



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Cattaraugus County Health
Department



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Cattaraugus County
Health Department**

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



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Message from the Director



I am honored to present the 2023 Cattaraugus County Health Department's Annual Report. This document reflects the department's unwavering commitment to safeguard and enhance the health and well-being of all Cattaraugus County residents.

2023 marked a milestone for Cattaraugus County Health Department as we celebrated our 100th year anniversary, reflecting on a century of public health service. Since 1923, the department has grown and evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, but its mission has remained steadfast – to protect and promote the health of our residents.

As we reflect on the past 100 years, we are humbled by the dedication and perseverance of those who came before us and we are looking forward to continuing this legacy with the same zeal and dedication in our work today.

In order for any community to achieve successful health outcomes, the community must have resources to achieve its identified goals and objectives; as evidenced by the 1923 Milbank Rural Health Demonstration which called for the establishment of what was to become the first county department of health in the State of New York. In a significant achievement for the year, the department was successful in obtaining notable grant funding, which underscores our proactive approach in addressing some public health challenges, notably lead poisoning, and food insecurity.

The acquisition of a \$2.5 million grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development is the starting point needed by the department to begin training certified contractors who can provide lead-safe renovations in local municipalities to reduce lead exposures and related health risks.

The acquisition of a \$250 thousand grant from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield will help to purchase a farmer's truck and increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables, to the most rural communities in Cattaraugus County.

Finally, as we embarked on the reaccreditation process this year, we reaffirmed our department's excellence, leveraging this opportunity to highlight our strengths, address areas for improvement, and further our mission of quality service and performance enhancement.

We are delighted to present this detailed annual report, illustrating our dynamic programs and steadfast commitment to the health of our community. We appreciate your engagement and support, as we collectively endeavor to foster a healthier, safer environment for all our residents.

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, M.D., MPH
Public Health Director
Cattaraugus County Health Department

Cattaraugus County Health 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



Photo depicts the Cattaraugus County office building in Olean.

2023 Board of Health Members



Joseph Bohan, MD - President
Giles B. Hamlin, MD – Vice President
Zahid Chohan, MD
Kelly J. Andreano – Legislative Member
Sondra Fox, RN, MSN, C.S.

Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN
Theresa Raftis
David L. Smith, Mayor
Donna Vickman, LPN

Membership Notices

Sondra Fox resigned from her noble position of service to the Board of Health on October 4, 2023.

Enforcement Actions

- **24** 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.
- **1** enforcement action was appealed.
- Fines assessed totaled **\$2,350**.

About Our Department

Local Public Health Departments in New York State operate under public health law and utilize a guiding framework from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) ensures compliance with provisions of the Public Health Law and Sanitary Codes of New York State and Cattaraugus County. Article 6 of the New York State Public Health Law defines six Core Program Areas which serve as the basis for local public health work:

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

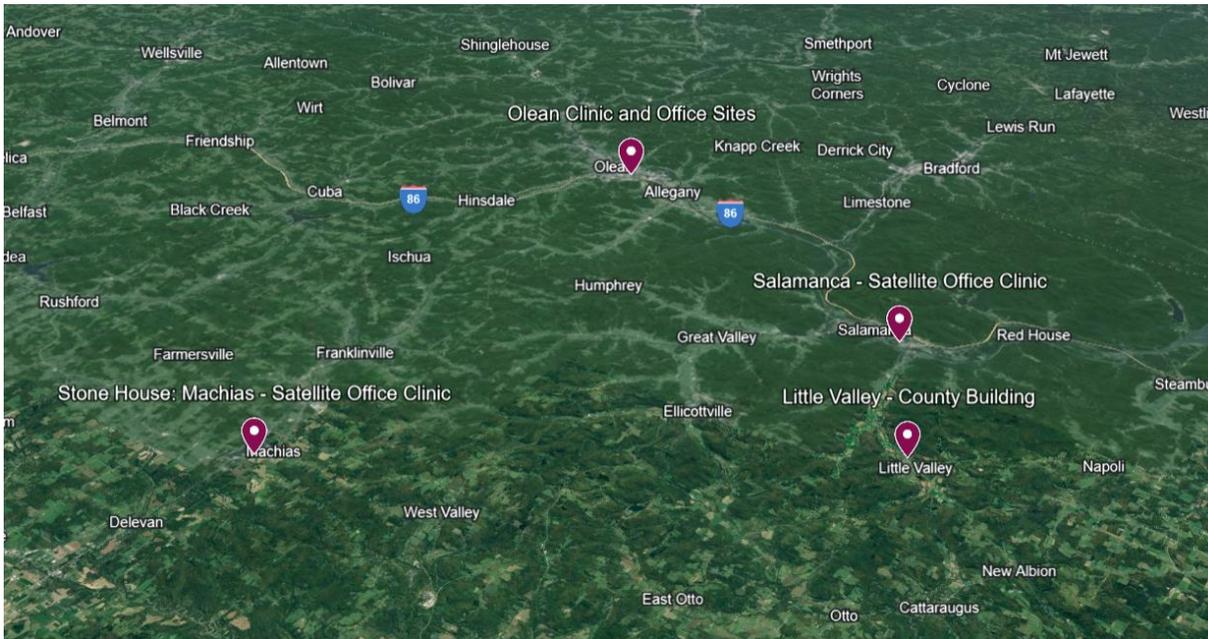
Built around these core program areas, New York State (NYS) regulations require the annual submission of a State Aid Application that outlines services provided by local health departments (LHDs). In addition to these regulatory requirements, other sections of New York State Public Health Law directly mandate the provision of services such as the control of rabies, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tobacco enforcement.

In addition, the CDC's Ten Essential Public Health Services provide a working definition of public health and a guiding framework for the responsibilities of the local public health system.

Ten Essential Public Health Services

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets.
2. Investigate, diagnose and address health problems and hazards affecting the population.
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it.
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health.
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement.
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

Service Sites



Map depicts service locations for the Health Department in Olean, Little Valley, Salamanca, and Machias.

Public Health Reaccreditation

The Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) deeply values its accreditation status, acknowledging it as essential for enhancing community health, in line with the CDC's advocacy for using accreditation to strengthen public health infrastructure. In 2023, CCHD began the pivotal process of reaccreditation with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), building upon the achievements since its initial accreditation in 2017. This process is vital for continuous improvement and ensuring that CCHD meets evolving public health standards, demonstrating a commitment to superior service and responsiveness.

Reaccreditation, conducted every five years, prompts CCHD to rigorously evaluate and refine its practices, focusing on performance enhancement, leadership development, and community engagement. This reflective journey enables the department to align more closely with public health best practices and prepares it for the upcoming submission of reaccreditation documents in early 2024, signifying a commitment to sustained excellence and community well-being.



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES

General Communicable Disease Control

Reportable Diseases and Conditions

CCHD provides surveillance and investigation of mandated reportable communicable/vector-borne diseases. Staff receives, evaluates, and investigates these reports with the goal of preventing and/or controlling communicable disease outbreaks. In 2023, nursing services;

- Reported **2,874** cases of communicable diseases to New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).
- Identified **COVID-19, Lyme Disease, and Influenza A** communicable diseases as most frequent.
- Reported **Chlamydia** as the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection.

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

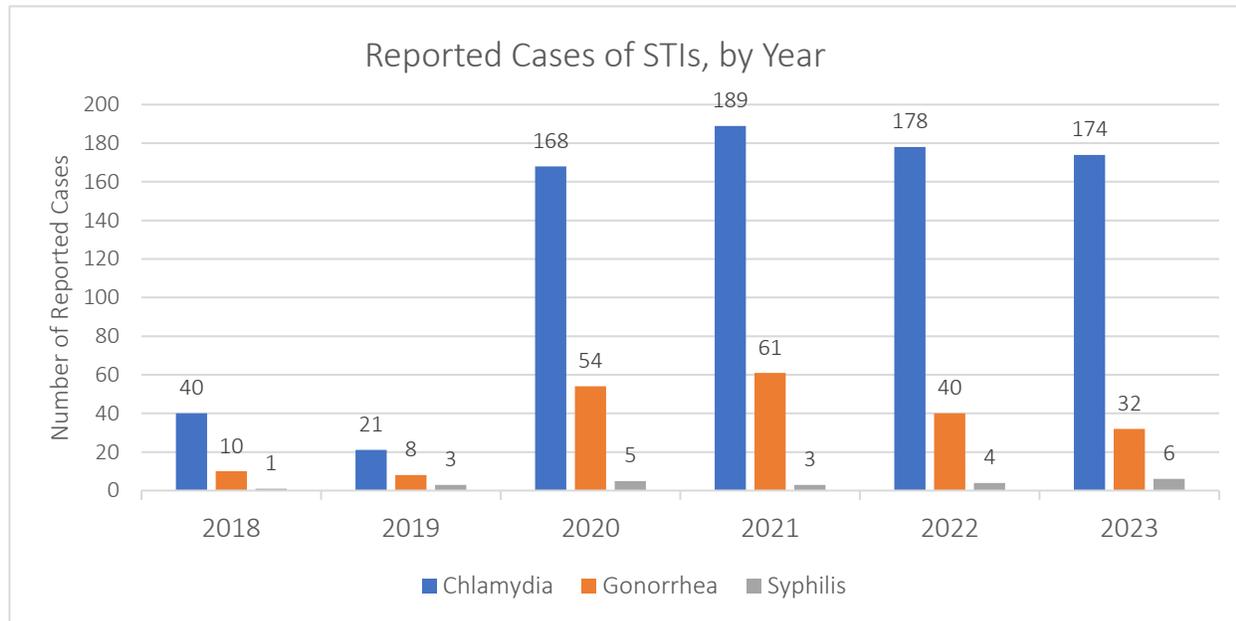
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements

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
☞ Brucellosis²	☞ 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 B (specify acute or chronic)	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 C (specify acute or chronic)	☞ Meningococemia	☞ Staphylococcal enterotoxin B poisoning²	Vibriosis ⁶
☞ Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)	Pregnant hepatitis B carrier	☞ Mpox		☞ Viral hemorrhagic fever²
Cryptosporidiosis	Herpes infection, infants aged 60 days or younger	Mumps		Yersiniosis
		Pertussis		
		☞ Plague²		

Communicable Disease Report Cattaraugus County Health Department, 2023	
Communicable Disease	Number Reported
Amebiasis	1
Babesiosis	2
Campylobacter	9
Chlamydia	174
COVID-19	1,937
Cryptosporidiosis	4
E. Coli (all)	2
Ehrlichiosis	7
Giardiasis	8
Gonorrhea	32
Hemophilus Influenzae (all)	2
Hepatitis A	1
Hepatitis B, Chronic	2
Hepatitis C, Acute	1
Hepatitis C, Chronic	49
Herpes	1
Influenza A	247
Influenza B	19
Legionellosis	6
Lyme Disease	324
Meningitis (all)	4
Pertussis	2
Salmonellosis (all)	7
Strep Group A (Invasive)	8
Strep Group B (Invasive)	4
Strep Pneumo (Invasive)	15
Syphilis	6
TOTAL	2,874

Recorded 0 incidences to NYSDOH: Western Equine Encephalitis, Trichinosis, Tetanus, Tuberculosis, Zika Virus, Staphylococcal (all), Shigellosis, Rubella Rocky Mtn. Spotted Fever, Q Fever, Mumps, Meningococcal Infection, Measles (all), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Candida Auris, Brucellosis, Blastomycosis, or Anaplasmosis.



Tuberculosis Control Program

Treating latent Tuberculosis (TB) infection can prevent progression to active TB disease. CCHD provides testing at the TB Chest Clinic held quarterly throughout the year. In 2023, the CCHD TB program;

- Performed **313** Tuberculin Skin Tests (TSTs) to evaluate individuals for latent TB in which **0** Individuals tested positive.
- Provided precautionary care to **22** individuals at the CCHD's TB Chest Clinic.
- Treated **1** individuals with prophylactic medication.
- Managed **0** cases of active TB.

Service	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TST's performed	493	519	575	418	318	313
Total positive results for latent TB infection	1	0	0	0	3	0
Total TB clinic visits	16	12	4	2	5	22
Individuals treated with prophylactic medication	3	3	4	2	3	1
Active TB cases managed	0	0	0	0	0	0

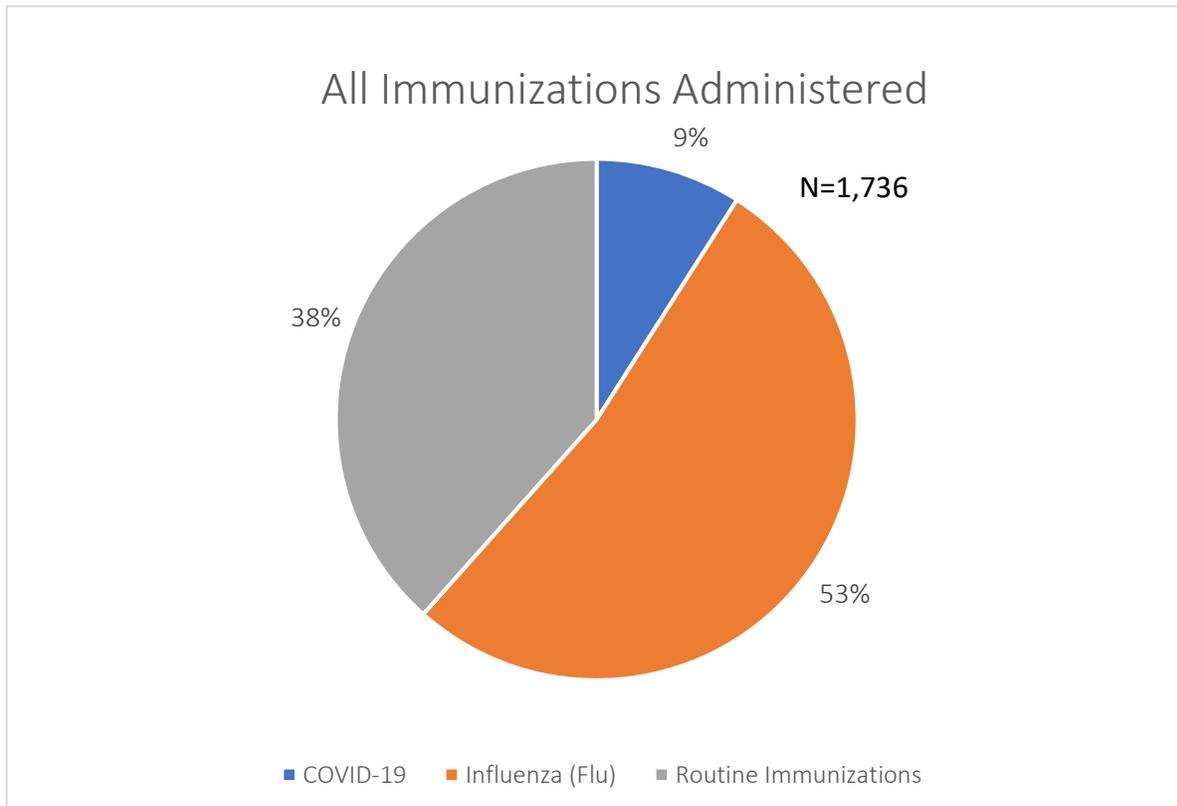
Immunization Services

Immunizations significantly reduce the incidence of many serious infectious diseases. Immunization services are offered to both pediatric (0-18) and adult (19+) individuals. In 2023, the CCHD immunization program;

- Administered **1,736** immunizations to pediatric and adult individuals.
- Administered **912** influenza immunizations to pediatric and adult individuals.
- Administered **157** COVID-19 immunizations to pediatric and adult individuals.
- Administered **2** MPOX immunizations to adult individuals.
- Performed **84** rabies post-exposure prophylactic treatment visits.
- Made **7** scheduled visits to health care providers in Cattaraugus County to provide education and information to improve their immunization service delivery, maintain safe vaccine storage and handling, and raise immunization coverage levels.



