

Local Health Officer Survey 2023

Heather Sneff, MD Local Health Officer Coordinator

Drexell White Public Health District Liaison

Maine DHHS/Maine CDC

June 15, 2023

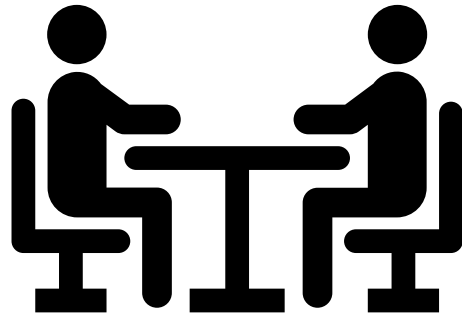


Local Health Officer Survey 2023

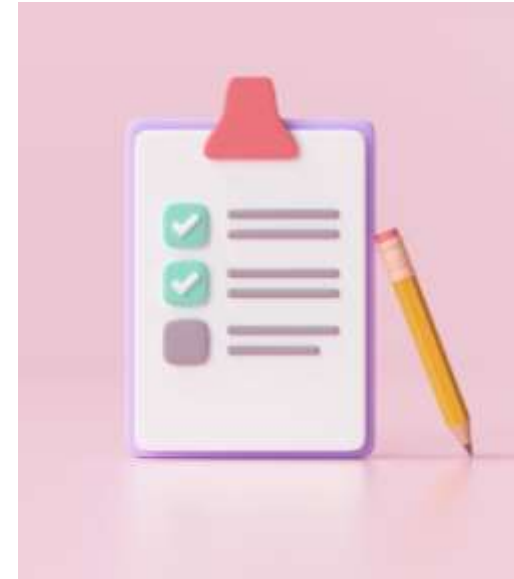
Mapping



Sample Interviews



Survey



Feb 10 – Feb 28, 2023



Local Health Officer survey

We are sending this survey to all of Maine's Local Health Officers as we refresh our local health officer (LHO) training and resources in 2023. **We would love your input!**

The survey is brief; it should take less than 10 min to complete. (If you are willing to have us contact you to learn more about your responses, please let us know in question 17 -- but that is optional.) Your response will not be shared publicly or with your municipalities; the overall survey results will be used to inform us as we create new resources in support of Maine's Local Health Officers. Please complete survey by February 28, 2023.

Thank you,
--Maine DHHS/CDC Division of Public Health Systems

- *If you have any technical difficulties with this survey, please contact Heather Sneff at heather.sneff@maine.gov.*

* Required

1. In which Maine county (or counties) do you work as a Local Health Officer? *

Local Health Officer survey

124

Responses


11:12

Average time to complete

Closed

Status

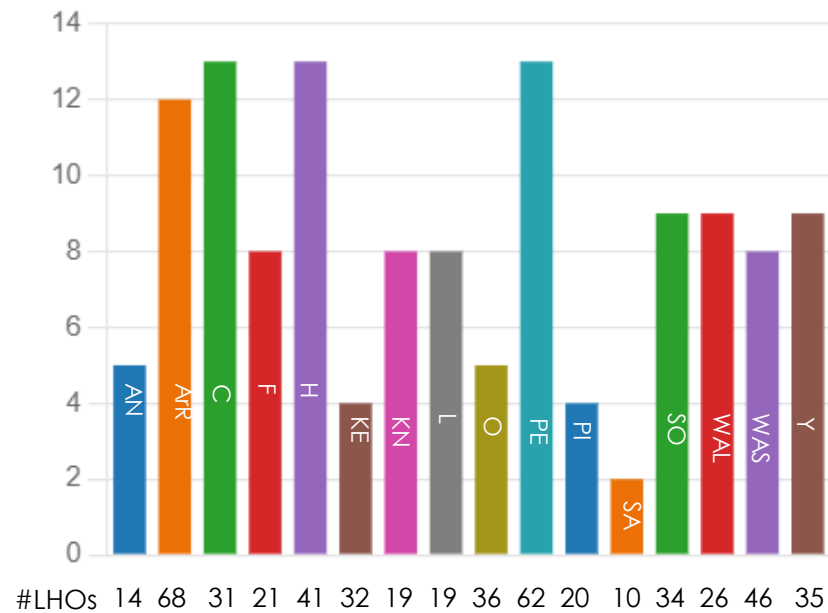
[View results](#)

 [Open in Excel](#) ...

1. In which Maine county (or counties) do you work as a Local Health Officer?

[More Details](#)

● Androscoggin	5
● Aroostook	12
● Cumberland	13
● Franklin	8
● Hancock	13
● Kennebec	4
● Knox	8
● Lincoln	8
● Oxford	5
● Penobscot	13
● Piscataquis	4
● Sagadahoc	2
● Somerset	9
● Waldo	9
● Washington	8
● York	9

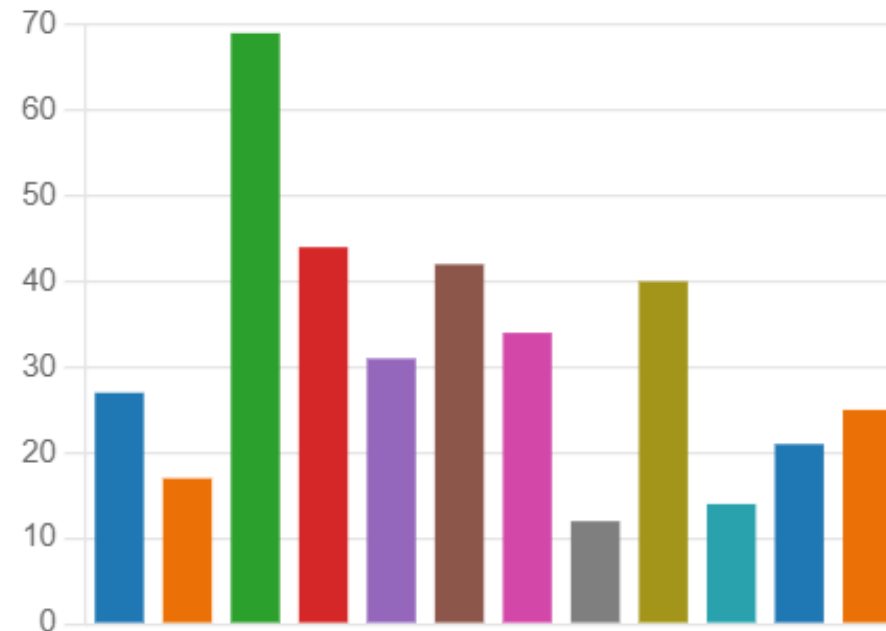


2. What call types are most common in your work as a Local Health Officer? (Choose all that apply.)

(Note - if you wear multiple "hats" in your town -- for example, if you are also the Code Enforcement Officer --try to answer with respect to your duties as Local Health Officer only.)

