach out to just one person, it's worth it and it's one more person that knows something they didn't know before."



Falling into Fun!



Submitted photos

The Ludlow Health Department was in attendance promoting wellness for a brighter future.

Linda Collette shares her grandchildren's experiences from Falling into Fun!

By Amanda Munson

Staff Writer

amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW — On Oct. 4, Falling into Fun was held in town following the previous year's success and Lead Committee Member of the Celebrate Ludlow Committee

Linda Collette shared the behind the scenes of the event and reflected afterwards on how the event ultimately played out. Former chairwoman of the Ludlow 250th Celebration Committee, chairwoman of the Hubbard Memorial Library Board of Trustees for over five years, member of the Ludlow Cares Coalition for the past four years, and member of the Ludlow Memorial Day Parade Committee, Collette is known by many to be part of the community in one way or

another.

For Falling into Fun, there were around 60 crafters in attendance, local non-profit organizations, nine food trucks and vendors, Scout Troop 1774 selling food, with choices of baked items as well. The library held a balloon event for the kids to enjoy with live music by AcousticA and the Kingdom of Jones Band, with also Manuel Amusements for

Please see **FALLING INTO FUN**, Page 6



Whilst walking around, residents were able to sit down and enjoy good food and treats at Falling into Fun.

Collette stated what she usually gravitates towards during similar events. "So many personal favorites for

FALLING INTO FUN

from Page 1

rides and carnival games. Collette stated what she usually gravitates towards during similar events. "So

many personal favorites for

me I'll always grab a couple of bags of kettle corn because I shamefully can't resist delicious fresh kettle corn," said Collette. Collette added the LPD, Ludlow Health Department, the Hampden

County Sheriff's Department, DPW, were in attendance with a variety of local non-profits like the Ludlow

Lions Club, Ludlow Cultural Council, and the Ludlow Senior Center, and many more.

She also wanted to thank the DPW for how helpful

they've been in making town events like these a success, with behind the scenes work

by providing bleachers, tables, park clean up, trash detail, parking signs, and

much more. "We're grateful for their time and assistance in all of our events," added Collette.

"My grandchildren, Sophia and Jake, absolutely love falling into fun event.

They really enjoy the amuse-

ment rides, shopping at the little vendor shops, they'd

love to visit with the Hamp-

den County Sheriff's Depart-

ment mounted patrol hors-



Submitted photo

Residents walking around to each tent at Falling into Fun!

The VFW Post 3236 had a tent that displayed their support for the community's veterans.



On of the bands playing in the Mack Donnelly Gazebo near the Hubbard Memorial Library.

about eight months of planning, our committee finds this very rewarding.

