



ONEIDA COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
2021 Annual  
Report

*Promoting and protecting the health of Oneida County*



ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.  
ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DANIEL W. GILMORE, PH.D., MPH  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

I am pleased to present the 2021 Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) Annual Report. This report includes information and data from all programs within the Health Department.

As we enter the third year of the SARS-CoV-19 (commonly known as COVID-19) global pandemic, it is no surprise that COVID-19 related response activities continue to dominate the workload of the Oneida County Health Department. This Annual Report includes summaries of the County response to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout.



A review of 2021 highlights:

- Many Health Department initiatives including National Accreditation efforts and Oneida County Health Coalition activities have remained dormant due to COVID-19.
- Environmental Health inspections were significantly reduced due to COVID-19 safety precautions.
- Lead poisoning prevention outreach was provided to all children with elevated blood lead levels but home visits were limited due to COVID-19 safety precautions.
- Health Promotion and Outreach shifted all public health education to the COVID-19 response effort.
- In partnership with OCHD, the County Planning Department developed a COVID-19 dashboard and an opioid overdose dashboard for Oneida County.
- Special Children Services Programs continued but a significant backlog of children in need of services has developed due to the continued implementation of COVID-19 safety precautions.

I would like to thank all employees of the Oneida County Health Department who have worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. And, all County Departments that have provided much needed planning, logistical, and staffing support to assist the Health Department in COVID-19 related efforts.

Community partners that include Mohawk Valley Health System, Rome Health, Mohawk Valley Community College, BOCES and Oneida County School Superintendents, Mosaic Health, Upstate Community Health, local pharmacies, and organizations and communities that hosted vaccination PODs played a crucial role in COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. for his leadership and the Oneida County Board of Legislators for their continual support of Public Health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

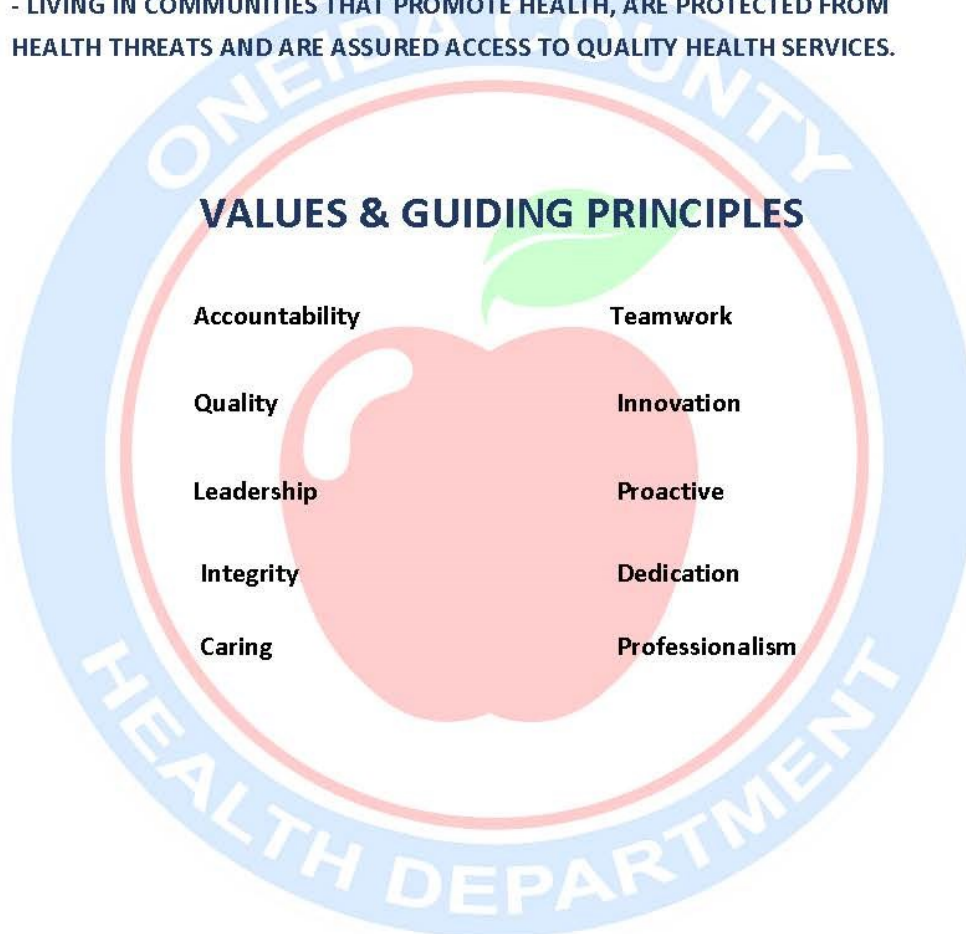
*Daniel W. Gilmore, Ph.D., MPH, Director of Health*

# MISSION, VISION & VALUES

The mission of the Oneida County Health Department is to **“Promote and Protect the Health of Oneida County.”** The Department works with many community agencies, organizations, and primary health care providers that comprise the Oneida County’s public health system, to fulfill our mission and to provide Essential Public Health Services.

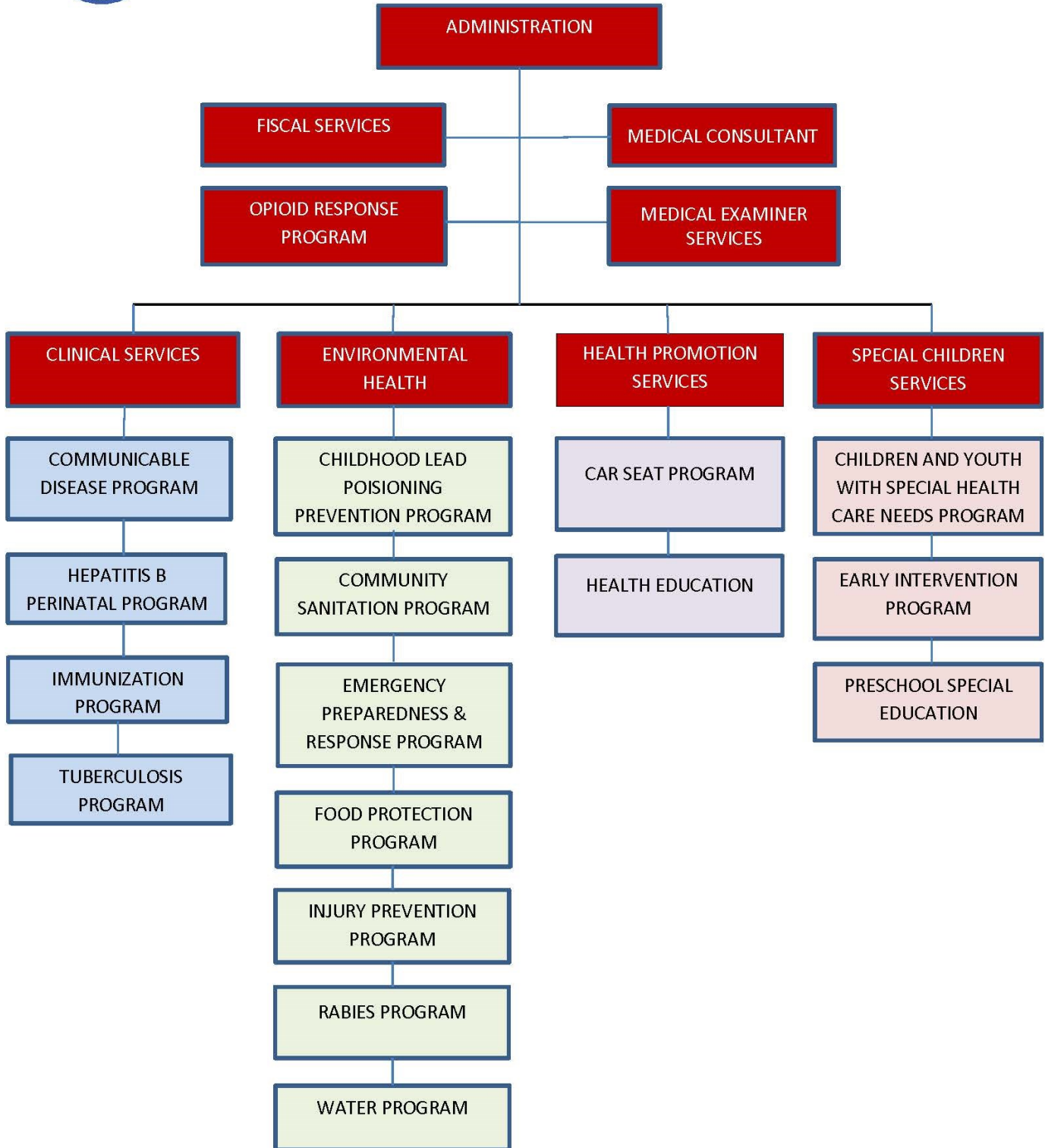
## OUR VISION

ONEIDA COUNTY RESIDENTS WILL BE THE HEALTHIEST PEOPLE IN NEW YORK STATE  
- LIVING IN COMMUNITIES THAT PROMOTE HEALTH, ARE PROTECTED FROM  
HEALTH THREATS AND ARE ASSURED ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES.





