

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Cattaraugus County
Health Department



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
**Cattaraugus County
Health Department**



Dr. Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH
Cattaraugus County Public Health Director

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Message from the Director

As we reflect on 2024, I am proud to highlight the many accomplishments of the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) and the dedicated team that makes our work possible. This year was marked by significant milestones, challenges, and moments that reinforced our commitment to protecting and promoting the health of our community.

One of the most unique public health events we navigated this year was the total solar eclipse in April. With thousands of visitors coming to our county to witness this rare celestial event, our department played a crucial role in ensuring public health preparedness, emergency planning, and community safety. Through collaboration with local and state agencies, we provided guidance on food safety, sanitation, and ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for residents and visitors alike.



Another major achievement was the successful completion and submission of our reaccreditation documents to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This marks a significant step in maintaining our national accreditation status and demonstrates our commitment to continuous quality improvement and excellence in public health service delivery.

In addition, we laid the groundwork for the next Community Health Assessment (CHA), a critical process that allows us to evaluate the health needs of our county and develop strategies to address them. The data collected will inform our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and ensure that we are prioritizing initiatives that will have the greatest impact on the well-being of our residents.

While we celebrate these achievements, we also recognize the ongoing and emerging public health challenges we must prepare for. The rise of chronic diseases, mental health concerns, substance use disorders, and the continued need for emergency preparedness remain at the forefront of our efforts. As public health professionals, we remain vigilant, adaptable, and committed to addressing these issues head-on.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the incredible staff of the Cattaraugus County Health Department. Your hard work, dedication, and resilience in the face of challenges do not go unnoticed. Every day, you make a difference in the lives of the people we serve, and I am honored to work alongside you.

Finally, I want to thank the residents of Cattaraugus County for allowing us to serve you. Public health is a partnership, and your trust and engagement are vital to our success. Together, we will continue to build a healthier, stronger community for all.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin D. Watkins, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH
Public Health Director

About our Department

Mission

The Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) strives to engage and empower the public of all ages to live healthier lifestyles through efforts of education, prevention, promotion, monitoring, accessibility, affordability, technology, testing, diagnosing, and treating.

Vision

A community that embraces excellence and collaboration, capable of improving population health through data-driven decision-making and policy development.

Values

Excellence | Collaboration | Compassion | Innovation | Professionalism | Integrity | Accountability

NYS Core Program Areas

The CCHD operates under New York State Public Health Laws and follows CDC guidelines. Included in New York State Article 6 Public Health Law, local health departments are statutorily required to provide a variety of public health services under each of the six core categories, including but not limited to:

Family Health | Community Health Assessment and Improvement | Communicable Disease Control | Environmental Health | Chronic Disease Prevention | Public Health Emergency Preparedness

2024 Board of Health Members



Board of Health Members

David L. Smith, Mayor – President
Giles B. Hamlin, MD – Vice President
Ginger D. Schroder, Esq. – Legislator
Kelly J. Andreano – Legislator (Elected Vice President, 9/4/24)
Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN

Theresa Raftis
Joseph Bohan, MD
Zahid Chohan, MD
Shane Pancio
Not pictured: Thomas Spigel, MD, appointed 9/11/24

In Memoriam: Dr. Giles Hamlin



The CCHD honors the memory of Dr. Giles Hamlin, who passed away on July 13, 2024. Dr. Hamlin was appointed to the Board of Health in 2009 and served with distinction for 15 years, including the last eight years as vice president of the board. His leadership, insight, and unwavering dedication to public health made a lasting impact on our community.

Dr. Hamlin was also an invaluable member of the Professional Advisory Committee, where his expertise and commitment helped guide critical health initiatives and policy decisions. His contributions to the health and well-being of Cattaraugus County residents will not be forgotten. We extend our deepest gratitude for his years of service and offer our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. His legacy of public health advocacy and service will continue to inspire us.



Public Health Reaccreditation



The Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) continued its commitment to maintaining and improving public health services by advancing efforts toward reaccreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The reaccreditation process ensures that CCHD remains aligned with national public health standards and demonstrates continuous quality improvement in service delivery, workforce development, and community health outcomes.

Key Efforts Taken Toward Reaccreditation

1. Performance Management and Quality Improvement (QI):

- Enhanced the department's performance management system by integrating customer feedback and data-driven decision-making.
- Conducted QI initiatives to improve epidemiological efforts, environmental health services, and communicable disease surveillance.

2. Strategic Planning and Workforce Development:

- Monitored progress on the 2022-2025 strategic plan, ensuring alignment with department goals, particularly infrastructure optimization and workforce development.
- Implemented succession planning and cross-training programs to strengthen the department's ability to adapt to workforce changes.

3. Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP):

- Collaborated with local stakeholders to assess community health needs and develop targeted interventions.
- Evaluated and updated the CHIP to address emerging health priorities and disparities within Cattaraugus County.

4. Policy and Procedure Updates:

- Reviewed and updated department-wide policies and procedures to ensure compliance with PHAB standards.
- Developed an information security policy to enhance the protection of public health data and records.

5. Grant and Funding Initiatives:

- Secured funding to enhance public health programming, including lead capacity building, environmental health improvements, and nutrition access initiatives.
- Ensured fiscal sustainability through strategic budget management and resource allocation.

6. Public Health Emergency Preparedness:

- Strengthened emergency response plans and conducted training exercises to ensure readiness for disease outbreaks and natural disasters.
- Partnered with state and local agencies to refine emergency operations protocols.

Conclusion

The Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) remains committed to delivering high-quality public health services and achieving reaccreditation through PHAB. By demonstrating adherence to national public health standards, strengthening workforce capabilities, and continuously improving community health outcomes, the department reaffirms its dedication to excellence in public health practice.

This comprehensive submission highlights CCHD's ongoing progress and commitment to maintaining accreditation, ensuring the department continues to serve as a trusted and effective public health agency.



Photo depicts Matthew Tyssee (L), Dr. Watkins, and James Lawrence (R) submitting the final standards and measures to PHAB for reaccreditation.

Public Health Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Progress and Alignment with Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and Reaccreditation

The Cattaraugus County Health Department's (CCHD's) **2022-2025 Strategic Plan** has served as a guiding framework to enhance public health services, improve infrastructure, and advance population health outcomes. As we approach the final year of the plan, we are pleased to report that the department has successfully met **most of its goals and objectives**, positioning us for continued growth, sustainability, and community impact.

This progress is closely tied to our **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)** and our efforts toward **public health reaccreditation**, ensuring that our strategies align with statewide health priorities and national public health standards.

Key Achievements:

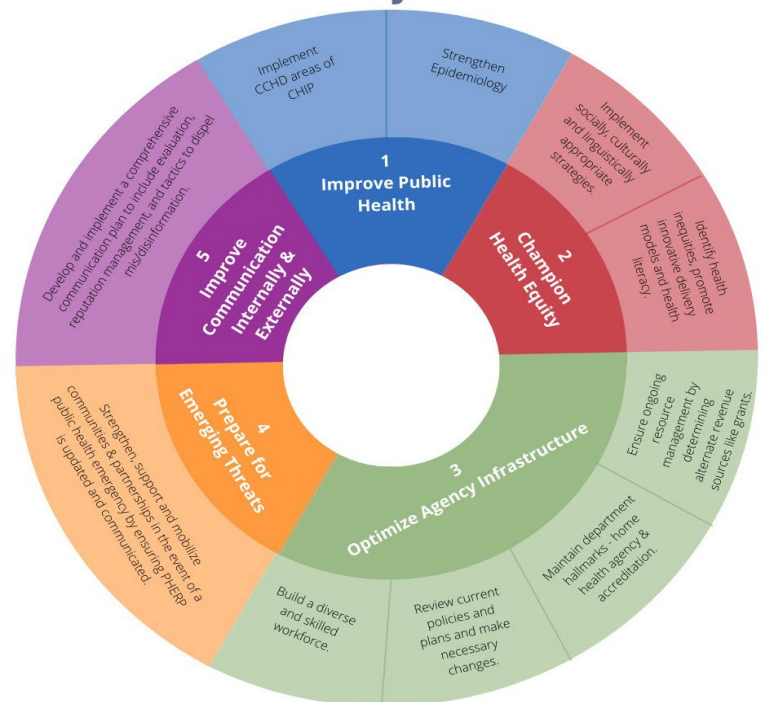
1. Strengthening Epidemiological Capacity

- Expanded epidemiological programming through **collaboration with nursing staff and New York State Public Health Fellows**.
- Improved **data-driven decision-making** to address chronic disease and emerging health concerns.

2. Advancing Workforce Development

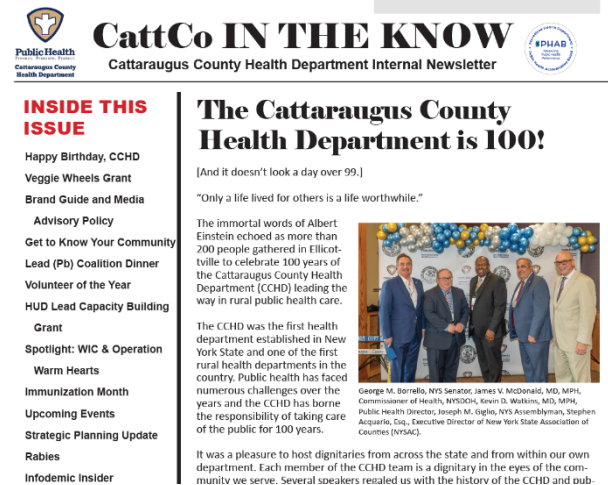
- Implemented **cross-training, succession planning, and ongoing professional development** to build a diverse and skilled workforce.
- Integrated workforce strategies with our **Public Health Corps Fellowship program** to support future public health leaders.

Cattaraugus County Health Department Strategic Plan



3. Enhancing Public Health Communication and Engagement

- Strengthened **community outreach efforts** through targeted health campaigns and digital platforms.
- Expanded use of **data to drive health communication strategies**, ensuring timely and accurate public health messaging.
- Increased engagement with **community stakeholders and local organizations** to promote health equity and awareness.



4. Ensuring Fiscal Sustainability and Resource Management

- Successfully secured external grants to support key initiatives, including **lead capacity building, water and septic system improvements, and food access programs**.
- Maintained fiscal accountability and strategic budget planning to support essential public health services.
- Strengthened partnerships with **state and federal agencies** to sustain long-term public health funding.

CattCo In the Know internal newsletter.

Integration with the CHIP:

The department has ensured **alignment between our strategic plan and CHIP priorities**, addressing key public health challenges identified in collaboration with local stakeholders.

- Continued efforts in **chronic disease prevention, mental health support, and maternal and child health**.
- Strengthened **community partnerships to implement evidence-based interventions** that support the department's health priorities.

Conclusion

The **2022-2025 Strategic Plan** has positioned the CCHD for long-term success in improving community health outcomes, strengthening workforce capacity, and securing sustainable funding sources. With most objectives achieved, the department is now focusing on **planning for the future**, ensuring that the next strategic plan builds upon these successes. Our continued alignment with the CHIP and reaccreditation goals will keep the department at the forefront of public health excellence, driving meaningful improvements for the residents of Cattaraugus County.

Public Health Nursing Services

General Communicable Disease Control

Reportable Diseases and Conditions

The CCHD conducts ongoing surveillance and investigation of mandated reportable communicable and vector-borne diseases. Public health staff assess, investigate, and respond to reported cases to prevent and control disease outbreaks. In 2024, nursing services;

- Tracked **1,804** confirmed and probable cases of communicable diseases that were reported to New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).
- Identified **COVID-19** as the most frequent communicable disease.
- Reported **Chlamydia** as the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection.

Reporting of suspected, probable, or confirmed communicable diseases is mandated under the New York State Sanitary Code (10NYCRR 2.10). Reports should be made to the NYSDOH within 24 hours of diagnosis. However, some diseases warrant prompt action and should be reported immediately to NYSDOH by phone. Depicted below is a list of reportable diseases.

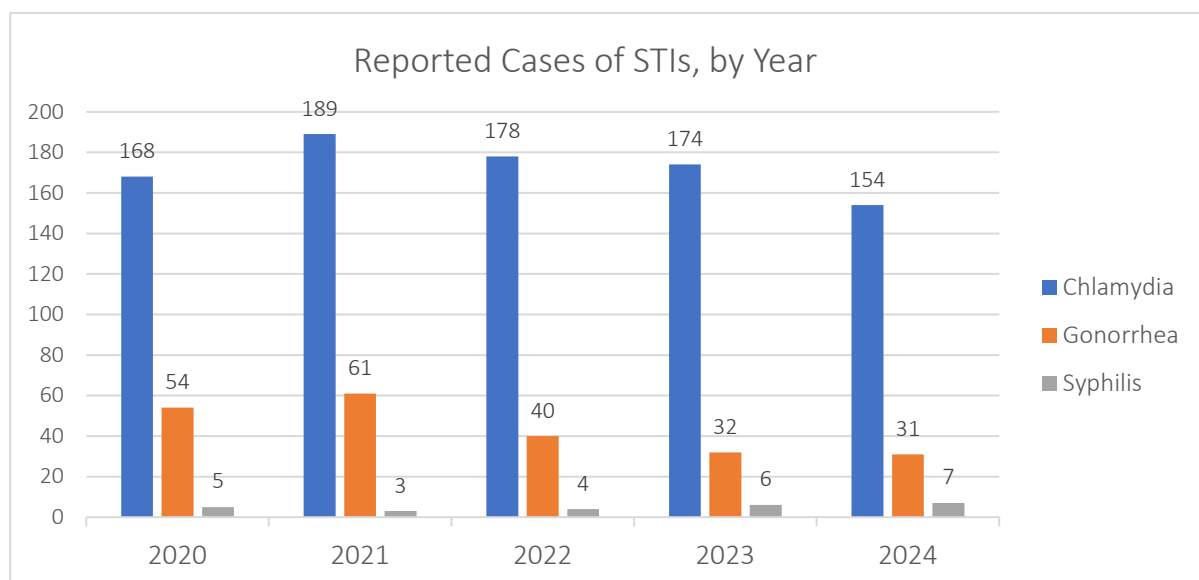
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements

Reporting of suspected or confirmed communicable diseases is mandated under the New York State Sanitary Code (10NYCRR 2.10,2.14). The primary responsibility for reporting rests with the physician; moreover, laboratories (PHL 2102), school nurses (10NYCRR 2.12), day care center directors, nursing homes/hospitals (10NYCRR 405.3d) and state institutions (10NYCRR 2.10a) or other locations providing health services (10NYCRR 2.12) are also required to report the diseases listed below.

