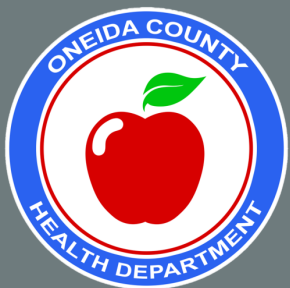




# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2022 Annual Report

*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 2022 Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) Annual Report. This report includes information and data from all programs within the Health Department.

A review of 2022 highlights:

- OCHD continued efforts in combating the COVID-19 global pandemic via outreach and education, testing, and vaccination efforts that involved all health department staff during the first half of 2022.
- Environmental Health inspections were again significantly reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Lead poisoning prevention outreach was provided to all children with elevated blood lead levels. Home visits were initially limited. However, there has been significant progress in reducing the home visitation backlog that developed due to COVID-19.
- Health Promotion and Outreach efforts have shifted from a primary focus on COVID-19 to all public health programs in the second half of 2022.
- Special Children Services Programs staff have reduced the significant backlog of children in need of services. However, there is currently a lack of providers in the community to accommodate children that are in need of a number of specialized services.
- The Oneida County Opioid Task Force that is co-chaired by the Oneida County Executive, Oneida County Sheriff, and Oneida County District Attorney continues to expand its efforts throughout the community.
- In partnership with Rome Health and Mohawk Valley Health Systems, OCHD completed the 2022-2025 Community Health Assessment.



Finally, I would like to thank Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. for his forward-thinking leadership and the Oneida County Board of Legislators for their continued support of Public Health for the betterment of the residents of Oneida County.

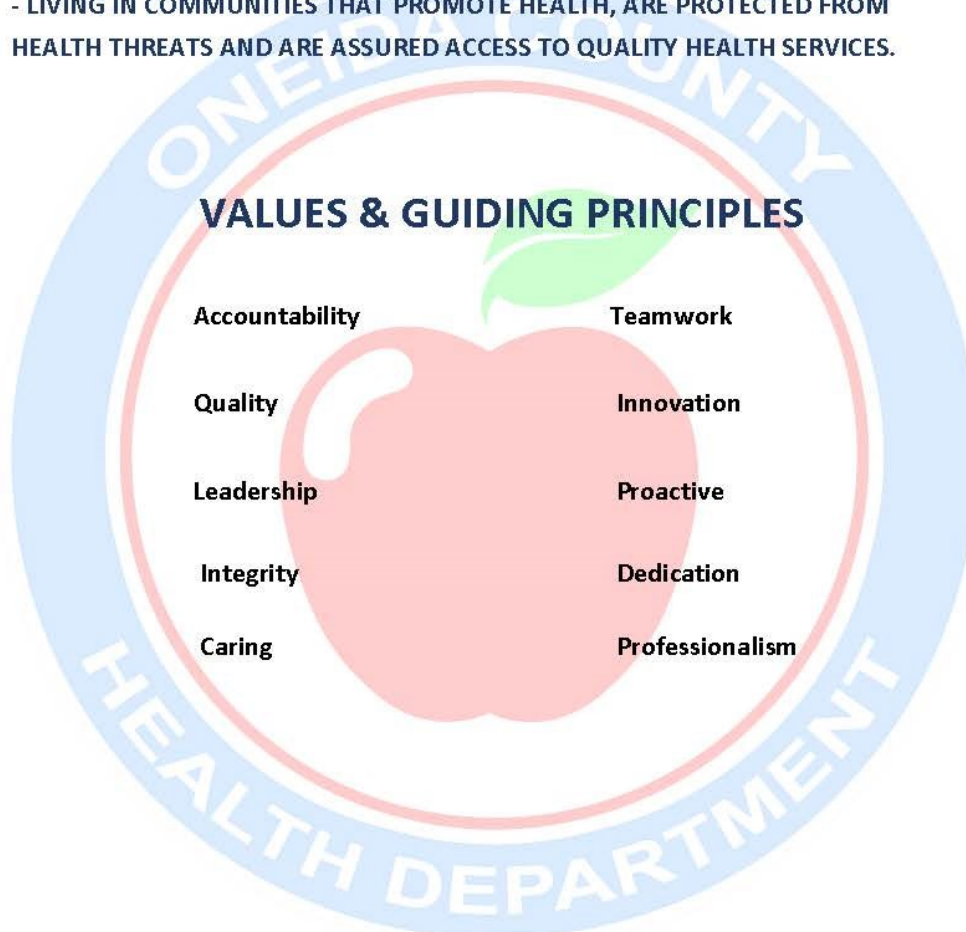
*Daniel W. Gilmore, Ph.D., MPH  
Director of Health*

