



ONEIDA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2020 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 2020 Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) Annual Report. This report includes information and data from all programs within the Health Department, including New York State Department of Health mandated services.

The SARS-CoV-19 (commonly known as COVID-19) global pandemic has been the most significant public health crisis in over 100 years. Consequently, COVID-19 related response activities have dominated the workload of the Oneida County Health Department since March of 2020.



A review of 2020 highlights:

- Many Health Department initiatives included National Accreditation efforts and Oneida County Health Coalition activities were postponed due to COVID-19.
- There was a 50% increase in communicable disease investigations due to COVID-19.
- Environmental Health inspections were significantly reduced due to COVID-19 safety precautions.
- Lead poisoning prevention outreach was provided to all children with elevated blood lead levels but home visits were limited due to COVID-19 safety precautions.
- Health Promotion and Outreach effort shifted all public health education to the COVID-19 effort.
- OCHD partnered with the County Planning Department to develop a data dashboard that tracks and monitors drug overdose information in Oneida County.
- Special Children Services Programs continued but the overall number of children receiving services declined due to the implementation of COVID-19 safety precautions.

I would like to thank all employees of the Oneida County Health Department who have worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. And thanks to other County Departments and individual employees that have provided much needed planning, logistical, and staffing support to assist the Health Department in COVID-19 related efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. and the Board of Legislators for their support of Public Health during the COVID-19 pandemic and to improve and protect the health of our residents and those that may live, work or play in Oneida County.

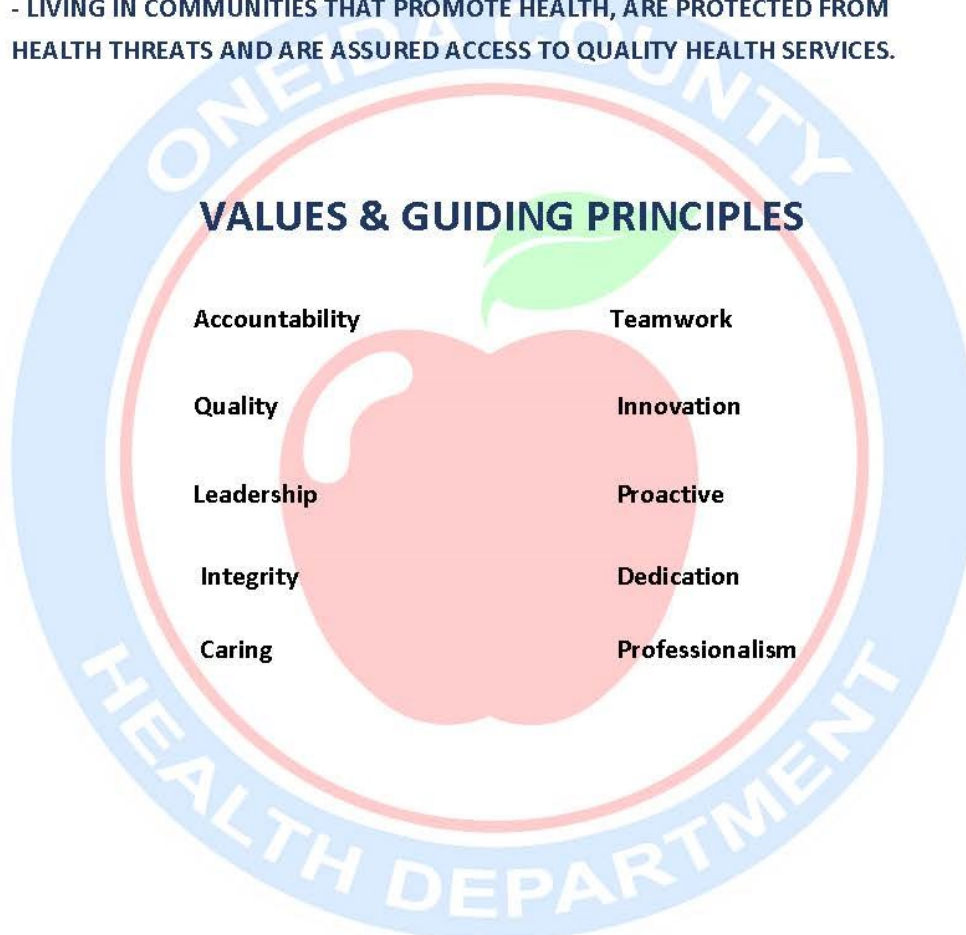
Daniel W. Gilmore, Ph.D., MPH, Director of Health

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

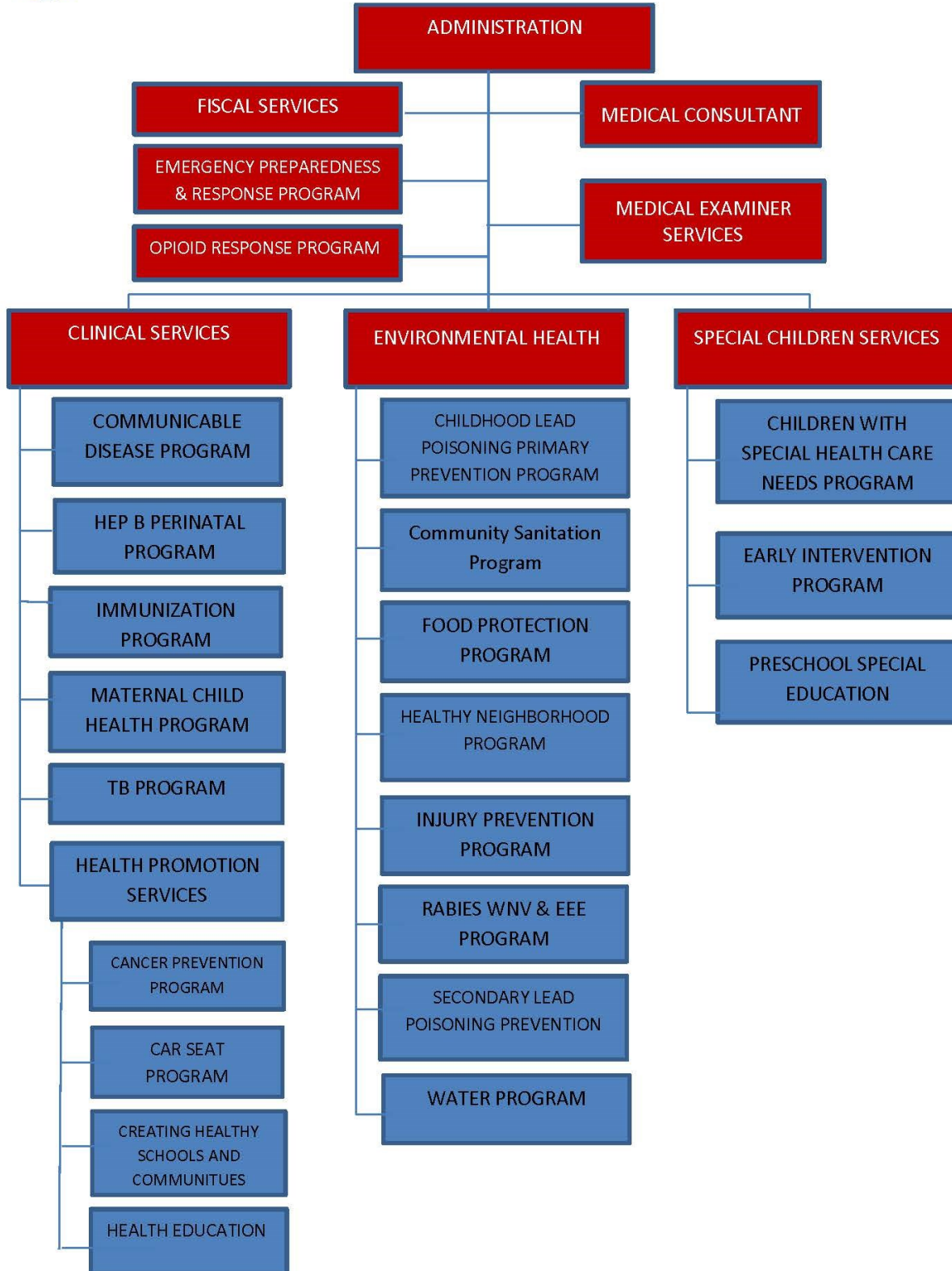
ONEIDA COUNTY RESIDENTS WILL BE THE HEALTHIEST PEOPLE IN NEW YORK STATE
- LIVING IN COMMUNITIES THAT PROMOTE HEALTH, ARE PROTECTED FROM
HEALTH THREATS AND ARE ASSURED ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES.





