

# Recognizing Cattaraugus County Health Department for 100 Years as a Local Health Department.



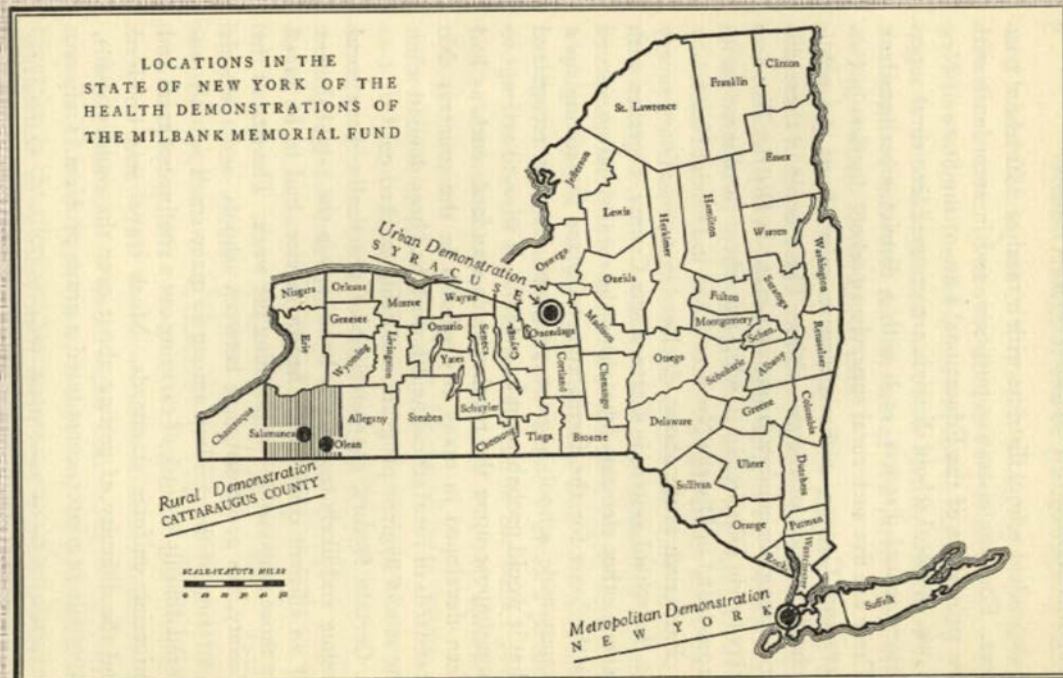
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In 1916, a County Tuberculosis Sanatorium was established and in the same year the Olean Chamber of Commerce established a full time health service as part of its program. In 1921, Olean applied for aid to establish a demonstration unit under the American Red Cross which was ultimately secured by Mansfield Ohio. Then in 1922, Milbank Memorial Fund announced an opportunity to demonstrate the extent of sickness in the United States can be diminished and mortality rates substantially reduced in a relatively short period of time by applying evidence based studies in communities that were willing to bear the per capita costs. Cattaraugus County applied for and was chosen for this project in 1923 and it lasted for seven years, from 1923-1929. In 1923 a small group of courageous leaders both inside and outside of the political arena made a serious attempt to meet the health needs of the people of Cattaraugus County.





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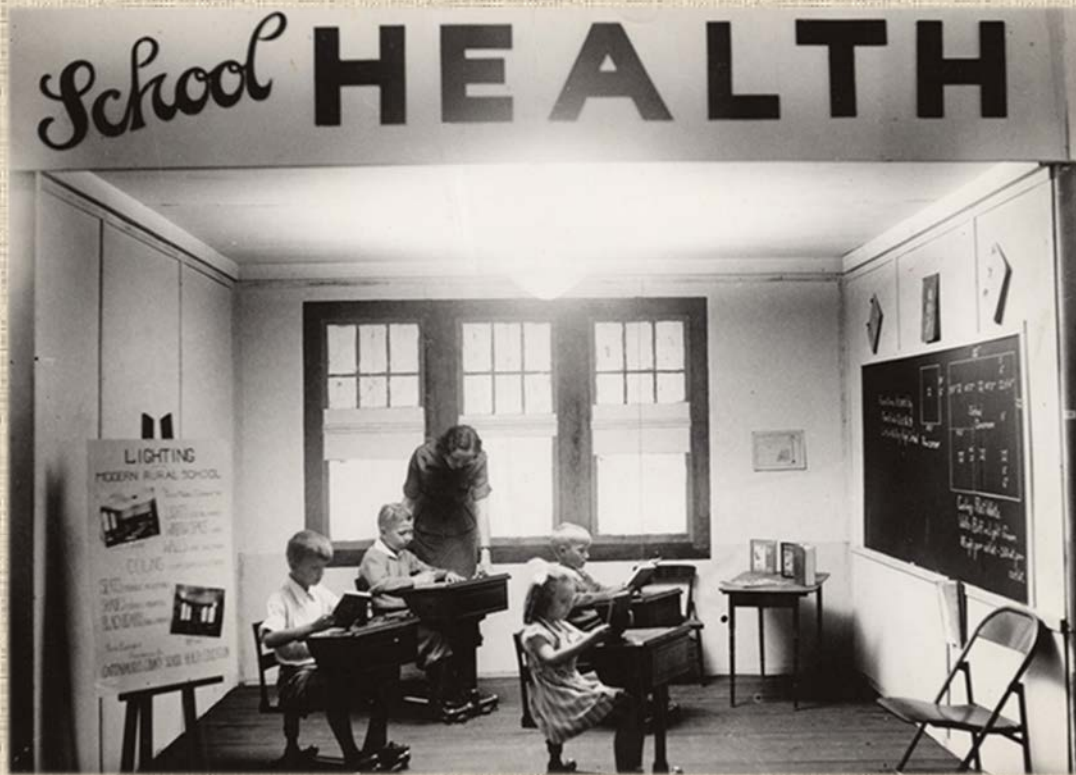


