

2025 Annual Report

*Cattaraugus County
Health Department*



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



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

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Message from the Director

Public health is constantly evolving, and 2025 has been a year of forward momentum, strengthened partnerships, and renewed purpose for the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD). As we look ahead, we remain focused on building a system that is responsive, resilient, and rooted in the needs of the communities we serve.

A defining milestone this year was the department's successful national reaccreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This achievement reflects not only our adherence to rigorous national standards, but also our commitment to accountability, performance, and continuous improvement. It affirms that CCHD is well-positioned to meet both current and future public health challenges.



Another major accomplishment was the completion of the 2025–2030 Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). These efforts were shaped by strong collaboration with hospital partners within our county, as well as with regional partners in Erie County and across the Pennsylvania border in Bradford. By working across jurisdictions, we are better equipped to address shared health priorities and implement coordinated, data-driven strategies that extend beyond geographic boundaries.

Internally, we have also taken steps to evaluate how we deliver services, including important budgetary and operational adjustments within our Home Care program. These changes are expected to position the program for greater efficiency and measurable improvements beginning in 2026.

This year has reinforced that the future of public health depends on adaptability, innovation, and partnership. From addressing complex issues such as chronic disease and behavioral health, to ensuring preparedness for emerging threats, our approach must continue to evolve alongside the communities we serve.

I am deeply appreciative of the CCHD team, whose expertise and dedication drive our mission forward each day. I also extend my sincere thanks to our community partners and the residents of Cattaraugus County. Your collaboration, trust, and engagement are essential to advancing a shared vision of a healthier future.

Together, we are not only responding to today's challenges, we are building the foundation for stronger, more connected public health in the years ahead.

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

New York State Core Program Areas

The CCHD operates under New York State (NYS) Public Health Laws and follows CDC guidelines. Included in NYS Article 6 Public Health Law, local health departments are statutorily required to provide services in six core public health program areas.

Core Program Areas

Description

Family Health

Focuses on improving the health of families, including maternal and child health, as well as promoting nutrition, physical activity, and breastfeeding.

Communicable Disease Control

Involves investigation of outbreaks, disease reporting, and providing immunizations (e.g., rabies clinics, rabies vaccination compliance).

Chronic Disease Prevention

Aims to reduce the burden of chronic diseases through policies that promote healthy food choices, smoking cessation, and physical activity (e.g., tobacco-free parks).

Community Health Assessment

Requires LHDs to analyze health data and engage stakeholders to identify and develop strategies to address local health priorities. The CHA is supplemented by the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which presents solutions to the public health concerns identified in the CHA.

Environmental Health

Involves monitoring and enforcing standards for public water supplies, food service establishments (restaurants), swimming pools, beaches, and children's camps.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Ensures that LHDs can plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies and threats, such as natural disasters or disease outbreaks.

2025 Board of Health Members



Board of Health Members

David L. Smith, Mayor – President

Legislator Kelly J. Andreano – Vice President

Joseph Bohan, MD

Zahid Chohan, MD

Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN

Shane Pancio

Theresa Raftis

Ginger D. Schroder, Esq. – Legislator

Thomas Spigel, MD

Strategic Planning & CHA-CHIP Implementation

Completion of the 2022–2025 Strategic Plan

In 2025, the CCHD concluded its **2022–2025 Strategic Plan**, marking the completion of a three-year cycle focused on strengthening public health systems and advancing priority health initiatives. Key efforts during this period included:

- Chronic Disease Prevention
- Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention
- Health Equity Initiatives
- Workforce Development
- Emergency Preparedness Planning
- Enhanced Internal and External Communications

National Reaccreditation

A significant milestone was reached on August 28, 2025, when the CCHD was notified of its **successful reaccreditation** through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This achievement reaffirms compliance with national public health standards and demonstrates continued excellence in performance management, accountability, and evidence-based practice. Reaccreditation reflects the CCHD's sustained commitment to delivering high-quality public health services to Cattaraugus County residents. This process required comprehensive review of policies, performance measures, community partnerships, and quality improvement activities. Successfully meeting these standards confirms that the CCHD maintains strong operational systems and remains committed to continuous improvement in service to the community.



Photo depicts Mayor David Smith, BOH president, with Dr. Watkins & the PHAB Reaccreditation plaque.

Strengthening Infrastructure & Quality Improvement

Throughout the strategic cycle, the CCHD continued to enhance internal infrastructure through policy review, cross-training, grant development, and operational improvements. In 2025, the CCHD strengthened its commitment to continuous improvement by restructuring its **Performance Management and Quality Improvement/Workforce Development (PMQI/WD) Committee**. This updated structure enhances internal accountability, better supports staff development, and ensures alignment between strategic priorities and measurable outcomes.

Launch of the 2025–2030 CHA-CHIP

In 2025, the Cattaraugus County Health Department marked the completion and launch of the 2025–2030 Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA–CHIP). Guided by community input and strong partner engagement, four priority areas were identified for collective action: Anxiety and Stress; Primary Prevention, Substance Misuse, and Overdose Prevention; Preventative Services for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control; and Nutrition Security. Building on lessons from the previous cycle, the new plan reinforces a focus on prevention, health equity, rural access challenges, and cross-sector collaboration. This forward-looking framework ensures continued data-driven decision-making and measurable progress to improve the health and well-being of Cattaraugus County residents.

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 the spread of illness. In 2025, nursing services;

- Tracked **1,631** confirmed and probable cases of communicable diseases that were reported to New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).
- Identified **Influenza A** 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.

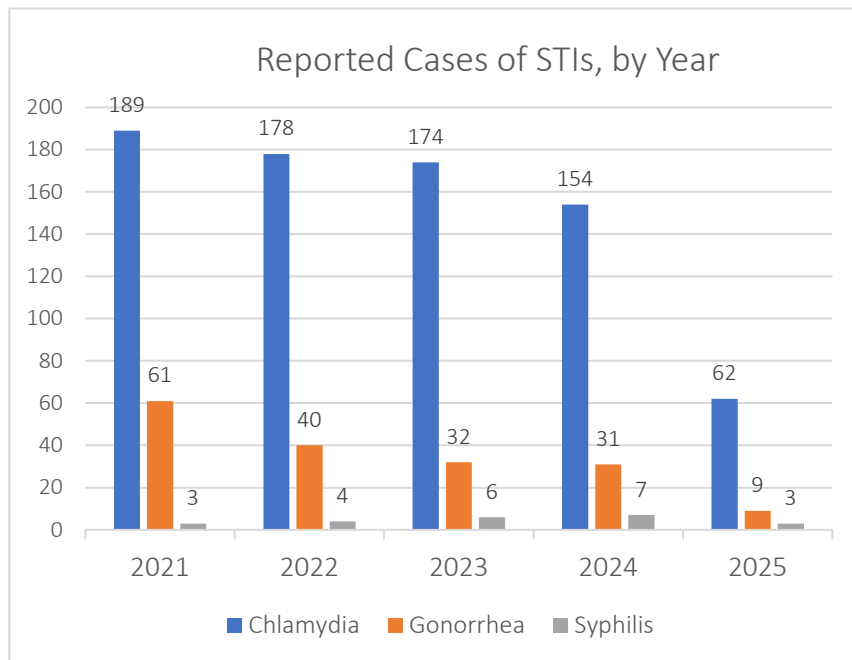
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements

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 infections (as defined in section 2.2 10NYCRR)	Poliomyelitis	Streptococcal infection (invasive disease) ⁵
Amebiasis	Diphtheria	Influenza, laboratory-confirmed	Psittacosis	Group A beta-hemolytic strep
Animal bites for which rabies prophylaxis is given¹	E.coli O157:H7 infection ⁴	Legionellosis	Q Fever²	Group B strep
Anthrax²	Ehrlichiosis	Listeriosis	Rabies¹	Streptococcus pneumoniae
Arboviral infection³	Encephalitis	Lyme disease	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) laboratory-confirmed	Syphilis, specify stage⁷
Babesiosis	Foodborne Illness	Lymphogranuloma venereum	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) pediatric fatalities	Tetanus
Botulism²	Giardiasis	Malaria	Rocky Mountain spotted fever	Toxic shock syndrome
Bruceellosis²	Glanders²	Measles	Rubella	Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies ⁸ (TSE)
Campylobacteriosis	Gonococcal infection	Melioidosis²	(including congenital rubella syndrome)	Trichinosis
Chancroid	Haemophilus influenzae ⁵ (invasive disease)	Meningitis	Salmonellosis	Tuberculosis current disease (specify site)
Chlamydia trachomatis infection	Hantavirus disease	Aseptic or viral	Shigatoxin-producing E.coli ⁴ (STEC)	Tularemia²
Cholera	Hemolytic uremic syndrome	Haemophilus	Shigellosis ⁴	Typhoid
Coronavirus	Hepatitis A	Meningococcal	Smallpox²	Vaccinia disease⁹
COVID-19 (SARS CoV-2)	Hepatitis A in a food handler	Other (specify type)	Staphylococcus aureus ⁶ (due to strains showing reduced susceptibility or resistance to vancomycin)	Varicella (not shingles)
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	Hepatitis B (specify acute or chronic)	Meningococemia	Staphylococcal enterotoxin B poisoning²	Vibriosis ⁶
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)	Hepatitis C (specify acute or chronic)	Mumps		Viral hemorrhagic fever²
Cryptosporidiosis	Pregnant hepatitis B carrier	Pertussis		Yersiniosis
	Herpes infection, infants aged 60 days or younger	Plague²		

The following table indicates the communicable disease report for Cattaraugus County in 2025.

Communicable Disease Report	
Communicable or Vector-Borne Disease	Number Reported
Anaplasmosis	10
Babesiosis	2
Campylobacteriosis	12
Chlamydia	62
COVID-19	276
Cryptosporidiosis	2
Ehrlichiosis (All)	2
Giardiasis	3
Gonorrhea	9
Hepatitis B, Chronic	1
Hepatitis C, Acute	1
Hepatitis C, Chronic	50
Influenza A	803
Influenza B	105
Legionellosis	5
Lyme Disease	243
Salmonellosis (All)	10
Strep Group A (Invasive)	4
Strep Group B (Invasive)	14
Strep Pneumo (Invasive)	9
Syphilis	3
TOTAL	1,631

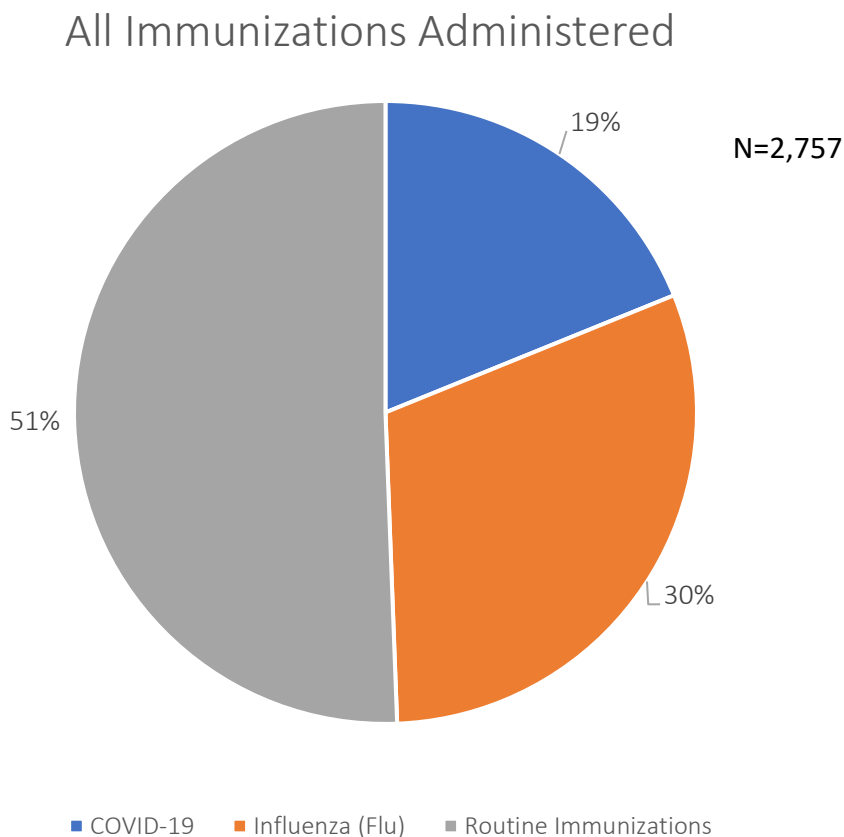


The decline in reported Chlamydia cases in Cattaraugus County from 189 cases in 2021 to 62 cases in 2025 is likely due to a combination of factors. While changes in sexual health behaviors and improved prevention and treatment efforts may have contributed, the decrease is most likely influenced by reduced screening and testing as Chlamydia is often asymptomatic and dependent on routine screening for detection. In addition, local factors such as healthcare access, clinic capacity, and potential reporting delays may also impact case counts. As a result, the observed decline should be interpreted with caution, as it may reflect underdiagnosis rather than a true reduction in disease burden.