[More Details](#)

 Rats, bats and other vermin	27
 Pests (bedbugs, mosquitoes, br...	17
 Unsafe housing or unsafe buildi...	69
 Indoor air quality or mold	44
 Septic system issues or waste di...	31
 Dumping or trash	42
 Hoarding	34
 Safe drinking water	12
 Landlord-tenant disputes	40
 Infectious diseases	14
 Neighbor-to-neighbor disputes	21
 Other	25

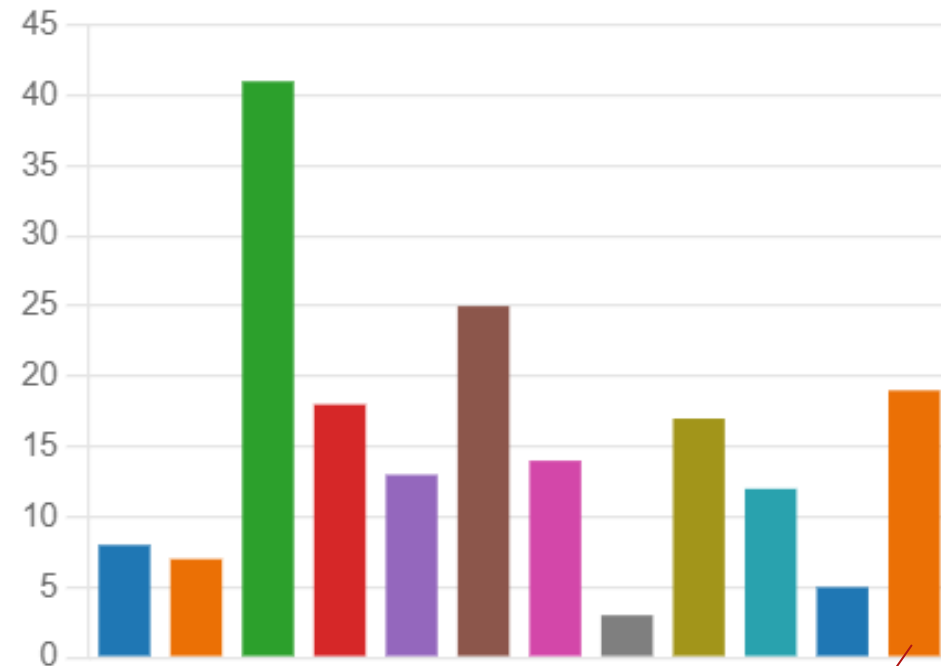


Other = "no calls yet"
(also covid q's, elders who need help, roads)

3. What would you say is the MOST common call type you receive in your work as Local Health Officer? (Choose one or two.)

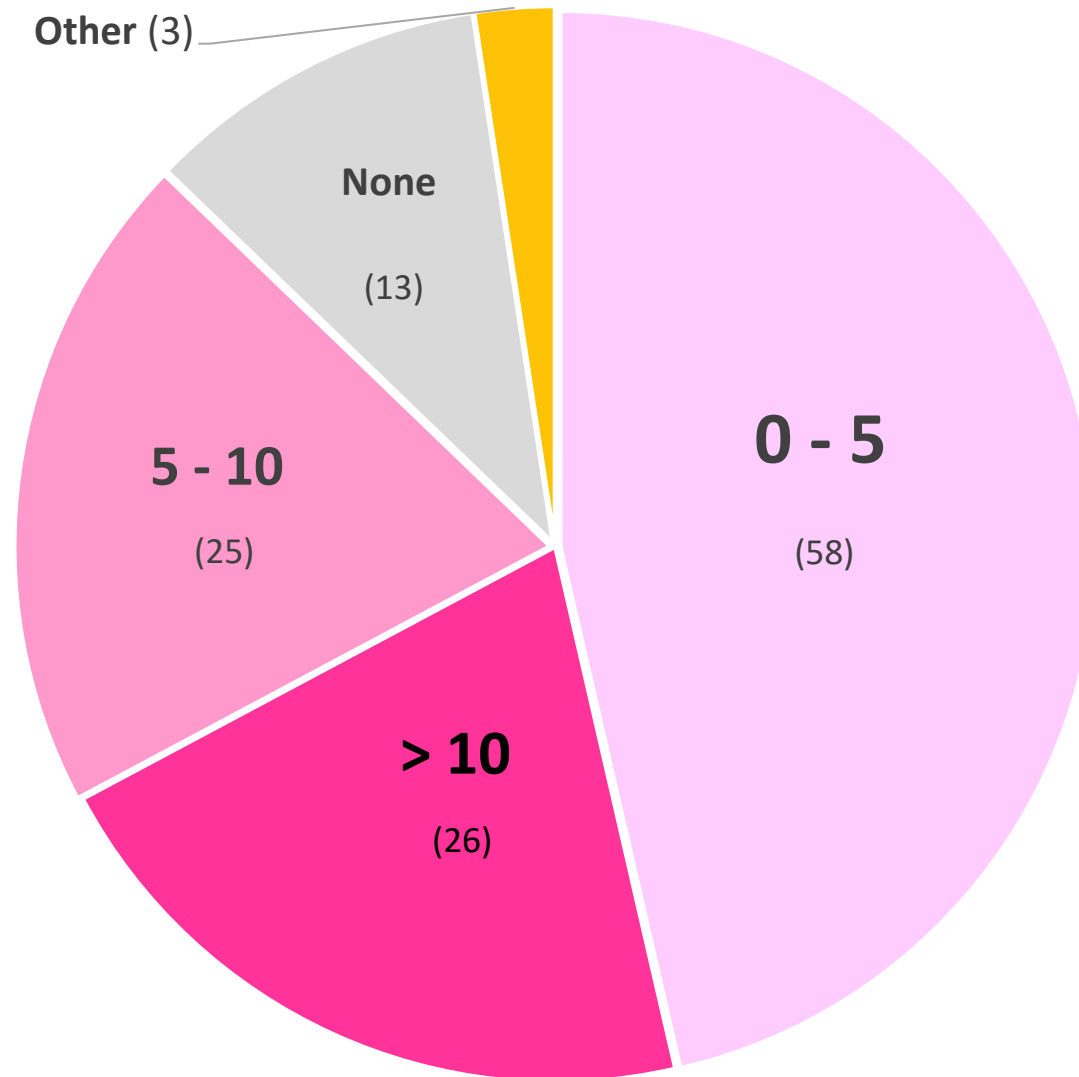
[More Details](#)

- Rats, bats and other vermin 8
- Pests (bedbugs, mosquitoes, Br... 7
- Unsafe housing or unsafe buildi... 41
- Indoor Air Quality or mold 18
- Septic system issues, waste disp... 13
- Dumping or trash 25
- Hoarding 14
- Safe drinking water 3
- Landlord-tenant disputes 17
- Infectious diseases 12
- Neighbor-to-neighbor disputes 5
- Other 19



Other = "no calls yet"
(covid q's, elderly people that need help, roads)

