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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

2024 Annual Report

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Promoting and Protecting the health of Oneida County

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

It is my privilege to serve as the Director of the Oneida County Health Department and to present the Oneida County Health Department Annual Report for 2024. This report provides details on how the programs of the Health Department fulfill the mission to “Promote and Protect the Health of Oneida County.”



This has been a busy year for the Health Department with one of the highlights being the unexpected July 16th tornado that occurred in Rome. The mobile vaccination unit was certified shortly before the tornado and was put to immediate use to serve as a base for Health Department support activity that included assistance with shelter set-ups, distribution of water, ice, and first aid supplies, and providing food safety guidance.

The Health Department Clinic at 300 W. Dominick Street in Rome has not been usable since the tornado and the mobile vaccination unit was used to provide weekly Clinic Services in Rome until mid-November. The mobile unit will return to weekly service in Rome during the spring. During the winter months, vaccination PODs have been hosted throughout Rome by our community partners for flu, RSV, and Covid vaccines.

The Clinic has been active with school districts throughout the County in partnering to provide required vaccinations to school aged children. In 2024, Clinic staff provided 2,084 vaccinations to school aged children, a 28% increase from 2023, at the 406 Elizabeth Street Clinic and by utilizing the mobile vaccination unit.

The Environmental Division received and has implemented a five-year grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that assists homeowners living in select watersheds in replacing or repairing their septic system. Environmental staff have worked with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies to seize over 20,000 illegal flavored vape products. And finally, the lead poisoning prevention program has partnered with the Community Foundation and LeadFree MV to assist 41 families, having a combined total of 152 children, by delivering Healthy Living Supplies to each family.

Community education is a central and important role for public health. In 2024, the Health Department participated in over 50 community events, provided 85 public health presentations or training sessions, and partnered with the County Executive's Office to send out 19 health-related press releases to the local media.

These accomplishments, and others too numerous to mention here, would not have been possible without the support of our dedicated Health Department staff, Community Partners, the Oneida County Executive, and the Oneida County Board of Legislators.

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

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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.

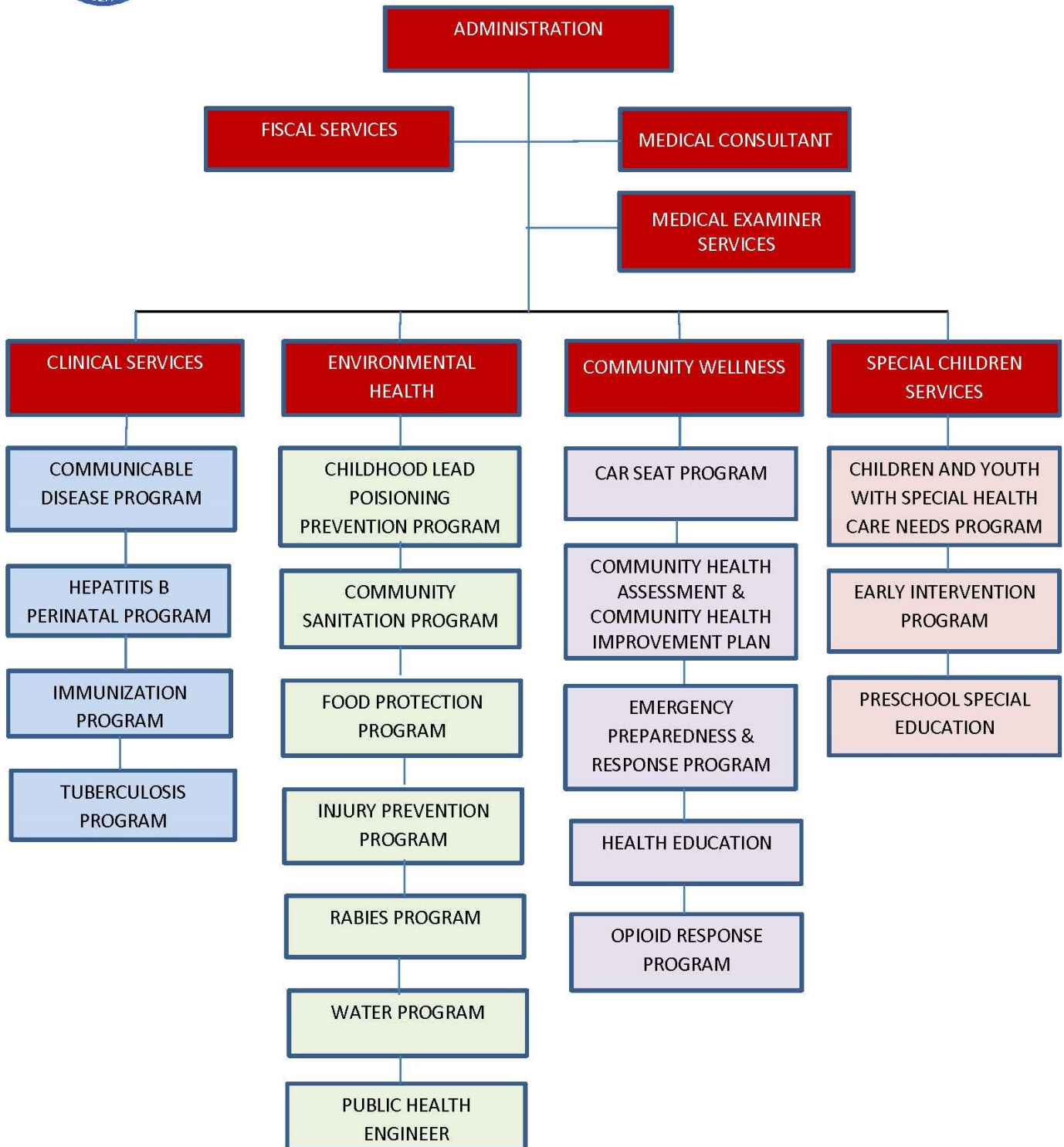
VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Accountability	Teamwork
Quality	Innovation
Leadership	Proactive
Integrity	Dedication
Caring	Professionalism