Immunization Services

Immunizations remain one of the most effective tools for preventing the spread of serious infectious diseases and protecting community health. The Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) continues to provide comprehensive immunization services for both pediatric (ages 0–18) and adult (ages 19+) populations. In 2025, the CCHD Immunization Program:

- Administered **2,757** immunizations to pediatric and adult individuals.
- Administered **842** influenza immunizations.
- Administered **520** COVID-19 immunizations.
- Administered **154** Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis immunizations.
- Administered **42** doses of Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG).
- Made **five** 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.



CCHD Immunizations Administered, by Age			
Immunization Type	0-18	19+	Total
DTaP	35	0	35
DTaP-Hep B-IPV	13	0	13
DTaP-Hib-IPV	14	0	14
Hepatitis A (Hep A)	9	30	39
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	40	42	82
Hepatitis A – Hepatitis B	0	52	52
Hemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib)	9	0	9
Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)	17	0	17
Influenza (FLU)	98	744	842
Japanese Encephalitis	0	3	3
Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR)	36	74	110
Meningococcal B, OMV	14	5	19
Meningococcal MCV40	165	14	179
Pneumococcal Conjugate PCV 15	2	0	2
Pneumococcal conjugate PCV20, polysaccharide CRM197 conjugate, adjuvant, PF	27	6	33
Pneumococcal Polysaccharide PPV23	4	2	6
Poliomyelitis (IPV)	53	24	77
Rabies	121	260	381
RSV	2	5	7
Rotavirus, pentavalent	12	0	12
SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)	24	496	520
Tetanus Diphtheria Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)	111	47	158
Typhoid	8	41	49
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	41	14	55
Yellow Fever	3	34	37
Zoster (Shingles)	0	6	6
TOTAL	858	1,899	2,757

Tuberculosis Control Program

Early detection and treatment of latent tuberculosis (TB) infection are essential to preventing the progression to active disease and reducing transmission. The CCHD supports these efforts by providing testing and follow-up care through its quarterly TB Chest Clinic. In 2025, the CCHD TB program:

- Performed **168** Tuberculin Skin Tests (TSTs) to evaluate individuals for latent TB, with **two** individuals testing positive.
- Provided precautionary care to **22** individuals at the CCHD’s TB Chest Clinic.
- Administered **three** prophylactic treatments for latent TB.
- Managed **three** cases of active TB.

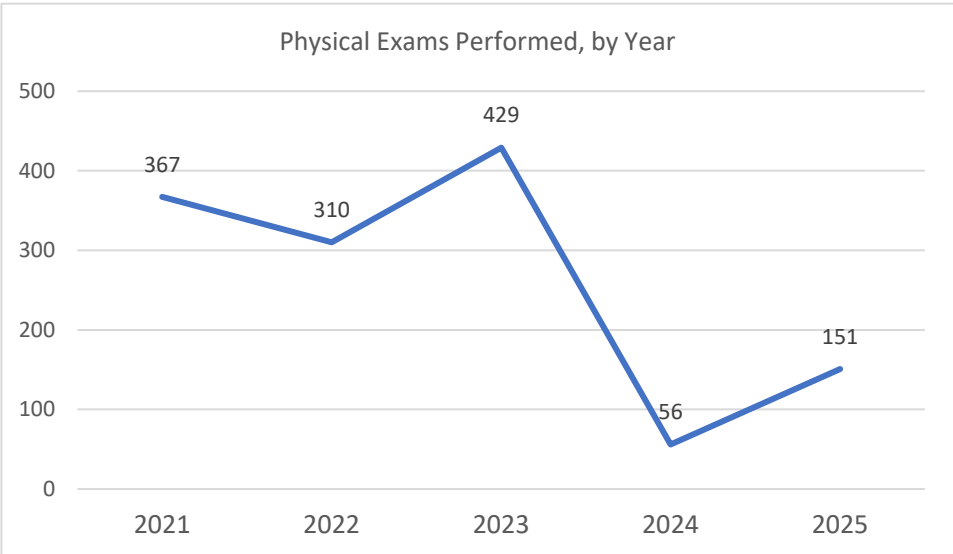
Service	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
TST’s performed	418	318	313	171	168
Total positive results for latent TB infection	0	3	0	1	2
Total TB chest clinic visits	2	5	22	1	22
Individuals treated with prophylactic medication	2	3	1	0	3
Active TB cases managed	0	0	0	0	3

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 clearance for school or college admission. In 2025, the community health clinic:

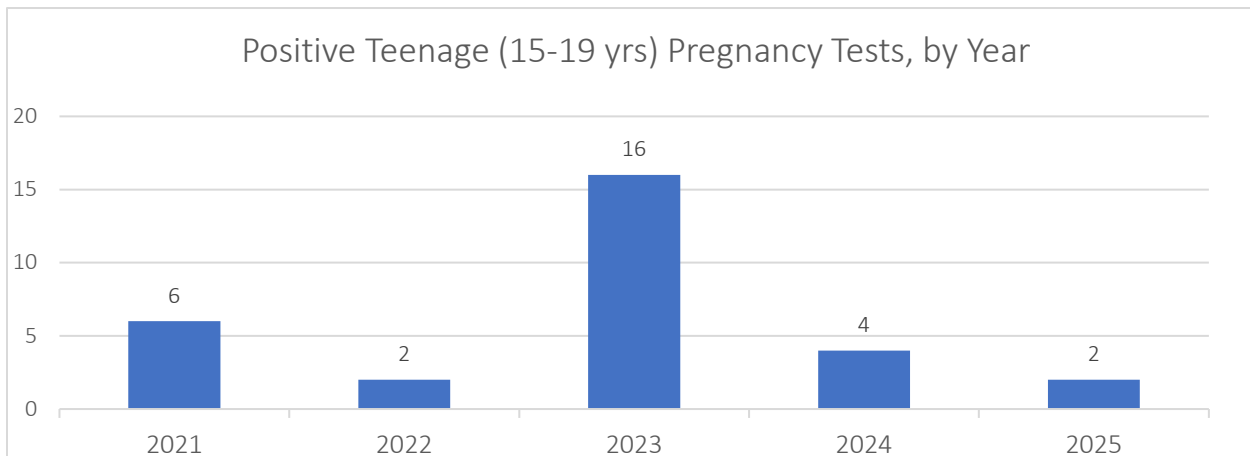
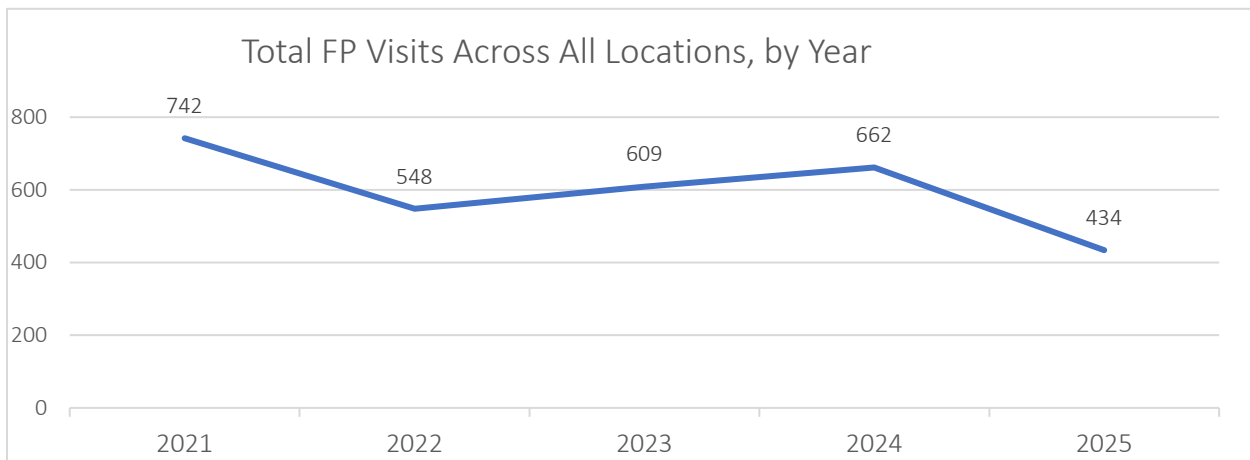
- Performed **151** exams. Loss of provider during the year may have contributed to a lower number of exams.



Family Planning Services

Family Planning (FP) services provide affordable, voluntary access to contraceptive care, supplies, and essential preventive health services, with an emphasis on serving low-income individuals & families. These services also include education, screening, testing, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), as well as cancer screenings. Care is available at clinic locations in Olean, Salamanca, and Machias. In 2025, the FP Program:

- Provided **434** visits across all locations.
- Performed **351** pregnancy tests, of which **seven** were positive, including **two** 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.

Reproductive Disease Prevention and Cancer Services Program

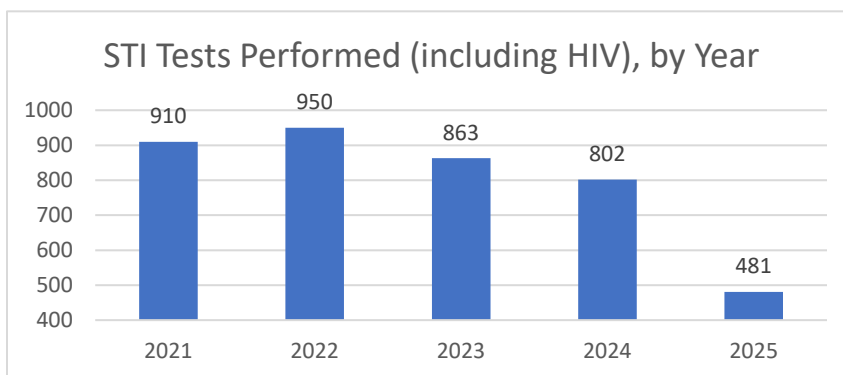
Cervical cancer is largely preventable through vaccination and routine screening. The Cancer Services Program (CSP) offers no-cost breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings to NYS residents age 40 and over who are uninsured or underinsured and meet income eligibility guidelines. In 2025, the Reproductive Disease Prevention and CSP programs:

- Conducted **45** cervical screenings, including Pap smears, high-risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) tests, and pelvic exams.
 - **Zero** cervical screenings required further surveillance.
 - **Five** abnormal Pap smear tests required immediate referrals for follow-up.
- Performed **18** clinical breast exams.
 - **Zero** clinical breast exams required additional follow-up.
- Conducted **18** clinical prostate exams and **18** clinical testicular exams.
 - **Zero** of those required further surveillance.