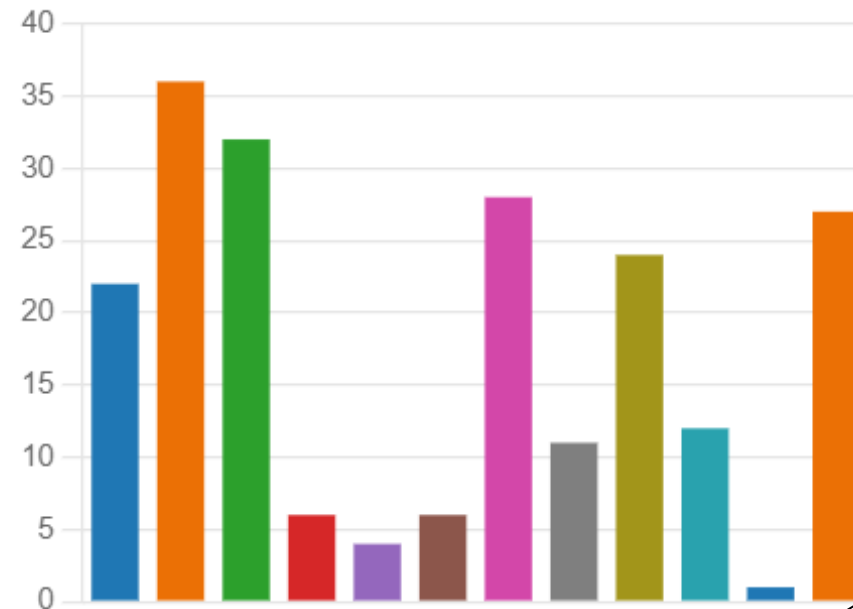
4. How many calls do you receive in your role as LHO per year? (estimate)



5. In addition to serving as LHO in your town, what other roles do you hold? (Choose all that apply.)

More Details

Local Health Officer only	22
Code Enforcement Officer (CEO)	36
Local Plumbing Inspector (LPI)	32
Selectman, Administrator	6
Town Manager	4
Town Clerk	6
Healthcare Professional (MD, D...)	28
Local Emergency Response Coo...	11
EMS / Ambulance	24
Fire Chief	12
Animal Control Officer	1
Other	27



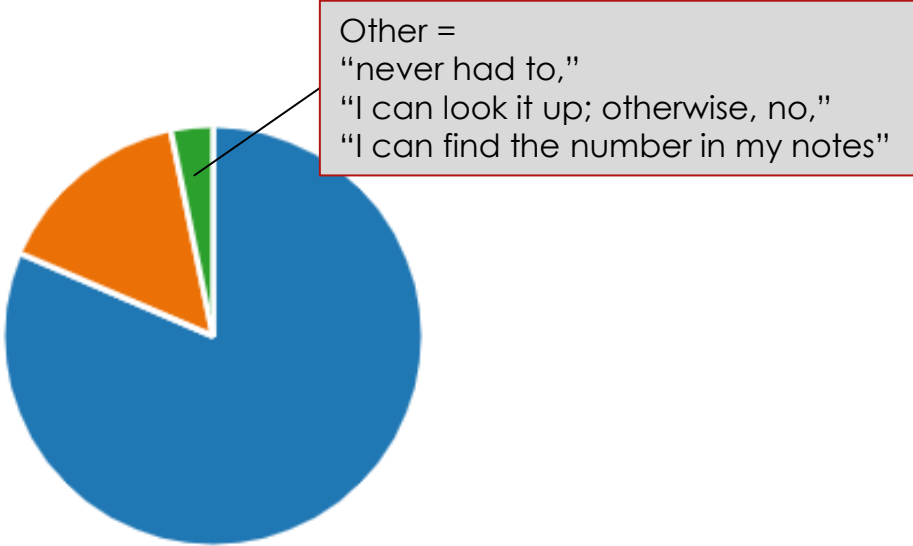
209 checkmarks. Of note:

- All LPIs were also CEOs
- 4 of the "LHO only" also checked another role
- Many of the emergency response personnel checked off both Local EMA & EMS/Amb +/- FireChief - ~21 individuals marked one or more of these categories
- Other = "deputy clerk," "deputy town clerk," "firefighter," "1st Assessor, PLT Board of Assessors," "deputy chief of EMS & training," "...911 addressing officer," "...shoreland zoning..." "...tax collector, treasurer..."

6. Do you know how to contact your Maine CDC Public Health District Liaison if you need technical support in your role as Local Health Officer?

[More Details](#)

Yes	101
No	19
Other	4



7. Do you feel well-supported by the Maine CDC in your role as Local Health Officer?

[More Details](#)



8. (optional) If you answered "no" to question 7, what additional support or materials would be helpful?

[More Details](#)

30
Responses

Latest Responses

8. (optional) If you answered "no" to question 7, what additional support or materials would be helpful?

[More Details](#)

23

Responses

Latest Responses

"Better training as a whole on the roles and responsibilities of the LHOs."

"Twice yearly communication on programs, regulations, contacts, hints and tips, case studies..."

"...some training and perhaps a template when it comes to taking down information and writing reports."

"...a bit more training in dealing with nuisance complaints and a walk through in how to post a building inhabitable..."

"How to close premises for habitation. Process and criteria would be helpful."

"The Local Health Officer Online Training Handbook on maine.gov is 10 years old. ...guidance...."

"Any additional training...."

"More training on how to deal with these situations and what authority we have."

"...the system itself our hands are tied.hoarders...How can we help people? When they have no idea, they have a problem. Is there a person or department...."

"ive had no contact with them. not that I've needed to...."

"Not applicable"

"Contact information to be able to ask questions... enforcement support."

"...guidance to enforcement for COVID...powerless authority. Housing advocates...."

"Training resources for LHO.... in order to become "qualified." ...pandemic was a big wake up call ...the limited resources and training those positions held, especially in rural areas..."

“... a software program where could enter information about our calls...to be able to upgrade to windows 10... ..excellent support when I have called in with a question or concern.” (Yes answer)

“...training. ...what my authority is, or what I should be doing...”

“...was nice to have a meeting bimonthly to discuss a topic and have time to talk to other LHO's in the area...”

“initial contact from me results in thank you... [then] I'm left to resolve on my own. ...my citizens need answers within hours.... “

“No only because never needed to contact them”

“...mostly calls concerned with other peoples well being, which don't fall into LHO purview but having information on resources for where to get vaccinations, health care options, Who to contact for insurance issues....” “People believe that I as the local health officer deal with physical health....”

“Supported. However... unclear how / when to send town residents notification of storm problems...cold snap & available warming centers et al... “ (Yes answer)

9. We will be offering new training and continuing education options in 2023. What are the best ways for you to access training options? (Choose all that apply.)

[More Details](#)

● live webinars (on Zoom or other)	76
● pre-recorded webinars	67
● in-person training	50
● written materials	59
● Other	4



Other incl:
"either live webinar or training so we can ask questions during the training sessions."
"...very limited interest in any training. I am paid \$200 a year for this position..."
"not interested, thank you."

124 responses. Of note:

- Most respondents chose several options.
- 68 individuals did not include "in-person" training in their mix;
 - 7 individuals chose *only* "in-person training"
 - 12 individuals choose combo of in-person or live webinars
- 58 individuals did not include "written materials" in their mix;
 - 3 individuals chose *only* "written materials"

10.