Oneida County Health Department Organizational Chart



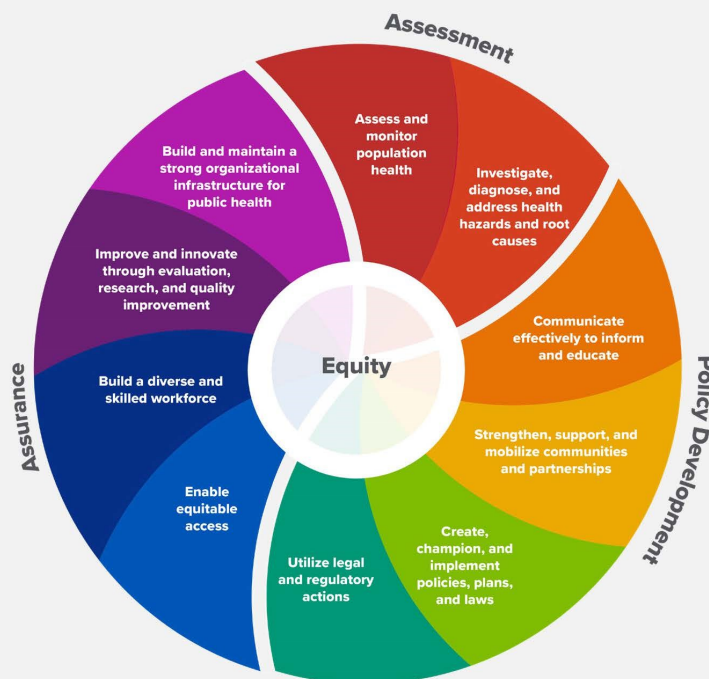
OCHD BUDGET SUMMARY 2024

Program	Total Costs	% of	% of	% of	% of	% of	% of
		Budget	Federal	State	County	Other	Medicare
			Funding	Funding	Funding	Funding	Medicaid
Administration	\$ 1,097,873	4.49%		36%	64%		
Health Promotion	\$ 374,808	1.53%		41%	59%		
Pre-School (3-5)	\$ 15,167,866	61.98%		59%	36%		5%
Early Intervention	\$ 1,760,250	7.19%	20%	25%	52%		3%
Physically Handicapped Children	\$ 11,415	0.05%		100%			
Public Health Clinic	\$ 1,945,989	7.95%		40%	49%	10%	1%
Lead Poisoning Program	\$ 629,771	2.57%		98%	2%		
TB	\$ 39,166	0.16%		100%			
Environmental Health	\$ 1,388,823	5.68%		40%	21%	39%	
Immunization Consortium	\$ 103,620	0.42%		100%			
Emergency Preparedness	\$ 106,760	0.44%		90%	10%		
COVID-19	\$ 402,065	1.64%	100%				
Medical Examiner	\$ 1,294,225	5.29%		10%	90%		
Opioid Grants	\$ 148,073	0.61%	85%	10%	5%		
Total	\$ 24,470,704	100.00%					
<i>All figures are estimated as of 2/10/25</i>							

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 2024 include the following:

PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

In 2024, OCHD participated in the New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) ongoing Local Health Department (LHD) Performance Incentive Program. In year twelve (2024) of the program, which began in December 2023 and concluded in August 2024, the Department focused on preventing chronic disease via the promotion of physical activity.

For participating in the Incentive Program Oneida County was awarded a total of \$23,286. These monies can be used to support costs associated with Article 6 eligible services.

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

The Oneida County Employee Wellness Program strives to bring awareness of all dimensions of health and wellness to County employees and engage them in a variety of programs, activities and events. Wellness Champions, who represent departments and sites throughout the county, meet quarterly to bring ideas and take information back to their site and co-workers. Yoga classes planned for January 2025 are in direct response to requests from staff.

These Wellness activities all continued in 2024:

- Pet therapy dog visits at two sites each month— expanded to a third worksite every other month.
- Breaktime stretching at the Health Department and daily lunch hour walks.
- February Heart Month—a dress down day fundraiser and the *Wall of Hearts*, display of paper hearts with names of loved ones in the main lobby, to benefit the American Heart Association.
- Employees volunteered at water stations for runners at the Erie Canal Half Marathon in May and Utica’s Boilermaker Road Race in July.
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) - fresh organic vegetables and fruits from a local farm were delivered to two locations in 2024 and the program expanded from 10 to 40 participants. Our farmer piloted a Custom Choice Box (order produce preferences online) to County employees with great results.
- *Wear Pink Walk* — 60 walkers and 16 survivors participated in October walk for Breast Cancer Awareness at two sites. Survivors received a commemorative gift and all who participated received canvas bags.
- Partnered with MVP, the County’s health insurer, on these events:
 - Info Sessions—visited work sites with information on the health plan’s \$600 Well-Being Rewards program and *Gia by MVP* mobile app. Answered questions, had fun giveaways, raffle prizes. Increased utilization in W-BR from 276 reimbursement claims to 445 claims, a 62% increase.
 - *Moving in Mindfulness* Challenge—four week program incorporated movement and mental well-being. Seventy-six employees who completed the challenge qualified for a free healthy lunch!
 - MVP and MVHS participated in a County educational event for staff on World Diabetes Day.

Wellness Goals in 2025:

- Introduce Yoga and Sound Therapy classes to employees after hours in the largest worksite (County Office Building) beginning in January 2025.
- Wellness will coordinate quarterly Oneida County Employee Blood Drives with the American Red Cross with the goal to increase participation.
- 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.

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 2015—2024*

Oneida County Summary	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Total cases	724	736	767	842	858	892	910	924	914	820
Non-Medical Examiner cases	474	468	499	565	578	604	571	608	603	522
Expert Consultation cases	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Medical Examiner cases	249	267	267	277	280	288	339	316	308	298
Autopsy examinations (incl. partial)	199	220	219	213	233	231	238	200	194	178
External examinations	20	17	20	23	21	31	53	72	59	63
Death Certificate only – no examination	30	30	28	41	26	26	48	44	55	57
Manner of death*										
• Accident	94	129	122	116	117	130	156	163	157	132
▪ Motor Vehicle Accidents	17	17	22	24	16	17	23	29	28	18
▪ Drug Use/Toxin Related	40	65	60	39	64	70	86	86	74	58
○ Heroin Related	11	16	5	3	3	1	0	2	0	1
○ Fentanyl Related	7	16	21	9	15	34	60	61	53	32
○ Heroin & Fentanyl Related	4	18	20	15	27	15	10	6	1	2
○ Other Opioids	10	5	6	7	8	5	6	5	4	4
○ Other Drugs	8	10	8	5	11	15	10	12	16	19
▪ Falls	30	27	27	37	31	31	35	37	36	40
▪ Environmental	1	3	1	1	0	2	2	1	6	1
▪ Other Blunt Trauma	2	3	5	0	1	2	1	0	1	2
▪ Drowning	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	6	3	1
▪ Asphyxia	1	4	2	5	1	1	4	1	5	5
▪ Fire	0	5	2	5	2	2	0	2	4	4
▪ Medical Procedure	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
▪ Sharp Force Injury	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
▪ Other	0	1	1	2	0	3	1	1	0	3
• Homicide	12	6	4	6	10	15	10	5	8	10
• Natural	116	106	110	113	113	97	129	110	107	105
• Suicide	24	21	28	32	31	32	29	25	25	28
• Undetermined	2	4	3	7	7	14	14	9	11	13
• Manner not applicable/fetal deaths	1	1	0	3	2	0	1	4	0	1
• Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9

*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
- Emergency Preparedness
- Mass vaccination planning

Legal Department

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

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
- Community Services Board

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
- Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program