Anaplasmosis	Cyclosporiasis	Hospital associated	☞ Poliomyelitis	Streptococcal infection
Amebiasis	☞ Diphtheria	infections (as defined in	Psittacosis	(invasive disease) ⁵
☞ Animal bites for which	E.coli O157:H7 infection ⁴	section 2.2 10NYCRR)	☞ Q Fever ²	Group A beta-hemolytic
rabies prophylaxis is	Ehrlichiosis	Influenza,	☞ Rabies ¹	strep
given ¹	☞ Encephalitis	laboratory-confirmed	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	Group B strep
☞ Anthrax ²	☞ Foodborne Illness	Legionellosis	laboratory-confirmed	Streptococcus pneumoniae
☞ Arboviral infection ³	Giardiasis	Listeriosis	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	☞ Syphilis, specify stage ⁷
Babesiosis	☞ Glanders ²	Lyme disease	pediatric fatalities	Tetanus
☞ Botulism ²	Gonococcal infection	Lymphogranuloma venereum	Rocky Mountain spotted fever	Toxic shock syndrome
☞ Brucellosis ²	Haemophilus influenzae ⁵	Malaria	☞ Rubella	Transmissible spongiform
Campylobacteriosis	(invasive disease)	☞ Measles	(including congenital	encephalopathies ⁸ (TSE)
Chancroid	☞ Hantavirus disease	☞ Melioidosis ²	rubella syndrome)	Trichinosis
Chlamydia trachomatis	Hemolytic uremic syndrome	Meningitis	Salmonellosis	☞ Tuberculosis current
infection	Hepatitis A	Aseptic or viral	Shigatoxin-producing E.coli ⁴	disease (specify site)
☞ Cholera	☞ Hepatitis A in a food handler	☞ Haemophilus	(STEC)	☞ Tularemia ²
Coronavirus	Hepatitis B (specify acute or	☞ Meningococcal	Shigellosis ⁴	☞ Typhoid
COVID-19 (SARS CoV-2)	chronic)	Other (specify type)	☞ Smallpox ²	☞ Vaccinia disease ⁹
☞ Severe Acute Respiratory	Hepatitis C (specify acute or	☞ Meningococcemia	Staphylococcus aureus ⁶ (due	Varicella
Syndrome (SARS)	chronic)	☞ Mpx	to strains showing reduced	(not shingles)
☞ Middle East Respiratory	Pregnant hepatitis B carrier	Mumps	susceptibility or resistance	Vibriosis ⁶
Syndrome (MERS)	Herpes infection, infants	Pertussis	to vancomycin)	☞ Viral hemorrhagic fever ²
Cryptosporidiosis	aged 60 days or younger	☞ Plague ²	☞ Staphylococcal	Yersiniosis
			enterotoxin B poisoning ²	

The following table indicates the communicable disease report for Cattaraugus County in 2024.

Communicable Disease Report	
Communicable or Vector-Borne Disease	Number Reported
Anaplasmosis	6
Babesiosis	5
Campylobacteriosis	10
Chlamydia	154
COVID-19	667
E. Coli (all)	2
Ehrlichiosis	1
Encephalitis, other viral	1
Giardiasis	4
Gonorrhea	31
Hemophilus Influenzae (all)	3
Hepatitis B, Chronic	5
Hepatitis C, Chronic	55
Influenza A	327
Influenza B	163
Legionellosis	2
Lyme Disease	159
Pertussis	12
RSV (all)	155
Salmonellosis (all)	8
Strep Group A (Invasive)	7
Strep Group B (Invasive)	5
Strep Pneumo (Invasive)	11
Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1) Virus	2
Syphilis	7
Yersiniosis	2
TOTAL	1,804



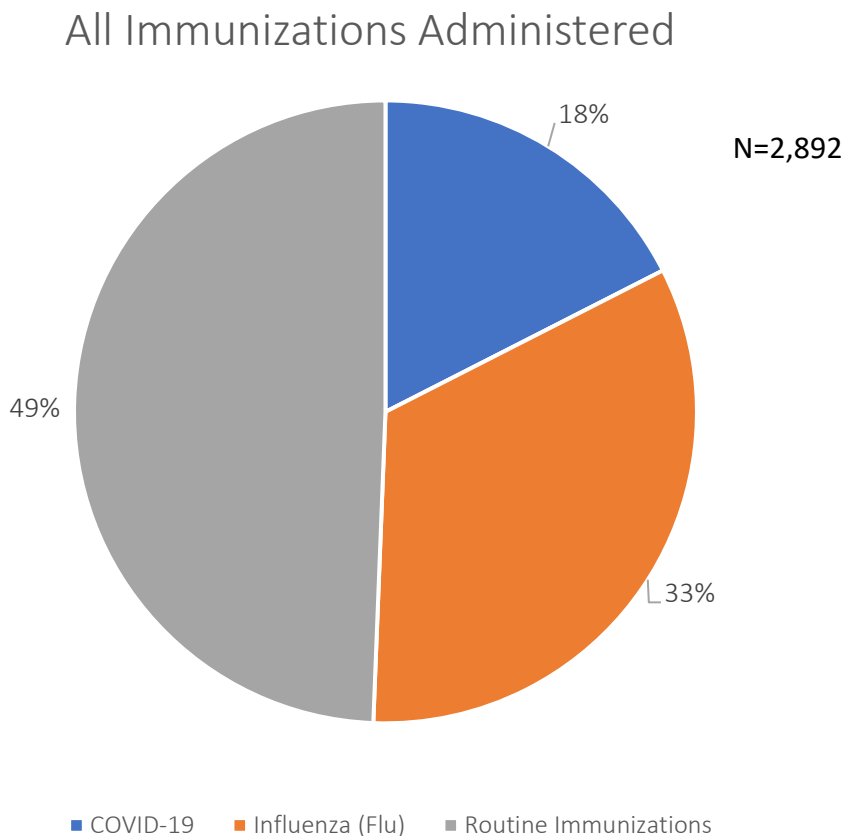
Immunization Services

Immunizations play a critical role in reducing the spread of serious infectious diseases. The Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) provides immunization services for both pediatric (0-18 years) and adult (19+) populations to protect community health. In 2024, the CCHD immunization program:

- Administered **2,892** immunizations to pediatric and adult individuals.
- Administered **958** influenza immunizations.
- Administered **506** COVID-19 immunizations.
- Administered **282** Rabies Pre-exposure and Post-exposure immunizations.
- Administered **48** doses of Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG).
- Made **8** scheduled visits to health care providers in Cattaraugus County to offer education, improve immunization service delivery, ensure proper vaccine storage and handling, and enhance immunization coverage rates.



Photo depicts Sue Feldbauer, RN, administering a flu immunization at the employee flu clinic.



CCHD Immunizations Administered, by Age			
Immunization Type	0-18	19+	Total
DTaP	49	21	70
Hepatitis A (Hep A)	10	45	55
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	62	54	116
Hemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib)	38	1	39
Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)	25	12	37
IG-RSV IgIM	17	0	17
Influenza (FLU)	72	886	958
Japanese Encephalitis	0	2	2
Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR)	61	31	92
Meningitis	0	153	153
Meningococcal B, OMV	10	10	20
Orthopoxvirus	0	3	3
Pneumococcal conjugate PCV 13, 15, 20, 21	28	0	28
Pneumococcal Polysaccharide PPSV23	0	17	17
Poliomyelitis	96	13	109
Rabies	27	255	282
RSV	0	7	7
Rotavirus, pentavalent	10	6	16
SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)	30	476	506
Tetanus Diphtheria Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)	87	53	140
Typhoid	0	50	50
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	57	9	66
Yellow Fever	2	39	41
Zoster (Shingles)	0	11	11
TOTAL	609	2,283	2,892

Tuberculosis Control Program

Early detection and treatment of latent tuberculosis (TB) infection can prevent the progression to active TB disease. The CCHD conducts TB testing and provides care through its quarterly TB Chest Clinic. In 2024, the CCHD TB program:

- Performed **171** Tuberculin Skin Tests (TSTs) to evaluate individuals for latent TB, with **one** Individual testing positive.
- Provided precautionary care to **one** individual at the CCHD's TB Chest Clinic.
- Administered **zero** prophylactic treatments for latent TB.
- Managed **zero** cases of active TB.

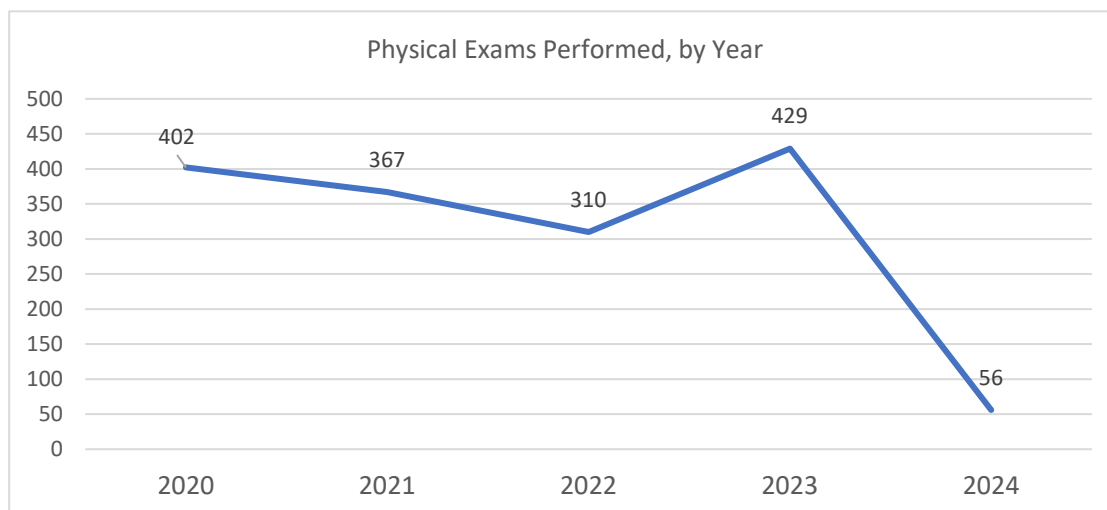
Service	2020	2021	2022	2024	2024
TST's performed	575	418	318	313	171
Total positive results for latent TB infection	0	0	3	0	1
Total TB clinic visits	4	2	5	22	1
Individuals treated with prophylactic medication	4	2	3	1	0
Active TB cases managed	0	0	0	0	0

Community Health Clinics

Physical Exams

The CCHD provides routine physical exams for new employees of the county, local municipalities, fire departments, community businesses, and organizations, as well as individuals requiring exams for school or college admission. In 2024, the community health clinic:

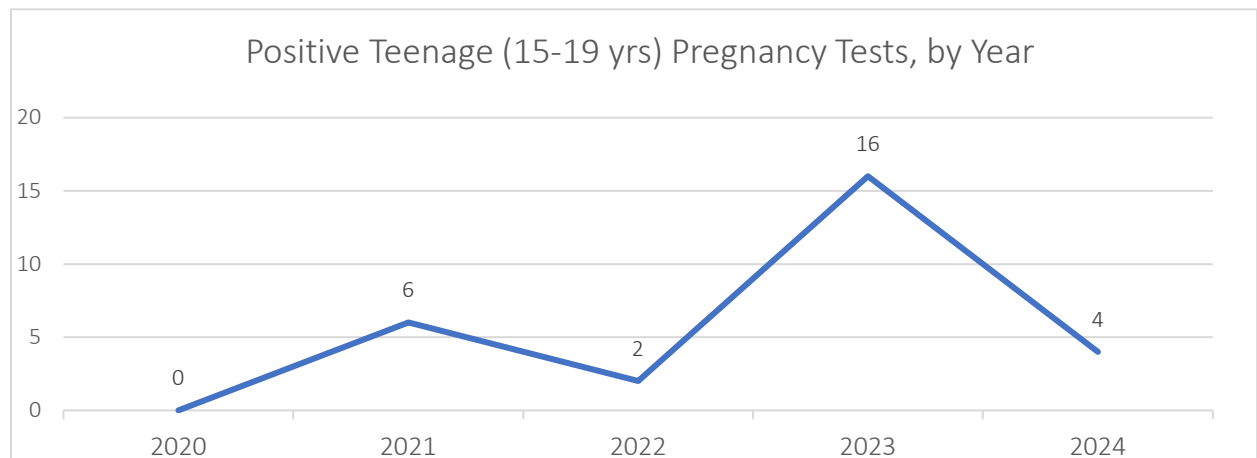
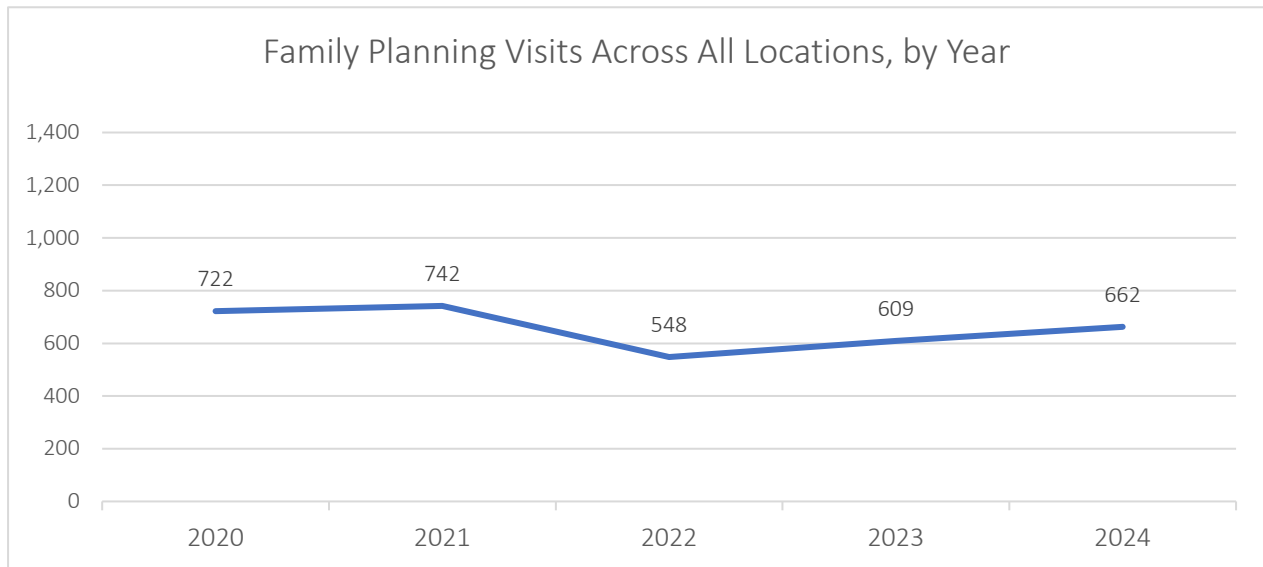
- Performed **56** exams. A change in providers during the year may have contributed to a lower number of exams.



Family Planning Services

Family Planning (FP) services provide affordable, voluntary contraceptive options, supplies, and related preventive health services to individuals who want and need them, with a focus on serving low-income families. These services also include education, testing, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as well as cancer screenings. Services are available at locations in Olean, Salamanca, and Machias. In 2024, the family planning program:

- Conducted **662** visits across all locations.
- Performed **273** pregnancy tests, of which **15** were positive, including **4** teen pregnancies (ages 15-19).



Teen pregnancy and childbearing are associated with increased social and economic costs through immediate and long-term effects on teen parents and their children.