Photo depicts two CCHD nurses, Chastity Standish (L) and Kristin Brown (R), ready to vaccinate at the employee flu clinic.



Immunization Services (Continued)

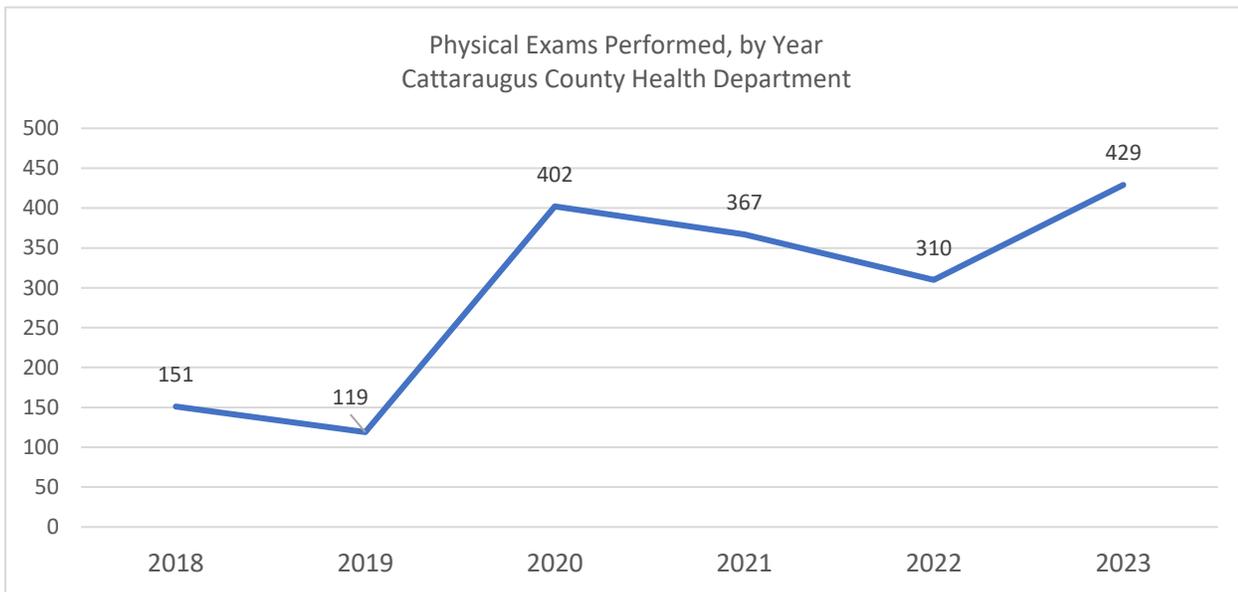
Immunizations Administered, By Age Cattaraugus County Health Department, 2023			
Type	0-18	19+	Total
DTaP	47	0	47
DTaP-Hep B-IPV	26	0	26
DTaP-Hib-IPV	20	0	20
Hepatitis A (Hep A)	24	13	37
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	41	63	104
Hep A-Hep B	0	0	0
Hemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib)	16	0	16
Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)	56	31	87
Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV)	77	2	79
Influenza (FLU)	104	1,454	1,558
Meningococcal MCV40	196	3	199
Meningococcal B, OMV	12	4	16
Meningococcal Polysaccharide (groups A, C, Y, W-135) TT Conjugate	0	0	0
Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR)	67	54	121
Measles Mumps Rubella Varicella (MMRV)	0	0	0
Monkeypox (MPOX)	0	3	3
Pneumococcal conjugate PCV 13	21	0	21
Pneumococcal conjugate PCV20, polysaccharide CRM197 conjugate, adjuvant, PF	4	15	19
Pneumococcal Polysaccharide PPV23	5	1	6
Rabies - IM fibroblast culture & diploid cell culture	64	182	246
Rabies Immune Globulin (RIG)	2	20	22
Rotavirus, monovalent	0	0	0
Rotavirus, pentavalent	12	0	12
SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)	110	523	633
Tetanus Diphtheria Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)	113	54	167
Typhoid, ViCPs	1	24	25
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	91	13	104
Yellow Fever	0	13	13
Zoster Recombinant (Shingles)	0	17	17
TOTAL	1,109	2,489	3,598

Community Health Clinics

Physical Exams

Routine physical exams are provided for new employees of the county, several villages, towns, fire departments, community businesses, and organizations as well as individuals for school/college admission. In 2023, the community health clinic;

- Performed **429** exams.



Family Planning Services

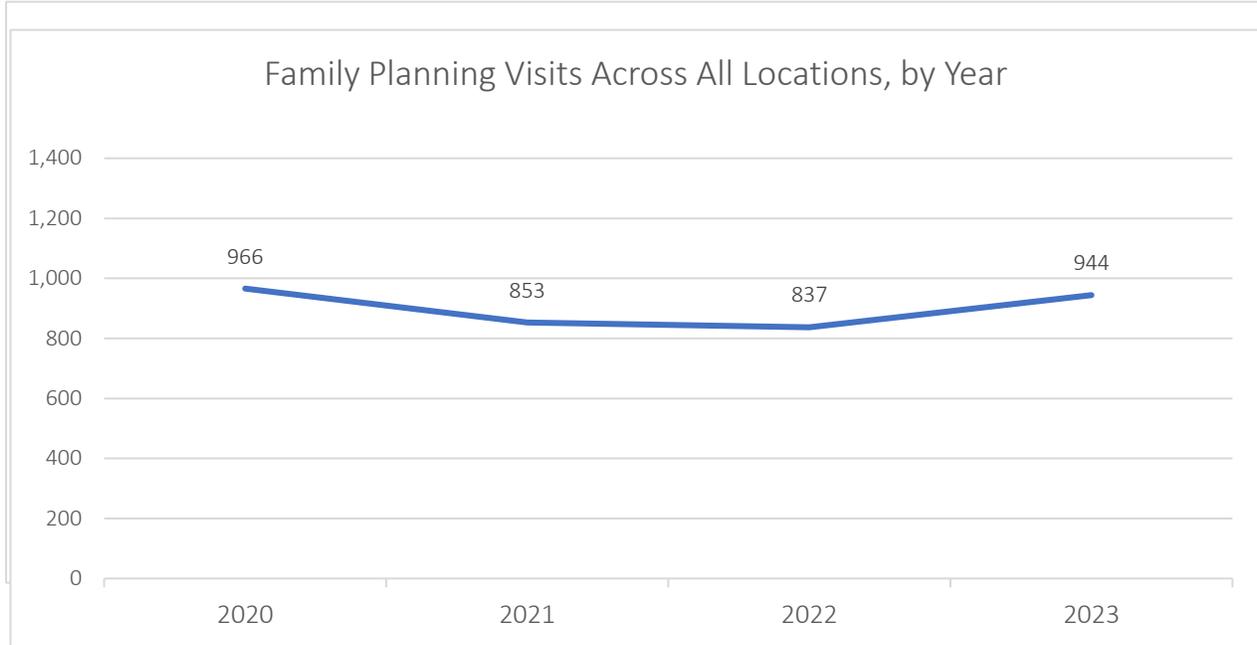
Family Planning (FP) services assist with the provision of affordable, voluntary contraceptive services, supplies and related preventive health services to all who want and need them, with priority given to persons from low-income families. Related preventive health services include sexually transmitted infection (STI) education, testing and treatment, and cancer screening. *Visit locations include Olean, Salamanca, Little Valley, and Machias.* In 2023, the family planning program;

- Conducted **944** FP visits across all locations.
- Performed **757** pregnancy tests in which **65** were positive and **16** determined as a teen pregnancy (Females 15-19 years old).



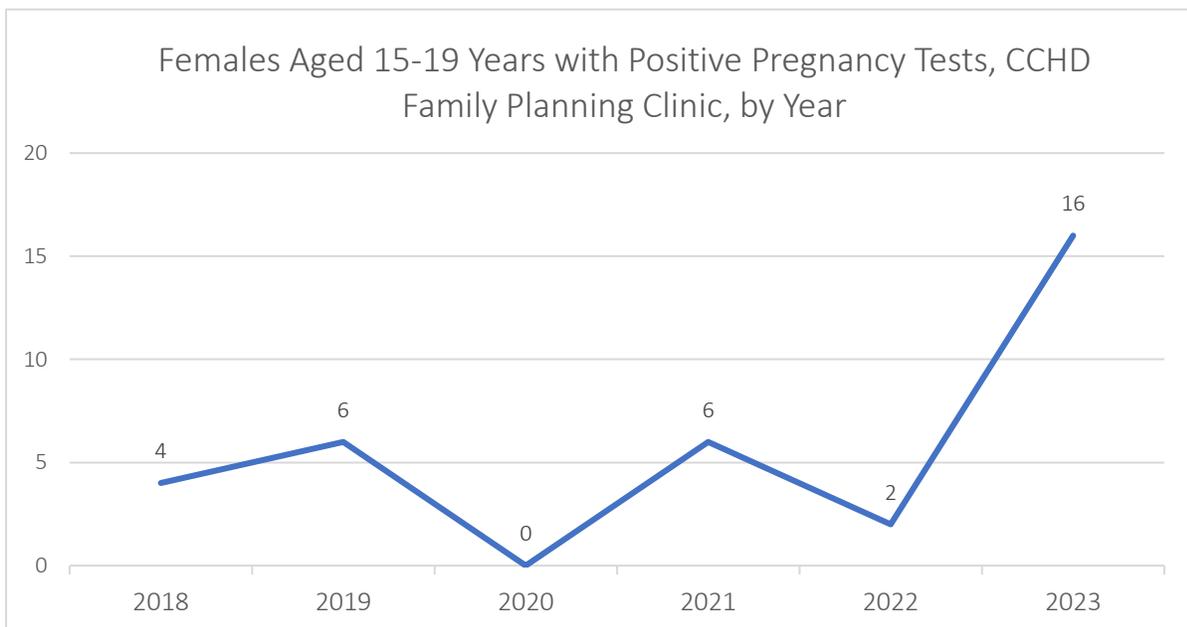
Photo depicts the free condoms and educational materials distributed at the Olean Clinic site.

Family Planning Services (Continued)



*In 2019, we introduced a new Electronic Health Recording software, and totals recorded for that year may be incorrect as a result of technological interfacing issues.

In New York, anyone under the age of 18 has the right to consent to services like contraception, testing for sexually transmitted infections, and reproductive health care without parental consent.



Teen pregnancy and childbearing are associated with increased social and economic costs through immediate and long-term effects on teen parents and their children. In 2023, CCHD Family Planning Clinics recorded one of its highest numbers of teen pregnancies since 2013 where 17 were recorded.

Reproductive Disease Prevention and Cancer Services Program

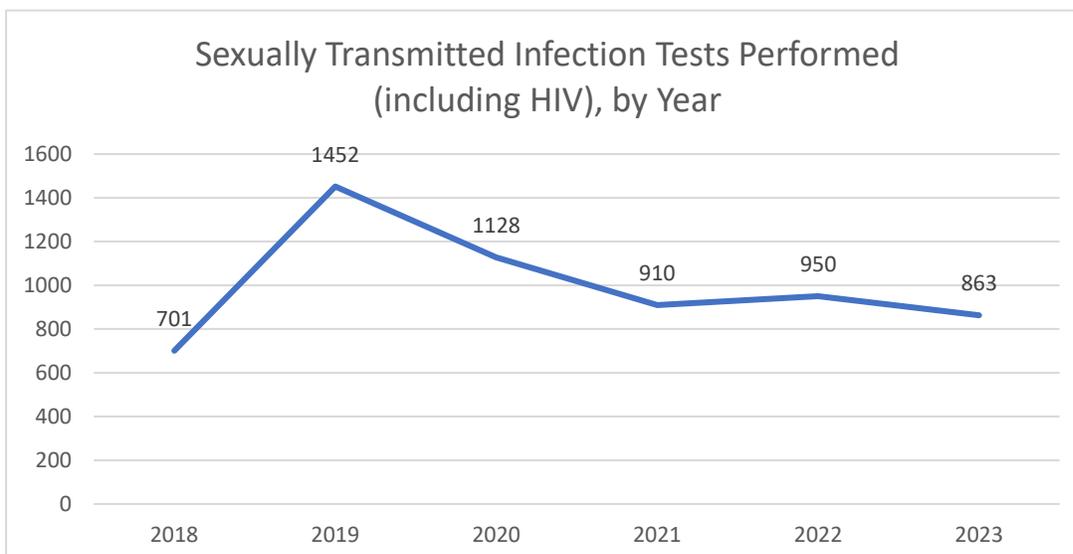
Cervical cancer is preventable through vaccination and routine testing. The Cancer Services Program (CSP) provides breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings at no-cost to individuals over the age of 40 who live in New York State, are not insured or under-insured, and meet income eligibility requirements. In 2023, Reproductive Disease Prevention and CSP;

- Performed **68** cervical (pap test, high-risk Human papillomavirus (HPV) test and pelvic exam) tests.
 - **19** cervical (pap test, high-risk HPV test and pelvic exam) tests required further surveillance.
 - **6** abnormal cervical (pap smear) tests required immediate referral for follow-up.
- Performed **3** colposcopies.
 - **6** abnormal colposcopy tests required immediate referral for follow-up.
- Performed **9** testicular exams.
- Performed **0** prostate exams.
- Performed **97** clinical breast exams.