Department of Public Works

- Mass vaccination planning

Griffiss International Airport

- Mass vaccination planning
- Car Seat Program

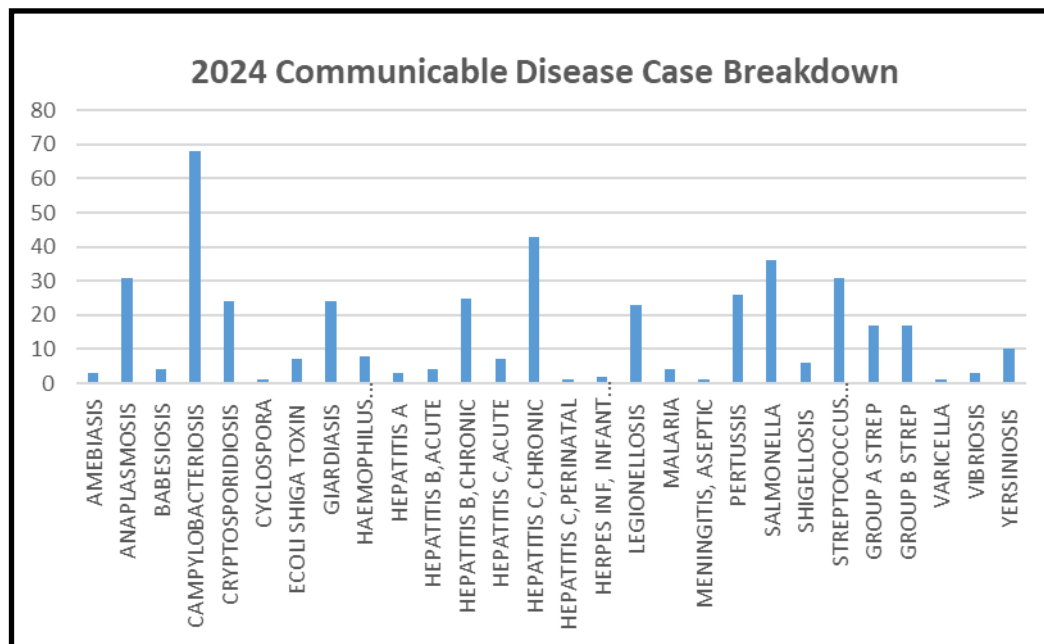
CLINICAL SERVICES /

DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Oneida County Health Clinic is responsible for the 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 (CD) 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 Oneida County Health Department through the Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS). Each lab is reviewed, if there is a negative result no further investigation is done. If the lab is positive case investigation is initiated to determine if there is enough clinical evidence to create and complete a case. In 2024 there were 10,600 labs sent electronically to the Oneida County Health Department. This does not include COVID, RSV, Influenza, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, or Syphilis. 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.



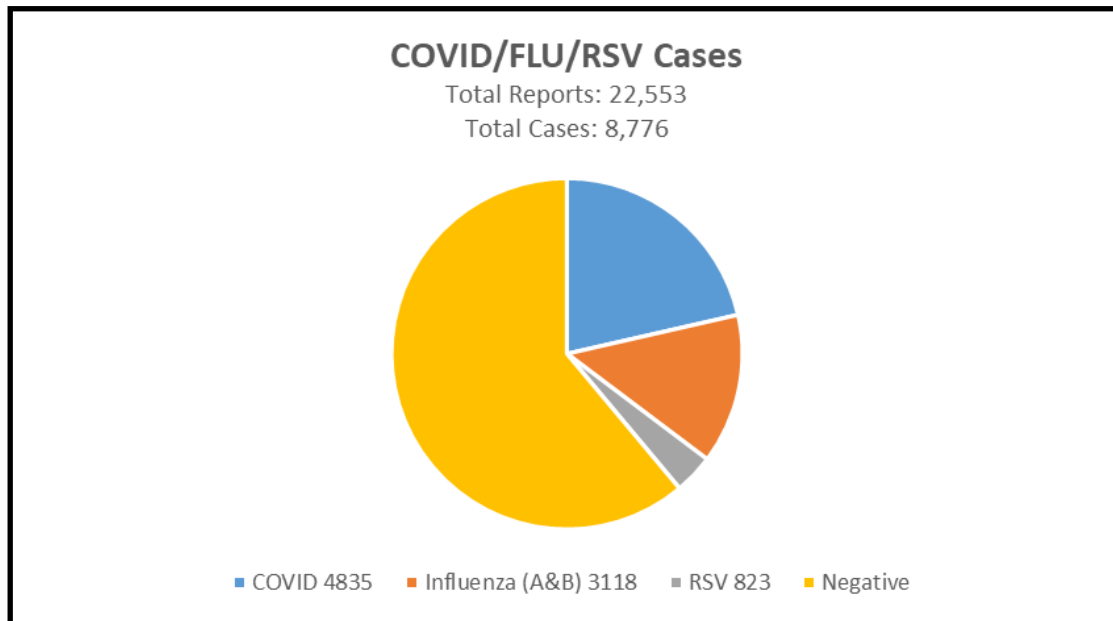
Note: This data does not include RSV, Influenza, COVID, or STI's.

ANNUAL DATA	2022	2023	2024
Case Investigations	1,481	3,100	4,687
Cases Created	180	335	430

Note: Case Investigations are from the lab reports sent to OCHD for investigation. This data does not include RSV, Influenza, COVID, or STI's.

Cases Created identifies newly identified incidents.

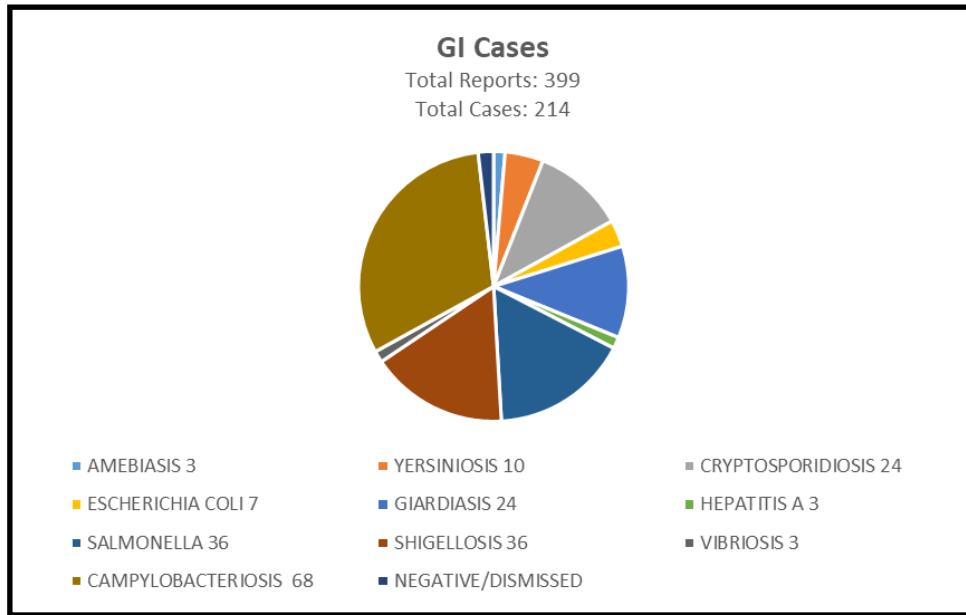
2024 RESPIRATORY ILLNESS REPORT



Note: Total Reports is the number of labs reported to ECLRS. Cases is the amount of reports that had a positive result and met case definition.