# 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.

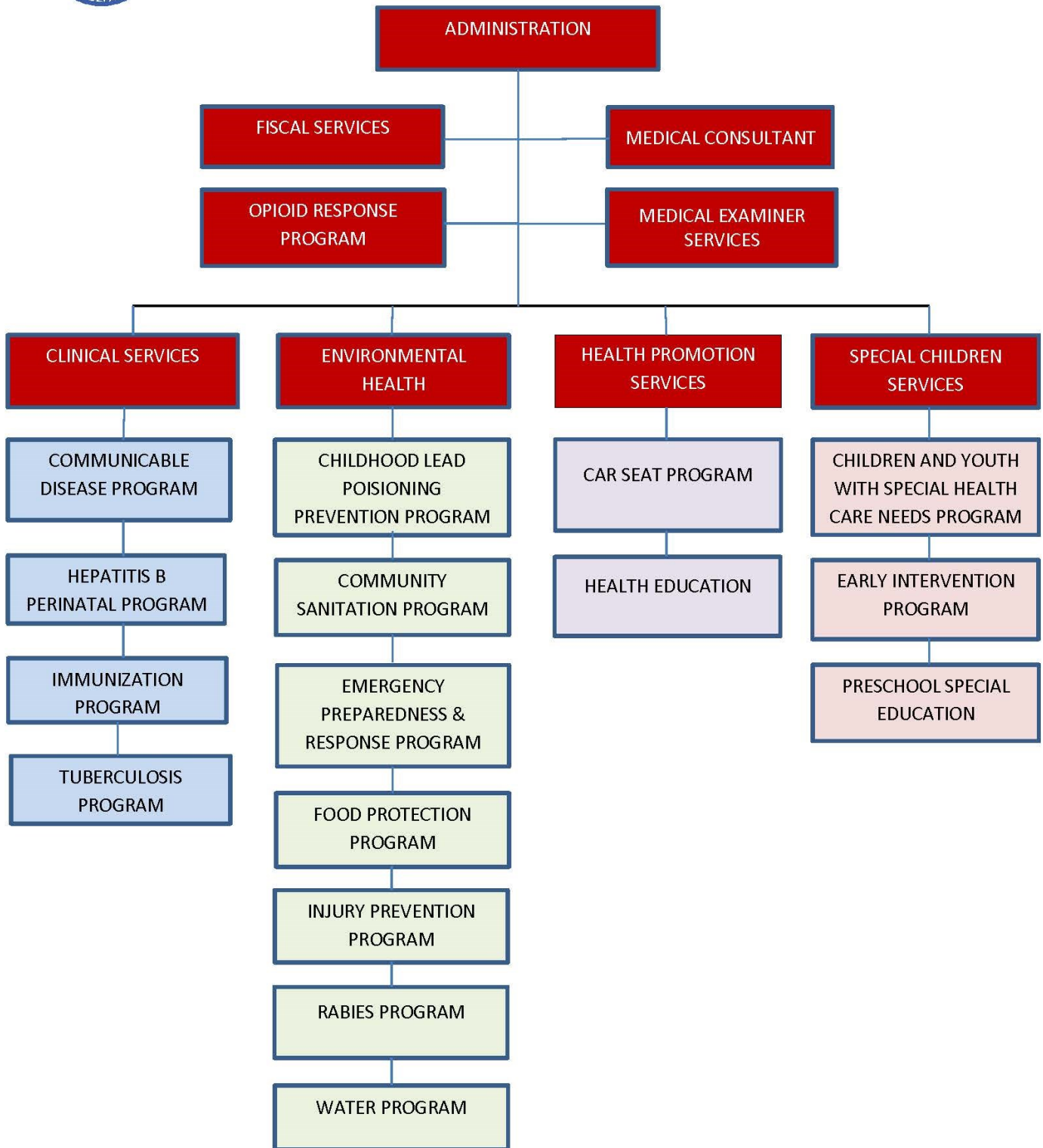
## OUR VISION

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



# OCHD BUDGET SUMMARY 2022

Program	Total Costs	% of Budget	% of Federal Funding	% of State Funding	% of County Funding	% of Other Funding	% of Medicare Medicaid
Administration	\$ 1,260,950	6.25%		36%	64%		
Health Promotion	\$ 91,196	0.45%		43%	57%		
Pre-School (3-5)	\$ 12,114,132	60.02%		59%	38%		3%
Early Intervention	\$ 1,613,959	8.00%	16%	24%	58%		2%
Physically Handicapped Children	\$ 2,639	0.01%		100%			
Public Health Clinic	\$ 1,249,643	6.19%		41%	48%	8%	3%
* Lead Poisoning Program	\$ 401,654	1.99%		100%			
* Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention	\$ 53,620	0.27%		100%			
TB	\$ 39,166	0.19%		100%			
Environmental Health	\$ 1,271,436	6.30%		42%	23%	35%	
Immunization Consortium	\$ 102,497	0.51%		100%			
Emergency Preparedness	\$ 231,395	1.15%		83%	17%		
COVID-19	\$ 147,281	0.73%	100%				
Medical Examiner	\$ 1,135,393	5.62%		11%	89%		
Opioid Grants	\$ 469,873	2.33%	87%	13%			

\* Note: The merger of both lead programs took place on October 1, 2021 (see page 19). The grant funded programs have fiscal years that differ from the County calendar fiscal year.

All figures are as of 2/21/23.

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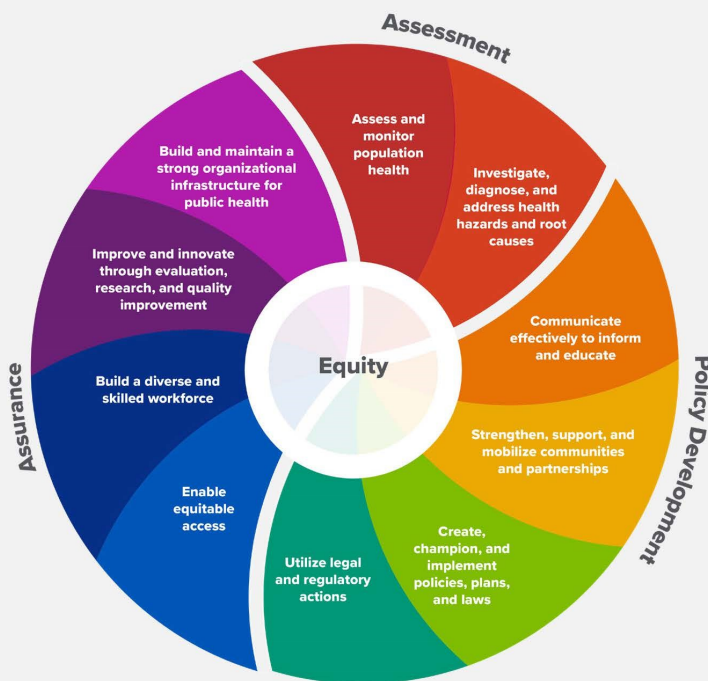
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# THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

*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

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 2022 include the following:

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

Health Promotion coordinated the development of the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan. This is a comprehensive review that helps identify the county's current health status and key health needs in Oneida County and provide a framework to support health and wellness in the county. Working with MVHS and Rome Health, the team gathered community input through surveys, focus groups and in-depth interviews with key stakeholders. Additionally, data is gathered from several sources including the New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and Community Health Indicator Reports (CHIRS).

The Community Health Improvement Plan was created based on the information gathered and an in-depth analysis of that information. Focus areas for the next two years were then established. They are Mental Health; Children and Teens Social and Emotional Health; and Chronic Disease Preventive Care and Screenings.

## PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

In 2022, OCHD participated in the New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) ongoing Local Health Department (LHD) Performance Incentive Program. The LHD experience in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic became the focus for the 2021-2022 Year Ten LHD Performance Incentive Program. The COVID-19 response was across all Divisions within the Oneida County Health Department.

Oneida County did participate and was awarded a total of \$22,208. These monies can be used to support costs associated with Article 6 eligible services.

## EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

since 2016 the Oneida County Employee Wellness Program has been in existence to bring awareness to Oneida County employees about health and wellness and engage them in a variety of programs, activities and events the county sponsors as well as in MVP's Well-Being Rewards Program.

These successful programs continued in 2022: Breaktime Stretching at the Health Department; 1:00 PM Walkers every day on lunch hour; Wall of Hearts—purchasing hearts for display and supporting the American Heart Association; Water Station Volunteers at the Erie Canal Half Marathon and the Boilermaker Road Race; Wear Pink Walk—Record number of walkers (50); and breast cancer Survivors (11) participated in 2022 and one survivor gave a hopeful message about her experience—and encouraged everyone to get screened; and World Diabetes Day— fun event in collaboration with a Health Department educator who shared information on risk factors and directed attendees to CDC diabetes risk test; raffle prizes and samples of a healthy punch for holidays.

We are pleased to announce the growth of Employee Wellness to include these innovative programs in 2022:

- MVP Step it Up Challenge and Free “Food Truck Lunch” to all participants—all staff were encouraged to register with MVP for a 6-week step challenge to get a baseline, set a goal and increase their steps. As a reward for participating in the challenge, we worked with Healthy Choice Food Truck (who offered their entire menu to us) staff placed their order through Wellness, and we in turn provided a spreadsheet and labels including pick-up time, name, order, and designee if they had one to the vendor. We arranged delivery to other sites—four Oneida County locations in total. Overwhelmingly positive feedback on event, “It was delicious!”
- Info Session with Utica Peregrine Falcon Project co-founder—downtown group dedicated to Utica’s falcon pair, who nest on the Adirondack Bank Building and have successfully raised 25 chicks over nine years. Encouraged volunteering during Fledge Watch to keep the chicks safe as they learn to fly and in their first few weeks until they become expert.
- Pet Therapy—We call this monthly activity “Occupational Wellness” as therapy dog Melo and her handler visit floors in the Utica County Office Building, Adirondack Bank Building, and City Center Building. Melo was also invited to Rome COB, and is a regular at the 911 Dispatch Center in Oriskany! This program is a big success—“you made my day” is the phrase we hear most!

Goals in 2023—to continue and expand successful events, and encourage more employees than ever to take advantage of MVP's Well-Being Rewards, simplified this year to an all reimbursement format —up to \$600 for a wide variety of health and wellness equipment, products and services.

