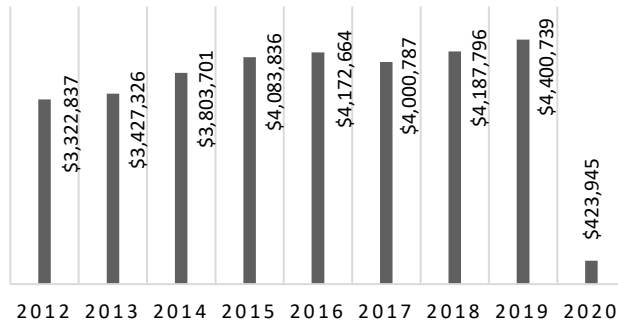


**ALBANY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
4010, 3510**

HEALTH - COUNTY SHARE



MISSION STATEMENT

The Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) strives to protect and promote the health of individuals, families and communities. We work with many community partners to offer a variety of programs and services to achieve our mission and accomplish the following:

- Prevent communicable and chronic diseases, injuries and disabilities;
- Protect against environmental hazards that affect health and safety;
- Promote the health and wellness of our citizens and our communities; and
- Prepare for and respond to public health emergencies.

WHO WE SERVE

The ACDOH is a population-based, governmental regulatory and human service agency responsible for providing essential public health services, as defined in our mission statement, that affect every county resident.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The ACDOH ensures compliance with provisions of the Public Health Law and Sanitary Codes of the State and County. Article 6 of the Public Health Law defines six core program areas, which serve as the basis for local public health work. Built around these core program areas, NYS Regulations require the submission of a State Aid Application that outlines services provided by local health departments. In addition to these regulatory requirements, other sections of Public Health Law directly mandate the provision of services such as control of rabies, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tobacco enforcement. Essential services of the ACDOH within each core program area are listed below:

FAMILY HEALTH

This program area provides outreach to pregnant women to promote access to early prenatal and obstetric care, maternal and child health services to assure that infants and children receive comprehensive primary and preventive health care, and preventive and primary dental care for children. Family Health activities also include a childhood lead poisoning prevention program and detailing of the fluoride varnish program.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

This program area provides activities to prevent communicable diseases, investigate, and manage outbreaks and epidemics; screening and medical care for active and inactive tuberculosis; confidential diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases for all age groups; childhood and adult immunizations to include rabies post-exposure protection. In addition, HIV/AIDS surveillance, partner notification services and expanded partner services track cases, ensure that individuals are connected with appropriate medical care, and provide outreach and education to high-risk individuals and populations.

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

This program area provides public health information and education programs directed at the general public, targeted high-risk populations and health professionals. In collaboration with community partners, major emphasis is placed upon reducing the prevalence or incidence of chronic diseases and conditions such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, asthma and the underlying risk factors of tobacco use, physical inactivity and poor nutrition.

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COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This program area provides assessment of the health status of the county by reviewing available data on a wide variety of health-related indicators. This includes review of vital statistics information, including birth and mortality; demographic characteristics of the county with attention to those parameters predictive of increased risk of morbidity and mortality; surveillance of communicable and chronic disease indicators; monitoring trends in demographic and disease data to assess emerging public health concerns and the need for public health services to residents. The Community Health Improvement Plan includes strategies and measureable objectives through which the county and its community partners will address areas for health improvement.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

This program area provides an array of services to protect Albany County residents and visitors from potential hazards in our water supply, the air we breathe and in the places where we live, work and play. This is accomplished by means of inspections, sampling, investigation, enforcement, engineering, and education. Major activities include air and water pollution control, solid waste management, and protection of the public water supply; rabies control program; food service inspections and permitting; implementation of the provisions of the Clear Indoor Air Act which regulates smoking in public areas, implementation of the New York State Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act and Albany County Tobacco-21 prohibiting the sale of tobacco products and flavored tobacco to individuals under the age of twenty one; Children's Camp plan approvals and inspections; inspecting hotels and motels for compliance with fire and safety regulations; monitoring of individual water supply and sewage disposal systems; lead paint investigation and abatement activities, regulation of tattoo shops, artists and tanning salons as well as implementation of specific Albany County local laws and resolutions.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program helps develop local public health preparedness plans and enhances the County's capacity for responding to public health threats such as acts of terrorism, pandemic influenza, and other public health emergencies. The PHEP program works with other local, state and federal partners to ensure an integrated and coordinated approach in its public health preparedness, planning and response efforts.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Albany County Department of Health's performance management system monitors how the department identifies organizational goals and ways to attain them through ongoing tracking, assessment and feedback to improve both performance and health outcomes for the populations served.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

