



ALBANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2022 ANNUAL PROGRAM AND SERVICES REPORT

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ALBANY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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ALBANY COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

I am pleased to present this 2022 annual report to the residents of Albany County, which highlights the work of the Albany County Department of Health in 2022.

In 2022, our staff remained engaged in important public health measures to contain and prevent disease related to the COVID19 global pandemic; working in the community to continue to ensure equitable education and availability of vaccination including important booster vaccinations and ensuring that appropriate strategies around return to work and school were implemented in the County. Our work continues to focus on reducing health disparities and promoting health equity in the community we serve, including issues related to chronic disease, maternal child health, environmental hazards, preparedness for future public health emergencies, and responding to communicable disease concerns.

Public health is a science and an art that connects us all. Our team remains committed to working with the community we serve and valued community partners to ensure they receive the highest quality public health service.

Yours in Health,



ELIZABETH F. WHALEN, MD, MPH
Albany County 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

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

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Elizabeth F. Whalen, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health, Secretary to the Board

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Hon. Sean E. Ward

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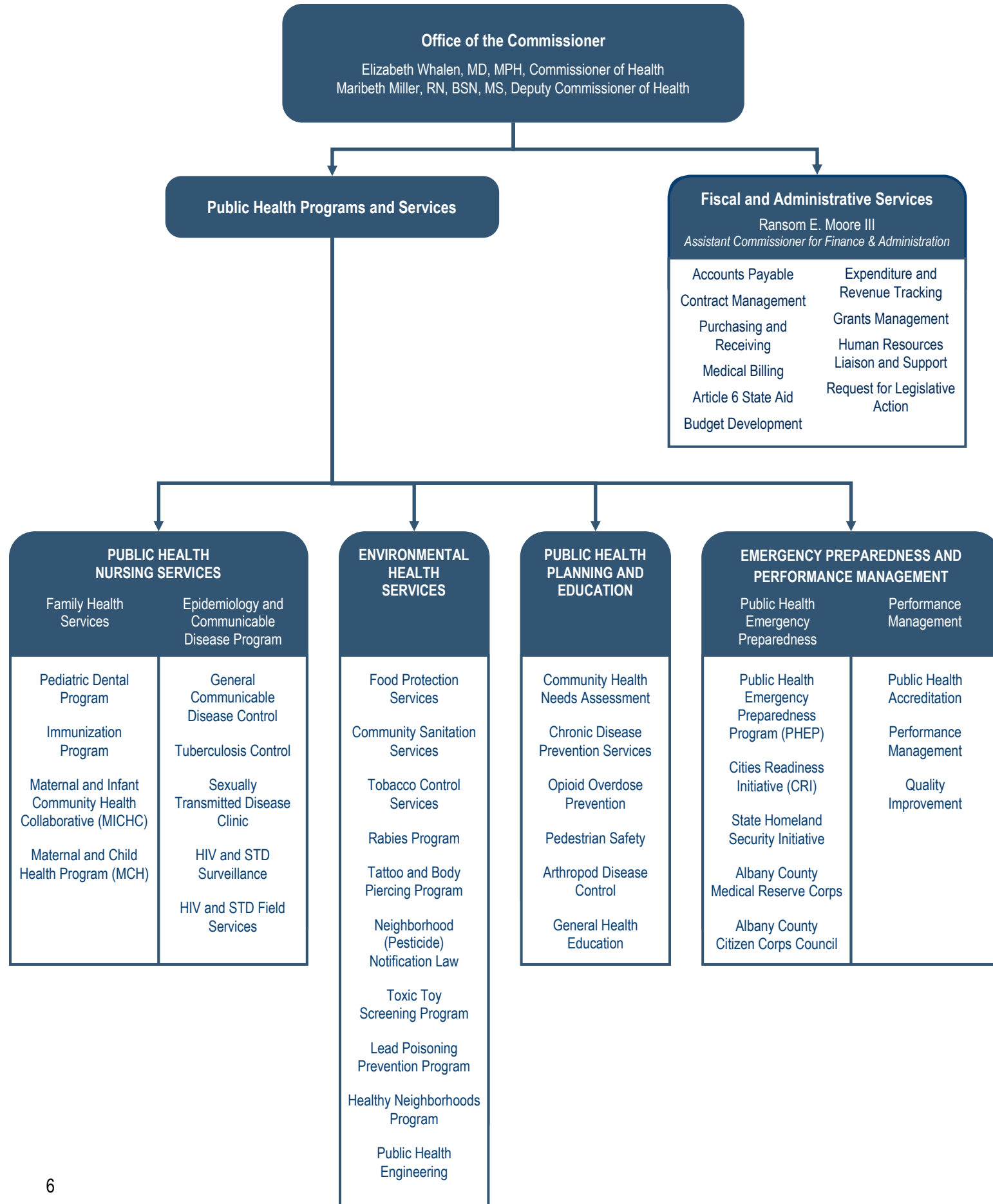
Hon. Patrick Collins

Hon. Alison McLean Lane

Hon. Matthew Miller

Hon. Wanda F. Willingham

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. **MONITOR** health status to identify community health problems.
2. **DIAGNOSE** and **INVESTIGATE** health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. **INFORM, EDUCATE, and EMPOWER** people about health issues.
4. **MOBILIZE** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. **DEVELOP** policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. **ENFORCE** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. **LINK** people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. **ASSURE** a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
9. **EVALUATE** effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population based health services.
10. **RESEARCH** new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