Five County Board of Health members and a Health Officer were appointed by local legislature, and six bureaus formed the original department: Communicable Diseases, Laboratory Diagnosis, Tuberculosis, Statistical Records & Reports, Maternity, Infancy and Child Hygiene and a Health Education and Publicity Bureau. Geographically, the department was divided into six administrative districts with local offices in Olean, Salamanca, Franklinville, Cattaraugus, Ellicottville and Randolph. Between 1925 and 1928, the annals depict public health nurses travelling some 550,000 miles and making almost 990,000 home visits to provide information, counseling and aid in the identification of patients with tuberculosis. They performed such duties as supervising patients with communicable diseases, assisting in child birth, providing health and nutrition education, and worked in clinics and schools.





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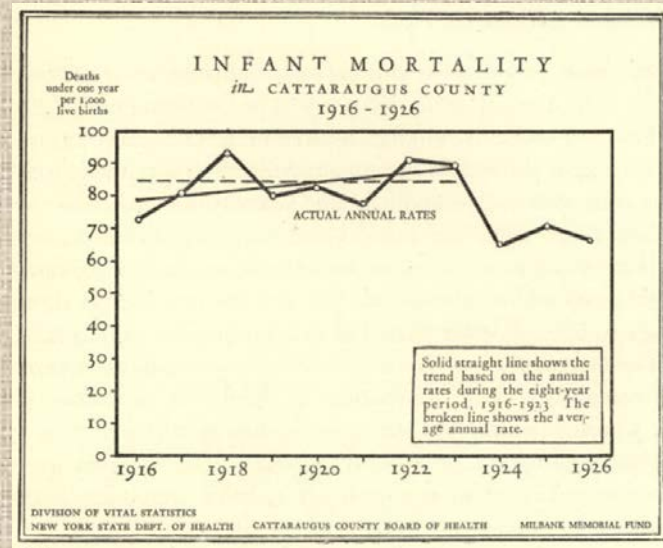




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The success of the demonstration program is best summarized in the statistical results that were released from the project that showed a reduction in both morbidity and mortality when analyzing disease and death rates for all causes. The demonstration project was recognized by governors and also by then President, Theodore Roosevelt, as a benchmark of how health outcomes within municipalities should actually work.





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The department continues to serve as a model for the nation, many of the programs initiated in the beginning years of the demonstration unit continue to emanate today. These programs include: the six Article 6 core programs; Family Health, Communicable Disease Control, Chronic Disease Prevention, Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Planning, Environmental Health, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Additionally, the department continues to provide Home Health services, Community Health Clinics (tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infection, physical exams, and vaccines), Health Education programs, Early Intervention, Women Infants and Children (WIC) program, and Clinical Laboratory Services.





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Throughout the years, the Cattaraugus County Health Department has continued to assess the health needs of the public and develop programs to meet unidentified needs. These programs have been initiated, expanded or improved, and the department has partnered with many state and local organizations, agencies, and healthcare facilities to ensure a continuum of critical health services, bolstering access and the overall longevity of residents.





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On June 15th, 2023 the Cattaraugus County Health Department celebrated its first 100 years of service to the residents of Cattaraugus County. More than 200 guests attended the event in Ellicottville, NY where state and local officials reflected on the tremendous progress the Cattaraugus County Health Department made and continues to make in preventing and controlling disease, promoting healthy lifestyles, and improving health outcomes for residents. The event speakers honored the first County Health Department in New York State for their hard work and aspired that another century of successes will be bestowed upon the Health Department in their efforts to create a healthier and a more equitable future for Cattaraugus County.





