It will come as no surprise that this year’s annual report looks different.

In addition to some of the data we report on annually, this year’s ECOS Annual Report includes indicators of disparities that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. To monitor and build on successes, bring new information to the legislature and community leaders, and continue to work on areas that need to be improved, the report offers insights into various key areas.

**Equity and Racial Justice**

The ECOS Plan since 2013 includes eight key strategies that focus on inclusivity and economic strength. For the eighth year in a row, this section of the report highlights progress and challenges in achieving these goals.

**Housing**

The average 2020 vacancy rate for the rental market in Chittenden County was 89%, with 691 of 775 units (89%) in areas planned for new construction. This represents a significant improvement from previous years.

**Health**

The waiting list for medication for pain management was reduced in 2019, with 691 of 775 units (89%) in areas planned for new construction. This is an 80% increase from previous years.

**Transportation**

Vehicle traffic and transit ridership declined drastically during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic, then slowly increased as restrictions were lifted. It is unclear if traffic volumes will return to their pre-pandemic levels or if there will be a long-term impact on transportation patterns.

**Justice**

In Chittenden County, 33% of male and female deaths were attributed to COVID. These upstream factors give rise to the conditions that have made COVID more deadly for some. Statewide, progress on this goal is being monitored, with details available in the Vermont Clean Water Initiative 2020 Performance Report.

**Economic Indicators**

For more details on local and statewide progress on phosphorus load reductions and other key economic indicators, visit the ECOS Scorecard. The loading rate for phosphorus in the Lake Champlain basin was reduced from 4.2 to 3.3 tons per day. This represents a significant achievement in achieving the Vermont Clean Water Initiative goals.

**Data and Resources**

The full impact of COVID-19 on homelessness and construction will be assessed over the coming months. Resources are available to mitigate risks, and partnerships are being established to improve data collection and assist those affected by the pandemic.