



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A message from
LEADERSHIP



Michael Faulk, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer



Lacey Wilson
Public Health Director

On behalf of the Chautauqua County Health Department, we are proud to present our 2025 Annual Report.

Over the past year, we continued to strengthen our commitment to prevention, collaboration, and innovation as we worked to improve the health and well-being of all who live, work, and play in Chautauqua County. A significant milestone was the establishment of our first formal Planning and Policy Division, enhancing our ability to use data-driven strategies, anticipate emerging challenges, and align resources to address community needs.

Partnership remains at the heart of our work. We are grateful for the collaboration of community-based organizations, healthcare providers, long-term care facilities, schools, municipalities, and many others who help us reach residents and improve access to services. Together, we are building a more connected and responsive public health system.

Equity continues to guide our efforts. Through targeted outreach, expanded programming, and strategic investments, we strive to reduce barriers and ensure all residents have opportunities to achieve their best health. We remain committed to meeting people where they are and responding thoughtfully to the evolving needs of our communities.

We have also expanded our role as advocates for Chautauqua County at the state and national levels, helping elevate local priorities and shape conversations that influence the future of public health. In addition, we continue to recognize the importance of healthy environments and are working to improve access to spaces and opportunities that support physical, mental, and social well-being.

This report reflects not only the accomplishments of the past year, but also our ongoing evolution as a department dedicated to prevention, equity, and community health. We are grateful for the dedication of our staff, the strength of our partnerships, and the trust of the residents we serve.

Together, we will continue building a healthier, stronger Chautauqua County.

Michael W. Faulk, MD FACEP

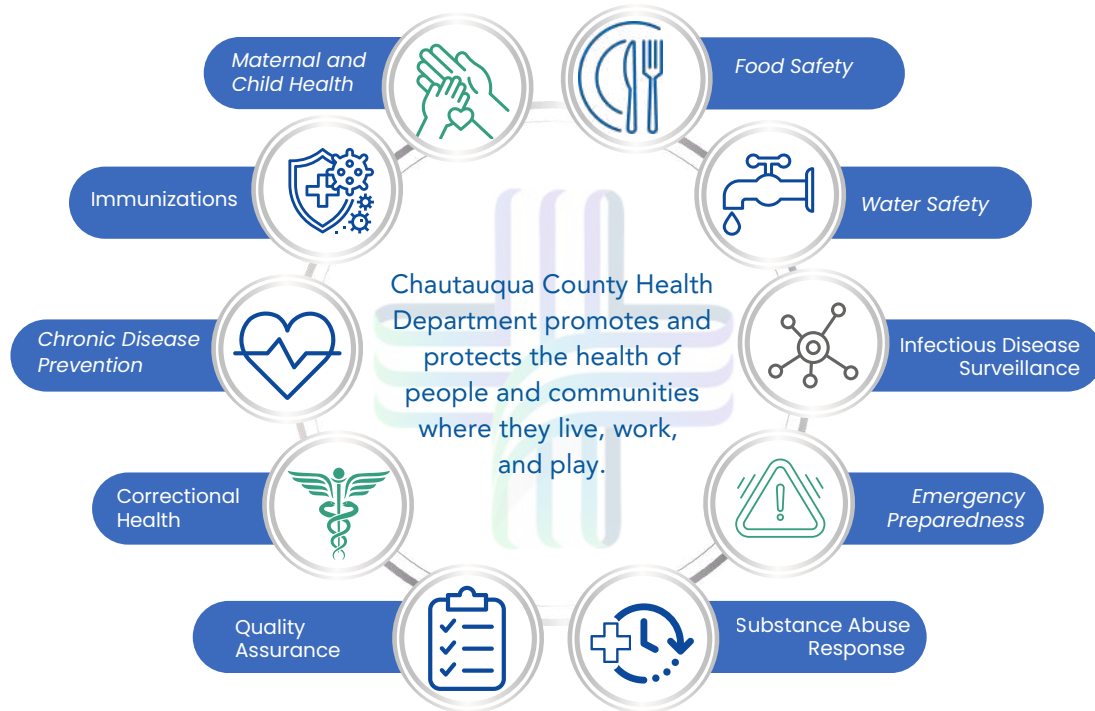
Lacey R. Wilson, MPH, RDN





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 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