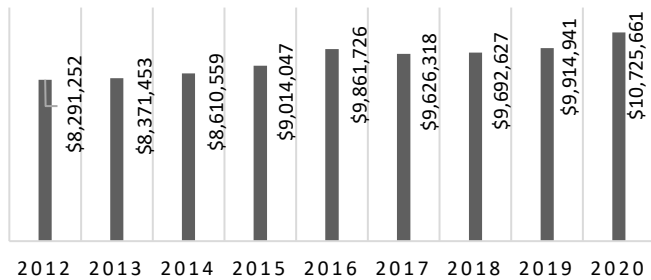
- In 2019, Albany County Department of Health became the seventh health department in New York State to receive National Public Health Accreditation status.
- Implemented the OCHIN EPIC Electronic Medical Records for clinical and nursing program management systems. With OCHIN EPIC, ACDOH maintains a comprehensive electronic charting system, performs E-prescriptions, medical billing functions and laboratory external data exchange for our Sexual Health, Immunization and Tuberculosis Clinics.
- Initiated E-Prescribing in the Pediatric Dental Clinic
- Contracted with Knowledge Capital Alliance and established an electronic Performance Management System, the VMSG dashboard, to track and monitor program activities to advance accountability and transparency
- Established 2019 Health Department Performance Management Projects including efforts to:
 - o Increase the percentage of staff participating in required ACCESS notification drills
 - o Increase the number of staff completing Incident Command System trainings
 - o Implement an electronic performance management system to track and monitor achievement of organizational goals and objectives
 - o Create and use a data collection system to track and monitor human exposure to rabies, post-exposure treatments and appropriate billing of post-exposure treatment
 - o Increase dwelling units inspected, housing children 6 years of age or younger, with blood levels of 5-9 ug/dl in 5 identified target zip codes

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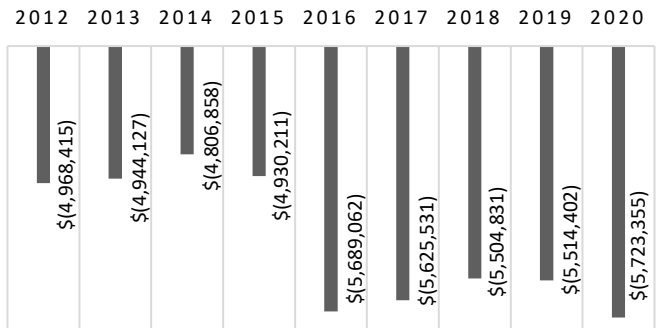
- Increase immunization coverage among county children aged 19 -35 months as reported by the 2 physician practices which are below the 50% quartile as identified in the IAP grant plan.
 - Increase the number of persons trained in naloxone administration
 - Increase the number of persons enrolled in National Diabetes Prevention Programs (NDPP)
- Developed and implemented Albany County Department of Health's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan to advance organizational excellence, disease prevention and connections through collaboration.
- In conjunction with Healthy Capital District Initiative, hospitals, insurers, and community partners, developed 2019-2024 Albany County Community Health Improvement Plan.
- The Albany County Department of Health's "Creating Healthy Connections in Albany County, NY" initiative was awarded a 2019 Model Practice Award by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).
- The Albany County Department of Health's "Million Hearts® in Municipalities: Tobacco Cessation in a Mental Health Clinic in Albany County, New York" initiative was selected as a 2019 Promising Practice by the National Association of County and City Health Officials' Model Practice Program.
- Initiated Electronic Directly Observed Therapy (eDOT) and Electronic Directly Observed Preventive Therapy (eDOPT) for patients receiving treatment for Tuberculosis. This offers patients a convenient option of having DOT via remote interaction with agency staff rather than with a home visit
- Participated in ongoing County equity agenda meetings
- Established, with the Albany County Executive's office, the Albany Promise, and the March of Dimes; the Albany Prematurity Network, a collaborative taskforce to implement and improve strategies to decrease infant prematurity and mortality rates in Albany County.
- Albany County Department of Health was recipient of the third annual University at Albany, School of Public Health Photovoice project award for highlighting its maternal and child health services.
- Worked with the Albany County Department of Human Resource to implement and adopt a County employee breastfeeding/lactation policy
- In conjunction with Healthy Capital District Initiative, hospitals, insurers, and community partners, completed 2019-2024 Albany County Community Health Needs Assessment.
- Continued work with the Albany County Opiate Task force included offering monthly Opioid Overdose classes to the public, improving local availability of Medication-Assisted Therapy (MAT) by community providers, and partnering with law enforcement to improve data related to overdose in Albany County through the use of the ODMAP platform.
- Contracted with Livestories, a web based platform to create visual representation for the public on County wide health data. Opiate data representation is expected to be shared with county residents by 2020.
- Partnered with the Albany Times Union and numerous community partners to create "Prescription for Progress," a community collective to advance comprehensive strategies to address the opiate epidemic.
- Established an agreement with Price Chopper Pharmacies within Albany and connecting counties to assist clients with copayment fees
- Initiated a short term treatment option for patients with latent tuberculosis infection
- Initiated Women to Women support groups and Ask a CHW- Healthy Relationships educational sessions at a local shelter
- Conducted a full-scale exercise on April 11, 2019 to test our capacity to distribute assets to a Point of Dispensing (POD) site in the event of a major public health emergency.
- Implemented education and enforcement efforts for Local Law Number 4 banning Polystyrene foam disposable food products at Albany County permitted sites
- Educated permitted Children's Camps in Albany County on newly released Measles related guidance from NYSDOH
- Began education of pediatric providers and staff planning in advance of revised New York State Lead guidelines lowering actionable blood lead level to 5ug/dl. This is an unfunded mandate, and will require additional resources to effectively carry out.

