

# 2024

## ANNUAL REPORT



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

**HEALTH**  
DEPARTMENT

*Prevent. Promote. Protect.*

*A message from*  
**LEADERSHIP**



Michael Faulk, M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer



Lacey Wilson  
Public Health Director

On behalf of the entire team, we are proud to present our 2024 Annual Report—an overview of a year marked by progress and renewed commitment to public health strategies and approaches. Over the past year, we have made significant strides in strengthening the well-being of our community and promoting health for all who live, work and play in Chautauqua County. From streamlining environmental health services and preparing for the Lead Rental Registry to equipping our Early Intervention and Children and Youth with Special Health Needs teams to more effectively and efficiently serve to improving outreach and communication efforts with under-accessed communities, our team has worked tirelessly to ensure every resident has the opportunity to thrive.

These accomplishments were made possible through the dedication of our staff, the collaboration with community partners, and the trust of the people we serve. Yet, we know our work is never done. As we look ahead, we remain focused on advancing a public health prevention approach across all sectors, addressing social determinants of health, and preparing for the challenges of tomorrow.

This report not only reflects our achievements—it reaffirms our shared vision of a healthier, stronger community for all. We thank you for your continued support and invite you to join us in shaping a future where public health is a way of life that is woven in to the very fabric and infrastructure of our county.

With gratitude and determination,

Michael W. Faulk, MD FACEP

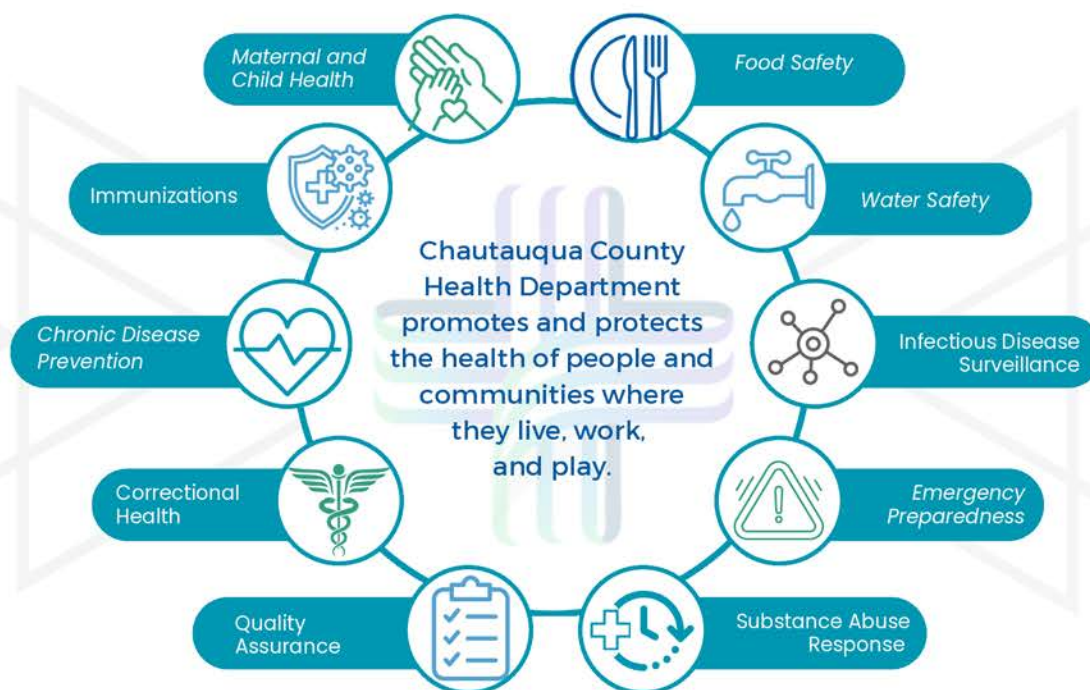
Lacey R. Wilson, MPH, RDN





# IMPACTING LIVES EVERY DAY

The Chautauqua County Health Department is the leading Public Health organization in Chautauqua County dedicated to the support of the community's health. The Health Department takes innovative approaches to provide technical assistance to partner organizations, and offers various programs and services in order to help prevent disease, protect the public's health and promote our community's overall health and wellness.



## BOARD OF HEALTH

The mission of this Board is to be concerned with the security of life and health of the people of the Chautauqua County Health District as encompassed in the Public Health Law, the Sanitary Code of the State of New York, the Sanitary Code of the County of Chautauqua, and of the charter and Administrative Code of the Chautauqua County Government, Section 5.10.