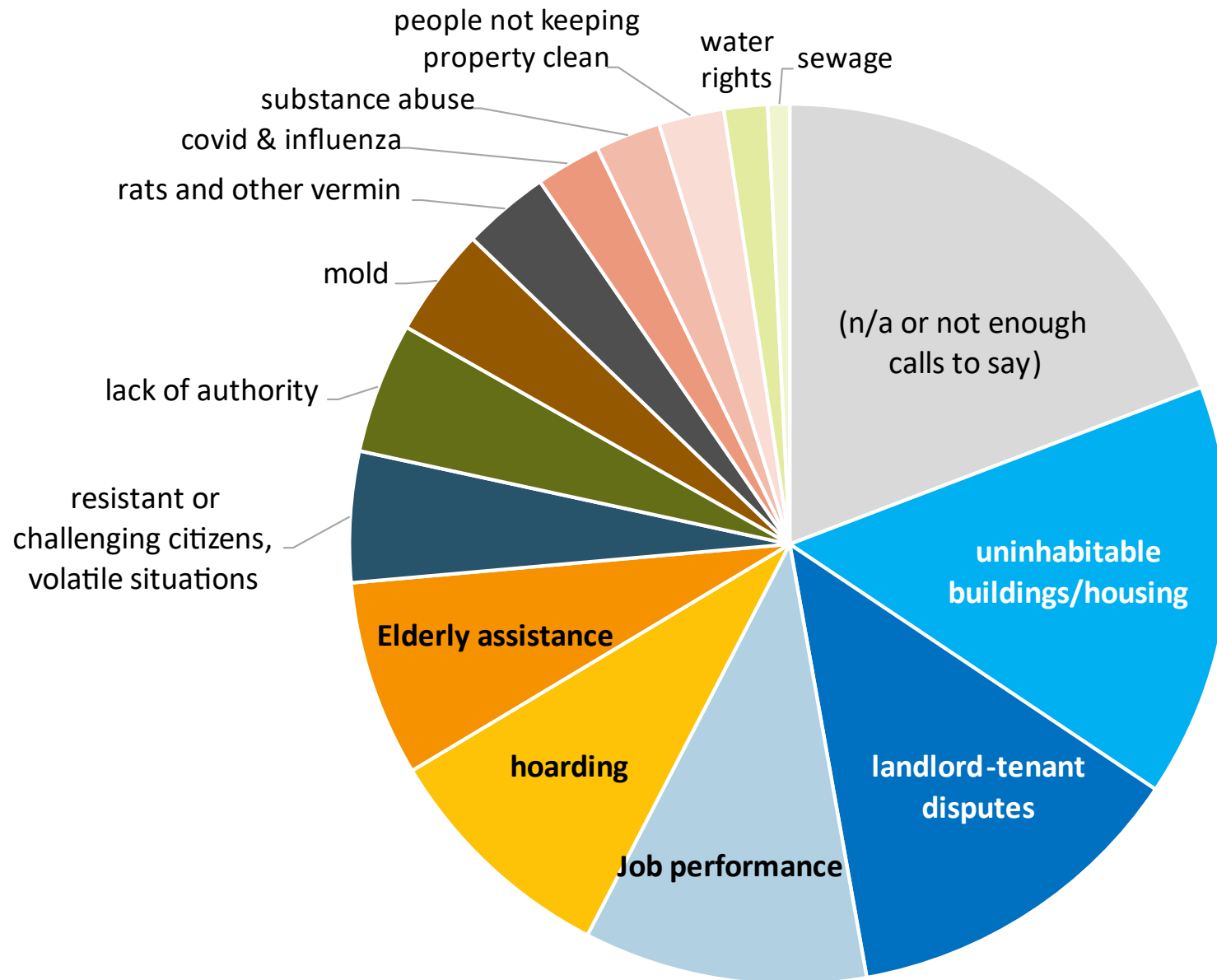
**In your region, what calls present the biggest challenge for local health officers?
(tell us as much as you'd like about the challenges)**

[More Details](#)

124

Responses

Biggest Challenges



11. What questions do you have about your duties or responsibilities as a local health officer, if any? Where can we provide more clarity?

[More Details](#)

62

Responses

Latest Responses

"More practical application/guidance on resolving issues."

23 of the responses
were: "none"

- "what is the extent of our authority" "I really don't know what my authority is, or what I should be doing," "how to you do the penalty if some people don't follow the rules or my advice"
- "it would be good to provide more classes"/"more training"
- "what level of oversight do.. municipal officers have"
"...what to do when lack of municipal support"
- "will there be an update of the manual"
- What to do about....."rats," "drug abuse," "hoarding"

12. Do you feel that the public understands what a local health officer does?

[More Details](#)

 Yes	12
 No	71
 Unsure	41



13. Do you feel your town or municipal officers understand what a local health officer does?

[More Details](#)

