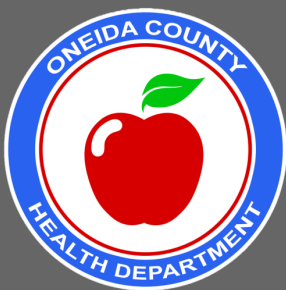




ONEIDA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2023 Annual
Report

Promoting and protecting the health of Oneida County



ANTHONY J. PICENTE JR.
ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DANIEL W. GILMORE, PH.D., MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

I am pleased to present the 2023 Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) Annual Report that includes information and data from all programs within the Health Department.

A review of 2023 highlights:

- The efforts required from local health departments in combating COVID-19 have been reduced significantly as society has adapted to live with and manage this disease in a post-pandemic world. OCHD has provided outreach and education, home testing kits, and vaccinations for the residents of Oneida County and will continue to do so in 2024.
- The Environmental Health Division partnered with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies to seize flavored vape products being sold illegally in Oneida County.
- Lead poisoning prevention outreach was provided to all children with elevated blood lead levels in Oneida County.
- Health Promotion and Outreach efforts returned to supporting all public health programs when the COVID-19 emergency was allowed to expire.
- Special Children Services Programs continue to have a significant backlog of children in need of specialized services because of the lack of providers offering ongoing care coordination and therapy services.
- The health department was able to utilize COVID funds to purchase a van to use as a mobile vaccination unit to facilitate vaccination efforts throughout Oneida County.



I would like to thank Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. and the Oneida County Board of Legislators for their collective effort to support Public Health for the betterment of the residents of Oneida County.

*Daniel W. Gilmore, Ph.D., MPH
Director of Health*

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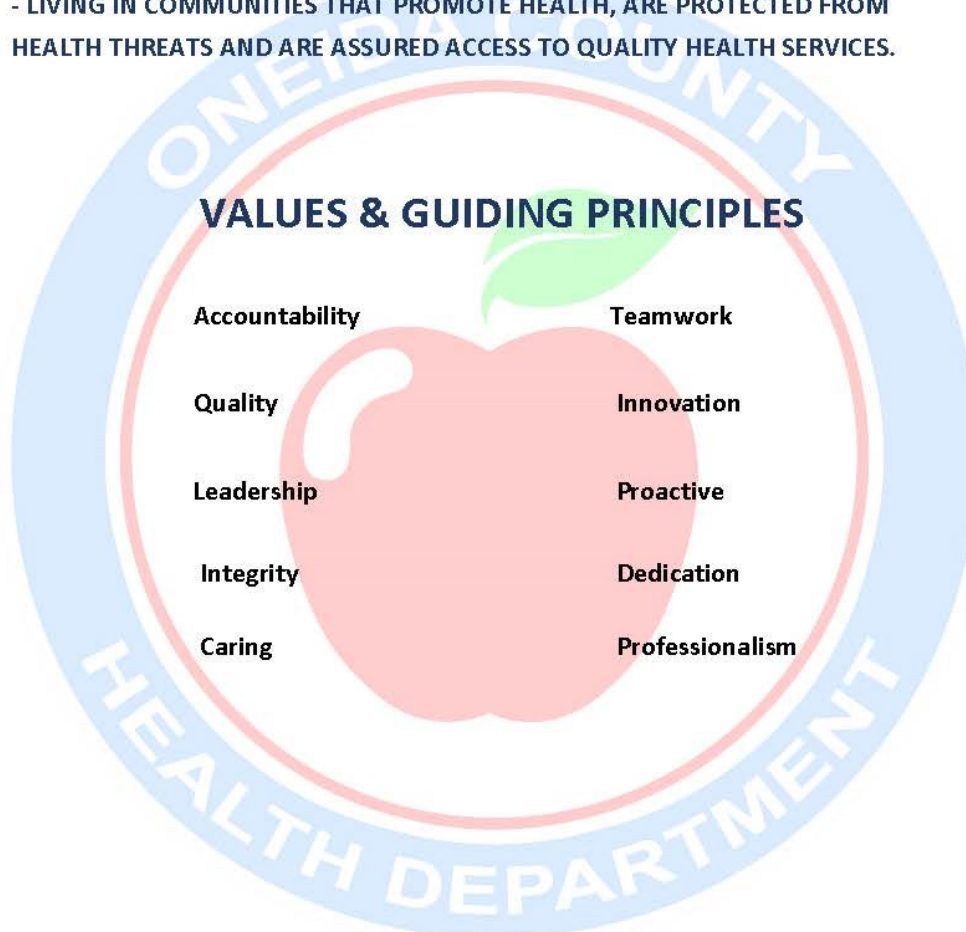
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MISSION, VISION & VALUES

The mission of the Oneida County Health Department is to **“Promote and Protect the Health of Oneida County.”** The Department works with many community agencies, organizations, and primary health care providers that comprise the Oneida County’s public health system, to fulfill our mission and to provide Essential Public Health Services.