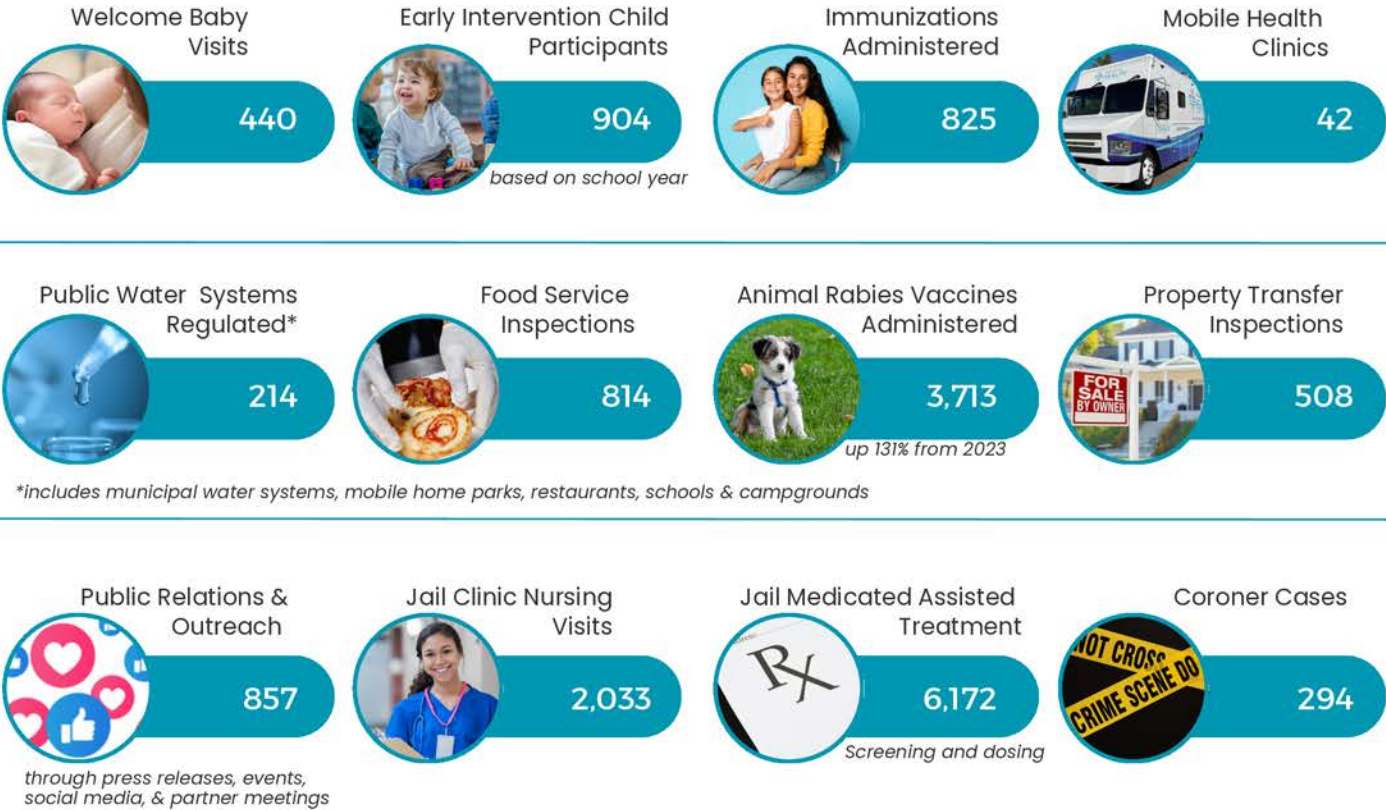
The Board of Health meets bi-monthly at 6 p.m. at the Chautauqua County Health Department office. Meetings are open to the public and the agenda includes an opportunity for public comment. Visit [HealthyCHQ.com](http://HealthyCHQ.com) for meeting dates and more information.



