Erie County Department of Mental Health Prevention Programs Gaps and Barriers Analysis
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Gaps and Barriers Analysis Overview

The Gaps and Barriers Analysis for Prevention Services in Erie County compares the provision of prevention services within each ZIP Code area to risk indicators from the Erie County Risk Indicator Database (RIDB). Gaps are identified where there is a mismatch between the prevention services and risk level (e.g. no/low prevention provision and high risk). First, the distribution of prevention services was evaluated by compiling information about prevention programs and their locations through the Erie County Prevention Services Information Center, an online repository for this information. Providers identified the approximate target population, type of program, and ZIP Code location(s) for their programs. These data were then tallied by ZIP Code, with individual programs being counted once per ZIP Code of service provision in order to avoid over counting. For example, a school-based program may be offered in three elementary schools in ZIP Code 14006, but this ZIP Code received only one tally for these programs in order to avoid redundancy. While some programs do not have an explicit locational component or are home-based, most prevention services are offered at specific locations and can thus be tabulated for this analysis.

Maps were developed from these data to evaluate the spatial distribution of programs in Erie County and then to examine existing gaps in service provision. The maps of prevention programs are broken into five categories that correspond to none, one, a few (2 or 3), some (4 or 5) and many (more than 5) programs. The gaps and barriers analysis for prevention programs compares the highest level of aggregated risk for ZIP codes in Erie County with the number of recurring prevention programs. Risk Indicators Database (RIDB) measures were summed and then re-quartiled for this aggregated risk measure; the locations with the highest level of risk are those with aggregated measures that fall in the fourth quartiles of either ZIP codes in Erie County Excluding City of Buffalo or ZIP codes in the City of Buffalo Only.

Gaps and Barriers Analysis Maps

The 2026 version of this document includes only an overview of the results with the

visualization now in an interactive format. To view the maps, visit the Erie RIDB web site (www.erieridb.org) and use the interactive version of the map on the Prevention Programs Gaps and Barriers Analyses tab. There, you can use the layer list to turn on and off tabs to view all programs, school-based programs, or recurring programs, as well as areas of high risk that have coverage and those that do not. You may also query the map to view locations by type of program or schools with no programs by school district.

2026 Update

The 2026 version of this document includes updated data for the following risk indicators: alcohol sales establishments, population instability (migration), rental residential properties, extreme economic deprivation, Gini coefficient, divorce and separation, Grade 8 English (ELA) performance, neighborhood index, and crime, as well as indicators of health.

Gaps and Barriers Analysis Results

- Descriptive Maps of Prevention Program Locations
    - Location-specific prevention activity is largely absent from the southern, northeastern, and southeastern towns in Erie County. There are also ZIP codes in the City of Buffalo, Town of Amherst, Village of Kenmore, Town of Cheektowaga, the Town of Clarence, and the Town of Lancaster that have no location-specific programs.
    - The environmental programs are not location specific and cover the county or county sub-regions as a whole. These include mass media (e.g. TV and radio) programs and are not represented on the maps.
    - School-based programs are missing in many parts of northeastern Erie County, as well as in many areas of southern Erie County, including the Towns of Colden, Concord, Newstead, North Collins, Holland, Brant, and Sardinia. Overall coverage in the City of Buffalo and the surrounding suburbs is well distributed. The City of Buffalo, Town of Tonawanda, Town of Amherst, Town of Cheektowaga, and the City of Lackawanna all have many school-based programs aligned to the municipal boundaries. The North Collins Central

School District, Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District, and Akron Central School District are all lacking in programs, as are Holland Central, Springville-Griffith Central, and Yorkshire-Pioneer Central School Districts. All other school districts have at least one program.

- Recurring programs exhibit a similar pattern to school-based programs and, with most programs concentrated in the City of Buffalo and areas adjacent to the City. A few locations, most notably the Village of Kenmore, had access to school-based programs when accounting for the physical distribution of the Kenmore-Tonawanda Union Free School District but are lacking coverage of recurring programs at a site physically within the boundaries of the Kenmore ZIP code polygon.

- Maps of Highest Risk Locations with Prevention Programs
  - Erie County Excluding City of Buffalo
    - ZIP codes with the highest aggregated risk are located in the more rural ZIP codes in the south of the county with the exception of the Village of Sloan, Hamlet of Bowmansville, the City of Lackawanna, and the Village of Blasdell, adjacent to the City of Buffalo. Highest risk ZIP codes in the southern part of the county fall within the Towns of Boston, Aurora, Colden, Concord, Sardinia, Orchard Park, Collins, North Collins, Brant, and the Cattaraugus Native Nation Territory.
    - Importantly, when we examine the intersection of these highest risk ZIP codes with school district boundaries, the apparent paucity of prevention programs is reduced, with only Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free, North Collins Central, Holland Central, and Yorkshire-Pioneer Central School Districts lacking any prevention programs.
  - City of Buffalo Only
    - The ZIP codes in the City of Buffalo with the highest aggregated risk are located on the City's Lower West Side, Downtown, East

Side, and Riverside neighborhoods (14201, 14202, 14203, 14204, 14206, 14207, 14210, 14211, 14212, 14215, and the northern part 14218).

- ZIP codes 14201, 14202, 14204, 14207, 14210, 14211, 14215, and 14218, all have many recurring programs, while 14203, 14206 and 14212 have none. Other areas of the city that are not classified as being high risk have at least a few recurring prevention programs except for 14222 which only has two programs.

List of Schools Without Programs in Highest Risk Zip Codes by Number of Programs

No Programs

Zip Code	School
14033	
	COLDEN ES
14080	
	HAROLD O. BRUMSTED ES
	HOLLAND HS
	HOLLAND MS
14203	
	BUFFALO HEARING & SPEECH CTR
	ENTERPRISE CHARTER SCHOOL
	PERSISTENCE PREP ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
	TRANSFORMATION CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
14212	
	DARUL-ULOOM AL MADANIA
	PS 31 HARRIET ROSS TUBMAN SCHOOL
	WOODROW WILSON ES

One Program

Zip Code	School
14070	
	GOWANDA HIGH SCHOOL
	GOWANDA MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Few Programs (2 or 3)

No schools fit this criteria

Some (4 or 5) Programs

Zip Code	School
14202	
	BUFFALO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL
	PS 302 EMERSON SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY
	PS 355 THE NEW BUFFALO SCHOOL OF CULINARY ARTS & HOSPITATLITY MANAGEMENT

Many Programs (more than 5)

Zip Code	School
14006	
	LAKE SHORE SHS
14201	
	PS 3 D'YOUVILLE PORTER CAMPUS SCHOOL
	PS 76 HERMAN BADILLO ACADEMY
14204	
	PS 32 BENNETT PARK MONTESSORI SCHOOL
	PS 6 BUFFALO ES OF TECH
	REACH ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
	WESTERN NEW YORK MARITIME CHARTER SCHOOL
14218	
	AL-RASHEED ACADEMY
	GLOBAL CONCEPTS CHARTER SCHOOL