Oneida County Health Department Organizational Chart

2020



OCHD BUDGET SUMMARY 2020

Program	Total Costs	% of Budget	% of Federal Funding	% of State Funding	% of County Funding	% of Other Funding	% of Medicare Medicaid
Administration	\$ 1,615,911	9.28%		36%	64%		
Pre-School (3-5)	\$ 9,550,889	54.86%		59%	39%		2%
Early Intervention	\$ 1,537,788	8.84%	15%	30%	53%		2%
Physically Handicapped Children	\$ 6,293	0.04%		100%			
Public Health Clinic	\$ 1,342,202	7.71%		43%	45%	11%	1%
Lead Poisoning Program	\$ 220,141	1.26%		65%	35%		
Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention	\$ 67,345	0.39%		56%	44%		
TB	\$ 12,596	0.07%		100%			
Environmental Health	\$ 1,391,566	8.00%		36%	37%	27%	
Immunization Consortium	\$ 140,567	0.81%		100%			
Cancer Prevention Program	\$ 76,162	0.44%		100%			
Emergency Preparedness	\$ 131,675	0.76%		100%			
Medical Examiner	\$ 1,230,550	7.07%		11%	89%		
Opioid Grants	\$ 81,595	0.47%	71%	22%	7%		

All figures are as of 2/19/21

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TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The 10 Essential Public Health Services describe the public health activities that all communities should undertake:

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
8. Assure competent public and personal health care workforce
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems



Source: CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/publichealthservices/pdf/essential-phs.pdf>

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 legal, personnel, fiscal, strategic planning and quality improvement activities. Administrative staff also support personnel, payroll, and fiscal management 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.

Administration includes the following programs and services:

PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING

Health planning includes a range of activities that support collaborative health planning with community partners, organizational strategic planning and performance improvement activities. A few major partnership initiatives conducted in 2020 include the following:

ACCREDITATION

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the continuous quality improvement of public health departments by establishing standards and measurements of performance against a set of nationally recognized and evidenced-based standards.

In 2015, OCHD senior management staff began an orientation and review of each of the twelve PHAB domains. Areas of improvement were identified and the Department continues to make great strides in the areas of quality improvement, performance management, workforce development and emergency preparedness. OCHD will continue to work towards accreditation achievement and will adapt as needs, circumstances and other demands arise.

In 2020 senior management staff had intended to begin a detailed review of the twelve domains, identifying areas where progress has been made and targeting any remaining areas for improvement. Domain teams were to be activated to begin more detailed domain review and to support the development of action plans in those areas identified as needing improvement. This effort was set aside due to the COVID-19 pandemic response and will be resumed in the future.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

The Oneida County Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan was developed in collaboration with Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS) and Rome Memorial Hospital (RMH). The report summarizes the health status of the community and the selected public health and hospital Prevention Agenda health improvement goals from the NYS Prevention Agenda focus areas, specifically, Chronic Disease Preventive Care and Management; and Opioid Overdose Prevention. For more detail, [review the Plan here](#).

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH COALITION

The Oneida County Health Coalition (OCHC) is a partnership of community agencies and organizations that support population health improvement through the framework and goals of the NYS Prevention Agenda. The OCHC serves as a platform for community partners to increase awareness of local public health issues, leverage additional support or resources, network, and to recruit new partners for existing or newly-identified initiatives. The OCHC supports OCHD's community health assessment and health improvement planning activities through participation in community stakeholder meetings and providing guidance on identification of priorities.

PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE INITIATIVE

In 2020, OCHD participated in the New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) ongoing Local Health Department (LHD) Performance Incentive Initiative in which year eight of the program began November 1, 2019 and concluded September 1, 2020. The initiative focused on expedited partner therapy for the treatment of *Chlamydia Trachomatis* infection. This program falls under the Clinic Services Division of the Oneida County Health Department.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was interrupted as significant resources were dedicated to the pandemic response efforts. Oneida County did participate and was awarded a total of \$21,893. These monies can be used to support costs associated with Article 6 eligible services.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2019 the department completed the Oneida County Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The Department's 2016--2018 strategic plan was extended through 2019. In 2020 new strategies were to be developed and the plan was to also incorporate the new target initiatives of the CHIP in the next Strategic Plan. This work was laid aside due to the COVID-19 pandemic response and will resume in the future.

The 2016-2019 Strategic Plan focused on the following priority areas:

- Accountability and Improved Practice of Public Health
- Quality Improvement & Performance Management
- Health Education & Marketing
- Collaboration & Information Sharing
- Workforce Development
- All Hazards Emergency Operations Planning
- Opioids

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Includes planning, coordinating and ensuring the quality of services provided through the development of indicators and audit tools to measure performance, use of cost vs. benefit analysis, the development and implementation of quality management tools to ensure effective program management, and supporting public health accreditation efforts.

Quality improvement (QI) training is incorporated to all new employee orientation. The OCHD Quality Council was to meet quarterly for review of department QI related activities. The Council's role is to review quality initiatives within the Department, ensure ongoing training in QI for all staff, support all efforts to build and enhance the quality culture within OCHD. The department strives to identify opportunities for improvement and address those opportunities using proven QI methods, in order to provide the best service for all customers.