# Oneida County Health Department Organizational Chart



# OCHD BUDGET SUMMARY 2021

Program	Total Costs	% of Budget	% of Federal Funding	% of State Funding	% of County Funding	% of Other Funding	% of Medicare Medicaid
Administration	\$ 1,523,370	8.43%		36%	64%		
Pre-School (3-5)	\$ 10,457,870	57.88%		59%	39%		2%
Early Intervention	\$ 1,338,767	7.41%	13%	28%	57%		2%
Physically Handicapped Children	\$ 3,632	0.02%		100%			
Public Health Clinic	\$ 1,254,542	6.94%		42%	49%	8%	1%
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention	\$ 257,951	1.42%		100%			
Tuberculosis	\$ 39,166	0.22%		100%			
Environmental Health	\$ 1,196,397	6.62%		48%	25%	27%	
Immunization Consortium	\$ 176,270	0.98%		100%			
Emergency Preparedness	\$ 170,032	0.94%		75%	25%		
COVID-19	\$ 634,637	3.51%	86%	14%			
Medical Examiner	\$ 771,498	4.27%		16%	84%		
Opioid Program	\$ 245,286	1.36%	37%	51%	12%		

All figures are as of 2/22/22

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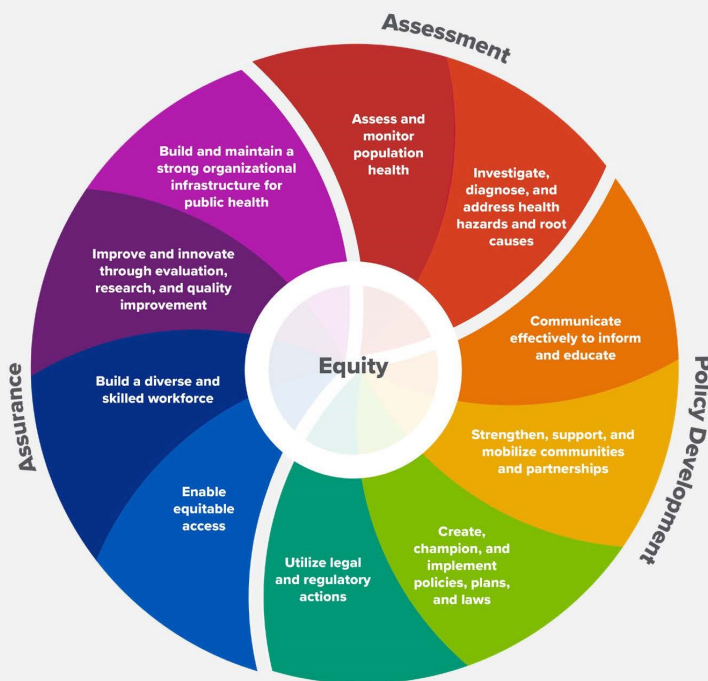
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# THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

*To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities*

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve equity, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems, and overall community conditions that enable optimal health for all and seek to remove systemic and structural barriers that have resulted in health inequities. Such barriers include poverty, racism, gender discrimination, ableism, and other forms of oppression. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.



**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #1**  
Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #2**  
Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #3**  
Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #4**  
Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #5**  
Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #6**  
Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #7**  
Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #8**  
Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #9**  
Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #10**  
Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

Created 2020



# ADMINISTRATION

The **Director of Health** is responsible for leading the programmatic and budgetary management of all public health programs and serves as key public health strategist for Oneida County.

The **Deputy Director of Health** provides oversight of all division and program operations and administrative services including strategic planning and quality improvement activities.

The **Secretary to the Director of Health** provides overall administrative support which also includes project management, team building and collaboration efforts, as well as lead for all wellness activity for Oneida County employees.

The **Fiscal Service Administrator** coordinates the preparation of the department's annual budget, prepares required financial statements and government reports, ensures that spending is within the budget allotments, ensures revenues from third party reimbursements, and prepares claims for State and Federal and other reimbursement.

Administrative staff also support personnel, payroll, and fiscal management activities.

Administration includes the following programs and services:

## PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING

Health planning includes a range of activities that support collaborative health planning with community partners, organizational strategic planning and performance improvement activities. A few major partnership initiatives conducted in 2021 include the following:

### ACCREDITATION

Oneida County Health Department was actively working toward accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Both the OCHD application and PHAB approval processes had been placed on pause for over two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This, coupled with the retirement of key OCHD staff, will necessitate a reassessment of OCHD preparedness for accreditation in 2022.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHA/CHIP)

Health Promotion worked with community Partners and hospitals on the Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP) prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019.

Implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was to begin in 2020, however, many of the tasks on this plan were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to be on hold throughout 2021.

The CHA/CHIP will be completed in partnership with Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS) and Rome Health in 2022.

## ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH COALITION

The Oneida County Health Coalition (OCHC) is a partnership of community agencies and organizations that support population health improvement through the framework and goals of the NYS Prevention Agenda. The OCHC serves as a platform for community partners to increase awareness of local public health issues, leverage additional support or resources, network, and to recruit new partners for existing or newly-identified initiatives. The OCHC supports OCHD's community health assessment and health improvement planning activities through participation in community stakeholder meetings and providing guidance on identification of priorities. This partnership was put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

In 2021, OCHD participated in the New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) ongoing Local Health Department (LHD) Performance Incentive Program. Year nine of the program began November 1, 2020 and concluded September 1, 2021. The initiative focused on promoting the practice of Expedited Partner Therapy for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. This program falls under the Clinic Services Division of the Oneida County Health Department and was awarded a total of \$34,000.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2019 the department completed the Oneida County Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The Department's 2016--2018 strategic plan was extended through 2019. In 2020 new strategies were to be developed and the plan was to also incorporate the new target initiatives of the CHIP in the next Strategic Plan. The COVID-19 pandemic response through 2021 delayed the revision and updating of the strategic planning process until 2022.

The 2016-2019 Strategic Plan focused on the following priority areas:

- Accountability and Improved Practice of Public Health
- Quality Improvement & Performance Management
- Health Education & Marketing
- Collaboration & Information Sharing
- Workforce Development
- All Hazards Emergency Operations Planning
- Opioids

Includes planning, coordinating and ensuring the quality of services provided through the development of indicators and audit tools to measure performance, use of cost vs. benefit analysis, the development and implementation of quality management tools to ensure effective program management, and supporting public health accreditation efforts.

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Quality improvement (QI) training is incorporated in all new employee orientation. The OCHD Quality Council was to meet quarterly for review of department QI related activities. The Council's role is to review quality initiatives within the Department, ensure ongoing training in QI for all staff, support all efforts to build and enhance the quality culture within OCHD. The department strives to identify opportunities for improvement and address those opportunities using proven QI methods, in order to provide the best service for all customers.

In 2019 the QI Council updated the Department QI Plan to include criteria for all Divisions and programs to follow in order to assure that quality improvement becomes engrained in how we do business. Performance management has been incorporated through tracking of annual Division goals, objectives and activities. Progress is monitored and posted in three areas of the Department, for all staff to follow progress. Performance management and workforce development activities are based on Public Health Accreditation Board Standards and Measures. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic response, department-wide QI efforts were paused through 2021.

## EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

The Oneida County Employee Wellness Program began in 2016 and was interrupted in March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic required almost all Health Department resources, including the secretary to the director/Wellness coordinator.

We are proud of these accomplishments that occurred in 2021:

- Wall of Hearts – in support of *America's Greatest Heart Run and Walk* (flagship walk of our local American Heart Association) county employees purchased red paper hearts and wrote "In Memory of..." or "In Honor of..." someone close to their heart. The hearts were on display in April and May in the lobby of the County Office Building. All participants were in a raffle drawing and two individuals won Ninja Blenders.
- Health Department staff resumed twice-weekly chair stretching in the ADK Building for morning breaks. We plan to publicize and offer to train other departments to follow our lead for the physical, social and mental health benefits.
- Wellness volunteers managed water stations for runners in the Erie Canal Half-Marathon on Sunday, July 18, and for the big local road race, the Boilermaker, on Sunday, October 10.
- PHA Campaign (Personal Health Assessment) – A 30-day campaign to encourage county employees who are MVP members to sign up online and take the PHA, the first step (worth \$50) to earn up to \$600 per year in Wellness rewards! All who completed the PHA were in a raffle drawing—grand prize was an MVP Kitchen Basket.
- Wear Pink Walk – in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month, the County Executive kicked off the walk and 40 staff joined him walking the loop around the County Office Building on Friday, October 10. Nine breast cancer survivors were gifted with crocheted dolls with pink ribbon logo hats. The dolls were handmade and donated by a Personnel department daughter.

Goals in 2022 include recharging Employee Wellness by scheduling a virtual steering committee meeting with our insurance wellness specialist and department heads who are passionate about wellness. We will take stock of programs and activities we can restart, new avenues to explore, and set targets for participation in MVP's WellBeing Rewards.

## MEDICAL EXAMINER SERVICES

As of 2013, the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office (OCME) serves as Oneida County's Medical Examiner and provides medical examiner services as required by NYS County Law and Oneida County Charter and Administrative Code. The OCME's Office provides professional, efficient and compassionate service to families, service providers and law enforcement officials and collaborates in OCHD's emergency preparedness planning.