Family Planning Announcement

CCHD welcomed a new Nurse Practitioner to the Family Planning team- Christen Bidwell, FNP-C. Christen specializes in sexual and reproductive health services.

Family Planning Announcement

CCHD implemented a NYSDOH telehealth grant allowing us to offer new and enhanced services with updated equipment. Shown is Brooke Schnell with the telehealth equipment.



Reproductive Disease Prevention and Cancer Services Program

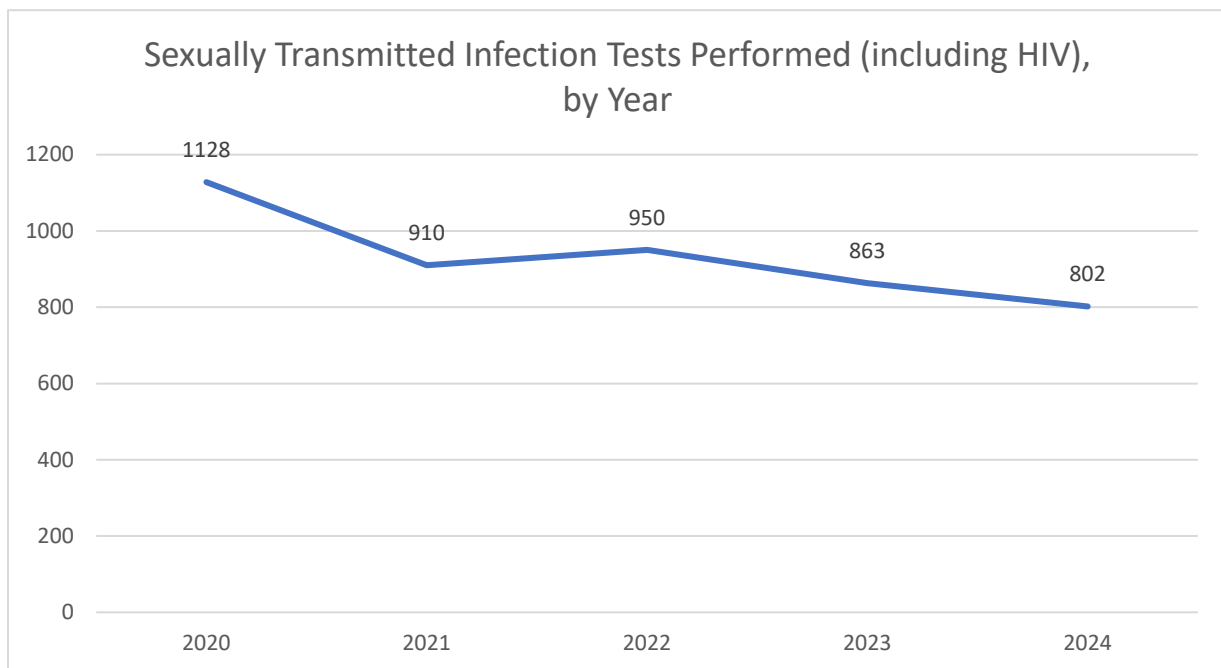
Cervical cancer can be prevented through vaccination and regular screenings. The Cancer Services Program (CSP) offers no-cost breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings to individuals over the age of 40 in New York State who are uninsured or underinsured and meet income eligibility criteria. In 2024, the Reproductive Disease Prevention and CSP programs:

- Conducted **40** cervical screenings, including Pap smears, high-risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) tests and pelvic exams.
 - **9** cervical screenings required further surveillance.
 - **8** abnormal Pap smear tests required immediate referrals for follow-up.
- Performed **27** clinical breast exams.
 - **9** clinical breast exams required additional follow-up.

Sexually Transmitted Infections and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Services

The CCHD provides confidential services for the prevention, investigation, and reporting of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), including Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Positive cases and their identified contacts receive education, treatment, and follow-up care. Surveillance data is used to track disease trends and inform health policy and prevention efforts. In 2024, the CCHD STI clinic:

- Conducted **171** STI clinic visits at the Olean, Machias, and Salamanca clinic locations.
- Performed **802** STI tests, with **26** testing positive.
- Monitored STI trends, identifying **chlamydia** as the most frequently reported infection.
- Administered **98** HIV tests, with **zero** individuals testing positive.
- Provided education materials, safe sex information, and supplies to **8** county schools and community sites.



It is important to note that a change in providers during the year may have contributed to a lower number of testing visits and rates at the department.

Home-Health Care

Certified Home Health Agency

The CCHD operates as a Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA), offering a range of skilled services aimed at preventing, treating, and supporting individuals in the comfort of their own homes. These services may include preventative, therapeutic, rehabilitative, health guidance, and other supportive care. Eligible services are reimbursed through Medicare, Medicaid, private payments, and commercial health insurers.

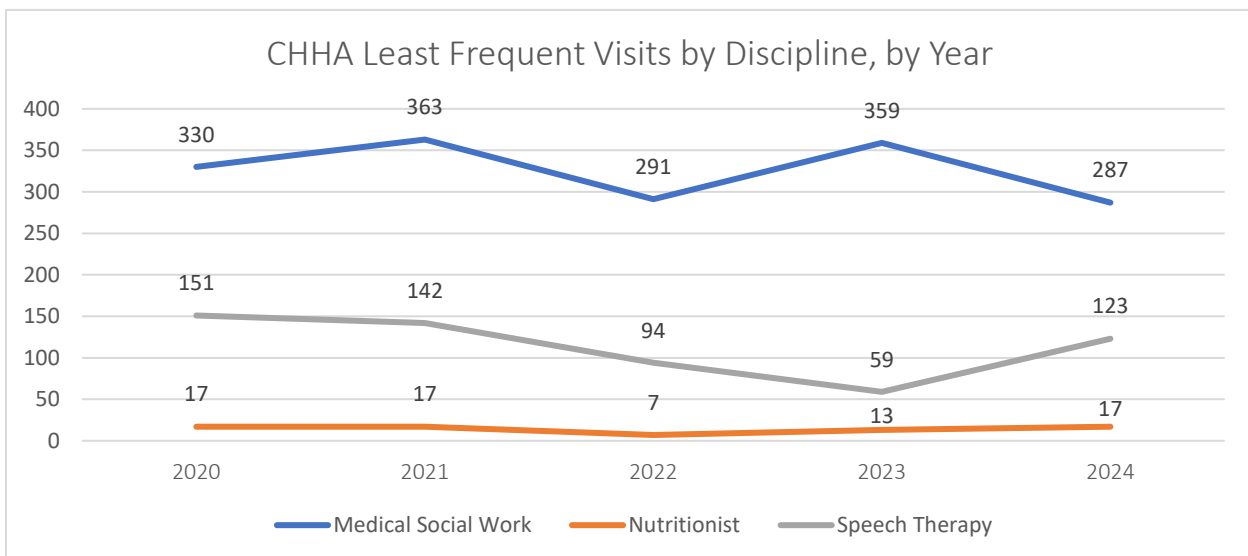
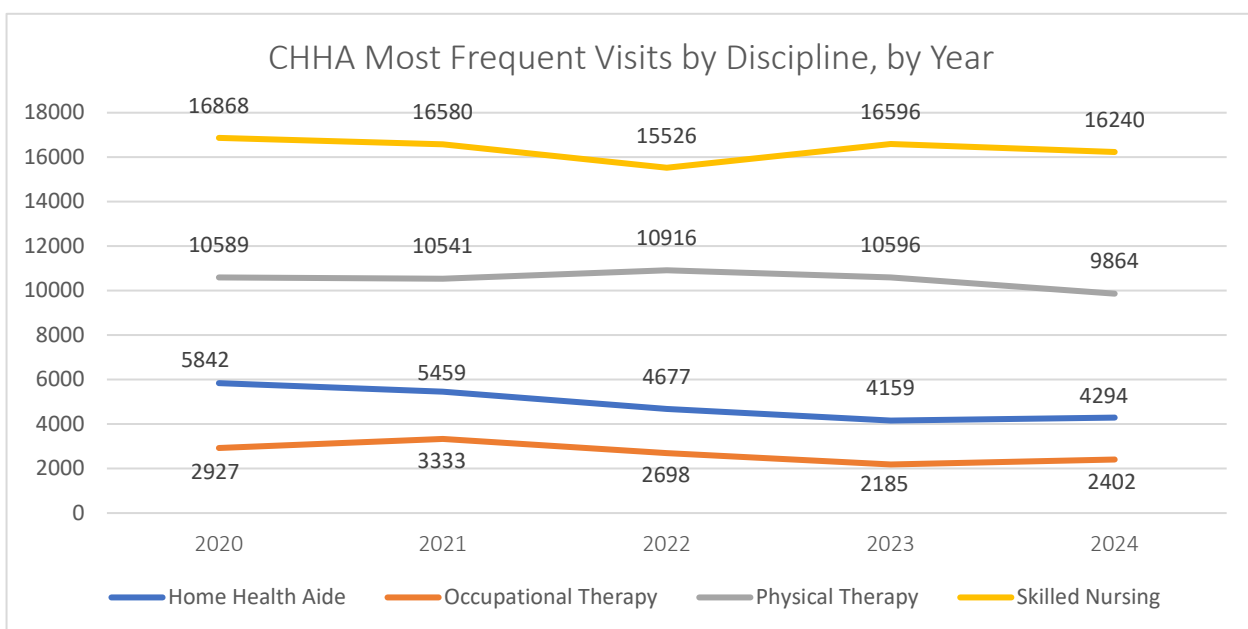
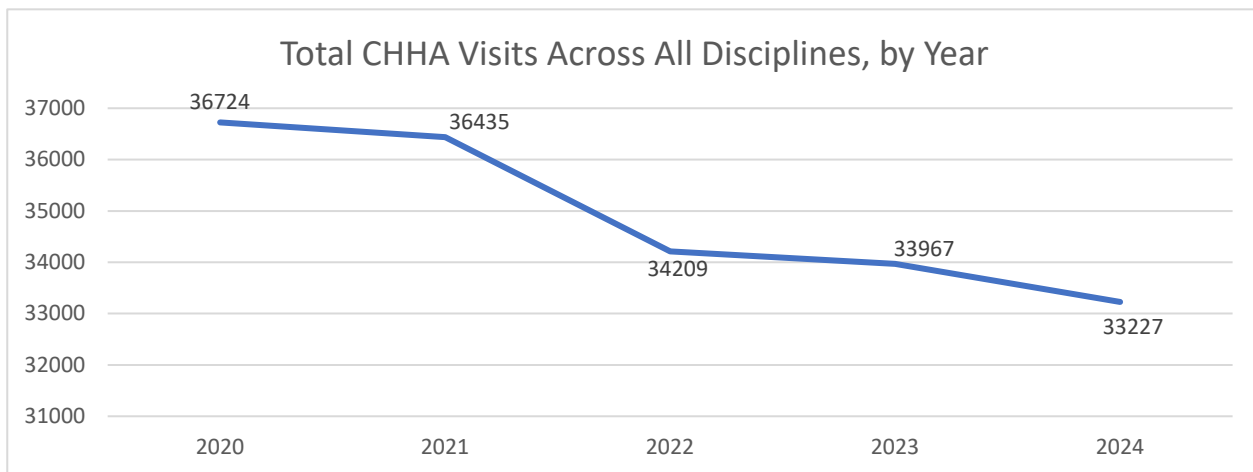
The department's comprehensive home health care services are designed to treat illnesses or injuries at home, reducing the need for hospital stays and supporting a quicker recovery. By coordinating care with other healthcare providers, we ensure that each patient receives the most appropriate treatment and support. These services include nursing care, home health aide assistance, medical supplies and equipment, as well as therapies such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, nutritional services, and medical social services. In 2024, the CHHA program:

- Conducted **33,227** home visits across various disciplines.
- Provided care to **1,045** individuals.
- Managed **1,366** cases, noting that individuals can be admitted multiple times, with each readmission creating a new case.
- Managed an average daily census of **229** cases.



Photo depicts Home-Health Care staff at an inter-office luncheon meeting.

Depicted below are the five-year summaries of rendered visits in the CHHA program.

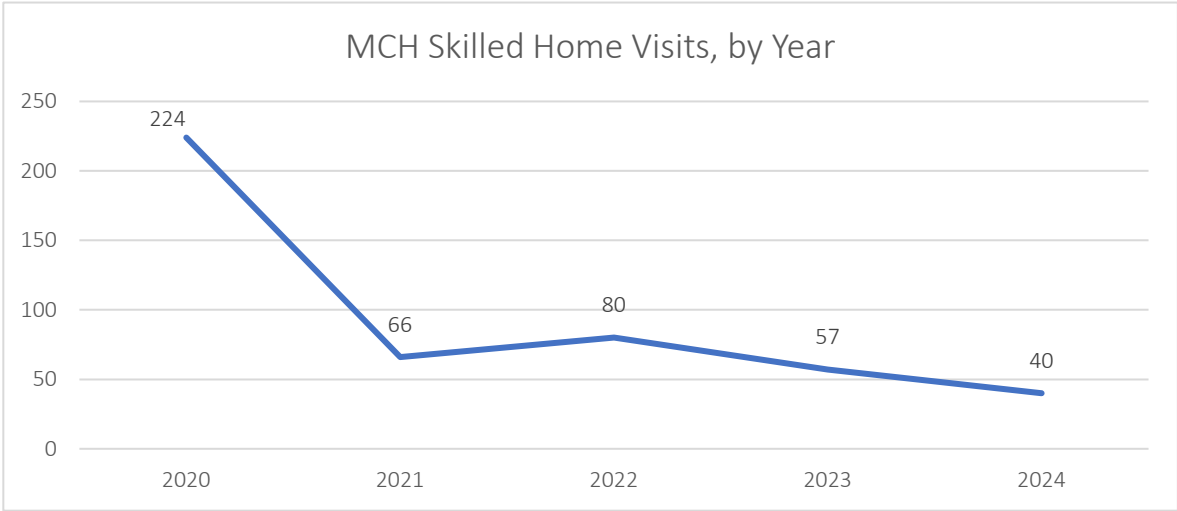


Maternal-Child Health

The Maternal-Child Health (MCH) program is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of women, infants, children, and families. Public Health Nurses (PHNs) provide essential services aimed at ensuring optimal health outcomes. These services include prenatal, postpartum, newborn, infant, and child home visits, health education, lead poisoning prevention, assistance with medical care access, and referrals to community resources. In 2024, the MCH program accomplished the following:

- Conducted **40** skilled MCH home visits
 - These visits are offered to pregnant and postpartum women, as well as infants and children, following referrals from hospitals or medical providers. Registered nurses develop personalized home care plans, which include skilled assessments, interventions, education, and support to reinforce positive health behaviors in a familiar home setting.
- Performed **70** newborn screenings.
 - In collaboration with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Wadsworth Lab, CCHD facilitates the collection of initial and repeat blood samples for Newborn Screenings (NBS). These screenings help detect over 40 genetic conditions, such as cystic fibrosis, phenylketonuria (PKU), and Krabbe Disease. Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent permanent illness or disability.
- Conducted outreach and education at **6** local community health events.
 - The program engaged the community through educational events, providing valuable health information and resources to families and individuals.
- Visited **4** pediatric offices.
 - These visits provided healthcare providers with updated information on the NYSDOH Guidelines for the Identification and Management of Lead Exposure in children, along with tools for creating and viewing New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) reports and accessing data on individual testing rates.
- Visited **1** OB/GYN provider's office
 - The visit focused on linking healthcare providers to information and services from MotherToBaby, a University of Rochester Medicine service that offers resources on managing medications and exposures during pregnancy and breastfeeding.
- Educated **1** local medical group.
 - Educated a local medical group, comprised of several providers, on the recommendations for follow-up blood lead level (BLL) testing for pregnant and lactating women, helping to ensure that patients receive timely care and necessary interventions.