ENTERIC DISEASES

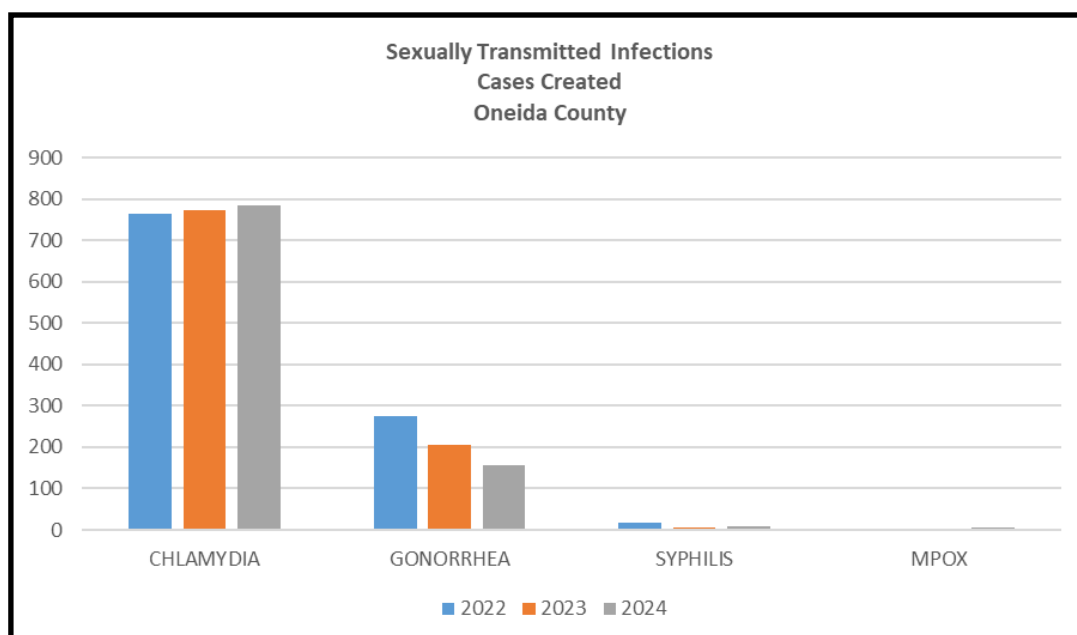
Enteric diseases are infections of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract that cause inflammation and various symptoms, including diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. As part of the CD program these reports are investigated for linkages and trends to identify any similarities for source identification. Most of these diseases are spread from poor hand hygiene and spread through food handling and consumption. The CD program identifies these diseases and investigates any possibility of the disease being spread through food and will initiate post exposure prophylaxis to the community as needed.



SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

The Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) program is responsible for the investigation, follow-up (Expedited Partner Therapy), surveillance and reporting of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV. In 2024, Planned Parenthood of Greater New York Inc. provided STD Testing and Treatment in accordance with the NYSDOH regulations for Oneida County Diagnostic and Treatment Center. In 2024, 259 Oneida County residents were referred to, tested, and treated for STI's through the partnership with Planned Parenthood.

In 2024 there were 4,074 labs reported to Oneida County through ECLRS for review and management. Syphilis reporting involves more than one test per patient to determine Syphilis treatment, making the number of reports that come through greater than the actual number of cases.



TUBERCULOSIS

The Tuberculosis (TB) Control program provides comprehensive testing, diagnosis, and treatment of latent and active tuberculosis cases in Oneida County. People with latent TB Infection (LTBI) do not have any symptoms and cannot spread TB. If they do not get treatment, they may develop active TB disease in the future and spread the disease to others. The TB Control program decreases the public health threat of TB by investigating and treating positive cases of TB and LTBI, while promoting preventative therapy as indicated for contact cases. The TB Control program performs targeted testing on high-risk groups.

ANNUAL DATA	2022	2023	2024
Total Visits	554	514	619
Active Cases Managed by OCHD	2	3	3
New Latent TB Cases Identified	69	88	84

The TB program receives referrals from providers and organizations in the County for any person who has an abnormal test that could be tuberculosis. In 2024 there were 3 positive TB infections. Two were extrapulmonary TB, meaning it was TB found outside of the lungs. One was pulmonary TB. The pulmonary TB case had 18 contacts identified, each contact was tested for TB and 4 were given prophylaxis treatment.

The TB program received a total of 256 referrals for possible TB or LTBI follow up, and 164 of those were found to need follow up by OCHD for additional testing to determine treatment plans. Eighty-four were determined to have LTBI and 80 are being treated and monitored by OCHD.

IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

The Oneida County Health Department 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, Total Served (Adults and Children)

ANNUAL DATA	2022	2023	2024
Total Visits	3,416	3,547	4,138
Total Clients (Post Exposure Rabies)	105	128	161
Total Clients (Green Card)	110	134	205

VACCINE DATA

ANNUAL DATA	2024
Total Immunizations Given	6,315

Top 5 Adult Immunizations	2024 Number of Vaccines Provided	Top 5 Children's Immunizations	2024 Number of Vaccines Provided
Flu	499	Meningococcal	523
COVID	384	TDAP	402
Polio	283	Polio	318
TDAP	285	Flu	280
Hep B	156	Varicella (chicken pox)	275

PERINATAL HEPATITIS B PROGRAM

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.

OCHD receives referrals for pregnant mothers who test positive for Hepatitis B until birth and then monitors for appropriate treatment. This treatment consisting of the baby receiving the correct dose of immunoglobulin and vaccination within 12 hours of birth and that the infant completes Post-Vaccination Serologic Testing (PVST) within 9-12 months after birth.

ANNUAL DATA	2022	2023	2024
Total Cases	14	15	26

Perinatal Hep B Completion	2024
PVST Completion	14
Vaccination Series Completed	14

**Note: For PVST completion there are 5 that have not reached the 9–12-month mark and 2 have not completed.*

COMMUNITY CLINICS

To work towards the promotion of a health community the Oneida County Health Clinic provided children's vaccines including school aged vaccines as well all adult vaccines throughout the County. The Clinic was able to provide these vaccines by partnering with community organizations as well as by utilizing the vaccination mobile unit.