Collette ended by sharing the need for volunteers for future events. "We depend

on many volunteers to make

this a great success. This

does take months of plan-

ning and many hands make

light work. We absolutely

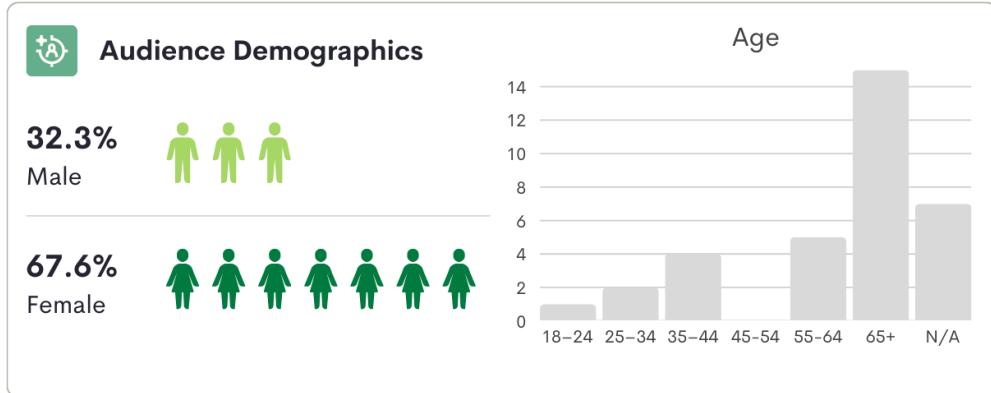
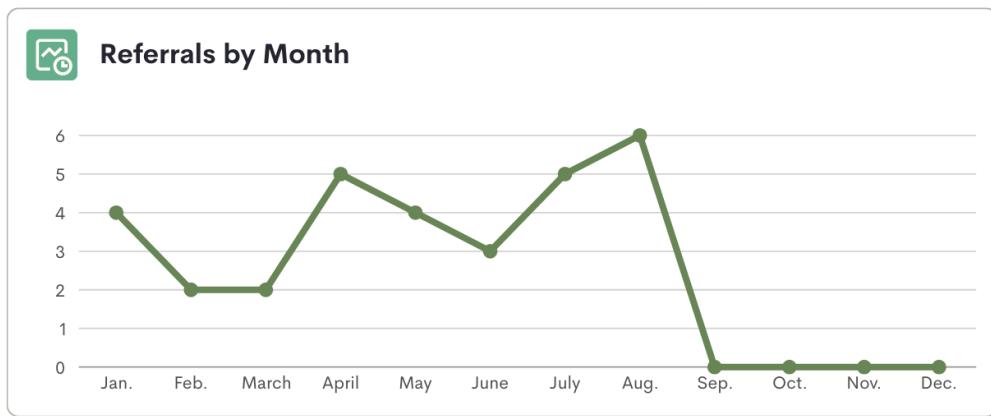
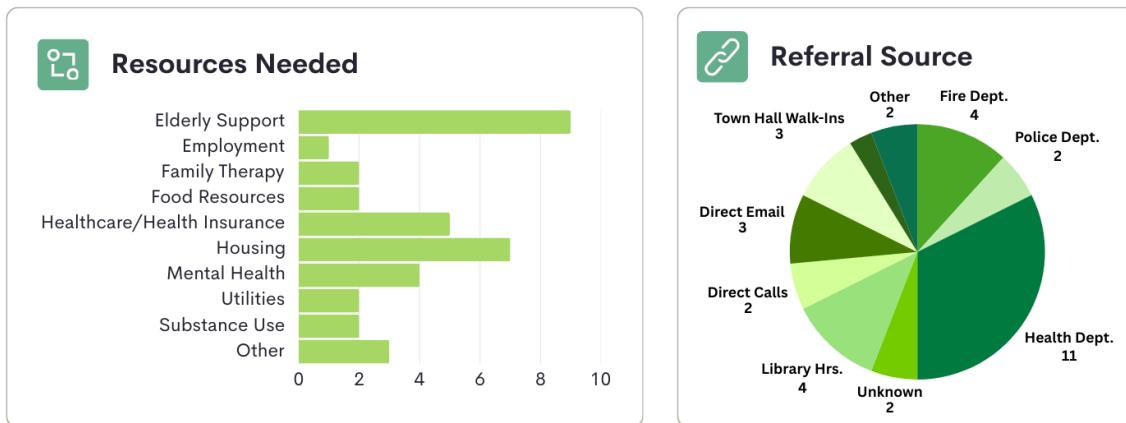
need help with putting these your assistance!"

Appendix C: Ludlow's Regional Social Worker Statistics

LUDLOW Regional Social Worker Statistics

Duration: January 1st - September 19th 2025*

Number of Referrals: 34



*Ashley Jediny worked as the Regional Social Worker from January 1st - September 19th 2025, referrals have not been taken after September 19th 2025.

Appendix D: Palmer's Regional Social Worker Statistics

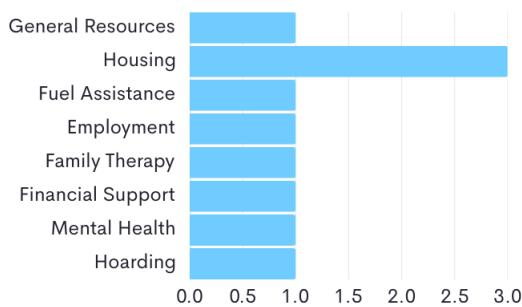
PALMER Regional Social Worker Statistics