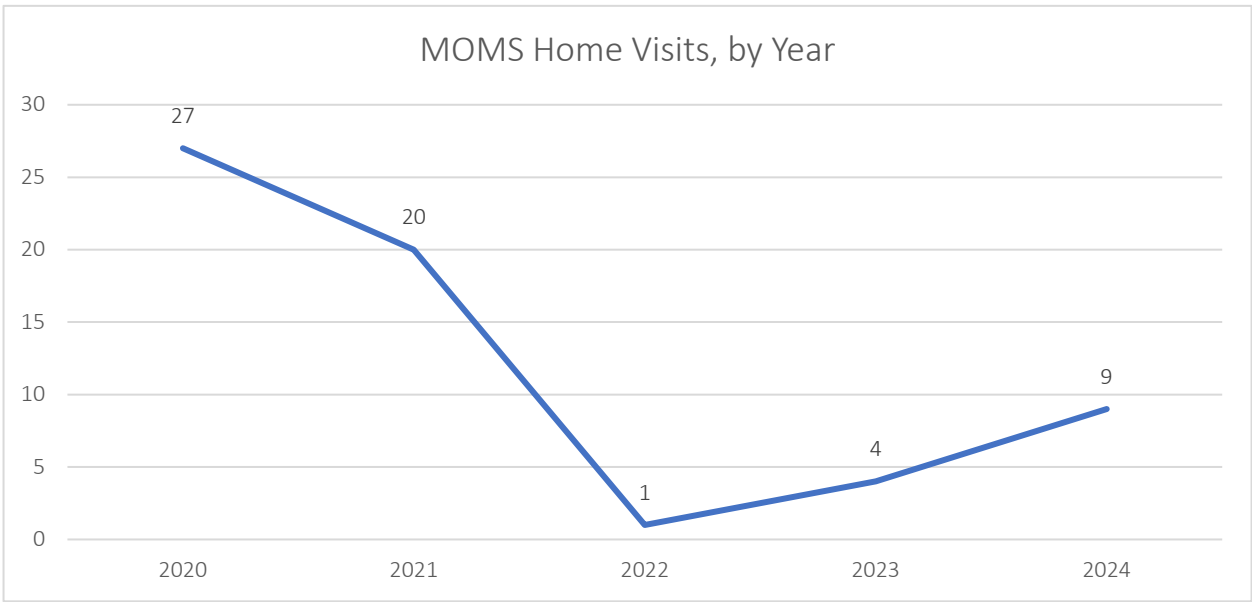
These efforts continue to strengthen the support network for maternal and child health in the community, focusing on prevention, early detection, and coordinated care.



Medicaid Obstetrical and Maternal Services

The Medicaid Obstetrical and Maternal Services (MOMS) program offers home visiting nursing services to Medicaid-eligible residents of Cattaraugus County. This program provides free, supportive maternal-child health services with a focus on improving access to quality care, enhancing lactation support for parents choosing to breastfeed and fostering better coordination of care with community resources. In 2024, the MOMS program achieved the following:

- Received **3** new admissions.
- Provided services to **5** individuals.
- Completed **9** home-visits through the MOMS Program.
- Assisted **5** individuals in obtaining presumptive Medicaid for those without insurance, ensuring timely access to care.



Child and Family Health Services

Nutrition Services – Women, Infants, and Children

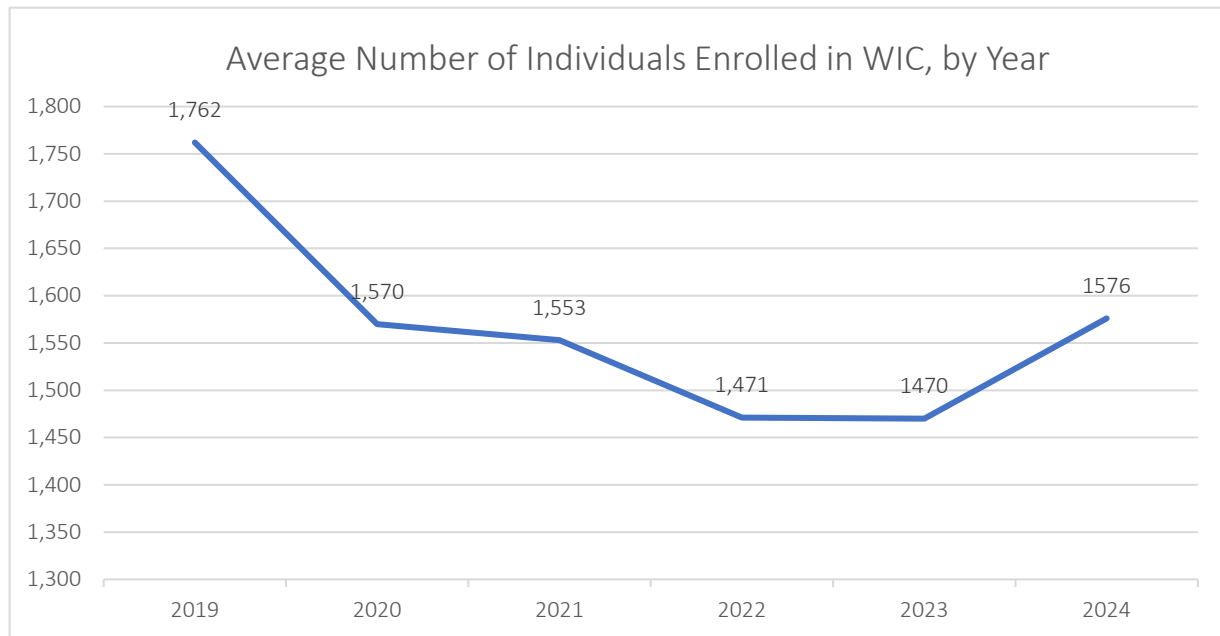
The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program is a federally funded initiative administered by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) through local health departments and partner agencies. WIC plays a vital role in safeguarding the health and well-being of low-income women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk. The program provides comprehensive nutrition education, food assistance—including supplemental foods, individual service packages, and farmers' market coupons—and robust breastfeeding support. Certified Lactation Consultants (CLCs) and Peer Counselors offer guidance, while breast pumps are made available to support breastfeeding mothers. In 2024, the WIC Program;

- Enrolled an average of **1,576** individuals.
- Provided nutrition education to **100%** of WIC participants.
- Distributed **1,803** Farmers Market Coupon Booklets to promote access to fresh, local produce.
- Maintained Breastfeeding Initiation Rate within the **70-80%** range among individuals enrolled in the WIC program when compared to 2023.
- Supported 75% of WIC mothers in initiating breastfeeding.
- Distributed **53** breast pumps to participants, including:
 - **38** personal grade electric pumps
 - **10** personal manual pumps
 - **5** loaner hospital grade pumps

Through these efforts, the WIC Program continues to enhance maternal and child health by ensuring families have access to essential nutritional resources, education, and breastfeeding support.



Photo depicts WIC team, Dr. Kevin Watkins, and Olean Mayor Aiello Celebrating World Breastfeeding Week.



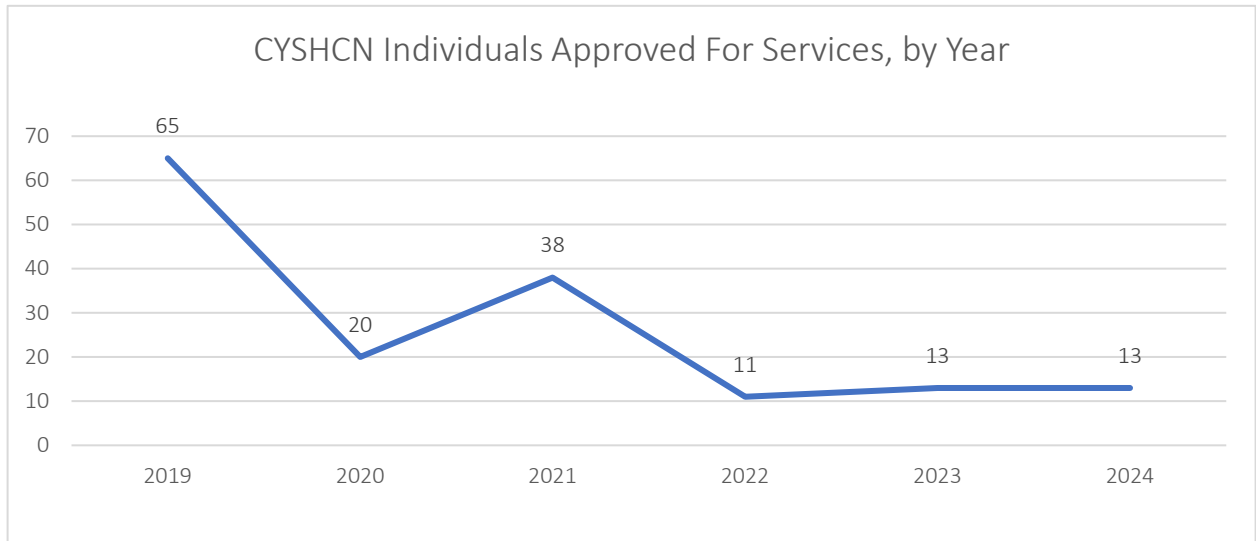
Childhood Developmental Services

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program is a no-cost initiative that connects families with vital information and medical referral services for children and youth from birth to 21 years of age who have serious or long-term physical conditions, intellectual or developmental disabilities, and/or behavioral or emotional challenges. The program also provides financial assistance for eligible special-needs services based on income guidelines.

A key component of CYSHCN is the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Support Services (CYSHCNSS) program, formerly known as the Physically Handicapped Children's Program. CYSHCNSS helps families cover medical expenses for children with severe chronic illnesses and/or physical disabilities who meet the medical and financial eligibility criteria. In 2024, the CYSHCN/CYSHCNSS Program:

- Approved **13** individuals from birth to 21 years of age for financial assistance services.
- Authorized **217** medical services to support children and youth with special health care needs.



Medical Service	Authorized
Physician services	13
Tests (labs, x-rays, echo's, scans, MRIs, EKG's, pulmonary studies, etc.)	7
Medications	190
Hearing Aids	7
TOTAL	217

Early Intervention / Child Find

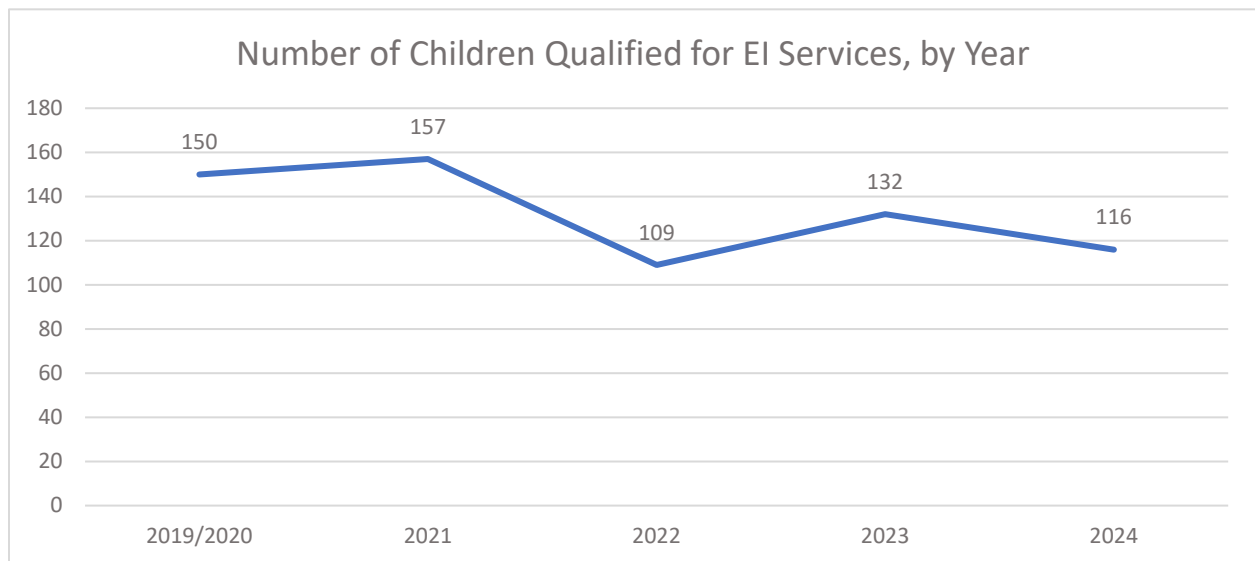
The Early Intervention (EI) program serves children from birth to three years old who have been diagnosed with or are at high risk for developmental delays. To determine eligibility and the appropriate services, multi-disciplinary evaluations assess key developmental areas, including cognitive skills, physical development (vision and hearing), social-emotional development, adaptive abilities, and communication (speech and language).

EI services are provided through the CCHD and NYSDOH approved EI providers. Available services include service coordination, assistive technology, audiology, family training, counseling, parent support groups, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, vision services, special education, nursing, medical evaluations, nutrition, psychological services, health services, and transportation assistance.

The Child Find component of the EI program ensures that children under three years old who are evaluated but do not qualify for EI services have access to a primary care physician and health insurance coverage. Families are encouraged to monitor their child's development through regular pediatric screenings. If a child later demonstrates a need for EI services, referrals are initiated with parental consent. In 2024, the EI Program's highlights were:

- Received **209** referrals for children suspected of or diagnosed with developmental delays.
- **116** children were deemed eligible for services and received an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Distributed educational materials on developmental milestones to physicians, hospitals, educational and healthcare professionals, and other key stakeholders to enhance early identification of at-risk children.

The EI/Child Find program remains committed to early identification, intervention, and support to ensure optimal developmental outcomes for young children in Cattaraugus County.



Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program is dedicated to strengthening local preparedness efforts and enhancing Cattaraugus County's capacity to respond to public health threats, including acts of terrorism, pandemics, natural disasters, and other emergencies. The PHEP Director collaborates with local, state, and federal partners to ensure a coordinated and effective response to public health crises. In 2024, the PHEP Program achieved the following:

- Participated in multiple New York State and federal **Incident Action Plan briefings** for the April 2024 solar eclipse and distributed **2,000 solar eclipse glasses** to 35 local libraries in the Cattaraugus-Chautauqua area.
- Conducted **public health outreach events** for over **130 residents and visitors** at **Total Senior Care of Olean** and **Absolut Care of Allegany** to promote emergency preparedness awareness.
- Provided **harm reduction resources**, including **Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips**, at the **Cattaraugus County Fair**, with an attendance of **102,000**.
- Screened **147 employees** for **seasonal respiratory virus vaccinations** at the **annual PHEP vaccine clinics** to support workforce health and continuity of public health services.

These efforts reflect the PHEP Program's ongoing commitment to preparedness, collaboration, and safeguarding public health in Cattaraugus County.



Photo depicts CCHD staff during the solar eclipse.

Public Health Education and Planning

The CCHD Health Education (HE) Division delivers educational information and resources on a wide range of health-related topics to schools, workplaces, local organizations, professional groups, and individuals. In 2024, the HE Program:

- Provided **health education presentations to 6,790 students** in school classrooms.
- Engaged with the community by participating in health fairs and events, promoting CCHD programs and services through interactive displays and with educational materials. Key events included:
 - Operation Warm Hearts
 - YMCA Healthy Kids Day
 - StrOlean
 - Community Day at Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central School
 - Kiwanis Bike Rodeo in Salamanca
 - Cattaraugus County Fair
 - Cattaraugus County Pride Coalition
 - Randolph Central School District Wellness Fair
 - Seneca Arts and Learning Center Halloween Health & Safety Fair
 - YMCA After School Programming

These efforts reflect the department's commitment to increasing health awareness and fostering a healthier community through education and outreach.



Photo depicts Health Education Assistant, Erin Washburn, teaching the Bullying Prevention lesson.



Photo depicts CCHD Intern, Holly Wagner (L), and Public Health Educator, Matt Tyssee (R), at the Cattaraugus County Fair.

Presentation Title	Number of Presentations	Number of Participants
Bullying Prevention	40	873
CATCH My Breath - Vaping Prevention	56	944
Contraception	16	175
Contraception & Pregnancy Simulation Belly	2	23
Dental Hygiene	16	267
Emotional Regulation	19	322
Human Growth and Development	16	237
Handwashing	13	237
Halloween Safety	8	103
Healthy Relationships	3	41
Invisible Illness	15	213
My Body is Mine (Erin's Law)	27	727
Nutrition	20	286
Online Safety	34	586
Personal Hygiene	27	392
Personal Safety	18	509
Pregnancy	10	108
Prescription Medication Safety	4	53
Price is Right: Baby Edition	4	57
Self-Image Management	1	13
Sexually Transmitted Infections	6	67
Stress Management	2	16
Sun Safety	14	216
Tattoos and Body Modification Safety	6	86
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	4	44
Tickborne Illness Prevention	5	96
Winter Safety	8	99
TOTAL	394	6,790

Environmental Health

Community Sanitation Services

The field of environmental health focuses on identifying and mitigating environmental factors that contribute to disease, illness, or unsafe conditions. The goal is to prevent these hazards from negatively impacting public health. To achieve this, the CCHD employs a balanced approach that includes **inspection, education, and regulatory enforcement**.

Routine inspections ensure compliance with science-based regulations established by state and federal agencies, helping to maintain safe and healthy environments. Equally important is **public education**, which empowers county residents with the knowledge to recognize health risks and implement preventative measures. By combining education with regulatory enforcement, CCHD helps prevent potential illnesses and injuries, fostering a safer and healthier community for all.

In 2024:

- **127 inspections** were conducted across various county establishments, uncovering **244 violations**, with **swimming pool violations being the most frequent**.
- EH staff tested **65 samples** from bathing beaches for **E. coli contamination**, with **14 samples exceeding the established safety limits**.

Establishment Type	Facilities	Inspections	Violations
Agricultural Fairgrounds	1	1	1
Bathing Beaches	4	4	5
Body Art Facilities	17	15	7
Campgrounds	19	19	36
Children's Camps	11	11	23
Cooling Towers	11	*CCHD does not conduct inspections	
Migrant Labor Camps	1	1	1
Mobile Home Parks	33	29	69
Recreational Aquatic Spray Grounds	1	1	3
Swimming Pools	49	46	99
TOTAL	147	127	244

**Cooling towers determined to be following the NYCRR Title X Subpart 4-1 Compliance Status.*

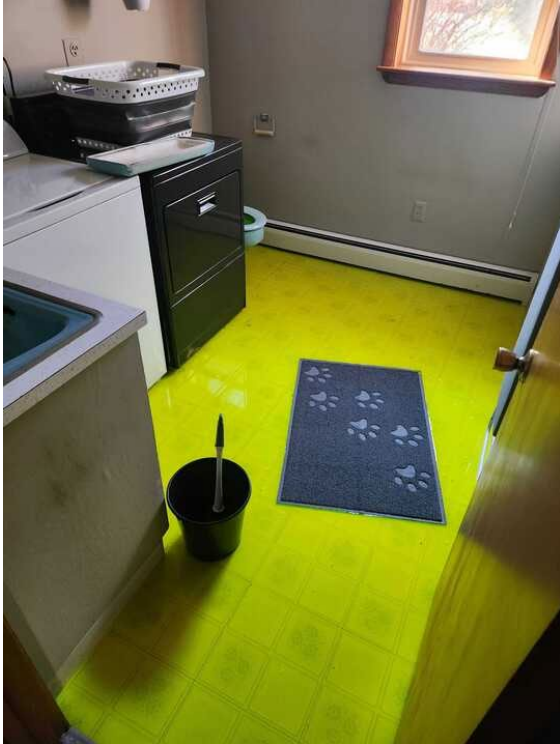


Photo depicts wastewater with fluorescent dye in it, backed up and overflowed from the toilet onto the floor.



Photo depicts Environmental Health Director, Bob Ring, inspecting swimming pool equipment.

Food Protection Services

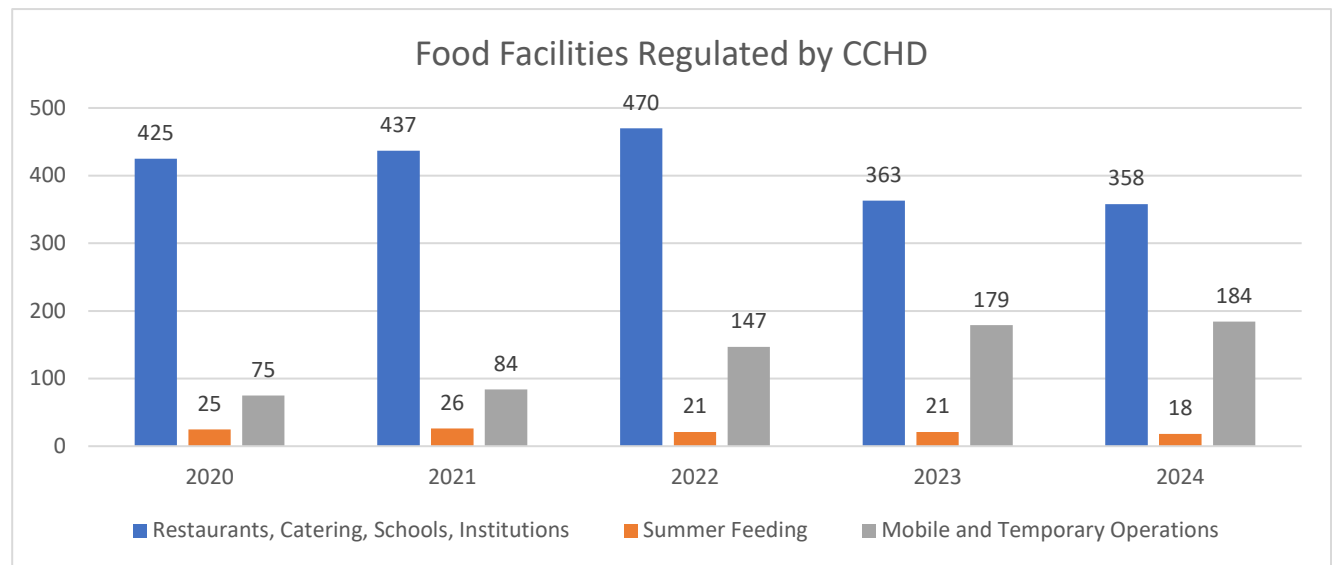
Public Food Service Inspections

To protect public health and prevent foodborne illnesses, any establishment that prepares, handles, and serves food directly to the public must obtain a permit and adhere to strict sanitary regulations. The CCHD conducts routine inspections of **restaurants, schools, mobile vendors, and temporary food service operations** to ensure compliance with these regulations. In 2024, the Environmental Health division:

- Completed **484** public food service inspections in various establishments.
- Identified **706** violations, with the most frequent occurring in **restaurant and catering operations, schools, and institutional facilities**.

By enforcing food safety standards and educating food service operators on proper sanitation practices, CCHD helps reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses and promotes a healthier community.

Food Service Establishments Regulated by CCHD			
Establishment	Operations	Inspections	Violations
Restaurants and Catering Operations, Schools, and Institutions	358	376	683
Summer Feeding Program	18	16	0
Mobile and Temporary Food Service Operations and Events	184	92	23
TOTAL	560	484	706



Tobacco Control Services

To reduce youth access to tobacco products and ensure compliance with state regulations, the CCHD conducts annual inspections of tobacco retailers under the **New York State Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA)**. These inspections verify that businesses are properly registered, required signage is displayed, and tobacco products are securely stored to prevent unauthorized access. As part of enforcement efforts, volunteer **undercover youths** attempt to purchase tobacco products to assess compliance with laws prohibiting sales to individuals under 21.

SALE of
cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco,
powdered tobacco, shisha
or other tobacco products,
herbal cigarettes, liquid nicotine,
electronic cigarettes, rolling papers
or smoking paraphernalia,
to persons UNDER 21 years of
age is PROHIBITED BY LAW.

New York State Public Health Law, Article 13F

Photo depicts an example of proper signage regarding the sale of tobacco products to minors.

In 2024, the Environmental Health Program:

- Conducted **83 ATUPA compliance checks** at tobacco retailers across the county.
- Identified **4 retailers in violation** for selling tobacco to individuals under 21.
- Found **3 retailers in violation** for selling illegal smoking products.

Through routine inspections and enforcement actions, CCHD works to prevent underage tobacco use and protect public health.

Tobacco Retailers In County	Retailer Compliance Checks	Sales to Individuals under the age of 21	Retailers In Violation
56	83	5	4

The **Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA)** mandates that nearly all workplaces, including **bars and restaurants**, remain smoke-free to protect public health. The Environmental Health staff and contracted staff conduct **compliance checks** to ensure that smoking is not occurring in prohibited indoor spaces and that businesses adhere to the law. In 2024, the Environmental Health Program:

- Conducted **43 CIAA compliance checks** at establishments across Cattaraugus County.

By enforcing smoke-free regulations, CCHD helps create healthier indoor environments for workers, patrons, and the community.

Compliance Checks for Indoor Smoking	Establishments in Violation
43	0

Vector Control





















Tick-Borne Disease Surveillance

The CCHD, in partnership with the **New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)**, conducts annual surveillance to monitor tick populations and track the presence of tick-borne pathogens. This ongoing effort helps assess disease risks and trends, including fluctuations in **human cases of Lyme disease**, which vary from year to year.

In **2024**, the most commonly identified pathogen in Cattaraugus County was **Borrelia burgdorferi**, the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. Ticks collected from various locations were tested for the following pathogens:

Pathogen Name	Pathogen can cause
<i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i>	Anaplasmosis
<i>Babesia microti</i>	Babesiosis
<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	Lyme disease
<i>Borrelia miyamotoi</i>	Lyme-like illness
Deer Tick Virus and Powassan Virus lineages	Severe neurological disease

Location	Total nymphs tested in 2024	<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> (%)	<i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i> (%)	<i>Babesia microti</i> (%)	<i>Borrelia miyamotoi</i> (%)
Deer Lick Conservation Area	50	40.0	8.0	0	0
Gargoyle Park	50	24.0	9.1	0	0
Pfeiffer Nature Center, Lillibridge Preserve	33	36.4	0	0	0
Allegany State Park	22	22.7	13.6	0	0
Pfeiffer Nature Center, Eshelman Preserve	50	38.0	8.0	10.0	0

	Larvae	Nymph	Male	Female	Engorged
Blacklegged "Deer" Tick					
American Dog Tick					
Groundhog Tick					
Lone Star Tick					

Through active surveillance and public education, CCHD works to reduce the risk of tick-borne illnesses and promote awareness of prevention strategies.

Photo depicts life stages of common tick species.

Mosquito Surveillance

Mosquito surveillance efforts help monitor and mitigate the risk of mosquito-borne diseases, including **West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and Zika Virus**. Surveillance begins in **May** and continues through **August**, focusing on both mosquito larvae and adult populations. In 2024, the Environmental Health program:

- Submitted **148 mosquito specimen pools** to the **New York State Arbovirus Laboratory** for analysis.
- Detected **no positive cases** of West Nile Virus, EEE, or Zika Virus.
- Conducted **aerial spraying** to eliminate mosquito larvae in breeding areas.
- **Did not conduct aerial spraying** for adult mosquitoes.

By combining surveillance, targeted control measures, and public education, CCHD helps protect residents from vector-borne diseases and reduce mosquito populations in high-risk areas.



Photo depicts Jeff Duflo (L) and his daughter, Brittany (R), of DuFlo Spray Chemical Inc.

Photo depicts the equipment and larvicide used to conduct aerial spraying for mosquito larvae.