### OCME'S OFFICE STATISTICS FOR ONEIDA COUNTY 2013—2021\*

<b>Oneida County Summary Data</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021*</b>
Total cases	658	696	724	736	767	842	858	892	910
Non-Medical Examiner cases	414	436	474	468	499	565	578	604	571
Expert Consultation cases	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Medical Examiner cases	244	260	249	267	267	277	280	288	339
Autopsy examinations	199	216	199	220	219	213	233	231	238
External examinations	15	22	20	17	20	23	21	31	53
Death Certificate only – no examination	30	22	30	30	28	41	26	26	48
Manner of death*									
Accident	90	88	94	129	122	116	117	130	150
Motor Vehicle Accidents	21	15	17	17	22	24	16	17	23
Drug Use/Toxin Related	25	36	40	65	60	39	64	70	80
<i>Heroin Related</i>	12	17	11	16	5	3	3	1	0
<i>Fentanyl Related</i>	1	2	7	16	21	9	15	34	55
<i>Heroin &amp; Fentanyl Related</i>	0	2	4	18	20	15	27	15	9
<i>Other Opioids</i>	4	11	10	5	6	7	8	5	6
<i>Other drugs</i>	8	4	8	10	8	5	11	15	10
Falls	29	22	30	27	27	37	31	31	35
Environmental	2	3	1	3	1	1	0	2	2
Other Blunt Trauma	2	1	2	3	5	0	1	2	1
Drowning	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	4
Asphyxia	4	2	1	4	2	5	1	1	4
Fire	1	5	0	5	2	5	2	2	0
Medical Procedure	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp Force Injury	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Other	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	3	1
Homicide	13	9	12	6	4	6	10	15	10
Natural	99	119	116	106	110	113	113	97	127
Suicide	36	32	24	21	28	32	31	32	29
Undetermined	4	10	2	4	3	7	7	14	10
Manner not applicable/fetal deaths	2	2	1	1	0	3	2	0	1
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12

\*Preliminary due to pending cases.

# CLINICAL SERVICES / DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) is the source of prevention, investigation, reporting, diagnosis, and treatment of reportable diseases in Oneida County. Staff members monitor disease activity in Oneida County and work closely with Administration, Health Promotion and Environmental Health to develop education, outreach, testing, and treatment strategies to minimize the impact of communicable disease in the community.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Communicable Disease program is responsible for the investigation, follow-up, surveillance and reporting of 82 diseases/conditions identified as reportable under the New York State Sanitary Code. Investigation is a way to screen and identify the source of the communicable disease and eliminate the disease. Investigations look at the type of outbreak, number of affected people, severity and suspicion of a foodborne source. All cases of reportable disease are electronically reported to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

ANNUAL DATA	2019	2020	2021
Case investigations	9,816	4,585	2,842
Actual cases of reportable communicable disease	7,194	4,395	2,645

*Note: 2020 and 2021 case investigations do not include COVID-19 Cases*

Number of Lab-Reported Positive COVID-19 Cases	
2020	10,896
2021	28,723

## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

The Sexually Transmitted Disease program is responsible for the investigation of, follow-up, surveillance and reporting of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and HIV. OCHD continued to contract with Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson to provide the STD Testing and Treatment program in accordance with the NYSDOH regulations for Oneida County Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

STD ANNUAL DATA	CASES REVIEWED AND MANAGED		
	2019	2020	2021
Cases of Chlamydia in Oneida County	840	635	793
Cases of Gonorrhea in Oneida County	154	388	391
Cases of Syphilis in Oneida County	22	29	54

*Note: Syphilis data represents Primary, Secondary, Early Latent and Congenital*

## TUBERCULOSIS

The Tuberculosis (TB) Control program provides comprehensive testing, diagnosis, and treatment of latent and active tuberculosis cases in Oneida County. The TB Control program decreases the public health threat of TB by investigating and treating positive cases of TB, while promoting preventative therapy as indicated for contact cases. The TB Control program performs targeted testing on high-risk groups.

ANNUAL DATA	2019	2020	2021
Total Visits	661	340	143
Active Cases Managed by OCHD	3	4	1
Latent TB Cases Identified	220	23	29

*Note: People with latent TB infection do not have symptoms, and they cannot spread TB bacteria to others. However, if latent TB bacteria become active in the body and multiply, the person will progress from having latent TB infection to being ill with TB disease. For this reason, people with latent TB infection should be treated to prevent them from developing TB disease.*

*Note: 2021 TB Case Visit numbers were down because of few referrals from providers due to COVID-19.*

## IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

In partnership with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and their Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adult (VFA) program, OCHD improves access to and education about recommended immunization for children and adults.

The Immunization Action Plan (IAP) funded by NYSDOH assists in identifying immunization rates and standards of practice for child and adolescent immunizations among local medical providers. IAP staff collaborates with hospitals, healthcare providers, and clients to increase education about vaccinations. Staff educate the community on the importance of vaccination for all ages. Additionally, staff attend The Mohawk Valley Immunization Alliance meetings. This collaborative work engages community partners, pharmacies and healthcare providers in promoting age-appropriate vaccines for children and adults.

Immunization Clinics are located at 406 Elizabeth St, Utica, and 300 West Dominick St, Rome, by appointment only.

ANNUAL DATA	2019	2020	2021
Total Visits	3,961	2,212	3,024
Total Clients (Post Exposure Rabies)	49	64	165
Total Clients (Flu Shot)	649	291	107
Total Clients (Green Card)	237	76	58
Total COVID-19 Vaccinations and Boosters Administered at OCHD Clinics and PODs in 2021			61,900

## PERINATAL HEPATITIS B PROGRAM REFERRALS

The New York State Department of Health's Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program is a resource for the maintenance of surveillance and control of perinatal hepatitis B infection. The primary goal of the program is to identify all pregnant women infected with Hepatitis B and prevent perinatal transmission of the virus by ensuring infants born to infected women receive the recommended prophylactic treatment at birth. Left untreated, about one in four children who have chronic hepatitis B will eventually die of health problems related to their infection, such as liver damage, liver disease or liver cancer.

ANNUAL DATA	2019	2020	2021
Total Cases	12	13	14

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021: CLINICAL SERVICES/DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

- Clinic staff were redirected to the COVID-19 response on a daily basis beginning on March 13, 2020 and all through the 2021 calendar year.
- Clinic staff was able to educate the community through phone calls and emails assisting in answering questions from our customers.
- Conducted PODs for all COVID-19 vaccines throughout Oneida County including first dose, second dose, and booster doses.
- Provided 518 homebound visits to administer COVID-19 vaccines.
- Administered 571 required vaccines to school age children.

## GOALS IN 2022: CLINICAL SERVICES/DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

- Provide staff education to strengthen core competencies and assure quality outcomes for our customers.
- Welcome diversity and offer support to all those who seek public healthcare.
- Continue to work with the Environmental Health division and hospitals to treat rabies exposures following NYSDOH guidelines.
- Continue to update policies and procedures for the diagnostic and treatment center, to maintain compliance to the state health code requirements.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Oneida County COVID-19 response activities went into full effect in March 2020 following Oneida County's first documented case of the virus. Response activities include:

- Case investigations.
- Contact tracing.
- Follow up with contacts.
- Follow up with workplace/school/daycare/college for additional contact tracing.
- Daily follow up calls with case.
- Daily follow up text/call with contacts.
- Provided isolation/quarantine paperwork if needed for school/work, etc. Some orders were hand delivered.
- Delivered thermometers, face masks, gloves, and other supplies.
- NYS released NY Forward Plan, detailed guides for reopening businesses. OCHD provided management, guidance of these guidelines.
  - ◊ Conducted COVID-19 outbreak investigations and conducted formal enforcement hearings for violations of COVID-19 Orders & Guidelines.
  - ◊ Responded and managed complaints from community.
  - ◊ Reopening/inspections on gyms and fitness centers.
  - ◊ Reviewed and approved high risk sport guidelines.
- Management/training volunteers and temporary and reassigned staff for various COVID related tasks.
- Managed hotline calls, emails from general public.
- Vaccination PODs and clinics set up throughout the County. Included outreach and work with community partners.
- Data tracking – cases, hospitalizations, deaths, vaccinations, clusters, etc.
- Provided assistance to schools for general questions, contact tracing, guidelines, etc.

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Division of Environmental Health endeavors to protect county residents and visitors from health hazards that are beyond the control of ordinary citizens. This is accomplished by environmental surveillance, routine inspections of regulated facilities, and project plan review. The Division provides education, seeks compliance and, when necessary, initiates enforcement action to conform with New York State Public Health Laws, the New York State Sanitary Code, and the Oneida County Sanitary Code.

Services provided and programs in the Environmental Division are funded by Oneida County and through grants provided by the NYS Department of Health, permit fees, fees for services, and the collection of fines associated with violations of Public Health Law, the NYS & Oneida County Sanitary Codes, and the Clean Indoor Air Act.

## COMMUNITY SANITATION PROGRAMS

**Temporary Residences:** Temporary residence inspections include hotels, motels, and cabin colonies and emphasize fire safety, facility cleanliness, and sanitation for the protection of the traveling public lodging at facilities in Oneida County.

**Swimming Pool/Bathing Beaches:** The major focus of swimming pool inspections is on pool supervision, lifeguard requirements, life-saving equipment, general pool safety, chemical treatment, the proper operation of filtration equipment, and the water quality of the beaches and pools.

**Campgrounds:** Inspections of campsites include reviewing proper site spacing, shower and sanitary facilities, food service protection, the quality and operation of on-site drinking water supplies, and adequate sewage disposal systems.

**Children's Camps:** Major emphasis is placed on ensuring that each camp provides an adequate number of trained, qualified staff for waterfront safety and supervision. Attention is also focused on food service protection, adequate safe housing, proper sewage disposal, adequate garbage storage facilities, and safe, sanitary water supplies, which meet NYS Sanitary Code standards.

**Mobile Home Parks:** Mobile home parks are inspected to ensure that the parks continue to meet the standards contained in the NYS Sanitary Code. In addition, the Department responds to complaints from residents in the mobile home parks.

**Migrant Farmworker Housing:** The Environmental Division conducts inspections of farmworker housing to ensure adequate, safe and healthy housing, and potable water for migrant farmworkers.

COMMUNITY SANITATION PROGRAMS DATA	Number of Active Facilities			Number of Inspections		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Temporary Residences	50	51	54	52	13	0
Swimming Pools & Bathing Beaches	92	89	91	104	15	7
Campgrounds	30	29	27	32	0	1
Children's Camps	18	2	8	38	2	8
Mobile Home Parks	64	60	60	73	1	0
Migrant Farmworker Housing	1	2	5	1	2	8

**Food Protection:** Prevention of foodborne illness is the primary focus of Food Protection. This is accomplished by conducting unannounced inspections during the food preparation process, educational seminars, on-site training, and enforcement actions for all food service establishments, with the exception of hospitals and nursing homes.

FOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM DATA	Number Active Facilities			Number of Inspections		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Low Risk	80	80	76	94	5	1
Medium Risk	518	522	510	840	43	29
High Risk	405	415	404	884	102	46
Total	1003	1014	990	1809	150	76

**Other Food Program Activities:**

- 50 pre-operational inspections.
- 29 summer feeding sites, 0 inspections.
- 133 mobile food vendors, 10 inspections.
- 0 inspections at 60 temporary events with a total of 104 vendors.
- 23 complaint investigations, 2 illness investigations
- 1 Hepatitis A outbreak investigation.
- PODs for Hepatitis A vaccine administration.
- 2 COVID-19 super-spreader event investigations.
- 1 CIAA complaint and investigation.

**Tanning Facility Inspections:** In 2013, the department assumed the role from NYSDOH of permitting and inspecting all tanning facilities in Oneida County. Inspections are required every other year and focus on ensuring tanning equipment and records are maintained. There were 14 tanning facilities in operation in 2021.

**Adolescent Tobacco:** The Health Department works with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office to assure that tobacco products are not sold to minors. Sheriff's Deputies conduct compliance checks, re-inspections, and follow-up visits. Oneida County had 231 retail tobacco vendors in 2021 and 100 ATUPA (Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act) compliance checks were completed.

ADOLESCENT TOBACCO DATA	2019	2020	2021
# Retail Tobacco Vendors	215	228	231
# Compliance Checks	174	32	100

**Complaint Investigations:** Staff investigate complaints pertaining to housing issues, public and private nuisances, and regulated facilities that may affect the health, safety, and welfare of county residents. In 2021, Environmental Health staff also fielded and/or investigated over 350 COVID-19 related complaints.

**Animal Disease Control:** The Environmental Division is responsible for monitoring diseases that animals may transmit to humans. Rabies, which is fatal, is the most significant of these diseases. Emergency rooms and physicians are required by NYS Public Health Law to report all animal bites to the health department. Individuals can also report suspected rabies exposures to the Health Department.

<b>RABIES PREVENTION PROGRAM DATA</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Rabies Exposure Investigations	613	557	510
Post-exposure Treatment for Humans	53	70	61
Rabies Vaccines Administered to Pets	402	249	371
Sponsored Pet Vaccination Clinics	7	3	5
Specimens Tested for Rabies	95	110	101
Rabies Positive Specimens	9	13	7

**West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Prevention:** The health department conducts a monitoring program during the spring and summer months to determine the presence of WNV and EEE viruses in Oneida County. Educational information is provided to people to reduce the risk of contracting WNV or EEE. In 2021, field work for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis prevention was suspended, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to ensure that the public is protected from illness and injury resulting from waterborne diseases and contamination that may be naturally occurring or human caused. Staff provide technical assistance to water system operators in compliance with NYS Sanitary Codes and Federal Clean Drinking Water Act Guidelines, review and assist in the certification of new community system water operators, and technical assistance is provided to homeowners and other non-public water system operators if problems arise or new systems are developed.

Division staff assist water systems with their development of an Annual Water Quality Report. There has been an increase in the number of water systems developing cross-connection control programs and staff work with water systems in their efforts. Staff also respond to a number of requests from homeowners / prospective buyers, lenders and realtors related to water well and septic regulations.

<b>PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM DATA</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Active	155	154	152
Inspected	154 (88 sanitary surveys)	4	62
Notices of Violations Issued	149	68	21
Formal Enforcement Actions (Stipulation / Hearing)	17	0	0
Boil Water Orders and Other Emergencies	~10 (4 issued by OCHD) 2 Conserve Water Advisories	~5 (0 issued by OCHD) 1 Conserve Water Order	~5 2 Conserve Water Orders
Samples Collected	155 Coliform 9 Chemical	2 Coliform 6 Chemical	59 Coliform 20 Chemical

## ENGINEERING PLAN REVIEW

Contracts are in place with several consulting engineering firms to review engineer plans on behalf of the Health Department and ensure that facilities and projects meet the standards contained in the NYS Sanitary Code and generally accepted engineering standards. The plan review process ensures that environmental health concerns are addressed and acceptable practices are in place prior to the use of the facility. Plans for new facilities as well as plans for replacement and upgrades of existing facilities are reviewed.

ENGINEERING PLANS REVIEWED AND APPROVED	2019	2020	2021
Water System Expansions/Improvements	12	1	0
Backflow Prevention Devices	11	3	10
Realty Subdivisions	0	0	0
Individual Wastewater Disposal Systems Plans (non-conventional)	4	1	3
Swimming Pools / Beaches (new or improvements)	4	1	2
Campground (improvement or expansion)	1	0	4
Mobile Home Park	1	1	0
<b>Total Plans</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>

## LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Studies show that no amount of lead exposure is safe for children. Even low levels of lead in blood can affect children's health in many different ways. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program was established in 1972 to minimize the adverse health impact of lead poisoning. The program has helped thousands of families protect their children from lead exposure by ensuring their homes are lead safe.

On October 1, 2019, NYS Public Health Law (PHL) was amended to lower the definition of an elevated blood lead level (BLL) in a child. The blood lead level threshold that requires case management for a child and a full-scale environmental lead investigation for the home lowered from 15 µg/dL to 5 µg/dL. As a result of this change in PHL, the goal for the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) was conducting lead inspections and providing lead poisoning prevention and risk reduction information to parents/guardians of children with BLLs of 5 µg/dL or greater.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) was the main program in the Oneida County Health Department's Environmental Division. LPPP is NYS Department of Health mandated program that provides case coordination and environmental investigations for children under the age of eighteen with elevated blood lead levels (BLL).

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, LPPP regular program activity significantly changed. Community events, presentations and meetings were postponed or cancelled for the majority of the year. Most LPPP staff were redirected to work on OCHD's COVID-19 response activities. Beginning in the second half of 2021, the Lead Program staff shifted from COVID-19 related responsibilities and resumed field work and case follow-up. The staff then worked on prioritizing and following up on newer cases with the highest BLLs and multiple children in the household.

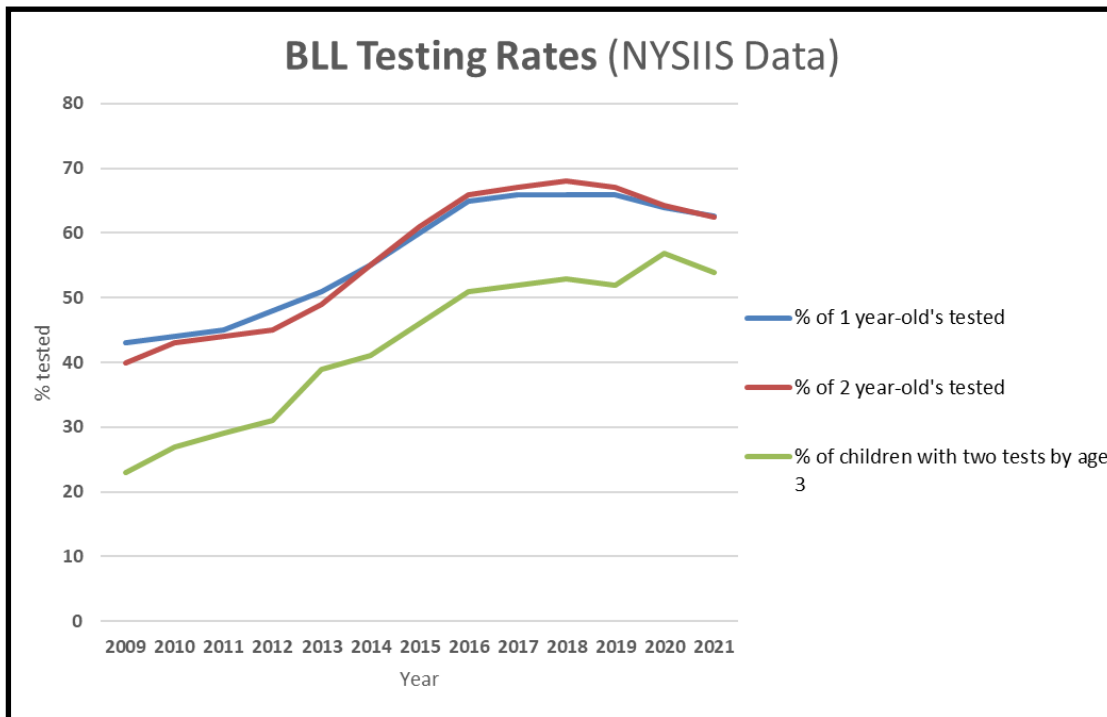
Parents and guardians of children with BLLs > 5 µg/dL were provided with BLL re-testing recommendations, educational materials and BLL monitoring. Mailings were sent to parents/guardians of one and two year old children lacking BLL testing. Referrals to healthcare providers and coordination with school staff and community agencies for children with BLLs > 5 µg/dL were conducted on a regular basis. Lead staff attended community health fairs and participated remotely in other trainings and presentations. Lead poisoning prevention materials were provided to community members, healthcare providers and community agencies throughout 2021.