Clinic	Number of Clinics Held	People Seen	Vaccinations Given
Mobile Unit	14	137	148
Community Clinics	17	149	155
Total	31	286	303

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024: CLINIC

- Continued efforts on the elimination of Tuberculosis 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.
- Collaborated with Oneida County Schools to vaccinate students on time. Met with all county schools via a web meeting to discuss how the county can assist in these efforts and created a direct line between the school nurses and the County Clinic. This year the clinic gave 2,084 school vaccines compared to 1,632 school vaccines in 2023.
- Deployed the Mobile Unit to assist in the tornado relief efforts in Rome. Mobile Unit was used to provide Clinic vaccination services to Rome clients after the tornado damage.
- Through the Immunization Action Plan (IAP) in place for Oneida County education was provided to 14 providers to help improve their accuracy for reporting data into NYSIIS and to follow vaccines schedules. Through the IAP Oneida County was able to provide education about vaccines to 37 community organizations and to offer vaccines. This resulted in the clinic providing vaccines to employees and individuals in 9 of those organizations.
- Installed and implemented a new electronic medical record system.
- There were three cases of Hepatitis A outbreaks in Oneida county in 2024. The Clinic was able to investigate, trace, and deliver post exposure prophylaxis to members of the community that were exposed.
- The Clinic collaborated with the Colorado Department of Health, NY Food and Safety Center for Excellence, and The Center to present to health departments around the country on enteric disease and culture within the Burmese population.

GOALS IN 2025: CLINIC

- Continue collaborating efforts with school nurses in the county to ensure student vaccines are up to date and on schedule for the school year. And continue to provide assistance to school nurses in regard to vaccine schedules and immunization record review.
- Enhance public relations with local educational leaders and organizations by providing mentorships to future healthcare workers.
- Utilize the Mobile Unit during the summer months to provide vaccination services to school aged children in school districts that have high numbers of students who need vaccines for the next school year.
- Increase education about rabies vaccination procedures to County hospitals and providers.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS

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 takes part in 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 healthy behaviors in our community. The PHE team helps maintain the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) website, <https://oneidacountyny.gov/health>, and Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/OCHDNY>, where the public can access health information and resources, etc. In 2024, programs utilized advertising through radio PSAs, bus advertising and billboards. Additionally, the PHE team works collaboratively with the local media to raise awareness of public health issues and prevention measures.

The PHE team offers a variety of trainings and presentations to the community including but not limited to vaccine education, Narcan use and how to recognize the signs of an overdose, fall prevention, as well as other health related topics. The PHE team collaborates with area agencies and service providers through community group participation, active roles in community coalitions, and participates in health fairs and other community tabling events in order to provide education and resources to the community.

TABLING EVENTS	53
At schools/Universities	14
At health organizations/businesses	16
At community sites	23
PRESENTATIONS	85
Narcan Training	6
Car Seat Training for staff who transport children	27
Vaccine Education	37
Other trainings	15
PRESS RELEASES	19
EMAILS The public contacts OCHD for a variety of reasons. Some are questions, complaints, referrals, and some looking for resources, etc. These inquiries are responded to by OCHD divisions including Environmental Health team, Health Promotion, Clinic, and Special Children Services.	370

The PHE team actively participates in several community groups with various goals to help improve the community. These groups include but are not limited to Oneida County Suicide Prevention Coalition, Livable Communities, MV Housing and Homeless Coalition, Youth Services Council, Healthy Babies Consortium, and Office for New Americans Immigrant Resource Roundtable.

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 2022, Health Promotion, along with MVHS and Rome Health, continued working on the goals of the CHIP throughout 2024.

The focus of these goals included Mental Health; Children and Teens Social and Emotional Health; and Chronic Disease Preventive Care and Screenings. We shared information with community members through community events, health fairs, with County employees at Wellness events, and through the use of small media and social media.

CAR SEAT PROGRAM

The Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) had another successful year with its Car Seat Safety program, which supports parents and legal guardians facing economic challenges by providing new car seats for their children. In addition to supplying car seats, the program offers valuable education and hands-on assistance, teaching parents and legal guardians the proper techniques for installing and using car seats to ensure optimal safety for their children.

By addressing both the financial barriers and the lack of knowledge surrounding car seat safety, the program helps reduce the risk of injury in car accidents, promotes long-term child safety, and empowers families to make informed decisions regarding their children's well-being. The program's continued success highlights its vital role in the promotion of safer communities and improving child passenger safety in Oneida County.

In 2025, two additional Oneida County employees are expected to become certified as National Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

ANNUAL DATA	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Car Seats Distributed	61	171	155	150

OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

OCHD's overdose prevention and drug surveillance programs activities continue by implementing public health strategies to address the opioid epidemic as well as other drug-related issues in the community. Program work supports the Oneida County Opioid Task Force (OTF), a collaborative multi-agency and multi-sector partnership working together to reduce the overdose deaths in the community. The OTF is co-chaired by the Oneida County Executive, Sheriff, and District Attorney.

OCHD continues to work in collaboration with the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center for the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP). ODMAP is a surveillance tool to collect real-time overdose reports from law enforcement as well as Medical Examiner's overdose fatality data. Data is used to identify and alert the public of spikes in overdoses, overdose fatalities and other drug trends. Drug overdose activity data is shared regularly with the Task Force.

OCHD participates in the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team. Fatal overdose information is collected and reviewed to identify key findings and provide recommendations with the goal of reducing deaths from overdoses.

OCHD provides live, in-person training on how to recognize the signs of an overdose. Additionally, OCHD provides resources and tools to the community in efforts to prevent overdose deaths. Narcan® (naloxone) is distributed to the community at trainings, is provided to businesses and agencies throughout the County, at community events, and through mailings to those who request it. Additionally, DeTerra® medication disposal bags are provided to help reduce unwanted or unneeded medication in the community. These bags are distributed through mailings to those who request them, at community events and to community partners. Fentanyl test strips are shared to help reduce risk for those using drugs.

Narcan® (naloxone) kits distributed	1,519
People trained in how to recognize an overdose and how to administer naloxone	172
DeTerra® medication disposal bags distributed	1,642
Fentanyl Test Strips distributed	1,900

OCHD maintains the Oneida County Opioid Task Force website, <https://opioidtaskforce.oneidacountyny.gov/>. Here the public can access information, statistics and resources to help reduce and prevent overdose deaths.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Oneida County Public Health Emergency Response and Preparedness Program (PHERP) assists the community before, during and after an emergency event to prevent or minimize its adverse effects on the health and safety of the residents in the community. Such emergencies could be because of weather, like flooding or severe storms, environmental threats, communicable disease outbreaks, foodborne illnesses and others. The PHERP Program supports OCHD's planning and response for all hazards to protect the health of the entire community.

OCHD prepares for emergencies through training, engages in preparedness activities with multi-agency partnerships to identify resources, establish mutual agreements, develop coordinated response plans, conduct and partake in drills and exercises. With this, opportunities are created that will help identify, and follow up on areas for improvement, train staff, and coordinate public risk communications.

In 2024, OCHD met required New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) deliverables, updated the Mutual Aid Evacuation and Supply Plan and attended and participated in quarterly regional Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC) meetings. OCHD also participated in NYSDOH regional exercises including surveys, tabletop exercises, drills and hotwash meetings and monthly workgroup meetings. Each OCHD staff member was trained in the required FEMA and Emergency Preparedness trainings and the ServNY program was reviewed in which volunteers for emergency situations are coordinated and maintained. Oneida County was in the path of the solar eclipse this year. This event drew in large crowds to Oneida County and OCHD helped plan and coordinate efforts and public messaging along with other County partners for this event.