Rabies Prevention

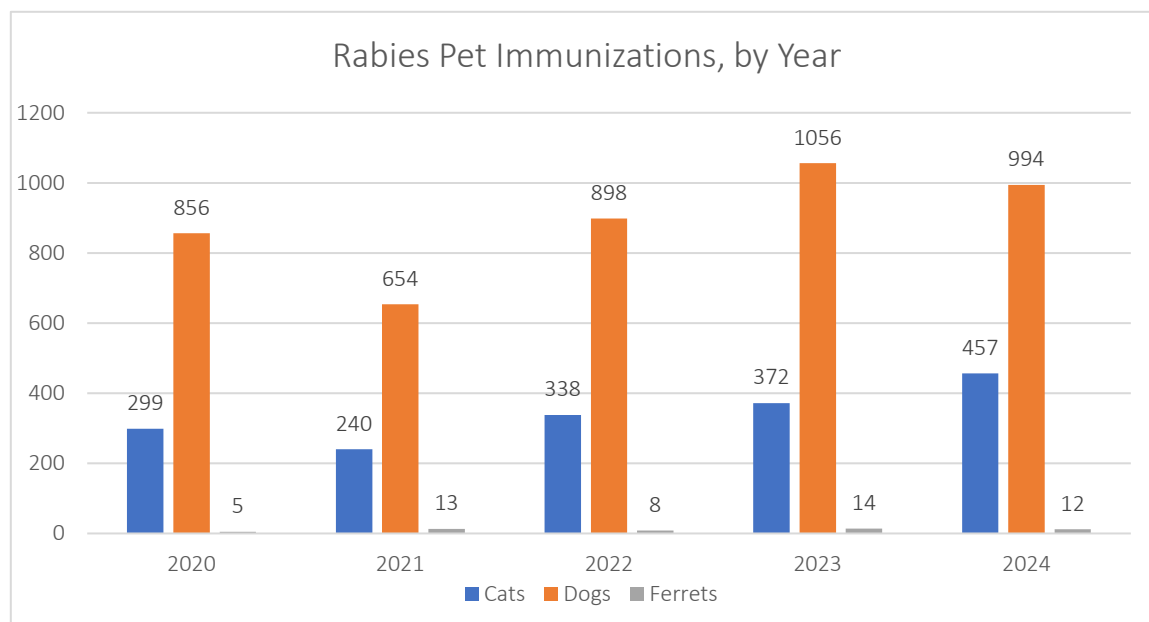
To protect public health and prevent the spread of rabies, all **dogs, cats, and domesticated ferrets** in Cattaraugus County aged **four months or older** are required to be vaccinated against rabies. The CCHD hosts **free rabies vaccination clinics** throughout the year to ensure pets receive this critical immunization. All reported **animal bites and potential rabies exposures** are thoroughly investigated, and when necessary, animal specimens are sent to the **NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory** for rabies testing. Individuals requiring post-exposure treatment receive coordinated case management from **nursing staff, environmental health staff, and private physicians**. In **2024**, the Environmental Health Program:



Photo depicts Rabies Vaccination Clinic staff. (L) Elaine Fowler, Lora Prey, Renee James, Krystina Syracuse, Teresa Ross (R).

- Operated **6 pet immunization clinics** across the county.
- Administered **1,463 rabies vaccinations** to pets.
- Responded to **230 animal bites and potential rabies exposures**.
- Referred **18 individuals** to nursing staff for **rabies post-exposure prophylaxis**.
- Submitted **77 animal specimens** to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory for rabies testing, with **10 testing positive**:
 - **4 big brown bats**
 - **4 raccoons** (2 submitted by the Seneca Nation of Indians)
 - **2 skunks** (1 submitted by the Seneca Nation of Indians)

Through **vaccination efforts, surveillance, and rapid response to exposures**, CCHD plays a vital role in **protecting both residents and animals** from rabies.



Water Supply Compliance and Protection

Water System Inspections and Sanitary Surveys

Ensuring access to **safe and reliable drinking water** is a key public health priority. The CCHD regulates **Public Water Systems (PWS)**, which include **community water systems (CWS)**, **noncommunity water systems (NCWS)**, and **non-transient noncommunity water systems (NTNC)** as defined by **10 NYCRR 5-1.1**. Additionally, any facility regulated by the **New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets** that qualifies as a public water supply falls under CCHD oversight. Water systems that do not meet the definition of a **PWS** are classified as **Non-Public Water Systems (NPWS)**. While these systems are not regulated under **Subpart 5-1**, they remain subject to compliance requirements under state and county sanitary codes. In **2024**, the Environmental Health Program:

- **Performed 95 inspections and sanitary surveys** to assess the operations and management of public and non-public water systems.
- **Identified 55 violations** requiring corrective action.
- **Provided system management and operations personnel** with guidance on improving:
 - System operations and efficiency
 - Security and infrastructure protection
 - Worker and public safety
 - Regulatory compliance

Through **regular inspections, technical assistance, and enforcement**, CCHD works to protect the health of residents by ensuring that water supplies meet safety and regulatory standards.



Photo depicts Environmental Health Director, Bob Ring, inspecting a spring box with the public water system.

Water Supply Type	Facilities	Inspections/Sanitary Surveys Completed	Violations
Community Water System	69	18	17
Non-Transient Non-Community Water System	14	1	4
Non-Community Water Systems	81	73	34
Non-Public Water Systems	9	3	0
TOTAL	173	95	55

Water Quality Monitoring

Ensuring the safety and health of drinking water relies on consistent and thorough testing for contaminants. Federal and state regulations outline **Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)** for hundreds of potential waterborne contaminants, and water suppliers are required to monitor these contaminants regularly.

In **Cattaraugus County**, the CCHD is responsible for collecting and analyzing water quality samples, including microbiological and nitrate samples, to ensure compliance with these regulations. In **2024**, the Environmental Health Program:

- **Collected 1,680 microbiological samples** from **Public Water Systems (PWS)** for analysis in the department's laboratory.
- **Collected 2,009 nitrate samples** from **PWS** for analysis in the department's laboratory.
- **Shipped 28 nitrate samples** to **commercial laboratories** for additional analysis.

Through routine sampling and analysis, CCHD helps safeguard public health by identifying and addressing any water quality issues before they become a risk to residents.

Wastewater Management

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

Properties that are not connected to a municipal sanitary sewer system are required to have a properly designed and maintained **Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS)** that meets the minimum design standards set by **New York State**. Ensuring the proper functioning of these systems is critical to protecting public health and the environment. This is achieved through a combination of **Real Property Transfer (RPT) sanitary survey inspections, OWTS investigations, and permit issuance**. In **2024**, the Environmental Health Program:

- **Received 383 RPT applications**, conducting inspections to ensure compliance with system standards during property transfers.
- **Received 221 permit-to-construct applications**, reviewing plans to ensure that new OWTS are properly designed and meet all regulatory requirements.
- **Prescribed 21 OWTS to undergo remedial measures** to correct deficiencies and improve system performance.



Photo depicts Public Health Sanitarian, Michael Grey, conducting an inspection of a new septic system.

By overseeing the installation, maintenance, and operation of onsite wastewater treatment systems, CCHD helps protect public health, the environment, and local water quality.

Commercial Sewage Treatment Systems

Larger commercial sewage treatment systems are regulated under the **State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES)**, a permit issued by the **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)**. These systems must be inspected annually to ensure they are operating efficiently and in compliance with environmental regulations. The **NYSDEC** contracts with the **Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD)** to carry out these routine inspections. In **2024**, the Environmental Health Program:

- **Performed 76 SPDES inspections** to assess the proper operation and maintenance of commercial sewage treatment systems across the county.

Through these inspections, CCHD helps ensure that commercial sewage treatment systems meet state standards and do not pose a risk to public health or the environment.

Construction Approval, Inspection and Certification

No work shall commence on any project regulated by the Department, which requires design by a professional engineer or registered architect, until all reports, plans, and specifications have been submitted to the department for review and a Notice of Plan Approval has been issued by the Department. In 2024, the EH program:

- Issued **25** Notice of Plan Approvals for regulated projects.

Notice of Plan Approvals	Number Issued
Backflow Preventer Devices	7
Campground Expansions	1
Public Water System Improvements	7
Sewage System Replacements	7
Swimming Pools	2
Recreational Spray Ground	1
TOTAL	25

Environmental Contaminant Control

Public Health Hazards, Nuisances, and Sanitation

The CCHD investigates and evaluates all resident reports or complaints regarding potential public health hazards or nuisances. Each report is assessed based on its potential impact on public health and compliance with **state and county public health laws and regulations**. In **2024**, the Environmental Health Program:

- **Received 96 citizen complaints** concerning alleged hazards or nuisances, which were promptly investigated and addressed.

Alleged Hazard or Nuisance	Number of Complaints
Bedbugs	3
CIAA	2
Cockroaches	2
Food Service Establishment	26
Garbage	12
Housing	16
Lead	1
Mosquitoes	3
Rodents	9
Swimming Pool	2
Unsafe Conditions	4
Wastewater	16
TOTAL	96

Enforcement

Enforcement of violations related to the **New York State Public Health Law, State Sanitary Code**, or the **Sanitary Code of the Cattaraugus County Health District** is carried out in accordance with the **administrative hearing process** established by the **Board of Health (BOH)** and the **Public Health Director**. Under the Public Health Law, the **BOH** has the authority to prescribe and impose penalties for violations or non-compliance with these laws, the **Sanitary Code**, or any orders issued by the **Public Health Director** or **BOH**. In **2024**, the Environmental Health Program:

- **20** formal enforcement actions initiated for various violations of the NYS Public Health Law, State Sanitary Code, or the Sanitary Code of the Cattaraugus County Health District.
- Enforcement actions were taken in **7** cases.
- **Zero** enforcement action was appealed.
- Fines assessed totaled **\$7,775**.

Through consistent enforcement, CCHD works to ensure compliance with public health laws and regulations, safeguarding the health and well-being of Cattaraugus County residents.

Enforcement Actions Resulting in Fines	Assessed Fines*	Collected Fines
7	\$7,775	\$375

**Unpaid fine cases eventually go to small claims court, where court judgments are sought against the respondents.*

Housing Programs

Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention

The **Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program (CLPPPP)** aims to reduce the prevalence of **elevated blood lead levels (BLL)** in children through **education, early intervention, and environmental safety measures**. The program collaborates with **local primary care providers** to ensure proper **screening, diagnostic evaluation, medical management, and environmental interventions**. In **2024**, the CLPPPP Program:

- **Referred 21 children** with elevated blood lead levels to **Environmental Health (EH) staff** for home inspections.
- **Inspected 36 homes** for potential lead hazards.
- **Identified 31 homes** in need of **lead hazard remediation**.
- **Managed 78 ongoing cases** of children with **BLL greater than 5 µg/dL**.
- **Managed 30 new cases** of children with **BLL greater than 5 µg/dL**.
- **Confirmed 5 homes as lead-safe**, with no potential lead hazards identified.
- **Received a Lead Hazard Capacity Building Grant** from the **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** to develop **remediation and lead abatement programs**.
- **Provided point-of-care blood lead level testing at 16 events**, targeting at-risk populations.
- **Continued participation in the Lead (Pb) Smart Partnership Coalition** to improve lead testing rates and increase awareness of lead poisoning risks.

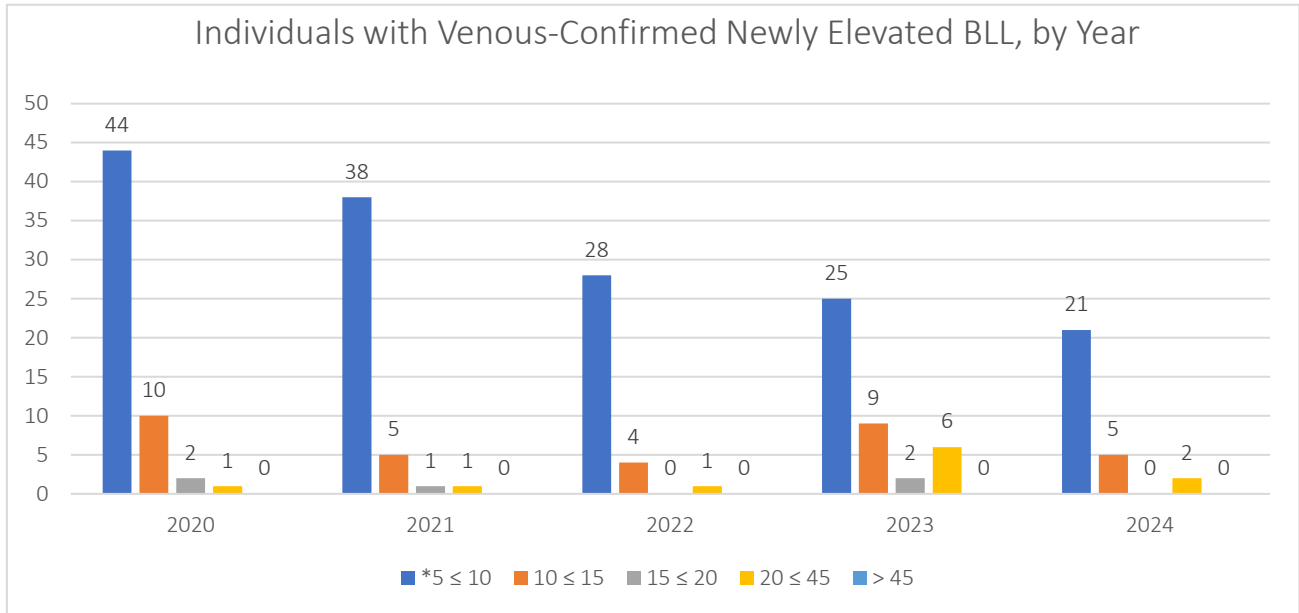


Photo depicts the lead (Pb) house used to teach the community about where lead hazards lurk in the home.

By integrating **education, early detection, and hazard reduction efforts**, CCHD remains committed to **protecting children from lead exposure** and ensuring safer living environments across Cattaraugus County.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program (Continued)

Individuals with Venous-Confirmed Newly Elevated Blood Lead Levels (BLL) in 2024						
Admission BLL (ug/dl)	$5 \leq 10$	$10.1 \leq 15$	$15.1 \leq 20$	$20.1 \leq 45$	>45	Number of individuals that joined the program pre-elevated
Number of Individuals	21	5	0	2	0	2
TOTAL	30 Individuals					



Leading on Lead (Pb)

The CCHD is actively implementing a **\$2.5 million Lead Capacity Building Grant** from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), awarded in October 2023. This three-year initiative is designed to protect children and families from lead-based paint hazards and other home health risks, ensuring safer living environments across the county.

Photo depicts an advertisement for the specialized lead safety training programs CCHD offers to local contractors as part of the Lead Capacity Building Grant initiative.



As part of this effort, the department is engaging local contractors and landlords in specialized lead safety training programs. These trainings include:

- **Lead Abatement Worker Certification** – Enables workers to perform lead-abatement projects, with ongoing refresher courses required to maintain certification.
- **EPA Lead Renovator Certification** – Equips renovators with the necessary credentials to conduct lead-safe work practices.
- **Lead Abatement Supervisor Certification** – Provides advanced training for individuals overseeing lead-abatement projects, ensuring compliance with EPA standards.

By expanding local capacity for lead hazard reduction, the CCHD is taking proactive steps to create healthier homes and communities for Cattaraugus County residents.

The Lead (Pb) Smart Partnership: Strengthening Regional Collaboration

The **Lead (Pb) Smart Partnership** hosted its second annual **Fellowship on Lead Poisoning Education** conference during **Lead Poisoning Prevention Week** at the Seneca Allegany Casino and Resort. This event brought together **nearly 100 attendees** from **42 organizations, 11 counties, and 1 tribal nation**, fostering a collaborative effort to address lead poisoning prevention and education.

Professionals and community members gathered to expand their knowledge, share best practices, and recognize the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations dedicated to preventing lead exposure. As part of the event, awards were presented to **community organizations and health care providers** in recognition of their efforts in **education, advocacy, prevention, and management** of lead poisoning.

By strengthening regional partnerships and promoting awareness, the Lead (Pb) Smart Partnership continues to drive meaningful action toward healthier, lead-safe communities.

Photo depicts Jennifer Becker, MPH, CPH delivering the keynote address at the Fellowship on Lead Poisoning Education conference.