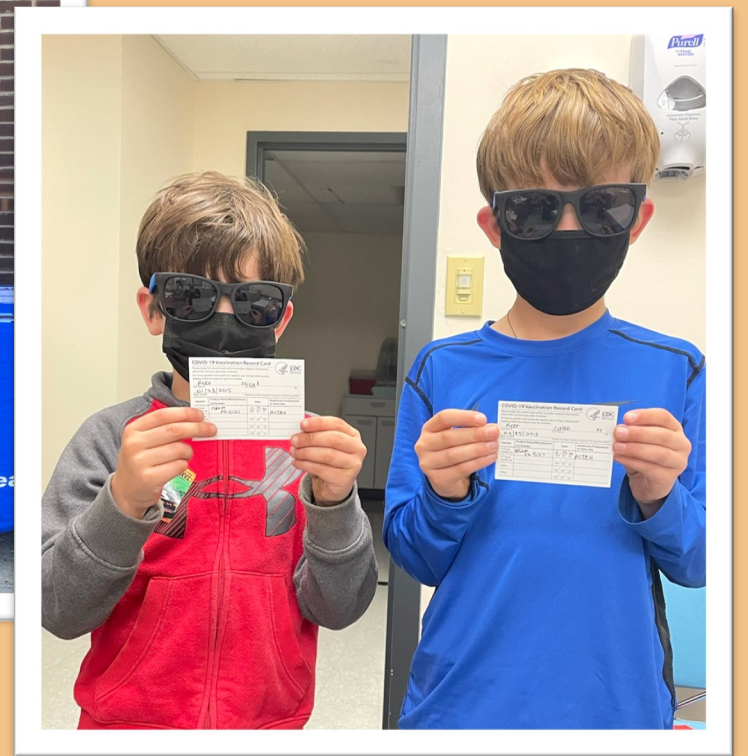
2022 HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19

- ▶ Communicated and implemented requisite New York State Department of Health COVID-19 advisories and guidance.
- ▶ Promoted COVID-19 testing resources inclusive of location of sites to improve access to vulnerable populations.
- ▶ Provided public information and risk communications including operation of COVID-19 Call Center (2,840 calls); direct community outreach 108 events, engaging 845 persons; regular meetings with K-12 school superintendents; and numerous press interviews.
- ▶ Continue to stand up COVID-19 clinics to provide vaccinations to communities with low vaccination rates and increased risk related to the negative impact of social determinants of health. Update PHEP plans to incorporate best practices and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Coordinate workforce development and performance management activities.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ In conjunction with Healthy Capital District Initiative, hospitals, insurers, and community partners, completed and published the 2022 Capital Area Community Health Needs Assessment.
- ▶ In conjunction with Healthy Capital District Initiative, hospitals, insurers, and community partners, established *Albany County 2022-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan*.
- ▶ Collaborated with public safety and mental health to improve overdose response in Albany County.
- ▶ Awarded Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plans planning grant to address health disparities in the built environment and in community-clinical linkages.
- ▶ Awarded Governor's Traffic Safety Committee grant to provide pedestrian and traffic safety education.
- ▶ Provided public information and risk communications through operation of a MPox Call Center (375 calls).
- ▶ Awarded funding for the Uniting for Ukrainian (U4U) Initiative Campaign for the medical evaluation and treatment of tuberculosis for Ukrainian Newcomers.
- ▶ As a primary prevention activity, the Division of Environmental Health Lead Program performed lead risk assessments at nine day care centers (Head Starts) operated by the Albany Community Action Partnership.



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES

The Public Health Nursing Division provides a wide array of clinical and home visiting services to women of childbearing age, mothers, infants, children, and families with the goal of improving and maintaining optimal family health.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Conducted COVID-19 pandemic activities including case investigations, monitored outbreaks and clusters occurring within community settings, supported community based vaccination Points of Dispensing (PODs) as vaccinators and vaccine assistants, and reported disease surveillance information onto the Albany County Dashboard.
- ▶ Administered COVID-19 vaccinations in clinic on a Walk-In basis and to homebound individuals.
- ▶ Established daily Walk-In MPOX Vaccination Clinics.
- ▶ Implementation of the Perinatal Infant Community Health Collaborative (PICHC) Grant.
- ▶ Hosted in-person trainings and in-services with SAFE Harbor/Human Trafficking, St. Peter's Mom's Program, and car seat safety.
- ▶ Participated in the Serve Albany Monthly Brunches. Presented as a guest panelist on the December 2022 Brunch on Healthy Pregnancies in Albany.
- ▶ Conducted 4 dental educational sessions at Giffin Elementary and Eagle Point Elementary Schools to, promote oral hygiene, healthy snacks and drinks. Provided toothbrushes and toothpaste to students in need.
- ▶ Awarded funding for the Uniting for Ukrainian (U4U) Initiative Campaign for the medical evaluation and treatment of tuberculosis for Ukrainian Newcomers.

MICHG/PICHC/WILLOW/COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

The MICH Program focuses on improving birth outcomes in high-risk Medicaid eligible women of child bearing age who primarily live in zip codes in the Cities of Albany and Cohoes. Community Health Workers (CHW's) are available to assist in linking individuals to health and social support services.

CONDUCTED:

1,124
HOME VISITS TO PREGNANT,
POSTPARTUM AND PARENTING
INDIVIDUALS.

81
OUTREACH EVENTS
CONDUCTED IN HIGH RISK
ZIP CODE AREAS.



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM (MCH)

The MCH program focuses on providing services, delivered by Public Health Nurses (PHN) to the maternal and child health population, to ensure that women, infants, children, and families achieve optimal health.

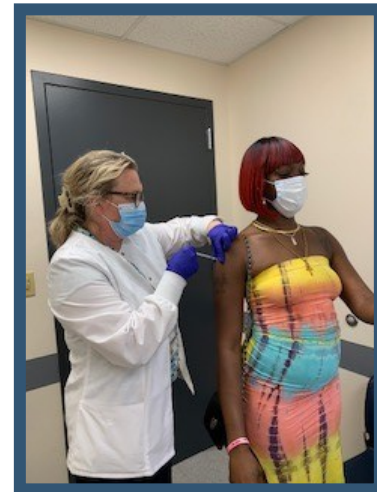
CONDUCTED: **355** MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH HOME VISITS **14** ASTHMA HOME VISITS

DENTAL CLINIC

The Pediatric Dental Program seeks to improve the oral health of Albany County children ages 2 to 19. Since many children, especially for low-income urban areas, do not have the benefit of fluorinated water, preventative dental health services for this population is essential. **Services provided by this program include: Comprehensive Exams, Fluoride Varnish, Fillings, Extractions, Cleanings, Root Canals, Sealants, Nitrous Sedation.**

COMPLETED IN 2022:

- ▶ **TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS: 3075** ▶ **TOTAL NUMBER OF DENTAL EXAMS: 1818**
- ▶ **TOTAL NUMBER OF DENTAL TREATMENTS: 1380** ▶ **DENTAL CLEANINGS: 1513** ▶ **FLUORIDE TREATMENTS: 1525**



CLINICAL SERVICES

- ▶ Administered **1,322** Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine at ACDOH Walk-In Clinic.
- ▶ Administered **146** Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine to Homebound individuals.
- ▶ Conducted 2 Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics for Albany County employees, administered **210** doses of Flu and **67** doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
- ▶ Evaluated **633** individuals for sexually transmitted infection.
- ▶ Conducted HIV tests for **319** individuals.
- ▶ Administered **114** doses MPOX Vaccine at ACDOH Walk-In Clinic.
- ▶ Administered **1,438** immunizations (not including COVID-19, rabies vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin).