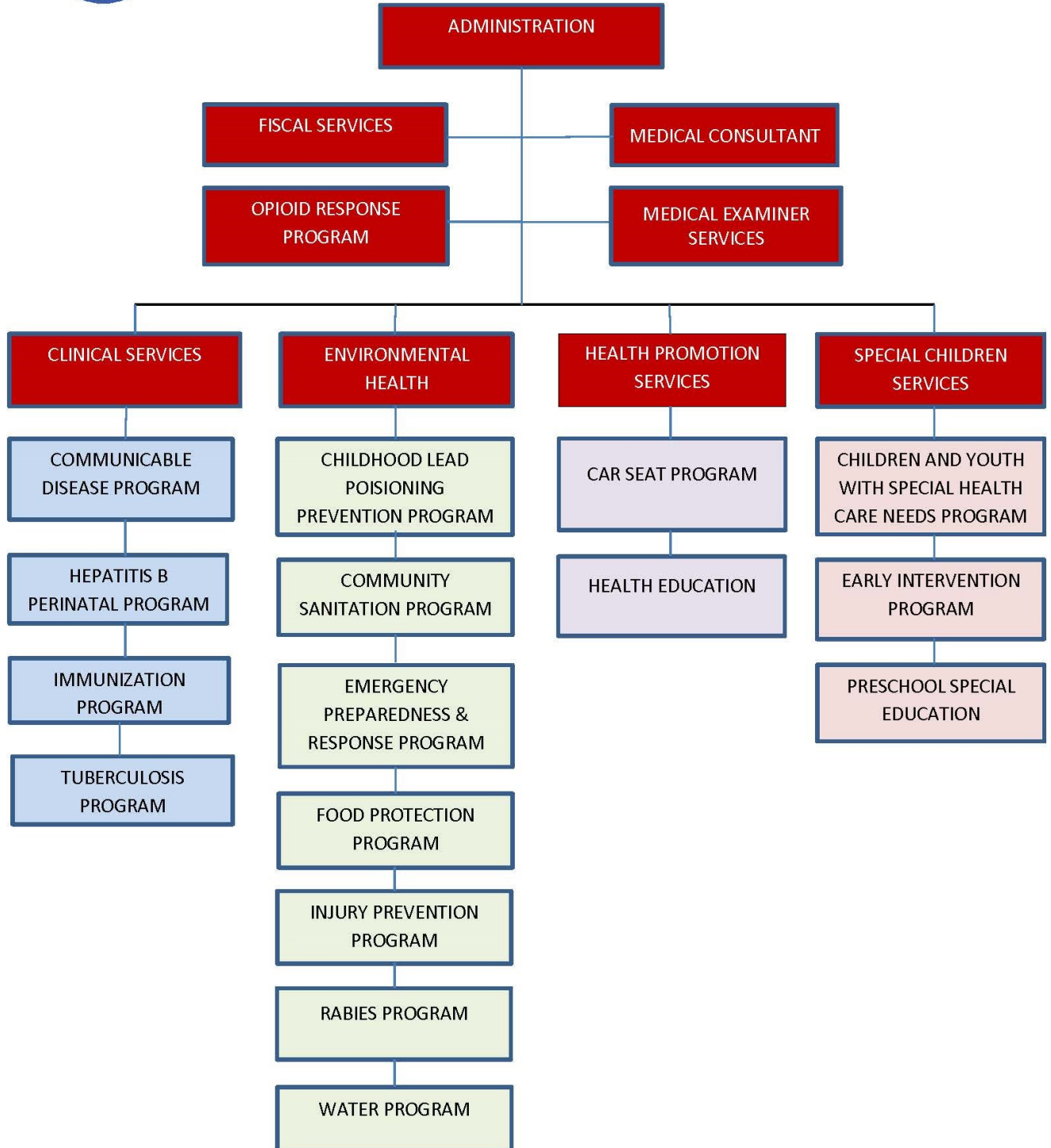
OUR VISION

ONEIDA COUNTY RESIDENTS WILL BE THE HEALTHIEST PEOPLE IN NEW YORK STATE
- LIVING IN COMMUNITIES THAT PROMOTE HEALTH, ARE PROTECTED FROM
HEALTH THREATS AND ARE ASSURED ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES.





Oneida County Health Department Organizational Chart



OCHD BUDGET SUMMARY 2023

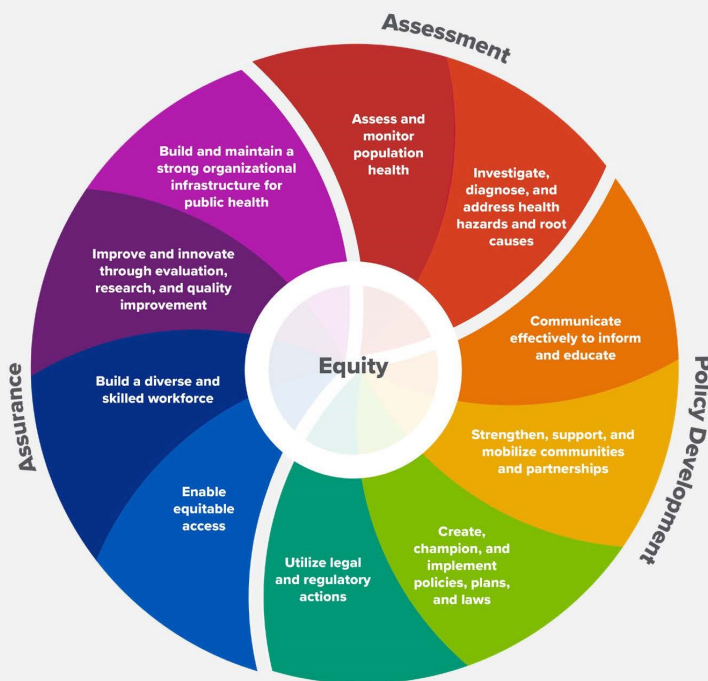
Program	Total Costs	% of Budget	% of Federal Funding	% of State Funding	% of County Funding	% of Other Funding	% of Medicare Medicaid
Administration	\$ 1,366,396	6.42%		36%	64%		
Health Promotion	\$ 80,443	0.38%		41%	59%		
Pre-School (3-5)	\$ 12,551,663	58.96%		59%	36%		5%
Early Intervention	\$ 1,626,635	7.64%	18%	23%	56%		3%
Physically Handicapped Children	\$ 8,594	0.04%		100%			
Public Health Clinic	\$ 1,817,807	8.54%		40%	45%	12%	3%
Lead Poisoning Program	\$ 457,752	2.15%		100%			
TB	\$ 39,166	0.18%		100%			
Environmental Health	\$ 1,439,620	6.76%		45%	28%	27%	
Immunization Consortium	\$ 49,566	0.23%		100%			
Emergency Preparedness	\$ 94,372	0.44%		85%	15%		
COVID-19	\$ 294,536	1.38%	100%				
Medical Examiner	\$ 1,012,673	4.76%		10%	90%		
Opioid Grants	\$ 450,241	2.11%	90%	10%			
Total	\$ 21,289,466	100.00%					

All figures are as of 2/28/24

THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve equity, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems, and overall community conditions that enable optimal health for all and seek to remove systemic and structural barriers that have resulted in health inequities. Such barriers include poverty, racism, gender discrimination, ableism, and other forms of oppression. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.



ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #1
Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #2
Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #3
Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #4
Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #5
Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #6
Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #7
Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #8
Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #9
Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #10
Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

Created 2020

ADMINISTRATION

The **Director of Health** is responsible for leading the programmatic and budgetary management of all public health programs and serves as key public health strategist for Oneida County.

The **Deputy Director of Health** provides oversight of all division and program operations and administrative services including strategic planning and quality improvement activities.

The **Secretary to the Director of Health** provides overall administrative support which also includes project management, team building and collaboration efforts, as well as lead for all wellness activity for Oneida County employees.

The **Fiscal Service Administrator** coordinates the preparation of the department's annual budget, prepares required financial statements and government reports, ensures that spending is within the budget allotments, ensures revenues from third party reimbursements, and prepares claims for State and Federal and other reimbursement.

Administrative staff also support personnel, payroll, and fiscal management activities.

Administration includes the following programs and services:

PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING

Public Health planning includes a range of activities that support collaborative health planning with community partners, organizational strategic planning and performance improvement activities. Major partnership initiatives conducted in 2023 include the following:

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHA/CHIP)

Following completion of the development of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in 2023, Health Promotion, along with MVHS and Rome Health, began working on the goals of the CHIP. The focus of these goals includes Mental Health; Children and Teens Social and Emotional Health; and Chronic Disease Preventive Care and Screenings.

In the area of Chronic Disease Preventive Care and Screenings, Health Promotion participated in educational presentations on diabetes prevention and cancer screenings for the community. Furthermore, information was shared with community members through community events, health fairs, with county employees at a Wellness event, and through use of small media and social media.

Employees of OCHD were trained in Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Gatekeeper training, providing all employees awareness, preparation, tools to respond to someone who may be at risk for suicide. Other work accomplished by OCHD specific to the focus area of Mental Health. This included assessing current resources available to community members, learning barriers to accessing these resources and having some OCHD staff members trained in Mental Health First Aid Training. This course teaches people how to assist and support others who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge.

PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

In 2023, OCHD participated in the New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) ongoing Local Health Department (LHD) Performance Incentive Program. In year eleven (2023) of the program, which began in December 2022 and concluded in August 2023, the Department focused on promoting wastewater surveillance.

For participating in the Incentive Program Oneida County was awarded a total of \$23,599. These monies can be used to support costs associated with Article 6 eligible services.

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

Since 2016 the Oneida County Employee Wellness Program has strived to bring awareness about health and wellness to employees and engage them in a variety of County programs, activities and events, as well as the MVP Well-Being Rewards Program. Post-COVID our Wellness Champions, who represent departments throughout the county, are back to meeting quarterly.

These successful programs continued in 2023: Pet therapy dog visits two Mondays each month; breaktime stretching at the Health Department; lunch hour walks; in February the *Wall of Hearts*—along with a dress down day, employees wrote loved ones names on paper hearts to display in the main lobby to support the AHA; teams volunteered for water stations for runners at the Erie Canal Half Marathon in May and the Boiler-maker Road Race in July; CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) - fresh organic vegetables and fruits from a local farm were delivered throughout the summer (and they're reimbursable); and the *Wear Pink Walk*—a record number of walkers (60) and Survivors (16) participated in walks in October for Breast Cancer awareness (in Utica and Oriskany).