## 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—2022\*

<b>Oneida County Summary Data</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022*</b>
Total cases	658	696	724	736	767	842	858	892	910	924
Non-Medical Examiner cases	414	436	474	468	499	565	578	604	571	608
Expert Consultation cases	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Medical Examiner cases	244	260	249	267	267	277	280	288	339	316
Autopsy examinations	199	216	199	220	219	213	233	231	238	200
External examinations	15	22	20	17	20	23	21	31	53	72
Death Certificate only – no examination	30	22	30	30	28	41	26	26	48	44
Manner of death*										
Accident	90	88	94	129	122	116	117	130	156	156
Motor Vehicle Accidents	21	15	17	17	22	24	16	17	23	29
Drug Use/Toxin Related	25	36	40	65	60	39	64	70	86	80
<i>Heroin Related</i>	12	17	11	16	5	3	3	1	0	2
<i>Fentanyl Related</i>	1	2	7	16	21	9	15	34	60	55
<i>Heroin &amp; Fentanyl Related</i>	0	2	4	18	20	15	27	15	10	6
<i>Other Opioids</i>	4	11	10	5	6	7	8	5	6	5
<i>Other drugs</i>	8	4	8	10	8	5	11	15	10	12
Falls	29	22	30	27	27	37	31	31	35	37
Environmental	2	3	1	3	1	1	0	2	2	1
Other Blunt Trauma	2	1	2	3	5	0	1	2	1	0
Drowning	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	6
Asphyxia	4	2	1	4	2	5	1	1	4	1
Fire	1	5	0	5	2	5	2	2	0	2
Medical Procedure	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp Force Injury	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
Other	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	3	1	0
Homicide	13	9	12	6	4	6	10	15	10	5
Natural	99	119	116	106	110	113	113	97	129	108
Suicide	36	32	24	21	28	32	31	32	29	25
Undetermined	4	10	2	4	3	7	7	14	14	7
Manner not applicable/fetal deaths	2	2	1	1	0	3	2	0	1	3
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12

\*Preliminary due to pending cases.

# CLINICAL SERVICES / DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

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

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Communicable Disease program is responsible for the investigation, follow-up, surveillance and reporting of 82 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). All cases of reportable disease are electronically reported to the New York State Department of Health (ECLRS). Staff work closely with OCHD's Environmental Health Division, NYSDOH, and community partners including hospitals to control and prevent the spread of communicable disease within the community.

ANNUAL DATA	2020	2021	2022
Case Investigations	4,585	2,839	1,481
Cases Created	261	191	180

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

*Cases Created identifies newly-identified incidents.*

*Previous Communicable Disease data reported in prior annual reports included any and all cases regardless of investigation status.*

## COVID-19—POSITIVE CASES

Number of Lab-Reported Positive COVID-19 Cases	
2020	10,896
2021	28,723
2022	35,444

*2022 COVID-19 Case Count from Oneida County Situational Report—Total Lab Reported Positive field*

## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

The Sexually Transmitted Disease program is responsible for the investigation, follow-up (Expedited Partner Therapy), surveillance and reporting of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and HIV. In 2022, Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson provided STD Testing and Treatment program in accordance to the NYSDOH regulations for Oneida County Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

ANNUAL DATA—STD	2020 Cases Reviewed and Managed	2021 Cases Reviewed and Managed	2022 Cases Reviewed and Managed
Cases of Chlamydia in Oneida County	635	793	763
Cases of Gonorrhea in Oneida County	388	391	275
Cases of Syphilis in Oneida County	29	54	17

*Note: Syphilis data represents Primary, Secondary, Early Latent and Congenital*

## TUBERCULOSIS

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

ANNUAL DATA	2020	2021	2022
Total Visits	340	143	554
Active Cases Managed by OCHD	4	1*	2
Latent TB Cases Identified	23	29	69

*Note: 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.*

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

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

## IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

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

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

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

ANNUAL DATA	2020	2021	2022
Total Visits	2,212	3,024	3,416
Total Clients (Post Exposure Rabies)	64	165	105
Total Clients (Flu Shot)	291	107	321
Total Clients (Green Card)	76	58	110
Total COVID-19 Vaccinations Administered			58,865

**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	2020	2021	2022
Total Cases	12	13	14

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022: CLINICAL SERVICES/DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

- Clinic staff were directed to take responsibility of COVID-19 response on a daily basis.
- Demonstrated a commitment to continually enhance our knowledge, skill and judgment as nurses and staff.
- Continued efforts on the elimination of TB in Oneida County.
- Conducted two monkey pox clinics to meet the needs of targeted at-risk groups.
- Immunization Action Plan (IAP) in place and met goals for Oneida County.

## GOALS IN 2023: CLINICAL SERVICES/DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

- Increase HPV vaccination coverage among children aged 13 years.
- Increase immunization coverage among children aged 2 years.
- Improve pneumococcal and shingles immunization rates among residents of assisted living facilities by providing information on pneumococcal and shingles diseases and vaccine recommendations.
- Increase Hepatitis A immunization rates among underserved population by providing education about Hepatitis A infection and improving access to vaccines.
- Enhance public relations with local educational leaders and organizations by providing mentorships to future healthcare workers.

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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

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

## COMMUNITY SANITATION PROGRAMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community Sanitation Program	Number Active Facilities			Number of Inspections		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Temporary Residences	51	54	54	13	0	27
Swimming Pools/Bathing Beaches	89	91	91	15	7	78
Campgrounds	29	27	31	0	1	32
Children's Camps	2	8	15	2	8	33
Mobile Home Parks	60	60	60	1	0	61
Migrant Farmworker Housing	2	5	5	2	8	6



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

Food Protection Program	Number Active Facilities			Number of Inspections		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Low Risk	80	76	74	5	1	13
Medium Risk	522	510	506	43	29	290
High Risk	415	404	401	102	46	207
Total	1017	990	981	150	76	510

**Other Food Program Activities:**

- 73 pre-operational inspections
- 95 FOG (Fats/Oils/Grease) Program inspections
- 29 summer feeding sites, 28 inspections
- 133 mobile food vendors, 94 inspections
- 81 inspections at 94 temporary events, with a total of 166 vendors
- 29 complaint investigations, 2 illness investigations
- 1 Norovirus outbreak investigation.
- 2 Salmonella food worker investigations
- 1 CIAA complaint & investigation

**Tanning Facilities Inspections:** In 2013, the department assumed the role from NYS DOH 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 8 tanning facilities in operation in 2022, and EH conducted 6 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 conduct compliance checks, re-inspections, and follow-up visits. Oneida County had 208 retail tobacco vendors in 2022 and 91 ATUPA (Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act) compliance checks were completed.

ATUPA Program	2020	2021	2022
# Retail Tobacco Vendors	228	231	208
# Compliance Checks	32	100	91

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

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

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

Rabies Prevention Program	2020	2021	2022
Rabies Exposure Investigations	557	510	651
Post-exposure treatment for humans	70	61	100
Rabies vaccines administered to pets	249	371	494
Sponsored pet vaccination clinics	3	5	5
Specimens tested for Rabies	110	101	130
Rabies positive specimens	13	7	9

## PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

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

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

Regulated Public Water System Information	2020	2021	2022
Active Facilities	154	152	152
Inspections/Sanitary Surveys	4	62	75
Notices of Violations Issued	68	21	269
Formal Enforcement Actions	0	0	1
Boil Water Orders	~5 (0 issued by OCHD)	~5	~5
Other Emergencies	1 Conserve Water Order	2 Conserve Water Orders	3 Conserve Water Orders
Samples Collected	2 Coliform 6 Chemical	59 Coliform 20 Chemical	72 Coliform 20 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. In 2022, Environmental Health acquired a Public Health Engineer, who is currently in training with OCHD Environmental Health staff, NYSDOH Regional Office staff and OCHD contract engineers.