Sexually Transmitted Infections and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Services

CCHD provides confidential services, investigates, and reports cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), including Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). All positive cases and identified contacts receive education, treatment and follow-up. Surveillance data are used to monitor the epidemiology of the disease and inform health policy and prevention efforts. In 2023, the CCHD STI clinic;

- Rendered **612** STI Clinic visits at the Olean, Machias, and Salamanca clinic sites.
- Performed **863** STI tests in which **212** were determined positive.
- Monitored trends in STI reports. Incidences of **chlamydia** were identified as most frequent.
- Performed **130** HIV tests in which **0** individuals tested positive.
- Provided education material and safe sex information/supplies to **3** county schools and community sites.



Home-Health Care

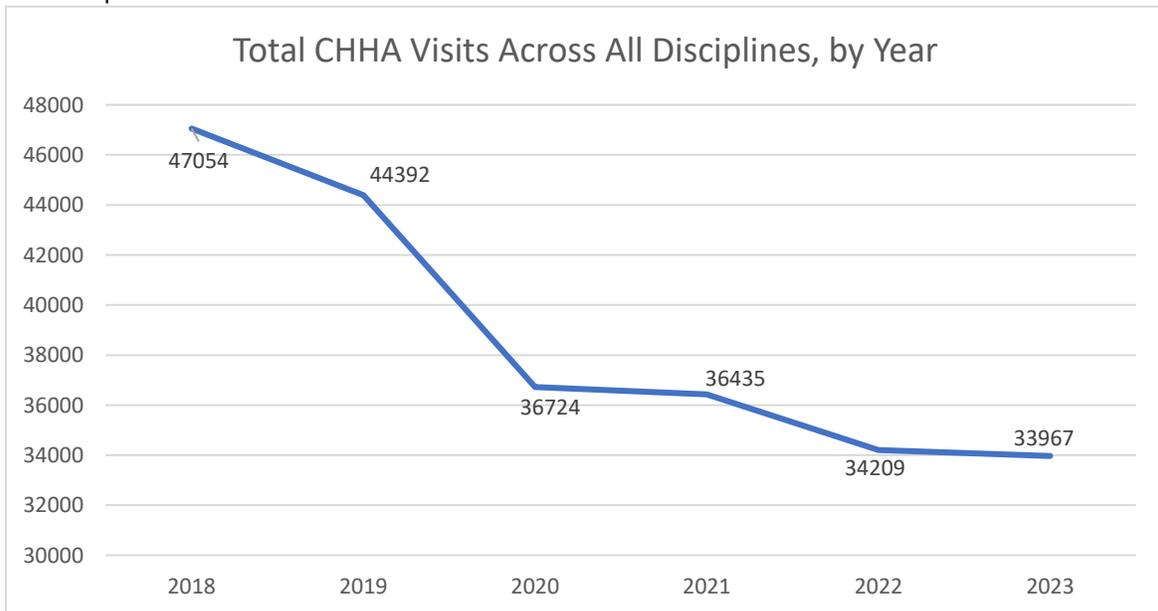
Certified Home Health Agency

CCHD is a Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) that provides skilled services which are of a preventative, therapeutic, rehabilitative, health guidance and/or supportive nature to persons at home. Services provided may be reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid, private payment, and commercial health insurers. Comprehensive **home health care** encompasses various medical and therapeutic services delivered at a patient's home to treat illnesses or injuries, enhancing comfort and convenience while ensuring coordinated care that aligns with healthcare providers' plans. It is designed to be a cost-effective, patient-centered alternative that supports faster recovery and reduces the need for hospital stays. Home-health care services include nursing services; home health aide services; medical supplies, equipment and appliances suitable for use in the home; and at least one additional service that may include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, nutritional services, and medical social services. In 2023, the CHHA program;

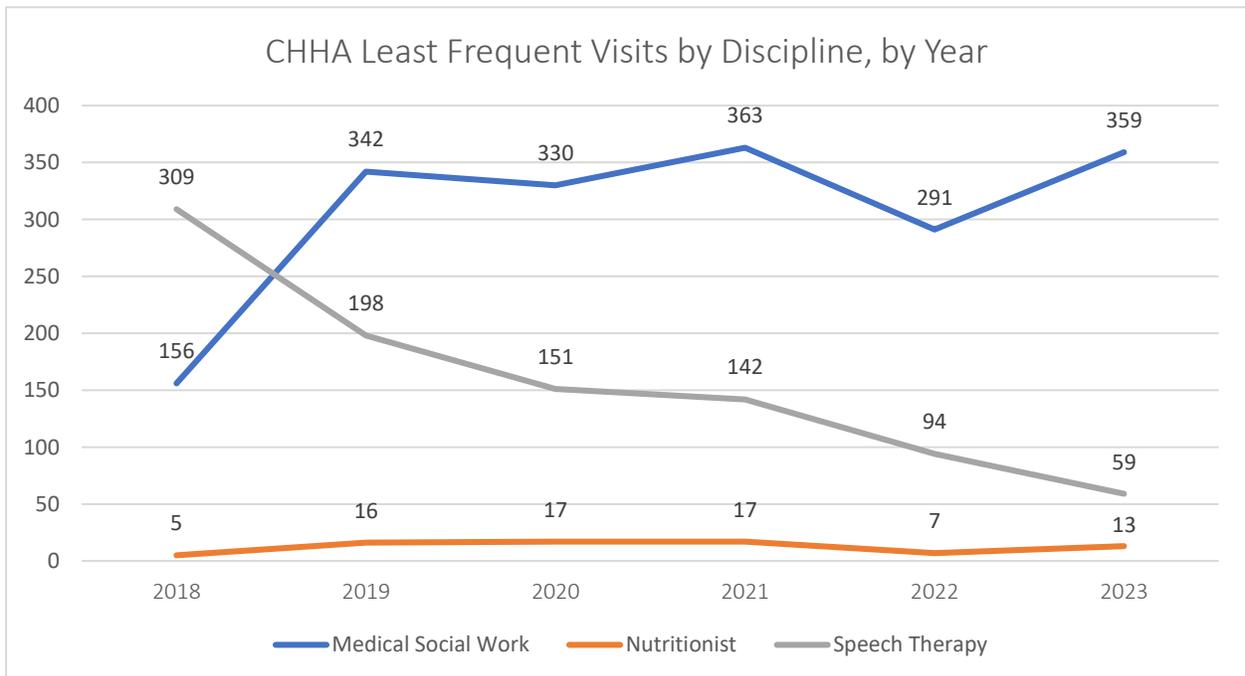
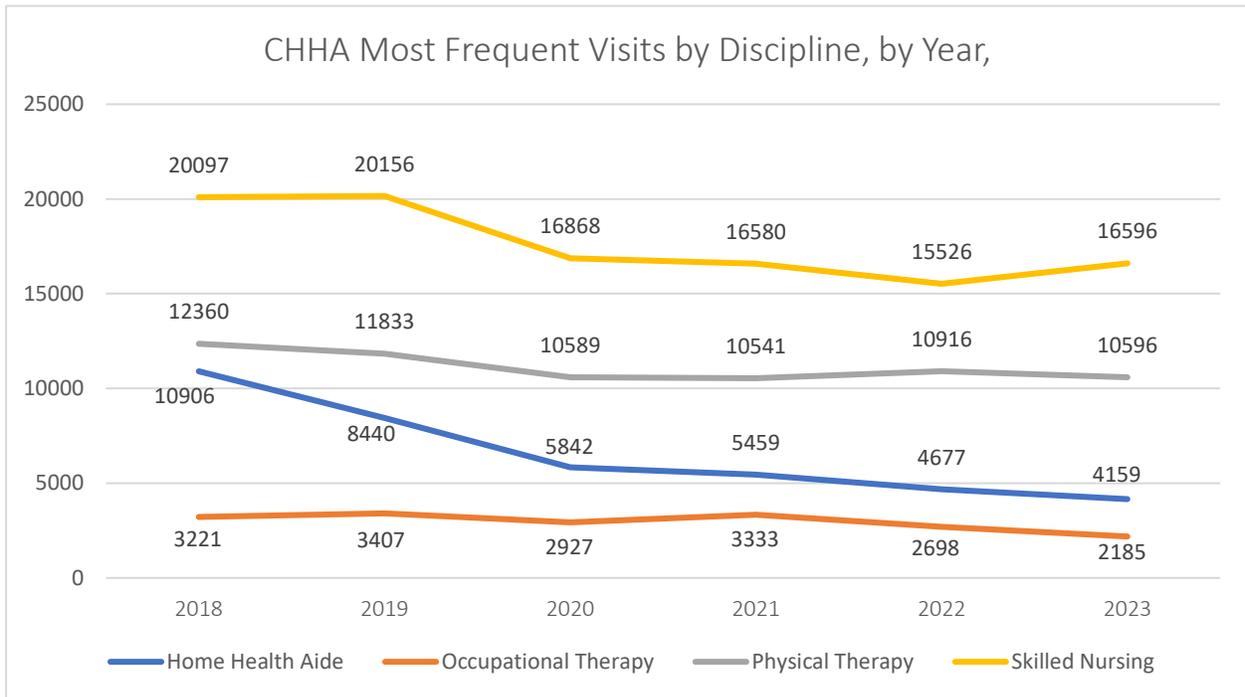
- Conducted **33,967** home visits across all disciplines.
- Provided care to **1,347** individuals.
- Monitored trends in visits across disciplines.

Visits related to Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, and Home Health were identified as most frequent whereas Medical Social Work, Nutrition, and Speech Therapy were identified as least frequent.

Discipline	Number
Home Health Aide	4,159
Medical Social Work	359
Nutritionist	13
Occupational Therapy	2,185
Physical Therapy	10,596
Skilled Nursing	16,596
Speech Therapy	59
TOTAL	33,967



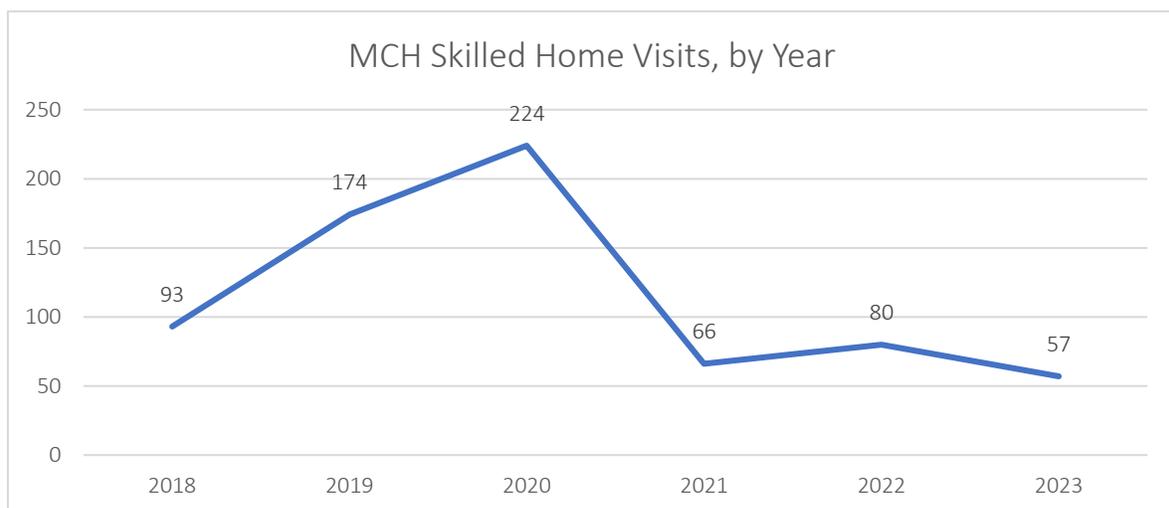
Certified Home Health Agency (Continued)



Maternal-Child Health

The Maternal-Child Health (MCH) program focuses on providing services, delivered by Public Health Nurses (PHN) to the maternal and child health population, to ensure that women, infants, children, and families achieve optimal health. Services provided include prenatal, postpartum, newborn, infant, and child home visits; health education and support; lead poisoning prevention education; linkage to medical care; and community resource referrals. In 2023, the MCH program;

- Conducted **57** MCH skilled home visits.
 - Skilled nursing visits are provided to pregnant and post-partum women, as well as infants and children, following referral by a hospital or medical provider. A registered nurse develops a home care plan that includes skilled assessments, interventions, education, and reinforcement of positive health behaviors in the individual's own environment.
- Performed **111** newborn screenings.
 - CCHD assists the NYSDOH Wadsworth Lab in obtaining initial and repeat blood samples for Newborn Screenings (NBS). NBS detect over 40 genetic diseases such as cystic fibrosis, phenylketonuria (PKU) and Krabbe Disease. In many cases, early diagnosis and medical treatment can prevent serious permanent illness.
- Conducted outreach and education at **2** local community health events.
- Visited **2** pediatric offices to provide:
 - Information on the NYSDOH Guidelines for the Identification and Management of Lead Exposure in children and other tools from NYSDOH website.
 - Information on the Regional Lead Resource Center and other tools for providers to create and view NYSIIS reports for individual testing rates.
- Visited **1** OBGYN provider's office to link with information/services about MotherToBaby, a University of Rochester (UR) Medicine service.
- Educated **2** local medical groups boasting several providers each on the recommendations for follow-up BLL testing in pregnant and lactating women.