Two MVP Challenges were offered to staff in 2023: DASH (*Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension*) Challenge—healthy eating with awareness of sodium, and a free lunch for completing the challenge was delivered to 57 employees. The *No Gain, Maintain* holiday Challenge ended the year with alternatives to overindulging during the season, and two raffle prize winners were chosen from those who completed the challenge. In November, 105 employees visited a lunch-hour Employee Wellness Event with health department educators and a nurse presenting on diabetes, health screenings and vaccinations; vendors including Employee Assistance Program and MVP health insurance; pet therapy dogs; and a personal trainer demonstrating warm-up moves. Apples for all and raffle prizes rounded out the event.

Wellness Goals in 2024:

- Increase utilization of MVP's Well-Being Rewards by in-person visits to County work sites.
- Increase utilization of the *Gia by MVP* telehealth mobile app.
- Expand the Pet Therapy program to the Train Station, where many departments are located.
- Expand CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) to employees in the County Office Building.

MEDICAL EXAMINER SERVICES

The Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office (OCME) serves as Oneida County's Medical Examiner and provides medical examiner services as required by NYS County Law and Oneida County Charter and Administrative Code. The OCME's Office provides professional, efficient and compassionate service to families, service providers and law enforcement officials and collaborates in OCHD's emergency preparedness planning.

OCME'S OFFICE STATISTICS FOR ONEIDA COUNTY 2014—2023*

Oneida County Summary	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Total cases	696	724	736	767	842	858	892	910	924	913
Non-Medical Examiner cases	436	474	468	499	565	578	604	571	608	602
Expert Consultation cases	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Medical Examiner cases	260	249	267	267	277	280	288	339	316	308
Autopsy examinations (incl. partial)	216	199	220	219	213	233	231	238	200	194
External examinations	22	20	17	20	23	21	31	53	72	59
Death Certificate only – no examination	22	30	30	28	41	26	26	48	44	55
Manner of death										
• Accident	88	94	129	122	116	117	130	156	163	144
▪ Motor Vehicle Accidents	15	17	17	22	24	16	17	23	29	28
▪ Drug Use/Toxin Related	36	40	65	60	39	64	70	86	86	62
○ Heroin Related	17	11	16	5	3	3	1	0	2	0
○ Fentanyl Related	2	7	16	21	9	15	34	60	61	40
○ Heroin & Fentanyl Related	2	4	18	20	15	27	15	10	6	1
○ Other Opioids	11	10	5	6	7	8	5	6	5	4
○ Other drugs	4	8	10	8	5	11	15	10	12	17
▪ Falls	22	30	27	27	37	31	31	35	37	36
▪ Environmental	3	1	3	1	1	0	2	2	1	6
▪ Other Blunt Trauma	1	2	3	5	0	1	2	1	0	1
▪ Drowning	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	6	3
▪ Asphyxia	2	1	4	2	5	1	1	4	1	5
▪ Fire	5	0	5	2	5	2	2	0	2	3
▪ Medical Procedure	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
▪ Sharp Force Injury	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
▪ Other	1	0	1	1	2	0	3	1	1	0
• Homicide	9	12	6	4	6	10	15	10	5	8
• Natural	119	116	106	110	113	113	97	129	110	105
• Suicide	32	24	21	28	32	31	32	29	25	24
• Undetermined	10	2	4	3	7	7	14	14	9	11
• Manner not applicable/fetal deaths	2	1	1	0	3	2	0	1	4	0
• Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16

*Preliminary due to pending cases.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

The Health Department collaborates with nine other County departments on a regular basis and the remaining departments on an as-needed basis in delivering services to the residents of Oneida County.

Department of Mental Health

- Oneida County Opioid Task Force
- Housing for the homeless issues
- Community Health Assessment
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) - Social Emotional health for children and teens
- Community Services Board

Department of Planning

- Overdose Fatality Review Team
- NYSDOH ongoing Local Health Department Performance Incentive Program
- Boonville project (CDC Active Communities)
- Emergency Preparedness
- Mass vaccination planning

Legal Department

- Oneida County Opioid Task Force
- Health Department enforcement action
- Public Health orders
- Contracts and RFPs

Sheriff's Office

- Oneida County Opioid Task Force
- Sale of tobacco products to minors
- Sale of illegal vapes

Department of Family and Community Services

- Locating safe housing for lead poisoned children
- Housing for the homeless issues
- Child Fatality Review Team

Office of Emergency Management

- Mass vaccination planning
- Mutual aid and drill planning
- Medical surge response plans

Department of Water Quality and Water Pollution Control

- Oneida County Waste Water Sampling (as part of NYSDOH ongoing LHD Performance Incentive Program)
- Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program

Department of Public Works

- Mass vaccination planning

Griffiss International Airport

- Mass vaccination planning

CLINICAL SERVICES / DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) is the source of prevention, investigation, reporting, diagnosis, and treatment of reportable diseases in Oneida County. Staff members monitor disease activity in Oneida County and work closely with Health Promotion, Administration and Environmental Health to develop education, outreach, testing, and treatment strategies to minimize the impact of communicable disease in the community.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Communicable Disease program is responsible for the investigation, follow-up, surveillance and reporting of diseases/conditions identified as reportable under the New York State Sanitary Code. All cases of reportable disease are electronically reported to the New York State Department of Health (ECLRS). Staff work closely with OCHD's Environmental Health Division, NYSDOH, and community partners including hospitals to control and prevent the spread of communicable disease within the community.

ANNUAL DATA	2021	2022	2023
Case Investigations	2,839	1,481	3,100
Cases Created	191	180	335

Note: Case Investigations are lab reports sent to Oneida County Health Department electronically for investigation.

Cases Created identifies newly-identified incidents.

COVID-19—POSITIVE CASES

Number of Lab-Reported Positive COVID-19 Cases	
2021	28,723
2022	35,444
2023	7,706

Note: In 2023 COVID-19 numbers decreased due to an increase in vaccination and the increase of home testing which does not require a lab to be submitted.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

The Sexually Transmitted Disease program is responsible for the investigation, follow-up (Expedited Partner Therapy), surveillance and reporting of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and HIV. In 2023, Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson provided STD Testing and Treatment program in accordance to the NYSDOH regulations for Oneida County Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

ANNUAL DATA	2021 Cases Reviewed and Managed	2022 Cases Reviewed and Managed	2023 Cases Reviewed and Managed
Cases of Chlamydia in Oneida County	793	763	772
Cases of Gonorrhea in Oneida County	391	275	206
Cases of Syphilis in Oneida County	54	17	5
Cases of MPOX in Oneida County		1	0

Note: Syphilis data represents Primary, Secondary, Early Latent and Congenital. MPOX was newly added in 2022, there is no data for previous years.

TUBERCULOSIS

The Tuberculosis (TB) Control program provides comprehensive testing, diagnosis, and treatment of latent and active tuberculosis cases in Oneida County. The TB Control program decreases the public health threat of TB by investigating and treating positive cases of TB, while promoting preventative therapy as indicated for contact cases. The TB Control program performs targeted testing on high-risk groups.

ANNUAL DATA	2021	2022	2023
Total Visits	143	554	514
Active Cases Managed by OCHD	1*	2	3
New Latent TB Cases Identified	29	69	88

Note: People with latent TB infection do not have symptoms and they cannot spread TB bacteria to others. However, latent TB bacteria become active in the body and multiply, the person will progress from having latent TB infection to being ill with TB disease. For this reason, people with latent TB infection should be treated to prevent them from developing TB disease.

Note: 2021 TB Case Visit numbers were down because of few referrals from providers due to COVID-19.

**Oneida County completed the initial evaluation, but the case was transferred to another county since the individual is their resident and being counted in their morbidity.*

IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

The Oneida County Health Department provides immunizations. The program partners with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and their Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adult (VFA) programs to improve access to and education about recommended immunization for children and adults.