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HEALTH - APPROPRIATIONS



HEALTH - REVENUE



2020 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- The Health Department will successfully complete all essential public health services required by the New York State Department of Health pursuant to Article 6 of the Public Health Law and Part 40 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of New York State.
- ACDOH will continue to advance programs and services consistent with the Equity Agenda of County Executive McCoy.
- The Health Department will maintain the highest standards of a nationally accredited health department and continue to advance a culture of continuous quality improvement
- ACDOH will Implement 2019-2024 Albany County Community Health Improvement Plan.
- ACDOH will track, monitor and evaluate 2019 -2023 Strategic Plan activities to ensure organizational excellence, disease prevention and connections through collaboration.
- ACDOH will track and monitor all 2019 Performance Management Projects through our VMSG dashboard. We shall implement strategies to continually assess and improve efforts (PDSA cycle) to drive public health improvement planning decisions.
- ACDOH will enhance our Maternal Child Health Program by increasing referrals to our nurse home visiting program, and by implementing strategies to identify and connect patients to services related to maternal mental health and substance use.
- ACDOH epidemiology staff will assume responsibility for our syphilis morbidity previously managed by NYSDOH, as outlined in the Disease Intervention Specialist grant.
- Through the Albany Prematurity Improvement Network, ACDOH will work with partner agencies on strategies to decrease prematurity rates, with specific focus on racial and socioeconomic disparities
- ACDOH will work with NYSDOH , County Executive McCoy, and the county legislature to ensure compliance with new lowered actionable blood lead levels to ensure protection of Albany County children
- ACDOH will establish web based visual representation of opiate related data through use of Livestories platform.
- ACDOH will Increase the health department's capacity to respond to large-scale public health emergencies by conducting a combined full-scale asset distribution and Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

- New grant funding for the Community Health Worker Expansion Project through NYS. This grant expands Community Health Worker services in target communities to address key barriers that impact maternal health outcomes.
- Continued funding for the NYS Highway Safety Program to continue planning and education to reduce the number of crashes, injuries and deaths on New York's road.
- Continued funding for the Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention and Opioid Crisis Grant.
- The Environmental Budget has remained the same based upon grant awards, a stable projected income, and set program deliverables.

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- The one significant variable for 2020 is the unfunded mandate requiring full inspections of homes and other dwellings where children with an elevated lead level above 5ug/dl currently reside or visit. It will involve an additional 4 inspectors, 1 clerical staff (\$189,340 plus fringe), training funds to facilitate the new staffs' EPA certifications (approximately \$7650) testing equipment resourcing of 1XRF unit (\$6000 every 18 months) and clearance sampling (\$14,000/year).
- In 2018 we performed 208 total lead inspections. The anticipation should this change go into effect as currently written will be over 500 inspections per year.

Real life Example:

On November 14, 2018, at the request of an Albany County Pediatric Practice, the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at The Albany County Department of Health (ACHD) was asked to conduct an environmental lead risk assessment at the home of two pediatric patients (ages 9 and 12) with chronically elevated blood lead levels. The children's lead levels were below the action level for intervention as outlined by NYS Regulations but were repeatedly elevated and therefore of concern. When Jack Celuch, ACHD's Lead Risk Assessor arrived at the home, he noted that the house was built in 1987 eliminating it as the likely source of the lead exposure. Jack explored other possibilities with the children's dad to try and determine where the exposure was coming from. It was also reported by the father at that time that *he* also had an elevated Lead test result. The family were recent immigrants from India to the United States and when they moved here, brought with them some pottery, dishes, and spices for cooking. Jack tested all of the pottery and dishes at the home and found that none of the tableware contained lead. A sample of each of the most frequently used spices in the home was then collected and tested at the health department using ACHD's XRF equipment. The result was astonishing... a "mixed, unlabeled spice" tested positive for lead at a level of 380ppm (parts per million). The next day, Jack returned to the home to discuss the spices and cooking practices with both parents. None of the family's spices were in their original containers. The mixed spice was something that the mother had put together using several spices, and was used frequently on food that she cooked for the family and she noted that "the children particularly like that spice. Jack then collected samples of *all* of the family's spices (nine in total), brought them back to ACHD and tested them individually. The results on a jar of turmeric produced levels of 527 ppm, 806 ppm and 604 ppm. The other spices had very low lead (0 to <1) levels but none as high and dangerous as the turmeric. The family was instructed to discard the spice blend and replace the turmeric with a locally purchased product. Instruction was given to the family on the dangers of using unlabeled, imported items for cooking and ingestion by the family and additional nutritional education was emphasized in order to bring blood lead levels (BLL's) of all three family members into normal ranges.