EPIDEMIOLOGY

This program provides surveillance and investigation of over 70 mandated reportable communicable/vector-borne disease. Staff receives, evaluates, and investigates these reports with the goal of preventing and/or controlling communicable disease outbreaks.

REPORTED: **45,040** CASES OF COVID-19 **7,354** CASES OF OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN 2022 TO NEW YORK STATE DEPT. OF HEALTH



*Pictured:
Epidemiology
Staff*

Disease	2021 Cases	2022 cases
Amebiasis	1	2
Anaplasmosis	118	61
Anthrax	-	-
Babesiosis	33	32
Botulism, Infant	-	-
Campylobacteriosis	64	49
Chikungunya	-	1
Chlamydia	1394	1482
Cryptosporidiosis	5	18
Cyclospora	7	2
Dengue Fever	-	2
E. coli, Shiga-toxin positive	7	9
Ehrlichiosis	-	1
Encephalitis, Other	-	1
Giardiasis	24	22
Gonorrhea	678	902
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	3	3
Hantavirus	-	-
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	-	1
Hepatitis A	1	1
Hepatitis B, Acute	-	-
Hepatitis B, Chronic	55	75

Disease	2021 Cases	2022 cases
Hepatitis C, Acute	14	14
Hepatitis C, Chronic	112	67
Herpes Inf, Infant=<60 days	-	2
Influenza, Laboratory Confirmed	268	3,789
Legionellosis	17	13
Listeriosis	1	1
Lyme disease§	89	516
Malaria	4	4
Meningitis, viral/aseptic	13	4
Meningitis, other bacterial	-	1
Meningitis, unknown	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-
Mpox	-	8
Mumps	1	-
Pertussis	-	2
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	1	2
Salmonellosis	22	36
Shigellosis	10	8
Streptococcus, Group A Invasive	14	18
Streptococcus, Group B Invasive	33	31
Streptococcus pneumoniae, Invasive	14	18
Syphilis, Primary or Secondary	32	74
Syphilis, Early, Non-Primary/Secondary	19	30
Syphilis, Unknown Duration or Late	37	31
Syphilis, Congenital	-	1
Toxic Shock Syndrome, Streptococcal	-	1
Tuberculosis	2	9
Typhoid Fever	-	3
Vibriosis	2	1
West Nile Virus	-	-
Yersiniosis	6	5
Zika Virus Infection, Asymptomatic	-	-
Zika Virus Disease, Symptomatic	-	-
TOTAL	3101	7354

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Conducted 33 chest clinics sessions evaluating 116 individuals for latent tuberculosis infection.
- ▶ Placed 166 PPD skin tests and conducted 122 TSpot screenings to identify exposures to tuberculosis.
- ▶ Evaluated 41 Ukrainian Newcomers for tuberculosis infection.
- ▶ Managed cases of active tuberculosis, including Direct Observed therapy and eDOT visits.

STD/HIV PARTNER SERVICES PROGRAM

- ▶ Investigated and contacted individuals newly diagnosed with STIs/HIV, identified partners, and assisted with linkage to medical care.
- ▶ Investigated and contacted newly diagnosed STI cases: 248
- ▶ Identified and contacted Partners to STI cases: 126
- ▶ Identified and contacted newly diagnosed HIV cases: 29
- ▶ Identified and contacted partners to HIV cases: 37
- ▶ Located HIV-infected individuals reported as out-of-care and assisted with re-linkage back to medical care: 46

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) SURVEILLANCE

CONDUCTED HIV MEDICAL RECORD SURVEILLANCE AND EDUCATED PROVIDERS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HIV REPORTING.

REVIEWED **55** HIV RECORDS.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Environmental Health Services Division provides many 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 through inspections, sampling, investigation, enforcement of regulations that promote health and safety, engineering, and education.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

As a primary prevention activity the Division of Environmental Health Lead Program performed lead risk assessments at nine day care centers (Head Starts) operated by the Albany Community Action Partnership. The risk assessments included an assessment of lead-based paint, and collection of soil, dust and water samples at each location. In addition, Lead 101 training was provide to the entire staff at each of the nine locations. The sample results deemed each facility "lead safe" prior to the children returning for the school year.

In 2022, the onsite wastewater treatment and water program received 60 applications for new house systems. There were 286 water samples collected from residential properties.

During 2022 the Health Department also entered into a new contract with Mohawk Hudson Human Society. Under this new contract we held two rabies vaccine clinics, Albany and Berne, where 156 animals were vaccinated.

COMMUNITY SANITATION AND FOOD PROTECTION SERVICES

FOOD SERVICE INSPECTIONS

Inspection of restaurants, schools, mobile and temporary food vendors are conducted through this program to ensure compliance with sanitary regulations aimed at preventing food borne illnesses.

TABLE 1: 2021 AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

Establishment Type	2021		2022	
	Number of Inspections	Number of Facilities	Number of Inspections	Number of Facilities
Restaurants/Catering Operations, Schools and Institutions	1758	1495	1986	1734
Temporary Food Service Establishments/Events	42	80	140	308
Mobile Food Service Establishments	61	62	72	51
Summer Feeding Sites	62	62	69	60
State Office for the Aging Sites	3	25	33	27
Total	1966	1724	2300	2180

CHILDREN'S CAMPS

The Children's Camps program regulates the operation and permitting of children's day and overnight camps for fire safety, sanitation, water, sewer, food service, pools, and child health and safety issues (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)

TABLE 2: 2021 AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

Establishment Type	2021		2022	
	Number of Inspections	Number Under Permit	Number of Inspections	Number of Facilities
Children's Camps	38	36	42	41
Mobile Home Parks	30	31	30	30
Pools	200	219	195	151
Bathing Beaches	1	1	1	1
Spray Parks	3	3	2	2
Hotels and Motels	72	70	81	72
Migrant Farm Worker Housing	14	14	11	11
Totals	350	374	362	308

TOBACCO CONTROL SERVICES

NEW YORK STATE ADOLESCENT TOBACCO USE PREVENTION ACT (ATUPA)

The ATUPA program employs 16 and 17 year old youths who accompany inspectors to determine vendor compliance with the sale of tobacco products. Staff also verified compliance with the County's local law requiring retail tobacco products to be displayed/ located behind sales counters. Compliance checks are performed on all establishments yearly with re-inspections three times per year to violators. (Table 3).