The Immunization Action Plan (IAP) funded by NYSDOH assists in identifying immunization rates and standards of practice for child and adolescent immunizations among local medical providers. IAP staff collaborates with hospitals, healthcare providers, and clients to increase education about vaccinations. Staff educate the community on the importance of vaccination for all ages. Additionally, staff attend The Mohawk Valley Immunization Alliance meetings. This collaborative work engages community partners, pharmacies and healthcare providers in promoting age-appropriate vaccines for children and adults.

Immunization Clinics are located at 406 Elizabeth St, Utica, NY 13501 and 300 West Dominick St, Rome, NY 13440 by appointment only.

ANNUAL DATA	2021	2022	2023
Total Visits	3,024	3,416	3,547
Total Clients (Post Exposure Rabies)	165	105	128
Total Clients (Flu Shot)	107	321	496
Total Clients (Green Card)	58	110	134

Immunization Clinic, Total Served (adults and children)

PERINATAL HEPATITIS B PROGRAM REFERRALS

The New York State Department of Health's Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program is a resource for the maintenance of surveillance and control of perinatal hepatitis B infection. The primary goal of the program is to identify all pregnant women infected with Hepatitis B and prevent perinatal transmission of the virus by ensuring infants born to infected women receive the recommended prophylactic treatment at birth.

ANNUAL DATA	2021	2022	2023
Total Cases	13	14	15

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2023: CLINICAL SERVICES/DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

- Promoted Hepatitis A vaccination to at-risk populations by presenting to staff and clients at agencies such as Insight House and Center for Family Life and Recovery. Thirty-two percent of those who attended the education portion were vaccinated. The goal is to increase this number in 2024.
- Continued efforts on the elimination of TB in Oneida County by tracking and managing every active case of Tuberculosis in the county. The clinic also evaluated and treated those with Latent Tuberculosis Infection to prevent the disease from developing within those individuals.
- Continued efforts to increase HPV education and vaccination among individuals starting at age 9-13 years of age and up. There was an increase of 13% of patients aged 9-13 getting vaccinated for HPV from the previous year.
- Education was provided to school based clinics and 10 providers to help improve their accuracy for reporting data into NYSIIS and to follow vaccines schedules.
- Presented information about Pneumonia and Shingles and the importance of getting vaccinated to residents living in 6 different senior living facilities and vaccinated 132 of those residents for Pneumonia and Shingles.

GOALS IN 2024: CLINICAL SERVICES/DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

- Implement a plan among Clinic vaccinators to recognize and educate those who would qualify for a HPV vaccine. Educate providers to educate their patients to get vaccinated to increase HPV vaccination coverage among children aged 9 years and older.
- To collaborate with Senior living residences to educate their residents about pneumococcal and shingles diseases to get vaccinated to help lower the risk of these communicable diseases spreading.
- Collaborate with school nurses in the county schools to ensure student vaccines are up to date and on schedule for the school year. By providing assistance to school nurses for student vaccine record review. To increase the number of students who are vaccinated on time before the school year begins.
- Enhance public relations with local educational leaders and organizations by providing mentorships to future healthcare workers.
- Deploy a mobile vaccination unit to increase vaccinations to hard-to-reach populations.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Division of Environmental Health endeavors to protect county residents and visitors from health hazards that are beyond the control of ordinary citizens. This is accomplished by environmental surveillance, routine inspections of regulated facilities, and project plan review. The Division seeks compliance and when necessary initiates enforcement action for conformity with New York State Public Health Laws, the New York State Sanitary Code, and the Oneida County Sanitary Code.

Services provided and programs in the Environmental Division are funded by Oneida County and through grants provided by the NYS Department of Health, permit fees, fees for services, and the collection of fines associated with violations of Public Health Law, the NYS & Oneida County Sanitary Codes, and the Clean Indoor Air Act.

COMMUNITY SANITATION PROGRAMS

Temporary Residences: Temporary residence inspections include hotels, motels and cabin colonies and emphasize fire safety, facility cleanliness, and sanitation for the protection of the traveling public lodging at facilities in Oneida County.

Swimming Pool/Bathing Beaches: The major focus of swimming pool inspections is on pool supervision, lifeguard requirements, life-saving equipment, general pool safety, chemical treatment, the proper operation of filtration equipment, and the water quality of the beaches and pools.

Campgrounds: Inspections of campsites include reviewing proper site spacing, shower and sanitary facilities, food service protection, the quality and operation of on-site drinking water supplies, and adequate sewage disposal systems.

Children's Camps: Major emphasis is placed on ensuring that each camp provides an adequate number of trained, qualified staff for waterfront safety and supervision. Attention is also focused on food service protection, adequate safe housing, proper sewage disposal, adequate garbage storage facilities, and safe, sanitary water supplies, which meet NYS Sanitary Code standards.

Mobile Home Parks: Mobile home parks are inspected to ensure that the parks continue to meet the standards contained in the NYS Sanitary Code. In addition, the Department responds to complaints from residents in the mobile home parks.

Migrant Farmworker Housing: The Environmental Division conducts inspections of farmworker housing to ensure adequate, safe and healthy housing, and potable water for migrant farmworkers.

Community Sanitation Program	Number Active Facilities			Number of Inspections		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Temporary Residences	54	54	47	0	27	52
Swimming Pools/Bathing Beaches	91	91	81	7	78	153
Campgrounds	27	31	32	1	32	57
Children's Camps	8	15	13	8	33	39
Mobile Home Parks	60	60	61	0	61	106
Migrant Farmworker Housing	5	5	6	8	6	12

Food Protection: Prevention of food-borne illness is the primary focus of food protection. This is accomplished by conducting unannounced inspections during the food preparation process, educational seminars, on-site training, and enforcement actions for all food service establishments, with the exception of hospitals and nursing homes, in Oneida County.

Food Protection Program	Number Active Facilities			Number of Inspections		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Low Risk	76	74	76	1	13	56
Medium Risk	510	506	503	29	290	561
High Risk	404	401	386	46	207	480
Total	990	981	965	76	510	1097

Other Food Program Activities:

- 374 FOG (Fats/Oils/Grease) Program inspections
- 30 summer feeding sites, 26 inspections
- 132 mobile food vendors, 99 inspections
- 88 inspections at 105 temporary events, with a total of 224 vendors
- 38 complaint investigations, 2 illness investigations
- 1 Salmonella positive food worker illness investigation
- 15 CIAA complaints, inspections and investigations

Tanning Facilities Inspections: In 2013, the department assumed the role from NYSDOH of permitting and inspecting all tanning facilities in Oneida County. Inspections are required every other year and focus on ensuring tanning equipment and records are maintained. There were 11 tanning facilities in operation in 2023, and EH conducted 9 inspections.

Adolescent Tobacco: The Health Department works with the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office to assure that tobacco products are not sold to minors. Sheriff Deputies and OCHD personnel conduct compliance checks, re-inspections, and follow-up visits. Oneida County had 236 retail tobacco vendors in 2023 and 144 ATUPA (Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act) compliance checks were completed.

ATUPA Program	2021	2022	2023
# Retail Tobacco Vendors	231	208	236
# Compliance Checks	100	91	144

Complaint Investigations: Staff investigate complaints pertaining to housing issues, public and private nuisances, and regulated facilities that may affect the health, safety, and welfare of county residents.

West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Prevention: The health department conducts a monitoring program during the spring and summer months to determine the presence of WNV and EEE viruses in Oneida County. Educational information is provided to people to reduce the risk of contracting WNV or EEE.

Animal Disease Control: The Environmental Division is responsible for monitoring diseases that animals may transmit to humans. Rabies, which is fatal, is the most significant of these diseases. Emergency rooms and physicians are required by NYS Public Health Law to report all animal bites to the health department. Individuals can also report suspected rabies exposures to the health department.