 Yes	72
 No	31
 Unsure	21

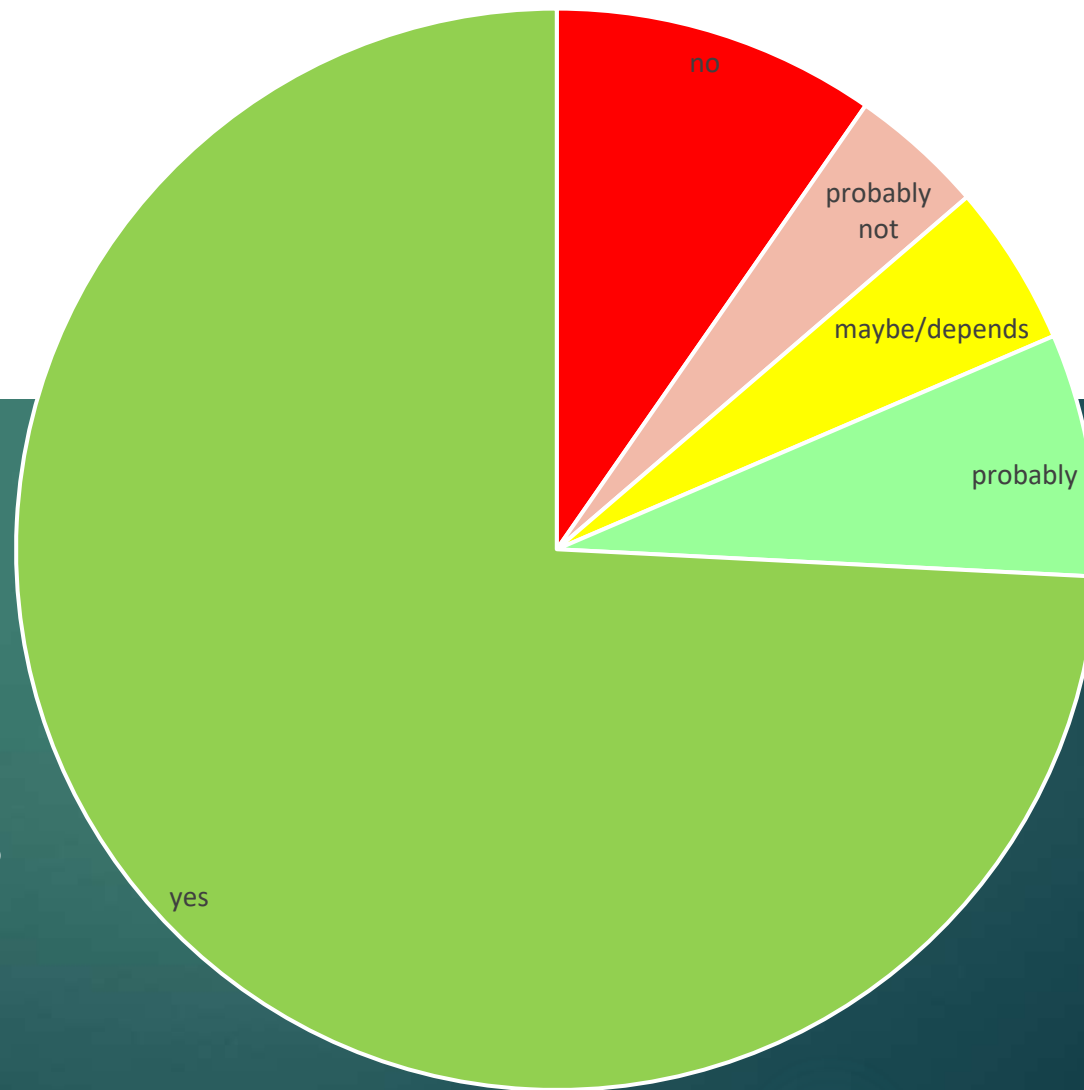


14. **If there were additional opportunities to connect with other local health officers around the state, would you be likely take part?** (Examples: facebook group, listserv, online community, etc.)

[More Details](#)

124
Responses

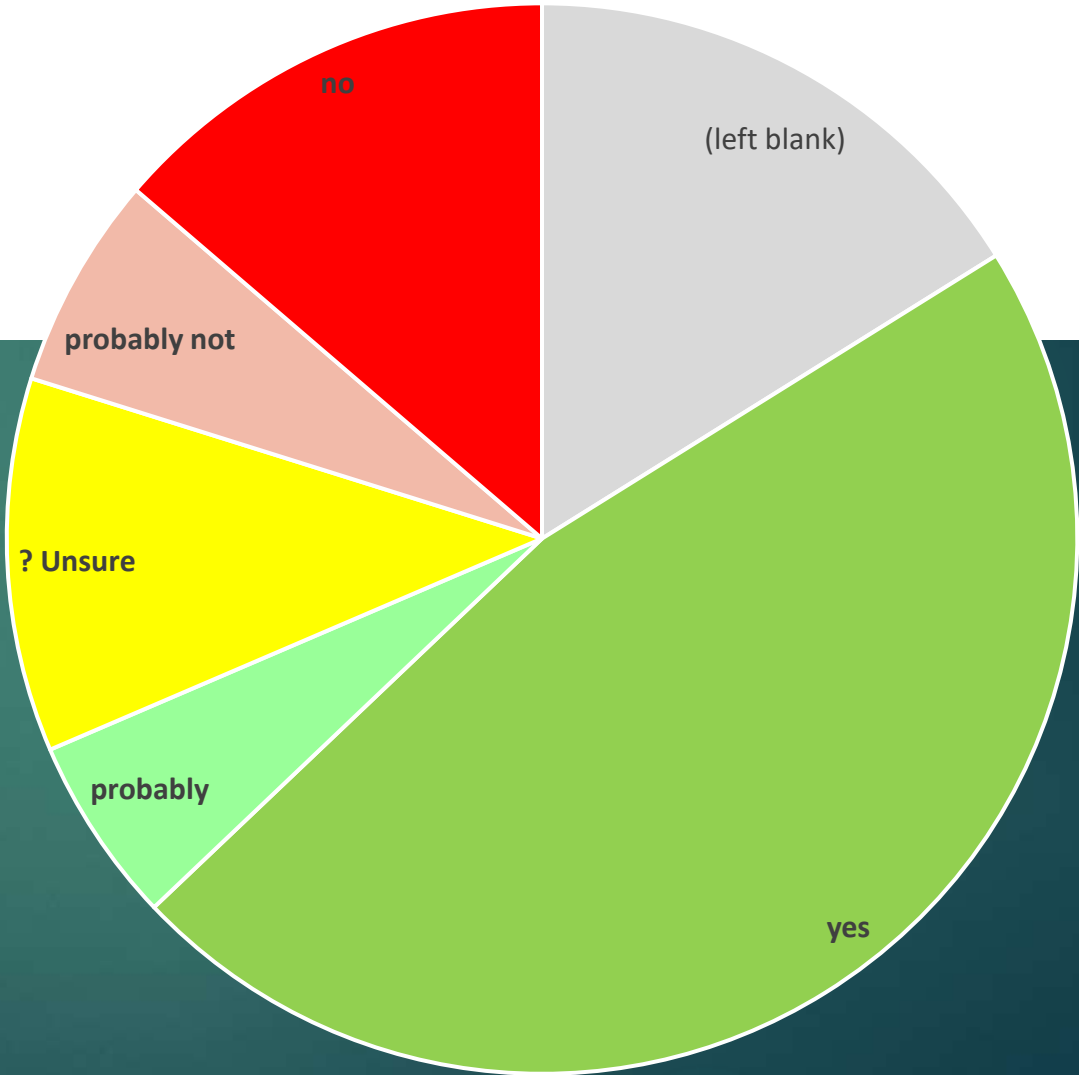
Connect?



15. Would you like there to be a Local Health Officer Association in Maine?

[More Details](#)

104
Responses



LHO Association?

16. **Please use this space to share any additional comments or suggestions regarding Local Health Officers in Maine:**

[More Details](#)

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Responses

Latest Responses

17. **Can we reach out to you to learn more about your responses to this survey?** (optional)
If yes, please enter your preferred contact method here (phone number or email address)