Sexually Transmitted Infections and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Services

The Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) provides confidential services for the prevention, investigation, and reporting of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Individuals diagnosed with STIs, along with their identified contacts, receive education, treatment, and follow-up care to prevent further transmission. Surveillance data are used to monitor disease trends and guide public health policy and prevention strategies. In 2025, the CCHD STI Clinic:

- Conducted **481** STI clinic visits at the Olean, Machias, and Salamanca clinic locations.
- Performed **481** STI tests, with **9** testing positive.
- Monitored STI trends, identifying **chlamydia** as the most frequently reported infection.
- Administered **481** HIV tests, with **one** individual testing positive.
- Provided education materials, safe sex information, and supplies to **8** county schools and community sites.



Loss of a provider during the year may have contributed to a lower number of testing visits and rates at the department.

Home-Health Care

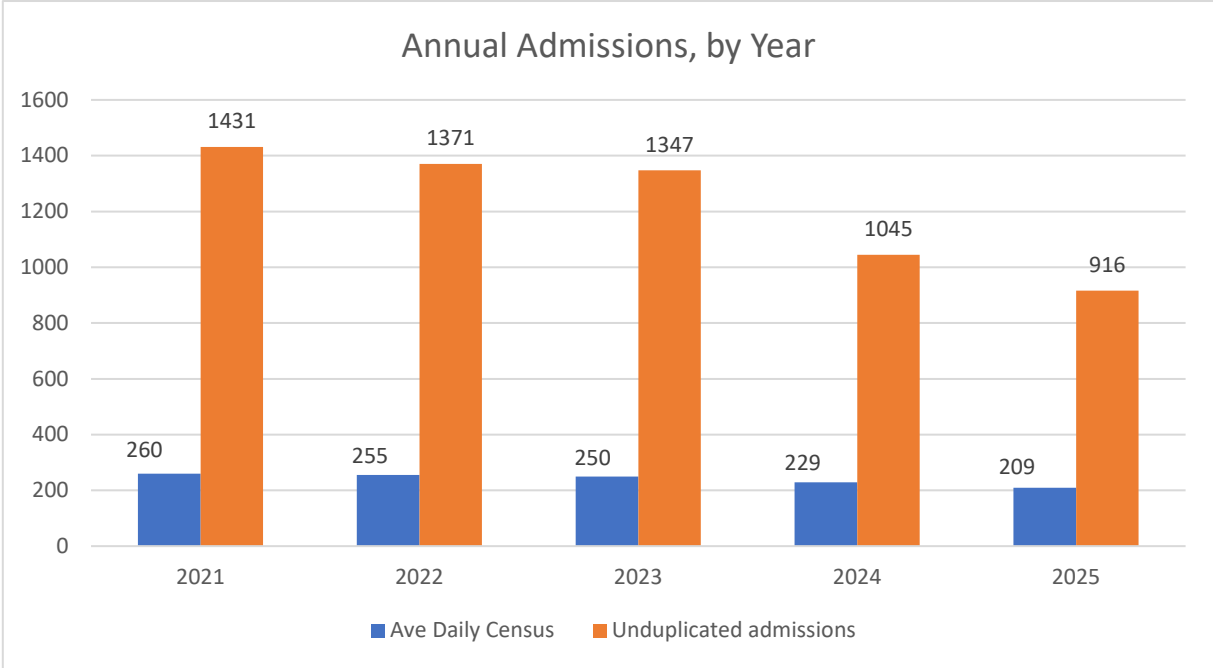
Certified Home Health Agency

The Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) operates a Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) that delivers a comprehensive range of skilled services that support prevention, treatment, and recovery in the comfort of patients' homes. Services include preventive, therapeutic, rehabilitative, and supportive care, with coverage available through Medicare, Medicaid, private pay, and commercial insurers.

CCHD's home health program is designed to reduce hospitalizations and promote timely recovery by providing coordinated, patient-centered care. In collaboration with healthcare providers, the department ensures individuals receive appropriate and effective services, including skilled nursing, home health aide support, medical supplies and equipment, and therapies such as physical, occupational, and speech therapy, along with nutritional counseling and medical social services. In 2025, the CHHA Program:

- Conducted **30,305** home visits across various disciplines.
- Provided care to **916** individuals.
- Managed an average daily census of **209** cases.

CHHA Service type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Home Health Aide	5,459	4,677	4,159	4,294	4,354
Medical Social Work	363	291	359	287	251
Nutritionist	17	7	13	17	6
Occupational Therapy	3,333	2,698	2,185	2,402	2,376
Physical Therapy	10,541	10,916	10,596	9,864	8,941
Skilled Nursing	16,580	15,526	16,596	16,240	14,232
Speech Therapy	142	94	59	123	145
TOTAL	36,435	34,209	33,967	33,227	30,305



In 2025, the Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) program implemented key changes to improve efficiency, transparency, and patient access. Updated federal and state policies introduced new payment and accountability measures, while ongoing low reimbursement rates required operational realignment. As part of this effort, staffing was strategically reduced to streamline services and maintain efficiency without compromising quality.

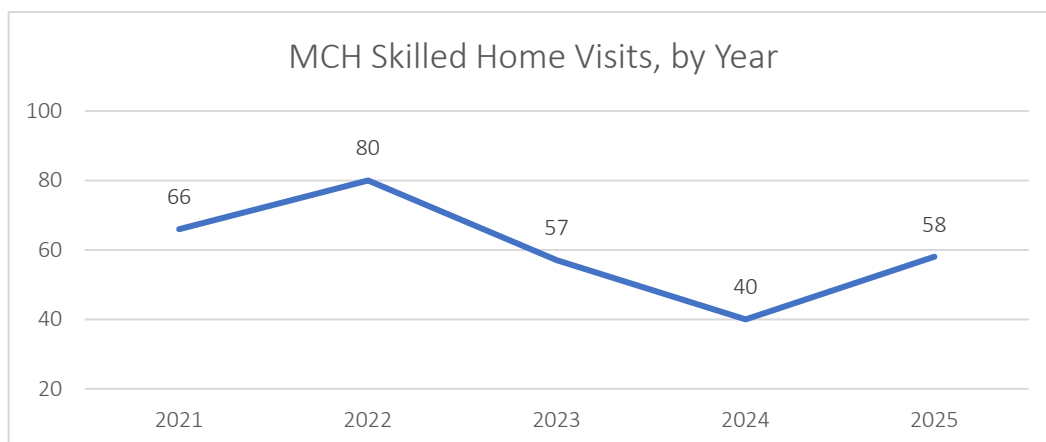
These changes have positioned the CHHA program to operate in a more focused, data-driven, and sustainable way, ensuring Cattaraugus County residents continue to receive high-quality, patient-centered care in their homes.

Maternal-Child Health

The Maternal-Child Health (MCH) Program is committed to promoting the health and well-being of women, infants, children, and families. Public Health Nurses (PHNs) deliver a range of essential services to support optimal health outcomes, including prenatal, postpartum, newborn, and pediatric home visits, health education, lead poisoning prevention, assistance with accessing medical care, and referrals to community resources. In 2025, the MCH Program accomplished the following:

- Conducted **58** skilled home visits to pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children following referrals from hospitals and providers. Public Health Nurses developed individualized care plans that included assessments, education, and support to promote healthy outcomes in the home setting.
- Completed **85** newborn screenings in collaboration with the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory, including services for out-of-hospital births, particularly within the Amish community. Screenings detect over 40 genetic conditions, supporting early diagnosis and treatment, while ensuring continuity of care from birth to pediatric follow-up.
- Administered **12** RhoGAM injections to postpartum Rh-negative mothers who have Rh-positive babies.
- Provided outreach and education at **5** community health events, sharing resources and information with families.
- Engaged **4** pediatric practices to support lead poisoning prevention efforts and improve use of the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) for tracking testing rates.
- Partnered with **2** OB/GYN offices and one medical group to promote best practices for blood lead level testing in pregnant and lactating women and to connect providers with resources, including MotherToBaby.

These efforts strengthen the maternal and child health network through prevention, early detection, and coordinated care.

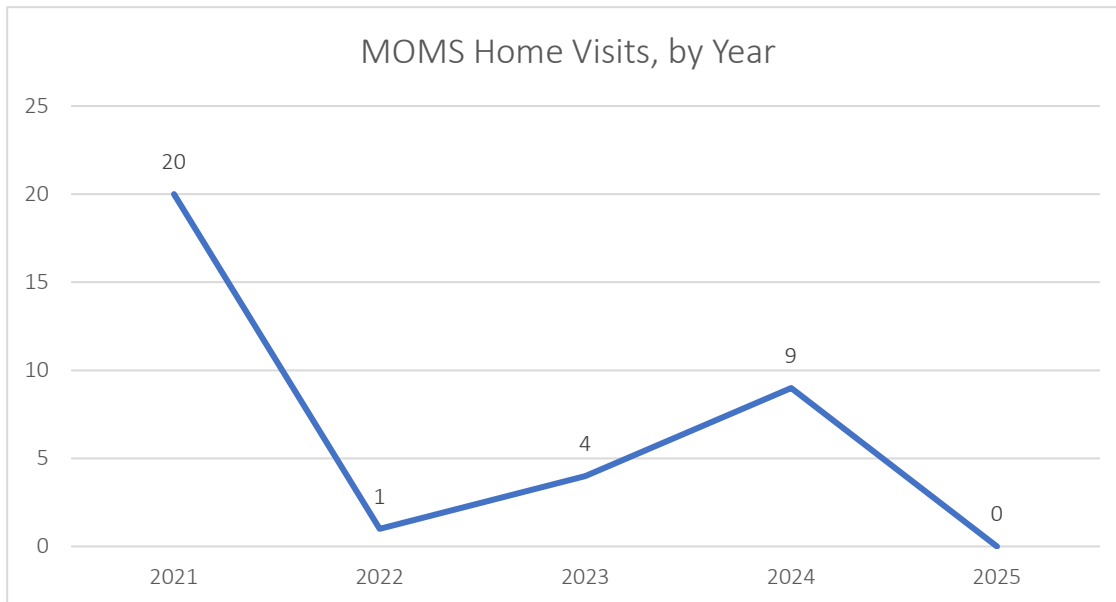


Medicaid Obstetrical and Maternal Services

The Medicaid Obstetrical and Maternal Services (MOMS) Program serves a targeted population of Medicaid-eligible pregnant residents of Cattaraugus County, providing services similar to the MCH Program. This program offers free supportive services with a focus on improving access to quality care, strengthening lactation support for parents who choose to breastfeed, and enhancing coordination with community resources. In 2025, the MOMS Program achieved the following:

In 2025, the MOMS Program reported no new admissions or services provided. This reflects programmatic and system-level adjustments rather than a lack of community need. Expanded access to Medicaid and the integration of maternal health services into the broader Maternal-Child Health (MCH) Program allowed eligible individuals to receive care through alternative pathways.