In 2019 the QI Council updated the Department QI Plan to include criteria for all Divisions and programs to follow in order to assure that quality improvement becomes engrained in how we do business. Performance management has been incorporated through tracking of annual Division goals, objectives and activities. Progress is monitored and posted in three areas of the Department, for all staff to follow progress. Performance management and workforce development activities are based on Public Health Accreditation Board Standards and Measures. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic response, department-wide QI efforts were paused in 2020.

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

The Director of Health led a leadership initiative to start an Employee Wellness Program in 2016. With support from the County Executive and a Wellness Steering Committee, all County employees were invited to complete a wellness survey. Department heads nominated their department Champion to participate in quarterly meetings and bring back information to their coworkers.

The Secretary to the Director of Health coordinates the program, plans activities and events, creates the content for the Wellness Email and publishes it in Constant Contact. Ninety-two issues later, readership continues to increase and feedback is positive.

In 2017 we focused on Oneida County grounds being tobacco-free by 1-1-18, stress management, and moving more. In 2018 and 2019 our goals focused on event participation and readership of the Wellness Email. We surpassed each of our goals and were rewarded with two MVP Workplace Wellness Excellence awards — the Platinum Achievement award, and Workplace Well-Being Innovation Award—for a unique lunch hour walking program which integrates the community and practicing cultural competency by creating a diverse set of experiences to appeal to people of all ages and interests!

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was interrupted as significant resources were dedicated to the pandemic response efforts. We did roll out our new Employee Wellness logo—designed by an Oneida County employee for a contest last year. A favorite lunch hour event, the breast cancer awareness Human Pink Ribbon at Murnane Field, was canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19. Our plan was to distribute grey infinity scarves with the pink ribbon logo (crocheted with love by a Health Department daughter) to OC employees who are breast cancer survivors. In lieu of the Human Pink Ribbon, we offered a *Wear Pink Walk* on October 9, socially distant and wearing masks. We were delighted to have 33 attendees who work in county offices in Utica, Rome and Oriskany, including many survivors who sported their new scarves. This turnout was the best ever for a lunch hour walk.

We look forward to getting back to regular newsletters, offering walks and other work/life activities, and inspiring each other in wellness, and educate employees how to earn MVP WellBeing Rewards, which increased to up to \$600 in 2020.

MEDICAL EXAMINER SERVICES

As of 2013, 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 2013—2020*

ONEIDA COUNTY SUMMARY DATA	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Total cases	658	696	724	736	767	842	858	892
Non-Medical Examiner cases	414	436	474	468	499	565	578	604
Expert Consultation cases	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Medical Examiner cases	244	260	249	267	267	277	280	288
Autopsy examinations	199	216	199	220	219	213	233	231
External examinations	15	22	20	17	20	23	21	31
Death Certificate only – no examination	30	22	30	30	28	41	26	26
Manner of death								
Accident	90	88	94	129	122	116	117	123
Motor Vehicle Accidents	21	15	17	17	22	24	16	17
Drug Use/Toxin Related	25	36	40	65	60	39	64	64
<i>Heroin Related</i>	12	17	11	16	5	3	3	1
<i>Fentanyl Related</i>	1	2	7	16	21	9	15	30
<i>Heroin & Fentanyl Related</i>	0	2	4	18	20	15	27	14
<i>Other Opioids</i>	4	11	10	5	6	7	8	5
<i>Other drugs</i>	8	4	8	10	8	5	11	14
Falls	29	22	30	27	27	37	31	30
Environmental	2	3	1	3	1	1	0	2
Other Blunt Trauma	2	1	2	3	5	0	1	2
Drowning	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1
Asphyxia	4	2	1	4	2	5	1	1
Fire	1	5	0	5	2	5	2	2
Medical Procedure	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Sharp Force Injury	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Other	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	3
Homicide	13	9	12	6	4	6	10	15
Natural	99	119	116	106	110	113	113	94
Suicide	36	32	24	21	28	32	31	32
Undetermined	4	10	2	4	3	7	7	13
Manner not applicable/fetal deaths	2	2	1	1	0	3	2	0
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11

*Preliminary due to pending cases.

CLINICAL SERVICES / DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

Oneida County Health Department 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 staff 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 74 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 (NYSDOH). Staff works 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	2018	2019	2020
Case investigations	9,889	9,816	15,481
Actual cases of reportable communicable disease	6,373	7,194	15,291

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

The [Sexually Transmitted Disease](#) program is responsible for the investigation of, follow-up (including partner notification when indicated), surveillance and reporting of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV. In 2020, Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson provided the STD Testing and Treatment program in accordance with the NYSDOH regulations for Oneida County Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

ANNUAL DATA	2018	2019 Reviewed	2019 Cases Managed	2020 Cases Reviewed and Managed
Cases of Chlamydia in Oneida County	825	931	840	635
Cases of Gonorrhea in Oneida County	109	341	154	388
Cases of Syphilis in Oneida County	16	69	22	29

Note: Syphilis data represents Primary & Secondary and Early Latent.

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 evaluating 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	2018	2019	2020
Total Visits	914	661	340
Active cases managed by OCHD	4	3	4
Latent TB cases identified	250	220	23

*People with latent TB infection do not have symptoms, and they cannot spread TB bacteria to others. However, if 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.

IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

The Oneida County Health Department provides **immunizations** at our clinical sites. The program partners with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and their Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adult (VFA) program 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 reduce/eliminate perinatal hepatitis B transmission from mother to newborn. Additionally, staff participates in The Mohawk Valley Immunization Alliance. 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	2018	2019	2020
Total Visits	3,283	3,961	2,212
Total Clients (Post Exposure Rabies)	68	49	64
Total Clients (Flu Shot)	733	649	291
Total Clients (Green Card)	330	237	76

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	2018	2019	2020
Total Cases	12	12	13

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020: CLINICAL SERVICES/DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

- Clinic staff were redirected to take over COVID-19 response on a daily basis beginning on March 13, 2020. Worked with leadership to guide the community through the pandemic.
- Demonstrated a commitment to continually enhance our knowledge, skill and judgement as nurses and staff. This was shown as the COVID-19 pandemic hit Upstate New York.
- Expansive growth in the knowledge of COVID-19 from spread to illness to vaccine distribution.
- Worked as a clinical team to educate the public on the COVID-19 spread.
- Conduct education, monitoring and enforcement to ensure that 100% of staff comply with all regulatory requirements on an ongoing basis.
- Continued to work on the elimination of TB in Oneida County.
- Clinic staff were asked to work with NYSDOH on the Hepatitis A outbreaks that developed in 2020. We were able to hold hepatitis A PODs in the community when needed.
- Administer vaccine for the school age children that needed their immunizations. It was conducted on a smaller version due to the pandemic.
- Worked with Environmental Health to make sure that individuals that needed rabies vaccine were inoculated.

GOALS IN 2021: CLINICAL SERVICES / DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

- Team culture will be a goal for 2021: how team members get along with each other and how to share the care of the patients.
- Risk management strategies, including communicating with difficult patients and proper documentation.
- Clinic to be committed to creating a caring service environment while ensuring that individual differences are valued at every level. This allows us to reflect our community and the diversity.
- Continue to vaccinate the Oneida County population, with COVID vaccine and all other immunizations needed for residents of all ages.

