



ALBANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH **2024 ANNUAL PROGRAM AND SERVICES REPORT**

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Dear Albany County Residents,

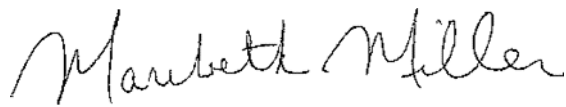
The past year has marked a period of renewal and resilience for the Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH). Following the formal end of the COVID-19 pandemic in May 2023, our department refocused its energy on advancing a full spectrum of public health priorities that strengthen the health and well-being of our community.

From improving maternal health and reducing childhood lead exposure to expanding access to HIV care, vaccinations, and opioid overdose prevention resources, our dedicated staff worked tirelessly to protect and promote health across every stage of life. We enhanced safety for pedestrians and cyclists, ensured the integrity of drinking water, upheld environmental and tobacco regulations, and advanced our preparedness for future public health emergencies.

Our work this year reflects not only compliance with the essential public health services outlined by the New York State Department of Health under Article 6 of the Public Health Law, but also our ongoing commitment to reducing barriers to care, improving health outcomes, and strengthening collaboration with our community partners. Together, with local organizations, healthcare providers, and residents, we continue to build a healthier, safer, and more resilient Albany County.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the ACDOH team and to all of our community partners for their dedication, collaboration, and compassion. The accomplishments highlighted in this report demonstrate what we can achieve when we work together for the common good.

Sincerely,



Maribeth Miller
Interim Commissioner of Health



ABOUT US

MISSION

The Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) strives to protect and improve the health of individuals, families, and communities, utilizing strategies that reduce health disparities and promote health equity.

We collaborate with community partners and offer a variety of high-quality programs and services to accomplish the following:

- PREVENT**
COMMUNICABLE AND
CHRONIC DISEASES, INJURIES,
AND DISABILITIES;
- PROTECT**
AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL
HAZARDS THAT THREATEN
HEALTH AND SAFETY;
- PROMOTE**
THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS
OF OUR CITIZENS AND OUR
COMMUNITIES; AND
- PREPARE**
FOR AND RESPOND TO
PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCIES.

VISION

The Albany County Department of Health will be a trusted governmental agency that is valued by the community for its responsiveness, leadership, and collaboration in addressing public health needs.

VALUES

COMPASSION • INTEGRITY • TRUST • PROFESSIONALISM • COLLABORATION • EXCELLENCE

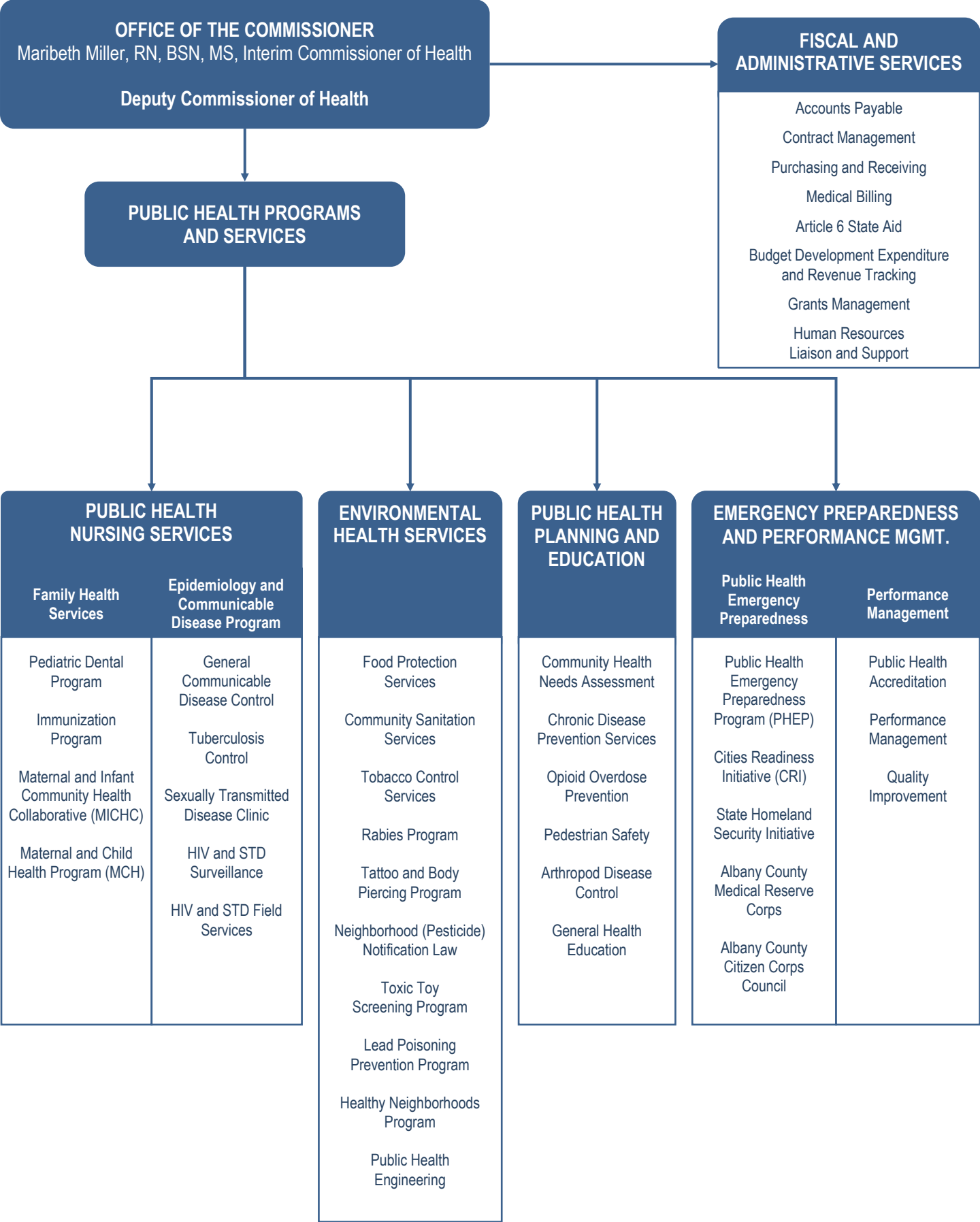
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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

Local Public Health Departments in New York State operate under public health law and utilize a guiding framework from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

ACDOH ensures compliance with provisions of the Public Health Law and Sanitary Codes of New York State and Albany County. Article 6 of the New York State Public Health Law defines six Core Program Areas which serve as the basis for local public health work:

- ▶ **FAMILY HEALTH**
- ▶ **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL**
- ▶ **CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION**
- ▶ **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN**
- ▶ **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**
- ▶ **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Built around these core program areas, New York State (NYS) regulations require the annual submission of a State Aid Application that outlines services provided by local health departments (LHDs). In addition to these regulatory requirements, other sections of New York State Public Health Law directly mandate the provision of services such as control of rabies, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tobacco enforcement.

In addition, the CDC's Ten Essential Public Health Services provide a working definition of public health and a guiding framework for the responsibilities of the local public health system.

TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

1. **ASSESS AND MONITOR** population health.
2. **INVESTIGATE, DIAGNOSE** and **ADDRESS** health hazards and root causes.
3. **COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY** to inform and educate.
4. **STRENGTHEN, SUPPORT** and **MOBILIZE** communities and partnerships.
5. **CREATE, CHAMPION** and **IMPLEMENT** policies, plans and laws.
6. **UTILIZE** legal and regulatory actions.
7. **ENABLE** equitable access.
8. **BUILD** a diverse and skilled workforce.
9. **IMPROVE** and **INNOVATE** through evaluation, research and quality improvement.
10. **BUILD** and **MAINTAIN** a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION

- ▶ Administered **2,535 vaccinations** to **975 residents**
- ▶ Provided **rabies treatment** to **110 individuals**
- ▶ Responded to a **Legionella outbreak**
- ▶ Delivered **3,334 pediatric dental visits**
- ▶ Completed **613 STI/HIV care visits**, reconnecting **37 patients** to services
- ▶ Managed **tuberculosis cases** with **1,443 visits** (in-person, telehealth, home)

MATERNAL & FAMILY HEALTH

- ▶ **327 home visits** for **142 clients**, connecting families to food, housing, and health education

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

- ▶ **2,178 food service inspections**, **74 hotel/motel reviews**, **69 tattoo/piercing checks**
- ▶ Tested **20 children’s toys** for hazardous metals
- ▶ **665 tobacco retail inspections**, identifying **104 illegal sales to minors**
- ▶ Reduced lead exposure: **157 homes inspected**, **149 cleared**, **145 children supported**

INJURY & CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

- ▶ Trained **460 adults** in naloxone use; distributed **584 kits**
- ▶ Reached **1,333 residents** with pedestrian safety education
- ▶ Delivered **8 diabetes prevention programs** for **84 participants**

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESILIENCE

- ▶ Engaged **23 organizations** through Citizen Corps
- ▶ Trained **2,500 Medical Reserve Corps volunteers** in **17 sessions**
- ▶ Operated **8 Points of Dispensing**, serving **370 residents**
- ▶ Shared **161,000 public health messages** and updated emergency plans



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES

The Public Health Nursing Division offers many services to help you and your family stay healthy. These include a pediatric dental clinic, communicable disease surveillance and investigation, a sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinic, a tuberculosis (TB) chest clinic, immunizations, and perinatal and infant community health programs. Our goal is to improve and maintain the best possible family health.



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES

PEDIATRIC DENTAL PROGRAM

Tooth decay and other oral health issues are a significant concern for children. They can cause pain, difficulty eating, and missed school days. For children eligible for Medicaid, getting dental care can be even harder. Some families struggle to find a dentist, lack transportation, or can't afford treatments. Many also don't realize how important it is to take care of teeth early on.

The Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) wants all kids to have better health. Our dental clinic helps children up to age 18 by offering cleanings, checkups, and sealants to protect their teeth. We also teach families about good dental habits and actively support the fluoridation of Albany City's water.

Helping kids stay healthy starts with a healthy smile. That's why our friendly team is here to make going to the dentist easy and positive for everyone.

3334
TOTAL CLINIC
VISITS

1767
DENTAL
CLEANINGS

1120
TEETH
RESTORED

Table 1a. Dental Clinic - Services Summary, 2024

Category	
Total Clinic Visits	3,334
Children Under Age 13	1,061
Children Age 13 - 18	706

Table 1b. Dental Clinic - Types of Exams, 2024

Exams Performed by Dentists	
Exams for Children Under Age 3	51
Emergency Exams	301
Periodic Exams	1,132
Comprehensive Exams	304

Table 1c. Dental Clinic - Types of Services, 2024

Exams Performed by Dentists	
Dental Cleanings	1,767
Total Fluoride Applications	1,836
Fluoride Varnish - Under Age 7	369
Fluoride Varnish - Age 7 and Older	1,467
Procedures Performed Under Nitrous Oxide	273
Teeth Restored	1,120
Teeth Extracted	170



EPIDEMIOLOGY/COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROGRAM

The Epidemiology Program keeps track of and investigates 79 diseases that must be reported to the County and State. Our staff receive, evaluate, and investigate these reports to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases. By doing this, we help protect the health of our community.

In 2024, ACDOH worked 5,886 cases of reportable communicable diseases and non-reportable conditions that cause outbreaks, including diseases that are food or waterborne, sexually-transmitted, vaccine-preventable, vector-borne, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and invasive streptococcal diseases. Additionally, the Epidemiology program worked on reported outbreaks of calicivirus, pertussis, and Legionella. Three suspected cases of measles were also investigated and found to be negative through testing. However, all protocols were practiced to ensure a timely response if there was to be a confirmed positive case.

Table 2. Communicable Disease Cases Reported in Albany County, 2023 v 2024

Disease	2023 Cases	2024 cases
Amebiasis	3	6
Anaplasmosis	85	83
Anthrax	-	-
Babesiosis	40	31
Botulism, Infant	-	-
Campylobacteriosis	86	85
Chikungunya	-	-
Chlamydia	1761	1597
Cryptosporidiosis	13	14
Cyclospora	12	6
Dengue Fever	1	2
E. coli, Shiga-toxin positive	13	20
Ehrlichiosis	1	0
Encephalitis, Other	1	1
Giardiasis	22	43
Gonorrhea	831	640
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	5	6
Hantavirus	-	-

Disease	2023 Cases	2024 cases
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	-	-
Hepatitis A	1	4
Hepatitis B, Acute	1	1
Hepatitis B, Chronic	74	68
Hepatitis C, Acute	7	9
Hepatitis C, Chronic	90	86
Herpes Inf, Infant=<60 days	-	1
Influenza, Laboratory Confirmed	826	2281
Legionellosis	12	42
Listeriosis	3	-
Lyme disease§	481	481
Malaria	6	4
Meningitis, viral/aseptic	11	3
Meningitis, other bacterial	-	-
Meningitis, unknown	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-
Mpox	-	2
Mumps	-	-
Pertussis	1	21
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	-	1
Salmonellosis	47	37
Shigellosis	13	21
Streptococcus, Group A Invasive	51	49
Streptococcus, Group B Invasive	34	25
Streptococcus pneumoniae, Invasive	23	30
Syphilis, Primary or Secondary	63	54
Syphilis, Early, Non-Primary/Secondary	29	13
Syphilis, Unknown Duration or Late	52	49
Syphilis, Congenital	3	3
Toxic Shock Syndrome, Streptococcal	1	-
Tuberculosis	8	8
Typhoid Fever	2	2
Vibriosis	2	4
West Nile Virus	-	-
Yersiniosis	11	20
Zika Virus Infection, Asymptomatic	-	-
Zika Virus Disease, Symptomatic	-	-
TOTAL	4726	5853

* According to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System Case Definitions. Numbers are current as the time of the completion of this report, but are considered provisional and subject to updating when more specific information becomes available. Outbreak numbers not included for outbreaks of non-reportable diseases.

§ These figures represent Sentinel Lyme Disease Surveillance, not the actual number of cases.

CLINICAL SERVICES

STI CLINIC AND STI/HIV PARTNER SERVICES PROGRAM:

Reports show that STIs, particularly syphilis, are increasing, especially in:

- ▶ Teens and Young Adults
- ▶ Non-Hispanic Black Individuals
- ▶ Men Who Have Sex With Men

STIs can cause serious health problems if they aren’t treated early. They can affect people’s ability to have children and can be passed from mother to baby. Catching them early protects everyone.

With funding from the New York State Department of Health, the Albany County Department of Health:

- ▶ Runs a clinic that provides free and confidential STI testing and care
- ▶ Helps people inform their partners about STIs and encourages treatment
- ▶ Offers vaccines for those at higher risk of infection
- ▶ Links patients to medical care and other services to improve health outcomes and reduce the risk of infection.