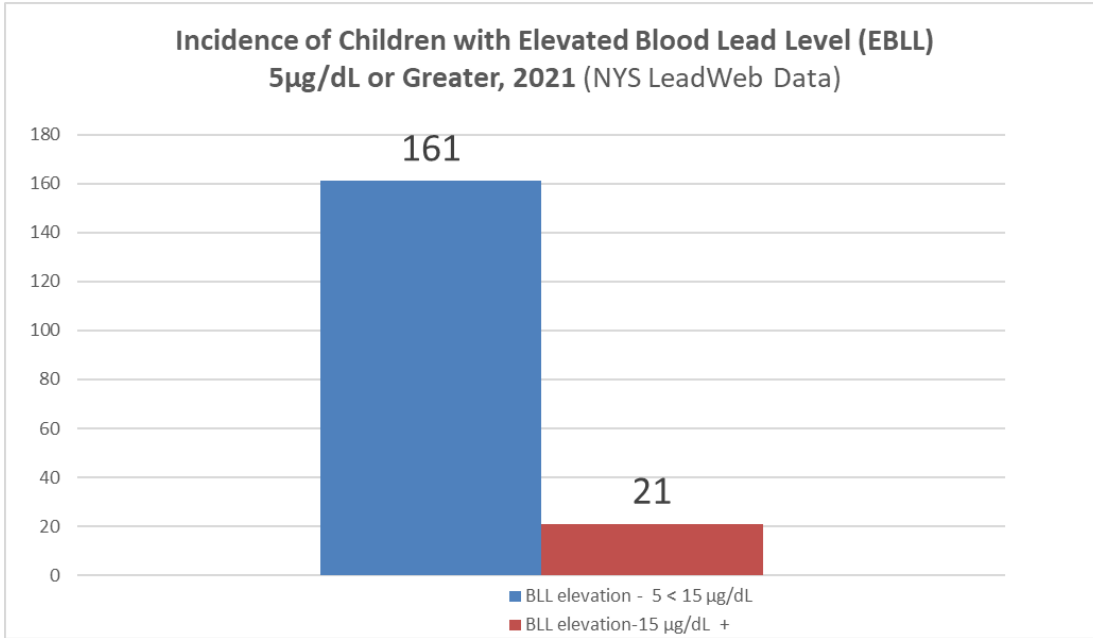
Effective October 1, 2021, the intervention (LPPP) and primary prevention (CLPPPP) programs have merged to form the new Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, CLPPP+.

In 2022, Oneida County Health Department will continue to work under the updated and merged CLPPP+ program. The grant funds will be used to support enhanced local efforts to reduce the prevalence of Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLLs) in children birth to 18 years through the implementation of a comprehensive Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP+) that includes public and professional outreach and education, collaboration with local health care providers for assessing children’s risk of lead exposure, blood lead testing, anticipatory guidance to prevent lead poisoning, diagnostic evaluation, medical management including risk reduction education, environmental interventions, and coordination of services for children less than 18 years with EBLLs.

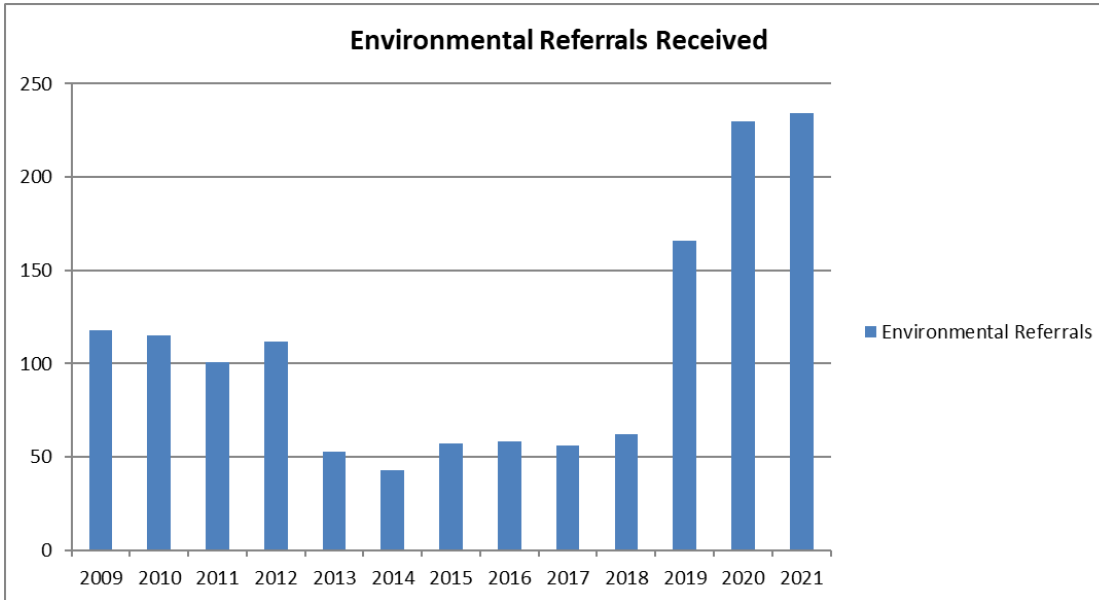
ONEIDA COUNTY BLL TESTING DATA (NYSIIS DATA)												
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>1 YR. OLD</b>	44%	45%	48%	51%	55%	60%	65%	66%	66%	66%	63.9%*	62.7%
<b>2 YR. OLD</b>	43%	44%	45%	49%	55%	61%	66%	67%	68%	67%	64.3%*	62.5%
<b>3 YR. OLD W/BLL TESTS ~ AGES 1&amp;2</b>	27%	29%	31%	39%	41%	46%	51%	52%	53%	52%	56.8%	53.9%

\* Corrected





**NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL REFERRALS BASED ON CHILDREN WITH BLOOD LEAD LEVELS 5 MG/DL OR GREATER (NYS LEADWEB DATA)**



*Based on the annual average number of Environmental Referrals from 2009 – 2018 (average of 78), the number of Environmental Referrals received in 2020 and 2021 increased significantly.*

*This increase is due to the changing of NYSDOH regulations beginning 10/1/2019 at which time the LPPP intervention level of  $\geq 15\mu\text{g/dL}$  changed to  $\geq 5\mu\text{g/dL}$ .*



## COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE 2021

In addition to the typical programs, the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) continued its response to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2021. Beginning in January 2021, OCHD managed the rollout of the new COVID-19 vaccine with large PODs (Points of Dispensing) at MVCC and Griffiss Airport. As 2021 progressed, additional smaller PODs were hosted by OCHD in various community locations throughout the county, as well as home visit vaccinations.

Environmental Health (EH) played an integral role in the planning, scheduling, and staffing of PODs. EH staff led the logistics team and worked as registrars, flow control, and POD managers. The environmental health division facilitated the service of over 450 Isolation & Quarantine Orders throughout Oneida County; and assisted OCHD clinical staff with compiling COVID-19 data and conducting COVID-19 case investigations and contact tracing.

EH also investigated and/or referred more than 350 COVID-19 related complaints and outbreaks, including two COVID-19 super-spreader events at a dance competition and an unapproved school prom. The complaint and illness investigations resulted in eight formal enforcement proceedings for violations of the Governor's COVID-19 Guidelines & Executive Orders.

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- EH assisted with the planning, scheduling, and staffing of OCHD COVID-19 Vaccination PODs.
- EH led the Logistics Team for COVID-19 Vaccination PODs.
- EH facilitated the service of more than 450 Isolation and Quarantine Orders.
- EH fielded and/or investigated more than 350 COVID-19 related complaints.
- EH conducted eight COVID-19 Enforcement Proceedings.
- EH conducted two COVID-19 super-spreader event investigations – Dance competition outbreak and an unapproved prom outbreak.
- EH assisted with the OCHD COVID-19 Hotline phone calls.
- EH investigated one Hepatitis A outbreaks at a NYS Agriculture & Markets facility, including hosting numerous Hepatitis A Vaccination PODs.
- The intervention (LPPP) and primary prevention (CLPPPP) programs merged to form a new program, the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, *CLPPP+*.

## GOALS IN 2022: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Continue to assist the COVID-19 Pandemic Response.
- Resume routine inspections, investigations, & activities in all programs.
- Community Public Water Supplies will continue to update their Emergency Response Plans.
- Train water operators and new staff on the Lead & Copper in Drinking Water Rule Revisions.
- Train new EH staff in SDWIS, the water program, Rabies program, and food service programs.
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (*CLPPP+*) staff will receive LeadWeb training.
- Provide training for OCHD staff on personal safety during home visits, cultural competency, and Lead Renovator Certification.
- Collaboration with the City of Utica and LeadFreeMV on the HUD lead hazard control grant.
- Continued collaboration with the Department of Water Pollution Control FOG Program.
- One FSIO 1 trained by OCHD & NYS DOH.

# HEALTH PROMOTION

The Public Health Education (PHE) team increases awareness of local health issues and encourages the adoption of healthy behaviors. The team coordinates and staffs educational programs, community outreach activities, and special health events; develops health education materials for targeted populations; promotes health department programs and clinical services at area businesses, worksites, and community locations; and gathers information to identify health behaviors in our community. Additionally, the PHE team works collaboratively with the local media to raise awareness of public health issues and prevention measures.

## CAR SEAT SAFETY PROGRAM

The design of the Car Seat Safety Event program is to provide brand new car seats that fit the age/size of the child in need as well as educate parents and caregivers with economic hardships about the proper ways to transport children safely using child safety seats and seat belts. The focus of this program is to provide education on how to install the car seats. The team provides classroom education to all participants at the fitting station. We have collaborated with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office on these events. The Sheriff's Deputies also provide car seat inspections. The Deerfield Fire Station has provided a safe location to hold our events.