TOBACCO 21

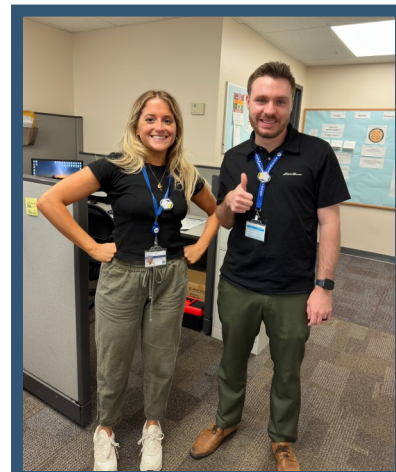
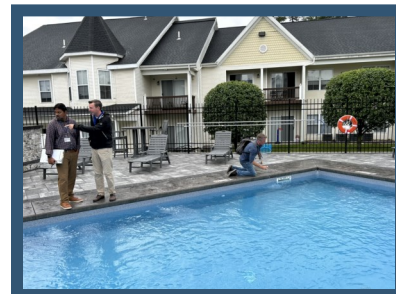
The sale of tobacco products, liquid nicotine and electronic cigarettes in Albany County to minors and young adults under the age of 21 is prohibited. The department conducts compliance checks to establishments selling these products. (Table 3)

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 3: 2021 AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

Establishment Type	2021		2022	
	Number of Inspections	Number of Violations	Number of Inspections	Number of Violations
Adult Compliance Check	1	0	240	8
Clean Indoor Air Act Complains	0	0	3	0



GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

RABIES

The rabies program provides follow up and intervention when necessary to all reported potential rabies exposures to humans and/or animals. Staff interact with primary care providers, emergency rooms, veterinarians, animal control officers and county residents. In addition, rabies immunization clinics are offered for dogs, cats, and ferrets.

TABLE 4: 2021 AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

Rabies Services	2021	2022
Animals Vaccinated	432	156
Number of Rabies Complaints Inspected	726	768
Number of Adults Provided with Prophylaxis	95	87

TATTOO AND BODY PIERCING

The Tattoo and Body Piercing Program ensures proper infection control practices are in place by conducting inspections and monitoring tattoo/body piercing shops and artists. In addition, an exam is administered certifying tattooists and artists to practice in Albany County. Tattoo/Body piercing establishments were closed due to COVID for the majority of 2020.

TABLE 5: 2021 AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

Establishment Type	2021		2022	
	Number Permitted	Number Inspected	Number Permitted	Number Inspected
Tattoo/Body Piercing Establishments	51	28	54	54
Artists	251	N/A	158	N/A

TANNING

Indoor tanning facilities are inspected for sanitation, safety and compliance with required regulations. Tanning facilities are only inspected and permitted once every two years resulting in varying numbers for inspected and permitted facilities on an annual basis.

TABLE 6: 2021 AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

	2021		2022	
	Number Permitted	Number Inspected	Number Permitted	Number Inspected
Facilities	19	18	16	14

NEIGHBORHOOD (PESTICIDE) NOTIFICATION LAW

Department staff monitor compliance of pesticide applications by retail vendors to ensure they provide proper notification and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation signage.

TABLE 7: 2021 AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

Program	2021	2022
	Number Inspected	Number Inspected
Facilities that sell Pesticides	40	45
Pesticides Complaints	0	0

TOXIC TOY SCREENING PROGRAM

Following passage of the Toxic Toy Law, this program was implemented to provide testing of certain toys and children’s apparel available for sale in Albany County for above maximum levels of the following compounds: antimony, arsenic, cadmium, lead (surface coating), lead (assessable substrate) and mercury.

TABLE 8: 2021 AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

Activity	2021		2022	
	Number of Inspections	Number of Violations Issued	Number of Inspections	Number of Violations Issued
Locations Inspected	40	0	40	0

HOUSING PROGRAMS

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

These programs support and enhance continued efforts to reduce the prevalence of elevated blood lead levels in children. Primary and secondary prevention includes public and professional outreach and education, collaboration with local primary care providers for screening, diagnostic evaluation, medical management, and educational and environmental interventions.

TABLE 9: 2021 AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

Location/Activity	2021	2022
	Number Completed	Number Completed
Homes Inspected	139	154
Homes Cleared	136	167
Children with BLL*^ 5-<10	90	57
Children with BLL*^ 10-<15	16	12
Children with BLL* 15-25	8	9
Children with BLL* 25-45	2	3
Children with BLL* >45	0	0

BLL – Blood Lead Level

^ - On 10/01/19 the Public Health Law lowered the level from 15 ug/dl to 5 ug/dl

Note – the LeadCare II used for lead testing was recalled in May 2021. Megallen Diagnostic will resume distribution of LeadCare II beginning in February 2022. Due to the high demand, their fulfilment capacity is limited. Magellen will allocate product moving forward as they increase their manufacturing capabilities.

HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM

The Healthy Homes Program provides free home assessments to residents in high risk neighborhoods with the goal of improved living environments and overall quality of life for residents. Educators meet with residents in their homes and assessed needs, provide education and offer home safety items such as smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, radon test kits. In addition, a certified asthma educator provides educational information and supplies to assist residents in reducing asthma triggers and potential emergency room visits. This program was not offered in 2022, however, the program will resume starting in 2023.

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION, REALTY SUBDIVISION AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SANITATION

This program oversees the protection of public water systems (PWS) in Albany County, approval of new municipal residential subdivisions and the approval of private non-municipal residential wells and sewage disposal systems. Municipal water treatment plants are inspected annually while private residential wells and sewage disposal systems are inspected prior to approval.