STI CLINIC

There are over 30 different bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can be spread through sexual contact. STIs are increasing across the State. Our outpatient clinic operates two days a week, offering STI screening and treatment to Albany County residents, no matter their ability to pay. We focus on screening, treatment, safe sexual practices education, and connecting people to reproductive health services.

By providing these services, we aim to protect and improve the health of our community.

Table 3: STI/HIV Partner Services Program Summary, 2024

STI/HIV Services Provided	Number of Individuals
Individuals Provided with Care	437
Encounters in STI Clinic	613
Chlamydia Tests	718
Gonorrhea Tests	718
Syphilis Tests	345
Individuals Tested for HIV	348

IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

The outpatient clinic provides essential medical services, focusing on vaccination. For the year ending 2024, 975 county residents, came through the Albany County Department of Health’s Immunization Clinic.

Table 4. Immunization Services Provided, 2024:

Immunization Services	
Flu Vaccinations Administered	143
Flu Vaccine Provided to Providers Serving High-Risk Individuals	96
COVID-19 Vaccinations Administered	210
MPOX Vaccinations Administered	80
Individuals Treated for Rabies Exposure	110
Rabies Prophylaxis Treatments Provided	309
Additional Immunizations Administered (excludes COVID-19, MPOX, rabies vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin)	2,367

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) CHEST CLINIC

The Clinic addresses both latent and active Tuberculosis, a disease caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis, primarily affecting the lungs. Latent TB is asymptomatic and non-contagious, whereas active TB is infectious and can present with symptoms. The program emphasizes screening, diagnosis, and treatment of active and latent disease

Table 5: Tuberculosis Program Services Summary, 2024

Tuberculosis Program Services:	2024
Chest Clinic Visits	469
Individuals Evaluated	156
PPDs Provided	199
T-Spots Provided	118
Directly Observed Therapy Visits - Home Visits	268
Directly Observed Therapy Visits - Electronically (eDOT)	706



PERINATAL AND INFANT COMMUNITY HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

WOMEN AND INFANTS LINKING LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES FOR WELLNESS (WILLOW)

The Perinatal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (PICHC) is a program funded by the New York State Department of Health. Its goal is to improve the health and well-being of people who are pregnant or have recently given birth, along with their families.

The program focuses on community-based solutions, which means it works with people right where they live to solve problems that affect their health. A key part of this effort is the Women and Infants Linking Lifetime Opportunities for Wellness (WILLOW) team.

The WILLOW team includes Community Health Workers (CHWs) who:

- ▶ Help families find and use healthcare services,
- ▶ Connect people to important resources
- ▶ Support individuals in making informed reproductive health choices

PICHC also trains community member to become health advocates. This empowers people to take charge of their own health and helps reduce barriers to care - especially for those facing challenges linked to social determinants of health.

Health is about more than just doctor visits. Factors like income, housing, education, and access to healthcare can have a big impact on a person’s overall well-being.

To address these challenges, the WILLOW team:

- ▶ Helps high-risk and Medicaid-eligible individuals access prenatal care
- ▶ Works with communities to solve everyday challenges like transportation, childcare, and financial stress
- ▶ Partners with local groups to provide extra support, such as:
 - Food assistance
 - Housing help
 - Educational programs

CHWs from the Albany County Department of Health visit families in their homes during all stages of pregnancy. They listen, assess needs, and connect people to the right services.

To raise awareness, the WILLOW team also attended 60 outreach events

180

REFERRALS
RECEIVED

142

CLIENTS
ENROLLED

327

TOTAL VISITS
MADE



Category	
Referrals Received	180
Clients Enrolled	142
Total Visits Made	327

Case Type	Case Definition	Clients	Visits
Antepartum	During pregnancy	76	148
Postpartum	After childbirth	24	65
Interconception/Newborn	Between pregnancies, newborn	32	84
Non-Birthing Caregivers	Support of caregivers	10	30



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Division of Environmental Health helps keep people in Albany County safe and healthy by looking at how the environment affects our daily lives. Our work might not always be visible, but it's important for things like making sure our drinking water is clean and restaurants are safe to eat at.

Environmental Health uses science, education, and rules i.e. laws and regulations to:

LOWER THE RISK OF PEOPLE GETTING SICK FROM THE ENVIRONMENT

TEACH THE PUBLIC ABOUT POSSIBLE HEALTH DANGERS

LOOK INTO OUTBREAKS TO FIND WHAT CAUSED THEM AND HOW TO FIX THE PROBLEM

Our goal is to prevent health problems before they happen and make sure the environment we live in supports healthy lives.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

COMMUNITY SANITATION AND FOOD PROTECTION SERVICES

FOOD SERVICE INSPECTIONS

Foodborne outbreaks, although rare, are a significant concern for the Department of Health. These outbreaks can occur when food is stored at improper temperatures or contaminated with viruses, toxins, or bacteria. To prevent foodborne illnesses, our program conducts regular inspections of restaurants, schools, and mobile and temporary food vendors. These inspections ensure compliance with sanitary regulations, safeguarding public health.

Table 1: 2023 and 2024 Activities:

Establishment Type	2023		2024	
	Number of Inspections	Number of Facilities	Number of Inspections	Number of Facilities
Restaurants/Catering Operations, Schools and Institutions	2059	1654	2745	1554
Temporary Food Service Establishments/Events	82	357	142	280
Mobile Food Service Establishments	44	65	83	57
Summer Feeding Sites	39	41	52	44
State Office for the Aging Sites	30	27	46	31
Total	2254	2144	3068	1966

GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

CHILDREN'S CAMPS

The Children's Camps program regulates the operation and permitting of 39 children's day and overnight camps. The program aims to prevent illness and injury by ensuring facilities adhere to health and safety regulations, including those related to fire safety, sanitation, water, sewer systems, food, and pools. (Table 2)

MOBILE HOME PARKS

This program provides sanitary inspection of mobile home parks (including water supply and/or septic). (Table 2)

POOLS/BATHING BEACHES

Staff inspect beach facilities and community pools to ensure sanitary standards are met. In addition, they review and approve engineering plans for new and upgraded pools. (Table 2)

TEMPORARY RESIDENCES (HOTELS/MOTELS) AND MIGRANT & FARM WORKER HOUSING

Regulatory oversight is provided to hotels and/or motels and migrant farm worker housing camps to ensure compliance with regulations including fire safety, water quality, sewer/septic, food service and/or pools related issues. (Table 2)

TANNING

Indoor tanning facilities are permitted and inspected every two years to check for proper sanitation, safety, and compliance with health regulations. Because of this schedule, the number inspected and permitted may vary from year to year. These inspections help protect public health by reducing the risk of skin and eye injuries, allergic reactions, and overexposure to UV radiation. *(Table 2)*

Table 2: 2023 and 2024 Activities:

Establishment Type	2023		2024	
	Number of Inspections	Number Under Permit	Number of Inspections	Number Under Permit
Children's Camps	52	43	73	39
Mobile Home Parks	30	30	32	30
Pools	336	193	490	191
Bathing Beaches	1	1	1	1
Spray Parks	5	3	5	3
Hotels and Motels	79	75	74	71
Migrant Farm Worker Housing	11	12	24	12
Tanning	18	18	18	16
Totals	514	357	717	363

TATTOO AND BODY PIERCING

Getting a tattoo or body piercing has become more popular over the years. But if these procedures aren’t done safely, they could lead to bacterial skin infections or serious disease like Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV. About 0.5 to 6% of people who get tattoos in the US may develop a skin infection.