Duration: January 1st - September 19th 2025*

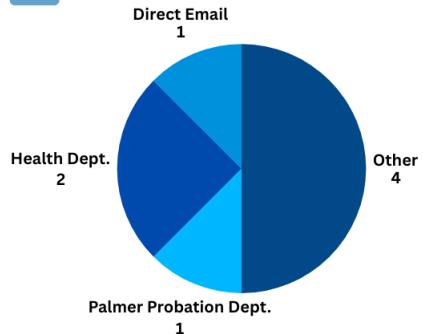
Number of Referrals: 8



Resources Needed



Referral Source



Referrals by Month

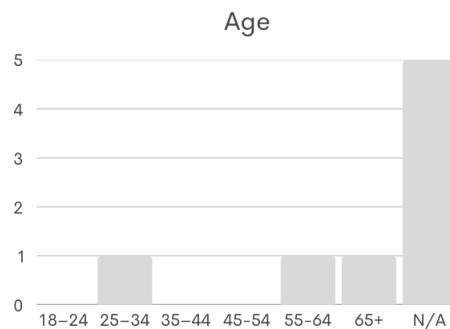


Audience Demographics (%)

25%
Male



75%
Female



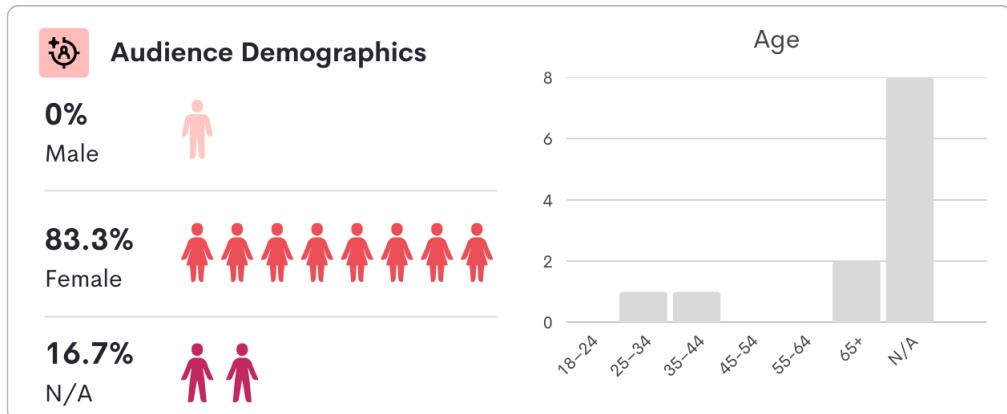
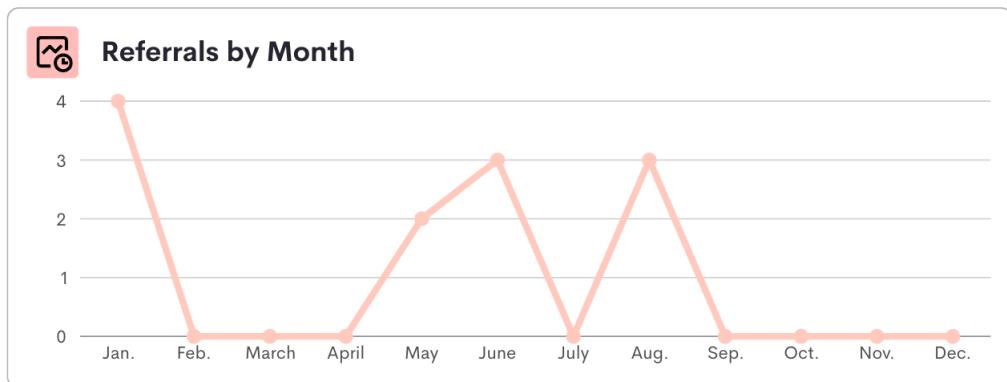
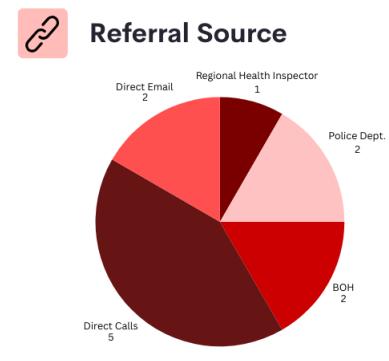
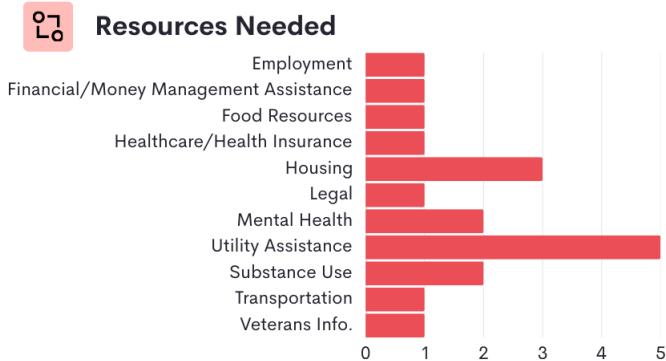
*Ashley Jediny worked as the Regional Social Worker from January 1st - September 19th 2025, referrals have not been taken after September 19th 2025.