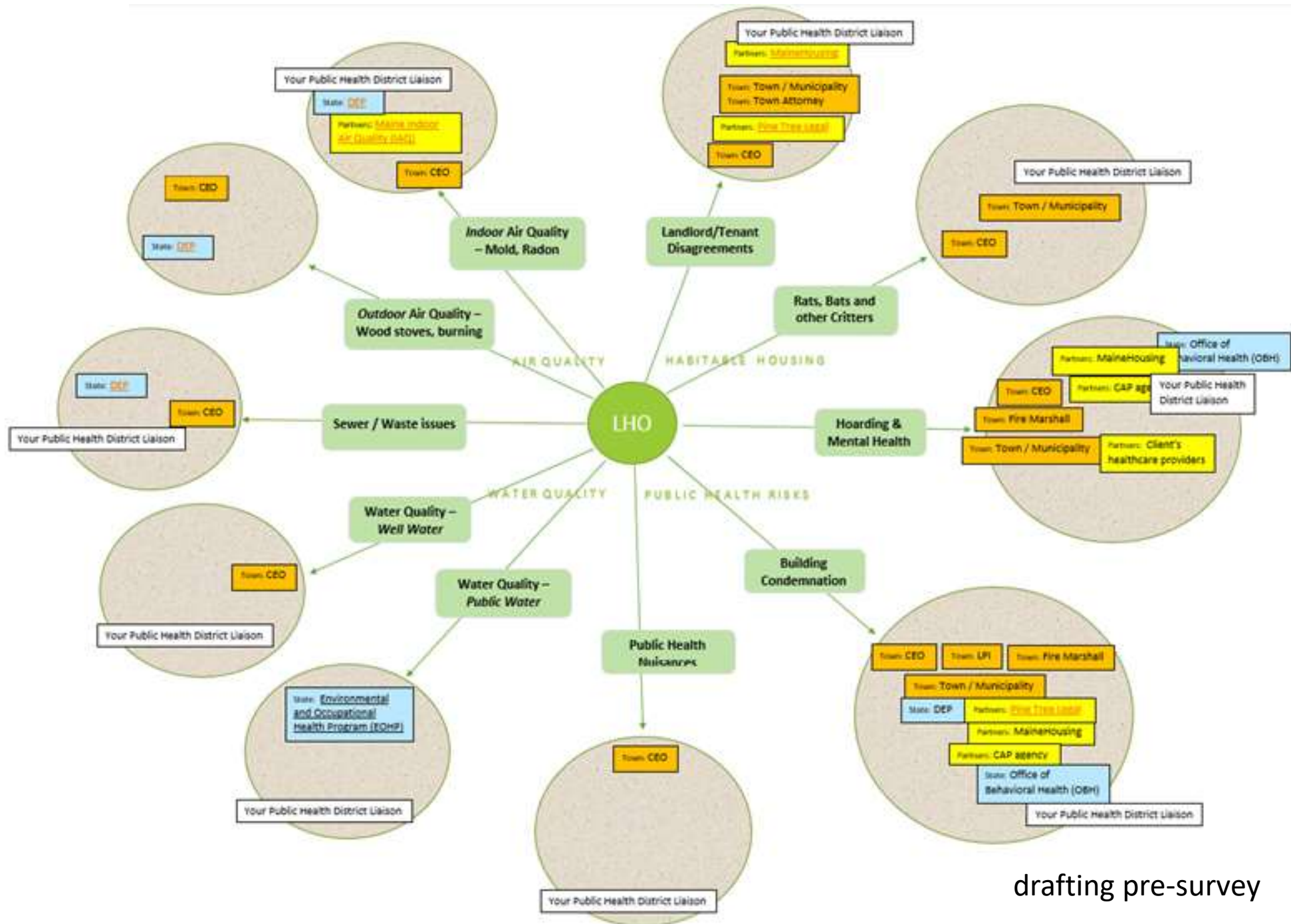
[More Details](#)

83

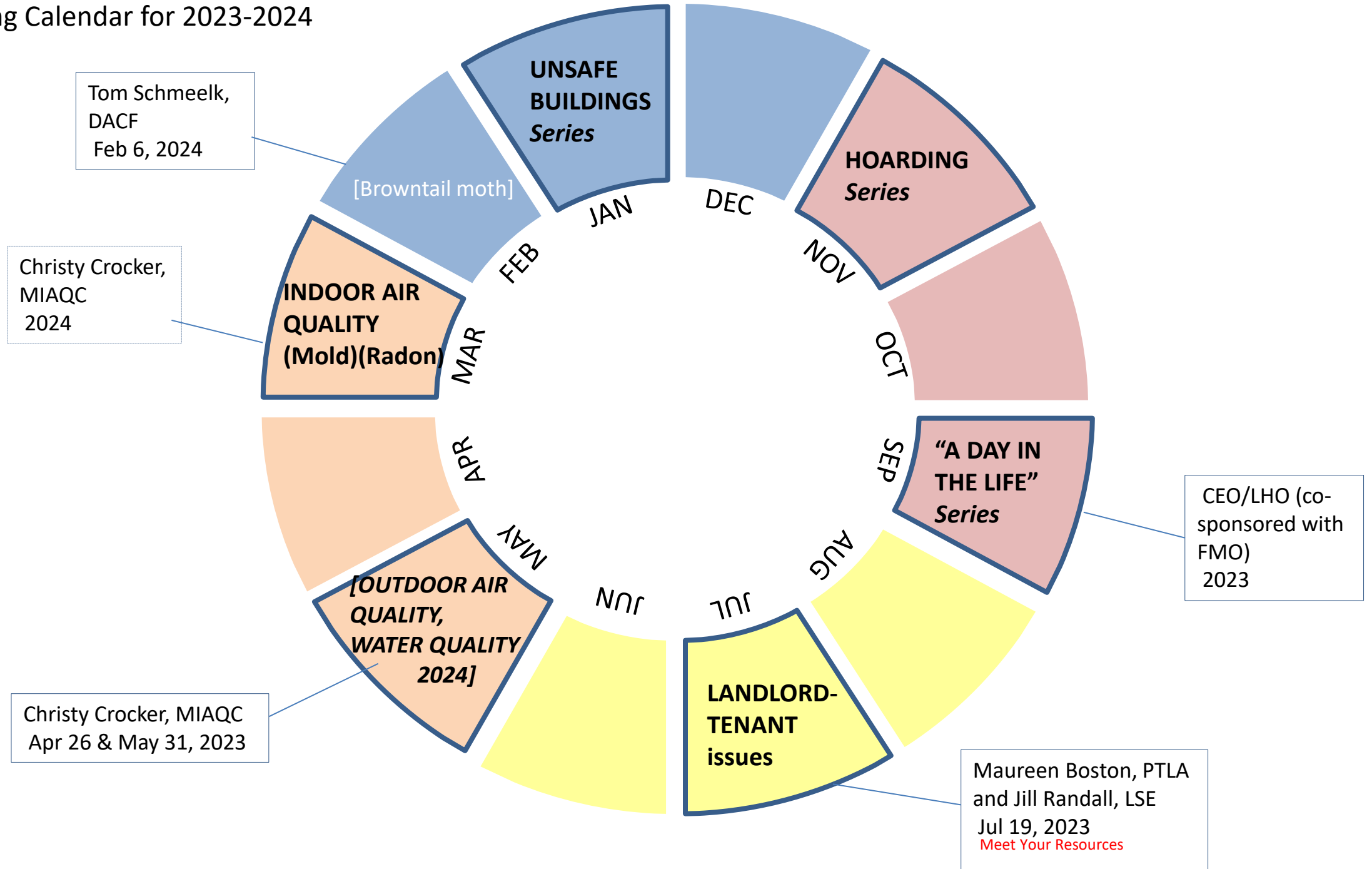
Responses

Latest Responses





LHO Training Calendar for 2023-2024



Preventing & Addressing Mold/Moisture Problems in Maine Homes and Rental Properties

with

Christine G. Crocker, Executive Director, Maine Indoor Air Quality Council
Erin Bouttenot, Technical Manager, Indoor Air Quality Laboratories

CONTINUING EDUCATION for LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS

LIVE WEBINAR

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

1:00-2:30pm

Join us on Zoom

Register at: <http://bit.ly/3TO072i>



Presented by **Maine DHHS/CDC's Division of Public Health Systems**
and **Maine Indoor Air Quality Council**




LHO Continuing Education


In addition to the topics in previous slide, additional areas in the works for LHO continuing education:

- Reporting to Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Services
- Substance Use Disorders
- Optional Narcan training for LHOs
- Infectious Disease updates for LHOs from MaineCDC Division of Disease Surveillance - Epidemiology
- Critters and pests – rats, mosquitos, ticks, etc
- Sewage systems and waste disposal
- Homelessness and Housing (in Safe Buildings series)
- Negotiation, Communication, Motivational Interviewing
- Meet Your Resources
- Partners

District Liaisons ↔ LHOs

Local Health Officers

- Public Health Systems Home
- Find Your Town's Local Health Officer
- LHO Home
- LHO Resources**
- For New Local Health Officers
-  Social Services Help



For New Local Health Officers

If you've been newly appointed as Local Health Officer for your town, here are steps to get you started:

Meet your Maine CDC Public Health District Liaison

[Read more](#)

Meet your municipal colleagues

[Read more](#)

Registration:
Update LHO registration system (LHORIS)

[Read more](#)

Training:
Complete the self-directed online LHO training

[Read more](#)

Sign up for Health Alert Network (HAN) notifications

[Read more](#)

Sign up for Maine DHHS / Maine CDC Press Releases

[Read more](#)

Attend optional Maine CDC "Continuing Education for LHOs" sessions

[Read more](#)

Take a look at LHO Resources

[Find them here](#)

RELATED LINKS

- [Municipal Portal LHORIS Log-in](#)
- [Local Health Officer CORE Training](#)
- [Maine CDC Public Health Districts](#)
- [Local Health Officer Resources](#)
- [News & Press Releases - Maine DHHS/CDC](#)
- [Maine Health Alert Network \(HAN\)](#)

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

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LHO Resources

Hoarding

- [What is Hoarding Disorder? \(Internal OCD Foundation brochure\)](#)
- [Hoarding: Expert Q & A \(American Psychiatric Association\)](#)
- [Sample Hoarding Task Force \(Michigan\)](#)
- [Sample Hoarding Flowsheet](#)
- [Maine Office of Behavioral Health \(OBH\) resources page](#)

Resources for Landlords and Tenants

Resources for Tenants

- [Pine Tree Legal - Tenants Rights in Maine](#)
- [Consumer Law Guide Chp 14: Consumer Rights When You Rent An Apartment \(Maine Attorney General's Office\) See Section 14.5](#)
- [Sample Notice of Violation/Implied Warranty of Habitability Form \(Pine Tree Legal\)](#)

Resources for Landlords

- [Providing Healthy Housing: A Guide to Healthy Homes Laws for Rental Property Owners and Managers \(Maine CDC Division of Environmental and Community Health\)](#)
- [Lead Hazard Prevention: Tips for Landlords and Property Managers \(Maine Dept of Environmental Protection\)](#)
- [A guide for landlords: Why Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) Makes Good Business Sense \(National Center for Healthy Housing\)](#)

Resources for Municipalities

Coming soon....for municipal webpages: descriptions of the Local Health Officer role, and a bundle of public health resource links for your district. Feel free to post these on your municipal website.

[What is a Local Health Officer?](#)

[Community resource links for Municipal pages](#)

[Top of Page](#)

Rulemaking

10-144 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

MAINE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION

Chapter 294: RULES GOVERNING QUALIFICATIONS OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS

1. Purpose

The purpose of these rules is to define the qualification standards for local health officers pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. §451(2).

2. Definitions

A. **Department** means the Department of Health and Human Services.

Rulemaking

☑ [§451 PDF](#)

☑ [§451 MS-WORD](#)

[STATUTE SEARCH](#)

[CH. 153 CONTENTS](#)

[TITLE 22 CONTENTS](#)

[LIST OF TITLES](#)

[MAINE LAW & DISCLAIMER](#)

[REVISOR'S OFFICE](#)

[MAINE LEGISLATURE](#)

◀ [§413](#)

Title 22: HEALTH AND WELFARE

[§452](#) ▶

Subtitle 2: HEALTH

Part 2: STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH AGENCIES

Chapter 153: LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS

§451. Appointment

The following provisions govern the appointment and employment of local health officers. [PL 2007, c. 462, §1 (NEW).]

1. Role of municipality. Every municipality in the State shall employ a local health officer who is appointed by the municipal officers of that municipality. A person may be appointed and employed as a local health officer by more than one municipality.

[PL 2007, c. 462, §1 (NEW).]

2. Qualifications. The local health officer must be qualified by education, training or experience in the field of public health or a combination as determined by standards adopted by department rule no later than June 1, 2008. A person who is employed as a local health officer who is not qualified by education, training or experience must meet qualification standards adopted by department rule no later than 6 months after appointment. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in [Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A](#).

[PL 2007, c. 598, §5 (AMD).]

3. Duration of appointment; notification. A local health officer is appointed for a term of 3 years and until that officer's successor is appointed. The municipal officers shall appoint a successor within 30 days of any resignation or expiration of term. The municipal officers or clerk of each municipality shall within 10 days notify the department in writing of the appointment of a local health officer. Notification to the department must include the local health officer's name, age and address and the dates of the appointment and the beginning of the 3-year term. A local health officer in a town or plantation contiguous to unorganized territory shall perform the duties of a local health officer in that territory.

[PL 2007, c. 462, §1 (NEW).]

LHO Core Training

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Division of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services

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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Updates and Information

HS → MeCDC → Public Health Systems → Local Health Officers → LHO Core Training


Local Health Officers

me


sources

Find Your Town's Local Health Officer

Qualifications, Training & Education



Social Services Help



LHO Core Online Training Module

Competent and effective services rely on Local Health Officers (LHOs) being familiar with current practices, as well as the laws which LHOs are appointed to apply or enforce. Upon completion of this LHO Core Online Training Module, you will become certified as having a basic level of knowledge to ensure members of your community that you are qualified to handle health issues in a competent and professional manner consistent with those laws and practices.

We believe that a system of certified and connected LHOs is a system on which all towns and the State can rely.