ANNUAL DATA	2019	2020	2021
Total Car Seat Recipients	93	83	61

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021: HEALTH PROMOTION EDUCATION

- Health Promotion focused on educating the community on COVID -19. Education was provided virtually, as well as through various media outlets including social media, billboards, informational packets, materials and through answering thousands of phone calls and emails from community members, schools, colleges, daycares, and employers.
- Health Promotion promoted COVID-19 vaccinations and encouraged the community to get vaccinated. An outreach team was created and this team provided education and information to promote vaccines in rural communities.

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021: HEALTH PROMOTION DAILY TASKS

- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health Promotion team completed daily tasks including answering hotline phone calls and emails, responding to COVID-19 related questions, problems, concerns and scenarios needing follow up. Health Promotion team members, with assistance from the Youth Bureau, comprised the Back to School team. This team regularly communicated with Oneida County schools on all COVID related questions, concerns, contact tracing and compliance.
- Volunteers, temporary employees and reassigned county employees were utilized to assist in managing the workload and tasks associated with COVID-19 pandemic. Much of this group was managed through the Health Promotion team; another group were managed through the Clinic. Tasks included HIPAA compliance, trainings on various tasks and managing schedules. Ongoing training and supporting staff and volunteers in the COVID response related to the use of the NY Communicable Disease Case Management System (NY-CDCMS) (Commcare).
- Health Promotions provided assistance in vaccine Points of Distribution (PODs) that were held by Oneida County throughout the community. Health promotion took part in regular POD planning meetings. Tasks included providing information and education, setting up links in the CDMS scheduling system, task of registrar or flow control throughout the events and outreach to the community.
- Health Promotion team continued to take active role in Opioid Task Force meetings, efforts and responses.

## GOALS IN 2022: HEALTH PROMOTION

- To continue to hold car seat safety events using COVID-19 safety precautions.
- To continue to educate the community on the COVID-19.
- To continue to be a source of education to the importance of vaccines including COVID-19 vaccines.
- To work with community partners and hospitals on developing a new Community Health Assessment / Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP).
- To re-establish work with the Oneida County Health Coalition.

# OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM

Oneida County Health Department's (OCHD) overdose prevention and overdose and drug surveillance programs and activities are supported by 2 major grants as described below. These activities are aimed at implementing public health approaches to address the opioid epidemic as well as other drug-related issues in the community.

Program work also supports the Oneida County Opioid Task Force (OTF), a collaborative multi-agency and multi-sector partnership working together to reduce overdose deaths in the community. The OTF is chaired by the County Executive, Sheriff and District Attorney; the partnership consists of a Steering Committee and four teams to address 4 priority focus areas: Prevention, Treatment Enhancement, Recovery and Overdose Response. The OTF provides a platform to report on team progress, local issues and initiatives, evidence-based practices, and an opportunity to hear from people with lived experience at all meetings. OTF membership includes ~200 individuals from government, public health, hospital, mental health, behavioral health, recovery, primary care, peer recovery, education, law enforcement, EMS, advocacy, and philanthropic organizations.

Program Analyst's involvement in COVID-19 response impacted some efforts to plan and implement strategies to reduce overdose deaths in the community. COVID-19 response activities included supporting the County's POD Vaccination Planning Teams, POD site operations, POD staff coordination and scheduling, site selection, preparation of daily and/or weekly COVID-19 Vaccination POD Incident Briefings, and ongoing vaccination data collection, analysis and reporting. Despite these challenges, many Opioid Program activities were sustained or initiated in collaboration with community partners as highlighted in the summary below.

## 2021 PROGRAM GRANTS

### **OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION (OD2A) GRANT**

OCHD is one of 24 NYS local health departments to receive opioid crisis funding to support crisis activities to address the high burden of opioid overdoses in the County. The OD2A grant focuses on prevention, building local capacity for local prevention and response efforts, establishing linkages to care, provider and health system support, partnering with public safety and empowering individuals.

### **PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT DATA-DRIVEN RESPONSES TO EMERGING DRUG THREATS GRANT**

As a result of its collaborative efforts in implementing the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) and formation of the OTF's Overdose Response Team, OCHD was successful in its application for a grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the amount of \$600,000 for 2 years. The grant was awarded to only 6 communities in the U.S. The grant aims to prevent/reduce overdose deaths, advance shared understanding of patterns and characteristics of problem drug use, and foster collaborations between public health and public safety.

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021: OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM

### OCHD AWARDED NACCHO & CDC GRANT:

OCHD is one of 13 U.S. public health departments selected to receive an award of \$500,000 to implement public health strategies to address community challenges related to drug overdoses. The Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level (IOPSLL) grant was awarded by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Center for Injury Control and Prevention (NCIPC). The grant will allow OCHD to expand on several initiatives highlighted below as well as implement new strategies in 2022.

### OPIOID TASK FORCE WEBSITE:

OD2A funds supported the development and launch of the new Oneida County Opioid Task Force website. Its slogan “Using Data, Collaboration and Innovation to Save Lives” highlights its purpose to provide timely information and resources for OTF members and the community. Overdose and drug surveillance reports as well as updates on local, state and/or federal issues, resources, policies and programs that impact the OTF’s work are posted to the website each week.

### OVERDOSE AND DRUG SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM:

- ODMAP Program:** In collaboration with the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center, the Oneida County Overdose Response Team (a subgroup of the Opioid Task Force), continued implementation of the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), a surveillance tool to collect real-time overdose reports from first responders as well as Medical Examiner’s probable overdose fatality data. The data is used to identify and alert the public to spikes in overdoses and overdose fatalities and other dangerous drug trends as well as proactively engage with people that have experienced an overdose to link them treatment and/or recovery support services. Data is used to prepare, distribute and post Weekly Overdose Surveillance Reports to support monitoring and surveillance activities (*See Table 1 - Summary of ODMAP Overdoses and Table 2 – 2021 Overdose Spike & Public Health Alerts*).
- Launch of Online Overdose & Drug Trend Dashboard:** The Overdose Response Team launched a public-facing web-based dashboard that tracks near real-time, key information pertaining to drug overdoses and trends in Oneida County such as weekly overdose counts, fatalities, demographic and geographic breakdowns, naloxone administrations, interactive maps and other relevant data points. This platform enhances and expands data and information sharing with the community and partners to promote a shared understanding of drug issues in the community and foster collaborative and targeted actions to address them. The Dashboard is maintained through a collaboration with County’s Planning Department.
- Launch of Spike Alert by Text Program:** The Overdose Response team launch the pilot text messaging alert program with Partnership to End Addiction aimed at notifying community about overdose spikes and/or drug threats. Anyone including parents, caregivers, medical professionals, first responders, community groups and those struggling with substance use, can sign up for the free program by texting the word “SPIKE” to 1-855-963-5669. Currently there are ~700 individuals registered in Oneida County’s program, the highest number of enrollees among all six pilot communities.

**POST-OVERDOSE & STREET ENGAGEMENT TEAM OUTREACH:**

- **Post Overdose Outreach Program: Utilizing ODMAP identified overdose victims,** peer recovery professionals linked 57 individuals to treatment, recovery and/or harm-reduction services post-overdose. The post-overdose outreach is coordinated by ACR Health Syringe Exchange Program and Drug User Health Hub. Peers conduct post overdose outreach for all overdoses within 72 hours and prioritize any that are flagged as high risk (i.e., repeat overdoses) for overdose fatality. *(See Table 3 – Summary of ODMAP Post Overdose Outreach Linkages to Services)*
- **Oneida Square Street Engagement Team:** In August of 2021, Oneida County convened a multi-agency Project Team targeted at addressing the public health and safety issues impacting Oneida Square in the City of Utica. Supporting that effort is the Street Engagement Team (SET), a rapid response, multi-agency, multi-disciplined team to bring weekly “boots on-the-ground” on-demand, low-threshold, same-day access to treatment medication (buprenorphine) and harm reduction resources to reduce risk of overdose. The Health Department partnered with REACH Medical the first low-threshold harm reduction medical practice, and ACR Health Drug User Health Hub to create a rapid response, harm-reduction focused, Street Engagement Team to provide the treatment medication to people who use drugs. Other supporting agencies included the Oneida County Department of Family & Children Services (DFCS), Upstate Family Health Center, the Neighborhood Center, ICAN and Center for Family Life & Recovery to provide linkages for individuals needing mental health, case management, housing, and temporary assistance services. Upstate Family Health Center, provided medical services for wound care, abscesses, and other un-managed chronic health conditions such as diabetes. Notable outcomes included:
  - ◇ 100 people initiated on buprenorphine through telehealth in 2 months
  - ◇ 30 people engaged with Upstate Family Health Center Pop Up Clinic
  - ◇ 20 DFCS "relocations" to transitional or permanent housing.
  - ◇ 143 Narcan Kits and 500 Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed by ACR Health
  - ◇ 501 Used Syringes Collected around Oneida Square.
  - ◇ Preliminary overdose data shows a potential 50% decrease (11) in the County’s quarterly average of fatal overdoses (22 in 2021) during the time period of the focused Street Engagement Team outreach (Oct. – Dec. 2021) See Attached Chart 1 – Oneida County ODMAP & Medical Examiner’s Office Quarterly Drug-Related Overdoses -2021
- **Camden Street Engagement Team:** To address similar issues and needs in rural communities such as Camden and western, rural Oneida County, the Opioid Task Force has convened a Camden Street Engagement Team to assess needs, coordinate outreach and identify intervention strategies to reduce overdoses in Camden and other rural communities.

**NALOXONE (NARCAN) EXPANSION & HARM REDUCTION ACTIVITIES:**

- **Leave Behind Naloxone Program:** In 2021, in partnership with Midstate EMS and the Overdose Response Team, the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office and the Whitesboro Police Department became the first local law enforcement agencies to join the “Leave Behind” Narcan program, where a single-step 4 mg Narcan nasal spray dose is left with the patient, family members, friends or bystanders at the scene of a non-fatal overdose. Rome Fire Department, AmCare Ambulance and Camden Fire Department also began participating in 2021, joining Utica Fire Department who piloted the program in 2020.