To help keep people safe, the **Tattoo and Body Piercing Program** in Albany County:

- **Inspects** tattoo and piercing shops to make sure they follow health and safety rules;
- **Monitors** tattoo and body piercing artists to be sure they use clean tools and safe practices;
- **Requires an exam** to certify tattoo and body piercing artists before they’re allowed to work in the county.

These steps help protect the public and make sure tattoos and piercings are done in a safe and healthy way.

Table 3: 2023 and 2024 Activities:

Program	2023		2024	
	Number Permitted	Number Inspected	Number Permitted	Number Inspected
Tattoo/Body Piercing Establishments	58	58	57	68
Artists	146	N/A	179	N/A

TOXIC TOY SCREENING PROGRAM

Following the passage of the Toxic Toy Law, this program was implemented to test toys and children’s clothing sold in Albany County for dangerous levels of harmful chemicals like antimony, arsenic, cadmium, lead (surface coating), lead (assessable substrate) and mercury.

By finding and removing unsafe products, the program helps protect children from serious health programs linked to chemical exposure, including learning and developmental issues.

Table 10: 2023 and 2024 Activities:

Activity	2023		2024	
	Number of Inspections	Number of Violations Issued	Number of Inspections	Number of Violations Issued
Locations Inspected	40	0	30	0

NEIGHBORHOOD (PESTICIDE) NOTIFICATION LAW

Department staff monitor retail vendors for compliance with pesticide application requirements, ensuring that proper public notifications and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation signage are clearly posted.

This oversight helps protect public health by:

- Reducing unintentional exposure to harmful chemicals;
- Making pesticide use more visible in community spaces;
- Helping people make safer, more informed choices.

Table 4: 2023 and 2024 Activities:

Program	2023	2024
	Number Inspected	Number Inspected
Facilities that sell pesticides	45	49
Pesticides Complaints	0	1

TOBACCO CONTROL SERVICES

Tobacco control services work to reduce preventable illness, death, and financial strain linked to tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure. These efforts also focus on preventing youth from starting to smoke or vape, helping to protect future generations and building a healthier community for all.

NEW YORK STATE ADOLESCENT TOBACCO USE PREVENTION ACT (ATUPA)

The ATUPA program employs 16- and 17-year- olds to help inspectors check if stores are following laws about selling tobacco products. Staff also verify compliance with the County’s local law requiring retail tobacco products to be kept behind the sales counters. All stores are checked once a year, and those with violations are re-inspected up to three times to ensure they follow the rules. *(Table 5)*

TOBACCO 21

In the US, it is illegal to sell tobacco, liquid nicotine, or electronic cigarettes to anyone under 21 years of age. The Health Department checks stores regularly to make sure they are following this law. *(Table 5)*

CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT

This program ensures establishments are complying with the Clean Indoor Air Act, which requires nearly every workplace (including all bars and restaurants) to be smoke-free. *(Table 5)*

Table 5: 2023 and 2024 Activities

	2023			2024		
	Number of Inspections	Number of Facilities	Number of Violations	Number of Inspections	Number of Facilities	Number of Violations
Adult & Minor Compliance Check	617	310	94	665	310	110
Clean Indoor Air Act Complaints	2	N/A	0	6	N/A	0

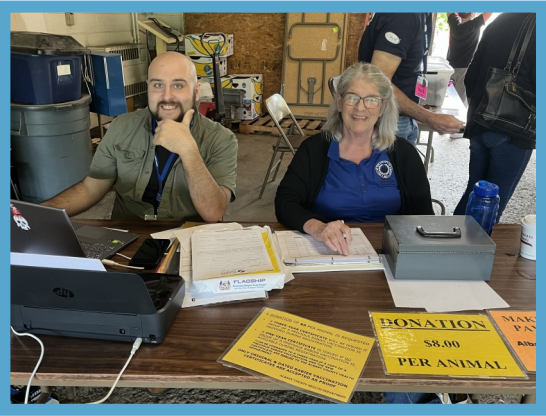
RABIES

Rabies is a deadly virus that attacks the brain and nervous system. While human cases of rabies are rare, animals like bats, foxes, raccoons, and others still spread rabies in our county. The Rabies Program investigates animal bite cases and provides post-exposure rabies vaccine to all persons who meet criteria – no matter their ability to pay.

Our staff help educate primary care providers (doctors, nurses, etc.), emergency rooms, and local residents about the risks and treatment of animal bites. To protect pets and families, the department partners with the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society to offer low-cost rabies vaccine clinics for dogs, cats, and ferrets.

Table 6: 2023 and 2024 Activities:

Program	2023 Number	2024 Number
Number of Animals Vaccinated at Clinics (n=4/year)	343	426
Number of Rabies Complaints Investigated	845	797
Number of Adults Provided with Prophylaxis	113	114



WATER SAFETY

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION, REALTY SUBDIVISION AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SANITATION

This program helps keep drinking water safe in Albany County by making sure public water systems (PWS) meet health standards. It also reviews and approves plans for new neighborhoods i.e. municipal residential subdivisions and checks private wells and sewage disposal systems before they are used.

Each year, municipal water treatment plants are inspected to ensure clean, safe water. Private residential wells and sewage disposal systems are inspected before approval to protect people from water contamination and related illnesses.

By making sure water sources are safe, the program plays a key role in protecting public health and preventing the spread of disease.

Table 7: 2023 and 2024 Activities:

Location/Activity	2023		2024	
	Number Received	Number Completed	Number Received	Number Completed
Water Plants Inspected	N/A	61	N/A	15
Water Distribution Approvals	15	15	16	16
Sewer District Approvals	27	27	12	12
Subdivision Approvals	3	3	3	3
Residential Well and Septic Approvals	66	26	39	38

RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Staff inspect homes reported as unsafe or unlivable, also known as nuisance homes. They work with the Albany County Department of Social Services, Code Enforcement, and Child Protective Services to investigate the problems and help fix them.

This teamwork helps improve living conditions and protects the health and safety of the people living there – especially children and those with higher health risks.

Table 8: 2023 and 2024 Activities:

Location/Activity	2023	2024
	Number Completed	Number Completed
Sewage/Septic Complaints	16	21
Nuisance Complaints	21	11

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PRIMARY PREVENTION PROGRAM (CLPPPP) AND LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM (LPPP)

Lead can harm a child’s growth, behavior, and ability to learn. A blood lead level of 5 ug/dL or higher requires follow up care. These programs help reduce childhood lead exposure through both prevention and early action, and include:

- ▶ Educating families and health care professionals about the dangers of lead exposure;
- ▶ Working with medical professionals to ensure children are tested and treated when needed;
- ▶ Reducing lead in homes and other environments through targeted interventions.

By identifying problems early and lowering lead exposure, these efforts help protect children’s health, support their learning and development, and reduce long-term health care costs.

Table 9: 2023 and 2024 Activities:

Location/Activity	2023	2024
	Number Completed	Number Completed
Homes Inspected	165	157
Homes Cleared	169	149
Children with BLL* 5-<10	71	112
Children with BLL* 10-<15	12	16
Children with BLL* 15-25	9	16
Children with BLL* 25-45	4	1
Children with BLL* >45	0	0

BLL – Blood Lead Level
*BLL Interventions vary depending on severity. For BLLs greater than 45 ug/l chelation therapy is initiated. Overtime the BLLs have decreased at higher levels. Prior to June 2009 the poisoning level was 20ug/dl. In June of 2009 the level decreased to 15ug/dl and then in October 2019 the level decreased to 5ug/dl.



PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING AND EDUCATION

The Division of Public Health Planning and Education helps prevent chronic diseases, injuries, and disabilities. It does this by teaching residents about health and promoting safer, healthier choices, especially for those who may not have access to care.

The Division works with community partners to:

STUDY LOCAL HEALTH DATA

IDENTIFY PRIORITY HEALTH CONCERNS

CREATE PLANS TO IMPROVE HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY

These efforts help people live longer, healthier lives and build stronger, more resilient communities.

PLANNING AND EDUCATION

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Albany County Department of Health has received several grants to help prevent illness and injury and create healthier communities. These include:

- ▶ **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plans:** Funding for projects that address the root causes of poor health like housing, income, and access to care.
- ▶ **Highmark BlueShield of Northeastern New York 2019 Blue Fund Award - Developing Community Partnerships to Prevent Diabetes:** Funding to develop and provide evidence-based programs to prevent diabetes.
- ▶ **Highway Safety Grant Program:** Supporting safer roads through the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.
- ▶ **Opioid Settlement Fund:** Expanding local efforts to reduce opioid-related harm



These grants support important programs that improve community wellness, prevent disease and injury, and promote health equity – fairness in access to care.

PREVENTION AGENDA 2022-2024

Albany County Department of Health worked with Healthy Capital District, hospitals, insurers, and other community partners to develop the 2022 *Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment*. This report helped guide the *Albany County 2022 – 2024 Community Health Improvement Plan*, which focuses on addressing the area's most pressing health challenges.

Identified Albany County *Prevention Agenda 2022-2024* priorities include:

- ▶ **Reducing obesity** and lowering the risk of chronic disease
- ▶ **Preventing opioid and substance misuse** to reduce fatalities
- ▶ **Enhancing suicide prevention** efforts to support mental wellbeing
- ▶ **Improving COVID-19 vaccination rates** to safeguard community health

These initiatives show our shared commitment to building a healthier, stronger community by working together and focusing on the needs that matter most for people's health and well-being.



CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

Albany County Department of Health works closely with community partners to build healthier, stronger communities. Together, they focus on programs that promote healthy living and help prevent chronic disease. These efforts aim to create lasting change by improving local policies, systems, and environments that influence health.

One key issue is obesity. The 2023 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey found that 30.1% of adults in Albany County are obese. Obesity can lead to serious health problems like type 2 diabetes, osteoarthritis, high blood pressure, and heart disease. By implementing targeted efforts to reduce obesity, the County can lower the risk of chronic disease and help people live healthier lives .



2024 ACTIVITIES

ALBANY COUNTY STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH COALITION

Albany County Department of Health founded and leads the Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health. This group includes more than sixty (60) organizations working together to improve health in Albany County communities that need it most.

The alliance focuses on three major health problems:

- ▶ unhealthy eating,
- ▶ not enough physical activity,
- ▶ and tobacco use.

These problems can cause serious long-term illnesses like diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and asthma. By working with many different partners, the Alliance aims to make strong, lasting changes that improve health outcomes across the community.

PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING

Albany County Department of Health supported and promoted Baby Café services run by St. Peter's Health Partners. Baby Cafés are free community spaces where parents can get breastfeeding support in a friendly and welcoming setting. They offer help from trained lactation consultants, chances to talk with other parents, and a safe place to ask questions and share experiences. Through this partnership, ACDOH helped expand awareness and accessibility, ensuring families had the resources they needed for successful infant feeding.

ENHANCE HEALTHY LIVING

City of Watervliet Active Communities Tool (ACT) - Action Plan

- ▶ Albany County Department of Health assembled a City of Watervliet Active Communities Leadership Team comprising diverse, multisector partners, including representatives from the City, school district, transportation sector, healthcare organizations, community-based groups, and residents with lived experience.
- ▶ Albany County Department of Health and Leadership Team members conducted surveys, walk audits, and asset inventories to gather insights and shape recommendations for the City of Watervliet ACT Action Plan. This plan aims to promote physical activity through built environment interventions.



Key goals include:

- ▶ Increasing active travel to and from schools for students.
- ▶ Developing a comprehensive map of the community's parks and recreational areas.
- ▶ Strengthening the Complete Streets Policy to improve accessibility and safety.
- ▶ Adopting and implementing the Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan to address the City's specific traffic safety priorities.
- ▶ Albany County Department of Health partnered with community partners and municipalities to enhance physical activity opportunities, including support for demonstration projects with supplies and equipment from ACDOH's Complete Streets Lending Library.
- ▶ Albany County Department of Health actively participated in the Capital Region Transportation Council's Active Transportation Advisory Committee and Equity Advisory Committee.
- ▶ Actively participated in the Watervliet City School District Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Committee



Albany County Department of Health staff conducting Watervliet walk audit

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHANGES

According to the 2023 BRFSS survey, about 11.7 % of adults in Albany County have prediabetes. Albany County Department of Health is committed to helping people prevent, detect early, and manage diabetes. We focus especially on communities at higher risk because of social and economic challenges or other factors.

- ▶ Albany County Department of Health worked with Hixny (Health Information Exchange of New York) to use data on high blood pressure and prediabetes. This helps guide activities to prevent chronic diseases. By using this data, we can better understand the health needs of our community and find programs that improve people's health.
- ▶ Albany County Department of Health used funding from Highmark BlueShield of Northeastern New York to support National Diabetes Prevention Programs (NDPPs). These efforts aim to improve community health and prevent diabetes.
 - We trained three (3) individuals as National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) Lifestyle Coaches to boost community prevention efforts.
 - We also launched a prediabetes awareness campaign, using social media and messages on Capital District Transportation Authority buses.
 - Albany County Department of Health enrolled eighty (80) participants across eight (8) NDPP groups, expanding access to diabetes prevention resources in the community.



Participants having completed the National Diabetes Prevention Program

TOBACCO-FREE LIVING

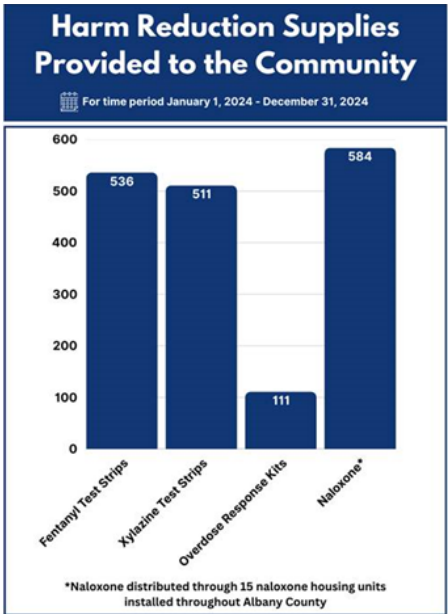
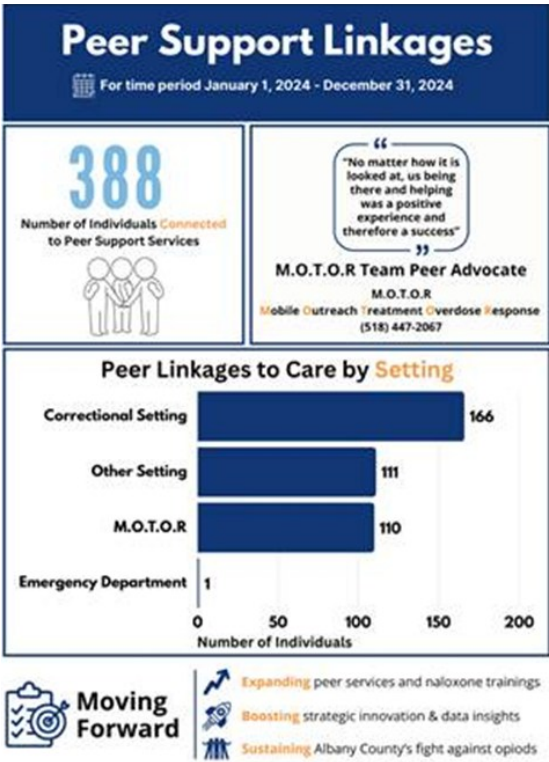
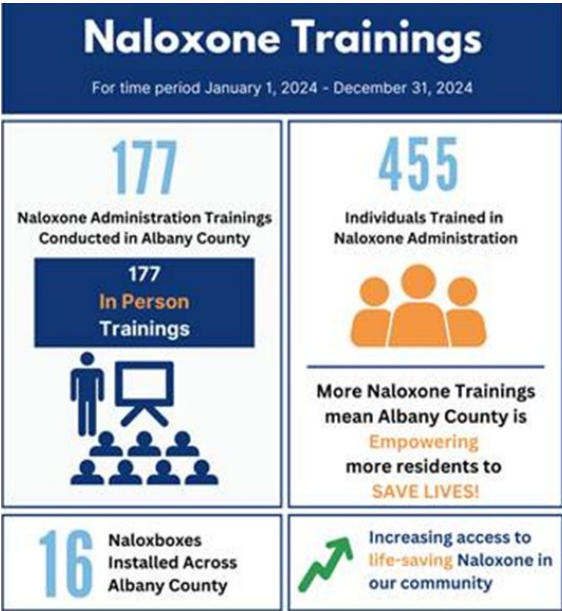
We delivered anti-vaping education to about 100 eighth-grade students at North Albany Middle School, promoting awareness and healthy choices.

INJURY PREVENTION INITIATIVES

OPIOID USE DISORDER

In 2024, Albany County reported eighty-five (85) fatal opioid overdoses, with an average age of 47 years and 74% of cases involving males.

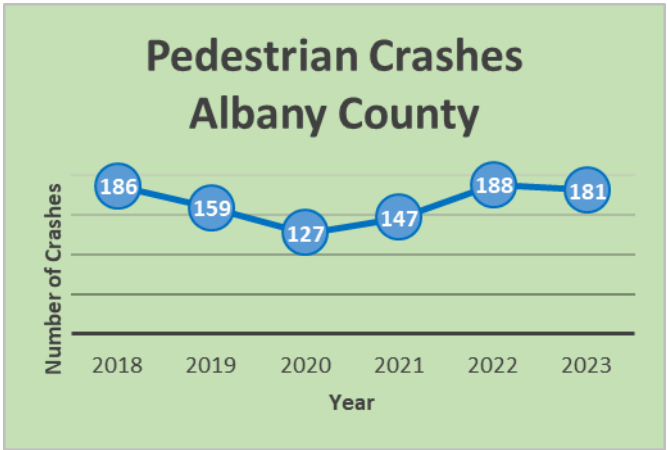
- ▶ Albany County Department of Health co-sponsors the Albany County Opioid Task Force, helping individuals and families affected by opioid use disorder through prevention, education, law enforcement, and quick access to treatment.
- ▶ We also provided free monthly naloxone administration training sessions to the public, giving people the skills to save lives during opioid overdoses.
- ▶ Albany County promoted peer support connections, including referrals to Albany County Department of Mental Health Mobile Outreach Treatment Overdose Response (M.O.T.O.R.) team. This ensured individuals had timely access to support and resources.
- ▶ Albany County Department of Health promoted safe disposal of medications through local collection events and public awareness efforts. Multiple locations in Albany County serve as permanent drop-off sites for prescription medications, ensuring ongoing safe disposal options.
- ▶ Albany County Department of Health provided harm reduction supplies to support community safety and prevent substance-related risks.
- ▶ We educated about 250 students at Bethlehem High School on the opioid crisis and harm reduction strategies, promoting awareness and safer choices.



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Over four years (2021-2024 preliminary), 694 pedestrians were hit by vehicles in Albany County, mostly in the City of Albany. Central Avenue, Henry Johnson Boulevard, Madison Avenue, and Quail Street had the highest numbers.

Albany County Department of Health is committed to reducing these incidents through ongoing education, community engagement, and the promotion of best safety practices. Our efforts aim to make the streets safer for everyone.



Albany County Department of Health received funding from New York State's Highway Safety Grant Program to improve pedestrian safety. This initiative raises awareness about visibility strategies and the dangers of drowsy driving, giving residents essential knowledge to stay safe on the roads.

- ▶ In 2024, our staff educated 1,027 people on motor vehicle laws, traffic safety, and pedestrian awareness at 39 community events, promoting safer roads for all.
- ▶ Our 2024 public awareness campaign reached 2,682 subscribers with pedestrian safety information through the Albany County Executive's Facebook page and GovDelivery email bulletins.
- ▶ We are an active member of the Safe Kids Capital Region coalition.

These efforts aim to make our community safer and more informed.



Albany County Department of Health Traffic Safety Coordinator sharing information with school-aged children.



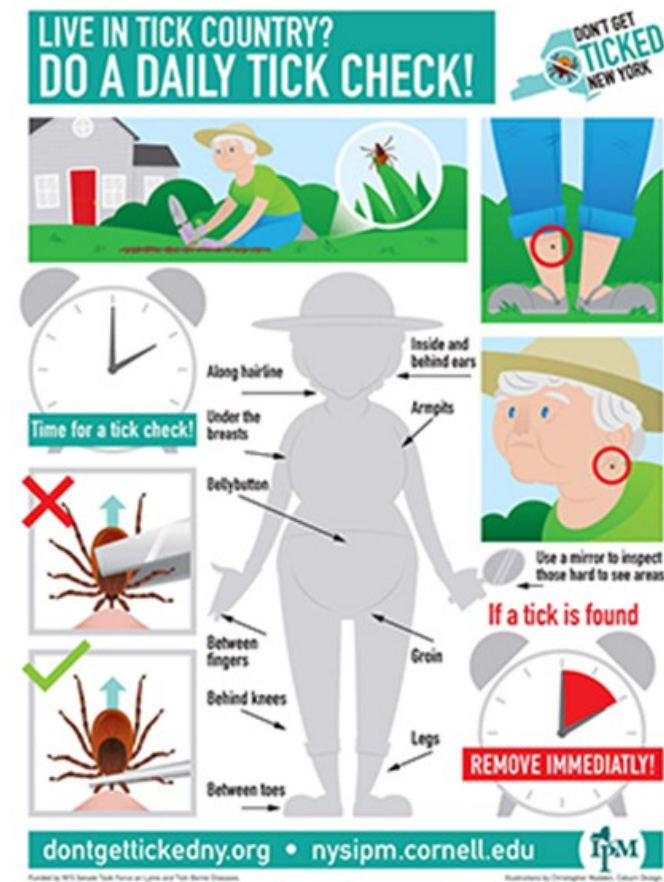
Albany County Department of Health "Street Team" staff engaging and educating pedestrians along high-risk intersections.