Healthy Neighborhoods Program: Creating Safer Homes and Healthier Communities

The **Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP)** offers **free home assessments** to residents in high-risk neighborhoods, identifying and addressing environmental health and safety concerns to enhance living conditions and overall quality of life. Target communities include **Salamanca, Olean, Randolph, and Gowanda**, as well as **mobile home parks throughout Cattaraugus County**.

The program focuses on **preventing childhood lead poisoning, reducing asthma-related hospitalizations, minimizing indoor air pollution, and preventing residential injuries and fatalities**. In 2024, HNP made significant strides in achieving these goals by:

- Conducting **153 initial home safety visits** and **105 follow-up visits** to assess and improve home environments.
- Identifying and addressing home safety hazards by distributing essential safety products.
- Providing **fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, radon test kits, and pest control supplies**, tailored to the specific needs of each household.
- Distributing **56 asthma prevention kits and educational materials** to support respiratory health.
- Collaborating with **community partners** to offer referrals, follow-up visits, and educational resources through the Cattaraugus County Health Department's Public Health Educator.
- Strengthening partnerships with the **Medical Provider Network**, to ensure that patients diagnosed with asthma are referred to HNP for support.

Through proactive outreach and collaboration, the **Healthy Neighborhoods Program** continues to make homes safer and healthier for Cattaraugus County residents.

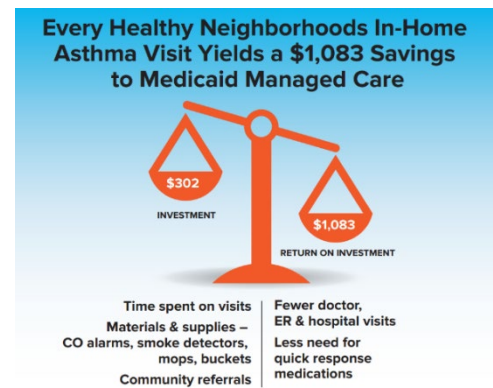
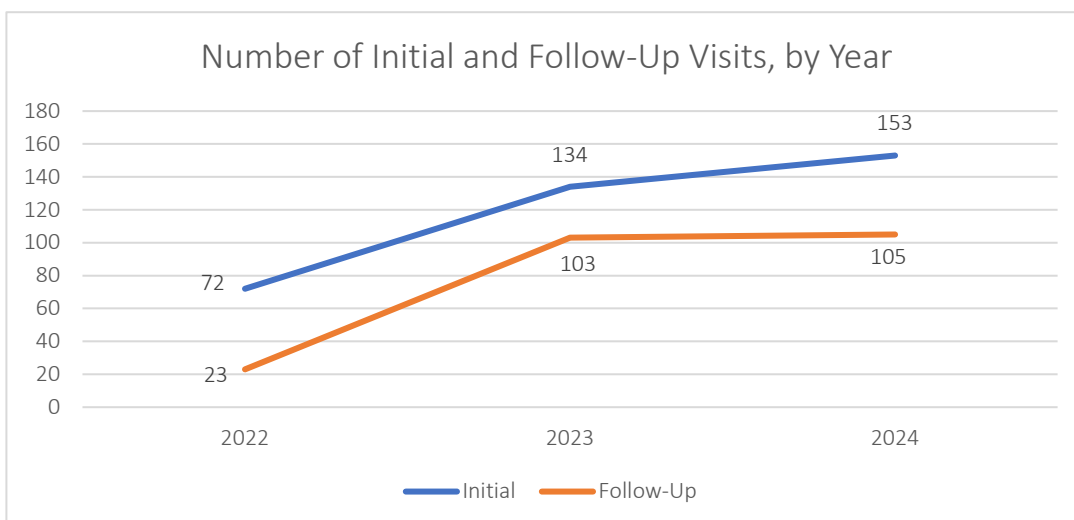


Photo depicts how much money is saved by operating an HNP Program.



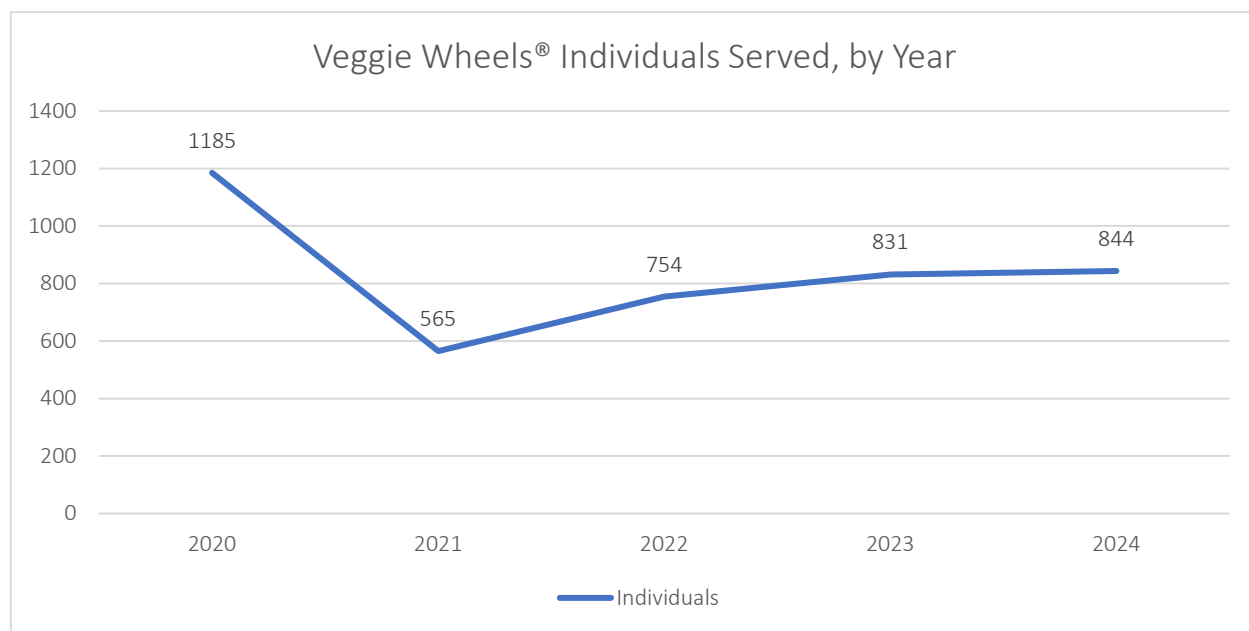
Healthy Food Environments

Veggie Wheels®: Rolling into Rural Communities

Veggie Wheels® (VW) is a mobile farmer's market that delivers fresh, locally grown produce at no cost to low-income families, individuals with disabilities, and senior citizens across Cattaraugus County. The program is supported by donations and grants such as the Renodin Foundation and the Sisters of Saint-Joseph. Thanks to a generous **\$250,000 grant from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield received in 2023**, VW will expand its reach with its new mobile unit in 2025. This initiative, **"Rolling into Rural Communities,"** extends fresh food access, nutrition education, and hands-on learning opportunities to the county's most remote areas. In 2024, the VW Program:

- Served **844 individuals** of all ages.
- Provided **nutrition education, cooking tips, and healthy recipes** to every participant.
- Strengthened partnerships with local farms and organizations to purchase and collect fresh produce, including:
 - **Miller's Farm Market**
 - **Great Valley Berry Patch**
 - **Wilson's Farm Market**
 - **Cattaraugus County Department of Aging**

By expanding food access and nutrition education, CCHD continues to support the well-being of all residents, fostering a healthier and more food-secure community.



County Laboratory Services

Clinical Laboratory

The Cattaraugus County Health Department Clinical Laboratory is a **New York State-certified and CLIA-approved** facility, providing essential diagnostic testing to support public health and patient care. In 2024, the laboratory conducted a wide range of tests, including:

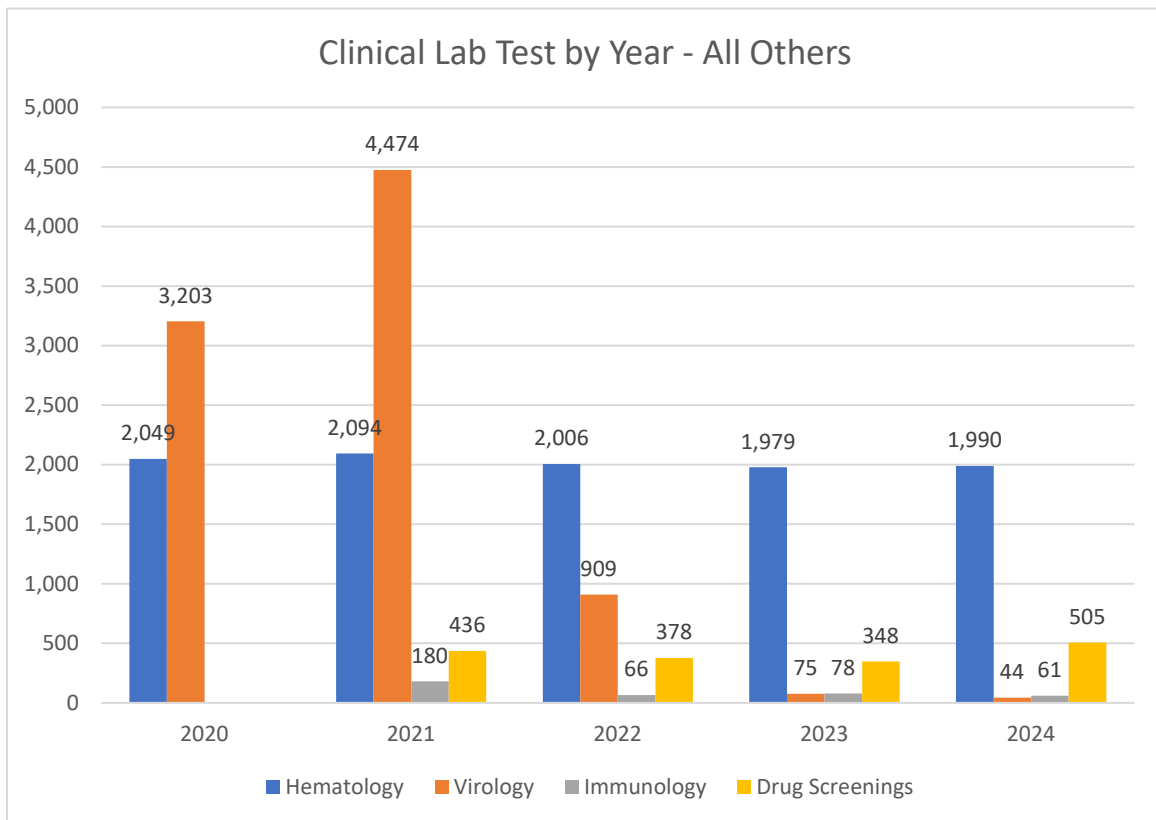
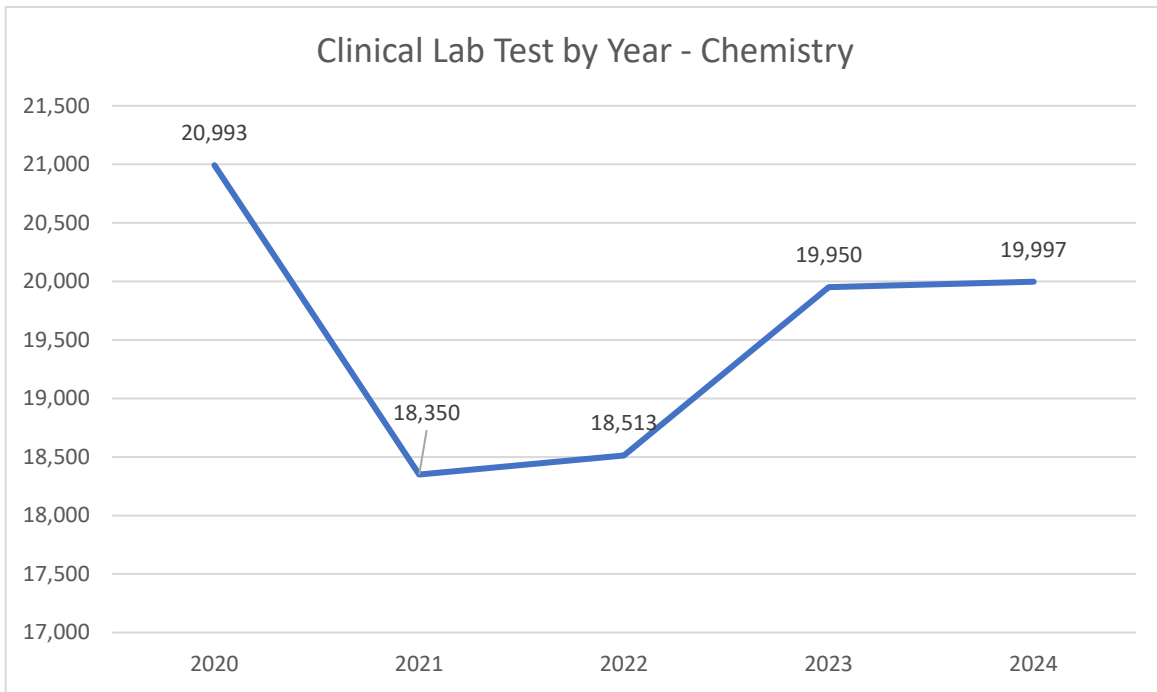
- **Chemistry Testing** – Clinical analyses such as urinalysis, urine human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) tests, and endocrinology serum tests.
- **Diagnostic Immunology Testing** – Serologic assays to detect patient antibody responses to bacterial and viral infections.
- **Drug Screening** – Analysis of hair, urine, and blood samples for substance detection.
- **Hematology Testing** – Complete blood count (CBC) and fecal occult blood testing for early disease detection.
- **Virology Testing** – Molecular, viral antigen, and culture-based tests to identify viral infections.

By maintaining rigorous quality standards and expanding access to critical diagnostic services, the Clinical Laboratory continues to play a vital role in safeguarding the health of Cattaraugus County residents.

The following chart details each of the **22,597** clinical tests performed in 2024.

Clinical Laboratory Test	Number
Chemistry*	19,997
Diagnostic Immunology	61
Drug Screenings	505
Hematology	1,990
Virology	44
TOTAL	22,597

*Please note, given the wide variation in lab tests for chemistry versus all other lab tests, the results are depicted in two graphs for easier interpretation.



Environmental Laboratory

The **CCHD Environmental Laboratory** plays a critical role in safeguarding public health by analyzing water quality and detecting potential contaminants. The laboratory conducts a variety of tests to ensure the safety of drinking water, recreational water, and wastewater.

Bacteriological Testing

These tests assess water samples for bacterial contamination, focusing on **indicator organisms** like coliforms and **E. coli**, which signal potential fecal contamination. Key bacteriological tests include:

- **Colilert Test** – A rapid 24-hour test for drinking water that detects both **total coliforms** and **E. coli** without requiring additional confirmatory testing.
- **Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB) Test** – Conducted at wastewater treatment plants, this test detects bacteria commonly found in feces, helping to assess potential sewage or animal waste contamination in water sources.
- **Hi-Dilution (E. coli Enumeration) Test** – Used for heavily contaminated water sources, this test quantifies the exact concentration of **E. coli**, often applied seasonally to monitor beach water quality.