- **Narcan Emergency Cabinet:** OCHD OD2A funds supported the purchase of 100 Naloxone emergency cabinets to be placed in locations with high number of overdoses identified in the ODMAP data. Twenty-three (23) cabinets have been placed in the community to date in collaboration with Opioid Task Force partners. Each cabinet can hold 2 Naloxone kits.
- **Overdose Care Kits:** OCHD OD2A grant supported the distribution of 1,350 Overdose Care Kits with basic PPE, hygiene, resource information, and other basic items such as water to OTF partners outreach to people with Substance Use Disorder. The kits were distributed to harm reduction, treatment, recovery, law enforcement and first response partners.
- **Fentanyl Test Strips:** OCHD OD2A grant supported the distribution of 2,300 Fentanyl Test Strips to local harm reduction, treatment, and recovery partners to distribute to their clients along with harm reduction education and awareness of the risk of fentanyl in all street drugs.

#### RECOVERY INITIATIVES:

- **Peer Alliance Program:** OD2A grant funded an initiative of the OTF's Recovery Team focused on expanding capacity and providing support for peer recovery advocates or individuals with "lived experience" to help others with Substance Use Disorder (SUD). The Peer Alliance Program covered the costs for participants to receive training, work experience and the self-care support needed to support them in their work in various community settings. The Center for Family Life & Recovery Inc., in collaboration with other OTF Recovery Team partners, coordinates the Peer Alliance Program and provides training and guidance for eligible individuals to help them develop the skills needed to navigate the work of sustaining their own recovery while helping others with SUD.

## GOALS IN 2022: OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM

- **Enhancing Capabilities for Drug Detection and Surveillance** by securing a MX908 Drug Detection Device for use in Oneida County Correctional Facility to identify and reduce risks associated with drug-related contraband as well as for community drug testing at the ACR Health Syringe Exchange Program to collect surveillance data from people who use drugs to monitor local and emerging drug trends.
- **Development of an Overdose Fatality Review Team**, a multidisciplinary team to effectively identify system gaps and innovative community overdose prevention and intervention strategies. The team will examine the decedent's drug use history, comorbidity, major health events, trauma (including adverse childhood experiences), encounters with the criminal justice system, treatment history, and other factors to facilitate a deeper understanding of prevention and intervention opportunities for improvement.
- **Enhance the Overdose & Drug Trend Dashboard** to include forensic toxicology data trends and heat mapping for geographic overdose hot spots.
- **Expanding Mobile Street Engagement Team** with new NACCHO IOPSL grant for the development of a mobile team that meets people where they are in the community to provide ongoing, on-demand, same-day access to buprenorphine treatment, harm reduction services, acute medical care, and linkages to other treatment and/or mental health and social support services to individuals in all areas of the County in collaboration with ACR Health and Upstate Family Health Center.

- **OCHD to become a New York State Department of Health Registered Opioid Overdose Program** in order to receive Naloxone to support expansion activities including the furthering the distribution of the Naloxone Emergency Cabinets and training and distribution of Narcan to lay persons and other providers and responders.
- **Develop and implement an Anti-stigma Public Education Campaign** to increase public awareness of and reduce stigma and misperceptions associated with substance use. The campaign will use videos, pod casts, social media and other marketing channels to tell the stories and experiences of people who use drugs as well as providers and first responders.
- **Implement a Safe Drug Disposal Distribution Project** to distribute 10,000 at-home safe drug disposal bags in the community and educate on the importance of safe drug disposal as a prevention strategy to help prevent misuse of over-the-counter and prescription drugs.
- **Address Harmful Drug Trends in Youth** by working with the OTF Prevention Team to develop and implement public health prevention strategies associated with marijuana, vaping, and THC use in youth.
- **Provide Harm Reduction Training** for partners and providers to address attitudes, beliefs, language, and treatment policies that may negatively impact patient outcomes.
- **Expanding the NY MATTERS (Medication Assisted Treatment and Emergency Referral) Program** in collaboration with the new NYSDOH NY MATTERS Regional Coordinator to expand participation of local hospitals, primary care providers and other relevant providers to prescribe buprenorphine to patients as well as rapid referral to treatment services. To date, Mohawk Valley Health Systems, Rome Memorial Hospital and Oneida Health Hospitals as well as local outpatient treatment clinics have been on boarded to participate in this program.

**Table 1 – Summary of ODMAP & Medical Examiner Drug-Related Deaths**

	2019	2020	2021
<b>TOTAL NON-FATAL OVERDOSES</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>293</b>
<b>TOTAL OVERDOSE FATALITIES</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80*</b>
<i>*Preliminary pending Medical Examiner's final report. Note ME's Drug-Related ODs include not only overdose fatalities, but fatalities in which drugs are <b>involved</b> but not listed as the official Cause of Death.</i>			

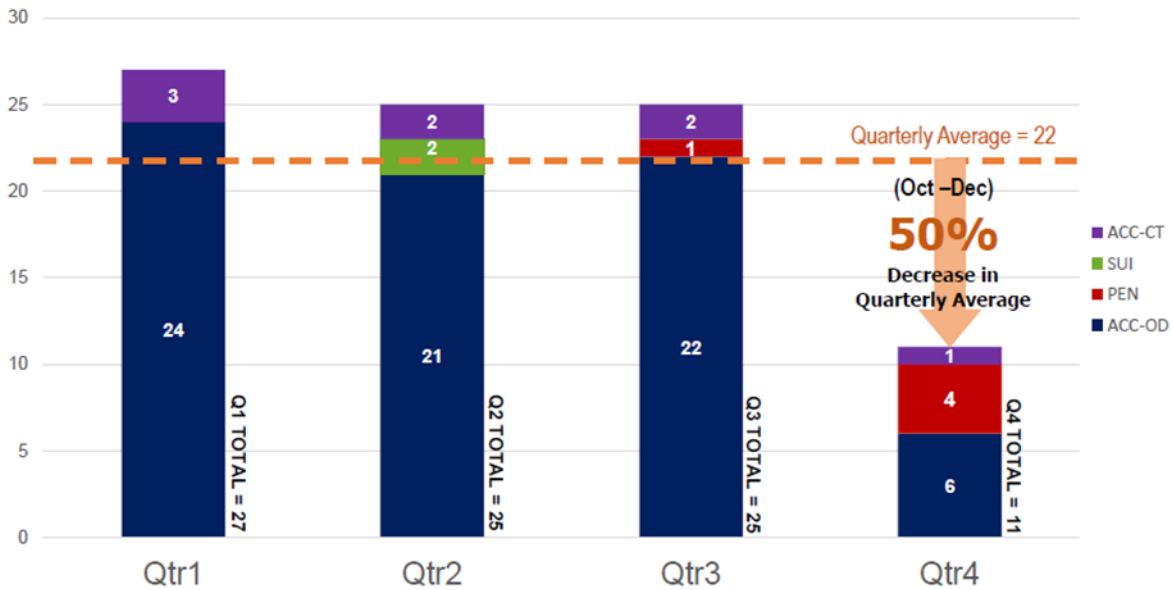
**Table 2 – Surveillance 2021 Spike & Public Health Alerts**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Alert:</b>
January 6, 2021	Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues Overdose Spike Alert; 18 Overdoses, 4 Fatalities Reported in a 5-Day Period
July 9, 2021	Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues Animal Tranquilizer Advisory; Xylazine Detected in 3 Fatalities This Year
July 19, 2021	Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues Spike Alert; Warns of Laced Cocaine After Sylvan Beach-Area Cluster
August 12, 2021	Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues Public Health Alert; Uptick in overdoses and a dangerous trend involving non-opioids drugs containing fentanyl
January 4, 2022 (pertaining to 2021 trends)	Oneida County Overdose Response Team Issues Spike Alert; 7 Heroin/Cocaine Overdoses in Last 3 Days; Vaping & Pills Trend Also Detected

Table 3 – Summary of ODMAP Post Overdose Outreach Linkages to Services

	2019	2020	2021
# Connected to Treatment, Recovery and/or Harm Reduction Services	68	32	57

Chart 1 - Oneida County ODMAP & Medical Examiner Drug-Related Fatalities by Quarter – 2021\*



ACC-OD = Accidental - Drug OVERDOSE Confirmed Cause of Death (COD)	ANNUAL TOTAL = 73
ACC-CT = Accidental - Drug CONTRIBUTORY to Death (not main COD)	ANNUAL TOTAL = 8
SUI = Suicide/Intentional - Not an Accidental Drug Overdose	ANNUAL TOTAL = 2
PEN = Pending Official Cause of Death Determination	ANNUAL TOTAL = 5

\*Note: Data is Preliminary/Provisional Surveillance Data from ODMAP and Medical Examiner Pending & Confirmed Drug-Related Deaths

# PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program supports the Health Department's planning and response for all hazards in order to protect the health of the community. Such hazards may include disease outbreaks, environmental threats, and natural and man-made disasters. OCHD engages in preparedness activities with multi-agency partnerships to identify resources, establish mutual agreements, develop coordinated response plans, conduct drills and exercises, identify and follow up on areas for improvement, train staff and coordinate public risk communications. OCHD has a cross-division Public Health Incident Response Team (PHIRT) that convenes to manage the public health planning and response activities for any emergency event.

It has been another year brought forth with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. PHEP is there to help, assist and coordinate where needed. The mission of Emergency Preparedness follows the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 2015, "A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk."