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 provides education, seeks compliance and, when necessary, initiates enforcement action to conform 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 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.

COMMUNITY SANITATION PROGRAMS DATA	Number of Active Facilities			Number of Inspections		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Temporary Residences	51	50	51	53	52	13
Swimming Pools & Bathing Beaches	96	92	89	125	104	15
Campgrounds	31	30	29	32	32	0
Children's Camps	15	18	2	33	38	2
Mobile Home Parks	66	64	60	75	73	1

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 DATA	Number Active Facilities			Number of Inspections		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Low Risk	87	80	80	101	94	5
Medium Risk	520	518	522	707	840	43
High Risk	401	405	41	884	875	102
Total	1008	1003	1014	1692	1809	150

Other Food Program Activities:

- 45 pre-operational inspections.
- 373 summer feeding sites, 0 inspections.
- 93 mobile food vendors, 1 inspection.
- 13 inspections at 34 temporary events with a total of 53 vendors.
- 143 complaint investigations (128 COVID-19 related), 14 illness investigations
- 7 Hepatitis A outbreak investigations.
- 4 COVID-19 outbreak investigations, including 2 COVID-19 super-spreader events.
- 3 CIAA complaints and investigations.

Tanning Facility 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 cleanliness of tanning equipment and record maintenance. There were 14 tanning facilities in operation in 2020.

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 conducts compliance checks, re-inspections, and follow-up visits. In 2019, the ATUPA Regulations were modified to include a ban of flavored e-cigarettes, therefore the total number of retail tobacco vendors increased significantly in 2020, from 215 to 228. There were 32 ATUPA compliance checks at 228 retail tobacco vendors in 2020.

ADOLESCENT TOBACCO DATA	2018	2019	2020
# Retail Tobacco Vendors	215	215	228
# Compliance Checks	231	174	32

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. In 2020, Environmental Health staff also fielded and/or investigated over 800 COVID-19 related complaints.

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 DATA	2018	2019	2020
Rabies Exposure Investigations	444	613	557
Post-exposure Treatment for Humans	51	53	70
Rabies Vaccines Administered to Pets	456	402	249
Sponsored Pet Vaccination Clinics	9	7	3

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. In 2019, 305 collections of mosquitoes were analyzed and no WNV or EEE was detected and no animals or humans were infected with WNV or EEE. In addition, educational information is provided to people to reduce the risk of contracting WNV or EEE. In 2020, field work for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis prevention was suspended, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

The goal of the [Drinking Water Program](#) is to ensure that the public is protected from illness and injury resulting from water-borne 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 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 a number of requests from home owners / prospective buyers, lenders and realtors related to water well and septic regulations.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM DATA	2018	2019	2020
Active	155	154	154
Inspected	90 (66 sanitary surveys)	154 (88 sanitary surveys)	4
Notices of Violations Issued	99	149	68
Formal Enforcement Actions (Stipulation / Hearing)	0	17	0
Boil Water Orders and Other Emergencies	12	~10 (4 issued by OCHD) 2- Conserve Water Advisories	~5 (0 issued by OCHD) 1- Conserve Water Order
Samples Collected	97 Coliform 19 chemical	155 Coliform 9 Chemical	2 Coliform 6 Chemical

ENGINEERING PLAN REVIEW

Contracts are in place with several consulting engineering firms to review engineer plans on behalf of the Health Department and ensure that facilities and projects meet the standards contained in the NYS Sanitary Code and generally accepted engineering standards. The plan review process ensures that environmental health concerns are addressed and acceptable practices are in place prior to the use of the facility. Plans for new facilities as well as plans for replacement and upgrades of existing facilities are reviewed.

ENGINEERING PLANS REVIEWED AND APPROVED	2018	2019	2020
Water System Expansions/Improvements	7	12	1
Backflow Prevention Devices	17	11	3
Realty Subdivisions	0	0	0
Individual Wastewater Disposal Systems Plans (non-conventional)	4	4	1
Swimming Pools / Beaches (new or improvements)	3	4	1
Campground (improvement or expansion)	1	1	0
Mobile Home Park	1	0	1
Total Plans	33	32	7

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) was an entirely grant funded by the NYS Department of Health for five years, with an additional sixth year added ending its fourth quarter in 2020 (January through March). The program serviced a geographically-defined area that included the cities of Rome and Sherrill along with the towns of Annsville, Ava, Boonville, Camden, Durhamville, Florence, Lee, Lee Center, Sylvan Beach, Taberg, Vernon, Verona, Vienna, Western, Westernville and Westmoreland. The program was designed to reduce housing-related illness and injury within a targeted area through home visits; a health and safety assessment using a questionnaire; providing health and safety education to families and individuals; offering agency and organization referrals as needed and providing free health and safety supplies. Presentations were provided to groups, agencies or work through health fairs and meetings. The only qualification was that people surveyed live in the target area. This was provided regardless of an individual's age, income, if they owned or rented their dwelling, or if they had or did not have children.

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM 2020

Healthy Neighborhoods staff provided program information on housing hygiene and safety to community residents and organizations through outreach, trainings and meetings. Any visual lead hazards that were observed in housing with children were noted and provided to LPPP for remediation. Safety products were distributed to residents who participated in the program to assist them in making their home safe. However, the COVID-19 emergency unfortunately prevented the program from distributing safety products to a number of participants. Numerous educational materials were provided to residents as needed. The funding for this grant ended on March 31, 2020. Prior to the end of the grant, staff were able to conduct 302 initial visits in the fourth quarter (January through March 2020). There were no revisits in the fourth quarter for the program.

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM	2018	2019	2020
Initial Visits	409	302	302
Re-Visits	81	45	0

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAMS

In 2020, two Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs were housed in Oneida County Health Department's Environmental Division.

Since 2007, the Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program (CLPPPP) has been tasked to eliminate lead poisoning hazards in homes before any child becomes poisoned. This program was non-mandated by New York State; however, NYS Department of Health provided funding distributions to counties that have significant childhood lead poisoning cases in their borders. A geographically defined area within East and West Utica was designated as the boundaries for the program. The program focused on educating young families, health care professionals, property owners, and renovation contractors on the risks, dangers, and causes of lead poisoning in children. In addition, a visual inspection of the dwelling where the child resided was conducted to determine areas of deteriorated paint where the child lives or plays. Lead dust wipe samples were collected to determine lead in dust levels in the structure. Using these findings, areas of hazardous lead conditions could be determined, reported to the parents, caregivers and/or owners in a Notice, and corrections could be made. For rental units, a period of time for corrections were issued and a final clearance, both visual and using lead dust wipes, was conducted to ensure all identified lead hazards had been removed. Child blood lead levels (BLL) were monitored during this process.