Rabies Prevention Program	2021	2022	2023
Rabies Exposure Investigations	510	651	680
Post-exposure treatment for humans	61	100	113
Rabies vaccines administered to pets	371	494	484
Sponsored pet vaccination clinics	5	5	5
Specimens tested for Rabies	101	130	144
Rabies positive specimens	7	9	16

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to ensure that the public is protected from illness and injury resulting from waterborne diseases and contamination that may be naturally occurring or human caused. Staff provide technical assistance to water system operators in compliance with NYS Sanitary Codes and Federal Clean Drinking Water Act Guidelines, review and assist in the certification of new community system water operators, and technical assistance is provided to homeowners and other non-public water system operators if problems arise or new systems are developed.

Division staff assist water systems with their development of an Annual Water Quality Report. There has been an increase in the number of water systems developing cross-connection control programs and staff work with water systems in their efforts. Staff also respond to a number of requests from homeowners / prospective buyers, lenders and realtors related to water well and septic regulations.

Regulated Public Water System Information	2021	2022	2023
Active Facilities	152	152	152
Inspections/Sanitary Surveys	62	75	75
Notices of Violations Issued	21	269	269
Formal Enforcement Actions	0	1	1
Boil Water Orders	~5 (0 issued by OCHD)	~5	10
Other Emergencies	2 Conserve Water Orders	3 Conserve Water Orders	4 Conserve Water Orders
Samples Collected	59 Coliform 20 Chemical	72 Coliform 20 Chemical	99 Coliform 9 Chemical

ENGINEERING PLAN REVIEW

The Engineering Division plays a vital role in upholding standards and ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations concerning drinking water, wastewater disposal, swimming pools, public bathing facilities, campgrounds, mobile home parks, watermain extensions, septic systems, and backflow prevention devices. It is dedicated to overseeing plan reviews and construction processes, critical for the public health, safety, and well-being of the community.

The program's primary responsibility is to guarantee that projects align with the New York State Sanitary Code, encompassing both public health and environmental regulations, and are constructed to the highest standards of quality and safety. Emphasizing environmental preservation, the program ensures that the design and construction processes adhere to the code. Through a meticulous plan review, environmental health concerns are addressed, and acceptable practices are established before facility use. This comprehensive approach applies to new facilities as well as replacements and upgrades for existing ones.

Engineering Plans Reviewed and Approved	2021	2022	2023
Water System Expansions/Improvements	0	5	5
Backflow Prevention Devices	10	14	18
Realty Subdivisions	0	3	0
Individual Wastewater Disposal Systems Plans (non-conventional)	3	3	6
Swimming pools / Beaches (new or improvements)	2	3	1
Campgrounds (improvement or expansion)	4	4	3
Mobile Home Parks	0	1	1
Children's Camps	0	1	0
Total Approved Plans:	19	34	34

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM+ (CLPPP+)

No amount of lead exposure is safe for children. Even low levels of lead in blood can permanently affect children's health. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program was established in 1972 to minimize the adverse health impact of lead poisoning. The program has helped thousands of families protect their children from lead exposure by providing lead poisoning risk reduction information and ensuring their homes are lead safe.

Effective October 1, 2021, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) merged the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) and the Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program (CLPPPP). In doing this, primary and secondary prevention programs were combined into CLPPP+.

CLPPP+ is an integral part of Oneida County Health Department's Environmental Division. This program is mandated by the NYS Department of Health and provides care coordination and environmental investigations for children under the age of eighteen with elevated Blood Lead Levels (BLLs)

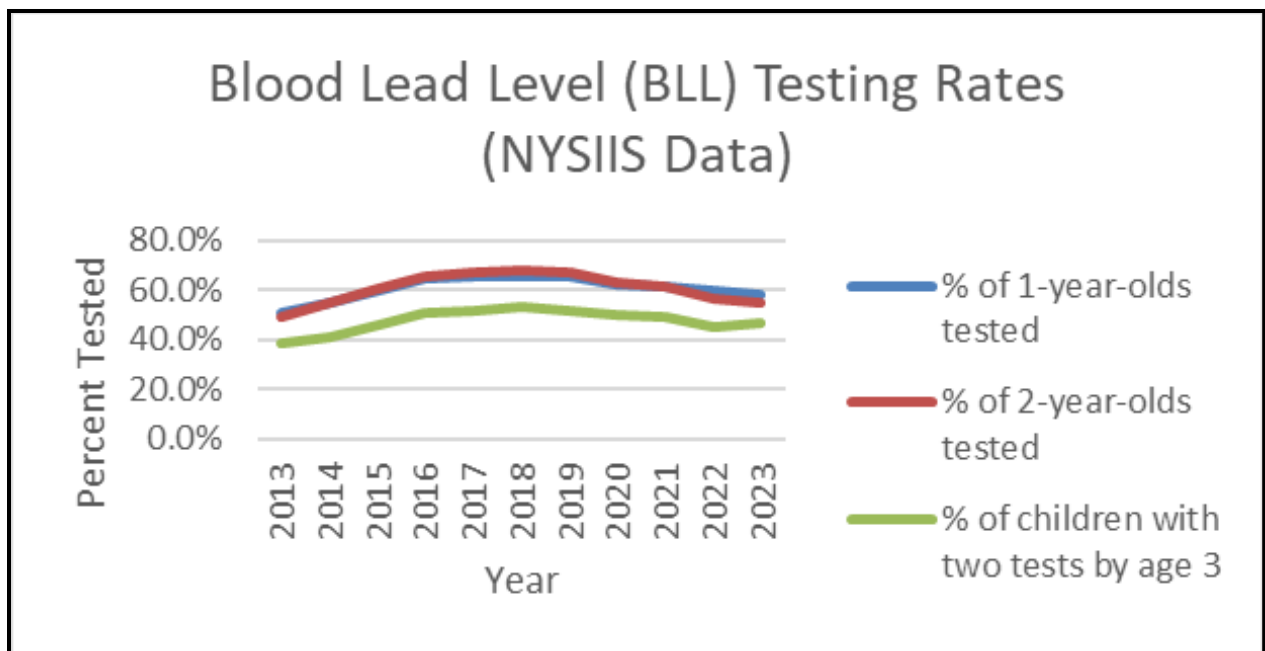
On October 1, 2019, NYS Public Health Law (PHL) was amended to lower the definition of Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLLs) in children. With the change of this law, the BLL threshold that requires care coordination and full-scale home environmental investigations was lowered from 15 µg/dL to 5 µg/dL. As a result of this change in PHL, the main goal