TABLE 10: 2021 AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

Location/Activity	2021	2022
	Number Completed	Number Completed
Water Plants Inspected	4	48
Water Distribution Approvals	22	20
Sewer District Approvals	21	22
Subdivision Approvals	6	5
Residential Well and Septic Approvals	22	41

RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Evaluations of conditions in homes that are reported as being substandard or uninhabitable (nuisance homes) are conducted. Staff work in conjunction with the Albany County Department of Social Services, Code Enforcement, and Child Protective Services to investigate and assist in remediation.

TABLE 11: 2021 AND 2022 ACTIVITIES

Location/Activity	2021	2022
	Number Completed	Number Completed
Sewage/Septic Complaints	19	16
Nuisance Complaints	7	8

PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING AND EDUCATION

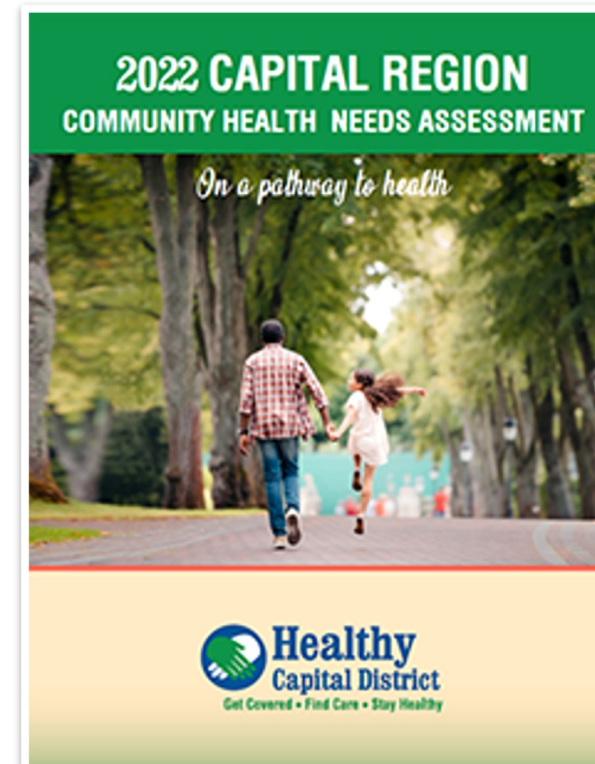
The Division of Public Health Planning and Education's strives to prevent chronic diseases, injuries, and disabilities by coordinating health education services and promoting risk reduction activities, with special attention to under-served populations. In collaboration with community partners, the department reviews community health data; identifies community health priorities; and develops community implementation plans.

PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING AND EDUCATION

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

GRANTS RECEIVED:

- ▶ BlueShield of Northeastern New York 2019 Blue Fund award (for "Developing Community Partnerships to Prevent Diabetes.")
- ▶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plans
- ▶ General Highway Safety Grant (Governors' Traffic Safety Committee)
- ▶ New York State Department of Health Overdose Data to Action funding) to address the opioid crisis by obtaining high quality and timely data; support medical providers; and improve linkages to care.)



PREVENTION AGENDA 2022 - 2024

In conjunction with Healthy Capital District, hospitals, insurers, and community partners, Albany County Department of Health developed the 2022 Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment and commence implementation of the companion Albany County 2022 – 2024 Community Health Improvement Plan.

ALBANY COUNTY PREVENTION AGENDA 2022-2024 PRIORITIES ARE TO:

- ▶ Reduce obesity and the risk of chronic disease
- ▶ Prevent opioid and other substance misuse and deaths
- ▶ Prevent suicides
- ▶ Improve (COVID-19) vaccination rates

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION SERVICES

Albany County Department of Health collaborates with community partners to create healthier communities through sustainable health promotion and chronic disease prevention programs that address policy, systems, and environmental changes.

2022 ACTIVITIES

PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING

- ▶ Supported and promoted St. Peter's Health Partners' virtual and onsite (i.e. The Collaboratory, Albany Housing Authority) Baby Café' services.

ENHANCE HEALTHY LIVING

- ▶ Collaborated with community partners and municipalities to implement physical activity enhancements including support for demonstration projects via provision of Complete Streets Lending Library supplies and equipment.
- ▶ Actively participated in Capital District Transportation Committee, Active Transportation Advisory Committee.
- ▶ Actively participated in Wellness Committees of three (3) school districts.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHANGES

- ▶ Albany County Department of Health collaborated with Hixny (Health Information Exchange of New York) to use aggregate population-based data on hypertension and prediabetes to support chronic disease prevention activities.
- ▶ Albany County Department of Health is recipient BlueShield of Northeastern New York Blue Fund 2019 Grant for "Developing Community Partnerships to Prevent Diabetes."
 - Sponsored National Diabetes Prevention Programs (inclusive of two classes that were implemented by St. Peter's Health Partners Medical Associates and supported by Highmark Blue Shield of Northeastern New York 2019 Blue Funds).
- ▶ Fifteen (15) persons enrolled in National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP)
 - 13% of participants achieved 5% weight loss objective
 - Participants completed 26,415 minutes of physical activity

TOBACCO-FREE LIVING

- ▶ Partners facilitated implementation of smoke-free policies at two outdoor recreation areas.

INJURY PREVENTION INITIATIVES

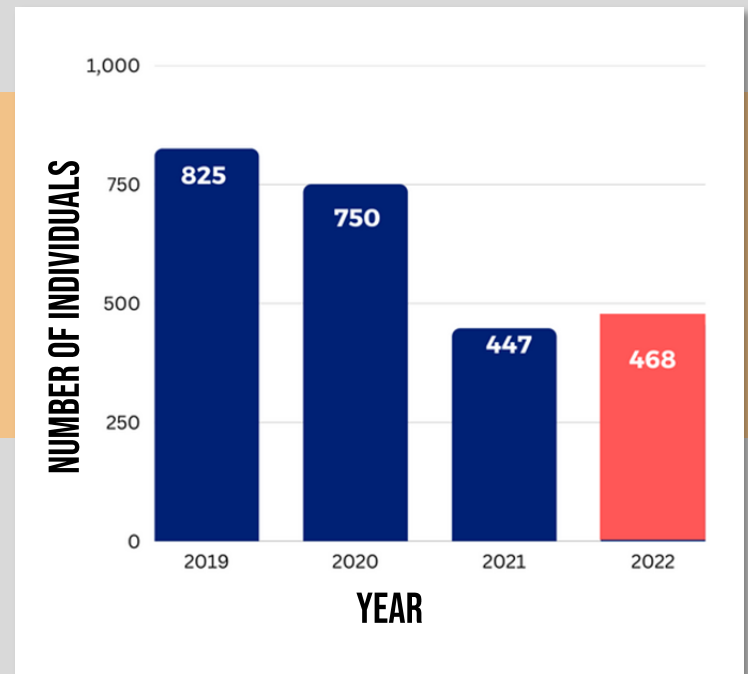
OPIOID USE DISORDER

- Active participant in the Albany County Opioid Task Force which serves Albany County individuals and families affected by opioid use disorder through prevention, education, interdiction, and rapid access to treatment.
- Recipient of New York State Department of Health Overdose Data to Action funding to address the opioid crisis by obtaining high quality and timely data and improve linkages to care.