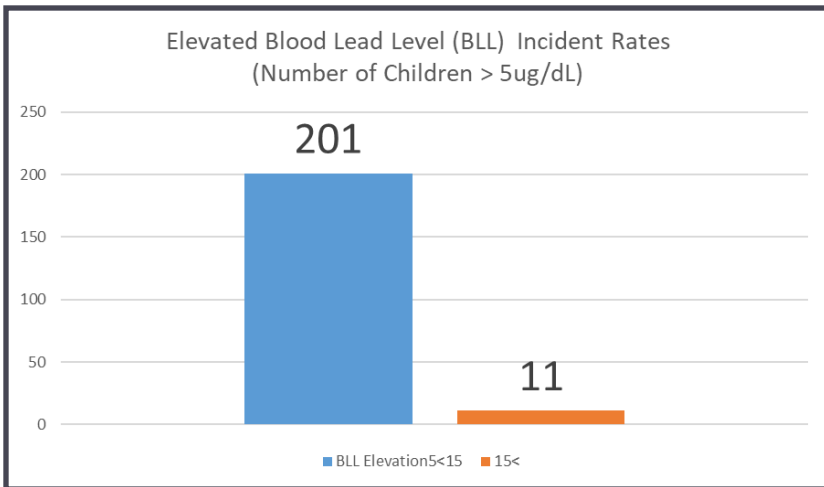
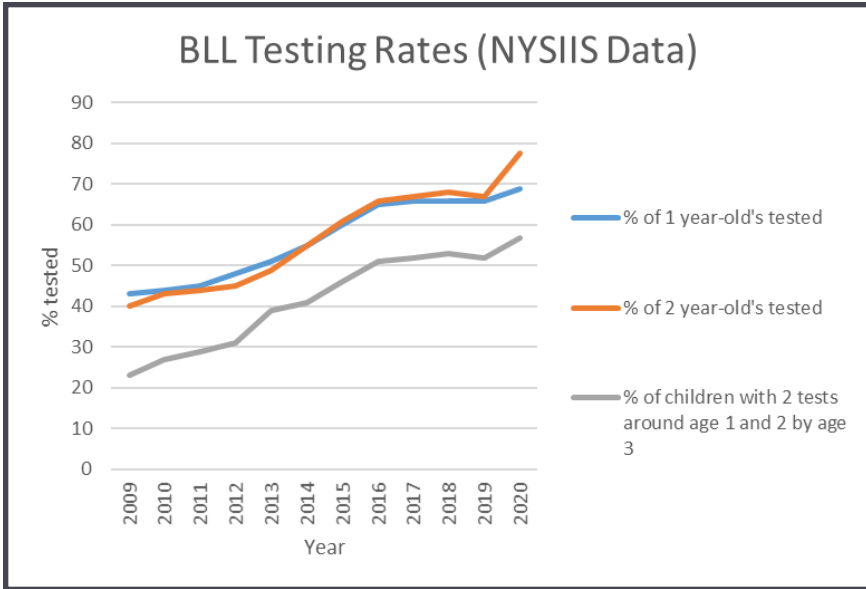
The secondary Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) is a NYS Department of Health mandated program that provides case coordination and environmental investigations for children under the age of eighteen with elevated blood lead levels (BLL). Services provided include home inspections, outreach worker home visits, written educational materials to families, environmental inspections including visual inspections, lead detection via XRF and dust wipe analyses, referrals to healthcare providers, coordination with school staff, and community agencies for children with BLLs ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. Parents/guardians of children with BLLs ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ are provided with BLL re-testing recommendations, educational materials and BLL monitoring. Mailings are sent to parents/guardians of one and two year old children lacking BLL testing. Staff from this program attend community health fairs, provide lead poisoning prevention presentations to community members and agencies, and provides written information to healthcare providers and community agencies. Lead testing for children is provided through the OCHD D&T Clinic for children lacking medical providers and/or health insurance.

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAMS 2020

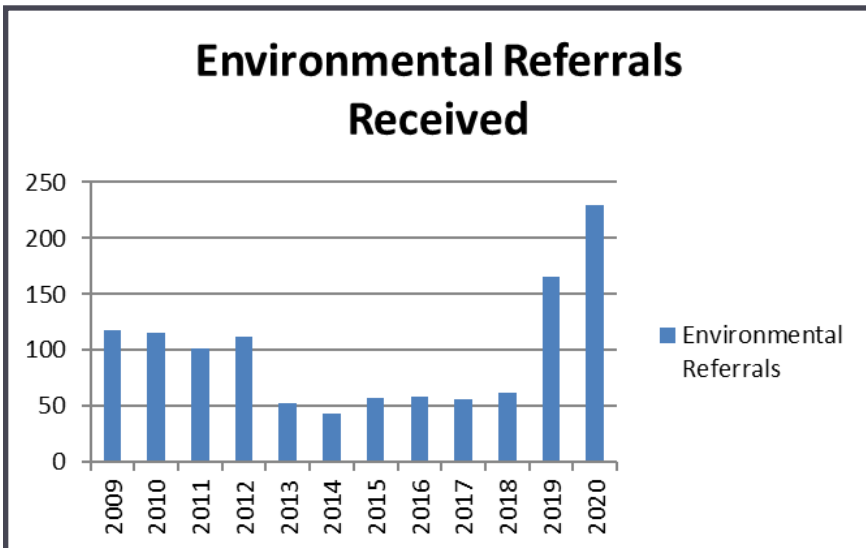
The blood lead level (BLL) threshold that requires case management for a child and a full-scale environmental lead investigation for the home was lowered from 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ to 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ through a change in NYS Public Health Law (PHL) on October 1, 2019. As a result of this change in PHL, both CLPPPP and LPPP began conducting lead inspections and providing lead poisoning prevention and risk reduction information to parents/guardians of children with BLLs of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or greater.

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program (CLPPPP) has realized a significant reduction in the number of children poisoned in Oneida County. This is also reflected in the reduced number of secondary LPPP cases over time. Oneida County was again awarded the CLPPPP grant for 2020; however, due to COVID-19, little action was achieved in 2020.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, the county put strict restrictions in place to protect both staff and community members. LPPP regular program activity was significantly changed due to these restrictions. Community events, presentations and meetings were postponed or cancelled. Limited follow-up was conducted and most activities that occurred were primarily by phone. Most LPPP staff were redirected to work on COVID response activities. Prior to March, LPPP was able to complete initial visits for care coordination and environmental investigations for 32 cases. From March to December, staff were able to conduct phone follow-up and education with 36 cases. Staff were able to follow-up and conduct environmental investigations for two urgent cases involving children with BLL's greater than 45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. These children were hospitalized, chelated and released to their dwellings after remediation and re-inspection/testing occurred to ensure no further lead hazards were present.



NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL REFERRALS BASED ON CHILDREN WITH BLOOD LEAD LEVELS 15 mcg/dL OR GREATER (LOCAL DATA)



Based on the annual average number of Environmental Referrals from 2009 – 2018 (average of 78), the number of Environmental Referrals received in 2019 and 2020 increased significantly.