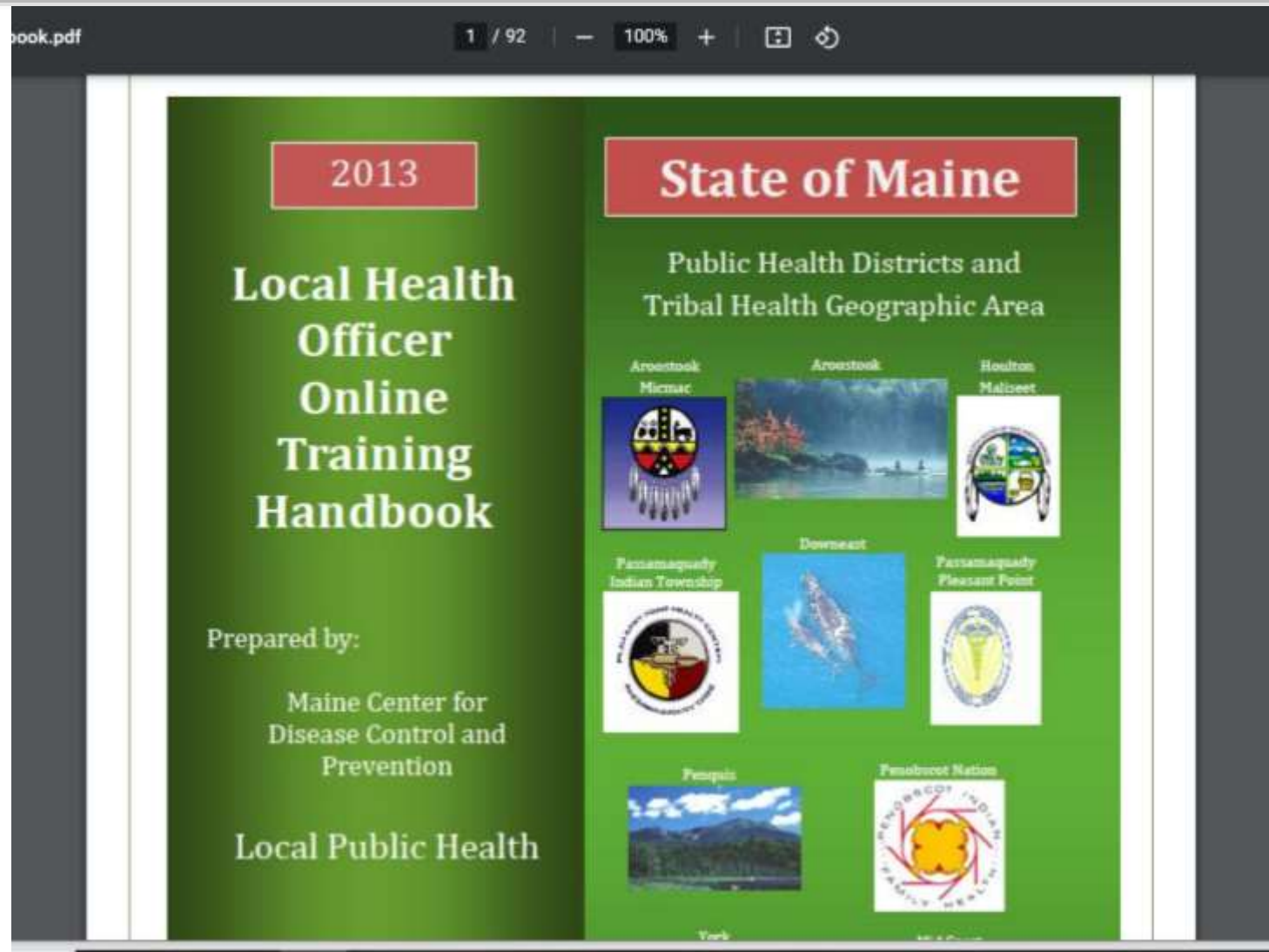
This training provides you with:

- Introduction to LHOs responsibilities;
- Legal authorities;

LHO Core Training (Printable PDF*)

- [handbook](#)
- [Table of Contents](#)
- [Section 1: Introduction](#)
- [Section 2: Learning Objectives](#)
- [Section 3: The Law](#)
- [Section 4: Appointment and Duties](#)
- [Section 5: Solving the Problem](#)
- [Section 6: You Make the Call](#)
- [Section 7: How do I Enforce the Law?](#)
- [Section 8: Conclusion/Course Review](#)
- [Knowledge Check](#)
- [Complete Handbook*](#)

LHO Core Training



LHO Core Training



MAINE CDC LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER TRAINING

Serving local communities throughout Maine

New Local Health Officer Training

LHO Map

ZeeMaps Local Health Officer - with UT overlay
11-15-2022 version Includes DL name

Map Access: Admin
heather.sneff@maine.gov

Map View Additions Bulk Edits Deletions Print or Share Go to...

Weld
23 Mill Street
Weld, Maine 04285
Website

LHO Joe Local
Phone (207)-555-5555
Public Health District Western #3
District Liaison Emily Theriault
County Franklin
Form of Govt Selectman/Town Meeting
CEO Josie Ceo 207-555-1212
Plumbing Inspector Josie Ceo 207-555-1212
Animal Control Officer Andy Aco 207-555-1234
mention on town web n, not as LHO
corrections needed? n
LHORIS registered? y

Directions From here - To here

Name
437 Vanceboro
438 Vassalboro
439 Veazie
440 Verona Island
441 Vienna
442 Vinalhaven
443 Wade
444 Waite
445 Waldo
446 Waldoboro
447 Wales
448 Wallagrass
449 Waltham
450 Warren
451 Washburn
452 Washington
453 Waterboro
454 Waterford
455 Waterville
456 Wayne
457 Webster Plantation
458 Weld
459 Wellington
460 Wells

Map Satellite

Keyboard shortcuts Map data ©2023 Google 20 mi Terms of Use Report a map error

All
 Aroostook #8
 Downeast #7
 Penquis #6
 Central #5
 Midcoast #4
 Western #3
 Cumberland #2

490 pins, 16 regions

LHO Map

ZeeMaps
We map your data

Local Health Officer - with UT overlay
11-15-2022 version Includes DL name

Map Access: Admin
heather.sneff@maine.gov

Map View Additions Bulk Edits Deletions Print or Share Go to...

Perham
206 High Meadow Road
Perham, Maine 04766
[Website](#)

LHO Jorey Local
Description No official town website. Above link to maine.gov town site listing
Phone (207) 555-5555
Public Health District Aroostook #8
District Liaison Stacy Boucher
County Aroostook
Form of Govt Selectman/Town Meeting/Administrator
mention on town web no
LHORIS registered? y

Directions From here - To here

Name

7 Allagash
11 Amity
15 Aroostook Band of Micmacs
18 Ashland
42 Blaine
53 Bridgewater
76 Caribou
81 Cary Plantation
84 Castle Hill
85 Caswell
86 Chapman
107 Crystal
111 Cyr Plantation
130 Dyer Brook
131 Eagle Lake
135 Easton
152 Fort Fairfield
153 Fort Kent
159 Frenchville
164 Garfield Plantation
169 Glenwood Plantation
172 Grand Isle
182 Hamlin

Map Satellite

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Keyboard shortcuts Map data ©2023 Google 20 mi Terms of Use Report a map error

All Aroostook #8 Downeast #7 Penquis #6 Central #5 Midcoast #4 Western #3 Cumberland #2

69 of 490 pins, 16 regions

Questions?

Heather Sneff

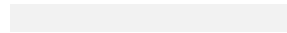
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Drexell White

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Division of Public Health Systems
Maine DHHS/Maine CDC
Email: drexell.r.white@maine.gov**



- One



Jay Ceo (207) 555-5555 ceo@town.com