As a result, no individuals were enrolled, and no home visits or presumptive Medicaid applications were completed under the MOMS Program in 2025. The department will continue to assess community needs to ensure services remain accessible and responsive.



**Note that MOMS referrals are evaluated upon receipt and those found ineligible are automatically referred to the MCH program for service evaluation.*

Child and Family Health Services

Nutrition Services – Women, Infants, and Children

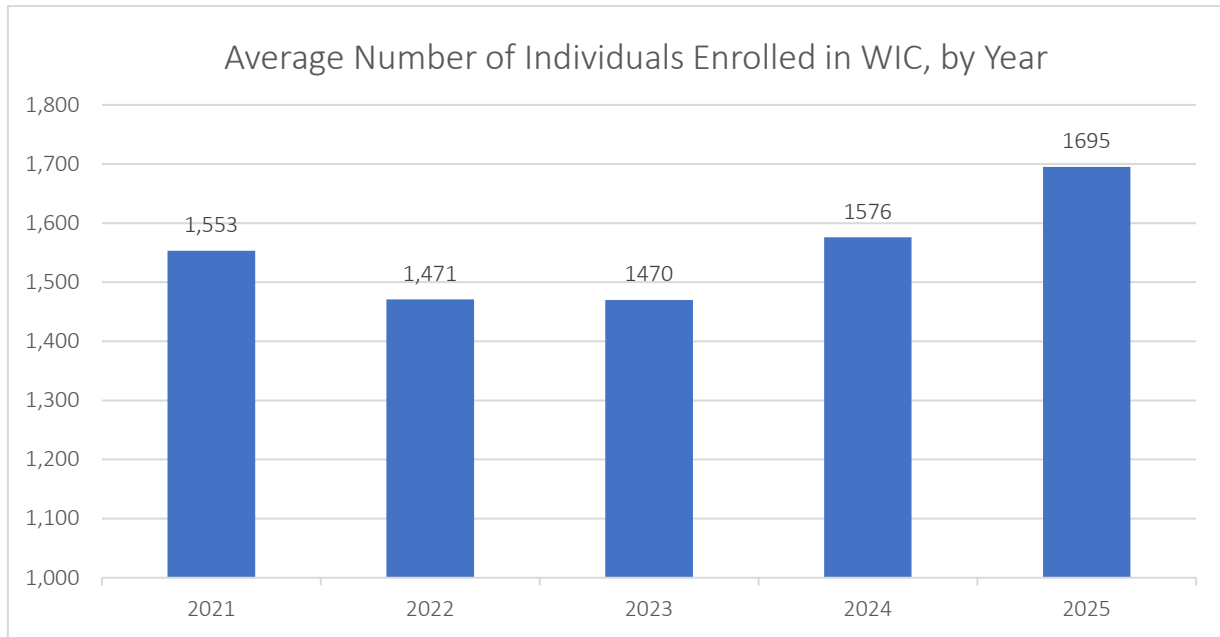
The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program is a federally funded program administered by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) through local health departments and partner agencies. WIC plays a critical role in promoting the health and well-being of low-income women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk. The program offers comprehensive nutrition education, food assistance—including supplemental foods, individualized service packages, and farmers' market benefits—and strong breastfeeding support. Certified Lactation Consultants (CLCs) and Peer Counselors provide guidance, and breast pumps are available to support breastfeeding mothers. In 2025, the WIC Program:

- Enrolled an average of **1,695** individuals.
- Provided nutrition education to **100%** of WIC participants.
- Distributed **1,400** Farmers Market Coupon Booklets to promote access to fresh, local produce.
- Supported **75%** of WIC mothers in initiating breastfeeding.
- Distributed **60** breast pumps to participants, including:
 - **52** personal grade electric pumps
 - **Six** personal manual pumps
 - **Two** 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.



Left photo depicts WIC staff at World Breastfeeding Week Picnic with Dr. Watkins & Mayor Aiello. Right Photo depicts WIC Director, Michele Phelps, with Outreach Coordinator, Molly Higgins, at a local nonprofit partner organization, Operation Warm Hearts, picking up care bags to distribute throughout the county to families in need. Bags contain essential care items like diapers, wipes, blankets, clothes, & first aid kits.



The modest increase in WIC enrollment in 2025 may be attributed to a combination of factors, including expanded Medicaid eligibility and improved enrollment processes, which helped connect more eligible families to WIC services. Increased outreach and community awareness efforts, along with strengthened partnerships with healthcare providers and community organizations, likely also contributed to higher participation. Additionally, ongoing economic pressures may have led more families to seek nutrition assistance and support through the program.

Childhood Developmental Services

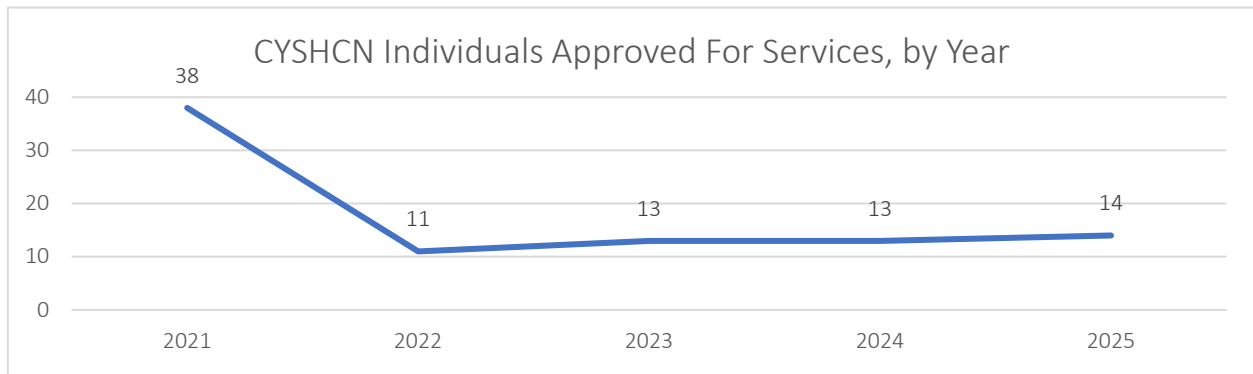
Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program is a no-cost initiative that connects families to essential information, care coordination, and medical referral services for children and youth from birth through age 21 with chronic physical conditions, developmental disabilities, or behavioral and emotional challenges. The program may also provide financial assistance for eligible 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 eligible families offset medical costs for children with severe chronic conditions or physical disabilities who meet established medical and financial criteria. In 2025, the CYSHCN/CYSHCNSS Program:

- Approved **14** individuals from birth to 21 years of age for financial assistance services.
- Authorized **139** medical services to support children and youth with special health care needs.



Medical Service	Authorized
Eyeglasses	1
Hearing Aid Batteries	7
Medications	117
Physician services	11
Tests such as bloodwork, imaging, & pulmonary studies	3
TOTAL	139

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. Eligibility and service needs are determined through multidisciplinary evaluations that 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 delivered through the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) in partnership with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)-approved 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.

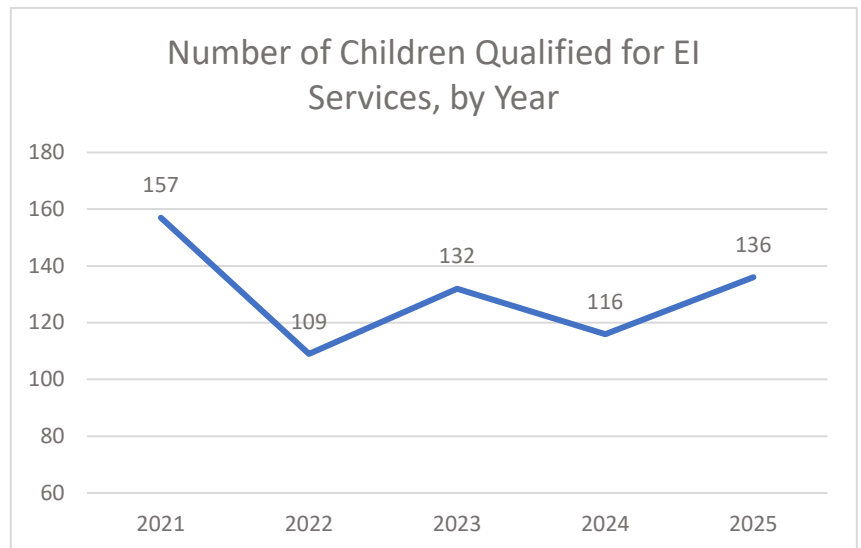


Photo depicts a child completing their intake assessment for matriculation to the Early Intervention program.

The Child Find component of the EI program ensures that children who are evaluated but found ineligible for EI services are connected to a primary care provider 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 2025, the EI Program's highlights were:

- Received **213** referrals for children suspected of or diagnosed with developmental delays.
- **136** 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, timely intervention, and coordinated support to promote 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 program works closely with local, state, and federal partners to ensure a coordinated and effective response. In 2025, the PHEP Program achieved the following:

- Participated in **four regional emergency preparedness exercises** coordinated through the Western Region Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition, strengthening multi-county response coordination and operational readiness.
- Provided Climate Health Liaison services to **proactively inform residents** about extreme weather hazards, cooling and warming center availability, and environmental risk mitigation strategies, enhancing public awareness and community resilience.
- Conducted a **ServNY volunteer management drill** to support recruitment and maintain up-to-date volunteer contact information, strengthening surge capacity during emergencies.
- Represented Cattaraugus County at the inaugural formation of the **Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)** Coalition, helping bring together 35 community-based organizations under a coordinated Incident Command System structure to strengthen local disaster response collaboration.
- Renewed a five-year **Intermunicipal Agreement** with eight Western New York Local Health Departments to sustain regional collaboration, resource sharing, and emergency planning.
- Screened 185 employees for seasonal respiratory virus vaccinations at annual employee PHEP clinics, **supporting workforce health and continuity** of services.

Collectively, these efforts strengthened regional coordination, enhanced community resilience, and reinforced Cattaraugus County's readiness to respond effectively to emerging public health threats.

Public Health Education and Planning

The Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) Health Education (HE) Division provides evidence-based information and resources on a wide range of health topics to schools, workplaces, community organizations, professional groups, and individuals. In 2025, the HE Program:

- Delivered health education presentations to **5,117 unique students** in classroom settings across the county.
- Engaged the community through participation in health fairs and events, promoting CCHD programs and services through interactive displays and educational materials. Key events included:
 - Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES' Social Emotional Learning Camp
 - Cattaraugus County Department of the Aging's Volunteers Gala
 - Cattaraugus County Fair
 - Cattaraugus County Pride Coalition's Pride in the Park
 - Community Day at Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central School
 - Connecting Communities in Action' Back 2 School Bash
 - Family Safety Day
 - Jamestown Community College's Community Health & Wellness Fair
 - Kiwanis Bike Rodeo in Salamanca
 - Lead Education Conference
 - Little Valley Community Day
 - Operation Warm Hearts' Lead Testing
 - Olean General Hospital's Strawberry Festival
 - Olean High School's Back to School Event
 - Randolph Elementary School's Health & Wellness Fair
 - Remote Area Medical Clinic at the YMCA
 - Seneca Arts and Learning Center Halloween Health & Safety Fair
 - Slow Ride
 - StrOlean
 - Total Senior Care's Health & Wellness Fair
 - YMCA's Healthy Kids Day



Photo depicts Public Health Educator, Traci Wind, with a student wearing the Pregnancy Simulation Belly.