This increase is due to the changing of NYSDOH regulations beginning 10/1/2019 at which time the LPPP intervention level of ≥ 15 ug/dL changed to ≥ 5 ug/dL.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE 2020: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

In March of 2020, the Health Department received notification of Oneida County's first case of COVID-19. The Oneida County Executive restricted field activities to minimize contact with the public, and in turn, protect the health and safety of all county employees. The Environmental Health (EH) division then focused its efforts on the Oneida County Health Department's COVID-19 Pandemic Response.

Environmental Health was tasked with investigating, referring and enforcing over 800 COVID-19 related complaints; delivering thermometers, face masks, gloves, and other supplies to over 700 county residents who were isolated and/or quarantined; serving Isolation Orders & Quarantine Orders throughout Oneida County; assisting with the OCHD COVID-19 Hotline; and inspecting and approving 53 gyms and fitness centers to ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidelines. EH also investigated two COVID-19 super-spreader events at weddings hosted by OCHD permitted facilities and potential exposures of COVID-19 positive food workers and gym employees.

These inspections, complaint investigations, & illness investigations resulted in 22 formal enforcement proceedings for violations of the Governor's COVID-19 Guidelines & Executive Orders. In addition, EH assisted OCHD clinical in conducting over 2,000 COVID-19 case investigations, while also compiling COVID-19 Public Exposures and developing plans for case investigations and case assignments.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- EH conducted over 2,000 COVID-19 case investigations.
- EH fielded and/or investigated more than 800 COVID-19 related complaints, including 143 complaints for OCHD permitted facilities.
- EH conducted 4 COVID-19 outbreak investigations at food service facilities, including two COVID-19 super-spreader events.
- EH conducted 22 COVID-19 Enforcement Proceedings.
- EH assisted with the OCHD COVID-19 Hotline phone calls.
- EH delivered thermometers, face masks, gloves, and other supplies to over 700 county residents who were isolated and/or quarantined.
- EH investigated 7 Hepatitis A outbreaks at 4 food service facilities, 2 OMH residences, and 1 NYS Agriculture & Markets facility.

GOALS IN 2021: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Continue to assist with OCHD COVID-19 Vaccination PODs, to vaccinate citizens of New York State against COVID-19.
- Continue to assist in OCHD's COVID-19 Pandemic Response.
- Assist OCHD regulated facilities with COVID-19 compliance.
- Resume routine inspections, investigations, & activities in all programs.
- All Community Public Water Supplies will update their Emergency Response Plans in 2021.
- All LPPP/CLPPP staff will receive LeadWeb training.
- Continued collaboration with Department of Water Pollution Control FOG Program.
- Collaboration with the City of Utica and LeadFreeMV on the HUD lead hazard control grant.
- One FSIO 1 trained by OCHD & NYS DOH.
- Fill vacant positions in EH.

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.

CANCER PREVENTION IN ACTION GRANT

Through the Cancer Prevention in Action program, the Oneida County Health Department provides cancer prevention education, resources, practices and policies to local communities within Herkimer, Madison and Oneida Counties.

The Cancer Prevention in Action program works to reduce the risk and burden of cancer. We work with local community sites to facilitate the adoption and implementation of sun safety practices and policies to prevent skin cancer. We promote paid time off for cancer screening policies at local worksites and non-profit organizations that will enable adults to take paid time off from work to seek recommended annual cancer screenings.

We also encourage parents of young children to speak to their child's pediatrician about the HPV vaccine as cancer prevention. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in New York State, but it doesn't have to be! This grant ending in the fall of 2020 due to the high demand needed for COVID-19 response.

CAR SEAT SAFETY PROGRAM

The design of the Car Seat Safety Event program is to educate parents and caregivers with economic hardships about the proper ways to transport children safely using child safety seats and seat belts. The focus of this program is to provide education on how to install the car seats. The team provides classroom education to all participants at the fitting station. We have collaborated with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office on these events. The Sheriffs also provide seat inspections. The Deerfield Fire Station has provided a safe location to hold our events.

ANNUAL DATA	2018	2019	2020
Total Car Seat Recipients	98	93	83

CREATING HEALTHY SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES (CHSC)

Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) is a five-year (2015-2020) grant-funded public health initiative by the NYS Department of Health awarded to Oneida-Herkimer Madison BOCES, in partnership with the Oneida County Health Department.

CHSC in Oneida County aims at reducing major risk factors of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases in five school districts and their associated communities, which include Adirondack Central School, Holland Patent Central School, Utica City Schools, Remsen Central School and Whitesboro Central School.

Oneida County Health Department staff implement community projects which focus on increasing access to healthy, affordable foods in communities, increasing adoption and use of food standards and procurement policies that increase healthy foods in community settings, and adopting/implementing Complete Streets policies, plans, and practices to increase access to opportunities to walk, bike and roll.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, and the county put strict restrictions in place to protect staff and community members. Program activity was stopped or significantly changed due to the restrictions. Many community events, presentations and meetings were postponed or cancelled. Health Department staff were redirected to work on COVID response activities so some CHSC activities were put on hold.

Some examples of the projects that were eventually completed before the grant ended in September 2020:

- In the Village of Boonville, the local Complete Streets Work Group was able to resolve some long-standing safety issues with a crosswalk near the elementary school. They also created a marked bike route around the village that highlights historical landmarks.
- In the City of Utica, the Complete Streets Work Group was able to partner with the city to set up a short-term demonstration project of safety enhancements and new bike lanes on a section of Genesee Streets. The project was successful and hopefully the city will make some of the changes permanent, making the street safer and more accessible for all residents.
- Human Technologies, a local business in the city of Utica, adopted a healthy food policy for their cafeteria, vending machines and meetings. They partnered with a local dietician to develop monthly promotions focusing on healthy eating for employees. Due to COVID restrictions, these evolved into newly-developed easy cooking videos that will be used in the lunchroom and reinforced by posters, recipes and foods offered in the cafeteria.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020: HEALTH PROMOTION

- Health Promotion worked with community Partners and hospitals on the Community Health Assessment / Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP) prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was beginning to move when COVID-19 hit Oneida County.
- Health Promotion focused to help educate the community on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus or COVID -19.
- Health Promotion was able to have safe car seat events during 2020. Mask wearing, social distancing and use of technology allowed for educating the community about car seat safety.

GOALS IN 2021: HEALTH PROMOTION

- To continue to hold car seat safety events using COVID-19 safety precautions.
- To continue to educate the community on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.
- To continue to be a source of education to the vaccine Points of Distribution (PODS) for COVID-19 vaccinations.

OPIOID PROGRAMS

OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION GRANT

Oneida County Health Department is 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 Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant focuses 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.

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE & CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION 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 the Overdose Response Team (see below), Oneida County through the Health Department, applied for and was awarded a grant 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.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020: OPIOID PROGRAMS

COVID-19 stalled some efforts to plan and implement strategies to reduce overdose deaths in the community. Despite these challenges, overdose surveillance activities were sustained along with collaboration with partners to ensure access to life-saving medication through virtual Naloxone trainings and drop offs, targeted community outreach in high-risk areas, expanded access to and expedited referrals for substance treatment services during overdose spikes and use of telehealth services to ensure access to medication assisted treatment. Additional highlights are outlined below:

OVERDOSE AND DRUG SURVEILLANCE

In collaboration with the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center, the Oneida County Overdose Response Team, continued implementation of the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), a surveillance tool being used nationwide to collect real-time overdose reports from first responders. ODMAP data is being used to proactively engage and link people that have experienced an overdose to treatment and recovery support services and to identify and alert the public to spikes in overdoses and overdose fatalities.

Continued preparation and distribution of Weekly Overdose Surveillance Reports to monitor overdoses and overdose fatalities by demographic and geographic distribution, suspected drug and naloxone administrations.

- Began collecting monthly probable overdose fatality data from the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office; this data is based on preliminary investigation reports from the Medical Examiner's Office Forensic Investigator and will supplement ODMAP overdose fatality data to provide more accurate and real-time overdose fatality data collection and surveillance.
- Continued collection and sharing of overdose and drug trend information from community and law enforcement that can be used to identify and mitigate new and potential drug threats. In response to confirmed reports of the presence of Carfentanil in three local drug screens, an ad-hoc Opioid Task Force Meeting was convened to assess the extent of the issue and potential responses; a Drug Trend Report was developed and shared to provide situational awareness to all partners. Explored recommended strategies including improving local capability to test for and detect more fentanyl analogs such as Carfentanil.
- The Partnership to End Addiction was awarded funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy to create a Spike Alert by Text pilot program. Washington/Baltimore HIDTA specifically recommended pilot testing in three communities: The States of Maine and Maryland and Oneida County because of the model work each community is doing with ODMAP and spike alerts. This initiative will enhance the ORT's current efforts to share timely information via text messaging regarding overdose spikes and drug threats directly to family and caregivers concerned about a loved one's substance use.
- In collaboration with the Oneida County Planning Department, developed a public-facing data dashboard that tracks key information pertaining to drug overdoses and trends in Oneida County. The dashboard contains near-real-time information such as weekly overdose counts, fatalities, demographic and geographic data, naloxone administration data, interactive maps and other relevant data points. This platform will enhance and expand data and information sharing with the community and partners to promote awareness and a shared understanding of the drug issue in the community and foster collaborative and targeted actions to address them.

LINKAGES TO CARE:

- Through collaboration with the Rescue Mission, Certified Peer Recovery Advocates (CRPAs) were deployed to make post-overdose visits to overdose victims captured in ODMAP. Thirty-two (32) individuals were connected to treatment and/or peer recovery support services.
- Initiated collaboration with local hospitals to develop and implement an evidence-based program developed by Dr. Joshua Lynch called the Oneida MATTERS (Medication Assisted Treatment and Referral) program to initiate and prescribe buprenorphine in hospital emergency departments and provide rapid referral to treatment services prior to discharge.

NALOXONE EXPANSION:

- The Overdose Response Team teamed up with the Utica Fire Department and Midstate EMS to launch the county's first Naloxone (Narcan) Leave Behind Program. As part of the program, naloxone kits which include a single-step 4 mg nasal spray dose, an instructional handout for administering and a pocket card with contact information for substance use services, will be left with patients who are treated by the Utica Fire Department for an opioid overdose or who are determined to be high-risk.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION:

- The County's implementation of ODMAP and its Overdose Spike Response Plan is recognized as a best practice nationwide. Since its implementation, Oneida County has received over a dozen requests from organizations across NYS and the country seeking guidance and mentoring.
- Overdose Response Team representatives from the Health Department, Mental Health, Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center, and ACR Health Syringe Exchange Program attended the Bureau of Justice Assistance National Conference in February 2020. The Oneida County team was invited to present to other grantees on implementation of ODMAP.
- At the recommendation of Washington/Baltimore HIDTA, the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) invited Oneida County along with ~8 other state and local communities to Washington D.C. to participate in drafting a model state law for the use and implementation of ODMAP. Lisa Worden, BJA Grant Project Director and Ermelindo Laracuent, Jr., HIDTA DIO attended on behalf of Oneida County's Overdose Response Team.

ONEIDA COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE:

- Continued collaboration and development of strategies for implementation for the Oneida County Opioid Task Force's Prevention, Recovery, Treatment Enhancement and Overdose (Crisis) Response Teams. Some planning and implementation activities were delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic response.

GOALS IN 2021: OPIOID PROGRAMS**PARTNERING WITH PUBLIC SAFETY AND ENHANCED DATA COLLECTION AND SURVEILLANCE:**

- Continued collaboration with the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center, the Overdose Response Team and its Data Analysis Subgroup to support ODMAP and to enhance and expand data sharing and surveillance efforts including:
 - developing a hospital emergency department overdose reporting process
 - exploring testing of drug paraphernalia to better identify and track drug trends
- Enhance efforts to collect and share data with community partners and the Opioid Task Force to drive decisions about team and agency interventions.
- Explore and consult with other communities on best practices, processes and resource requirements for development of an Overdose Fatality Review Team.
- Collaborate with ACR Health Syringe Exchange Program to pilot test use of Swabtek fentanyl testing strips to improve drug trend surveillance by testing for more potent fentanyl analogs and to support early identification of dangerous drug threats.

RAPID RESPONSES AND LINKAGES TO CARE:

- In collaboration with ACR Health Syringe Exchange Program as the central point of coordination, implement new model for peer post overdose outreach that engages all local peer recovery providers and establishes coordinated rapid response to spikes in overdoses and emerging drug threats.

- Identify ways to increase peer recovery capacity and support peer training and education.
- Continue collaboration with Dr. Joshua Lynch, NYSDOH and local hospitals and treatment and recovery providers to implement Oneida MATTERS in local hospital emergency departments and establish a rapid referral network to ensure patients are linked to care prior to discharge and can receive low threshold access to medication assisted treatment.

NALOXONE EXPANSION:

- Expand access to Naloxone education in community and other organizational settings. Efforts to include expansion of the Naloxone Leave Behind Program with other emergency service agencies in the County.

ONEIDA COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE:

- In collaboration with the Oneida County Department of Mental Health continue to support and coordinate the Oneida County Executive's Opioid Task Force (OTF) its Prevention, Recovery, Treatment Enhancement and Overdose (Crisis) Response team's efforts to identify and implement data-driven decisions to address emerging drug threats.
- Collaborate with OTF to engage people who use drugs across all areas of focus.