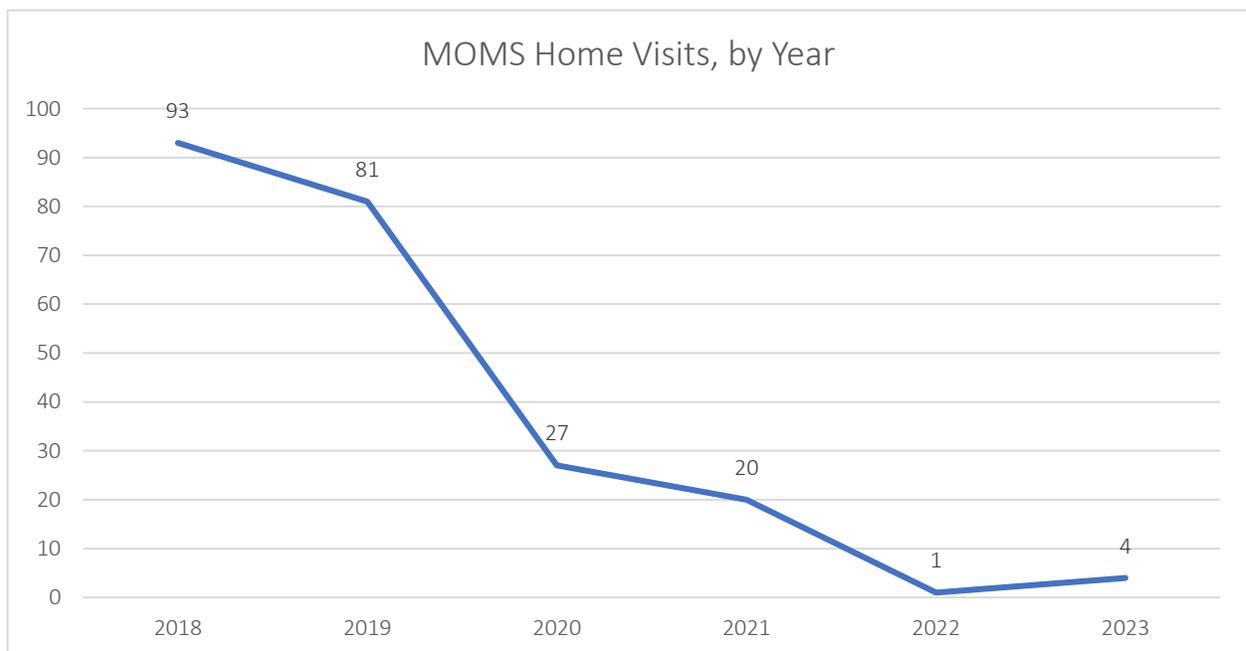
Medicaid Obstetrical and Maternal Services

The Medicaid Obstetrical and Maternal Services (MOMS) program is a home visiting nursing program that provides maternal-child health supportive services, free of cost, to residents of Cattaraugus County that are Medicaid eligible. MOMS is designed to improve equitable access to quality maternal-child health care, increase lactation support for parents choosing to breast and chest feed, and enhance the coordination of care with other community resources. In 2023, the MOMS program;

- Received **2** new admissions.
- Provided services to **2** individuals.
- Completed **4** home-visits through the MOMS Program.
- Assisted **4** individuals without insurance to receive presumptive Medicaid.



Photo depicts Community Health Nurse, Melissa Chamberlain, demonstrating a newborn assessment.



CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

Nutrition Services

Women, Infants, and Children

The Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) is a federally funded program administered by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) through local health departments and other agencies. WIC safeguards the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk by providing nutrition education; food assistance (supplemental foods, Individual Service packages, and Farmer's Market coupons); breastfeeding promotion and support from Peer Counselors and Certified Lactation Consultants (CLCs); and breast pumps. In 2023, the WIC Program;

- Enrolled an average of **1,470** individuals in the program.
- Provided nutrition education to **100%** of WIC participants.
- Distributed **1,364** Farmers Market Coupon Booklets
- Maintained Breastfeeding Initiation Rate within the **70-80%** range among individuals enrolled in the WIC program when compared to 2022.
- Enrolled **134** breastfeeding moms in the program.
- Distributed **82** breast pumps
 - **65** personal grade electric pumps
 - **12** personal manual pumps
 - **5** loaner hospital grade pumps
- Continued outreach and education through the Cattaraugus County WIC Facebook Group to provide information to the public and promote services and local events.



Photo depicts the CCHD WIC staff with Dr. Watkins and Mayor Bill Aiello during World Breastfeeding Week.

Women, Infants, and Children (Continued)

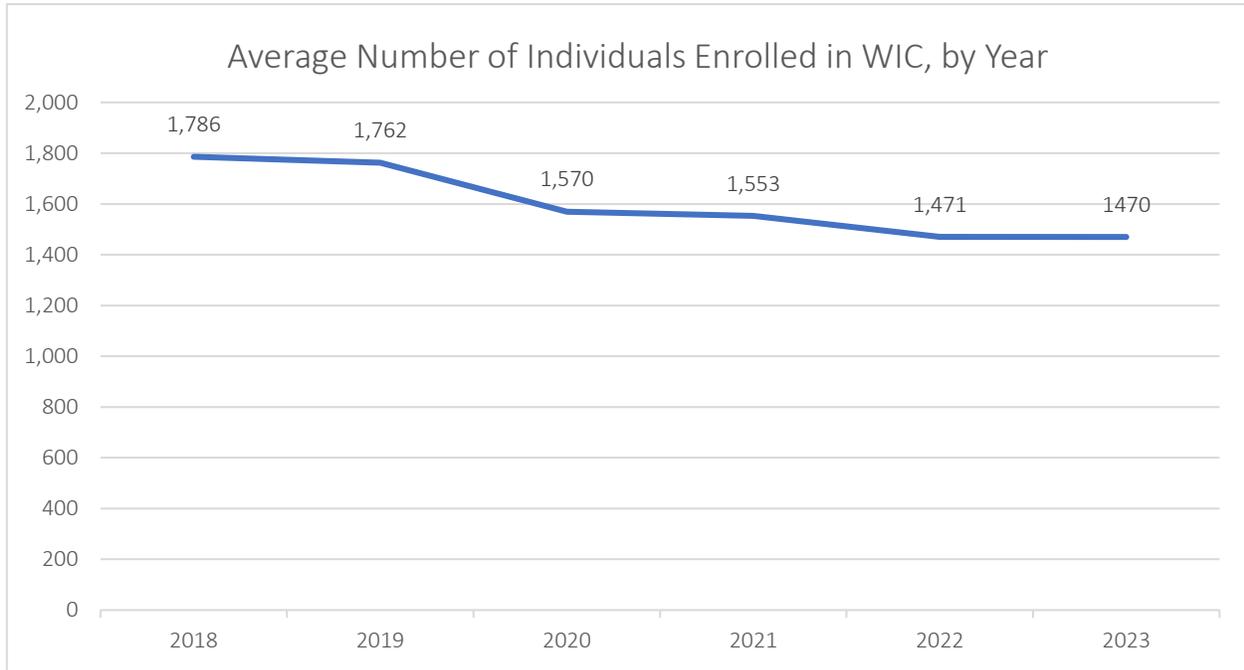


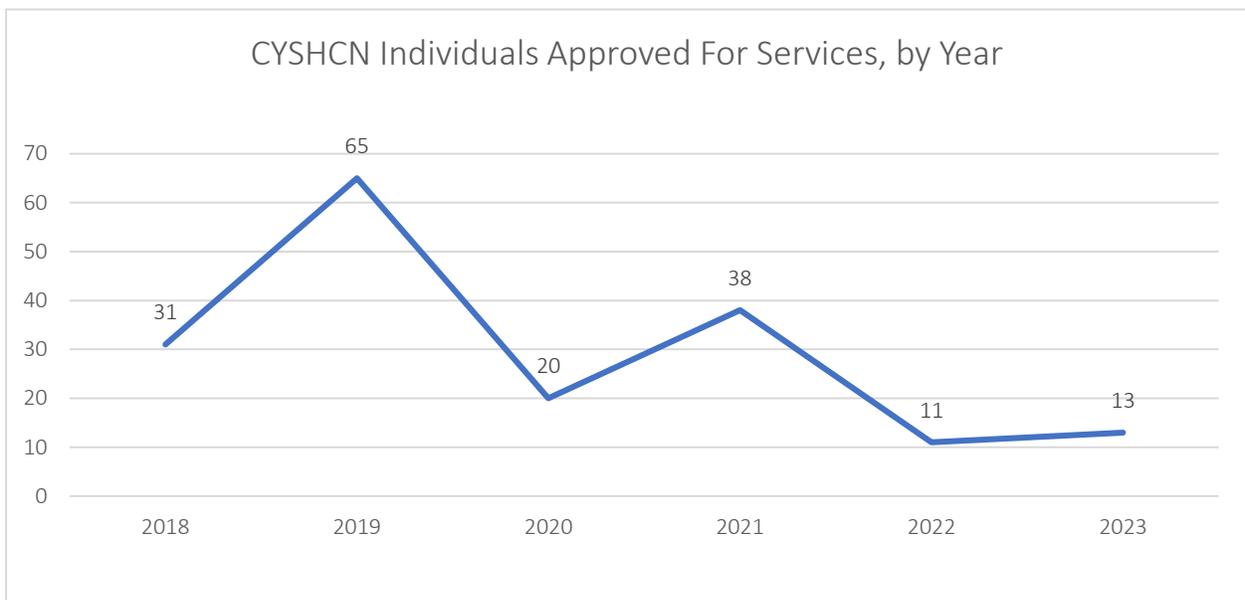
Photo depicts WIC Staff setting up for the World Breastfeeding Week picnic.

Childhood Developmental Services

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN) is a no-cost program that provides information and medical referral services in health and related areas for children and youth from birth to 21 years of age who may have a serious or long-lasting physical condition, intellectual or developmental disability, and/or behavioral or emotional condition. It provides financial assistance for those special-needs services based on income guidelines. The CYSHCN Program also has a financial component called the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Support Services (CYSHCNSS), formerly known as Physically Handicapped Children's Program. The CYSHCNSS assists families in paying medical bills for children with severe chronic illnesses and/or physical disabilities, between birth and up to 21 years of age, who meets the county's medical and financial eligibility criteria. In 2023, the CYSHCN/CYSHCNSS Program;

- Approved **13** individuals from birth to 21 years of age for financial assistance services.
- Authorized **152** medical services.



Medical Service	Authorized
Physician services	26
Tests (labs, x-rays, echo's, scans, MRIs, EKG's, pulmonary studies, etc.)	1
Drugs	122
Hearing Aids	2
Hospital Outpatient	1
TOTAL	152

Early Intervention / Child Find

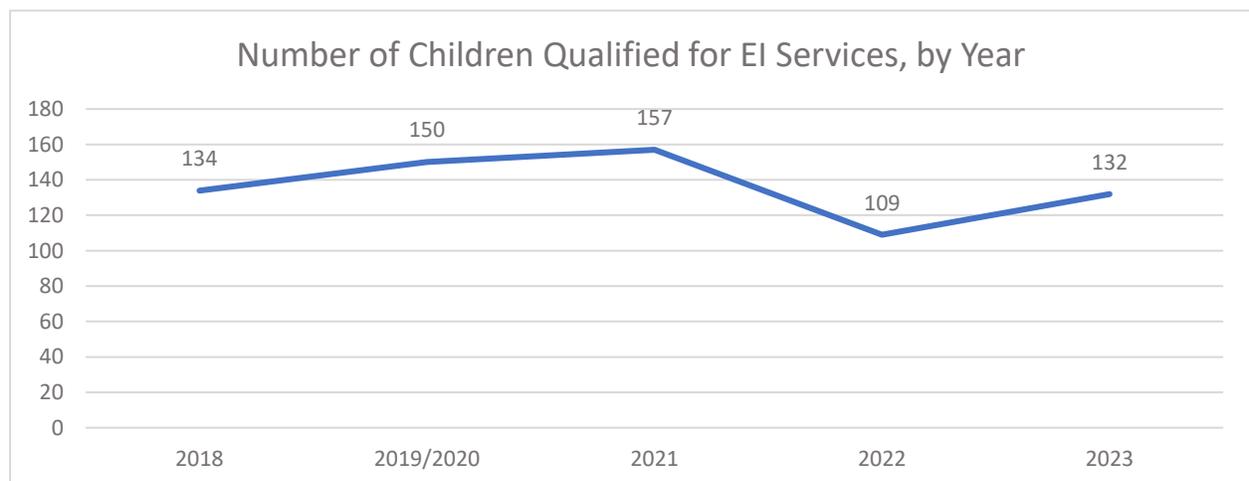
The Early Intervention (EI) program serves children, birth to three years old, who have been diagnosed with, or are at high risk for, a developmental delay. Multi-disciplinary evaluations are conducted to determine eligibility and appropriate therapy. Areas of developmental assessments include:

- cognitive;
- physical (including vision & hearing);
- social/emotional;
- adaptive Development; and
- communication (speech).

Services are provided by both CCHD and NYSDOH approved EI providers. These services include service coordination, assistive technology, audiology, family training, counseling, parent support groups, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, vision, special education, nursing, medical for diagnostic or evaluation purposes, nutrition, psychological services, health services, and transportation and related costs.

The Child Find sector of EI ensures that all children, birth to three years, who are assessed for EI and do not qualify for services at that time, have a primary care physician and insurance coverage. Families are also encouraged to have developmental screenings for their children done at their pediatrician visits. If a child is determined to need services from the EI program, referrals are made with parental consent. In 2023, the EI Program;

- Received **254** referrals for children suspected of or diagnosed with a developmental delay in which **132** children qualified to receive services and obtain an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Distributed material containing information on developmental milestones for children to physicians, hospitals, educational/health care professionals, and other potentially interested parties in an effort to identify more at-risk children.



Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP) focuses on developing local public health preparedness plans and enhances the County's ability to respond to public health threats such as acts of terrorism, pandemics, natural disasters, and other public health emergencies. The PHEP Director works with other local, state, and federal partners to ensure an integrated and coordinated approach in its public health preparedness, planning, and response efforts. In 2023, the PHEP Program;

- Distributed **500** N95 masks during the unhealthy air quality incident.
- Installed the Purple Air Monitoring System to help people know what the air is like before leaving their homes
- Completed a ServNY credentialing drill to update the list of volunteers to serve during public health emergencies, such as natural disasters and disease outbreaks.
- Acted as a host location for the Western Region PHEP Workgroup of the Rural Preparedness Listening Session hosted by the CDC, Center for Rural Health Research & East Tennessee State University
- Conducted **2** Employee Flu Clinics - Point of Dispensing (POD)
 - Screened **153** employees to receive the Influenza Vaccine at the Cattaraugus County Health Department Clinics.
- Engaged in a CHEMPACK exercise drill to test the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), established by Congress in 1999 under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and CDC, to distribute vital pharmaceuticals and medical supplies nationwide during significant public health emergencies.
- Participated in a NYSDOH sponsored Tabletop Exercise in which 17 local health departments and 40 hospitals tested New York State's healthcare response to an infectious disease surge, (focusing on Measles), and facilitated valuable interagency collaboration.

Photo depicts the Western Region's PHEP coordinators in the workgroup during the Rural Preparedness Listening Session.



PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION AND PLANNING

Health Education (HE) Activities

CCHD provides educational information and resources on health-related topics to schools, worksites, local private and public organizations, professional groups and individuals. In 2023, the HE Program;

- Facilitated health education presentations to **2,959** individuals in schools and community sites.
- Participated in various health fairs and community events to promote CCHD programs and services through table displays and material distribution at various events including:
 - Operation Warm Hearts
 - YMCA Healthy Kids Day
 - Veggie Wheels Slow Ride
 - Str-Olean
 - Community Day at Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central School
 - Kiwanis Bike Rodeo in Salamanca
 - Cattaraugus County Fair
 - Cattaraugus County Pride Coalition
 - Seneca Nation Fall Festival in Irving
 - Fall in Love with Science
 - St. Bonaventure University Graduate Studies Health Conference
 - Octo-Boo Health Fair at the Seneca Arts & Learning Center

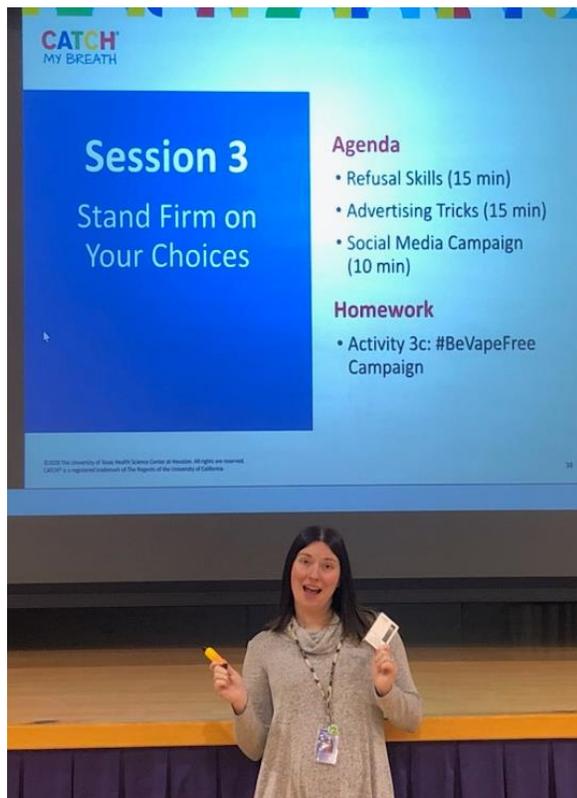


Photo depicts Public Health Educator, Traci Wind, teaching CATCH My Breath, an anti-vaping campaign.

Health Education Activities (Continued)

Presentation Title	Number of Presentations	Number of Participants
Society, Culture, Media & Self Image	6	80
Price is Right (Baby Edition)	6	85
Bullying Prevention	7	138
Go-Slow-Whoa	10	128
Over Sweetened	10	128
What's My Portion Size?	10	128
Eat A Rainbow	8	101
Healthy Eating	3	51
Personal Safety	11	171
Emotion Control	10	211
Healthy Relationships	15	164
Dental	2	23
Thinking of Getting Ink?	7	91
Decision Making	2	30
Contraception	13	135
Pregnancy	10	103
CATCH	16	299
Online Safety (middle school)	5	62
Advance Online Safety (high school)	3	43
Puberty	6	85
STI's	2	36
Handwashing	6	90
My Body is Mine	1	8
Halloween Safety	6	79
Personal Hygiene	22	353
Wellness	2	16
Winter Safety	6	79
FASD	3	42
TOTAL	208	2,959

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The field of environmental health (EH) seeks to identify those factors present in the environment that either cause or contribute to disease, illness, or unsafe conditions, and prevent such factors from adversely affecting the public. To do this, environmental health relies on the complementary strategies of inspection, education, and regulatory enforcement. Performing inspections to ensure compliance with science based regulatory controls established by state and federal agencies, is a core strategy in most environmental health work performed by the CCHD. Education is equally important in ensuring that county residents understand the potential health risks and mitigation strategies associated with health code violations. Through education and enforcement many potential illnesses and injuries are prevented.

Community Sanitation Services

Body Art Facilities including tattoo, microblading, and body piercing shops are inspected for sterilization of equipment on a quarterly basis to prevent infections and the transmission of blood-borne pathogens during tattoo and body piercing procedures.

Cooling Tower owners and operators have been required to comply with Subpart 4-1 of the NYS Sanitary Code - Protection from Legionella. The cooling tower registry is reviewed on a monthly basis to determine operator's compliance with Subpart 4-1 and follow up as necessary.

Migrant Labor Camps or Migrant Farmworker Housing are properties which may be used or occupied by persons employed as migrant farmworkers. Any property that is operated, or suspected of being operated as such is subject to inspection.

Permitted Mobile Home Parks range from 5 to over 300 homes. The operations at these facilities commonly include a community water supply and on-site sewage disposal systems and are subject to inspection.

Swimming Pools, Bathing Beaches and Recreational Aquatic Spray Grounds are inspected to ensure sanitary standards are met. In doing so, beach samples are also taken to determine when beaches should be closed due to high E. coli bacteria levels.

Temporary Residences, Mass Gatherings, Children's Camps, Campgrounds, and Agricultural Fairgrounds are inspected annually to ensure compliance with regulations including fire safety, water quality, sewer/septic, food service, and/or pool-related issues. In 2023, the EH program;

- Completed **133** inspections in various County establishments in which **302** violations were discovered. Mobile Home Park violations were identified as most frequent.
- Tested **48** samples from bathing beaches for E. Coli in which **6** samples were found to exceed E. Coli limit.



Photo depicts Public Health Sanitarian, Rigel Johnson, collecting a public water sample and checking disinfectant residual.

Community Sanitation Services (Continued)

Establishment Type	Facilities	Inspections	Violations
Body Art Facilities	16	15	5
Cooling Towers	11	*CCHD does not conduct inspections	
Migrant Labor Camps	1	1	0
Mobile Home Parks	33	33	116
Swimming Pools	50	50	110
Bathing Beaches	5	5	7
Recreational Aquatic Spray Grounds	1	1	1
Children's Camps	11	11	20
Campgrounds	18	16	41
Agricultural Fairgrounds	1	1	2
TOTAL	147	133	302

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



Photo depicts Public Health Sanitarian, Elisha Rust (L) and the homeowner (R), measuring for a septic system installation.

Food Protection Services

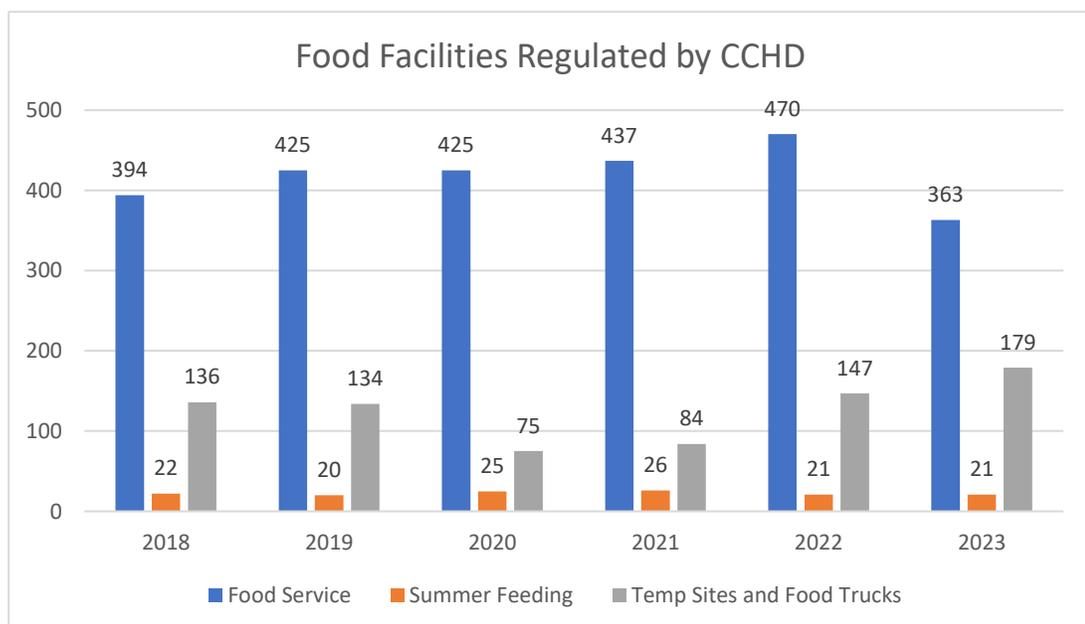
Public Food Service Inspections

Any operation preparing, handling, and serving food directly to the general public requires a permit. Inspections of restaurants, schools, mobile and temporary food vendors are conducted to ensure compliance with sanitary regulations aimed at preventing food-borne illnesses. In 2023, the EH division;

- Completed **480** public food service inspections in various establishments in which **756** violations were discovered (Restaurant and Catering Operations, School, and Institution violations were identified as most frequent).

Food Service Establishments Regulated by CCHD

Establishment	Facilities	Inspections	Violations
Restaurants and Catering Operations, Schools, and Institutions	354	356	722
Temporary Food Service Establishments and Events	117	52	13
Mobile Food Service Establishments	62	46	14
Summer Feeding Sites	21	17	1
SOFA – Department of Aging	9	9	6
TOTAL	563	480	756



Tobacco Control Services

New York State Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act

Tobacco retailers in Cattaraugus County are inspected annually for compliance with the New York State Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA) requirements. Inspectors ensure that facilities are properly registered, that proper signage regarding the sale of tobacco products to minors is conspicuously posted and that tobacco products are properly and safely stored to prevent access to unauthorized individuals. Undercover youth inspectors are also used during inspections to attempt to purchase tobacco products from retailers to verify compliance with laws prohibiting distribution to individuals under the age of 21. In 2023, the EH Program;

- Performed **59** ATUPA compliance checks at tobacco retailer locations in Cattaraugus County.
- Discovered **2** retailers in violation for sale of tobacco to an individual under the age of 21.



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

Tobacco Retailers In County	Retailer Compliance Checks	Sales to Individuals under the age of 21
52	59	2

Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA)

The CIAA requires nearly every workplace (including all bars and restaurants) to be smoke-free. Compliance checks are conducted to ensure that indoor smoking in public places is not occurring.

- Performed **59** CIAA compliance checks at establishments in Cattaraugus County.

Compliance Checks for Indoor Smoking	Establishments in Violation
59	0

Vector Control

Tick-Borne Disease Surveillance

Annual surveillance efforts monitor for certain tick-borne pathogens and human cases of Lyme disease. Ticks from locations within Cattaraugus County are collected by the NYSDOH and tested for the presence of pathogens, such as the bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, that is known to cause Lyme Disease. The number of human cases of Lyme disease varies from year to year (see Page 9).

- The most common pathogen identified in Cattaraugus County in 2022 was *Borrelia burgdorferi*. 2023 data is still forthcoming.

Mosquito Surveillance

Surveillance for both mosquito larvae and adult mosquitoes begins in May and continues into August. Mosquitoes can carry certain diseases including West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and Zika Virus all of which are threats to public health. In 2023, the EH program;

- Submitted **92** mosquito specimen pools to NYS arbovirus laboratory for analysis.
- Detected **no** positive mosquito-borne viruses such as West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), or Zika Virus.
- Did **not** conduct aerial spraying to eliminate adult mosquitoes or mosquito larvae in breeding areas.
- Conducted adult mosquito trapping in an area west of Salamanca for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and did **not** yield any positive results.



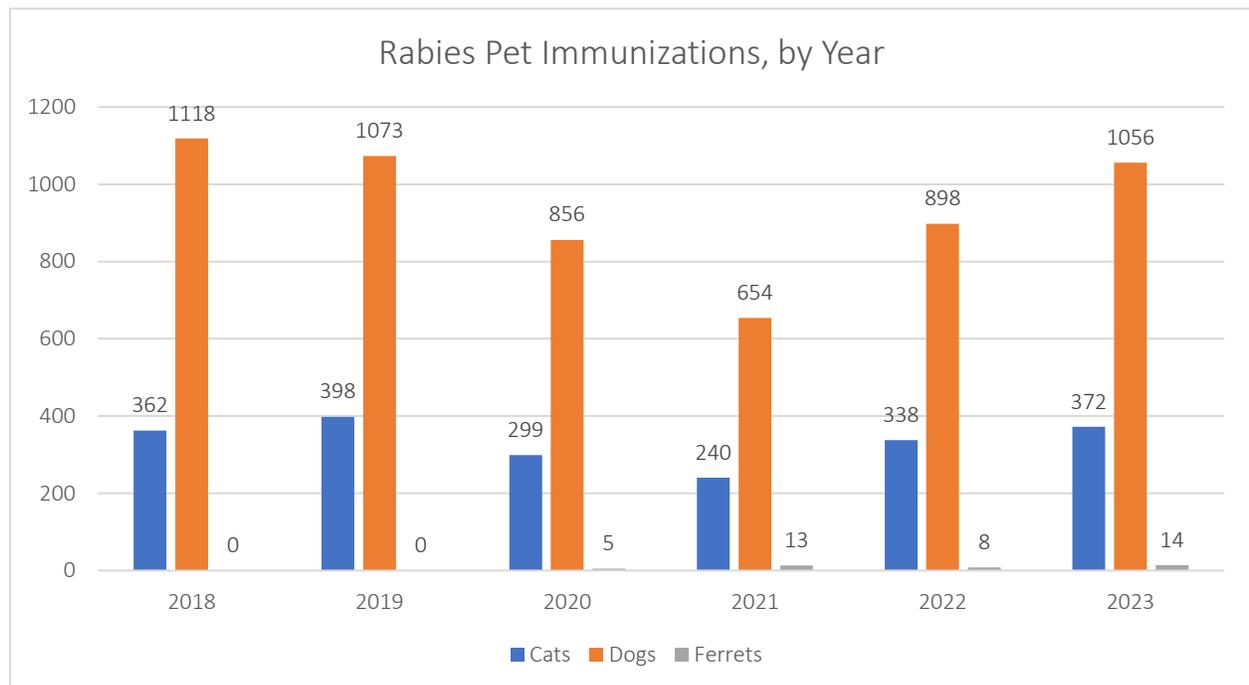
Photo depicts a mosquito which was caught during the 2023 surveillance season.