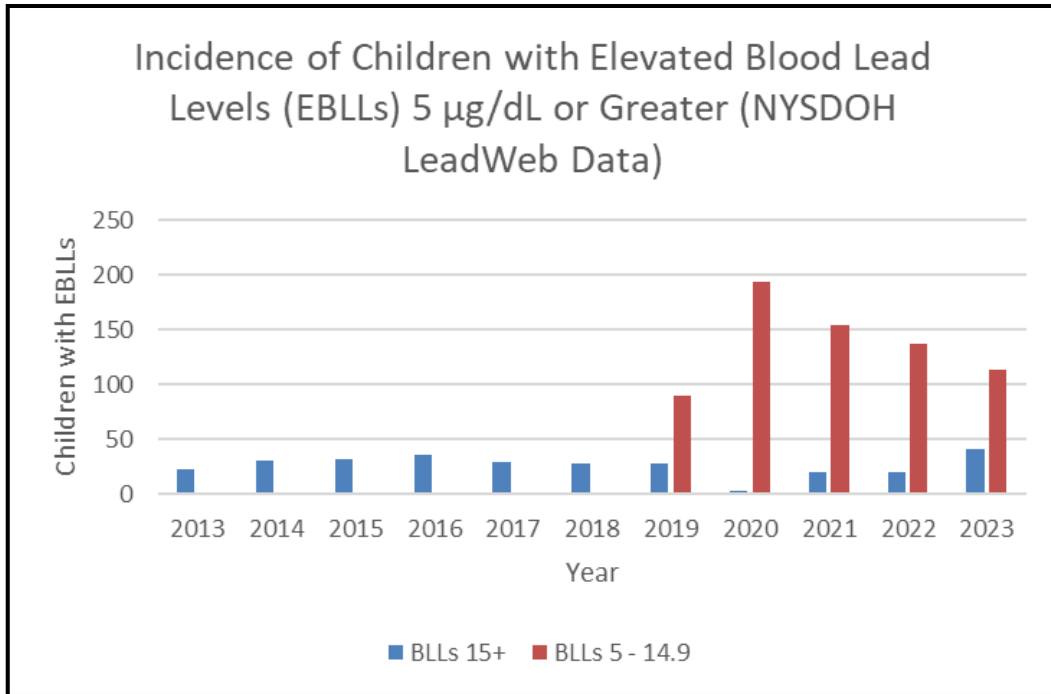
for CLPPP+ became providing lead poisoning prevention risk reduction education and conducting home lead inspections parents/guardians of children with BLLs of 5 µg/dL or greater.

CLPPP+ also provides Care Coordination and home inspection services to pregnant women with elevated BLLs. Referrals are received from NYSDOH. CLPPP+ staff provide services as needed. Throughout the year, staff provided community members and agencies with lead poisoning prevention information related to pregnancy during community presentations and meetings.

In 2024, the Oneida County Health Department will continue to work under the updated and merged CLPPP+ program. Grant funds will be used to support enhanced local efforts to reduce the prevalence of EBLs in children from birth to 18 years and pregnant women through the provision of services which include public and professional outreach and education, collaboration with local health care providers for assessing children’s risk of lead exposure, blood lead testing, anticipatory guidance to prevent lead poisoning, diagnostic evaluation, medical management including risk reduction education, environmental interventions, and coordination of services.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1 YR. OLD	51%	55%	60%	65%	66%	66%	66%	62.7%	61.5%	60.2%	58.4%
2 YR. OLD	49%	55%	61%	66%	67%	68%	67%	63.2%	61.2%	56.8%	55.3%
3 YR. OLD W/BLL TESTS ~ AGES 1 & 2	39%	41%	46%	51%	52%	53%	52%	49.9%	49%	45.4%	46.7%



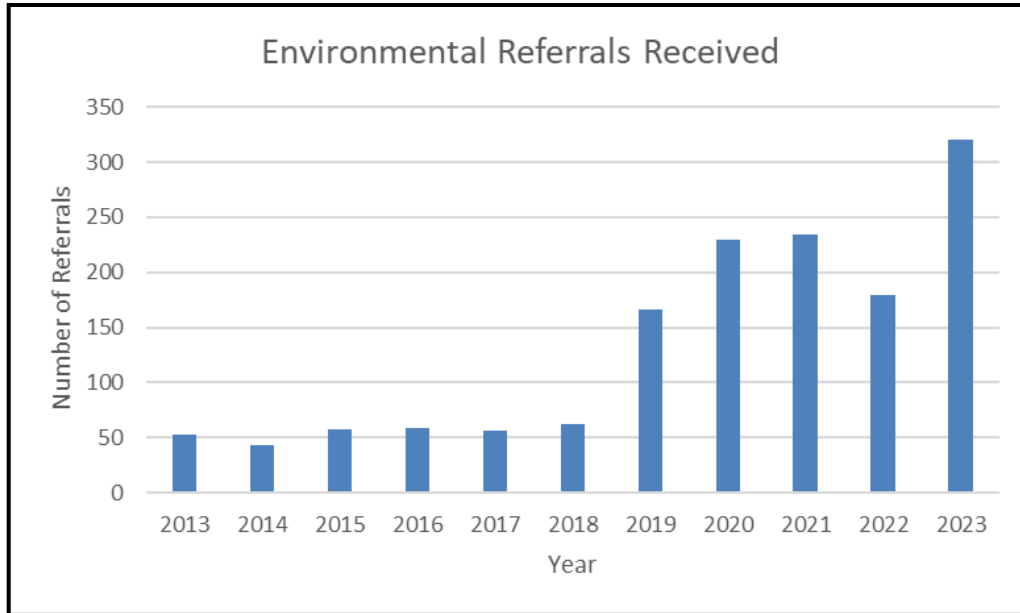


Data related to BLLs 5 – 9 ug/dL prior to 2019 is not available in LeadWeb

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Children with BLL 15 ug/dL & Above	22	30	31	36	29	27	28	2	20	20	41
Children with BLL 5 ug/dL to 14.9 ug/dL	*	*	*	*	*	*	90	194	154	137	113
Total Elevated Children	22	30	31	36	29	27	118	196	174	157	154

* Data Unavailable

NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL REFERRALS BASED ON CHILDREN WITH BLOOD LEAD LEVELS 5 MG/DL OR GREATER (NYS LEADWEB DATA)



Data is based on the annual number of Environmental Referrals from 2013 – 2023. The number of Environmental Referrals received from 2020 – 2022 increased significantly. This increase is due to the change of NYSDOH regulations which began on 10/1/2019 at which time the intervention level of 15 ug/dL or greater was lowered to 5 ug/dL or greater. The increase in 2023 is due to referrals for Utica Schools.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Environmental Lead Referrals	53	43	57	58	56	62	166	230	234	179	321

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2023: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- ATUPA (Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act) Program – a Public Health Order was issued by OCHD directing the confiscation of illegal flavored vapor products. EH seized 19,974 illegal flavored vapor products.
- EH produced an emergency response plan for train derailment and attended a joint training exercise with Oneida County Emergency Management, local & state law enforcement agencies and Herkimer County.
- EH participated in the planning and coordinating of wastewater surveillance at 10 collection sites throughout the county as part of NYSDOH ongoing Local Health Department Performance Incentive Program.
- EH reintroduced the NYSDOH mosquito surveillance program.
- CLPPP+ (Lead) Program has made significant progress on the backlog of cases resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic and recent changes in NYS Public Health Law.
- EH has successfully trained two new employees.
- Enforcement Actions – A total of 163 Dockets were created, with 36 Administrative Hearings conducted.
- A total of 70 FOIL Requests were fulfilled.
- EH investigated 58 complaints, incidents, and illnesses.

GOALS IN 2024: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Review & update the OCHD website, adding current guidance and forms.
- Continued cross-training of new employees to improve efficiency and reach inspection goals.
- ATUPA (Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act) Program – Continue and expand collaboration with the Oneida County District Attorney's Office, the Oneida County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies to conduct compliance checks & inspections of tobacco retailers to determine if underage sales, sales of illegal flavored vapor products and other violations of Public Health Law Article 13-F are occurring in Oneida County facilities. EH will continue to confiscate illegal flavored vapor products and enforce violations of Public Health Law.
- Develop and refine guidance for design professionals to facilitate engineering plan submission, review, and approval.
- Create new standardized forms for flushing and pressure testing of water mains with allowable leakage.
- Provide technical guidance for the formation of Vernon Water District.
- Explore the possibility of collaborating with Oneida County Planning Department to participate in Round 4 of the NYSDEC Septic System Replacement Fund Grant Program for inadequate systems in Oneida County.
- CLPPP+ (Lead) Program – Implement the Leading in Lead Prevention Pilot Program Grant.
- CLPPP+ (Lead) Program – Based on NYSDOH guidance implement the new NYS Rental Registry Program.
- Continued collaboration with the City of Utica and Lead Free Mohawk Valley on the HUD lead hazard control grant.
- Continued collaboration with the Department of Water Pollution Control FOG (Fats/Oils/Grease) Program.