Photo depicts a bacterial growth plate cultured in the Lab.

Nitrate Testing

Nitrates, naturally occurring in **soil, water, and plants**, can enter groundwater from agricultural runoff and industrial waste. High nitrate levels in drinking water pose **serious health risks**, particularly for infants and pregnant individuals. The Environmental Laboratory monitors nitrate concentrations in water sources to prevent adverse health outcomes and ensure compliance with safety standards.

By providing timely and accurate water quality testing, the Environmental Laboratory helps protect the health and well-being of Cattaraugus County residents.

The following chart details each of the **3,329** water tests performed in 2024.

Environmental Laboratory Test	Number
Colilert	2,414
Fecal	226
Plate Count	336
Hi Dilution (E. Coli Enumeration)	85
Nitrate	268
TOTAL	3,329

Public Health Internships and Fellowships

Public Health Internships

In collaboration with local academic institutions, the **CCHD** hosted **14 interns** in 2024, providing hands-on experience in public health practice. This included **12 interns from St. Bonaventure University's (SBU) Health Sciences program**, **1 intern from SUNY Brockport**, and **1 intern from SBU's Nursing program**. These students contributed to key projects addressing **Social Determinants of Health, epidemiology, and environmental health**, gaining valuable insight into public health challenges and solutions.



Photo depicts three St. Bonaventure University interns with Board of Health President. (L) Molly Gipson, David Smith, Ben Vitale, Kevin Eberth (R).

New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) Fellowship Program

The **NYSPHC Fellowship Program** strengthens public health infrastructure by providing full-time and part-time fellows to support Local Health Departments. In 2024, **four fellows** were assigned to CCHD, assisting with essential projects, partnerships, and initiatives, including:

- **Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP) Steering Committee**
- **Development of a Comprehensive Communication Plan**
- **Epidemiology Institutional Development**
- **Grant Writing and Application Support**
- **Lead (Pb) Smart Partnership Coalition**
- **Public Health Reaccreditation Efforts**
- **Strategic Planning for Departmental Growth**
- **Inter-Departmental Collaboration Initiatives**

Additionally, fellows participated in **regional summits and statewide workshops**, expanding their professional development and contributing to the advancement of public health initiatives in Cattaraugus County.

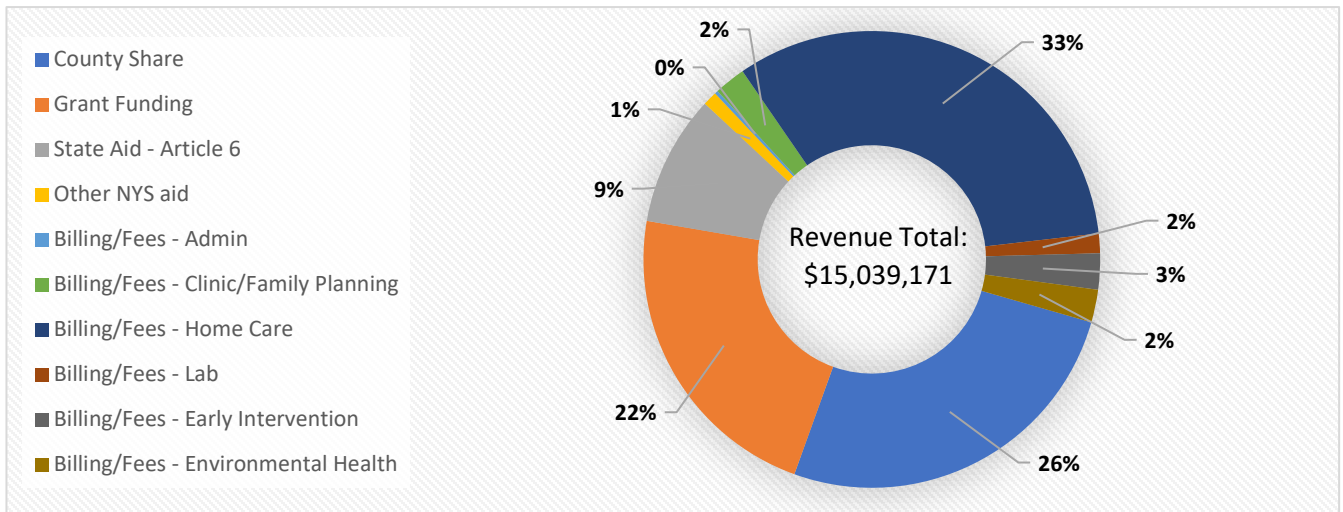
By fostering the next generation of public health professionals, CCHD continues to enhance its capacity to serve the community while providing students and fellows with meaningful, real-world experience.

Fiscal and Administrative Services

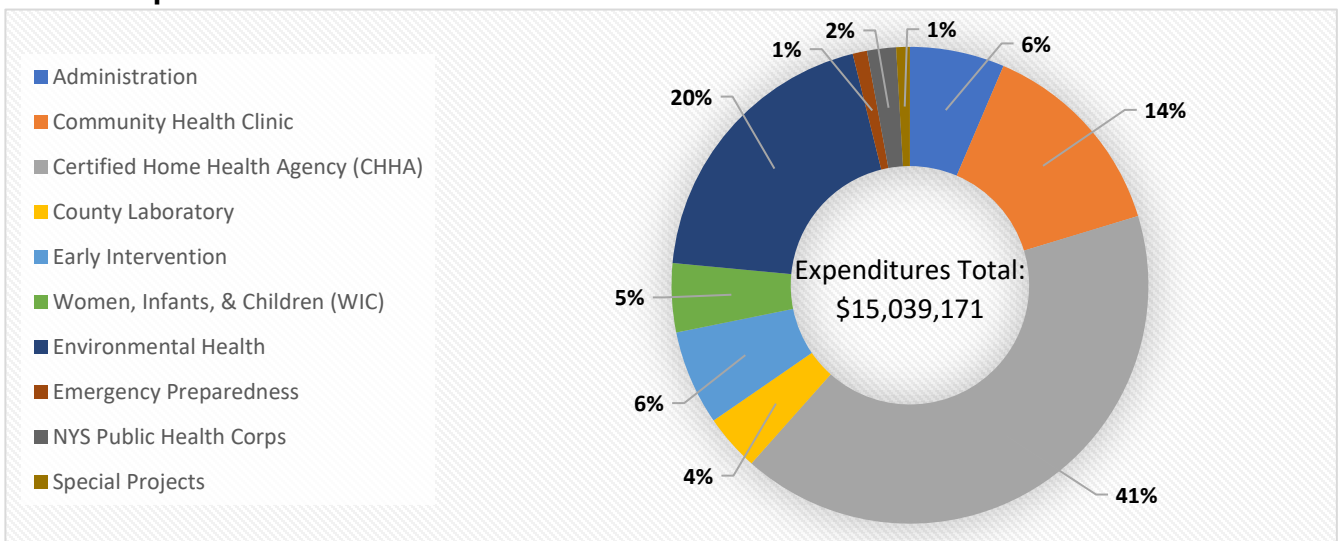
2024 CCHD Operating Budget

The **CCHD** adopted operating budget for 2024 was **\$15,039,171**, funded through a combination of **federal, state, county/local dollars, and grants**, including **Article 6** funding. Under **Article 6 of the New York State Public Health Law**, CCHD receives a **base grant** along with **36% state reimbursement** for eligible costs associated with mandated public health services after the base grant is expended. This diversified funding structure ensures the department can effectively deliver essential health programs, services, and infrastructure improvements that benefit the community. By strategically leveraging multiple revenue streams, CCHD continues to strengthen its fiscal sustainability while enhancing public health services for Cattaraugus County residents.

2024 Revenue



2024 Expenditures



Acknowledgment

A heartfelt thank you to the individuals whose dedication and hard work were instrumental in producing this year's report. The exceptional contributions of Erin Washburn and Dr. Pauline Hoffmann have been invaluable, demonstrating unwavering commitment, reliability, and professionalism. Their efforts not only ensured the quality of this report but also set a high standard for excellence across our team.

I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to the entire **Cattaraugus County Health Department staff** for their tireless dedication to meeting the daily health needs of our community. Their commitment to public health—guided by the mandates of the **New York State Department of Health**—has been a driving force in protecting and improving the well-being of our residents.

As we reflect on the challenges and accomplishments of 2024, it is evident that we have faced them **together** in service of public health. I am optimistic about the year ahead and look forward to continuing our shared mission to enhance the health and quality of life for the people of **Cattaraugus County**.

Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin D. Watkins, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Public Health Director
Cattaraugus County Health Department

Staff Directory

Administration

Kevin Watkins, MD, MPH
Gilbert N. Witte, MD
Debra Lacher
Colette Lulay-Pound

Public Health Director
Medical Director
Secretary to the Public Health Director
Administrative Officer

Finance

Anthony Smrek
Jeffrey Toner
Kathleen Hewitt
Renee James
Rachel Chesner
Heather Drayton
Melissa Harrington
Jessica Winant
Amy Weaver

Senior Accountant
Accountant
Senior Account Clerk Typist
Senior Account Clerk Typist
Senior Account Clerk Typist
Senior Medical Billing Clerk
Medical Billing Clerk
Medical Billing Clerk
Junior Accountant

NYS Public Health Fellowship

Derien Braxton, MD
Christopher Crawford, Ph.D
Pauline Hoffmann, Ph.D
Julie Hoffman-Hall
Ann Marie Sitter-Tompkins
Katelynn Smith
Anna Giglio
Anthony James
Zanre Oberholzer

Senior Fellow
Senior Fellow
Senior Fellow
Graduate Fellow
Graduate Fellow
Graduate Fellow
Fellow
Fellow
Fellow

Early Childhood Care

Patricia Cheek
Stacey Johnson
Christine Kenyon
DonnaLyn Nuernberger
Nikki Pratt
Adrienne Ratzel
Adam Packer

Early Care Services Coordinator
Early Care Services Coordinator
Early Care Services Coordinator
Early Care Services Coordinator
Child Find Assistant
Keyboard Specialist II
Resource Specialist

Emergency Preparedness

James Lawrence
Bella Dodson

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director
Registered Professional Nurse

Sue Ann Feldbauer
Susan Labuhn
Vicky McKinney
Sandra Moshier
Rebecca Price
Lorie Vitello
Linda Witte

Community Health Nurse
Registered Professional Nurse
Registered Professional Nurse
Registered Professional Nurse
Licensed Practical Nurse
Licensed Practical Nurse
Registered Professional Nurse

Environmental Health

Robert Ring
Raymond Jordan
Chris Covert
Richard Dayton
Samuel Dayton
Mariel Grey
Michael Grey
Michael Hastings
Renee Herc
Rigel Johnson
Rhonda Kelley
Elisha Rust
Lindsey Wawrzynski
Andrew Wolf
Timothy Zerfas
Elaine Fowler
Regina Rogers
Krystina Syracuse
Caleb Jennings
Juliana Syracuse
Michelle Winicki

Environmental Health Director
Senior Public Health Sanitarian
Public Health Sanitarian
Public Health Sanitarian
Public Health Sanitarian
Public Health Sanitarian
Public Health Sanitarian
Public Health Sanitarian
Public Health Sanitarian
Public Health Sanitarian
Public Health Sanitarian
Public Health Sanitarian (Contracted)
Public Health Sanitarian
Water Resource Specialist
Keyboard Specialist II
Keyboard Specialist
Keyboard Specialist
Health Program Aide
Health Program Aide
Lead (Pb) Resource Specialist (Contracted)

Health Education

Matthew Tyssee
Traci Wind
Erin Washburn

Public Health Educator
Reproductive Health Educator
Health Education Assistant

Laboratory

Donald Higgs, MD
Paula Decerbo
Amy Hamilton
Kimberly Stewart
Kandra Kamery

Laboratory Director
Laboratory Supervisor
Phlebotomist
Clinical Lab Technologist
Clinical Lab Technologist

Clinic

Brooke Schnell
Christen Bidwell, FNP-C
Kerime Perese
Susan Andrews, FNP
Kaitlyn Hamner, MD
Jennifer Mark, MD
David Fancher
Laurie Rzucek
Sidney Earley
Lora Prey
Desiree Ottley

Supervising Community Health Nurse
Nurse Practitioner
Nurse Practitioner
Nurse Practitioner
Clinical Physician (Contracted)
Clinical Physician (Contracted)
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Keyboard Specialist
Keyboard Specialist II

WIC

Michele Phelps
Christian Bowser
Molly Higgins
Summer Jolley
Mary Beth Lasko
Rachel Renninger
Amy Chaffee
Carla Jefferlone

Nutrition Program Director
Nutrition Program Assistant II
Nutrition Program Assistant I (Contracted)
Registered Dietician
Registered Dietician
WIC Nutritionist
WIC Peer Counselor
WIC Peer Counselor

Nursing

Lynne Moore
Erica Andera
Gina Chaffee
Melissa Chamberlain
Joshua Creed
Ashley Dahill
Amber Everitt
Kristin Francis
Nancy Fuller
Tyler Harvey
Abbey Hayes
Meegan Howard
Karin Jochen
Kristen Langdon
Lois Lowry
Jennifer Rasinski
Kayli Redman
Charity Reisman
Vienna Sherry

Director of Patient Services
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse

Melissa Spencer
Chastity Standish
Heather Thurston
Holly Whippo
Tracy Tredway
Heather Hale
Samantha Jordan
Amit Benedict
Sandra Grey
Carol Skudlarek
Deborah Drabant
Angela Vitaro
Kari Wampler
Michelle Bazow
Earlena Baer
Michelle Jennings
Teresa Ross
Laura Fuller
Erinne Keim

Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Licensed Practical Nurse
Registered Professional Nurse
Registered Professional Nurse
Supervising Community Health Nurse
Supervising Community Health Nurse
Supervising Community Health Nurse
Home Health Aide
Home Health Aide
Home Health Aide
Account Clerk Typist
Keyboard Specialist II
Keyboard Specialist II
Keyboard Specialist II
Medical Services Specialist
Social Work Consultant



Honorable Staff Mention

Kalliope the Service and Therapy dog continued to provide mental health and well-being support to the dedicated staff of the Cattaraugus County Health Department (while taking diligent meeting minutes).

Cattaraugus County Health Department Locations

Olean - County Building

1 Leo Moss Drive
Olean, NY 14760
(716) 373-8010

Salamanca - Satellite Office

69 Iroquois Drive
Salamanca, NY 14779
(716) 945-1230

Machias - Satellite Office

9824 Route 16
Machias, NY 14101
(716) 353-8525

Little Valley - Satellite Office

207 Rock City Street, Suite 201
Little Valley, NY 14755
(716) 938-9111



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
**Cattaraugus County
Health Department**