ARTHROPOD DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES

Albany County Department of Health educates the community on tick-borne disease prevention while promoting timely provider reporting to enhance awareness.

In 2024, Albany County Department of Health:

- Provided information and tick removal kits to 1,485 residents
- Provided information and tick removal kits to physician practices and other organizations (including municipal governments, clubs, outdoor/recreational groups, businesses)



GENERAL HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

In 2024, Albany County Department of Health actively engaged the community through targeted health education and outreach efforts, ensuring residents had access to important public health information.

Key initiatives include:

- Expanding digital outreach by providing comprehensive health information via social media on a wide range of topics, including disease prevention including vaccination, nutrition and breastfeeding, physical activity, and chronic conditions such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and tobacco use. This initiative also covered environmental health concerns like rabies and lead poisoning, and public health emergency preparedness including extreme weather readiness.
- Participating in 50 community events, where staff shared essential guidance on opioid use disorder, pedestrian safety, dangers of tobacco use and vaping, nutrition, poison control services, cancer screenings, cardiovascular disease prevention, falls prevention, tick-borne diseases, rabies, mosquito-related diseases, asthma, childhood and adult immunizations including COVID-19 and flu, physical activity, sun safety, and pre-diabetes.
- Delivering 10 educational presentations to community organizations on cardiovascular health, immunizations, emergency preparedness, tick-borne diseases, pedestrian safety, and diabetes.
- Supporting individuals seeking asylum by conducting three dedicated outreach efforts to educate 50 individuals on the importance of COVID-19 vaccination.



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program helps Albany County get ready for public health emergencies like pandemics, natural disasters, and even acts of terrorism.

It creates and tests local emergency preparedness plans and works closely with local, state, and federal partners to make sure everyone is ready and working together. This teamwork helps the County respond faster, protect public health, and reduce the impact of public health emergencies on the community.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE, AND STATE HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Albany County Department of Health uses the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) framework to review and improve how it distributes medical supplies including vaccine during public health emergencies. Building on past efforts, the PHEP team made changes to make clinics more efficient and easier to access. Community clinic sites, also called Points of Dispensing (PODs), were redesigned to improve flow and reduce wait times.

To better support people with limited English skills, interpreters were added to help with communication and improve the overall experience.

In 2024, the PHEP Program continued to open PODs and distribute supplies in response to the following public health threats:

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

- ▶ Held two (2) COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics giving 160 total vaccines (60 COVID-19, 100 flu) to 107 people.
- ▶ Distributed 440 COVID-19 test kits to help people find out if they were sick more quickly.
- ▶ Worked with community partners to run five (5) PODs for serving individuals in need of support.

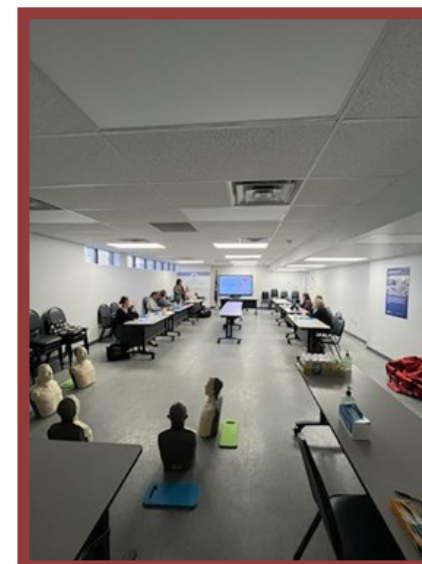


139

Number of
completed health
screenings

108

Number of vaccines
provided to 92 people.
(44 COVID-19, 64 flu)



ALBANY COUNTY CITIZEN CORP AND MEDICAL RESERVE CORP (MRC) ACTIVITIES

With support from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program, Cities Readiness Initiative, and State Homeland Security funding, Albany County strengthened its public health emergency response efforts throughout 2024.

Members of the Albany County Citizen Corps Council and the Albany County Medical Reserve Corps played an important role in these efforts. They helped improve public health emergency planning, supported response activities, and built stronger connections with the community. Their work made emergency response capabilities more efficient and helped build long-term community resilience.

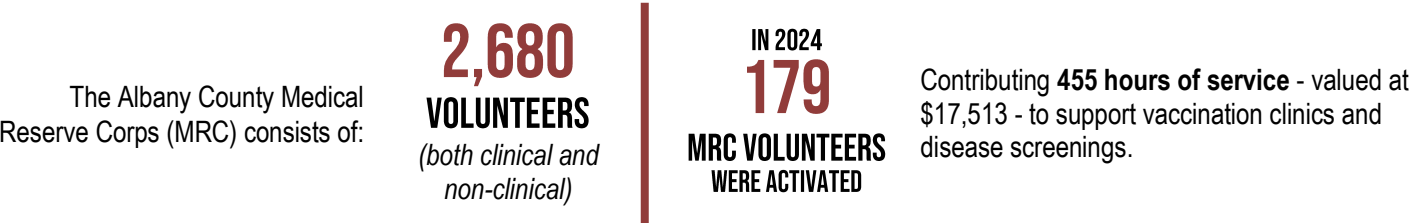
Albany County Citizen Corps members, representing 22 community partners, took part in quarterly meetings focused on public health emergency preparedness and response updates. These meetings also helped build relationships that are key to sharing health information quickly and making sure the needs of those most at risk are met.

In 2024, the program introduced the CMIST Framework, which helps include people with access and functional needs in all parts of public health emergency planning, response, and recovery. CMIST stands for:

- Communication
- Maintaining Health
- Independence
- Support & Safety
- Transportation

The framework will guide future planning to make sure emergency responses are accessible and effective for everyone.

Albany County Citizen Corps members also participated in the Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop, led by the PHEP staff. Their input helped shape the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP), which outlines a multi-year strategy for public health readiness and coordination across agencies.



In addition to response work, MRC volunteers also took part in regular training to stay ready for future responses.

We are deeply grateful to our MRC volunteers for their time, effort, and commitment to protecting community health.

Albany County MRC Activities (2024)		
Activity/Event	Number of Events	Number of Hours Volunteered
Training	14	393
PODs	5	62
Total	19	455

Albany County MRC Trainings (2024)		
Topic	Number of Trainings	Number of Participants
CPR/AED Certification	3	14
Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification	3	14
MRC Orientation and POD Training	6	83
Crisis Communications	1	28
Natural Hazards	1	21
Total	14	160

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE, AND STATE HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

In In 2024, the Albany County Department of Health worked with the County’s Communication team, to send out 160,868 public health and emergency preparedness messages through GovDelivery. These messaged gave residents up-to-date information on:

- Emergency preparedness
- COVID-19 vaccination
- How to lower the risk of respiratory infections
- Air quality alerts and how to reduce exposure to fire smoke
- Preparing for extreme weather

This helped keep the community informed, safe, and ready to responds.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND READINESS

BUILDING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS THROUGH TRAINING AND DRILLS

- **CPR/AED and Basic Life Support (BLS) Trainings.**
6 sessions trained 28 MRC volunteers in life-saving skills.
- **MRC Orientation Sessions.**
6 sessions gave 83 MRC volunteers the basics of emergency preparedness and response
- **Specialized Trainings.**
2 sessions on Crisis Communication and Natural Hazards trained 49 volunteers to respond more effectively.
- **Quarterly Notification Drills.**
9 drills tested emergency communication systems and updated contact lists for:
 - ACDOH staff
 - Strategic National Stockpile Incident Command Staff
 - MRC volunteers.
- **Emergency Exercises.**
These helped improve response strategies and identify areas for improvement:
 - Measles Tabletop Exercise
 - Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Tabletop Exercise
 - Combined COVID-19/Flu Vaccination PODs
 - Chemical Surge Tabletop Exercise
 - United State Postal Service Bio-Detection System Tabletop Exercise

These activities helped improve readiness, sharpened response skills, and build stronger community resilience.