Appendix E: Warren's Regional Social Worker Statistics

WARREN Regional Social Worker Statistics

Duration: January 1st - September 19th 2025*

Number of Referrals: 12



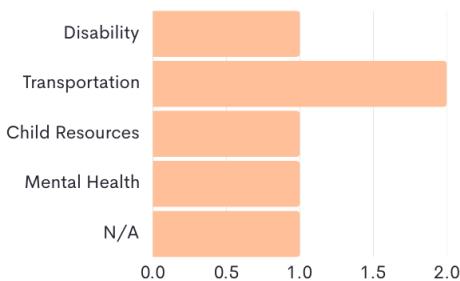
Appendix F: West Brookfield's Regional Social Worker Statistics

WEST BROOKFIELD Regional Social Worker Statistics

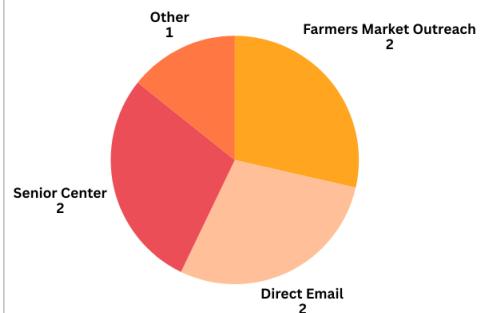
Duration: January 1st - September 19th 2025*

Number of Referrals: 6

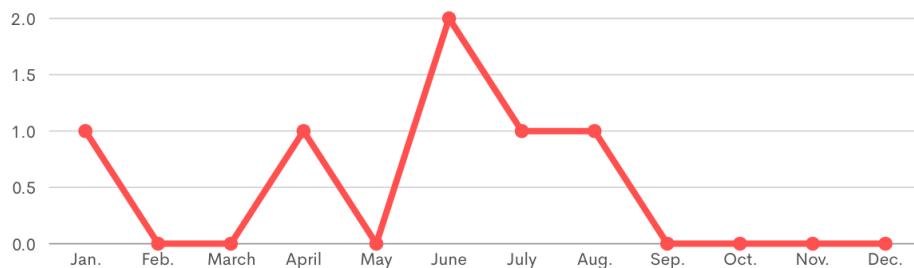
/Resources Needed



/Referral Source



Referrals by Month



Audience Demographics (%)

33.3%

Male

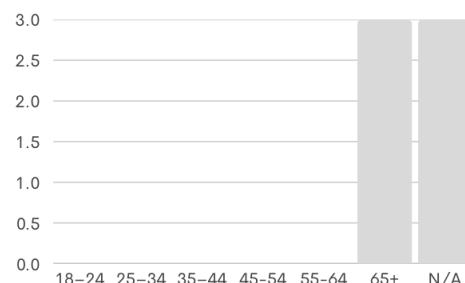


66.6%

Female



Age



*Ashley Jediny worked as the Regional Social Worker from January 1st - September 19th 2025, referrals have not been taken after September 19th 2025.