Engineering Plans Reviewed and Approved	2020	2021	2022
Water System Expansions/Improvements	1	0	5
Backflow Prevention Devices	3	10	14
Realty Subdivisions	0	0	3
Individual Wastewater Disposal Systems Plans (non-conventional)	1	3	3
Swimming pools / Beaches (new or improvements)	1	2	3
Campgrounds (improvement or expansion)	0	4	4
Mobile Home Parks	1	0	1
Children's Camps	0	0	1
<b>Total Approved Plans:</b>	7	19	34

## 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 in many different ways. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program was established in 1972 to minimize the adverse health impact of lead poisoning. The program has helped thousands of families protect their children from lead exposure by providing lead poisoning risk reduction information and ensuring their homes are lead safe.

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

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

On October 1, 2019, NYS Public Health Law (PHL) was amended to lower the definition of Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLLs) in children. With the change of this law, the BLL threshold that requires care coordination and full-scale home environmental investigations was lowered from 15 µg/dL to 5 µg/dL. As a result of this change in PHL, the main goal for CLPPP+ became providing lead poisoning prevention risk reduction education and conducting home lead inspections parents/guardians of children with BLLs of 5 µg/dL or greater.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, CLPPP's regular program activity significantly changed. Community events, presenta-

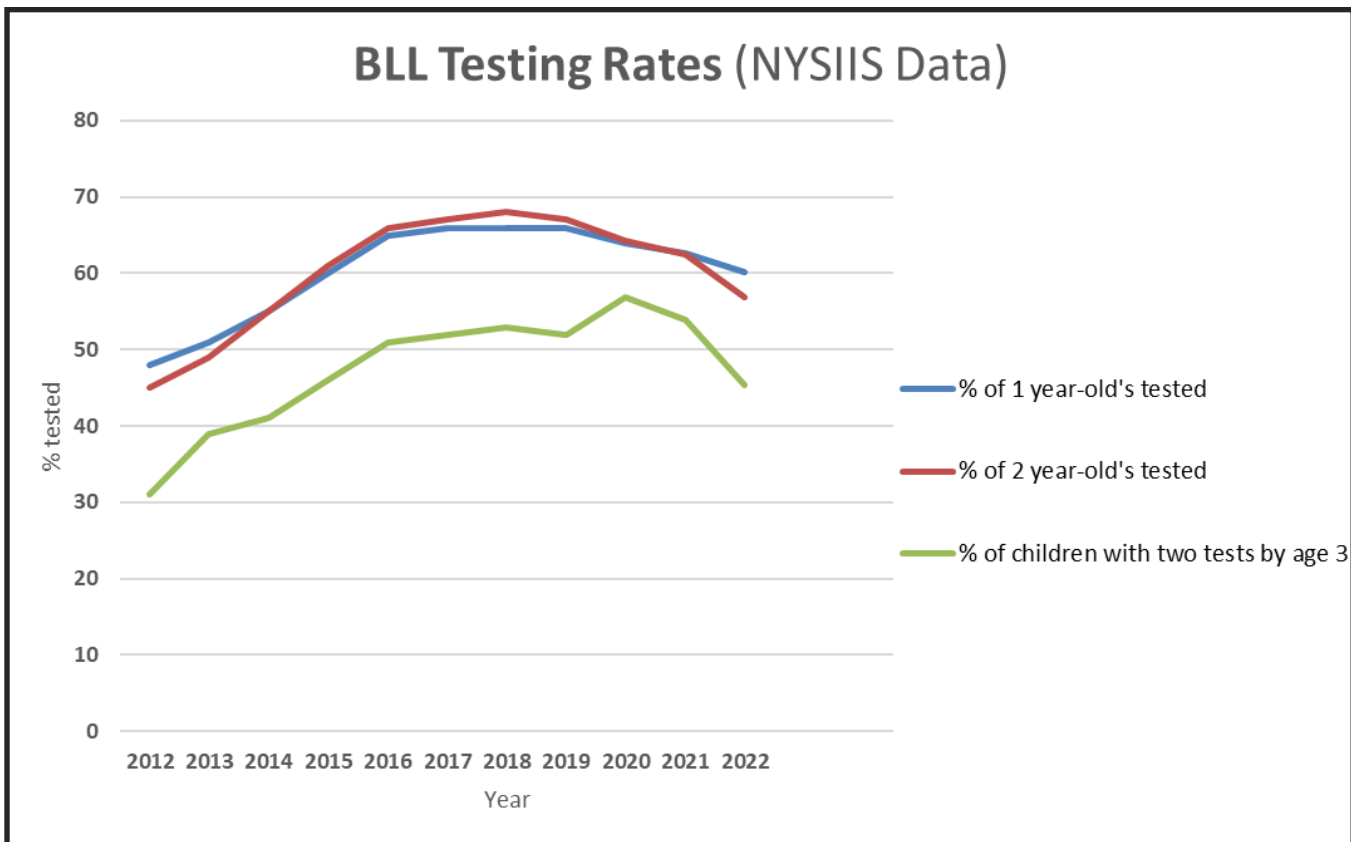
tions and meetings were postponed or cancelled for the majority of 2020 and the first half of 2021. Most CLPPP+ staff were redirected to work on OCHD’s COVID-19 response activities. During the second of 2021, CLPPP+ shifted from COVID-19 related responsibilities and resumed field work and case follow-up. Staff then worked to develop a process to prioritize CLPPP+ services to newer cases with the highest BLLs and households with multiple children.

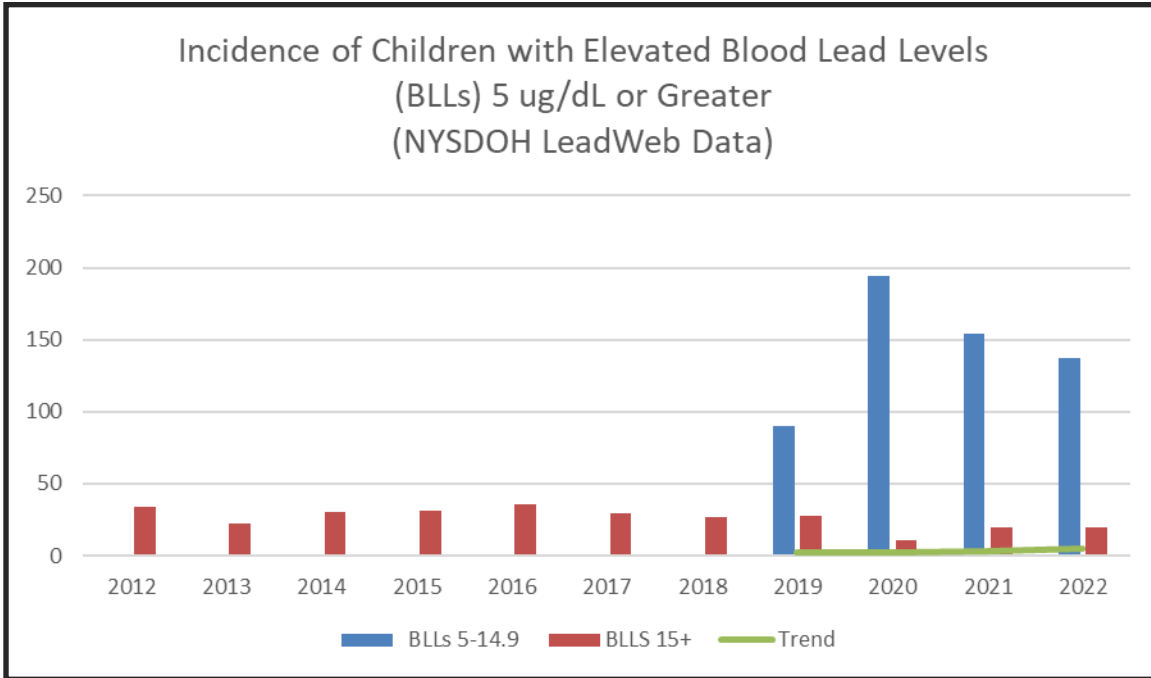
CLPPP+ also provides Care Coordination and home inspection services to pregnant women with elevated BLLs. Referrals are received from NYSDOH. CLPPP+ staff provide services as needed. Throughout the year, staff provided community members and agencies with lead poisoning prevention information related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

In 2023, the Oneida County Health Department will continue to work under the updated and merged CLPPP+ program. Grant funds will be used to support enhanced local efforts to reduce the prevalence of EBLLs in children from birth to 18 years and pregnant women through providing services which includes public and professional outreach and education, collaboration with local health care providers for assessing children’s risk of lead exposure, blood lead testing, anticipatory guidance to prevent lead poisoning, diagnostic evaluation, medical management including risk reduction education, environmental interventions, and coordination of services.