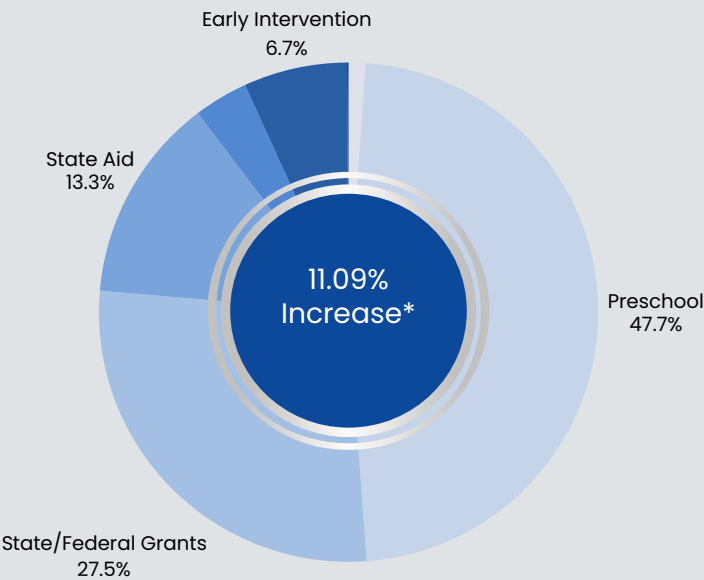
2025 AT A GLANCE



2025 REVENUE

PROGRAMS	2025	%	2024	%
Preschool	6,360,053	47.7%	6,369,164	53.1%
State/Federal Grants	3,660,259	27.5%	1,730,910	14.4%
State Aid	1,775,489	13.3%	2,006,290	16.7%
Fees for Service	468,657	3.5%	1,128,584	9.4%
Early Intervention	889,746	6.7%	701,016	5.8%
Corners	150,130	1.1%		
Other	17,281	0.1%	65,168	0.5%
TOTAL REVENUE	13,331,615		12,001,131	

*compared with 2024 revenue





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. This proactive inspection model will detect and remove lead hazards to reduce exposure in children.

The Chautauqua County Health Department established a presence in Jamestown City Hall to facilitate efficient working relationships with municipal staff that will benefit the people and properties impacted by this program. In addition, a landing page was created on our website to with resources and updated information to keep our community informed!



Early Intervention:

The Early Intervention Program which serves children from birth to age three and connects them to services such as speech, hearing, physical and occupational therapy, has experienced a provider shortage over the past several years. In response, the program expanded community-based services to include group therapy options, allowing more children to be served who might otherwise be placed on waitlists. This expansion has been made possible through strong community partnerships, with sessions held at locations such as the Jamestown Library and Chautauqua Children's Gym.



Substance Use:

Few public health initiatives promise greater returns than reducing tobacco use. Real progress is already being made. Generations of a healthier Chautauqua County live on the other side of our collective efforts. Expansion and enhancement of existing school-based tobacco (and other substance) use prevention and early intervention services can bring further reduction to county-wide tobacco use. Key partners in reducing youth tobacco use include Tobacco-Free Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany, Prevention Works and, on behalf of the county's school districts, BOCES. Access to tobacco products, especially by underage youth, can be reduced through the adoption of a local tobacco retailer license ordinance in addition to the current state-required licenses.

Working towards BRIGHTER FUTURES

In conjunction with the New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) Prevention Agenda for 2025-2030, the Chautauqua County Health Department, hospitals and community partners collaborated to complete the Chautauqua County Community Health Assessment, Community Service Plans, and the Community Health Improvement Plan for 2025-2030. Following guidance from the NYSDOH, the planning team collaborated to assess the community's perceived health priorities, assets, and needs through both web-based and paper surveys, as well as a series of community discussions. The team also conducted a thorough review of secondary health data provided by the NYSDOH and other key sources, ultimately identifying both collaborative and organization-specific priority areas.



Social and Community Context

Tobacco/E-Cigarette Use: While youth cigarette smoking is at historic lows, nicotine vaping has risen sharply, with student vaping rates 4-5 times higher than cigarette use, creating new risks for addiction and long-term health consequences. To address these challenges, the county will collaborate with the Chautauqua County Board of Health on implementing local licensing requirements.

Healthy Eating: Breastfeeding is a critical component of healthy early childhood nutrition and maternal health. By increasing the number of Certified Lactation Consultants we can help ensure postpartum individuals have timely access and support.



Health Care Access and Quality

Access to and Use of Prenatal Care: In the county, 73% of births receive first-trimester care, and 76% receive adequate prenatal care. Additionally, 7.7% of births occur with late or no prenatal care, among the highest rates in the state. To address these issues, the county aims to conduct a feasibility study to explore strategies for expanding access in rural areas. Progress will be measured by documentation of the feasibility study through meeting minutes and/or a written report.



Economic Stability

Housing Stability and Affordability: In Chautauqua County, approximately 60 children per year are identified as lead poisoned (≥ 5 mcg/dL), with 80% of cases occurring in rental housing. The City of Jamestown, which represents 22% of the county population, accounts for roughly 75% of these cases. Programs such as the Chautauqua County Health Department's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the emerging Lead Rental Registry are critical to reducing exposure and improving housing safety. Our goal is to increase the number of lead home inspections by 50% annually from 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS



Public Health Milestone

In 2025, Chautauqua County Health department celebrated 60 years of service. Below are remarks from Dr. Faulk:

"We are excited to celebrate this milestone and applaud our predecessors for paving the way to improve health outcomes in Chautauqua County," states Chautauqua County's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Michael Faulk. "I am proud to serve alongside some of the most professional, passionate, and dedicated public health staff, who truly are doing amazing work in our county. We are also fortunate to have many community partners including local hospitals, health centers, doctor's offices, and agencies with similar goals of improving the public's health, all working together to protect and promote the health of all people in our community."

The 2025–2030 Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) align with the New York State Prevention Agenda, the state's health improvement plan that serves as a comprehensive framework for local and statewide action to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities. Developed and updated by the New York State Public Health and Health Planning Council, the Prevention Agenda emphasizes prevention and equity, with the vision that every New Yorker has the opportunity to achieve their highest level of health across their lifespan.

The CCCHPT includes representatives from UPMC Chautauqua Hospital, Brooks-TLC Hospital System, Inc., Allegheny Health Network Westfield Memorial Hospital, The Chautauqua Center, The Resource Center, Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services, The Heritage Group, Prevention Works, the Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene and Social Services, Chautauqua Health Network, and the Healthy Community Alliance.



PLANNING AND POLICY

New in 2025

The Planning and Policy division was implemented into the organizational structure of the Health Department, and with it, two staff members were added. The goals are to strengthen long term strategic planning, support data-driven decision making, diversify funding and enhance cross-sector collaboration to ensure fundamental systems improvements produce real-life outcomes for local residents.

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The number of vacancies that were filled in 2025. This is a result of a comprehensive departmental strategic staffing plan with a focus on succession planning, recruitment, and retention



Planning and Policy

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: Staff provide 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, as well as 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:

2025: 215
2024: 214

Food Service Establishments Permitted:

2025: 845
2024: 692

Septic Permits:

2025: 342
2024: 374

Property Transfer Inspections:

2025: 516
2024: 508

Beaches Monitored:

2025: 26
2024: 32

Possible Rabies Exposure Investigations:

2025: 487
2024: 420

Smoking/Vaping Sales Inspections:

2025: 213
2024: 277



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. In 2025, Nurses conducted over 125 general communicable disease investigations. 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 2025, two additional Public Health Nurses completed lactation training to provide in-home support to mothers in the community as they work toward their breastfeeding goals.

Immunization Program successfully launched a new pop-up clinic in the North county, to help increase vaccination rates. The program provides vaccinations to eligible children through the Center for Disease Control Vaccines for Children (VFC) programs 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:

2025: 4,041
2024: 4,309

Maternity Ward Rounds:

2025: 371
2024: 474

Breastfeeding Support:

2025: 112
2024: 132

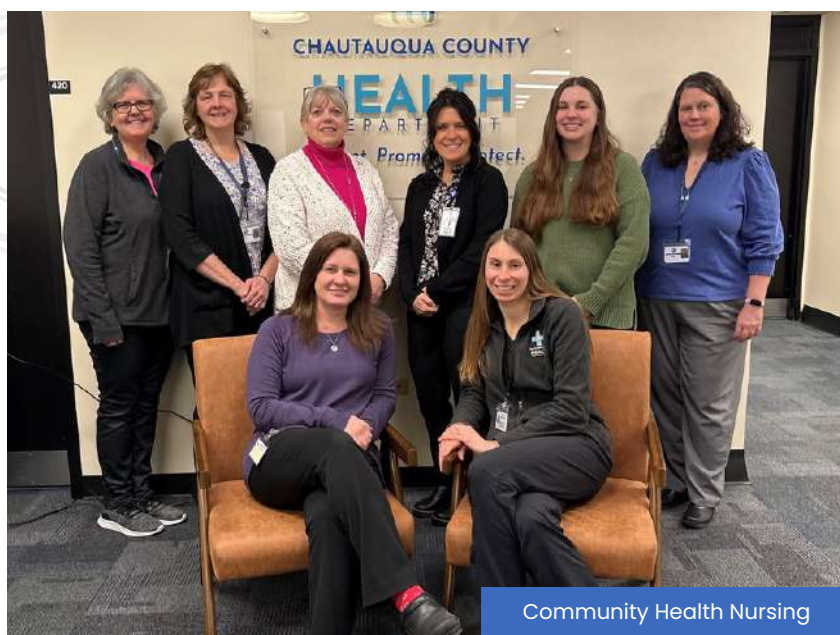
Immunizations:

2025: 735
2024: 825

Narcan Kits Distributed:

2025: 8,875
2024: 7,300

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



Community Health Nursing

Mobile Health: The mobile health vehicle, in its second year, serves as an extension of our Health Department, bringing essential health services directly to the community. Services are free and include immunizations, child developmental screenings, sexual health education, blood pressure screenings, distribution of free Narcan and condoms and more. In 2025, over 200 individuals were served at 28 various locations throughout the county.

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.

In 2025 special funding was awarded for a Community Accessibility and Inclusion (CAI) project. This allowed the creation of pilot groups in both the North and South ends of the county that reduces the strain of professional services provider shortages, and connects families and caregivers. The goals of this group have been to increase collaboration between the Early Intervention Program and CYSHCN, establish partnerships with community sites where children can receive services in the natural environments, establish group services to help with the lack of providers in the Early Intervention program, allow families an opportunity to access these group sites, make friends and gain support and for the children to learn from each other in group activities.



Early Intervention/Preschool/CYSHCN

Mobile Health Clinics:

2025: 46
2024: 42

Early Intervention Participants:**

2025: 789
2024: 904

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:

2025: \$19,464
2024: \$15,520

CYSHCN Participants:

2025: 223
2024: 263



CORONER

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 2025, the Chautauqua County Coroner's Office implemented Cohero, a new and more efficient case management software system. 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.



Coroners

Coroner Cases:

Deaths	2024	2025
Natural	219	245
Drugs	28	15
Accident	15	24
Suicide	16	19
Homicide	9	3
Undetermined	3	1
Pending	4	5
Totals	294	312

CORRECTIONAL HEALTH



Correctional Health 2025: 4,183
Nursing visits: 2024: 2,033

Individuals that participated 2025: 356
in Medicated Assisted
Treatment:

In 2025, our Jail Medical Unit was re-credentialed from NCCHC (National Commission on Correctional Health Care) and continued to deliver holistic health care services in the Chautauqua County Jail. This reaccreditation is a reflection of the continued compliance with nationally recognized standards for high-quality, constitutionally appropriate care. 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.

The Chautauqua County Jail's Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program ran for its second full year in 2025. While serving 356 incarcerated individuals, the program explored cost-effective service delivery strategies, and enhanced behavioral health services through the addition of a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. 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

SUCCESSFUL SITE VISITS IN 3-MONTH PERIOD

- 5/25 NYS Sheriff's Association
- 6/25 State Commission of Corrections
- 7/25 National commission on Correctional Health Care

*Source: Samhsa.gov



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The Administrative Unit provides the foundational operational support that ensures the department functions efficiently and effectively. This unit oversees critical internal processes, including coordination with County Finance and Human Resources to address fiscal and staffing needs, facilitation of employee onboarding, management of contracts and legislative resolutions, and execution of other essential administrative responsibilities. Through these efforts, the Administrative Unit helps maintain organizational stability and supports the department's overall mission.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Health Department connects with the community through multiple channels to share timely information on programs, health promotion, safety, and collaborative efforts. Residents receive updates on public health risks, such as water emergencies, rabies exposures, air quality alerts, Lyme disease prevention, lead hazards, immunizations, and chronic disease prevention.

The Department uses traditional media, social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, and direct communication via phone and email to ensure accessible and responsive outreach. Staff and subject matter experts also engage residents through educational events and countywide outreach, providing evidence-based information to diverse populations.

Protecting and improving public health and promoting wellness cannot be achieved by a single organization alone. Strong partnerships, coalitions, and cross-sector collaborations remain fundamental to advancing community health and addressing the complex challenges facing our County.

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.



Press Releases

2025: 29

2024: 39

Social Media Posts:

2025: 870

2024: 788

Followers:

2025: 10,635

2024: 10,425

Reach:

2025: 227,573

2024: 209,815

Outreach Events:

30+ Events





Bright futures begin lead-free



Chautauqua County
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