HEALTH PROMOTION

The Public Health Education (PHE) team increases awareness of local health issues and encourages the adoption of healthy behaviors. The team coordinates and staffs educational programs, community outreach activities, and special health events; develops health education materials for targeted populations; promotes health department programs and clinical services at area businesses, worksites, and community locations; and gathers information to identify health behaviors in our community. Additionally, the PHE team works collaboratively with the local media to raise awareness of public health issues and prevention measures.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2023: HEALTH PROMOTION EDUCATION / DAILY TASKS

CAR SEAT SAFETY PROGRAM

The Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) had another successful year with the Car Seat Safety program. This program helps parents and caregivers experiencing economic hardships obtain new car seats for their children. This program provides education and assistance in learning how to properly install car seats to keep their children safe.

In 2023, two additional Oneida County employees became National Child Passenger Safety Certified Technicians. This allowed for further expansion of this program to new locations including Clark Mills, Camden and Boonville and continued to host events in Deerfield, Waterville, and Rome. Additionally, having certified technicians on staff allowed for more flexibility to meet the needs of families on a case-by-case basis.

In 2024, the program will continue in locations throughout the county and two additional Oneida County employees are also expected to become National Child Passenger Safety Certified Technicians.

ANNUAL DATA	2021	2022	2023
Total Car Seat Recipients	61	171	155

HEALTH PROMOTION

- In 2023, Health Promotion attended many community events like health fairs, wellness events, etc. and was able to provide education and information on a variety of health topics. Additionally, Health Promotion provided educational presentations throughout the community. Topics included car seat safety information, the importance of vaccines, lead poisoning prevention, overdose prevention and the use of Naloxone, and the importance of health screenings. Some of this work was accomplished in partnership with other health department colleagues.

- Health Promotion continues to take an active role in various community groups. The focus of these groups includes but is not limited to maternal health, homelessness, suicide prevention, and the aging community. Health Promotion team members are active in the Oneida County Youth Services Council. Health Promotion works in support of the community ACES group as part of the Youth Services Council in the development of podcasts for service providers.
- Health Promotion continues to work towards fostering a cohesive group of all health department divisions. Health educators are teamed up with the various divisions to provide more education and outreach around priority health issues while utilizing the expertise of the staff who work directly in those areas.
- The Opioid Task Force work continues. Health Promotion helps distribute supplies, provide information to the community and work within a team to continue to reduce opioid deaths.
- In late 2022, the Public Health Provider Newsletter was re-established. Four editions were distributed throughout 2023 providing the health care field with important health information, health alerts and advisories as well as sharing available resources throughout the community.

GOALS IN 2024: HEALTH PROMOTION

- To continue providing car seats and education to children and families.
- To continue to be a source of education on a range of health topics including the importance of vaccines, especially mammograms and diabetes, and the dangers of lead poisoning.
- To continue to participate in community groups and share resources to best serve the community.
- To continue to work with community partners and hospitals on implementing the goals and objectives of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).
- To continue to work with health department divisions to provide community education and expand this partnership and reach.

OPIOIDS & OTHER DRUGS PROGRAM

The Oneida County Opioid Task Force (OTF) is a multi-agency and multi-sector partnership working to reduce overdose deaths in the community. The OTF is chaired by the County Executive, Sheriff and District Attorney. The OTF provides a platform to report on programming, local issues, and initiatives. It implements evidence-based practices and provides an opportunity to hear from people with lived experience. OTF membership includes over 300 individuals from government, public health, hospital, mental health, behavioral health, recovery, primary care, peer recovery, education, law enforcement, EMS, advocacy, and philanthropic organizations.

Oneida County Health Department's (OCHD) overdose prevention and overdose and drug surveillance programs and activities have expanded over time and are funded through grants, settlement funds, and state initiatives. These activities are aimed at implementing public health approaches to address the opioid epidemic as well as other drug-related issues in the community.

GRANTS COMPLETED IN 2023:

OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION (OD2A) GRANT

OCHD was one of 24 NYS local health departments to receive opioid crisis funding to support crisis activities to address the high burden of opioid overdoses in the County. The OD2A grant focused on prevention, building local capacity for local prevention and response efforts, establishing linkages to care, provider and health system support, partnering with public safety and empowering individuals.

PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT DATA-DRIVEN RESPONSES TO EMERGING DRUG THREATS GRANT

As a result of its collaborative efforts in implementing the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) and formation of the OTF's Overdose Response Team, OCHD was successful in its application for a grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the amount of \$600,000 for 2 years. The grant was awarded to only 6 communities in the U.S. The grant aims to prevent/reduce overdose deaths, advance shared understanding of patterns and characteristics of problem drug use, and foster collaborations between public health and public safety.

IMPLEMENTING OVERDOSE PREVENTION STRATEGIES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL GRANT:

OCHD was one of 13 U.S. public health departments selected to receive an award of \$500,000 to implement public health strategies to address community challenges related to drug overdoses. The Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level grant was awarded by the National Association of County and City Health Officials with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Injury Control and Prevention .

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2023: OPIOIDS & OTHER DRUGS PROGRAM

- ODMAP Program tracked 420 Total Overdoses: 344 Non-fatal and 76 Fatal (preliminary). Six (6) overdose spike and two (2) drug advisory alerts were issued:** In collaboration with the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center and the Oneida County Overdose Response Team (a subgroup of the Opioid Task Force), continued implementation of the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), a surveillance tool to collect real-time overdose reports from law enforcement as well as Medical Examiner's probable overdose fatality data. The data is used to identify and alert the public to spikes in overdoses and overdose fatalities. Data is used to prepare, distribute and post Weekly Overdose Surveillance Reports.
- Collaborated with the Planning Department to enhance Overdose & Drug Trend Dashboard by adding heat mapping capabilities to identify geographic hot spots and plot data points for Naloxone and Narcan Emergency Cabinet distributions to businesses and organizations.**
- Coordinated the Opioid Task Force International Overdose Awareness Day Event and a stigma reduction campaign.** All of Us Oneida was launched by Shatterproof, a national nonprofit committed to ending stigma associated with addiction.
- ODMAP Post Overdose Follow Up Program (PFP) linked 113 individuals to treatment, recovery and/or harm-reduction services post-overdose.** The PFP deploys peers to make home visits on ODMAP identified overdose victims via a collaboration with ACR Health to link them to treatment, harm reduction and/or other wrap around services. Peers conduct post overdose outreach for all overdoses within 72 hours and prioritize any individuals that are flagged as high risk (i.e., repeat overdoses) for overdose fatality.
- Formation of the Oneida County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team and conducting its first year of case reviews. Reports of key findings and recommendations to prevent future overdoses are available on the Opioid Task Force website <https://www.ocopioidtaskforce.org/>.** The multi-agency OFR conducted four (4) in-depth reviews of overdose deaths to identify areas for improvement and strategies to prevent future overdose deaths.
- Installed 84 Narcan Emergency Cabinets** in public locations and areas with high risk for overdoses identified in the ODMAP. Cabinets are placed in the community in collaboration with Opioid Task Force partners. Each cabinet can hold 2 Naloxone kits.
- Fentanyl Test Strips:** OCHD distributed 1,200 Fentanyl Test Strips to local harm reduction, treatment, and recovery partners to distribute to their clients along with harm reduction education and awareness of the risk of fentanyl in all street drugs.
- Save-a-Life Naloxone Distribution Campaign: Distributed over 1,100 Naloxone (Narcan) kits to homes and businesses.** Coordinated the OTF Save-a-Life campaign to promote naloxone as basic first aid and distribute to as many businesses and laypersons in the community as possible. OCHD established a Narcan-by-Mail program allowing the public to take brief online trainings and complete online request form to receive Narcan kits by mail to their home and/or business as well as a Naloxone Distribution Team to leave kits with businesses in the county.

- **Collaborating with Oneida County Probation, Helio Health and Community Recovery Center to pilot distribution of Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS), Naloxone and resource information to probationers at high-risk for overdose via home visits.** OCHD will supply the team with FTS, overdose care kits, and support in collecting the data and evaluating project outcomes as a model harm reduction strategy for public safety agencies.
- **Deployed a smart technology Public Health Naloxone Vending Machine to compliment current initiatives to increase access to life-saving Naloxone.** A self-serve machine located at an accessible location to the public dispenses free harm reduction items such as Naloxone, Fentanyl Test Strips, hygiene kits and COVID tests kits.
- **Collaborated with BOCES and the Oneida County Sheriff's Office to increase the number of schools that have Naloxone on site.** The Health Department supplies schools and OCSO SPOs with Naloxone, provides schools with free Narcan Emergency Cabinets, and collaborates with BOCES to distribute and provide technical assistance for Narcan training and protocol development.

GOALS IN 2024: OPIOID & OTHER DRUGS PROGRAM

- **Data monitoring and surveillance:** Post Weekly Overdose Surveillance Reports to promote data-driven responses throughout the entire Opioid Task Force. Continued collaboration with the Partnership to End Addiction to utilize its text messaging alert program to supplement efforts to notify the community about overdose spikes and/or drug threats.
- **Save-a-Life Campaign:** Continue Narcan-by-Mail program allowing the public to take brief online trainings and complete online request form to receive Narcan kits by mail to their home and/or business as well as a Naloxone Distribution Team to leave kits with businesses in the county.
- **Continue the Oneida County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team**
- **Continue the ODMAP Post Overdose Follow Up Program (PFP)**

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PHEP)

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program supports the planning and response for all hazards to protect the health of the entire community. Hazards include disease outbreaks, environmental threats, natural and man-made disasters. Response to these hazards/public health emergencies begin at the local level due to its unique abilities to respond to all types of public health incidents.

PHEP is in place to help, assist and coordinate where needed. The mission of Emergency Preparedness follows the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA 2015), "A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, recover from threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk."

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2023: PHEP

- New employees completed required ICS/FEMA training courses.
- Updated the Mutual Aid Evacuation and Supply Plan.
- Updated Oneida County Health Department Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and The Oneida County Health Department's Pandemic Plan.
- Attended Quarterly HEPC meetings, Workplace Violence meetings, Exercise Design, Communications and Core Deliverable work group meetings as well as partook in NYSDOH Exercises, Drills and Hotwash meetings.
- Completed deliverables for BP5 2022-2023.
- Continue to work collaboratively with NYSDOH regarding disease outbreaks such as COVID-19, RSV, Flu, as well as any other requests.
- To continue to develop efficient means to best serve our community to stay safe in any type of an emergency and will continue to obtain/provide immunizations and/or testing to anyone requiring it.

GOALS IN 2024: PHEP

- Fulfill deliverables set by NYSDOH.
- Continue to attend emergency preparedness and response trainings to further enhance my knowledge in emergency preparedness and response.
- Ensure all staff to complete basic required trainings.
- Continue to update and or develop Emergency Preparedness Plans as needed in the future.
- Provide helpful and informative resources to the community in areas of disease, natural disaster, climate change, terrorism and any other threats that arise.
- Establish OCHD cross-division Public Health Incident Response Team to manage public health planning and response activities for any type of hazard.

SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

The **Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN)** seeks to improve the system of care for children and youth from birth to 21 years of age. Oneida County's program helps to empower families to advocate for the best health care options to meet the needs of their children.

The program provides resource and referral information for families of children and youth who have or are suspected of having serious or chronic health, behavioral or emotional conditions. The program assists families in establishing a medical home, accessing private or public insurance, identifying gaps in community systems of care, establishing connections to community resources as well as support for youth transitioning to adult health care, work and independence.

CYSHCN ANNUAL DATA: ELIGIBLE CHILDREN BY AGE	2021	2022	2023
Birth < 12 Years of Age	75	71	143
13 < 17 Years of Age	0	0	0
18 < 21 Years of Age	0	0	0
TOTAL CHILDREN	75	71	143

Data reflects impact of COVID-19 related service delivery interruptions during periods of 2021-2022.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Early Intervention (EIP) is part of the National Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The EIP offers a variety of therapeutic and support services to eligible 0-2 year olds and their families.

The mission of the Early Intervention Program is to identify and evaluate infants and toddlers as early as possible to determine experiences of compromised development. The EIP is family-centered supporting parents in nurturing and enhancing development through an array of coordinated services focusing on the needs of the child. The EIP is community based so it creates opportunities for full participation of families with the delivery of services occurring in the child's natural environment. Private and Public insurances are utilized to help pay for the costs of EIP services in New York State.

Child Find, as a component of the Early Intervention Program, identifies and tracks infants and toddlers that are at risk for developmental delays. The Child Find Program works with families, doctors, daycare providers and community agencies to determine when a referral should be made to the Early Intervention Program. Public awareness, health care and social service community training are critical for a successful Child Find Program.

Child Find Program Data: 142 enrolled, 0-2 years of age (accurate as of 1-25-23)

ANNUAL DATA: EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM <i>*Accurate as of 1-17-24</i>	2021	2022	2023
Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) Performed	250	250	249
Bilingual MDEs Performed	11	11	23
Supplemental Evaluations Performed	104	29	75
Special Instruction Visits	27,909	32,978	38,922
Physical Therapy / Occupational Therapy Visits	10,925	10,439	10,180
Speech / Language Therapy Visits	13,000	11,859	10,640
Vision Therapy Visits	39	40	21
Social Work Visits	0	0	0
Total of Visits Including Service Coordination	63,380	69,013	73,505

PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (OR EDUCATION/ TRANSPORTATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN’S PROGRAM—ETHCP)

This program is administered through New York State’s Department of Education. Federal and state laws govern the program and grant administrative authority to school districts located in Oneida County. NYS Education Law mandates each county provide funding for this program. Educational and therapeutic service provision occurs in least restrictive environments to maximize the preschool student with disabilities’ learning potential.

This program is for children ages 3 and 4 years old who have been evaluated and classified as Preschool Students with a Disability through their school district’s Committee on Preschool Special Education. Classified children receive an Individualized Education Plan, which outlines a variety of special services intended to take full advantage of a child’s learning potential.

ANNUAL DATA	2021 Children Evaluated	2021 Distinct Children Served	2022 Children Evaluated	2022 Distinct Children Served	2023 Children Evaluated	2023 Distinct Children Served
Evaluations Completed to Determine Eligibility: Classified Preschool Students with a Disability	312	676	468	747	319	739

Data reflects impact of COVID-19 in service delivery during periods of 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2023: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- Worked with a Regional Support Center Specialist to implement our Technical Assistance Support Plan.
- Initiated an awareness campaign related to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). This included expansion of outreach to include billboard, bus, and bus shelter messaging.
- Collaborated with community partners to provide resources to children and families experiencing mental health challenges.
- Eliminated submission of Medicaid compliant documents sent U.S. Mail in favor of an electronic method.

GOALS IN 2024: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- Continue to initiate an awareness campaign related to Adverse childhood experiences (ACES). This included expansion of outreach to include billboard, bus, and bus shelter messaging.
- Collaborate with community partners to provide resources to children and families in early intervention (Birth-2) with developmental delays and/or disabilities.
- Train and transition to use of the EI-Hub in replacement of the New York Early Intervention System. Current startup date late spring 2024.
- Begin ongoing service coordination for emergency early intervention children who do not have a service coordinator.
- Enter program paperwork into the county's laser fiche software program.



PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY