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1 YR. OLD	48%	51%	55%	60%	65%	66%	66%	66%	62.7%	61.5%*	60.2%
2 YR. OLD	45%	49%	55%	61%	66%	67%	68%	67%	63.2%	61.2%*	56.8%
3 YR. OLD W/BLL TESTS ~ AGES 1 & 2	31%	39%	41%	46%	51%	52%	53%	52%	49.9%	49%*	45.4%

\* Corrected, due to lag in Physician data input.

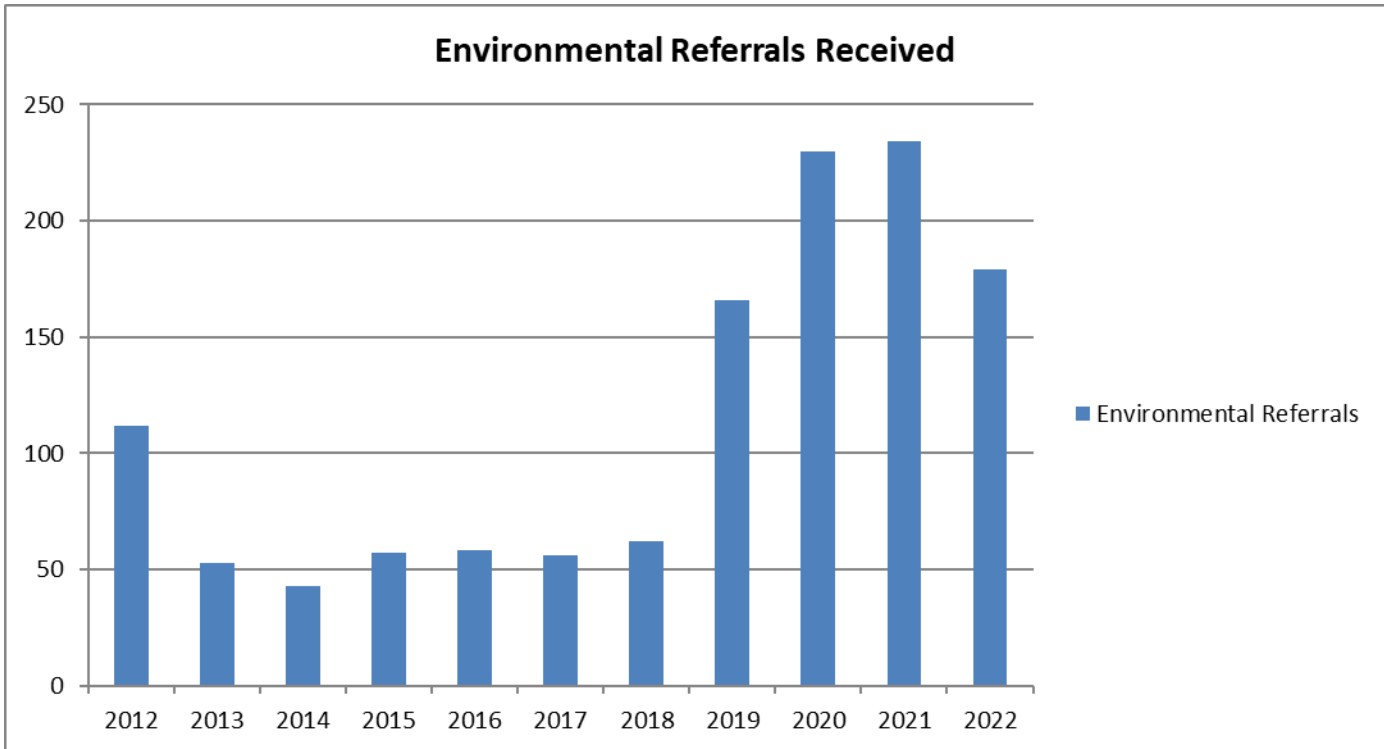




Data related to BLLs 5 – 9 ug/dL prior to 2019 is not available in LeadWeb

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Children with BLL 15 ug/dL & Above	34	22	30	31	36	29	27	28	2	20	20
Children with BLL 5 ug/dL to 14.9 ug/dL	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	90	194	154	137
Total Elevated Children	34	22	30	31	36	29	27	118	196	174	157
* Data Unavailable											

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



*Data is based on the annual number of Environmental Referrals from 2012 – 2022. 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.*

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Environmental Lead Referrals	112	53	43	57	58	56	62	166	230	234	179

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE 2022

In addition to the typical programs, the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) continued its response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the first half of 2022. OCHD managed the rollout of the new COVID-19 vaccine PODs (Points of Distribution) and testing clinics at Griffiss Airport and OCHD's 406 Elizabeth Street Clinic.

Environmental Health (EH) played an integral role in the planning, scheduling, and staffing of PODs and testing clinics. EH staff led the logistics team and worked as registrars, flow control and managers at the COVID-19 vaccination PODs and testing clinics.

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- EH assisted with the planning, scheduling, and staffing of OCHD COVID-19 Vaccination PODs & Testing Clinics.
- EH led the Logistics Team for COVID-19 Vaccination PODs & Testing Clinics.
- EH investigated one Hepatitis A outbreaks at a NYS Agriculture & Markets facility, including hosting numerous Hepatitis A Vaccination PODs.
- EH has successfully trained eight new staff members.
- EH's new program, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (**CLPPP+**) continued to make progress with the backlog caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and develop an updated Policy & Procedure to align with the recent changes in Public Health Law.
- Enforcement Actions – A total of 136 Dockets were created, with 15 Administrative Hearings conducted.
- A total of 94 FOIL Requests were fulfilled.
- EH investigated 61 complaints, incidents, and illnesses.

## GOALS IN 2023: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Resume routine inspections, investigations, & activities in all programs.
- Continued cross-training of new employees will improve EH's ability to reach inspection goals.
- Continue training of EH's new Public Health Engineer staff member.
- Develop a Backflow Prevention Initiative with the Mohawk Valley Water Authority (MVWA).
- Community Public Water Supplies will continue to update their Emergency Response Plans.
- Train water operators on the Lead & Copper in Drinking Water Rule Revisions.
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (**CLPPP+**) staff will continue to make progress on the backlog of lead cases.
- Advance the lead program (**CLPPP+**) forward, adding more Primary Prevention Initiatives.
- Provide training for OCHD staff on personal safety during home & field visits.
- Continued collaboration with the City of Utica and Lead Free Mohawk Valley on the HUD lead hazard control grant.
- Continued collaboration with the Department of Water Pollution Control FOG Program.

# HEALTH PROMOTION

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

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022: HEALTH PROMOTION EDUCATION AND DAILY TASKS

### CAR SEAT SAFETY PROGRAM

The Oneida County Health Department had another successful year with the Car Seat Safety program. This program helps parents and caregivers experiencing economic hardships obtain new car seats for their children. This program provides education and assistance in learning how to properly install the car seats keeping their children safe. In 2022, three Health Department employees became National Child Passenger Safety Certified Technicians. This allowed for the expansion of this program to new locations. In 2022, two new locations were added: one in Waterville and one in Rome. Additionally, having certified technicians on staff allowed for more flexibility to meet the needs of families on a case-by-case basis.

In 2023, the program will be expanded further and will offer additional locations throughout the county. Two additional Oneida County employees are also expected to become National Child Passenger Safety Certified Technicians.

ANNUAL DATA	2020	2021	2022
Total Car Seat Recipients	83	61	171

### COVID-19 RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic response continued throughout 2022. The Health Promotion team continued to provide education and support to the community through answering community phone calls and emails, responding to COVID-19 related questions, problems, concerns, and scenarios needing follow up. In the beginning of 2022, Health Promotion helped in Oneida County vaccine Points of Distribution (PODS) and COVID testing sites throughout the community. Health promotion took part in regular POD planning meetings. Tasks included providing information and education, setting up links in the CDMS scheduling system, task of registrar or flow control throughout the events and outreach to the community. Community education specific to COVID-19 and vaccinations continued through a variety of ways including through various media outlets including social media, billboards, informational packets, and through answering phone calls and emails from community members, schools, colleges, daycares, and employers.

The Health Promotion team collected data specific to the pandemic-related efforts of the Health Department in 2020 and 2021. This information provided a picture of the tasks, accomplishments and efforts made through during this time.



## HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION

COVID-19 response continued to be a focus in the beginning of 2022, but as the year went on, health promotion began routine activities of providing education on additional health topics including:

- Car seat safety
- Infants safe sleep
- Lead poisoning prevention
- Sports nutrition
- Diabetes prevention
- Dental hygiene
- Staying healthy in winter months
- Adult immunizations
- Sun safety
- Narcan and Deterra education and giveaways

New in 2022, Health Promotion staff began working more closely with other division staff to provide more education and outreach around priority health issues. A few examples include:

- Working with the Opioid Program to provide education and to distribute Save-a-Life Narcan Kits and Deterra medication disposal bags in the community
- Working with the clinic to provide education about the importance of vaccines, especially to protect against Shingles, Pneumococcal disease, and Hepatitis.

After a pause due to the pandemic, the team began to re-establish relationships with community agencies and partners through participation with coalitions and community groups such as Oneida County Suicide Prevention Program, Livable Communities and Mohawk Valley Breastfeeding Network.

## GOALS IN 2023: HEALTH PROMOTION

- To continue and expand car seat safety events.
- To continue to be a source of education to the importance of vaccines.
- To begin work with community partners and hospitals on implementing the goals and objectives of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).
- To continue to work with health department divisions to provide community education and expand this partnership and reach.

# OPIOIDS & OTHER DRUGS PROGRAM

Oneida County Health Department's (OCHD) overdose prevention and overdose and drug surveillance programs and activities are supported by three major grants. These activities are aimed at implementing public health approaches 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 overdose deaths in the community. The OTF is chaired by the County Executive, Sheriff and District Attorney; the partnership consists of a Steering Committee and four teams to address four priority focus areas: Prevention, Treatment Enhancement, Recovery and Overdose Response. The OTF provides a platform to report on team progress, local issues and initiatives, implement evidence-based practices, and provide an opportunity to hear from people with lived experience at all meetings. OTF membership includes individuals from government, public health, hospital, mental health, behavioral health, recovery, primary care, peer recovery, education, law enforcement, EMS, advocacy, and philanthropic organizations.

## 2022 OPIOID PROGRAM GRANTS

### OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION (OD2A) GRANT

OCHD 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 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.

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

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

### IMPLEMENTING OVERDOSE PREVENTION STRATEGIES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL (IOPSLL) GRANT:

OCHD is one of 13 public health departments in the United States selected to receive an award of \$500,000 to implement public health strategies to address community challenges related to drug overdoses. The Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level (IOPSLL) grant was awarded by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Center for Injury Control and Prevention (NCIPC). The grant will allow OCHD to expand on several initiatives highlighted below as well as implement new strategies in 2023.

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022: OPIOIDS & OTHER DRUGS PROGRAM

### OVERDOSE AND DRUG TREND SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

- ODMAP Program tracked 480 Total Overdoses: 396 Non-fatal and 86 Fatal (preliminary). Eight (8) overdose spike and drug threat alerts were issued:** In collaboration with the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center and the Oneida County Overdose Response Team (a subgroup of the Opioid Task Force), continued implementation of the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), a surveillance tool to collect real-time overdose reports from law enforcement as well as Medical Examiner's probable overdose fatality data. The data is used to identify and alert the public to spikes in overdoses and overdose fatalities and other dangerous drug trends as well as proactively engage with people that have experienced an overdose to link them treatment and/or recovery support services. Data is used to prepare, distribute and post Weekly Overdose Surveillance Reports to promote data-driven responses throughout the entire Opioid Task Force. (See *Table 1 - Summary of ODMAP Overdoses and Table 2 – 2021 Overdose Spike & Public Health Alerts*). Continued collaboration with the Partnership to End Addiction to utilize its text messaging alert program to supplement efforts to notify the community about overdose spikes and/or drug threats.
- Collaborated with the Planning Department to enhance Overdose & Drug Trend Dashboard by adding heat mapping capabilities to identify geographic hot spots and plot data points for Naloxone and Narcan Emergency Cabinet distributions to businesses and organizations.** The Dashboard is maintained through a collaboration with County's Planning Department.

### OVERDOSE PREVENTION

- Coordinated the Opioid Task Force International Overdose Awareness Day Event and produced and released a special video and guest speaker presentation focusing on reducing stigma associated with addiction.** Guest speaker, Gary Mendell, founder and CEO of Shatterproof, a national nonprofit committed to ending stigma associated with addiction, presented at the event; Mendell discussed the loss of his son to addiction and how he founded Shatterproof to spare other families the same tragedy. The event featured a [special video](#) that included perspectives from a parent who lost a child to overdose, a person living with addiction and a medical provider who focused on how the negative impacts of stigma and shame affects people with addiction.
- ODMAP Post Overdose Follow Up Program (PFP) linked 97 individuals to treatment, recovery and/or harm-reduction services post-overdose.** The PFP deploys peers to make home visits on ODMAP identified overdose victims via a collaboration with ACR Health to link them to treatment, harm reduction and/or other wrap around services. Peers conduct post overdose outreach for all overdoses within 72 hours and prioritize any individuals that are flagged as high risk (i.e., repeat overdoses) for overdose fatality. (See *Table 3 – Summary of ODMAP Post Overdose Outreach Linkages to Services*)
- Formation of the Oneida County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team and convening of its first overdose fatality case review meeting and prepared a report of key findings and recommendations to prevent future overdoses.** The multi-agency and multi-disciplined OFR will conduct ongoing in-depth reviews of overdose deaths to identify areas for improvement and strategies to prevent future overdose deaths. The first case review was conducted in November with support from Law Department and the Planning Department for data collection and data sharing. OCHD hired a contractor to support meeting facilitation and next of kin interviews.