Photo depicts a student presenting their final project that highlights the dangers and consequences associated with the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems.

Public Health Education and Planning Continued

Presentation Title	Number of Presentations	Number of Participants
Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs (ATOD)	3	32
Bullying Prevention	7	126
CATCH My Breath - Vaping Prevention	15	211
Contraception	13	102
Dental Hygiene	11	236
Emotional Regulation	18	313
Human Growth and Development	11	117
Handwashing	19	348
Halloween Safety	11	182
Health Literacy	4	21
Healthy Relationships	26	584
Invisible Illness	11	88
My Body is Mine (Erin's Law)	58	1,198
Nutrition	13	200
Online Safety	5	57
Personal Hygiene	28	428
Personal Safety	17	174
Pregnancy Simulation Belly	13	112
Prescription Medication Safety	1	18
Price is Right: Baby Edition	10	125
Sexually Transmitted Infections	4	25
Sun Safety	7	100
Tattoos and Body Modification Safety	7	83
Tickborne Illness Prevention	6	81
Winter Safety	9	156
TOTAL	320	5,117

**Beginning in 2025, participation data reflects unique individuals served and total lessons delivered rather than cumulative daily seat counts, and therefore are not directly comparable to prior years.*

Environmental Health

Community Sanitation Services

The field of environmental health focuses on identifying and mitigating environmental factors that can 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**. The field of environmental health focuses on identifying and mitigating environmental factors that can contribute to disease, illness, or unsafe conditions, with the goal of protecting and promoting public health. The Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) achieves this through a balanced approach that integrates inspection, education, and regulatory enforcement.

Routine inspections help ensure compliance with science-based state and federal regulations, supporting safe and healthy environments. Public education further empowers residents to recognize risks and take preventive action. Together, these efforts reduce the likelihood of illness and injury while promoting a safer, healthier community. In 2025, the Environmental Health Division:

- Conducted **150** inspections across various county establishments, uncovering **163** violations, with **swimming pool** violations being the most frequent.
- EH staff tested **35** samples from bathing beaches for **E. coli contamination**, with **six** samples exceeding the established safety limits.

Establishment Type	Facilities	Inspections	Violations
Agricultural Fairgrounds	1	1	2
Bathing Beaches	5	5	10
Body Art Facilities	18	11	7
Campgrounds	19	18	28
Children's Camps	11	11	30
Cooling Towers	11	*CCHD does not conduct inspections	
Migrant Labor Camps	1	1	0
Mobile Home Parks	32	32	23
Recreational Aquatic Spray Grounds	1	1	1
Swimming Pools	51	45	62
TOTAL	150	125	163

**CCHD assess compliance of cooling tower (CT) information within Cattaraugus County using data submitted by CT owners to the Registry. This information is reviewed periodically by the department, and any identified deficiencies must be corrected and updated by the owners to ensure ongoing compliance.*



Photo depicts Public Health Sanitarian, Michael Grey, checking sand for depth compliance in a septic system's absorption bed.



Photo depicts Public Health Sanitarian, Eli Rust, conducting an inspection of the flow meter for the filtration system of a swimming pool facility.

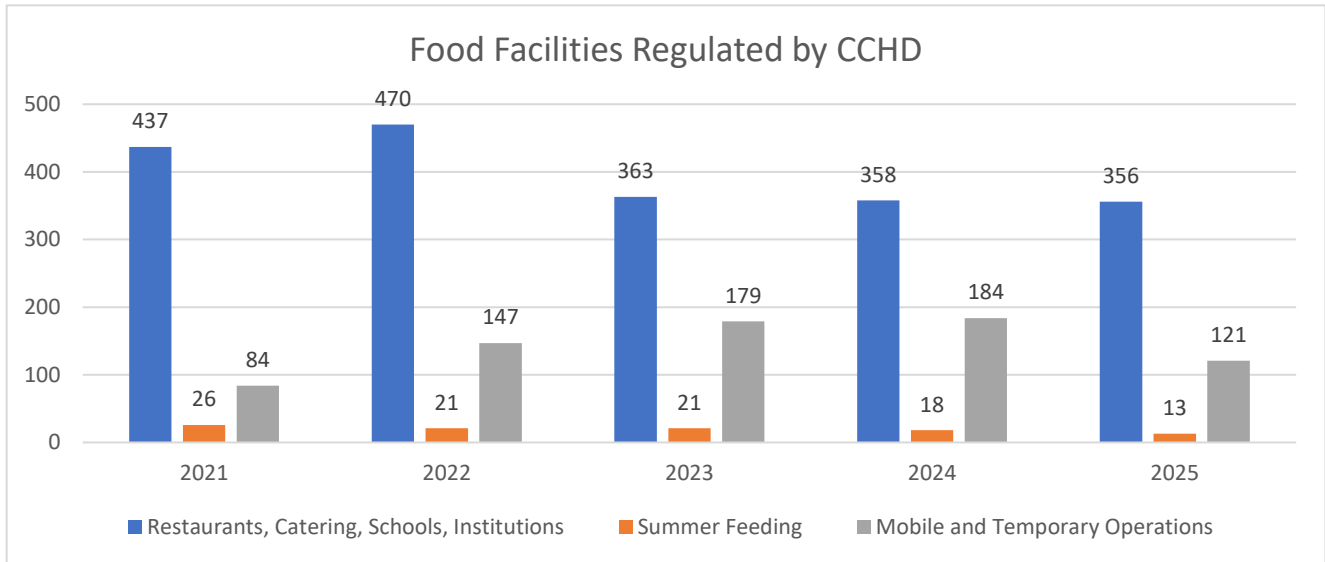
Food Protection Services

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 adherence to these standards. In 2025, the Environmental Health division:

- Completed **416** public food service inspections in various establishments.
- Identified **542** violations, with the most frequent occurring in **restaurant and catering operations, schools, and institutional facilities**.

Through enforcement of food safety regulations and ongoing education of food service operators, CCHD helps minimize the risk of foodborne illness and supports a healthier community.

Food Service Establishments Regulated by CCHD			
Establishment	Operations	Inspections	Violations
Restaurants and Catering Operations, Schools, and Institutions	356	349	523
Summer Feeding Program	13	10	1
Mobile and Temporary Food Service Operations and Events	121	57	18
TOTAL	490	416	542



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 proper registration, required signage, and secure product storage to prevent unauthorized access. As part of enforcement efforts, trained youth volunteers conduct compliance checks by attempting to purchase tobacco products, assessing adherence to laws that prohibit sales to individuals under age 21. Through consistent inspection and enforcement, CCHD works to deter underage tobacco use and protect public health.



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

To reduce youth access to tobacco products and ensure compliance with state regulations, the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) conducts annual inspections of tobacco retailers under the New York State Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA). These inspections verify proper registration, required signage, and secure product storage to prevent unauthorized access. In 2025, the Environmental Health Program:

- Conducted **97** ATUPA compliance checks at tobacco retailers across the county.
- Identified **1** retailer in violation for selling tobacco to individuals under 21.
- Found **1** retailer 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	Total Retailers in Violation
51	97	1	2

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 partners conduct compliance checks to ensure that smoking does not occur in prohibited indoor areas and that businesses adhere to the law. In 2025, the Environmental Health Program:

- Conducted **84** CIAA compliance checks at establishments across Cattaraugus County.

Through consistent enforcement of smoke-free regulations, the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) helps maintain healthier indoor environments for employees, patrons, and the broader community.

Compliance Checks for Indoor Smoking	Establishments in Violation
84	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 the presence of tick-borne pathogens. These activities help assess disease risk and track trends, including year-to-year variation in Lyme disease cases. Tick-borne Disease Surveillance is conducted by New York State staff with findings reported to local health departments.

In 2025, 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



Photo depicts a map of Cattaraugus County with pins dropped on all sampling locations.

Allegany State Park,
Deer Lick Conservation Area,
Gargoyle Park,
Pfeiffer Nature Center (PNC), Lillibridge Preserve, &
Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area

Through active surveillance and public education, CCHD works to reduce the risk of tick-borne illnesses and promote awareness of prevention strategies. The table below gives a detailed summary of the pathogens detected in adult ticks collected from each location.

Location	Total adults tested	<i>B. burgdorferi</i> (% positive)	<i>A. phagocytophilum</i> (% positive)	<i>B. Microti</i> (% positive)	<i>B. miyamotoi</i> (% positive)
Allegany State Park	50	64%	14%	2%	0%
Deer Lick Conservation Area	50	64%	14%	0%	0%
Gargoyle Park	50	54%	38%	2%	0%
Pfeiffer Nature Ctr, Lillibridge Preserve	50	53%	14%	6%	0%
Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area	50	58%	18%	0%	2%

Mosquito Surveillance

Mosquito surveillance efforts are essential for monitoring and reducing the risk of mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and Zika Virus. Surveillance activities typically begin in May and continues through August, targeting both larval habitats and adult mosquito populations. In 2025, the EH program:

- Submitted **178** mosquito specimen pools to the New York State Arbovirus Laboratory for analysis.
- Detected **two** positive pools of West Nile Virus.
- Conducted aerial spraying to eliminate **mosquito larvae** in breeding areas.
- Deployed **two** resting box traps to target mosquitoes that vector EEE.

Through a combination of surveillance, targeted control measures, and public education, the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) works to protect residents from vector-borne diseases and reduce mosquito populations in high-risk areas.



Photo depicts Juliana Syracuse, the Vector Surveillance Program Aide, setting up a mosquito trap.



Photo depicts John Charles, the Vector Surveillance Program Aide, identifying mosquitoes under a microscope.

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 support compliance. All reported animal bites and potential rabies exposures are thoroughly investigated, and when necessary, animal specimens are submitted to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory for rabies testing. Individuals requiring post-exposure treatment receive coordinated case management from nursing staff, environmental health staff, and healthcare providers. In 2025, the Environmental Health Program:

- Operated **6** pet immunization clinics across the county.
- Administered **1,370** rabies vaccinations to pets.
- Responded to **228** animal bites and potential rabies exposures.
- Referred **16** individuals to nursing staff for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Submitted **61** animal specimens to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory for rabies testing, with **three** testing positive:
 - **Two big brown bats**
 - **One gray fox**