Rabies Prevention

All dogs, cats, and domesticated ferrets in Cattaraugus County four months of age or older are required to be actively immunized for the prevention of rabies. Free rabies vaccination clinics are held throughout the year. All potential rabies exposures (animal bites and scratches) that are reported are investigated and certain animal specimens are sent to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory for testing. All post-exposure cases receive coordinated case management from nursing staff, EH staff, and private physicians. In 2023, the EH Program;



- Operated **6** pet immunization clinics.
- Administered **1,442** rabies immunizations to pets.
- Responded to **219** animal bites and potential exposures to rabies.
- Referred **14** individuals to nursing staff for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Submitted **52** suspected specimens to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory for rabies analysis in which **3** specimens tested positive (*2 bats, 1 skunk*).



Water Supply Compliance and Protection

Water System Inspections and Sanitary Surveys

Public Water Systems (PWS) are any community water system (CWS), noncommunity water system (NCWS), or non-transient noncommunity water systems (NTNC) as defined by 10 NYCRR 5-1.1 and any facility regulated by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets which is determined to be a public water supply. A non-public water system (NPWS) is one that does not meet the definition of a public water system, and is thus not regulated under Subpart 5-1, but it is still regulated by the CCHD through other sections of state and county sanitary codes. In 2023, the EH Program;

- Performed **94** inspections and sanitary surveys to critically review operations and management of public and non-public water systems in which **53** violations were discovered.
- Provided system management and operations personnel with recommendations to improve system operations, security, worker and public safety, and regulatory compliance.

Public Water Supply	Facilities	Inspections/Sanitary Surveys Completed	Violations
CWS	69	23	14
NTNC	14	8	4
NCWS	85	58	30
NPWS	11	5	5
TOTAL	179	94	53

Water Quality Monitoring

A key to providing safe and healthy drinking water is routine testing of water quality. Federal and state regulations identify hundreds of potential contaminants and designate a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for each. These potential contaminants are then monitored on a periodic basis by the water supplier. In Cattaraugus County, monthly or quarterly microbiological samples, and annual nitrate samples, are collected directly by CCHD personnel and analyzed in the county lab. In 2023, the EH program;

- Collected **1,424** microbiological samples at PWS for analysis by the department’s laboratory.
- Collected **223** nitrate samples at PWS for analysis by the department’s laboratory.
- Shipped **5** nitrate samples to commercial labs to be analyzed.

Wastewater Management

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

All properties not served by a municipal sanitary sewer system must have a properly designed and maintained private onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) which meets minimum NYS design standards. Ensuring the proper design and operation of private sewage treatment systems is accomplished through Real Property Transfer (RPT) sanitary survey inspections, OWTS investigations, and permit issuance. In 2023, the EH program;

- Received **382** RPT applications.
- Received **214** permits-to-construct applications.
- Prescribed **15** OWTS to undertake remedial measures.
- Discontinued **0*** OWTS due to failure to complete measures prescribed.

**Reflects violations documented during an RPT.*



Photo depicts Public Health Sanitarian, Tim Zervas, conducting a public water system inspection.

Commercial Sewage Treatment Systems

Larger commercial sewage treatment systems are required to have a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and require that such systems be inspected annually to ensure proper operation and maintenance. The NYSDEC contracts with the CCHD to conduct routine annual inspections. In 2023, the EH program;

- Performed **102** SPDES inspections.

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 2023, the EH program;

- Issued **28** Notice of Plan Approvals for regulated projects.

Notice of Plan Approvals	Number Issued
Public Water System improvements	4
Sewage system replacements*	7
Backflow preventer devices	14
Campground expansions	3
TOTAL	28

**Ongoing capital projects include water system improvements in the Village of Portville, Village of Franklinville, Town of Randolph, City of Salamanca, Town & Village of Ellicottville, Village of Little Valley, and Village of South Dayton. Additional projects for sewage improvements include the Town of Yorkshire, Village of Portville and Town of Randolph.*

Photo depicts Public Health Sanitarian, Elisha Rust, conducting a soil percolation test for the replacement of a septic system.



Environmental Contaminant Control

Public Health Hazards, Nuisances, and Sanitation

Resident reports or complaints of any alleged public health hazards or nuisances throughout Cattaraugus County are investigated and evaluated based on their potential impact to public health and compliance with State and County public health laws and regulations. In 2023, the EH Program;

- Received **122** citizen complaints regarding an alleged hazard or nuisance.

Alleged Hazard or Nuisance	Number of Complaints
ATUPA	2
CIAA	0
Cockroaches & Bedbugs	16
Garbage	22
General Housing	4
Mobile Home Park	8
Mold	3
Restaurants	28
Rodents	11
Temporary Residence	0
Unsafe Conditions	17
Waste Water	11
TOTAL	122

Enforcement

Formal enforcement for violations of the NYS Public Health Law, State Sanitary Code, or the Sanitary Code of the Cattaraugus County Health District are conducted in accordance with the administrative hearing process adopted by the Board of Health (BOH) and Public Health Director. Pursuant to Public Health Law, the BOH may prescribe and impose penalties for the violation of, or failure to comply with the Sanitary Code of the Cattaraugus County Health District, the State Sanitary Code, the Public Health Law, or any order issued by the Public Health Director or BOH. In 2023, the EH Program;

- Initiated **24** 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 Resulting in Fines	Assessed Fines*	Collected Fines
24	\$5,375	\$3,125

**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 (CLPPPP) program seeks to support and enhance continued efforts to reduce the prevalence of elevated blood lead levels (BLL) in children. Primary and secondary prevention includes public and professional outreach and education, collaboration with local primary care providers for screening, diagnostic evaluation, medical management, and environmental interventions. In 2023, the CLPPP Program;

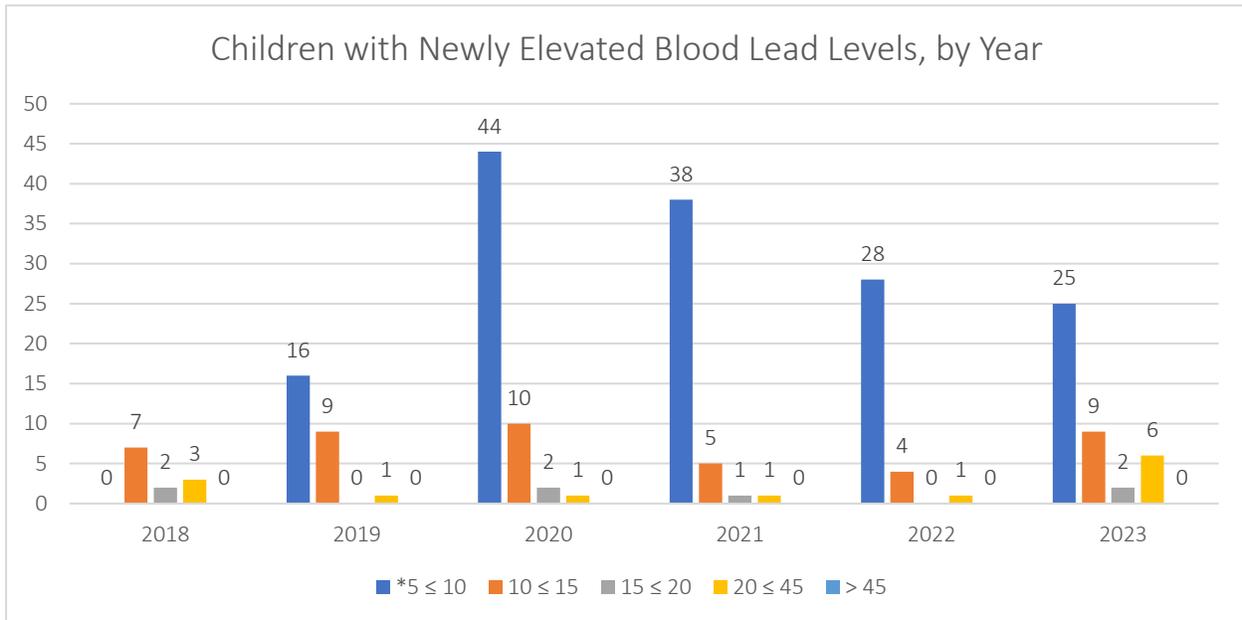
- Referred **30** children with elevated blood lead levels to Environmental Health (EH) staff for home inspections.
- Inspected **39** homes.
- Discovered **31** homes in need of remediation.
- Found **8** homes during inspection with no potential lead hazard.
- Managed **42** cases of children with *newly confirmed* elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 ug/dl
- Managed **81 existing** cases of children with elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 ug/dl.
- Received a Lead Hazard Capacity Building Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in conjunction with neighboring Allegany County to establish the local health department’s infrastructure on the development of remediation and lead abatement programs.
- Continued to provide point of care blood lead level tests at **15** events to address an at-risk population.
- Continued to be an active member in the Lead (Pb) Smart Partnership Coalition to further increase lead testing rates and spread awareness about the dangers of lead poisoning.



Photo depicts “the lead house”, an educational tool that details common and/or preventable home hazards, set up at the Fall in Love with Science fair at Lincoln Park.

Intervention	Total
Children with elevated blood lead levels referred to EH staff for home inspection	30
Homes inspected by EH staff for elevated lead levels	39
Homes in need of remediation (had lead paint)	31
Homes found without potential lead hazard	8

Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program (Continued)



*As of October 1, 2019; changes in the NYS Sanitary Code included lowering the Intervention Level from 15 ug/dl to 5 ug/dl.

Special Announcement

In 2023, the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD), in partnership with the Allegany County Health Department (ACHD) received a \$2.5 million Capacity Building grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This substantial grant will allow the two departments to begin covering the cost for training programs and certifications of contractors who can provide lead-safe renovations in homes where children have been identified to have high blood lead levels. The three-year grant will also provide funding to address lead base hazards in at least 15 eligible low-income pre-1978 housing units in Cattaraugus County and at least 8 units in Allegany County. (April-October 2026)

Photo depicts HUD awarding the \$2.5 million grant funding. From left to right depicts Community Health Nurse, Melissa Chamberlain, CCHD Director, Dr. Kevin Watkins, HUD program manager, Bruce Haber, and ACHD Deputy Director Jami D'Arcy.



Healthy Neighborhoods Program

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) provides home assessments for environmental health and safety issues at no-cost to residents in high-risk neighborhoods to improve living environments and overall quality of life. Communities of opportunity are the cities of Salamanca and Olean, the towns of Olean, Randolph, and Gowanda, and mobile home parks throughout Cattaraugus County. Program goals include preventing childhood lead poisoning; reducing asthma-related hospitalizations; preventing indoor air pollution; and preventing residential injury and death. In 2023, the HNP;

- Performed **134** initial home safety visits and **103** follow-up visits.
- Identified home safety hazards on a case-by-case basis, addressing them as necessary by distributing safety products.
- Distributed safety products such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, injury prevention products, and other safety products like radon test kits and mouse or rat control products based on the determined need to each home.
- Distributed asthma prevention, safety, and education kits.
- Partnered with Connecting Communities in Action, CLPPP, Early Intervention, and WIC to provide referrals, initial visits, revisits, and provision of materials with provision of education through the CCHD Public Health Educator.
- Worked with the Medical Provider Network (Foothills Medical Group, Olean Medical Group and Universal Primary Care) to ensure that all patients who are identified with an asthma diagnosis will be referred to the HNP.

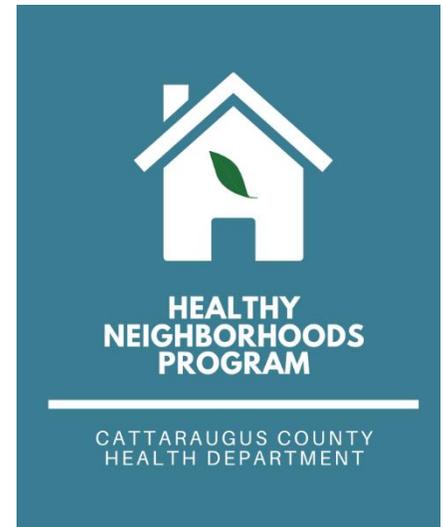
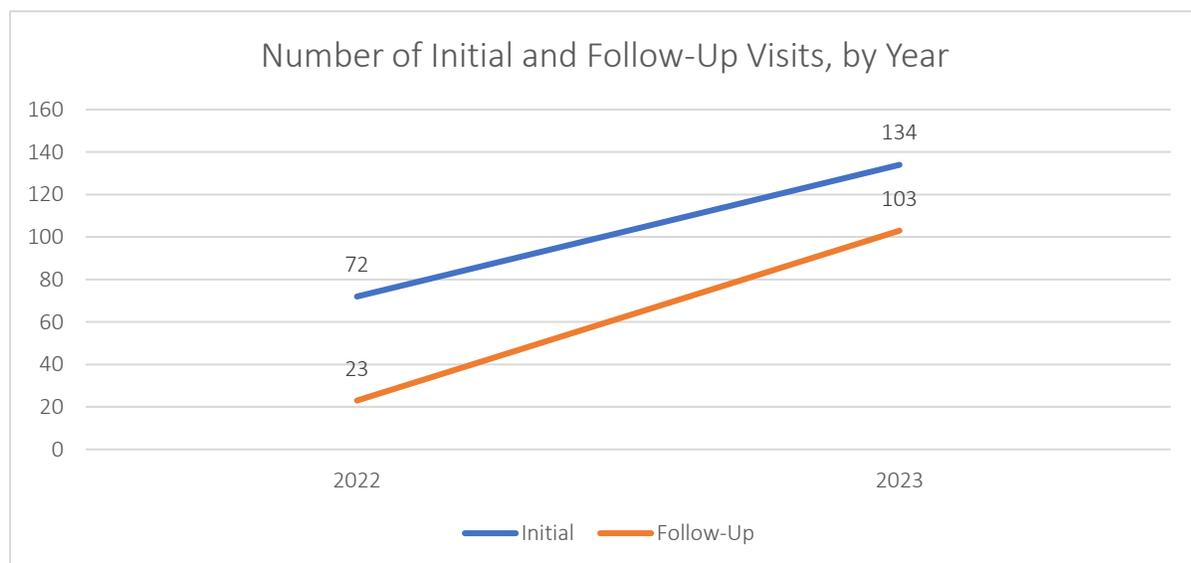


Photo depicts the Healthy Neighborhoods Program logo.