MANAGING EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Ongoing inventory checks made sure that enough supplies and equipment were always available - so the team could respond quickly and effectively during public health emergencies.





PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Public health accreditation helps the department:

- ▶ Find ways to improve services,
- ▶ Make daily operations run more smoothly,
- ▶ Build strong leadership and teamwork, and
- ▶ Create better partnerships in the community.

During 2024, ACDOH successfully implemented PHAB principles and practices including:

- ▶ Community engagement
- ▶ Closing health gaps
- ▶ Data-driven decision making
- ▶ Quality improvement
- ▶ Collaboration and partnerships
- ▶ Leadership and governance
- ▶ Transparency and accountability

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

In 2024, the Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) tracked progress using 61 key performance indicators (KPIs). These helped the department stay on track and improve its many health programs.

KPIs are important tools that measure how well health programs and services are working. They are designed to match the department’s focus areas, such as preventing disease, promoting environmental health (like clean air, water, and safe housing), supporting mothers and children, preparing for emergencies, managing chronic illnesses, and teaching the public about healthy living.

By regularly reviewing this data, ACDOH makes smart decisions, improves services, and helps keep the community healthy.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) follows national standards to help improve public health and strengthen local services. In 2019, ACDOH earned official accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). PHAB is a national organization that sets clear rules to help health departments across the country do a better job and serve their communities more effectively.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES

THE DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Division of Finance and Administration launched a new, streamlined system for ordering equipment. This system ensures employees have the tools they need to do their jobs well, helping to improve productivity and increase job satisfaction.

Key Achievements & Impact

- ▶ **New Ordering System:** Set up a simple and clear process for ordering work equipment.
- ▶ **Faster Access to Equipment:** Employees now get needed equipment more quickly, helping them stay productive
- ▶ **Better Tracking:** Orders are now tracked more closely, helping the team stay organized and avoid delays.
- ▶ **Improved Job Satisfaction:** Employees feel more supported and prepared.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING AND EDUCATION

The Division of Public Health Planning and Education aimed to assess community design and create an action plan for at least one (1) priority community in Albany County to promote physical activity.

Key Achievements & Impact

- ▶ **Community Assessment:**
Completed an evaluation of the built environment in the City of Watervliet, identifying ways to improve accessibility and encourage physical activity.
- ▶ **Active Communities Tool (ACT) Template:**
Developed a planning tool to help local communities make long-term improvements that support active lifestyles.
- ▶ **Actionable Guidance:**
Provided tailored guidance to help Watervliet make informed decisions about policies and infrastructure that supports active living.
- ▶ **Advancing Public Health Goals:** Supported broader public health goals by aligning efforts with urban planning, wellness, and chronic disease prevention strategies.

As of July 31, 2024, these efforts have laid the foundation for long-term improvements, helping to build a healthier, more active community.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Division of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Performance Management worked to strengthen partnerships with the Citizen Corps Council (CCC) agencies to improve coordination and bi-directional communication during public health emergencies.

Key Achievements & Impact:

- ▶ **Improved Collaboration:** CCC partners meet quarterly to improve communication with the County's most vulnerable populations, ensuring faster and more effective emergency responses.
- ▶ **Increased Participation:** The goal was to grow CCC agency participation from 13 to 20 by the end of 2025. As of December 31, 2024, participation had increased to 23 agencies – a 77% increase.
- ▶ **Exceeding Engagement Goals:** The division surpassed its target goal, showing stronger community interest and involvement.
- ▶ **Strengthened Emergency Preparedness:** With more active partners, the County is better equipped to respond to public health emergencies, share critical resources, and gather input from community members.

This stronger community involvement helps create a better public health emergency plans that protect the people of Albany County.

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Division for Finance and Administration provides department-wide support in procurement, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, annual budget development and expenditure tracking, grant oversight, corporate compliance. Medicaid billing, contract administration, financial policies and procedures, and audit support.

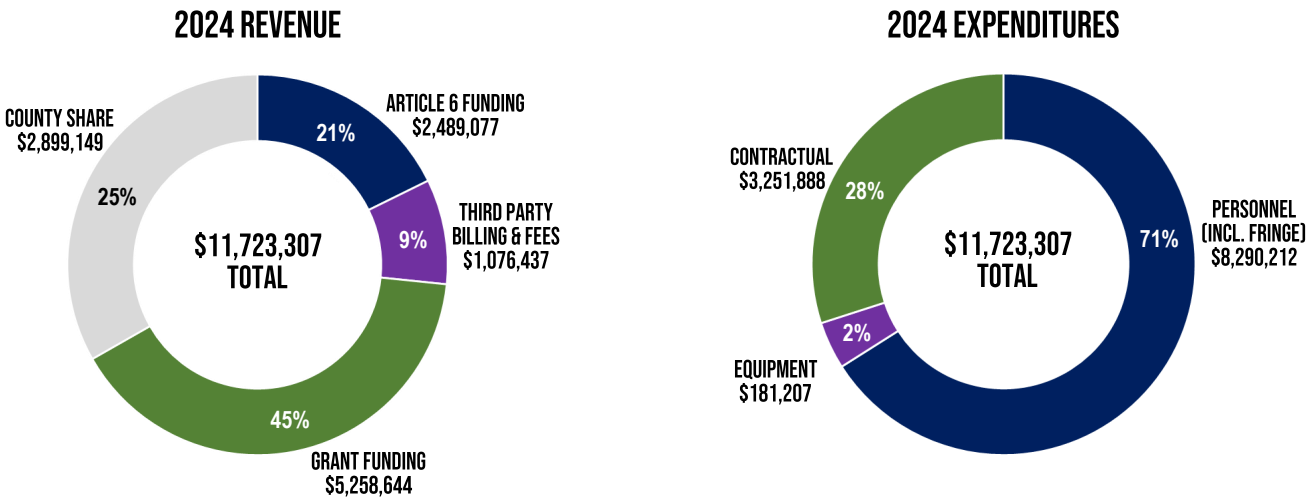
FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

2024 ACDOH OPERATING BUDGET

The adopted 2024 Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) budget totaled \$13.9 million, funded through multiple revenue streams, including Federal, State, and County funds and grants. It also incorporated funding from New York State (NYS) Article 6 of the Public Health Law.

In April 2022, NYS Article 6 funding increased the base allocation by \$100,000, bringing it to \$750,000. Additional changes allowed fringe reimbursement at a rate not exceeding 50%. After the base grant was expended, the State reimbursement rate for local health department eligible costs for mandated services was set at 36%. In 2024, ACDOH received \$2,489,077 in NYS Article 6 funding.

ACDOH took proactive measures to ensure a sustainable and fiscally responsible operating budget by continuously identifying cost-saving opportunities and actively pursuing additional grant funding.





**ALBANY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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Albany, New York 12202