### Membership

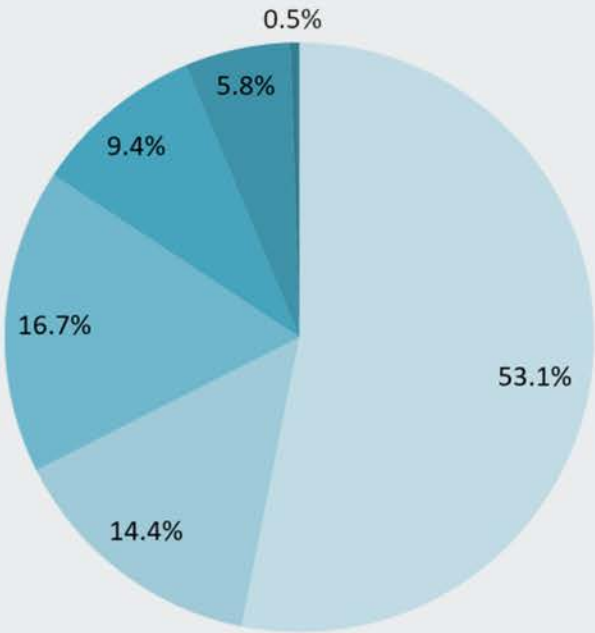
Top row from left: Elizabeth Kidder, MD (President); Tariq Khan, MD (Vice President); Dawn Columbare; Kenneth Dahlgren; Matthew Hanley;  
Bottom row: Richard Ketcham; Marty Proctor; Wolf-Dieter Krahn, MD; Erin Pender, DDS; Mark Tarbrake

# 2024 AT A GLANCE



# 2024 REVENUE

PROGRAMS	2024	%	2023	%
Preschool	6,369,164	53.1%	5,324,881	41.0%
State/Federal Grants	1,730,910	14.4%	4,274,310	32.9%
State Aid	2,006,290	16.7%	1,672,671	12.9%
Fees for Service	1,128,584	9.4%	812,842	6.3%
Early Intervention	701,016	5.8%	686,851	5.3%
Other	65,168	0.5%	231,277	1.8%
TOTAL REVENUE	12,001,131		13,002,832	





# OPPORTUNITIES



## Lead Rental Registry:

This New York State mandated program and service will reduce the number of children and people exposed to lead and its harms and hazards. The registry requires that all duplex+ rental properties in the 14701 zip code built before 1980, be registered and pass a lead inspection. Inspections will begin in late 2025. If sources of lead are detected in or at the property structure they must be removed or remediated. The Lead Rental Registry is a successful evidence-based model that has been implemented in other counties and has directly reduced the exposure of children to lead by as much as 70% - thereby avoiding long term negative outcomes and improving their overall health.



## Maternal Infant Health:

Access to pre and post-natal care for moms and babies is a challenge with fewer OB/GYN providers and only one Labor and Delivery hospital in the county. Our Community Health division works to fill gaps by providing help and support to ensure moms and babies have a great start. In 2024 we partnered with Univera to develop lactation/breastfeeding friendly infrastructure for large employer businesses in the county. Our programs and services include Labor and Delivery ward rounds and visits, home visits through the 'Welcome Home Baby' program, Early Intervention service coordination and much more.

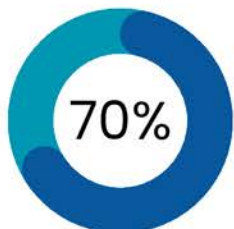


## Substance Use:

The department is tasked by NYSDOH with a number of substance use prevention, enforcement and policy efforts and initiatives. In 2024 we began the process of streamlining and coordinating those efforts to improve efficiency and utilization of resources. We expanded community partnerships and helped coordinate community-based substance use prevention projects and initiatives. From alcohol use, tobacco and nicotine use, to vaping and illicit street drugs, our goal is to reduce and prevent substance use and its harmful outcomes with a specific focus on preventing use among children and adolescents.

## Working towards BRIGHTER FUTURES

While working within programs and services listed above, the Health Department engages with community partners to review data and identify priority health areas to improve County health outcomes through implementation of programs and services. One of the ways we achieve this is through the development of regular Community Health Improvement Plans (Plan). 2024 brought a close to the most recent Plan cycle. Below are some of the results of initiatives covered in the Plan. As directed by NYSDOH, 2025 marks the start of a new Assessment and Plan cycle. We are pleased to continue working with many partners within Chautauqua County as we work to improve health outcomes and create a healthier place to live, work, and play!



## Prevent Overdose Deaths:

Chautauqua County increased access to Naloxone, an overdose reversal medication, by over 70%. Increased access to this lifesaving medication, partnered with extensive collaborative efforts among community partners contributed a 51% reduction in overdose deaths in 2024.



## Promote a Healthy and Safe Environment:

We've raised awareness about the health risks of radon and how people can be exposed to it here in the County. We've also encouraged the use of home radon test kits to help families understand their individual risk and lower the chances of developing lung cancer.



## Promote Healthy Women, Infants, and Children:

A 24% increase in access to breastfeeding support through visits to new mothers in the maternity ward and follow-up in-home visits via our Welcome Home Baby Program.



# HIGHLIGHTS



## Mobile Health

2024 marked the inaugural year of the Mobile Health Vehicle's operations. During this time, we provided essential services to over 300 local residents across 42 mobile health clinics, held at various locations throughout the county. The vehicle facilitated community and environmental health education, immunizations, referral services, preventive care, Narcan training and distribution, and more. Moving forward, we will continue collaborating with schools and low-access areas in the community to address the healthcare needs of residents in Chautauqua County through our mobile health clinics.

## Coroner Program Improvements

In 2024, the Chautauqua County Coroner's Office achieved significant milestones to enhance its operations. The office successfully hired a full-time coroner supervisor, ensuring improved oversight and efficiency in case management. A new vehicle for decedent transport was acquired, facilitating more reliable and respectful services. Additionally, the implementation of a mobile morgue expanded the office's capability to handle larger incidents effectively. These advancements, alongside positive policy changes, reflect the commitment of the Chautauqua County Coroner's Office to provide quality service and support to the community during difficult times.



A **Substance Use Prevention Program and Strategic Plan** was established. A public health framework supports a widely collaborative approach to addressing substance use, facilitating partnerships with other government departments and community-based organizations and integrating the goals of both public health and public safety. Through the Program, we will continue to lead a collaborative, strategic, and comprehensive response to addiction, focusing on preventing those factors that contribute to the onset of substance misuse and strengthening effective systems of care for individuals and their loved ones struggling with substance use disorders. The county experienced a 51% reduction in county-wide overdose deaths in 2024 compared to 2023, a greater reduction than the national average.



Chautauqua County welcomed four **Public Health Fellows** in the summer of 2024 to assist in planning and developing out new programs and mandates within our Department. This initiative is made possible through the New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) fellows grant program which is in its second phase. The program continues to help to fortify Public Health system's operations and capacity, engage and develop the workforce, and increase readiness for future Public Health emergencies.



NYS Public Health Fellows



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



**Inspection Services:** Staff issue permits and inspect food service establishments, temporary residences, campgrounds, mobile home parks, tanning facilities, body art facilities, public swimming pools, public bathing beaches, and public water supplies to ensure compliance with the New York State Sanitary Code. Inspections identify conditions that could lead to communicable disease transmission as well as educate operators on best practices to protect public health and properly maintain facilities.

**Drinking Water:** Bacteria testing services are available for public water supplies at our certified water laboratory. Residents with private water supplies (wells, etc.) are offered guidance regarding appropriate water treatment and disinfection options. Water specialists ensure public water supplies meet NYS Department of Health structural requirements and provide guidance for the supplies to comply with federal and state water testing requirements. Staff oversee water operator certification.

**Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems:** Regulates and oversees the design and installation of private and commercial onsite wastewater treatment systems, commonly known as septic systems, to ensure proper installation.

**Property Transfer Inspections:** Residential and commercial water supplies and onsite wastewater treatment systems are inspected at the time of property transfer. Water supplies are inspected for structural safety, appropriate water treatment components, and indicator bacteria. Wastewater treatment systems are evaluated to verify that sewage and wastewater concerns are addressed adequately and in compliance with current requirements.

**Public Health Emergency Preparedness:** Staff prepare response plans and conduct drills to ensure all types of natural and manmade hazards, including infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and incidents involving biological, chemical, or radiological contamination will be handled in the best interest of public health and safety.

**Rabies:** Staff investigate reports of animal bites to evaluate the potential risk of rabies exposure and offer guidance regarding necessary precautions and follow-up. The Department offers free rabies vaccine clinics in collaboration with local municipalities for domestic dogs, cats, and ferrets.

**Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Primary Prevention Programs:** Provides lead poisoning prevention education, nurse case management, environmental investigation, lead hazard assessment, and abatement follow up activities. Lead Primary Prevention provides free in-home testing, free renovation, repair and painting training, free paint and cleaning supplies for landlords and homeowners in the Jamestown area. This program has also procured \$5M in United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds to remediate lead and unsafe, unhealthy housing.

## Public Water Systems Regulated:

2024: 214  
2023: 213

## Food Service Establishments Permitted:

2024: 692  
2023: 708

## Septic Permits:

2024: 374  
2023: 441

## Property Transfer Inspections:

2024: 508  
2023: 526

## Beaches Monitored:

2024: 32  
2023: 27

## Possible Rabies Exposure Investigations:

2024: 420  
2023: 365

## Smoking/Vaping Sales Inspections:

2024: 277  
2023: 124





## COMMUNITY HEALTH



**Communicable Disease Control:** Communicable diseases are illnesses caused by bacteria or viruses that people spread to one another through contact with contaminated surfaces, bodily fluids, blood products, insect bites, or through the air. Control of these diseases is one of the main functions of a public health department. NYS requires over 70 diseases be reported to the local health department, requiring staff to investigate and provide education to prevent further spread of illness and to contact exposed individuals if treatment or monitoring for symptoms is needed. This surveillance helps to detect outbreaks and enable prompt intervention. Many hours are dedicated to this program to maintain the community's health.



**Welcome Home Baby Program** provides every new parent in the county a one-time visit with one of our public health nurses. Our nurses offer information on infant growth and development, safety, nutrition, immunizations, breastfeeding and more. Information may also include lead poisoning prevention. All families will receive information on services available in the community.

**Breastfeeding Support Program** allows Public Health Nurses/CLC's (Certified Lactation Consultants) to assist new mothers in reaching their breastfeeding goals. Every mom faces breastfeeding challenges, from latching issues to low milk supply, we can provide help that will allow you to successfully breastfeed. In 2024, Community Health Nursing worked with Univera to support and/or improve worksite lactation. Nurses coordinated and purchased supplies for multiple locations dedicated to workplace lactation. Some of the items purchased included, privacy screens, comfortable chairs, refrigerators for expressed milk storage, signage, and more. Along with offering worksite support, this Public Health Breastfeeding Program also offers support and guidance to families through home visits made by Certified Lactation Consultants. Funding from Univera also allowed the HD to purchase breastfeeding supplies to distribute to enrolled moms during their home visits.

**Immunization Program** provides vaccinations to eligible children through the Center for Disease Control Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, and community outreach clinics to immunize groups at risk for vaccine preventable diseases. Nurses provide outreach and education to families, area schools, day care centers, private provider offices and the public.

**Chronic Disease Prevention** provides no-cost assistance to communities, schools, employers, and organizations in making policy, systems, and environment-level changes to help prevent chronic diseases and improve community health outcomes.

### Communicable Diseases Reported:

2024: 4,309

2023: 5,166

### Maternity Ward Rounds:

2024: 474

2023: 375

### Breastfeeding Support:

2024: 132

2023: 70

### Immunizations:

2024: 825

2023: 906

### Narcan Kits Distributed:

2024: 7,300

2023: 6,734

Narcan distributed through county-wide efforts and not solely from this department.



Community Health Nursing





**Mobile Health:** The mobile health vehicle serves as an extension of our Health Department, bringing essential health services directly to the community. Mobile health clinics are offered during the non-winter months at various locations throughout the county. Services are free and include immunizations, child developmental screenings, sexual health education, blood pressure screenings, distribution of free Narcan and condoms and more.

**Substance Use Prevention:** A public health framework supports a widely collaborative approach to addressing addiction, facilitating partnerships with other government departments and community-based organizations and integrating the goals of both public health and public safety. Through the Program, we will continue to lead a collaborative, strategic, and comprehensive response to addiction, focusing on preventing those factors that contribute to the onset of substance misuse and strengthening effective systems of care for individuals and their loved ones struggling with substance use disorders.

**Early Intervention Program** serves children from birth up to the age of three years who have been diagnosed with, or are at high risk for, a developmental delay. Children are referred to services for assistive technology service, audiology, family training, counseling, parent support groups, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, vision services, special education, nursing, medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes, nutrition, psychological services, health services and transportation and related costs.

The **Preschool Special Education Program** provides services for the three to five year-old population. Each school district in the County is responsible for authorization of services. Services are provided by certified professionals in three Chautauqua County center-based special education programs and in less restrictive settings including Head Start, regular nursery schools, and the home.

The **Children with Special Health Care Needs Program** (CYSHCN) is for families of children ages birth to 21 who have, or may have, a serious health condition. The program gives information and referral services for families of children who need a health or related service beyond those normally needed by children. Conditions may be physical, behavioral, or emotional.



Early Intervention/Preschool/CYSHCN

#### Mobile Health Clinics:

**2024: 42**  
Inaugural year

#### Early Intervention Participants:\*\*

**2024: 904**  
**2023: 1,004**

Early Intervention participant are calculated based on the school year while other figures within this report are calculated by the calendar year.

#### Preschool Cost Per Student:

**2024: \$15,520**  
**2023: \$15,685**

#### CYSHCN Participants:

**2024: 263**  
**2023: 217**



## CORONER



Coroners

Coroners respond to unattended, suspicious and accidental deaths in the community, refers cases to the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy as appropriate, and completes the manner and cause of death sections of death certificates for appropriate cases.

In 2024, the Chautauqua County Coroner's Office achieved significant milestones to enhance its operations. The office successfully hired a full-time coroner supervisor, ensuring improved oversight and efficiency in case management. A new vehicle for decedent transport was acquired, facilitating more reliable and respectful services. Additionally, the implementation of a mobile morgue expanded the office's capability to handle larger incidents effectively. These advancements, alongside positive policy changes, reflect the commitment of the Chautauqua County Coroner's Office to provide quality service and support to the community during difficult times.

### Coroner Cases

Deaths	2023	2024
Natural	257	219
Drugs	63	28
Accident	24	15
Suicide	9	16
Homicide	2	9
Undetermined	7	3
Pending	0	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>294</b>

## CORRECTIONAL HEALTH



Correctional Health Nursing visits: **2024: 2,033**  
**2023: 2,329**

Medicated Assisted Treatment: **2024: 6,172**  
**2023: 3,527**

Our NCCHC Accredited Health Services Program delivers holistic health care services with respect and care to individuals detained in the Chautauqua County Jail. The medical program ensures the provision of emergency, acute and basic medical/mental health care services to all incarcerated individuals in a timely manner. Staff strive to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, prevent and treat chronic conditions, promote healthy behaviors, improve well-being and self-sufficiency and assist with linkages for success upon release.

In 2024, a local dental service agreement was formed with our Federally Qualified Health Clinic partner, The Chautauqua Center, to provide mandated dental services at the County Jail. This locally based program will save the county hundreds of thousands of dollars throughout the life of the agreement.

The Chautauqua County Jail's Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program ran for its second full year in 2024. MAT is an evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder that uses FDA-approved medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders. Statistics show that within three months of release from custody, 75 percent of people who were in prison or jail with an opioid use disorder experience a relapse to opioid use. \*The MAT program is in place to allow inmates better chances for success upon release.



Correctional Health



# ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The Administrative Unit is responsible for the essential behind-the-scenes operations that ensure the department runs smoothly. This unit handles a variety of critical tasks, including coordinating with county finance and human resources to meet fiscal and staffing needs, supporting staff onboarding and development, managing contract and resolution documentation, and performing other key administrative functions as required.

## OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Health Department works in a number of ways to connect with the public and share messages about programs, health promotion, health safety, and community collaborations. The County's Media Information Officer plays a vital role to distribute news and information to the public regarding public health risks and information. This unit works to engage community leaders and the media in educating the community about various health issues facing the County through media releases including topics on substance abuse risks, public water emergencies, rabies outbreaks, air quality, Lyme disease risk, lead paint hazards to children, the importance of immunizations and more. CCHD also uses social media tools such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. We receive and respond to personal health related questions from the public via phone, the private message feature on our various program-specific Facebook pages, and through our general email box. Additionally, department program experts participate in educational events across the County as appropriate, with a goal of reaching a diverse population of County residents. Use of virtual technologies and social media tools continue to be crucial for reaching community members, in addition to traditional media sources.

Protecting and improving the public's health and promoting wellness cannot be managed by an organization, health care provider, government or community agency alone. Partnerships, coalitions and collaborations are essential to the public health effort.

The Health Department leads the Chautauqua Health Action Team, also known as the CHAT. This team is comprised of organizations related to health and wellness through the County. The CHAT works to keep members informed of health related initiatives within their organizations and to find ways to work together to transform the lives of the community.



Administration & Communications

### Press Releases

2024: 39  
2023: 36

### Social Media:

Posts:

2024: 788  
2023: 777

Followers:

2024: 10,425  
2023: 10,132

Reach:

2024: 209,815  
2023: 266,796

### Outreach Events:

30+ Events







# Bright futures begin lead-free



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