## NALOXONE (NARCAN) EXPANSION & HARM REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

- **Installed 100 Narcan Emergency Cabinets and purchased 100 additional cabinets (80 indoor/20 outdoor)** to be placed in public locations and areas with high risk for overdoses identified in the ODMAP. Cabinets are placed in the community in collaboration with Opioid Task Force partners. Each cabinet can hold 2 Naloxone kits.
- **Fentanyl Test Strips:** OCHD distributed Fentanyl Test Strips to local harm reduction, treatment, and recovery partners to distribute to their clients along with harm reduction education and awareness of the risk of fentanyl in all street drugs.
- **Save-a-Life Naloxone Distribution Campaign: Distributed over 1,700 Naloxone (Narcan) kits from July-December 2022 to homes and businesses.** Coordinated the OTF Save-a-Life campaign to promote naloxone as basic first aid and distribute to as many businesses and laypersons in the community as possible. OCHD established a Narcan-by-Mail program allowing the public to take brief online trainings and complete online request form to receive Narcan kits by mail to their home and/or business as well as a Naloxone Distribution Team to leave kits with businesses in the county.
- **Collaborating with Oneida County Probation, Helio Health and Community Recovery Center to pilot distribution of Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS), Naloxone and resource information to probationers at high-risk for overdose via home visits.** OCHD will supply the team with FTS, overdose care kits, and support in collecting the data and evaluating project outcomes as a model harm reduction strategy for public safety agencies. The project was initiated in response to a spike in overdoses.

## TREATMENT ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVES

- **The Street Engagement Team (SET) linked 78 people to low-barrier buprenorphine treatment and/or other mental health, primary care and harm reductions services:** The Street Engagement Team is a rapid response, multi-agency, peer outreach team piloted in 2021 to bring “boots on-the-ground” on-demand, low-barrier, same-day access to treatment medication (buprenorphine) and harm reduction resources to high-risk individuals and vulnerable neighborhoods. OCHD partners with ACR Health, REACH Medical, and Upstate Family Health Center to implement this project. The NACCHO IOP-SLL grant will support capacity building of the Street Engagement Team to fully operationalize in 2023. *(See Table 4 – Summary of Street Engagement Team Linkages to Services)*

## RECOVERY INITIATIVES

- **Peer Alliance Program provided educational training, work experience and wellness support that certified 9 individuals with lived experience as Peer Recovery Advocates to work as peer professionals in a variety of community settings** to help others with addiction. Funded by the OCHD OD2A grant, the Peer Alliance Program covers all program costs. The Center for Family Life & Recovery Inc. coordinates the Peer Alliance Program which helps eligible individuals develop the skills needed to navigate the work of sustaining their own recovery while helping others with addiction.

## PREVENTION INITIATIVES

- **Distributed over 1,000 Deterra at-home medication disposal bags to the community to encourage removing unused or expired medications from** to help prevent misuse of over-the-counter and prescription drugs from homes. Established an online program on the OTF website for residents to request 2 free medication disposal bags by mail and distributed supplies to community partners for distribution at take back events and in other community settings.

## OPIOID TASK FORCE WEBSITE

- **Distributed over 1,000 Deterra at-home medication disposal bags to the community to encourage removing unused or expired medications from** to help prevent misuse of over-the-counter and prescription drugs from homes. Established an online program on the OTF website for residents to request 2 free medication disposal bags by mail and distributed supplies to community partners for distribution at take back events and in other community settings.

## DRUG DETECTION DEVICE

- **Oneida County was the first correctional facility in New York State to integrate use of the MX908 device to detect drug contraband and to collect data findings to support its Opioid Task Force Overdose Response Team's drug trend surveillance.** The advanced technology gives the Sheriff's Office the capability to positively identify residual amounts of drugs in seconds which supports first responder safety by allowing them to identify drug exposures and take appropriate precautions as well as improve evidence for drug investigations. The device was purchased with the OCHD Bureau of Justice Assistance and CDC Partnerships to Support Data-Driven Responses to Emerging Drug Threats grant, which promotes public health and law enforcement collaborations that advance a shared understanding of patterns and characteristics of local problem drug use.

## GOALS IN 2023: OPIOID & OTHER DRUGS PROGRAM

- **Deploy a smart technology Public Health Naloxone Vending Machine to compliment current initiatives to increase access to life-saving Naloxone.** A self-serve machine located in an accessible location to the public will dispense free harm reduction items such as Naloxone, Fentanyl Test Strips, hygiene kits, etc. With the ever-growing prevalence of illicit and potent fentanyl in all types of drugs and it being the leading cause of overdose deaths in the County, there is a tremendous need for comprehensive evidence-based harm reduction solutions to the overdose crisis that offer flexibility and 24/7 access to overdose prevention supplies.
- **Collaborate with the nationally renowned organization Shatterproof to implement an evidence-based research and public health campaign to reduce public stigma related to addiction and the stigma against medications for opioid use disorder.** The Shatterproof model is the only proven approach to making measurable changes in societal attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge about addiction, a vital work considering that addiction stigma is one of the largest drivers of the addiction and overdose crisis in the U.S. leading to tens of thousands of preventable deaths.
- **Collaborate with an EMS agency to implement a paramedic field initiated low-barrier buprenorphine program, where consenting patients revived from an overdose with Naloxone are treated with buprenorphine to reduce withdrawal symptoms and the risk of overdose death.** Patients will also be linked to follow-up community-based treatment, harm reduction, and other psychosocial supports by peer recovery professionals. Since many patients with opioid use disorder and at high-risk for overdose death frequently refuse transport to a hospital after receiving Naloxone from a first responder and never engage in treatment, this strategy helps close the gap on missed opportunities to engage patients at highest risk for overdose death by offering them life-saving same-day medication treatment, harm-reduction services and peer support in the field directly after an overdose.

- **Collaborate with BOCES and the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office to increase the number of schools that have Naloxone on site.** The Health Department will supply the schools and OCSO SPOs with Naloxone, provide schools with free Narcan Emergency Cabinets, and collaborate with BOCES to distribute and provide technical assistance for Narcan training and protocol development.
- **Enhance the Overdose & Drug Trend Dashboard by including forensic toxicology drug detection data to the dashboard.**
- **Expanding the Low-Barrier Mobile Street Engagement Team (SET)** The SET will meet people where they are in the community (streets, shelters, etc.) to provide on-demand, same-day access to buprenorphine treatment, harm reduction services, acute medical care, and linkages to other treatment and/or mental health and social support services to individuals in all areas of the County in collaboration with ACR Health, REACH Medical, and Upstate Family Health Center.
- **Address Harmful Drug Trends in Youth** Collaborate with the OTF Prevention Team to develop and implement public health prevention strategies associated with marijuana, vaping, THC and other drug use in youth. Continue to work with OTF partners to distribute Deterra at-home medication disposal bags in the community and educate on the importance of safe drug disposal as a prevention strategy to help prevent misuse of over-the-counter and prescription drugs by removing the risk from homes.
- **Support expansion of the NY MATTERS (Medication Assisted Treatment and Emergency Referral) Program in a variety of community settings.** Collaborate with the NYSDOH NY MATTERS Regional Coordinator to increase participation of local hospitals, primary care providers and other relevant providers to prescribe buprenorphine to patients as well as rapid referral to treatment services.