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021: PHEP

- The second year of the COVID-19 pandemic continued as a public health emergency. PHEP protocols continued to be used throughout 2021. We monitored our county's positive COVID-19 cases and their contacts, then worked in conjunction with NYSDOH's CommCare system starting in mid-2021. The majority of activity in 2021 was centered on vaccine PODs. Oneida County Health Department worked with schools, private business and municipalities to hold vaccine PODs for all community members. This effort continued into 2022.
- Provided public education regarding emergency preparedness and distributed emergency preparedness kits at the Boonville Fair.
- OCHD with PHEP worked with a media agency to get information out to the public regarding COVID-19.
- OCHD/PHEP was onsite for the efforts to evacuate the Olbiston Apartments in Utica when it was deemed unsafe, assisting in the county response.
- OCHD reached out to the homebound to administer COVID-19 vaccines in the home. PHEP helped in scheduling these individuals.
- OCHD/PHEP worked in collaboration with Mohawk Valley Health System and with Upstate Family Practice, helping to reach out to provide vaccines to other community providers.
- PHEP program, along with Emergency Management, supplied inventory to run PODs (Points of Dispensing).
- PHEP team in collaboration with Office of Emergency Management, DPW, and many others worked to develop a plan for the PODs. This effort has continued into 2022 as we continue to work on improvements and new ways to reach our community.
- OCHD/PHEP held several training sessions for new temporary employees to learn CDMS (Countermeasure Data Measurement System) in order to fulfill registrar duties at the PODs. CDMS is a program to register and keep track of those individuals who receive the COVID-19 vaccine. New trainings were given as needed.

- PHEP utilized Griffiss International Airport as the County Staging Site (CSS), as well as a site for our Drive Thru PODs. Griffiss and Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) in Utica were our main POD sites in 2021. Griffiss had also been used as the COVID-19 testing site.
- PHEP set up training for temporary employees to complete cyber security training as well as CommCare training to assist with contact tracing regarding workplaces, schools and hospitals.
- Oneida County collaborated with Oneida Indian Nation's Turning Stone Casino and Resort to set up COVID-19 vaccine events to reach out to the community.
- OCHD/PHEP worked to reach all diverse communities within Oneida County to assist in the outreach and knowledge of COVID-19, keeping up with information updates to the community. We provided information in many different languages regarding COVID-19.

## GOALS IN 2022: PHEP

- Continue to work collaboratively with NYSDOH regarding COVID-19 as well as other requests.
- Continue to work on developing ways to best serve our community and get the COVID-19 vaccine to all who want it. Continue to educate the community regarding COVID-19 guidelines and safety measures.
- Update Emergency Preparedness Plans as needed.
- All staff to complete required ICS FEMA trainings.
- To build up our PHIRT (Public Health Incident Response Team) to address current public concerns as well as being prepared to coordinate, cooperate and collaborate with partners and organizations when an emergency occurs.
- The PHEP Program is dedicated to providing helpful and informative resources in the areas of infectious disease outbreaks, natural disaster, terrorism and other emergency threats.

# SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

The **Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN)** seeks to improve the system of care for children and youth from birth to 21 years of age. Oneida County's program helps to empower families to advocate for the best health care options to meet the needs of their children.

The program provides resource and referral information for families of children and youth who have or are suspected of having serious or chronic health, behavioral or emotional conditions. The program assists families in establishing a medical home, accessing private or public insurance, identifying gaps in community systems of care, establishing connections to community resources as well as support for youth transitioning to adult health care, work and independence.

As a component of CYSHCN, the **Physically Handicapped Children Program, renamed CYSHCN—Special Services (SS) by NYS Department of Health**, offered to help Oneida County families pay for quality health care for their children. This program includes the Dental Rehabilitation Program in which families meet medical and financial eligibility to receive assistance. As families have transitioned to more comprehensive health insurance coverage, the need for SS financial assistance has diminished. The Dental Rehabilitation Program no longer has a local provider and is not taking new referrals.

ANNUAL DATA: ELIGIBLE CHILDREN BY AGE	2019	2020	2021
Birth < 12 Years of Age	213	138	75
13 < 17 Years of Age	6	2	0
18 < 21 Years of Age	0	0	0
TOTAL CHILDREN	219	140	75

*Data reflects impact of COVID-19 related service delivery interruptions during periods of 2021.*

## EARLY INTERVENTION

**Early Intervention** is part of the National Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. First created by Congress in 1986 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the EIP offers a variety of therapeutic and support services to eligible 0-2 year olds and their families.

The mission of the Early Intervention Program is to identify and evaluate infants and toddlers as early as possible to determine experiences of compromised development. The EIP is family-centered supporting parents in nurturing and enhancing development through an array of coordinated services focusing on the needs of the child. The EIP is community based so it creates opportunities for full participation of families with the delivery of services occurring in the child's natural environment. Private and Public insurances are utilized to help pay for the costs of EIP services in New York State.

**Child Find as a component of the EIP** identifies and tracks infants and toddlers that are at risk for developmental delays. The Child Find Program works with families, doctors, daycare providers and community agencies to determine when a referral should be made to the Early Intervention Program. Public awareness, health care and social service community training are critical for a successful Child Find Program.

*Child Find Program Data: 204 enrolled, 0-2 years of age (accurate as of 1-25-22)*

<b>ANNUAL DATA: EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM</b> <i>*Accurate as of 1-25-22</i>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) Performed	133	238	250
Bilingual MDEs Performed	9	6	11
Supplemental Evaluations Performed	157	88	104
Special Instruction Visits	17,716	20,300	27,909
Physical Therapy / Occupational Therapy Visits	15,335	10,350	10,925
Speech / Language Therapy Visits	17,159	13,046	13,000
Vision Therapy Visits	61	110	39
Social Work Visits	8	0	0
<b>Total of Visits Including Service Coordination</b>	<b>62,078</b>	<b>44,138</b>	<b>63,830</b>

*Early Intervention Program Data: 416 enrolled, 0-2 years of age (accurate as of 1-25-22)*

## PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (OR EDUCATION/ TRANSPORTATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM—ETHCP)

This program is administered through New York State Department of Education. Federal and state laws govern the program and grant administrative authority to school districts located in Oneida County. NYS Education Law mandates each county provide funding for this program. Educational and therapeutic service provision occurs in least restrictive environments to maximize the preschool student with disabilities' learning potential.

This program is for children ages 3 and 4 years old who have been evaluated and classified as Preschool Students with a Disability through their school district's Committee on Preschool Special Education. Classified children receive an Individualized Education Plan, which outlines a variety of special services intended to take full advantage of a child's learning potential.

<b>ANNUAL DATA</b> <i>Data reflects impact of COVID-19 in service delivery during periods of 2021</i>	<b>2019 Children Evaluated</b>	<b>2019 Distinct Children Served</b>	<b>2020 Children Evaluated</b>	<b>2020 Distinct Children Served</b>	<b>2021 Children Evaluated</b>	<b>2021 Distinct Children Served</b>
<b>Evaluations Completed to Determine Eligibility: Classified Preschool Students with a Disability</b>	483	761	281	708	312	676



## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- **Early Intervention** has transitioned 100% of archive documents to an electronic record storage system using Oneida County's LaserFiche Program.
- **Preschool Special Education** has transitioned 90% of archive documents to an electronic record storage system using Oneida County's LaserFiche Program.
- **Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education Related Services** successfully implemented a telehealth therapy program so eligible children could continue to receive supportive services during the pandemic.

## 2021 COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- **Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education Related Services** updated policy and procedure to enable eligible children to participate in telehealth therapy providing families with options during the second year of the pandemic.
- **CYSHCN** Public Health Nurse and Senior Office Specialist 1 continued with Clinic assignments in support of case investigating, contact tracing, vaccination preparation, data collection and reporting in 2021. Both continued with CYSHCN program tasks on a limited basis throughout 2021.
- **Special Children Services (SCS) Staff** participated as Point of Dispensing (POD) administrative assistants during Oneida County's efforts to vaccinate the community. Staff maintained fiscal administration, program management, representation on Committee for Preschool Special Education, initial service coordination and duties of an Early Intervention Official Designee in SCS.
- **Director of SCS** continued as director of the Oneida County COVID-19 Hotline providing training, information updates and acting as liaison to 211 contracted Hotline operators. Director also provided guidance to callers with unique concerns during the significant infection surge in 2021.
- **Director of SCS** participated in weekly COVID-19 Zoom meetings for updated information regarding NYS Department of Health's pandemic response.
- **EI Program Manager** was a designated staff member of the COVID data collection team responsible for development of the Daily Situation Report.
- **Release of Isolation Team** included multiple members tasked with providing residents with letters of isolation/quarantine orders and releases. Two staff were assigned members of the team from the beginning of the pandemic in March, 2020.
- **SCS Staff** were also designated members of the Back to School team, working with school districts to assist with contact tracing efforts and to provide guidance.

## GOALS IN 2022: SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

- **CYSHCN Program Coordinator** will continue training through a combination of State, County and community-based learning opportunities.
- **CYSHCN** staff will work with Community Support Specialist for the local Regional Support Center to develop a Technical Assistance Support Plan.
- **CYSHCN** will increase the number of youth ages 13-21 enrolled in the program by 20%.
- **Early Intervention** will develop an electronic signature policy and procedure.
- **Early Intervention** will use Quality Assurance and Improvement tools to assess and enhance the quality delivery of on-going service coordination.
- **Early Intervention** will gauge the necessity for expansion of Early Intervention Official Designees due to pandemic impacts on children's development and need for evaluation and services.
- **Early Intervention** will successfully train and transition to use of the EI-Hub in replacement of the New York Early Intervention System.
- **SCS** will support Health Department efforts to educate, monitor, test and vaccinate community residents as long as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.



PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY

