

GOALS & Recommendations

Public Health

Over the past 10 plus years there have been several public health/health-related events related to increasing extremes in weather, pest-borne diseases, and the Covid-19 pandemic. Emergency response services have also emerged as an issue. It is anticipated that between 2024 and 2034 additional health-related concerns will continue to emerge.

There are existing resources to inform community members and address these and other health-related issues that exist in Sagadahoc County, the Mid Coast Public Health District, and the State of Maine that are currently not readily available to or known about among Bowdoinham community members. These resources include information about health care, mental health resources, prevention of disease, and other support services to help all to thrive.

The population of Bowdoinham residents reveals higher percentages of individuals ages 0-9 and over 60. Both age groups tend to require more prevention and treatment resources than other age cohorts.

The duties of the Local Health Officer (LHO) of Bowdoinham are to deal with environmental health protection and nuisance control, and other duties as needed. The needs stated above are beyond the scope of that position.

Goals

1. Maintain adequate access to reliable emergency response services.
2. Increase community member awareness and knowledge of available county, public health district, and state level health/public health resources.
3. Increase preparedness for emerging health and public health conditions.

Key Issues

How can the town best maintain emergency services? How do Bowdoinham community members connect to available resources? How can the town prepare the community for awareness and preparedness for health-related emergencies?

Recommendations

1. Develop and support a Public Health Plan that includes a Social Vulnerability Plan.
2. Explore and partner with other communities, the state, etc. to maintain Emergency Response Services.
3. Create an ad hoc committee to address health/public health and identify a liaison to town government.
4. Support and promote access to health information for residents.