## TABLES - OPIOID & OTHER DRUGS PROGRAM

**Table 1 – Summary of ODMAP & Medical Examiner Drug-Related Deaths**

	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>TOTAL NON-FATAL OVERDOSES</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>396</b>
<b>TOTAL OVERDOSE FATALITIES</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>86*</b>

*Note: ME’s Drug-Related ODs include not only overdose fatalities, but fatalities in which drugs are **involved** but not listed as the official Cause of Death.*

*\*Preliminary with pending Medical Examiner’s Office cases*

**Table 2 – ODMAP Surveillance 2022 Spike & Public Health Alerts**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Alert:</b>
<b>January 4, 2022</b> <i>(pertaining to 2021 trends)</i>	<i>Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues Spike Alert; 7 Heroin/Cocaine Overdoses in Last 3 Days; Vaping &amp; Pills Trend Also Detected</i>
<b>April 18, 2022</b>	<i>Oneida County Overdose Response Team Warns of Fentanyl-Laced Cocaine &amp; Methamphetamine</i>
<b>May 6, 2022</b>	<i>Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues Spike Alert</i>
<b>May 27, 2022</b>	<i>Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues Second Spike Alert this Month - More than 50 Overdoses Have Occurred in May</i>
<b>June 3, 2022</b>	<i>Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues New Spike Alert - 2 Fatal and 5 Non-Fatal Overdoses Occurred on June 2</i>
<b>August 26, 2022</b>	<i>Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues Spike Alert - Five Fatalities Have Occurred in August</i>
<b>September 2, 2022</b>	<i>The Oneida County Overdose Response Team is alerting the public to a continued uptick in overdoses tracked in its Overdose Detection &amp; Mapping Application Program, which included 11 probable fatalities in the month of August.</i>
<b>November 29, 2022</b>	<i>Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues Spike Alert - Seven Overdoses &amp; Two Fatalities Occurred Over Four Days Last Week</i>
<b>December 16, 2022</b>	<i>Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues Spike Alert - Five Overdose Deaths in Past Month, 81 Year to Date</i>

**Table 3 – Summary of ODMAP Post Overdose Outreach Linkages to Services**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b># Connected to Treatment, Recovery and/or Harm Reduction Services</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>97</b>

**Table 4 – 2022 Summary of Street Engagement Team Linkages to Services**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Number</b>
On Demand Buprenorphine Linkages	<b>78</b>
Inpatient SUD Treatment Linkages	<b>19</b>
Mental Health Linkages	<b>6</b>
Acute/Primary Care Services	<b>25</b>
Hep C Testing	<b>11</b>
Naloxone Kits	<b>170</b>
Fentanyl Test Strips	<b>382</b>
Insurance	<b>16</b>
SEP Enrollments	<b>7</b>
SEP Transactions	<b>169</b>
SEP Syringe Clean Ups	<b>196</b>
Housing Linkages	<b>1</b>
Other Referrals	<b>23</b>

# PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program supports the department's planning and response for all hazards to protect the health of the entire community. Such hazards can include disease outbreaks, environmental threats, natural and man-made disasters. Response to public health emergencies begin at the local level due to its unique abilities to respond to all types of public health incidents. This promotes safety and builds more resilient communities. OCHD engages in preparedness activities with multi-agency partnerships to identify resources, establish mutual agreements, develop coordinated response plans, conduct drills, 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 all types of hazards.

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

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022: PHEP

- Completed ICS 300 Course
- Updated the Mutual Aid Evacuation and Supply Plan as well as added new facilities to the plan
- Attended CHEMPACK Meetings and Herkimer Oneida Organizations Active in Disaster (HOOAD) Meetings
- Presented at the Home Care Association NYS Emergency Preparedness Conference- Mutual Aid Evacuation and Supply Planning for Home Care Providers
- Completed deliverables for BP3, 2021-2022
- Continue to work collaboratively with NYSDOH regarding disease outbreaks such as COVID-19 and Monkey Pox as well as any other requests.

## GOALS IN 2023: PHEP

- Continue to develop efficient means to best serve our community stay safe in any type of an emergency and will continue to obtain/provide immunizations and/or testing to anyone who needs it.
- Update Emergency Preparedness Plans as needed.
- Fulfill deliverables set by NYSDOH.
- Ensure all staff to complete basic required trainings.
- To provide helpful and informative resources to the community in areas of disease, natural disaster, climate change, terrorism and any other threats that arise.
- Will reestablish OCHD cross-division Public Health Incident Response Team to manage public health planning and response activities for any type of hazard.



# SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

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

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

<b>CYSHCN ANNUAL DATA: ELIGIBLE CHILDREN BY AGE</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Birth < 12 Years of Age	138	75	71
13 < 17 Years of Age	2	0	0
18 < 21 Years of Age	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL CHILDREN</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71</b>

*Data reflects impact of COVID-19 related service delivery interruptions during periods of 2020-2021.*

As a component of CYSHCN, the **Physically Handicapped Children Program, renamed CYSHCN—Special Services (SS) by NYS Department of Health**, offered to help Oneida County families pay for quality health care for their children. This program includes the Dental Rehabilitation Program in which families meet medical and financial eligibility to receive assistance. As families have transitioned to more comprehensive health insurance coverage, the need for SS financial assistance has diminished. The Dental Rehabilitation Program no longer has a local provider and is not taking new referrals.

<b>PHCP PROGRAM DATA</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
2021—Total Children enrolled in treatment program - One			
Total Service Authorizations for Treatment	30	1	1

## EARLY INTERVENTION

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

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

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

<b>ANNUAL DATA: EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM</b> <i>*Accurate as of 1-25-23</i>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) Performed	238	250	250
Bilingual MDEs Performed	6	11	11
Supplemental Evaluations Performed	88	104	29
Special Instruction Visits	20,300	27,909	32,978
Physical Therapy / Occupational Therapy Visits	10,350	10,925	10,439
Speech / Language Therapy Visits	13,046	13,000	11,859
Vision Therapy Visits	110	39	40
Social Work Visits	0	0	0
<b>Total of Visits Including Service Coordination</b>	<b>44,138</b>	<b>63,830</b>	<b>69,013</b>

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

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

This program is for children 3 and 4 years of age 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.

<b>ANNUAL DATA</b> <i>Data reflects impact of COVID-19 in service delivery during periods of 2020-2021</i>	<b>2020 Children Evaluated</b>	<b>2020 Distinct Children Served</b>	<b>2021 Children Evaluated</b>	<b>2021 Distinct Children Served</b>	<b>2022 Children Evaluated</b>	<b>2022 Distinct Children Served</b>
<b>Evaluations Completed to Determine Eligibility: Classified Preschool Students with a Disability</b>	281	708	312	676	468	747

*Data reflects impact of COVID-19 in service delivery during periods of 2020-2021.*

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- **Early Intervention** used Quality Assurance policy and procedure to evaluate the performance of OCHD and community partner service coordination.
  - **Early Intervention** director justified the necessity for an additional Early Intervention Family Services Specialist (aka Service Coordinator) due to increased community needs for Early Intervention evaluation and services.
  - **Preschool Special Education** hired an additional Pre-K Special Education Specialist. Staff in this position also provides limited service coordination in the Early Intervention Program. Win, win.
  - **CYSHCN** launched a private Facebook group for families of program children as well as providers in our community.
  - **CYSHCN** redesigned the Special Children Services programs brochure to include a QR code for scanning.
- CYSHCN** reclassified the Senior Office Specialist 1 position to Administrative Assistant. Staff in the previous title was promoted.

## GOALS IN 2023: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- **CYSHCN** staff will continue to work with a Regional Support Center Specialist to implement our Technical Assistance Support Plan.
- **CYSHCN** will increase the number of youth ages 13-21 enrolled in the program by 20%.
- **CYSHCN** program staff will initiate an awareness campaign related to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). This includes expansion of outreach to include billboard, bus, and bus shelter messaging.
- **CYSHCN** will evaluate the need to increase Facebook membership by transitioning to a public group.
- **Special Children Services** staff will collaborate with community partners to provide resources to children and families experiencing mental health challenges.
- **Early Intervention** will successfully train and transition to use of the EI-Hub in replacement of the New York Early Intervention System.
- **Early Intervention** will hire an additional Family Services Specialist
- **Preschool Special Education** will use the PDSA cycle to eliminate submission of Medicaid compliant documents sent US Mail in favor of an electronic method.



PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY