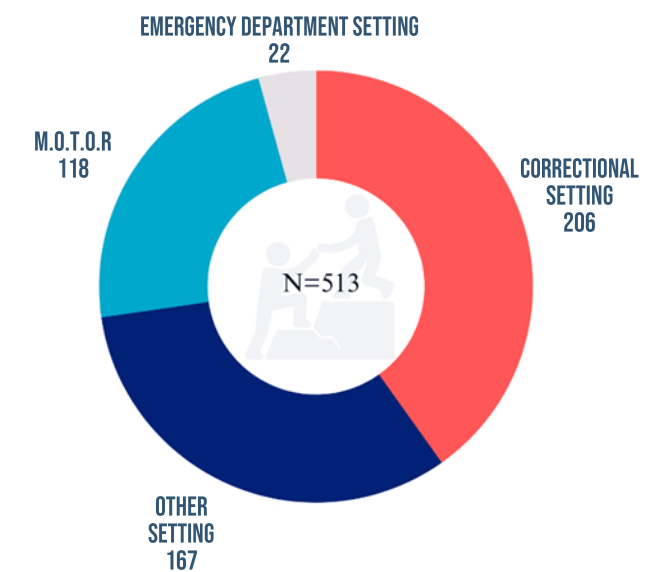
- **INDIVIDUALS TRAINED IN NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION (2019-2022):**

2,490

- Provided free monthly naloxone administration trainings to the public.
- Promoted peer linkages to care inclusive of referrals to Albany County Department of Mental Health Mobile Outreach Treatment Overdose Response (M.O.T.O.R.) team.
- Encouraged safe disposal of prescription and non-prescription medications by promoting local collection events and providing public information. Multiple Albany County locations are permanent sites for prescription medication collection.



PEER LINKAGES TO CARE BY SETTINGS



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Albany County Department of Health is recipient of New York State's Highway Safety program grant to promote pedestrian safety. Albany County Department of Health is also an active member of the Safe Kids Capital Region coalition.

- ▶ In 2022, Albany County Department of Health provided education on motor vehicle and traffic safety laws and pedestrian safety at 19 community events including engagement of 1,210 persons.
- ▶ In 2022, three thousand (3,000) subscribers received pedestrian safety information through the Albany County Department of Health public awareness campaign. Media platforms included the Albany County Executive's Facebook page and GovDelivery email services (consisting of Albany County Health Living Tips bulletins).



ARTHROPOD DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES

Albany County Department of Health educates the public on tick borne disease prevention and encourages provider reporting.

In 2022, Albany County Department of Health:

- ▶ Provided information and tick removal kits to 364 residents.
- ▶ Provided information and tick removal kits to physician practices, veterinarians, and other organizations (including municipal governments, clubs, outdoor/recreational groups, businesses, garden centers)

GENERAL HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Community based health education and engagement is provided to meet public health needs (including distribution of information at health fairs/community events).

- ▶ Provided health information to the public via social media including communications on COVID-19, MPOX, nutrition, physical activity, breastfeeding, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, poison control, rabies, asthma and allergies, tobacco use, arthritis, falls prevention, concussions, drowsy driving, handwashing, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections.
- ▶ Hosted the virtual Albany County School Nurses Workshop, bringing together 29 school nurses to discuss public health issues pertinent to the school aged population (i.e. asthma, concussions, COVID-19, immunizations, public health emergency preparedness and response, school-based health centers, suicide awareness).



COVID-19

- ▶ Communicated and implemented requisite New York State Department of Health COVID-19 advisories and guidance.
- ▶ Provided public information and risk communications including operation of COVID-19 Call Center (2,870 calls).

MPOX

- ▶ Communicated and implemented requisite New York State Department of Health MPOX advisories and guidance.
- ▶ Provided public information and risk communications including operation of MPOX Call Center (305 calls).

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program helps develop local public health preparedness plans and enhances the County’s ability to respond to public health threats such as acts of terrorism, pandemic COVID-19, Mpox, natural disasters, and other public health emergencies. The PHEP program works with local, state and federal partners to ensure an integrated and coordinated approach in its public health preparedness, planning and response efforts.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

MEDICAL COUNTER-MEASURE DISPENSING & DISTRIBUTION ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTED BY BIO-TERRORISM, CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE, AND STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAMS

Albany County Department of Health uses the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) framework to evaluate and assess Medical Countermeasures Dispensing. Implemented COVID-19 response improvements include: reconfiguration of vaccine clinic flow at POD (aka community clinic) sites, assignment of appropriate operational leaders; effective use of Incident Command System; meaningful, clear Just-in-Time-Training; integration of Medical Reserve Corps volunteers; and separated area for persons with special needs. Formal and informal “hotwash” debriefings are held after each vaccination POD.



COVID-19 VACCINATION

During 2022, the PHEP Program continued to implement the Albany County COVID-19 Vaccination Plan to strategically coordinate the provision of 5,323 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Albany County residents. This included the direct administration of 2,507 vaccinations at COVID-19 vaccine clinics held strategically in communities with low vaccination rates and/or increased risk of transmission. Additionally, ACDOH redistributed 2,816 doses to community partners.

As the public demand for vaccine declined and shifted to more discrete populations in the County, the following innovative practices were implemented:

- ▶ ACDOH established a COVID-19 vaccination platform to coordinate vaccination of homebound individuals with COVID-19 vaccination providers in the community i.e. EMS, pharmacists. The platform effectively improved coordination efforts by streamlining communication between partners assisting with the effort and providing real-time progress updates. This homebound response effort provided 252 COVID-19 vaccinations in 2022.
- ▶ Additionally, building on Philadelphia’s evidence-based best practice of micro-site pop-up clinics, ACDOH coordinated two microsite efforts (series of 6 clinics held weekly at the same site and time) launched in two communities with high SVI and low vaccination rates i.e. West Hill and Arbor Hill communities within the City of Albany. Community partners assisted with identifying locations to hold the site, providing education and outreach to promote the clinics and address hesitancy, as well as staff to assist with the effort. Twenty (20) clinics held at the two sites administered 109 COVID-19 vaccinations.
- ▶ Using the same community engagement strategies, ACDOH coordinated additional pop-up clinics with NYSDOH in the Cities of Cohoes and other Albany communities with low vaccination rates.

MPOX VACCINATIONS

SUPPORTED BY BIO-TERRORISM, CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE, AND STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAMS

ACDOH continued to build on best practices learned through the COVID-19 response efforts and implemented them into the County’s Mpox response activities. Community partners representing high risk communities assisted with identifying effective outreach and education strategies to link individuals at highest risk for infection to vaccination clinics. As the demand for Mpox vaccine declined, ACDOH shifted from medium-sized (n=200-300 attendees) open clinics to smaller closed clinics and micro-site clinics at locations identified by community partners. With the assistance of MRC, ACDOH coordinated 29 community Mpox clinics to administer 1,342 vaccinations and reallocated 589 doses to community vaccine providers.

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

SUPPORTED PRIMARILY BY STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAMS AND BY BIO-TERRORISM, CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE

Community partners of the *Albany County Citizen Corp* and volunteers of the *Albany County Medical Reserve Corp* were strategically integrated to assist with the planning, implementation and ongoing evaluation of both the COVID-19 and Mpox Vaccination and Response Plans.

Albany County Citizen Corps members participated in stakeholder meetings throughout the response efforts to facilitate bidirectional communication that assisted with planning and implementing timely and continuous improvements. Through this community engagement and partnerships, ACDOH successfully provided 57 COVID -19 and 29 Mpox community clinics that reached individuals in the County who were at greater risk or who needed additional assistance because of access and functional needs.

The *Albany County Medical Reserve Corp* (MRC) is comprised of both medical and non-medical volunteers. The MRC has been and continues to be a tremendous help throughout the COVID-19 and Mpox responses. In 2022, ACDOH activated 475 MRC volunteers that provided 1,798 hours of public health service valued at \$70,895. They provide assistance with case investigations, community call center support, points of dispensing, storage room inventory management. When there is not a public health emergency, they participated in ongoing training, drills and exercises to ensure all volunteers are ready readiness to respond during a public health emergency.

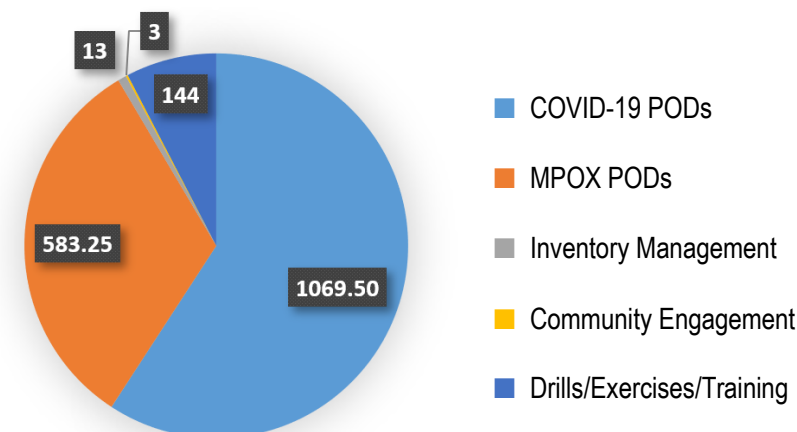
Due to their ongoing dedication and passion, ACDOH was able to provide much-needed support and information to Albany County residents, businesses and organizations. Albany County is fortunate and thankful to have such a core group of individuals dedicated to improving the health of our community.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF ALBANY COUNTY MRC ACTIVITIES IN 2022

MRC Activities	Number of Volunteers*	Number of Hours	Economic Value
Emergency Response Activities (subtotal)	462	1654	\$65,839
<i>COVID-19 Response Efforts</i>	285	1072	\$39,142
<i>Mpox Response Efforts</i>	177	582	\$26,697
Non-Emergency Activities (subtotal)	53	144	\$5,056
<i>Drills, Exercises, Community Engagement</i>	14	34	\$1,197
<i>CPR Training</i>	34	97	\$3,488
Inventory Management	5	13	\$371
Total MRC Activities	515	1798	\$70,895

*Number of volunteers does not reflect unique individuals i.e. reflects number of individuals who assisted with each activity. Many volunteers participate in multiple activities.

2022 SUMMARY OF ALBANY COUNTY MRC VOLUNTEER HOURS BY ACTIVITY TYPE



GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

SUPPORTED BY BIO-TERRORISM, CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE, AND STATE HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In 2022, ACDOH participated in the Albany County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) with State and local partners. In particular, ACDOH shared best practices and lessons learned through the COVID-19 response. These best practices and lessons learned are also being incorporated into the County's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response plans.

In coordination with the County's Communication team, Albany County Department of Health created and delivered nearly 61,500 public health and emergency preparedness messages to GovDelivery subscribers during 2022. Messages provided timely information on general emergency preparedness, COVID-19 vaccination, respiratory infection risk reduction and extreme weather preparedness. Additionally, ongoing COVID-19 and Mpox prevention and risk-reduction messaging was delivered to Albany County residents via social media. The messaging included updated guidance about COVID-19 and Mpox vaccination, testing, isolation and quarantine, and masking to reduce the risk of infection. This included the timely promotion of COVID-19 and Mpox vaccination clinics throughout the County.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND READINESS

TRAININGS, DRILLS AND EXERCISES

- ▶ Three (3) CPER/AED trainings were coordinated for 35 MRC volunteers.
- ▶ Quarterly notification drills were conducted to test notification systems and to identify needed updates to contact lists that included ACDOH staff, incident command staff and MRC volunteers.
- ▶ Quarterly drills were also performed to test electronic supplies and alternate communication systems.
- ▶ The following exercises were conducted to enhance knowledge of plans, identify opportunities to improve performance and capabilities during a real response event:
 - Incorporate the support of on-site interpreters at vaccine PODs,
 - Ebola response exercise,
 - Combined COVID/Flu PODs (clinics).

MANAGEMENT OF INVENTORY SUPPLIES

To improve ordering efficiency and ensure adequate supply on-hand to respond to public health emergencies, improvements were implemented to the inventory tracking system to include monthly burn rates and min/max levels of 400+ items. This system is used to routinely assess inventory supply needs.

Supplies were purchased as needed to replenish those used during the COVID-19 and Mpox response efforts, to increase Response Team visibility i.e. tents, tablecloths, flags, portable signage, apparel, etc., and to implement additional improvements to response activities.



PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) values accreditation and performance to ensure significant contributions to the health of our county. The CDC has identified accreditation as a key strategy for strengthening public health infrastructure. The Health Department achieved formal accreditation in 2019 through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), a nationally recognized organization that uses standards and measures to advance quality improvement and performance within state, tribal and local health departments across the United State.

Accreditation is a means for the department to:

- ▶ IDENTIFY PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES,
- ▶ ENHANCE MANAGEMENT PROCESSES,
- ▶ DEVELOP LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK,
- ▶ STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION.

During 2022, ACDOH successfully implemented PHAB principles while responding to both the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the worldwide Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) outbreak. Throughout these responses, ACDOH continued to commit to relevant performance management and quality improvement (PMQI) projects that aligned with essential public health functions and focused on inclusion and equity in an effort to strength and leverage community partnerships. ACDOH programs in general prioritize efforts to reach those at highest risk and/or needing additional support related to access and functional needs. PMQI projects focus on increasing effectiveness and/or efficiencies in an effort to reach more residents and/or improve utilization of resources.



THE FOLLOWING PMQI PROJECTS WERE IDENTIFIED AND IMPLEMENTED IN 2022:

1. Re-engaged Albany County Citizen Corp Council members to facilitate strategic coordination and bidirectional communication in preparation for and during a public health emergency. The Citizen Corp Council membership roster was updated and a 2022-2023 schedule of quarterly meetings was created and implemented. Each meeting is structured to include a component to guide and assist agencies with developing emergency response plans by providing trainings and resources.
2. Developed a Safe Drinking Water tracking system to reduce monitoring and reporting violations in accordance with State codes, rules and regulations. The improved system allows for the timely issuance of violations to public water supplies who are not in compliance with the sampling and reporting requirements and establishes long-term transparency, communication, and consistency with reporting requirements.
3. Developed an internal community events calendar to increase community linkages and engagement across the department as well as to prioritize participation in public health education and outreach events.
4. Developed a Mobile Outreach Treatment Overdose Response (M.O.T.O.R) tracking system to ensure a 75% response rate to overdose referrals.

While continuing to monitor and respond to the effect of COVID-19 infection on Albany County residents, Albany County Department of Health will continue to use the accreditation framework. This will allow the Health Department to continue to advance the culture of performance management and quality improvement while also setting benchmarks for current and future program objectives and administrative activities.



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

2022 ACDOH OPERATING BUDGET

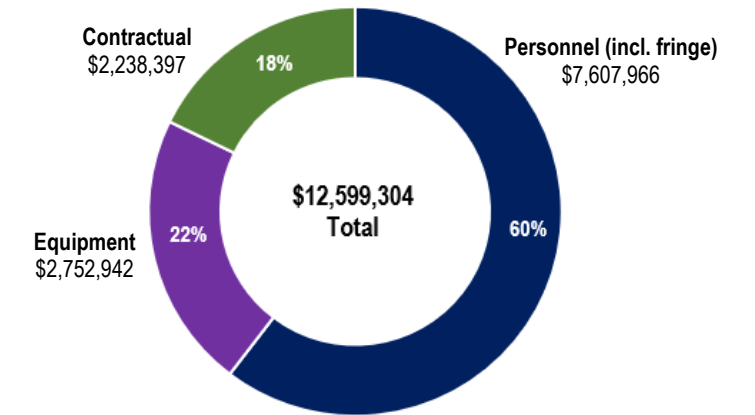
The 2022 adopted ACDOH budget was \$14.3 million, which was funded through multiple revenue streams, including federal, state, and county/local dollars and grants. NYS base grant funding via Article 6 of the Public Health Law increased in April 2022 by \$100,000 to \$750,000. Changes to Article 6 also included allowable fringe reimbursement at a rate not to exceed 50% fringe rate. After the Article 6 base grant is expended, the state reimbursement is 36% of local health department eligible costs for mandated services.

In order to maintain an adequate and fiscally responsible operating budget, ACDOH works hard to identify cost savings while applying for additional grant funding on an ongoing basis.

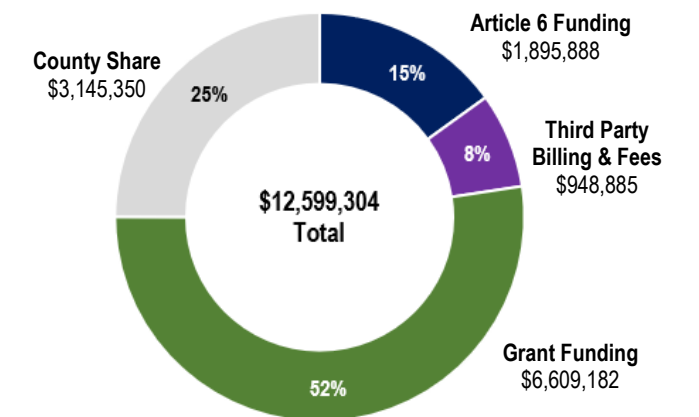
ELC SCHOOL REOPENING GRANT

ACDOH was awarded \$6.6 million to enable all K-12 schools/districts in Albany County to support and maintain in-person learning. In 2022, ACDOH provided schools with 5,000 mobile air purification units; 131,450 masks for adults and children; 19,250 Clarifi COVID-19 test kits; 4,652 disinfectant wipes and refills; and 1,392 bottles of hand sanitizer.

2022 EXPENDITURES



2022 REVENUE





**ALBANY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

175 Green Street
Albany, New York 12202