**Note that due to the grant cycle, the only available data for 2022 is from March to December.*

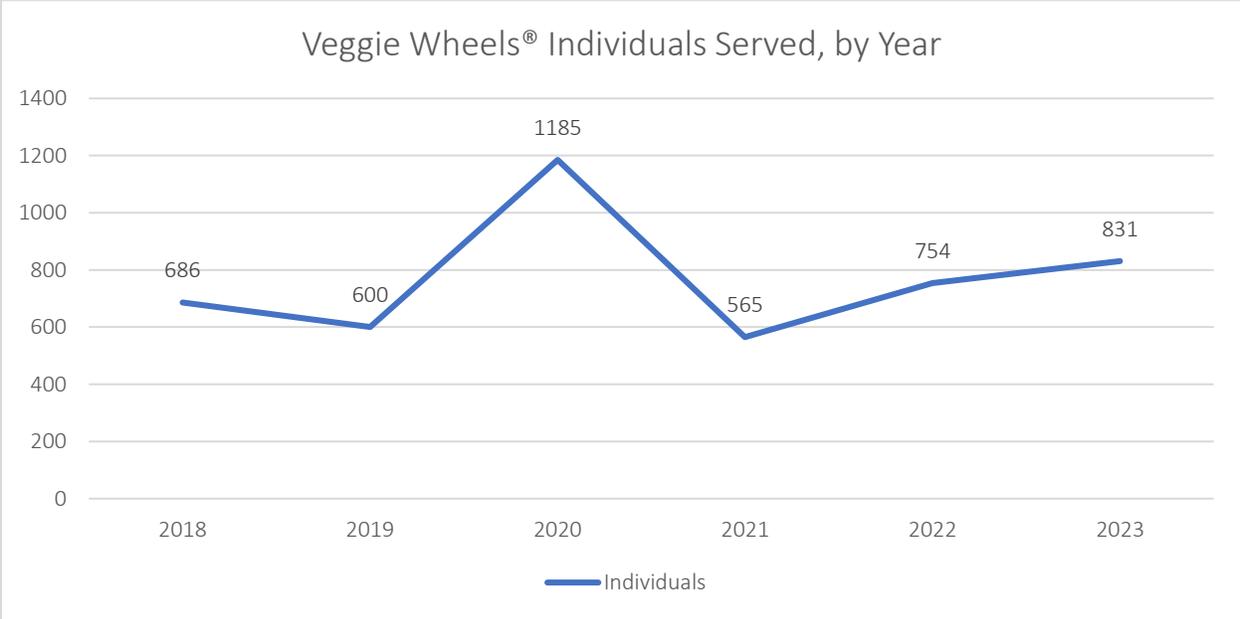
Healthy Food Environments

CCHD works to increase healthy eating and food insecurity in Cattaraugus County by providing equitable access to healthy foods.

Veggie Wheels®

Veggie Wheels® (VW) is a mobile farmer’s market that travels around Cattaraugus County bringing fresh, locally grown produce to low-income families, the disabled and senior citizens at no-cost. In 2023, the VW Program;

- Served **831** individuals (pediatric and adult).
- Provided nutrition education, cooking tips, and healthy recipes to **100%** of program participants.
- Continued partnerships with numerous local area businesses to provide fresh produce including:
 - Miller’s Farm Market
 - Great Valley Berry Patch
 - Wilson’s Farm Market
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Received local community grant from Walmart for **\$1,500**.
- Received the Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield grant for **\$250,000** to expand the Veggie Wheels® program operation in 2024.



Veggie Wheels® (Continued)

Housing Unit	Location
Alder Court Apartments	Olean
Aspen Towers	Olean
Aspen Manor	Olean
Brookside Community*	Olean
Hillview Manor	Salamanca
Seneca Court	Olean
Spring Court	Olean
West Court Apartments	Olean

Special Announcement

In 2023 the department received a grant from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield for **\$250,000** to expand the operation of the Veggie Wheels® program in 2024-2025. The grant will be allocated toward the purchase of a refrigerated truck which will allow the Veggie Wheels® program to significantly expand its capacity to transport fresh produce to communities in more rural areas of the county. This vehicle enables the safe storage and transport of perishable goods, and allows for the handling of greater quantities of food sourced from local farms and maintain these items at appropriate temperatures, thereby minimizing food waste and maximizing the distribution of nutritious food to those who may live in food desert areas.



Photo depicts what the mobile farmers market van funded by the Highmark grant will look like.



Photo depicts Public Health Educator, Matthew Tyssee (L), and Public Health Director, Dr. Kevin Watkins (R), receiving the Highmark grant check.

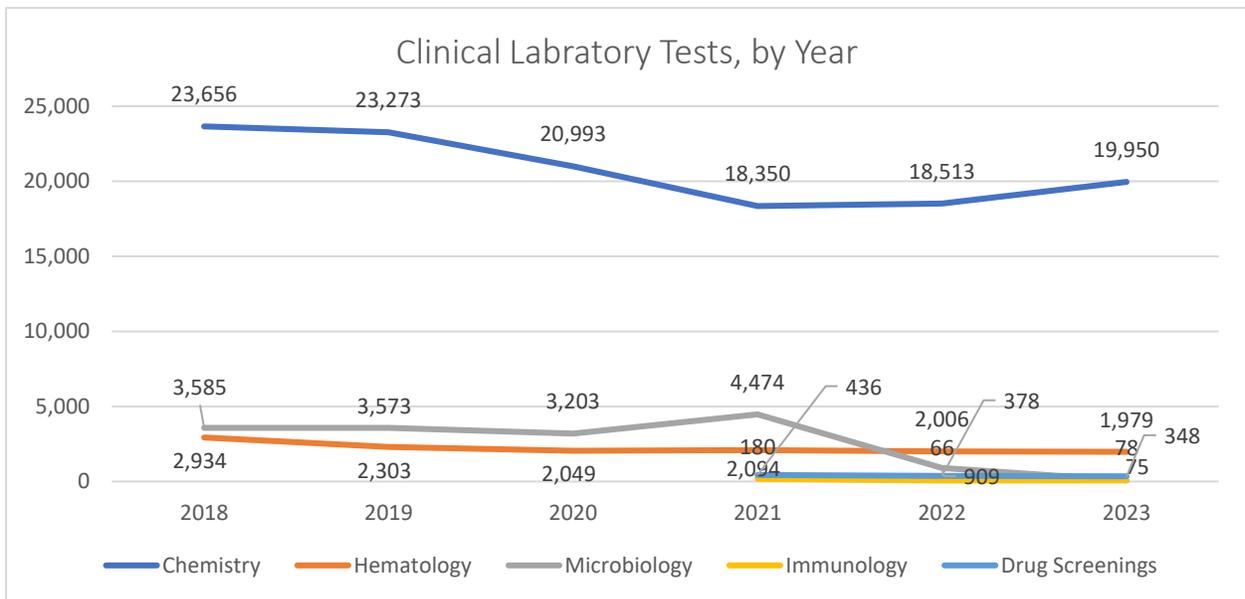
COUNTY LABORATORY SERVICES

Clinical Laboratory

- **Chemistry** testing includes various clinical tests, urinalysis tests, urine human chorionic gonadotropic hormone (HCG) tests, and endocrinology serum tests.
- **Diagnostic immunology** testing includes serologic assays for the detection of patient antibody responses to bacteria, parasites and viruses.
- **Drug screening** testing are taken from hair, urine, or blood samples.
- **Hematology** testing includes complete blood count (CBC) and fecal occult blood tests
- **Microbiology** testing include various virology tests such as molecular, viral antigen, and culture tests.

The following chart details each of the **22,430** clinical tests performed in 2023.

Clinical Laboratory Test	Number
Chemistry	19,950
Diagnostic Immunology	78
Drug Screenings	348
Hematology	1,979
Microbiology	75
TOTAL	22,430



Environmental Laboratory

- **Total Coliforms** are a large group of different types of bacteria commonly found in the environment, such as in soil, and in the intestines of animals, including humans. The main source of total coliforms in water is contamination from human and animal waste. Total coliforms are used as an indicator of the cleanliness of a water source.
- **Nitrate** is in some lakes, rivers, and groundwater. Nitrates are both found in the soil, water and plants. High levels of nitrate in drinking water may produce adverse pregnancy outcomes. Some groundwater has nitrate concentrations that present a health risk - especially for babies.

The following chart details each of the **3,297** water tests performed in 2023.

Environmental Laboratory Test	Number
Coliform Bacteria	3,060
Nitrate	237
TOTAL	3,297

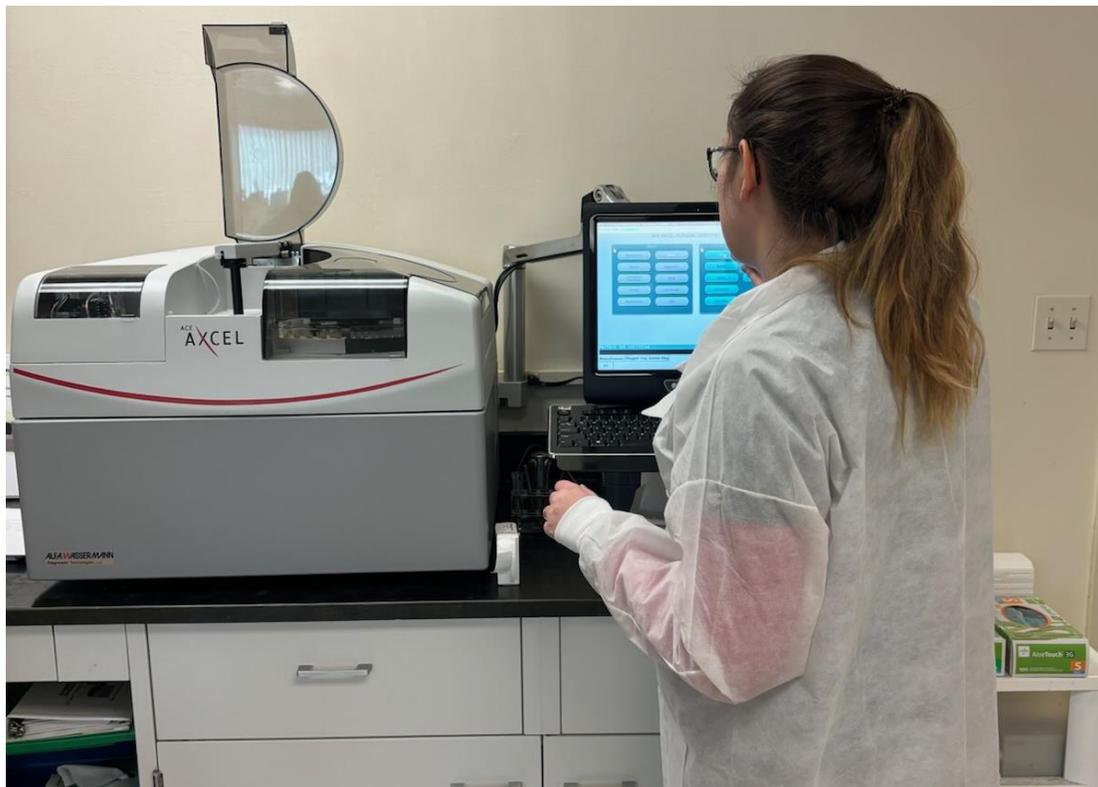


Photo depicts testing being completed in the AXCAL Chemistry Analyzer by Clinical Laboratory Technologist, Kandra Kamery.

PUBLIC HEALTH INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Public Health Internships

In a valuable partnership, CCHD hosted eight interns from St. Bonaventure University, who conducted crucial epidemiological research on the county's leading causes of death. Their findings and proposed solutions were presented to the Board of Health, demonstrating the practical impact of academic collaboration on public health. In 2024, CCHD is excited to expand this collaboration through a Mother Cabrini grant, enhancing joint efforts with St. Bonaventure University to improve local health services and outcomes. This partnership exemplifies the commitment to community health and educational synergy.



Photo depicts Brookelinn Garey (L), with other interns Leah Eldred (R) and Kiran Sharma (not pictured), presenting mortality studies from the past years to the Board of Health.

New York State Public Health Corps Fellowship

The New York State Public Health Corps Fellowship Program (NYSPHC) provides full-time and part-time fellowship positions to enhance the state's public health infrastructure and provide critical support and services to Local Health Departments (LHDs). In 2023, the NYSPHC program;

- Employed a total of **9** fellows throughout the year to assist with department projects, partnerships and collaborations, including:
 - CHA/CHIP Steering Committee
 - Communication Plan
 - Epidemiology institutional development
 - Grant applications
 - Lead (Pb) Smart Partnership Coalition
 - Medical Loan Closet – Interfaith Caregivers
 - Operation Warm Hearts
 - Reaccreditation
 - Strategic Plan
- Participated in regional summits and statewide workshops.



Photo depicts Community Health Nurse, Melissa Chamberlain (L), Senior Public Health Fellow and founder of Operation Warm Hearts, Ann Marie Sitter-Tompkins (C), and Public Health Educator, Traci Wind (R), performing capillary blood lead testing at Operation Warm Hearts.

Special Events and Recognitions

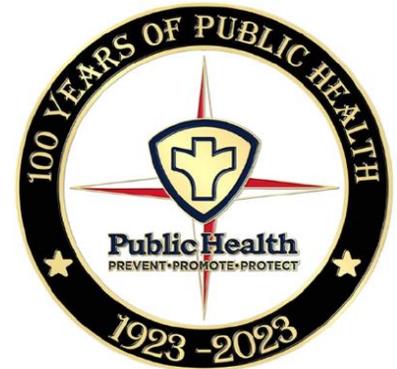
Cattaraugus County Health Department 100th Year Anniversary

The Cattaraugus County Health Department stands as a beacon of public health excellence, with a rich history that has paved the way for innovative and impactful health services. Established as the first New York State county health department and among the pioneering health demonstrations in the United States, it has stood strong for 100 years.

Before 1923, the City of Olean managed its health services independently. However, recognizing the need for more comprehensive and coordinated efforts, the responsibility was transferred to the Cattaraugus County Health Department. This shift marked a milestone in collaborative health services, streamlining operations and enhancing efficiency.

The 1920s heralded significant change in public health provision in New York State, with laws enabling counties to organize public health units. The Milbank Memorial Fund chose Cattaraugus County for a health demonstration project, leading to the formal initiation of the health demonstration in January 1923. This project laid the foundation for the department's organization, including bureaus for communicable diseases, tuberculosis, statistics, and a county laboratory service.

Through the years, the department expanded its services, focusing on maternal and child health programs in the 1930s and environmental health in the 1940s and 1950s. It continued to evolve, adding nursing home care and mental health services in the 1950s, and expanding further to include various clinics and services in the 1970s. The 1980s and 1990s saw the department addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and chronic diseases, while also promoting healthy lifestyles. In 2003, public health emergency preparedness became a focus, responding to bioterrorism and other threats. The department's commitment to continuous improvement was recognized in 2017 when it obtained national accreditation status. This achievement underscored its dedication to promoting the health and well-being of Cattaraugus residents.



Photos depict CCHD staff celebrating the 100th Anniversary.



Photo depicts NYS Assemblyman Joe Giglio (L) presenting Dr. Kevin Watkins, Director of CCHD (R), with a Citation to Commemorate the department's 100th Anniversary.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the department led the county through unprecedented challenges, demonstrating resilience and adaptability. It has continued to assess health needs and develop programs to meet the community's evolving healthcare needs.

Remarkably, the health strategies employed by the department in the 1900s to enhance the overall health of Cattaraugus County citizens remain remarkably relevant today. Immunizations, health education, and home-based health care, originally utilized to combat public health crises, have stood the test of time, remaining fundamental components of present-day public health initiatives. Throughout the years, Cattaraugus County Health Department has continued to assess the health needs of the residents and develop programs to meet unidentified needs. Programs have been initiated, expanded or improved to meet the communities' challenging healthcare needs. In addition, the department has partnered with many organizations,

agencies, and hospitals to help meet our challenging goals for improving the health of Cattaraugus County residents. 2023 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Cattaraugus County Health Department, the first county health department in New York State!

Commemorating this significant milestone, the department expressed heartfelt gratitude to the community and its leaders, including notable figures such as Robert Harvey, New York State Senator George Borrello, NYS Assemblyman Joseph Giglio, James McDonald, MD, NYS Commissioner of Health, Michael B. Meit, Director of the East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health Research, and Robert E. Harvey, retired investment manager and private trustee, grandson of Mildred Milbanks, philanthropist, who donated funds to the Health Demonstration project that started CCHD, who played pivotal roles in the department's enduring success over the past 100 years.

Here's to 100 more!

Photo depicts Dr. Kevin Watkins, Director of CCHD (C), with George Borello, NYS Senator (far L), James McDonald, MD, MPH, NYSDOH Commissioner of Health (L), Joe Giglio, NYS Assemblyman (R), and Stephen Acquario, Esq., Executive Director of NYSAC (far R)



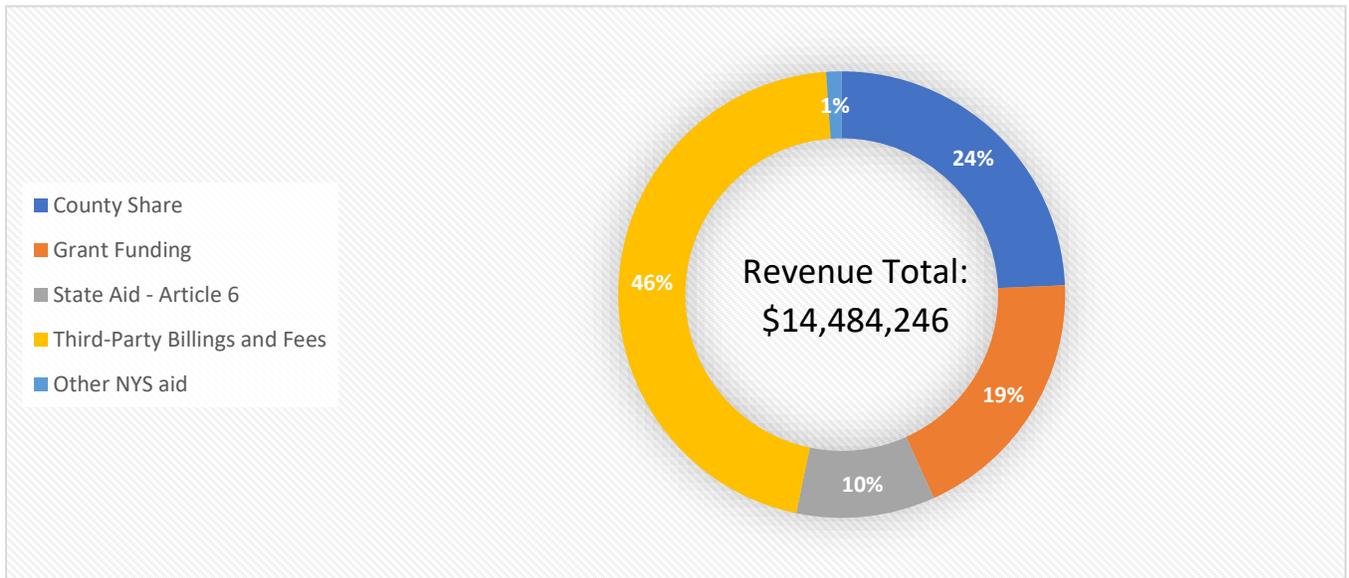
For more photos of the 100th Anniversary Celebration, please see page 53.

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

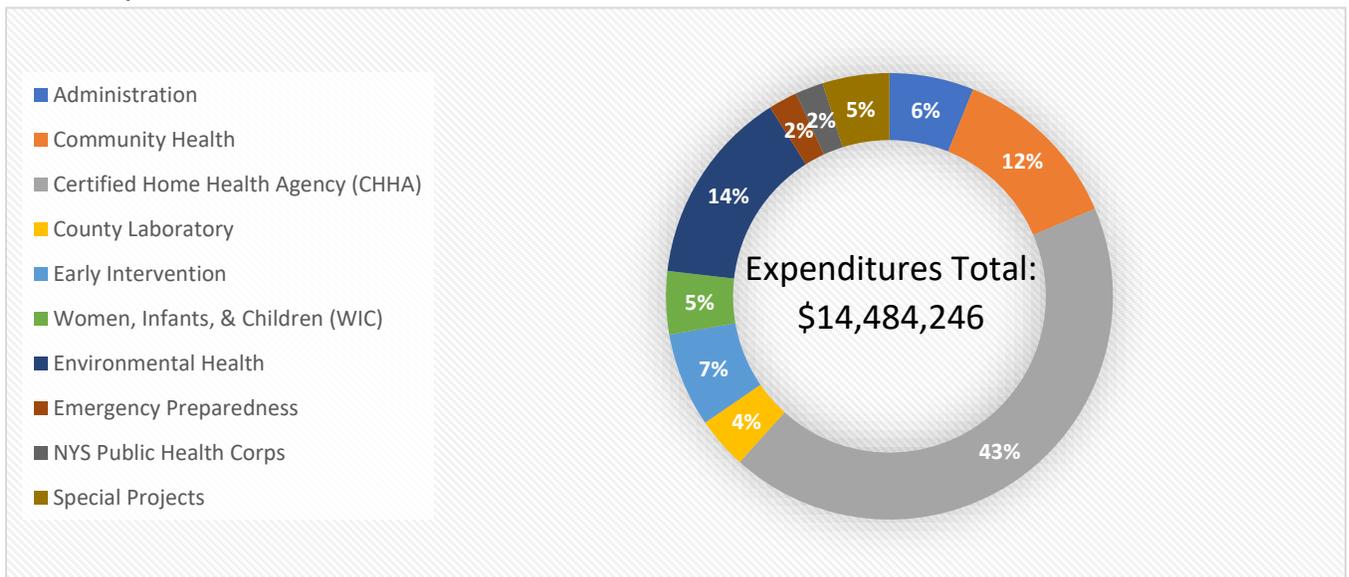
2023 CCHD Operating Budget

The 2023 adopted CCHD budget was \$14,484,246 and funded through multiple revenue streams that include federal, state, and county/local dollars and grants, including Article 6 funding. Article 6 of the Public Health Law provides a base grant as well as state reimbursement for 36% of local health department eligible costs for mandated services after the base grant is spent.

2023 Revenue



2023 Expenditures



Acknowledgment

A special thanks to the individuals who have played pivotal roles in ensuring the production of a high-quality report this year. The immense dedication and hard work exhibited by Erin Washburn and Matthew Tyssee have been instrumental in the success of our endeavors. Their unwavering commitment, exceptional devotion, and consistent dependability have not only contributed to the excellence of this report but have also set a commendable standard for the entire team.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the entire Health Department staff for their tireless efforts in addressing the daily needs and requirements of our community, as mandated by the New York State Department of Health. Their collective commitment to public health has been a driving force in upholding the well-being of our residents.

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of 2023, it is evident that we stood together in the trenches for the cause of Public Health. I am optimistic about the prospect of another year of collaboration, and I look forward to the continued dedication and hard work that will undoubtedly benefit the residents of Cattaraugus County.

A special thank you extends to the entire Cattaraugus County workforce, whose support has been integral to the success of the Health Department's initiatives. Your collective contributions and commitment to the betterment of our community are truly commendable, and I am grateful for the collaborative spirit that defines our shared efforts.

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
Stacey Santee
Melissa Harrington
Jessica Winant
Amy Weaver

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

NYS Public Health Fellowship

Christopher Crawford
Julie Hoffman-Hall
Dr. Pauline Hoffmann
Ann Marie Sitter-Tompkins
Dr. Derien Braxton
Anthony James Jr.
Zanre Oberholzer
Dr. Claire Watson

Local Coordinator/Senior Fellow
Graduate Fellow
Senior Fellow
Graduate Fellow
Senior Fellow
Fellow
Fellow
Senior Fellow

Early Childhood Care

Patricia Cheek
Stacey Johnson
Christine Kenyon
Lanette Dwaileebe
Nikki Pratt
Tony Sowers
Teegan Forness

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

Emergency Preparedness

James Lawrence

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director

Bella Dodson
Sue Ann Feldbauer
Susan Labuhn
Dorothy Lockridge
Jean Lucas
Laurie McClory
Vicky McKinney
Sandra Moshier
Rebecca Price
Lorie Vitello
Peggy Keller
Jill Delaney
Linda Witte

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

Environmental Health

Robert Ring
Raymond Jordan
Chris Covert
Richard Dayton
Samuel Dayton
Mariel Grey
Michael Hastings
Renee Herc
Rigel Johnson
Rhonda Kelley
Elisha Rust
Andrew Wolf
Timothy Zerfas
Elaine Fowler
Regina Rogers
Krystina Syracuse
Collette Trudeau

Environmental Health Director
Sr. Public Health Sanitarian
Water Resource Specialist
Keyboard Specialist II
Keyboard Specialist
Keyboard Specialist
Health Program Aide

Health Education

Matthew Tyssee
Traci Wind
Erin Washburn
Alyssa Dean

Public Health Educator
Reproductive Health Educator
Health Education Assistant
Health Education Assistant

Laboratory

Donald Higgs, MD
Paula Ketchner

Laboratory Director
Laboratory Supervisor

Amy Hamilton
Kimberly Stewart
Kandra Kamery

Phlebotomist
Clinical Lab Technologist
Clinical Lab Technologist

Clinic

Brooke Schnell
Barbara Parish
Kerime Perese
Susan Andrews
Kaitlyn Hamner, MD
David Fancher
Laurie Rzucek
Sidney Earley
Lora Prey
Adrienne Ratzel
Desiree Ottley

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

WIC

Michelle Phelps
Christian Bowser
Gabrielle Malone
Molly Higgins
Summer Jolley
Rachel Renninger
Amy Chaffee
Carla Jefferlone

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

Nursing

Lynne Moore
Erica Andera
Kristen Brown
Gina Chaffee
Melissa Chamberlain
Joshua Creed
Ashley Dahill
Amber Everitt
Kristin Francis
Nancy Fuller
Tyler Harvey
Abbey Hayes
Meegan Howard
Karin Jochen

Director of Patient Services
Community Health Nurse
Community Health Nurse

Vienna Johnson
Lois Lowry
Jennifer Rasinski
Kayli Redman
Charity Reisman
Patricia Searle
Melissa Spencer
Chastity Standish
Heather Thurston
Holly Whippo
Tracy Tredway
Heather Hale
Samantha Hochadel
Colleen Blendinger
Kim Kottwitz
Amit Benedict
Sandra Grey
Carol Skudlarek
Deborah Drabant
Angela Vitaro
Kari Wampler
Tina Farr
Kathleen Threadgill
Michelle Bazow
Earlena Baer
Michelle Jennings
Teresa Ross
Peggy Davis
Laura Fuller
Erinne Keim

Community Health Nurse
Licensed Practical Nurse
Registered Professional Nurse
Registered Professional Nurse
Community Health Nurse - Sub
Registered Professional Nurse
Supervising Community Health Nurse
Supervising Community Health Nurse
Supervising Community Health Nurse
Home Health Aide
Account Clerk Typist
Keyboard Specialist II
Keyboard Specialist II
Keyboard Specialist II
Keyboard Specialist II - Sub
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).



100th Year Anniversary Celebration Photo Collage



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**