ODMAP 2020 TOTALS *	
Total Non-Fatal Overdoses	320
Total Fatalities	69
Peer Post-Overdose Follow-Up	
# Connected to Peer Recovery Support or Treatment Services	32

*This data cannot be compared to 2019, due to integration of Medical Examiner's Preliminary Probable Overdose Fatality Data in 2020.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Public Health [Emergency Preparedness](#) (PHEP) Program supports the department's planning and response for all hazards in order to protect the health of the community. Such hazards may include disease outbreaks, environmental threats, and natural and man-made disasters. OCHD engages in preparedness activities with multi-agency partnerships to identify resources, establish mutual agreements, develop coordinated response plans, conduct drills and exercises, identify and follow up on areas for improvement, train staff, and coordinate public risk communications. OCHD has a cross-division Public Health Incident Response Team that convenes to manage the public health planning and response activities for any emergency event. This year has been a year like no other that we have experienced. PHEP is there to help, assist and coordinate where needed.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- The COVID-19 pandemic, being both an emergency and Public Health, invokes the use of PHEP protocols to assist in ways to combat this virus. We began with setting up a system to keep track of all our Positive COVID-19 cases and their contacts. The countless hours spent on case investigations and contact tracing takes much training, hiring of new staff and taking on volunteers. We are continuing this effort as we continue to move through this Pandemic.
- PHEP completed a Vaccination Plan and submitted to the State.
- OCHD with PHEP worked with a media agency to get information out to the public regarding COVID-19.
- OCHD assisted the State in setting up 2 testing sites to target different populations in our community.
- OCHD in collaboration with our local HUB- MVHS Mohawk Valley Health Systems initially worked together to get the vaccine to our community.
- PHEP program assisted in supplying inventory of what is needed to run a POD. (Point of Dispensing).
- OCHD has set up and continues to set up POD's for the vaccine. PHEP team in collaboration with Office of Emergency Management, DPW and many others worked very hard in developing a plan for the POD's. Everyone continues to work on improvements as well as new ways to reach our community.
- OCHD held a training in collaboration with the NYS Dept. of Health on CDMS Countermeasure Data Measurement System. CDMS, which is a program that is set up to register and keep track of those individuals who will receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Griffiss International Airport is our County Staging Site (CSS). As well as a site for our Drive Thru POD's. MVCC Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica Jorgensen Center is also one of the major sites for our POD's. POD sites will continue to increase as well as change.
- OCHD continues to work hard at reaching all diverse communities within Oneida County to assist in the outreach and knowledge of COVID-19 as well as information regarding the Vaccine. We handed out flyers in many different Languages that had information regarding COVID-19.

GOALS IN 2021: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Continue to work collaboratively with NYSDOH regarding COVID-19.
- Continue to work at developing ways to best serve our community and get the COVID-19 vaccine to all who want and need it.
- Continue to assist in finding Points of Dispensing that will be best to serve the community, whether mobile or a large facility.
- Continue to assist with any supplies that maybe needed for the PODs.
- Update Emergency Preparedness Plans as needed.
- The PHEP Program is dedicated to providing helpful and informative resources in the areas of disease, natural disaster, terrorism and other emergency threats.

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.

ANNUAL DATA: ELIGIBLE CHILDREN BY AGE	2018	2019	2020
Birth < 12 Years of Age	108	213	138
13 < 17 Years of Age	29	6	2
18 < 21 Years of Age	3	0	0
TOTAL CHILDREN	140	219	140

Data reflects impact of COVID-19 related suspensions in service delivery during periods of 2020.

As a component of CYSHCN, the **Physically Handicapped Children's Program (PHCP)**, is offered to help Oneida County families pay for quality health care for their children with severe chronic illness or physical disabilities. The program has a Diagnosis and Evaluation component as well as a treatment piece, which includes the Dental Rehabilitation Program. Families must meet medical and financial eligibility to receive assistance. As families have transitioned to more comprehensive health insurance coverage, the need for PHCP financial assistance has diminished. The Dental Rehabilitation Program no longer has a local provider and is not taking new referrals.

ANNUAL DATA	2018	2019	2020
Total Service Authorizations for Treatment	225	59	30

2020: Total children enrolled in treatment program: 4

EARLY INTERVENTION

Early Intervention is part of the National Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. First created by Congress in 1986 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 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 (EIP) is to identify and evaluate infants and toddlers as early as possible to determine if they are experiencing compromised development. The EIP is family-centered as it supports parents in nurturing and enhancing development through an array of coordinated services focused on the needs of the child. The EIP is also 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 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 and professional training are critical for a successful Child Find Program.

ANNUAL DATA: EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM	2018	2019	2020
*Accurate as of 1-31-21			
Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) Performed	247	133	238
Bilingual MDEs Performed	17	9	6
Supplemental Evaluations Performed	144	157	88
Special Instruction Visits	17,862	17,716	20,300
Physical Therapy / Occupational Therapy Visits	15,205	15,335	10,350
Speech/Language Therapy Visits	19,206	17,159	13,046
Vision Therapy Visits	161	61	110
Social Work Visits	104	8	0
Total of Visits Including Service Coordination	65,487 *	62,078	44,138
* Addition of Community Providers of Service Coordination for Total Calendar Year 2018			

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 students 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	2018 Children Evaluated	2018 Distinct Children Serviced	2019 Children Evaluated	2019 Distinct Children Serviced	2020 Children Evaluated	2020 Distinct Children Serviced
Evaluations Completed to Determine Eligibility: Classified Preschool Students with a Disability	359	772	483	761	281	708

Data reflects impact of COVID-19 related suspensions in service delivery during periods of 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- **Early Intervention** has transitioned 50% of documents to an electronic record storage system through the use of the Oneida County's Laser Fiche Program.
- **Preschool Special Education** has transitioned 50% of documents to an electronic record storage system through the use of Oneida County's Laser Fiche Program.
- **Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education Related Services (RS)** successfully implemented a telehealth therapy program so eligible children could continue to receive supportive services during the pandemic.
- **CYSHCN** Connected with school nurses by email with information about services or online information sessions that can be shared with staff and students.
- **CYSHCN** program hired a full time Senior Office Specialist 1 to provide clerical support

2020 COVID-19 REPOSE EFFORTS: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- **Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education RS** developed policy and procedure to enable eligible children to participate in telehealth therapy to replace suspended face to face sessions.
- **CYSHCN** Public Health Nurse and Senior Office Specialist 1 transitioned to Clinic assignments in support of case investigation, contact tracing, vaccination preparation, data collection and reporting in March of 2020. Both continued with CYSHCN program tasks on a limited basis throughout 2020.
- **Special Children Services (SCS) Staff** were trained as case investigators and contact tracers assisting in those tasks as well as maintaining fiscal administration, program management, representation on Committee for Preschool Special Education, initial service coordination and duties of an Early Intervention Official Designee.
- **Director of SCS** was designated as director of the Oneida County COVID-19 Hotline providing training, information updates and supervision to Hotline operators as well as answering and returning Hotline calls. Two additional SCS staff were designated as Hotline leads tasked with answering and returning Hotline calls and providing guidance to new and/or rotating Hotline operators. 1 of the 2 staff has been in this position since March 2020.
- **Release of Isolation Team** included multiple members tasked with providing residents with letters of isolation/quarantine orders and releases. Two staff were assigned members of the team from the beginning of the pandemic in March.

GOALS IN 2021: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- **CYSHCN** staff will work with Community Support Specialist for the local Regional Support Center to develop a Technical Assistance Support Plan.
- **Early Intervention** will successfully train and transition to using the EI-Hub in replacement of the NYEIS.
- **SCS** will support Health Department efforts to educate, monitor and vaccinate community residents as long as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.



PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY