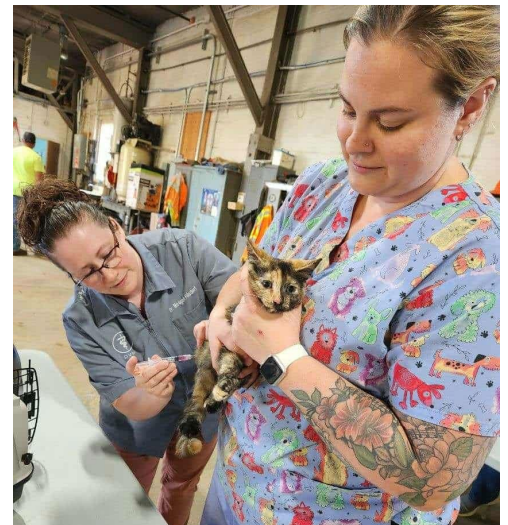
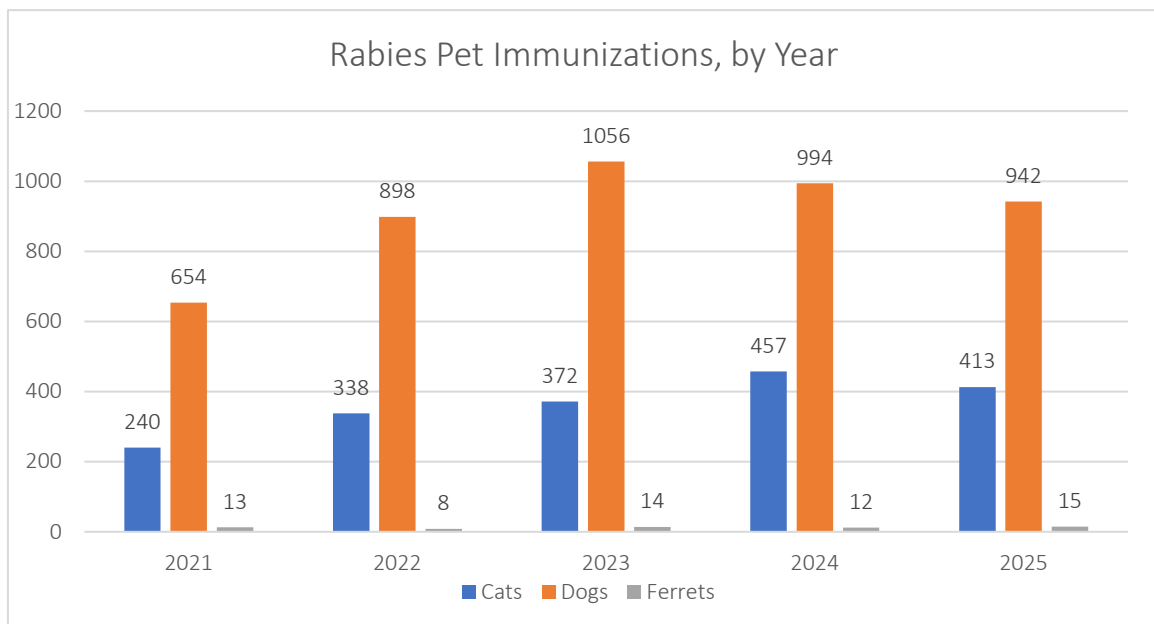


Photo depicts veterinarian and assistant giving an immunization to a cat at the Rabies Vaccination Clinic.

Through vaccination efforts, surveillance, and rapid response to exposures, CCHD plays a critical 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 remains 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. Facilities regulated by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets that meet the definition of a public water supply also fall under CCHD oversight. Systems that do not meet PWS criteria are classified as Non-Public Water Systems (NPWS) and are subject to applicable state and county sanitary codes. In 2025, the Environmental Health Program:

- Performed **81** inspections and sanitary surveys to assess the operations and management of public and non-public water systems.
- Identified **62** 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 ensure that water systems meet safety and regulatory standards, protecting the health of residents.

Water Supply Type	Facilities	Inspections/Sanitary Surveys Completed	Violations
Community Water System	68	7	4
Non-Transient Non-Community Water System	14	5	4
Non-Community Water Systems	87	71	47
Non-Public Water Systems	12	2	7
TOTAL	181	85	59

Water Quality Monitoring

Maintaining safe drinking water depends on consistent monitoring for contaminants. Federal and state regulations establish Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for a wide range of potential hazards, requiring regular testing by water suppliers.:

The CCHD supports these efforts by collecting and analyzing water quality samples, including microbiological and nitrate testing, to verify compliance. In 2025, the Environmental Health Program:

- Collected **1,608** microbiological samples from Public Water Systems (PWS) for analysis in the department's laboratory.
- Collected **254** nitrate samples from PWS for analysis in the department's laboratory.

Through ongoing sampling and analysis, CCHD helps identify and address water quality concerns, safeguarding public health and preventing potential risks to the community.

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 2025, the Environmental Health Program:

- Received **427** RPT applications, conducting inspections to ensure compliance with system standards during property transfers.
- Received **208** permit-to-construct applications, reviewing plans to ensure that new OWTS are properly designed and meet all regulatory requirements.
- Prescribed **12** OWTS to undergo remedial measures to correct deficiencies and improve system performance.



Photo depicts Environmental Health Director, Bob Ring, on-site for wastewater management.

Commercial Sewage Treatment Systems

Larger commercial sewage treatment systems are regulated under the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES), administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). These systems require annual inspections to verify proper operation and regulatory compliance. The NYSDEC contracts with the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) to conduct these inspections. In 2025, the Environmental Health Program:

- Performed **119** SPDES inspections to assess the proper operation and maintenance of commercial sewage treatment systems across the county.

Through these activities, CCHD helps ensure that wastewater systems operate safely and do not pose a risk to public health or the environment.

Construction Approval, Inspection and Certification

Projects requiring design by a professional engineer or registered architect must receive Department review and a Notice of Plan Approval before work can begin. In 2025, the Environmental Health Program:

- Issued **26** Notice of Plan Approvals for regulated projects.

Notice of Plan Approvals	Number Issued
Backflow Preventer Devices	3
Campground Expansions	3
Public Water System Improvements	10
Sewage System Improvements	7
Swimming Pool Improvements	2
Temporary Residences	1
TOTAL	26

Environmental Contaminant Control

Public Health Hazards, Nuisances, and Sanitation

The CCHD also investigates reports and complaints related to potential public health hazards or nuisances. Each concern is evaluated based on its impact on public health and compliance with state and local regulations. In 2025, the Environmental Health Program:

- Received **43** citizen complaints concerning alleged hazards or nuisances, which were promptly investigated and addressed.

Alleged Hazard or Nuisance	Number of Complaints
Building Construction	1
Cleanliness	5
Flavored Vapor Products	2
Food	4
Garbage	5
General	6
Health Concern	4
Illness	4
Indoor Air Quality	2
Insects	3
Outdoor Air Quality	1
Rodents	1
Sewage Exposure	7
Smoking (CIAA)	1
TOTAL	43

Enforcement

Enforcement of violations of New York State Public Health Law, the State Sanitary Code, and the Cattaraugus County Sanitary Code is carried out through an 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 2025, the EH Program:

- Initiated **15** formal enforcement actions 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 **seven** cases.
 - **Zero** enforcement actions were appealed.
 - Fines assessed totaled **\$6,700**.

Through consistent enforcement and oversight, 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	\$6,700	\$2,010

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

Housing Programs

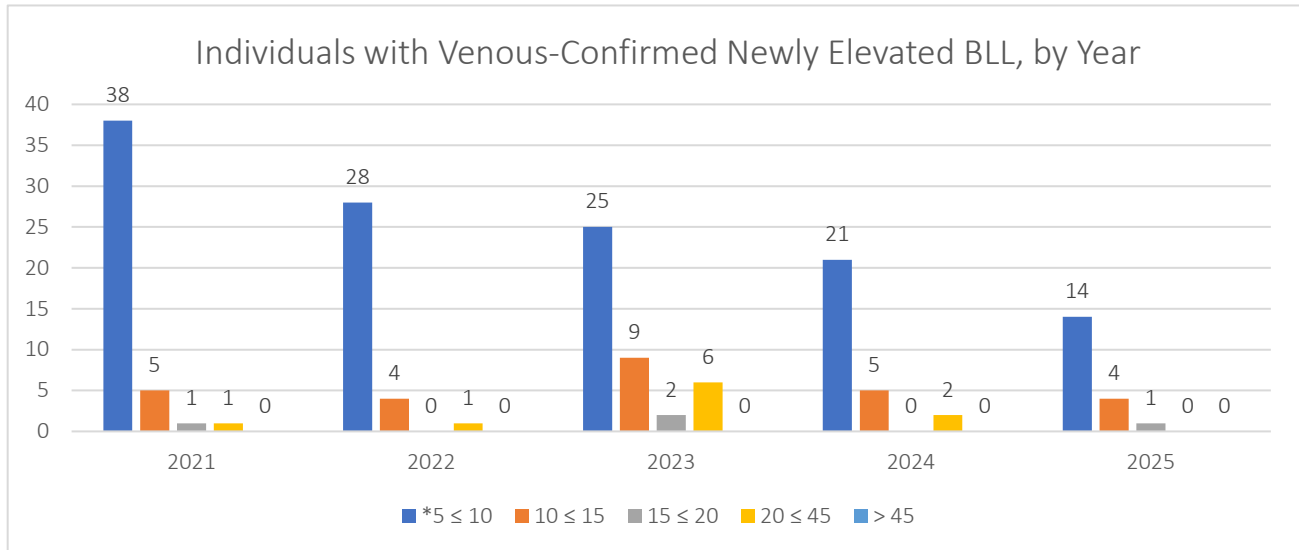
Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program (CLPPPP) aims to reduce elevated blood lead levels (BLL) in children through education, early intervention, and environmental safety measures. The program collaborates with healthcare providers to support screening, diagnosis, medical management, and environmental follow-up. In 2025, the CLPPP Program:

- Referred **22** children with elevated blood lead levels to Environmental Health (EH) staff for home inspections.
- Inspected **24** homes for potential lead hazards.
- Identified **32** homes in need of lead hazard remediation.
- Confirmed **three** homes as lead-safe, with no potential lead hazards identified.
- Oversaw **51** ongoing cases of children with BLL greater than 5 µg/dL.
- Managed **19** new cases of children with BLL greater than 5 µg/dL.
- Provided point-of-care blood lead level testing at **15 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) dust wipes used in home evaluations. The dust from lead-painted objects such as windowsills commonly contains lead, which can be ingested and/or inhaled by children and cause harm.



The above chart shows new venous blood lead level cases between 5 and 10 µg/dL have steadily declined over the past five years, from 38 in 2021 to 14 in 2025, a reduction of more than 60 percent. This consistent decrease reflects the positive impact of ongoing prevention, screening, and education efforts.

By integrating education, early detection, and hazard reduction efforts, CCHD remains committed to preventing lead exposure and promoting safe, healthy environments for children across Cattaraugus County.

Expanding Capacity through Federal Investment

In 2025, the CCHD was awarded a \$4.4 million Lead Hazard Reduction grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This funding builds upon the prior \$2.5 million grant that the department received in 2023 and significantly expands the Department’s capacity to directly address residential lead hazards across the county. The grant supports hazard control activities in eligible homes, enabling CCHD to coordinate inspections, risk assessments, and lead hazard reduction efforts to create safer living environments for families residing in older housing throughout Cattaraugus County.



Photo depicts the lead team at a press conference with Mayor Aiello during National Lead Poisoning Prevention

Advancing Prevention & Healthy Housing

Lead exposure remains a preventable environmental health threat, particularly in aging housing stock common throughout rural Western New York. Through this HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant, the CCHD will:

- Identify and prioritize eligible homes with lead-based paint hazards
- Conduct comprehensive risk assessments and environmental testing
- Partner with property owners, contractors, and community stakeholders
- Provide education and support to families throughout the remediation process
- Strengthen long-term monitoring and compliance with state and federal standards

This funding moves the CCHD beyond planning and coordination and into direct intervention, ensuring measurable reductions in residential lead hazards.

Long-Term Impact

By investing in prevention today, the Department aims to reduce childhood blood lead levels, improve housing safety, and protect children's long-term cognitive and developmental health. The new HUD grant reinforces the Department's commitment to eliminating environmental health risks and advancing equitable access to safe, healthy housing throughout the county.

The Lead (Pb) Smart Partnership: Strengthening Regional Collaboration

The **Lead (Pb) Smart Partnership** hosted its third annual Lead Poisoning Education Conference at the Seneca Allegany Casino and Resort. The event brought together **116** attendees from **54** organizations, **10** counties, and **1** tribal nation, fostering regional collaboration in lead poisoning prevention and education.



Photo depicts awards granted to outstanding organizations at the Conference.

Participants engaged in focused discussions with community members who have direct connections to populations at highest risk, helping to expand knowledge, share best practices, and strengthen referral pathways for families affected by lead exposure. The conference also recognized the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations dedicated to preventing lead exposure. As part of the event, awards were presented to **community organizations, contracting agencies, 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 progress toward healthier, lead-safe communities.

Healthy Neighborhoods Program: Creating Safer Homes & Healthier Communities

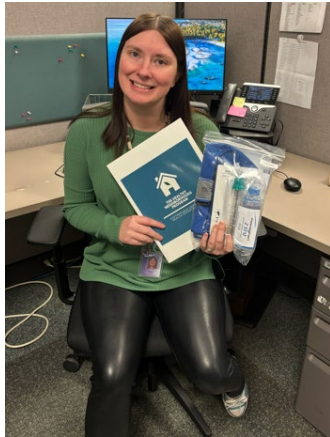


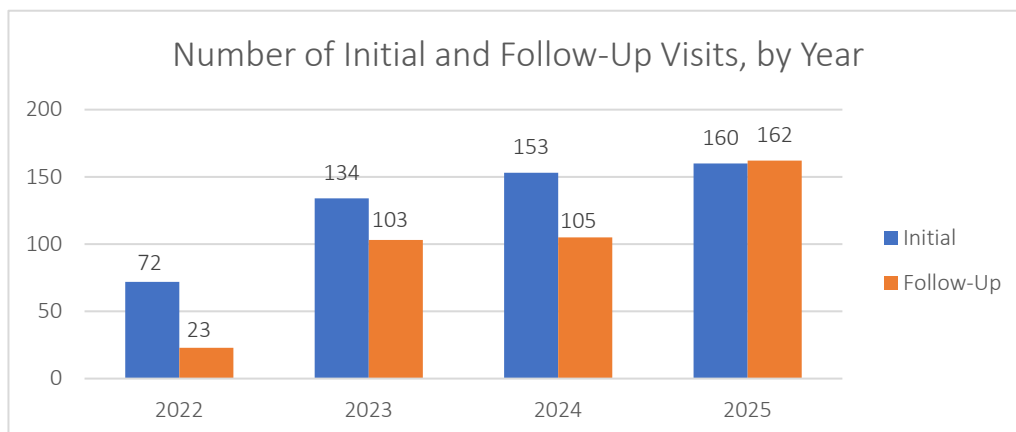
Photo depicts Traci Wind, Public Health Educator, holding an information packet & asthma kit; two items available to residents through the HNP.

The **Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP)** offers **free home assessments** to residents in high-risk communities, identifying and addressing environmental health and safety concerns to improve living conditions and overall quality of life. Priority areas 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 2025, HNP made significant strides in achieving these goals by:

- Conducting **160 initial home safety visits** and **162 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, natural gas detectors, radon test kits, and pest control supplies**, tailored to the specific needs of each household.
- Distributing **55 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, targeted interventions, and strong community partnerships, the Healthy Neighborhoods Program continues to create safer, healthier homes for residents across Cattaraugus County.



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 older adults across Cattaraugus County. The program is supported through donations and grants from organizations including the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, the Renodin Foundation, and the Sisters of Saint-Joseph. Building on a generous \$250,000 grant from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield awarded in 2023, VW launched a program expansion in 2025 with the addition of a new mobile unit. This initiative, "Rolling into Rural Communities," extends access to fresh food, nutrition education, and hands-on learning opportunities to residents in the county's most remote areas.

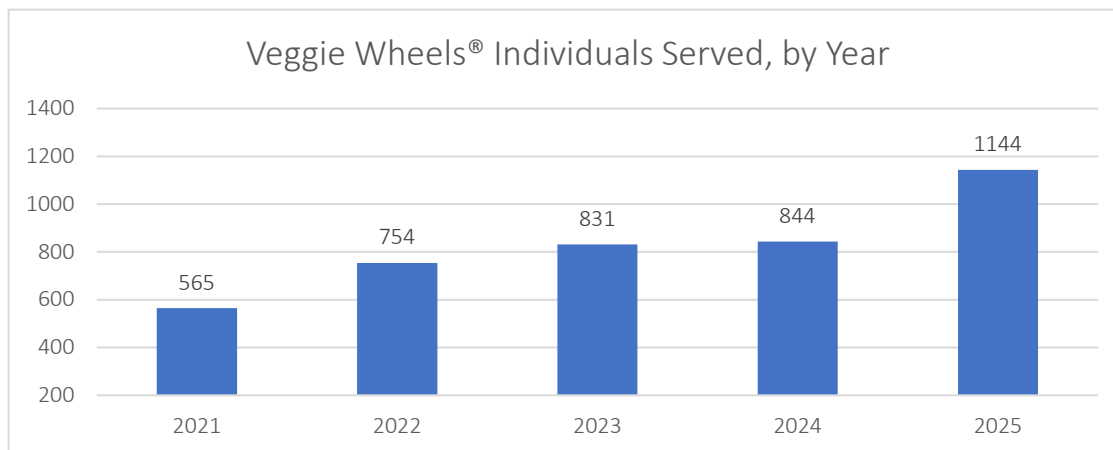


Photo depicts volunteers distributing food off the Veggie Wheels mobile market truck.

In 2025, the VW Program:

- Served **1,144** 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**
- Added **two** additional locations to the route
- Expanded food offerings to include **eggs** as well as fresh fruits & vegetables.

By increasing access to nutritious foods and providing practical nutrition education, CCHD continues to support the health and well-being of residents while advancing a more food-secure Cattaraugus County.



County Laboratory Services

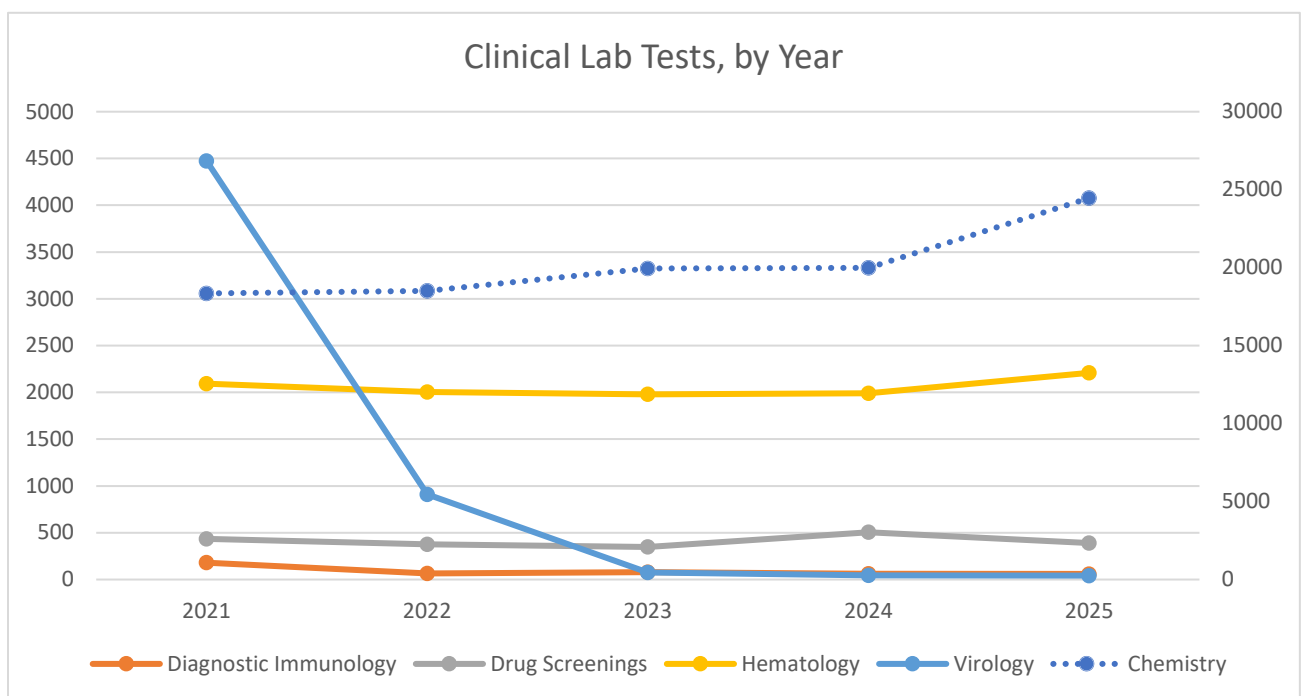
Clinical Laboratory

The Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) Clinical Laboratory is a New York State–certified and CLIA-approved facility that provides essential diagnostic testing to support both public health initiatives and patient care. In 2025, 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. This year, Chemistry testing expanded to include TSH, Free T4, and Vitamin D testing.
- **Diagnostic Immunology** – 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.

Clinical Laboratory Test	Number
Chemistry*	24,458
Diagnostic Immunology	60
Drug Screenings	389
Hematology	2,209
Virology	42
TOTAL	27,158

The above chart details each of the **27,158** clinical tests performed in



Environmental Laboratory

The CCHD Environmental Laboratory plays a critical role in protecting public health by analyzing water quality and identifying potential contaminants. The laboratory conducts a wide range of analyses to ensure the safety of drinking water, recreational water, and wastewater.

Bacteriological Testing

These tests evaluate 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.



Nitrate Testing

In addition to bacteriological testing, the Environmental Laboratory monitors nitrate levels in water sources.

Nitrates, which occur naturally in soil, water, and plants, can enter groundwater through agricultural runoff and industrial activities. High nitrate levels in drinking water pose **serious health risks**, particularly for infants and pregnant individuals. Ongoing monitoring ensures compliance with safety standards and helps prevent adverse health outcomes.

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 **3,767** water tests performed in 2025.

Environmental Laboratory Test	Number
Colilert	2,644
Fecal	320
Plate Count	383
Hi Dilution (E. Coli Enumeration)	81
Nitrate	339
TOTAL	3,767

**Some fecal & nitrate testing completed for Allegany County, and 2 additional sites in-County.*

Public Health Internships and Fellowships

Public Health Internships

In collaboration with local academic institutions, the **CCHD** hosted **6 interns**, all from St. Bonaventure university, in 2025, providing hands-on experience in public health practice. These students contributed to key initiatives focused on the **Social Determinants of Health, epidemiology, and environmental health**, gaining valuable insight into real-world public health challenges and solutions.

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.



Photo depicts SBU intern, Alyssa McShane, presenting about her internship project.

New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) Fellowship Program

The **NYSPHC Fellowship Program** strengthens public health infrastructure by placing full-time and part-time fellows within local health departments. In 2025, **four fellows** were assigned to CCHD, assisting with essential projects, partnerships, and initiatives, including:

- Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Reaccreditation
- Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP) Steering Committee
- Epidemiology Institutional Development
- Grant Writing and Application Support notably securing the HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant
- Lead (Pb) Smart Partnership Coalition
- Strategic Planning for Departmental Growth
- Inter-Departmental Collaboration Initiatives

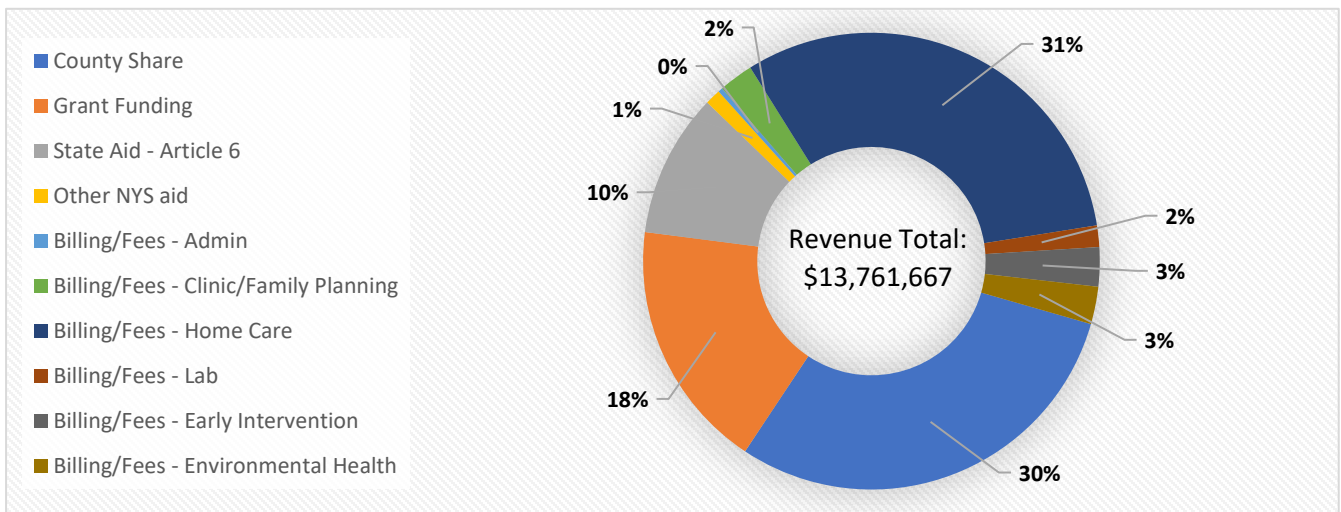
In addition to their project work, fellows participated in regional summits and statewide workshops, furthering their professional development while contributing to the advancement of public health initiatives in Cattaraugus County.

Fiscal and Administrative Services

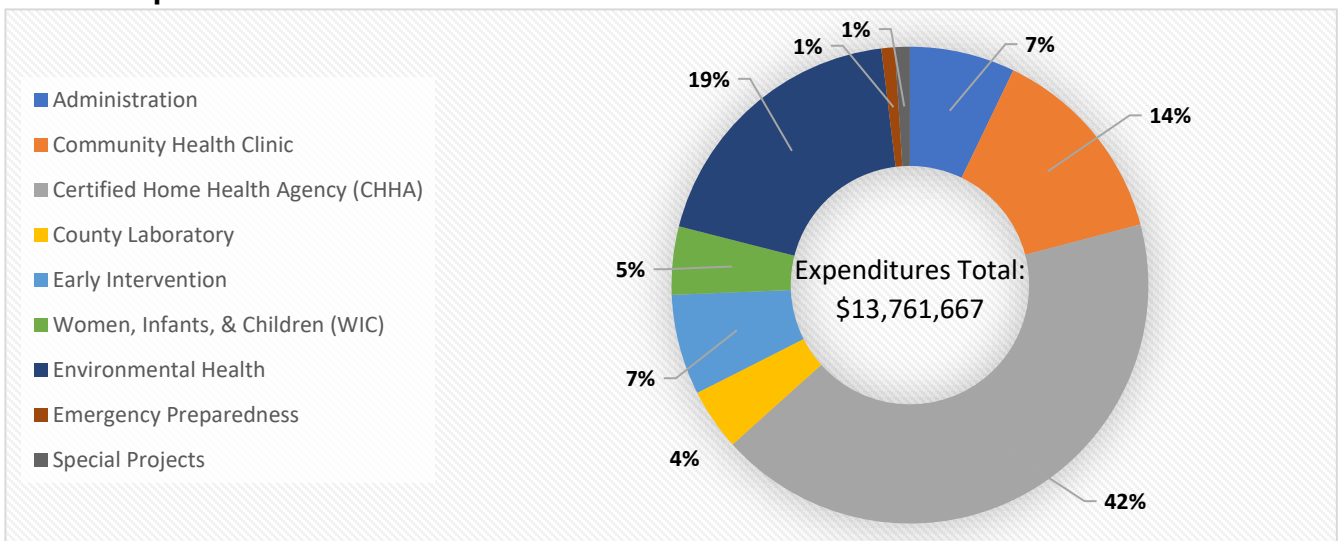
2025 CCHD Operating Budget

The **CCHD** adopted operating budget of **\$13,761,667** for 2025, supported through a combination of **federal, state, county/local dollars, as well as grant revenue**, including **Article 6** funding. Under **Article 6 of the New York State Public Health Law**, CCHD receives a base grant and is eligible for 36% state reimbursement for qualifying expenditures related to mandated public health services once the base grant is expended. This diversified funding structure enables the department to 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 residents of Cattaraugus County.

2025 Revenue



2025 Expenditures



Acknowledgment

Sincere appreciation is extended to the individuals whose dedication and hard work made this year's report possible. In particular, Erin Washburn's outstanding contributions were instrumental throughout the process. Her commitment, reliability, and professionalism were evident at every stage, helping to ensure both the quality of this report and a standard of excellence that reflects the values of the Department.

Gratitude is also extended to the entire staff of the Cattaraugus County Health Department for their continued dedication to serving the community. Their daily efforts to meet the public health needs of residents, guided by the requirements of the New York State Department of Health, remain essential to protecting and improving the health and well-being of our residents.

As we reflect on the challenges and achievements of 2025, it is clear that our progress has been made possible through collective effort and shared commitment. Looking ahead, there is strong optimism for the year to come and a continued focus on advancing our mission to improve the health and quality of life for all residents of Cattaraugus County.



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

Staff Directory

Administration

Kevin Watkins, MD, MPH
Gilbert N. Witte, MD
Debra Lacher

Public Health Director
Medical Director
Secretary to the Public Health Director

Clinic

Brooke Schnell
Christen Bidwell, FNP-C
David Fancher
Laurie Rzucek
Sidney Earley
Kayla Hovey
Lora Prey
Desiree Ottley

Supervising Community Health Nurse
Nurse Practitioner
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse
Keyboard Specialist
Keyboard Specialist
Keyboard Specialist II

Early Childhood Care

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

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

Emergency Preparedness

James Lawrence
Sue Ann Feldbauer

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director
Community Health Nurse

Environmental Health

Robert Ring
Raymond Jordan
Richard Dayton
Samuel Dayton
Mariel Grey
Michael Grey
Michael Hastings
Renee Herc
Rigel Johnson
Rhonda Kelley
Elisha Rust
Lindsey Wawrzynski

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
Public Health Sanitarian (Contracted)

Andrew Wolf
Timothy Zerfas
Elaine Fowler
Krystina Syracuse
John Charles
Juliana Syracuse
Michelle Winicki

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

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

Health Education

Matthew Tyssee
Traci Wind
Erin Washburn

Public Health Educator
Reproductive Health Educator
Health Education Assistant

Home Care

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

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
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Community Health Nurse

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

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

Laboratory

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

Laboratory Director
Laboratory Supervisor
Phlebotomist
Clinical Lab Technologist
Clinical Lab Technologist

NYS Public Health Fellowship

Christopher Crawford, Ph.D.
Pauline Hoffmann, Ph.D.
Katelynn Smith
Anna Giglio

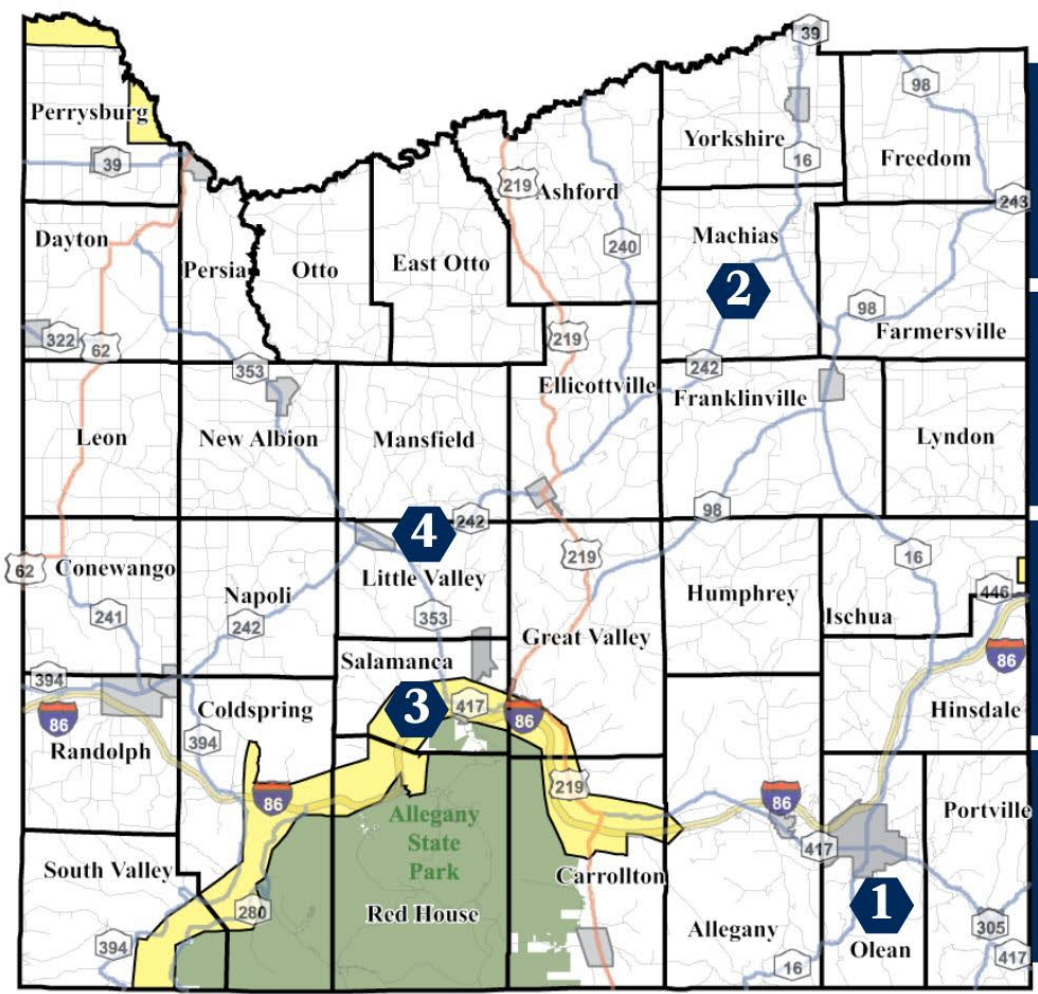
Senior Fellow
Senior Fellow
Graduate Fellow
Fellow

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

Cattaraugus County Health Department Locations



1 The Olean County Building is our primary service location.

2 The Machias Office houses a Clinic service location & Home Care nursing.

3 The Salamanca Office houses a Clinic service location.

4 The Little Valley Office houses staff offices.

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

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

3) Salamanca - Satellite Office
4039 Route 219
Salamanca, NY 14779
(716) 945-1230

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