City of Rome Tornado

On July 16, 2024, a tornado struck the City of Rome causing significant damage and destruction. OCHD, along with other Oneida County Departments and the City of Rome, responded to provide support and resources to those affected. The work done by OCHD included hands-on work (i.e., handed out water and other household supplies) and provided safety information such as food safety during power outages.

GOALS IN 2025: COMMUNITY WELLNESS

- Complete the Article 6 Year 13 Incentive Program with focus being on extreme weather and climate change.
- Develop the 2025 Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Continue the car seat program providing education and car seats to families in need.
- Have two employees trained as nationally certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technicians.
- Continue to provide health related and emergency preparedness education to the community through presentations, community events, media, etc.
- Continue work as an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program through providing Narcan® to the community.
- Complete the ServNY Volunteer Credentialing and Notification Drill by alerting volunteers that their credentials/license need to be updated in the program.
- Support all other OCHD divisions by promoting programs and resources and helping to educate the public on healthy living.
- Continue to fulfill all tasks/requirements set forth by the NYSDOH by participating in emergency preparedness and response/recovery work groups, meetings, trainings and exercises.

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 Pools/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.

Food Protection: Prevention of foodborne 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 .

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.

Tanning Facilities: 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 10 tanning facilities in operation in 2024, and EH conducted 13 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 243 retail tobacco vendors in 2024 and 132 ATUPA compliance checks were completed.

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.

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.

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.

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

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to ensure that the public is protected from illness and injury resulting from waterborne disease 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 provide technical assistance 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 requests from homeowners / prospective buyers, lenders and realtors related to water well and septic regulations.

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 primary objective 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.

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM+ (CLPPP+)

Studies show that 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.

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) 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 2025, the Oneida County Health Department will continue to support enhanced local efforts to reduce the prevalence of Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLLs) 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.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Summary of the number of regulated facilities, number of inspections, re-inspections, pre-operational inspections and field visits for the food protection program in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Food Protection Program	Number Active Facilities			Number of Inspections		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Low Risk	74	76	77	13	56	66
Medium Risk	506	503	484	290	561	552
High Risk	401	386	391	207	480	466
Total	981	965	952	510	1097	1084

In New York State, food service establishments are categorized into high, medium and low risk based on the types of food they serve and the complexity of their preparation processes.

Low-Risk Establishments: These establishments primarily serve non-potentially hazardous foods, often pre-packaged or requiring minimal preparation. Bars or taverns are examples.

Medium-Risk Establishments: These establishments serve potentially hazardous foods but with rapid turnover between preparation and service. Fast food restaurants, sub shops, pizza parlors, and short-order breakfast establishments are examples.

High-Risk Establishments: These establishments prepare and serve potentially hazardous foods that require extensive handling, including processes like manual preparation, cooking, cooling, reheating, and hot or cold holding. They often serve large numbers of meals and may cater to vulnerable populations such as elderly, children, or the infirm. Table-service restaurants and school kitchens that prepare foods on-site are examples.

Other Food Program activities:

- 349 FOG (Fats/Oils/Grease) Program inspections
- 46 summer feeding sites, 44 inspections
- 111 mobile food vendors, 86 inspections
- 107 inspections at 109 temporary events, with a total of 214 vendors
- 29 complaint investigations, 7 illness investigations
- 1 Salmonella positive food worker illness investigation
- 2 Hepatitis A positive food worker illness investigations
- 1 Cryptosporidiosis positive food worker illness investigation
- 3 Shiga toxin-producing E. coli positive food worker illness investigations

COMMUNITY SANITATION PROGRAMS Summary of the number of regulated facilities, number of inspections and field visits for the community sanitation program in 2022, 2023 and 2024

Community Sanitation Program	Number Active Facilities			Number of Inspections		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Temporary Residences	54	54	44	27	52	67
Swimming Pools/Bathing Beaches	91	91	79	78	153	133
Campgrounds	27	31	33	32	57	51
Children's Camps	8	15	16	33	39	48
Mobile Home Parks	60	60	60	61	106	78
Migrant Farmworker Housing	5	5	2	6	12	6

ATUPA PROGRAM Summary of program statistics for 2022, 2023 and 2024

ATUPA Program	2022	2023	2024
# Retail Tobacco Vendors	208	236	243
# Compliance Checks	91	144	132
# Flavored Vape Products Seized	N/A	19,974	20,199

RABIES PROGRAM Summary of program statistics for 2022, 2023 and 2024

Rabies Prevention Program	2022	2023	2024
Rabies exposure investigations	651	680	672
Post-exposure treatment for humans	100	113	142
Rabies vaccines administered to pets	494	484	607
Sponsored pet vaccination clinics	5	5	6
Specimens tested for Rabies	130	144	145
Rabies positive specimens	9	16	13

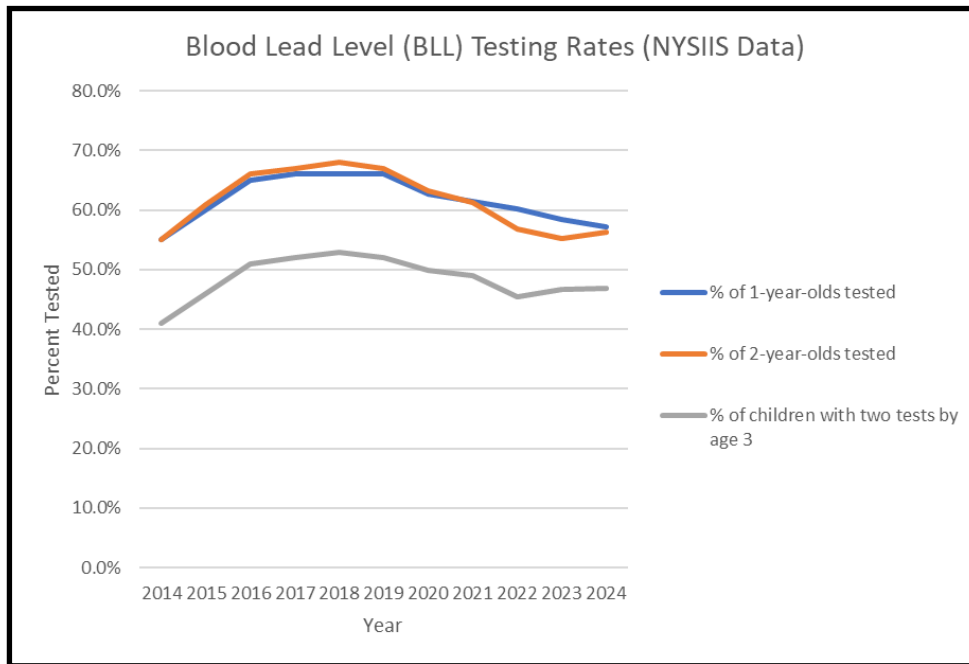
WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM Summary of statistics for 2022, 2023 and 2024

Regulated Public Water System Information	2022	2023	2024
Active Facilities	152	152	154
Inspections / Sanitary Surveys	75	75	96
Notices of Violations Issued*	269	269	231
Formal Enforcement Actions	1	1	0
Boil Water Orders	~5	10	7
Other Emergencies	3 Conserve Water Orders	4 Conserve Water Orders	1 Conserve Water Order
Samples Collected	72 Coliform 20 Chemical	99 Coliform 9 Chemical	137 Coliform 24 Chemical

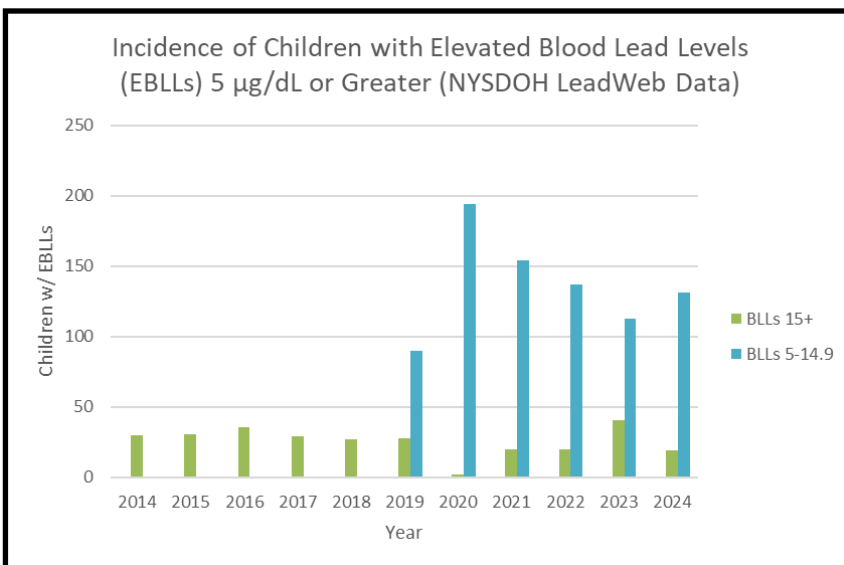
*Notices of Violations are issued for Sampling & Operational Report Violations.

ENGINEERING PLANS Summary Statistics for 2022, 2023 and 2024

Engineering Plans Reviewed and Approved	2022	2023	2024
Water System Expansions/Improvements	5	5	10
Backflow Prevention Devices	14	18	8
Realty Subdivisions	3	0	1
Individual Wastewater Disposal Systems Plans (non-conventional)	3	6	7
Swimming pools / Beaches (new or improvements)	3	1	3
Campgrounds (new, improvements or expansions)	4	3	1
Mobile Home Parks	1	1	1
Children's Camps	1	0	0
Total Approved Plans:	34	34	31

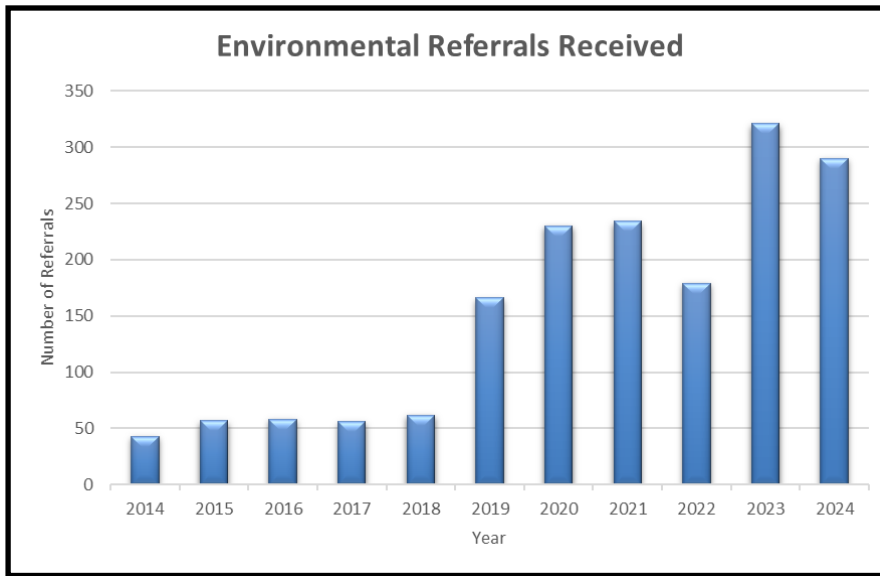
CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM (CLPPP+) Statistics 2024**ONEIDA COUNTY BLL TESTING DATA (NYSIIS DATA)**

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1 YR. OLD	55.0%	60.0%	65.0%	66.0%	66.0%	66.0%	62.7%	61.5%	60.2%	58.4%	57.1%
2 YR. OLD	55.0%	61.0%	66.0%	67.0%	68.0%	67.0%	63.2%	61.2%	56.8%	55.3%	56.3%
3 YR. OLD W/ BLL TESTS ~ AGES 1 & 2	41.0%	46.0%	51.0%	52.0%	53.0%	52.0%	49.9%	49.0%	45.4%	46.7%	46.9%

ONEIDA COUNTY INCIDENCE OF ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS (NYSDOH LeadWeb Data)

**Data related to BLLs 5-9 ug/dl prior to 2019 is not available in LeadWeb*

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Children with BLL 15 µg/dL & Above	30	31	36	29	27	28	2	20	20	41	19
Children with BLL 5 µg/dL to 14.9 µg/dL						90	194	154	137	113	131
Total Elevated Children	30	31	36	29	27	118	196	174	157	154	150

Number of Environmental Referrals Based on Children with Blood Lead Levels 5 µg/dL or Greater (NYS LeadWeb Data)

Data is based on the annual number of Environmental Referrals from 2014 – 2024. 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.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Successful implementation of the NYSDEC septic system replacement grant in Oneida County, enabling homeowners to improve wastewater management and protect local water quality.
- Developed a comprehensive community action plan for pedestrians and bicyclists for the Village of Boonville, promoting safer and more sustainable transportation options.
- Created new standardized forms for flushing and pressure testing of water mains, ensuring compliance with allowable leakage standards and improving system integrity.
- Provided technical guidance to public water systems for completing lead and copper service line inventories, addressing state and federal regulatory requirements.
- Provided oversight for flow and pressure testing in the Hamlet of Barneveld, supporting the Town of Barneveld's funding application for a water infrastructure project. This involved observing and verifying pressure tests conducted at hydrants and residential locations.
- Conducted numerous pre-interviews with prospective certified operators, focusing on their understanding of regulatory compliance, emergency preparedness, and advanced treatment technologies as part of the certification process.
- Provided emergency response support following the July 16, 2024 tornado in Rome, deploying the County's Mobile Medical Unit, assisting with shelter set-ups, distributing supplies, locating dry ice, and providing food safety guidance.
- ATUPA (Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act) Program – NYS Department of Health utilized OCHD's innovative ATUPA program initiatives, which include the seizure of illegal flavored vape products and collaboration with the Oneida County Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's office, as a model for other counties throughout the state.

- The ATUPA Program seized 20,199 illegal flavored vape products and collected a total of \$69,710 in fines for the 2024 calendar year.
- Trained six new Childhood Lead Poisoning Protection Program (CLPPP+) employees: one Community Health Worker, two Public Health Technicians, three Public Health Sanitarians.
- CLPPP+ helped 41 families with 152 children access Healthy Living Supplies by referring to Lead Free Mohawk Valley Coalition's Healthy Living Supplies Project and delivering the products to each family.
- Enforcement Actions – A total of 92 Dockets were created, with 41 Administrative Hearings conducted.
- A total of 87 FOIL Requests were fulfilled.
- EH investigated 62 complaints, incidents, and illnesses.

GOALS IN 2025: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Maintain and expand the assisted water sampling program for synthetic organic compounds (SOC), pesticides (POC), and inorganic chemicals (IOC), reducing the financial burden on small water systems and ensuring compliance with federal standards.
- Assist the City of Rome Public Water Supply in securing funding for the Kessinger Dam Rehabilitation Project through grants and technical guidance.
- Continue to participate in the ongoing NYS wastewater surveillance program, enhancing the detection and monitoring of pathogens to safeguard public health.
- Provide extensive training and technical assistance to public water systems on the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), emphasizing compliance strategies and public education.
- Promote and support the implementation of cross-connection control programs across local systems to prevent contamination of public water supplies.
- Assist water systems in developing climate resilience plans to address vulnerabilities to flooding, drought, and other climate-related risks.
- Implement comprehensive cross-training initiatives for staff, enhancing their expertise across critical programs such as water quality, children's camps, and rabies prevention. These efforts ensure a versatile and highly skilled workforce capable of addressing diverse public health priorities efficiently and effectively.
- Rabies Prevention Program – Vaccinate 1,000 or more pets against rabies.
- CLPPP+ (Lead) Program – Develop guidance for implementation of the new NYS Rental Registry Program.
- Continued collaboration with the City of Utica and Lead Free & Health Homes Mohawk Valley on the HUD lead hazard control grant.
- Continued collaboration with the Department of Water Pollution Control FOG (Fats/Oils/Grease) Program.

SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS PROGRAM

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN):

- System of care for children from birth to 21 years of age.
- Empowers families to advocate for health care needs of their children.
- Provides resources and referral information to families with children suspected of chronic health, behavioral or emotional conditions.
- Assist in establishing a medical home, accessing private or public insurance, identifying gaps in community systems of care, establishing connections to community resources.

CYSHCN PROGRAM DATA	2022	2023	2024
Birth < 12 Years of Age	71	143	456*

**Data increase for 2024 reflects additional referrals from other County programs and departments.*

Child Find:

- Ensures eligible children are identified.
- Monitors screening of children at risk.
- Provides materials to families such as milestones and normal developmental achievements.
- Refers to early intervention program.

Child Find Program Data: 360 enrolled, 0-2 years of age (accurate as of January 2025)

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

- Provides services to children under the age of three with a developmental delay or disability.
- Provides a team that includes teachers, therapists, service coordination, and an early intervention official designee.
- Services can be provided at home, childcare facilities, or anywhere the child spends their day.
- Helps families support and promote child's growth and includes community activities.

Overview of Early Intervention Program:

1. Referral source or parent suspects child under age of three of having a developmental delay or disability.
2. Early Intervention Official Designee assigned to case, oversees case until child ages out.
3. Early Intervention Official Designee or Initial Service Coordinator provides family with information about the early intervention program including family rights, evaluators, medical, and insurance information.
4. Initial evaluation completed and reports provided to the family. Evaluation provides information for the Individualized Family Service Plan.
5. Individualized Family Service Plan meeting determines child eligibility with team (Family, Initial Service Coordinator, Evaluators, Early Intervention Official Designee). Family identifies desired outcome and early intervention services specified.
6. Ongoing Service Coordination provides families with providers for therapy services, continues communication with family throughout the early intervention time.
7. Six-month reviews are completed to update the Individual Family Service Plan. Transition plans are created and sent to the local school district when child reaches two-and-a-half years of age.

The Oneida County Early Intervention Program uses 17 outside agencies to assist with services. The Early Intervention Program handled 335 cases.

Three of the outside agencies are approved for Initial Service Coordination with 24 cases served. Ten agencies are approved for Early Intervention evaluations. Four agencies are approved for Ongoing Service Coordination.

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM DATA	2022	2023	2024
Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) Performed	250	249	566
Bilingual MDEs Performed	11	23	18
Supplemental Evaluations Performed	29	75	25
**Special Instruction Visits	32,978	38,922	16,648
*Physical Therapy / Occupational Therapy Visits	10,439	10,180	12,941
**Speech / Language Therapy Visits	11,859	10,640	7,393
Vision Therapy Visits	40	21	82
Total of Visits Including Service Coordination	69,013	73,505	37,673

**Therapies combined due to billing codes.*

***Total visits declined due to therapist shortage in Oneida County..*

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

- Program is administered through New York State Department of Education. Federal and State Laws govern the program and grant administrative authority to school districts located in Oneida County.
- New York State Education Law mandates each County to provide funding for this program.
- Educational and therapeutic services occur in least restrictive environment.
- Program is for children 3-5 years of age who have been evaluated and classified as Preschool Student with a Disability.
- Classified children receive an Individualized Education Plan, which outlines a variety of recommended special services.

Overview of Preschool Special Education:

1. Referral received by School District in Oneida County.
2. Parental consent to proceed with a preschool evaluation.
3. Committee on Special Education team reviews evaluation and recommendations are decided with family input.
4. Individual Education Plan is written by school district and submitted to family and Oneida County Preschool Department.
5. School District is responsible for providing services to preschooler. Oneida County Preschool Department provides a list of agencies contracted with the County.
6. Oneida County Preschool Department monitors, assists, and provides transportation for preschoolers to specialized preschool programs within Oneida County.

Oneida County Preschool Department currently has 11 approved agencies and 10 independent therapists who provide services.

Oneida County Preschool Department is currently servicing 473 Preschoolers with Disabilities. 394 preschoolers were evaluated, and 72 preschoolers did not qualify for services.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN) staff worked with a Regional Support Center Specialist to implement our Technical Assistance Support Plan.
- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN) increased Facebook membership by transitioning to a public group.
- Special Children Services staff collaborated with community partners to provide resources to children and families.

GOALS IN 2025: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- Special Children Services will collaborate with medical facilities to educate and provide resources to children and families in Early Intervention.
- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN) will continue to use billboards and bus campaigns to enhance community awareness.
- Early Intervention/Preschool will combine upcoming Chairperson Preschool School Committee meetings with Individual Family Service Plan review to extend the early intervention children to maximize services and decrease administrative time.
- Preschool will add additional school district contracts for related services to expand services for children with Individual Education Plans.
- Special Children Services will collaborate with community providers to assist with therapies.



PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY

