



Prevent  
Promote  
Protect



# 2023 BROOME COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



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# Message from the Director of Public Health

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2023 marked another exceptional victory for those of us in public health and the communities we serve! After the recent years of keeping the community safe and healthy from COVID-19, there was finally some light at the end of the tunnel. In 2023, two announcements in the headlines were celebrated as we finally returned to a sense of normalcy. As of April 10th, the President of the United States accepted a resolution that would end the 3-year long national emergency that was declared on March 13th, 2020. Through vaccination efforts, advances in treatment, and the availability of diagnostic tests, the disruptive nature of COVID-19 has diminished greatly in our community and the rest of the country. Soon after, on May 5th, the Director-General of the World Health Organization also issued a statement that COVID-19 was no longer a public health emergency of international concern due to the decreasing trend in COVID-19 deaths and COVID-19 related hospitalizations. The tremendous amount of work that was required to ensure the well-being of our community over these last years has not gone unnoticed, and I'm truly appreciative of everyone's efforts.

To establish homeostasis, a large emphasis was placed on addressing both the pandemic fatigue and rebuilding the capacity of the health department. 2023 was the start of Broome County Health Department's 3-year strategic plan to tackle issues that developed due to the impacts experienced as a result of COVID-19. Of our five core objectives, the strengthening of the health department's work infrastructure and the wellness of our staff were the highest priorities. Our staff participated in professional development opportunities at the statewide immunization forum, Regional Lead Resource Center at SUNY Upstate, NYS WIC Association conference, NYS Child Passenger Safety conference, statewide harm reduction symposium, CASLS Strategies for Effective Collaboration workshop, and much more! The reemergence of our long needed wellness committee also played a crucial role in both the strategic plan and addressing the needs of staff members. The year was filled with many planned events, including staff picnics, appreciation luncheons, therapy dogs, and food trucks alongside our traditional holiday festivities. This rejuvenation of the health department gives me the utmost confidence in our ability to serve our community with replenished fortitude to tackle the undeniable emergence of future public health issues.

The continued and ever-growing vigilance to protect our community, along with the support of our county executive team, legislature, and community partners, will lead the charge to further save lives, and advance the overall health and safety for all Broome County residents.

2024ward!

# Public Health in Action



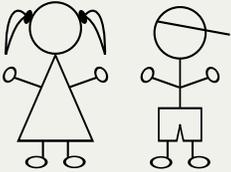
**WIC Visits**  
 2021: 16,716  
 2022: 17,679  
 2023: 18,254



**Healthy Families  
 Enrollments**  
 2021: 90  
 2022: 101  
 2023: 104



**Welcome Baby Calls**  
 2021: 1,047  
 2022: 573  
 2023: 1,060



**Early Intervention  
 Referrals**  
 2021: 537  
 2022: 548  
 2023: 480



**Bicycle Helmets  
 Distributed**  
 2021: 316  
 2022: 327  
 2023: 361



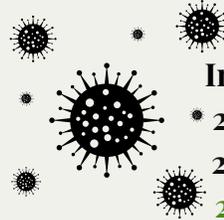
**Lead Risk  
 Assessments**  
 2021: 27  
 2022: 45  
 2023: 56



**Animal Bite  
 Investigations**  
 2021: 563  
 2022: 723  
 2023: 724



**Immunizations  
 Given**  
 2021: 38,834  
 2022: 3,598  
 2023: 769



**Disease  
 Investigation**  
 2021: 19,070  
 2022: 28,338  
 2023: 11,869



**Cancer Screening  
 Referrals**  
 2021: 494  
 2022: 448  
 2023: 295



**HIV  
 Tests**  
 2021: 264  
 2022: 489  
 2023: 533



**TB Clinic  
 Visits**  
 2021: 121  
 2022: 100  
 2023: 202



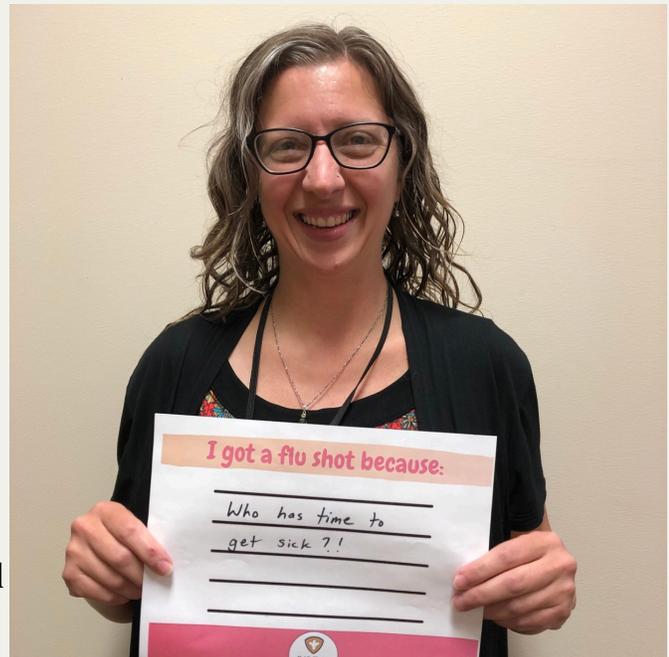
**Food Service  
 Inspections**  
 2021: 725  
 2022: 889  
 2023: 1,151



**Child Safety Seat Checks**  
 2021: 130  
 2022: 172  
 2023: 214



**Water Supplies Tested**  
 2021: 66  
 2022: 100  
 2023: 71



The Broome County Health Department was

Happy to Welcome:

Welcome!

- Laurie Rackett
- Tierra Starkweather
- Isabella Depa
- Kayla Woodring
- Kasandra Prikazsky
- Grace Merrill
- Connor Lawless
- Michelle Bertoni
- Alicia Spencer
- Juliette Cole
- Heather Ryan (Welcome back!)
- Melissa Salasny
- Heather Rybacki



And Said Farewell To:

- Noreen Murphy-Windingland
- Stacy McCabe
- Alana Mihok
- Taylor Knapp
- Laura Staffa
- Susan Medina
- David Reyner
- Aubrey Kenyon
- Maggie Barlow
- Katie McManus
- Anna Lynch
- Valerie Palmerie
- Bri Very

We will miss you



# 2023 Staff

**Mary McFadden,  
Director of Public Health**

**Catherine Fedor,  
Deputy Director**

**Dr. Christopher Ryan,  
Medical Director**

**Carrie Horton  
Laurie Rackett  
Chelsea Reome-Nedlik  
Beth Smalt  
Laura Kelly  
Aimee Chaluisant  
Tim Swan  
Brittany Vincent  
Kayla Woodring  
Allison Holleran  
Heather Ryan  
Chloe Parker  
Chris Taft  
Patrick Wood  
Connor Lawless  
Deanna Walsh  
Andin Kovarik  
Blenda Smith  
Melissa Sutherland  
Lana Rauzin  
Yvonne Johnston  
Susan Blythe  
Melissa Brennan  
Kathleen Marsh  
Christine Marion  
Margo Zodikoff  
Melissa Salasny  
Nikole Hurlbert  
Grace Merrill  
Alicia Spencer**

**Michael Bender  
Amy Fassold  
Jason Zheng  
Margaret Reynolds  
Victoria Alt  
Marissa Knapp  
Abby Kaiser  
Kristin Russell  
Michelle Bertoni  
Juliet Cole  
Becky Cronk  
Bonnie Ayers  
Colleen Kachmar  
Kathy Czebiniak  
Roberta May  
Lynette Bellmore  
Carol Peeling  
Leslie Gale-Cseledy  
David Spicer  
Kasandra Prikazsky  
Lacey Stevens  
Megan Westcott  
Nicole Brown  
Patricia Davies  
Patricia Stevens  
Stephanie Fuller  
Tenisha Rivers-Hill  
Kristine Jessup**

**Leon Clement  
Linda Mohr  
Katelyn Shear  
Mark Shuba  
Michelle Figuerado  
Peggy Duffy  
Carrie Colgan  
Charlene Starchok  
Christopher Errante  
Heather Ousterhout  
Isabelle Depa  
Pamela Spak  
Silvy Sibo  
Scott Spicer  
Tameira Card  
Matthew Thorton  
Josh Phelps  
Ben Holden  
Victoria Perkins  
Creig Hebdon  
Sarah Walker  
Renee Dutcher  
Jennina Doolittle  
Kamaran Fisher  
Peter Haff  
Justin Lewis  
Matt Laine  
Mark Schuster  
Tierra Starkweather  
Heather Rybacki**



# Programs and Services

## Environmental Health

Water Monitoring  
Toxic/Solid Waste Dumpsites  
Food Services  
Wastewater Treatment  
Indoor Air Quality (Tobacco and Non-tobacco)  
Temporary Residences, Campgrounds and Children's Camps  
Mobile Home Parks  
Rabies Control  
Swimming Pool and Beach Inspection  
Childhood Lead and Lead Hazard Control  
Tick-Borne Disease Prevention  
Emergency Response to Environmental hazards  
Public Health Nuisances

## Community Health

Cancer Services Program of the Southern Tier  
Cancer Prevention in Action  
Creating Healthy Schools and Communities  
Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan  
Clinic Services for STD's, Immunizations and Tuberculosis  
Communicable Disease Control  
HIV Counseling and Testing  
Lead Poisoning Prevention  
Tobacco Free Broome and Tioga  
Traffic Safety Program  
Welcome Baby Outreach



## Overdose Prevention Program

Coordinate the Broome Overdose Action Collaborative  
Free Narcan/Naloxone Trainings  
Substance Use Disorder and Harm Reduction Education  
Stigma Campaign and Education  
Referrals for Basic Needs and Linkage to Care  
Management of Opioid Settlement Funds

## Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Nutrition Assessment and Education  
Breastfeeding Support and Equipment  
Food Options and Farmers Market Vouchers  
Referrals to Community Partners



## Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Broome County Medical Reserve Corps



## Maternal Child Health

Child Find  
Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs  
Early Intervention  
Preschool Special Education  
Healthy Families Broome



# Program/Division Highlights



- **BCHD's Childhood Lead Program (CLPPP) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) jointly recognized the 2023 LEADy award recipients and the award of \$6 million in HUD funding with a press conference.**
- **There has been some turnover for the Early Intervention staff, but morale is high. The team feels strong due to division and department team building activities alongside leadership support. MCHD also had a successful State monitoring review.**
- **Environmental Health took the lead on air quality issues across the county from the Canadian wildfires by providing public education and working with sectors around the community**
- **Children's camps received education on Polio and Measles due to concern of possible cases.**
- **A dramatic upturn in fines from both the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act and food programs were recorded for 2023.**
- **Environmental Health staff attended several community events to promote programs and educate the public. Staff conducted interviews related to wildfire smoke, blue-green algae blooms, Lyme disease, carbon monoxide, radon, and rabies.**
- **Emergency Preparedness was able to distribute N95 masks during the wildfires. Additionally, HEPA filters were allocated to schools to use during respiratory virus season or other events like the wildfires.**
- **In Overdose Prevention, two DEA Drug Take Back Days were hosted, and ten Opioid Settlement Fund grants were awarded, with three additional contractors selected. The**

**team also presented at a national conference in Washington, DC and made a visit to OnPoint, the only overdose prevention center in the country.**



- **Our traffic safety program held two national child passenger safety technician certification courses that resulted in fifteen newly certified child passenger safety technicians and two child passenger safety instructors.**
- **Collaboration was also done with local head start facilities and elementary schools in the Binghamton school district to provide bicycle and pedestrian safety education. In addition to pedestrian safety, two CarFit technician volunteer trainings that were held resulted in thirteen additional CarFit volunteers that can assist in CarFit events.**
- **The RFA for the Women, Infants, and Children program was submitted and granted for another five years. Staff were also able to start offering in person appointments again, which led to great success when the first WIC Breastfeeding Family Fun Day was held. Several outreach events were also attended by WIC staff.**



# A Year At Broome County Health Department!



# Staff Wellness and Mental Health

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged the fiber of our local health department staff; something that is crucial when serving the public day-to-day. This was a topic of great significance as we wanted to ensure that the effects and emotions felt through the pandemic were addressed. As a result, our wellness committee was formed, and we began to take action to combat these feelings of burnout and fatigue. Due to the emphasis on wellness, county employees were given the opportunity to participate in “Walktober”, which was hugely successful for those involved.



Other wellness initiatives included partnering with local food trucks, service dogs, and staff to have group picnics to brighten everyone’s day!



The wellness committee also paved the way for our own fitness area to be set up for health department staff to use on breaks. The wellness committee continues to meet monthly to develop new ways to improve morale and expand its ideas to all of Broome County. We are all committed to making activities as interactive and inclusive as possible.

# How is the Wellness Committee Important to You?

“ The wellness committee is really allowing us to start prioritizing our mental health and helping us to enjoy our days. I think so many of us lost sight of that during the pandemic, so it's nice to start making our own wellness important again.

-Kate Shear,  
Public Health Representative



” It's important to me that the health department not only values our physical health, but also our mental health. I've enjoyed the activities the wellness team have incorporated into our culture at the health department over the last year.

-Marissa Knapp,  
Overdose Prevention Coordinator

“ The wellness committee provides opportunities to come together and create programs that help the wellness of our employees. The committee also helps motivate me to live healthier, and from that I can teach others to do the same.

-Michelle Bertoni,  
Public Health Educator,



” The Wellness Committee has been such a great and positive addition to the health department. Not only have we been able to promote and utilize various tools to encourage physical activity, we've also had the opportunity to work together on activities that boost morale, which is excellent for mental health. Some of my favorite wellness committee activities include Walktober and the therapy dog day!

-Aimee Chaluisant, Supervising Public Health Educator



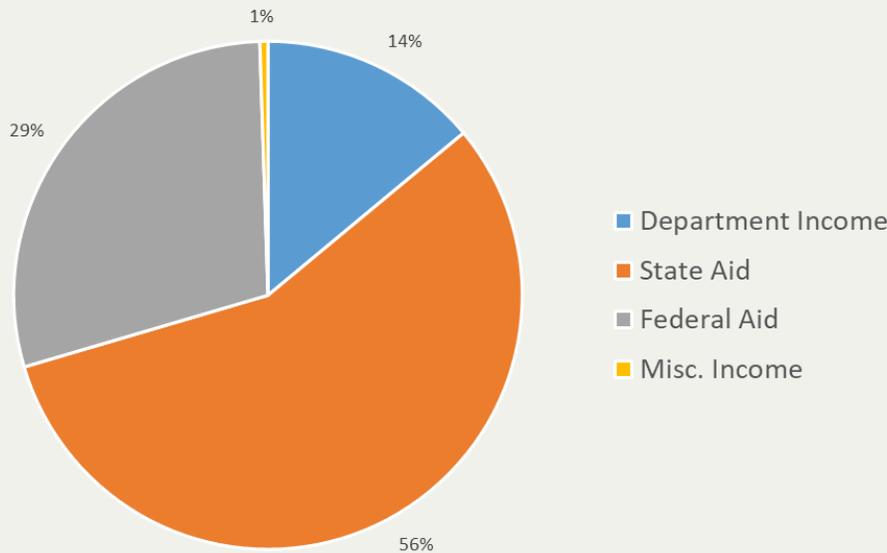
“ Although the committee has no funding, we still come up with plans and ideas to make change and continue to make the department a place that people look forward to coming to every day. We strive to not only bring positive change to the workplace here at the health department, but also the health and wellness of everyone who works for Broome County!

-Allison Holleran, Public Health Educator

# Broome County Health Department Revenue Sources 2023

2023 Revenue By Division						
Division	Dept. Income	State Aid	Fed. Aid	Misc. Inc.	Total	% of Total
Admin.	\$227,415	\$801,340	0	\$19,401	\$1,048,156	7.09%
Env Health	\$310,601	\$341,007	0	\$191	\$651,799	4.41%
Clinics	\$154,091	\$453,576	0	\$2,504	\$610,171	4.13%
MCH & D	\$1,100,970	\$4,343,269	0	\$3,555	\$5,447,794	36.86%
Grants	\$271,106	\$2,407,814	\$4,291,727	\$50,613	\$7,021,260	47.51%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,064,183</b>	<b>\$8,347,006</b>	<b>\$4,291,727</b>	<b>\$76,264</b>	<b>\$14,779,180</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>1%</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Total Revenue Sources for 2023**



\*Department Income refers to income earned through service fees, chargebacks to grants, fines, employee health physicals, etc.

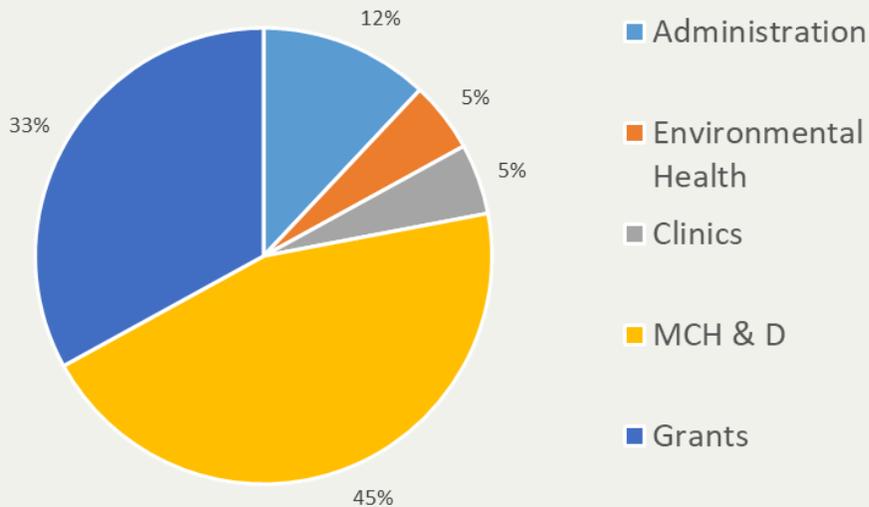
\*\*Miscellaneous Income refers to lien release funds, refunds to prior year expenditures, and transfer from insurance reserve

**The Broome County Health Department’s largest revenue source is funding from New York State followed by support from the federal government. The majority of our revenue sources (47.51%) is through the 32 different grants held at the health department. The health department’s 4-year federal HUD Lead Hazard Reduction grant was renewed and we were awarded funding to create our Overdose Prevention Program from a Federal grant through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

# Broome County Health Department Expenditures 2023

2023 Expenditures By Division		
Division	Expenditures	% of Total
Administration	\$2,553,296	12%
Environmental Health	\$1,155,936	5%
Clinics	\$1,140,141	5%
MCH & D	\$9,833,783	45%
Grants	\$7,054,205	33%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,737,361</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Total Expenditure for 2023**



The Maternal Child Health and Development division was the largest segment (45%) of the health department’s budget. This division focuses on serving children at risk for or diagnosed with developmental delays and disabilities. They offer assistance for young children ages 0-3 and 3-5 through their Early Intervention and Preschool programs, respectively.

Overall, the Broome County Health Department was able to execute a fiscally responsible budget for 2024, with county support proposed at only 30.63%

# Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's Lead Hazard Reduction Grant

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The HUD Lead Hazard Reduction grant provides funding for lead inspections, lead abatement, and safety repairs. Grants are available for privately-owned, low income housing units in Broome County built before 1978. The goal of this program is to create lead-safe housing opportunities for eligible families, especially those that have young children under the age of six. Our housing projects also prioritize families that have children with elevated blood lead levels to help lessen future complications associated with lead exposure.

The Lead Hazard Reduction program is highly selective and competitive with less than 100 municipalities awarded nationally each year. Each grant is for approximately a 4-year cycle. Our most recent grant period was from 2019-2023 with a total funding amount of \$4.1 million set to end by September 30th, 2023. In preparation, we completed our remaining housing projects and concluded with 39 housing units fully abated and cleared in 2023. A total of 124 dwelling units were fully completed over the course of our grant period.

We are excited to announce that our grant proposal was recently reapproved for 2023-2027! The Broome County Health Department was notified that \$6.3 million would be awarded to continue our efforts in addressing lead and safety hazards for 180 housing units over the next four years.

Before



After

# Overdose Prevention Program

In August of 2023, the Health Department was awarded a 5-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the Overdose Data to Action Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (OD2A: Local). BCHD is 1 of only 40 grantees across the country who was awarded this opportunity. These funds will be dedicated to 5 strategies which include linkage and retention in care, increasing harm reduction and stigma reduction, clinician and health systems best practices and improved surveillance.



Some activities the Overdose Prevention Program (OPP) staff participate in include, improving access to basic needs by including and advocating the voice of persons with lived experience. Other highlights of the work include, increasing peer navigation services, placing media campaigns to increase the community's understanding of harm reduction and to reduce stigma, increasing naloxone distribution, conducting education across all settings addressing harm and stigma reduction, and improving the county-wide spike alert protocol.



Through these efforts and collaborations, staff dedicated to overdose prevention aim to help those with substance use disorders and their families and loved ones. This is done by connecting the community to necessary support and resources and giving them the tools they need with the ultimate goal of reducing overdoses and increasing harm reduction. Through the Broome Overdose Action Collaborative (BOAC), OPP staff works closely with multisector partnerships to promote harm reduction, disseminate Narcan kits, and facilitate Narcan trainings throughout the county in a variety of settings.

	Suspected Overdoses by Year:	
2021	Fatal: 54	Non-Fatal: 516
2022	Fatal: 80	Non-Fatal: 460
2023	Fatal: 64	Non-Fatal: 351



Public Safety continues to partner with Public Health in efforts to reduce overdoses and increase harm reduction. When investigating suspected fatal or non-fatal overdoses, Public Safety is now able to swab drugs found on the scene and send to a specialized lab for expedited testing. This allows for accurate testing and identification of specific drugs to help both persons who use drugs and those working with them a better understanding of the drug supply in the community. Ultimately, this allows for targeted education and more opportunities for specialized interventions to meet people where they are at. In all fatal overdoses, toxicology reports are also sent to the lab on an expedited basis for testing that returns results within two weeks, which has previously taken up to a year.

# BROOME COUNTY Health Department

***“The Broome County Health Department serves our residents by promoting and protecting public health through education and prevention. Our vision is to promote optimal health and equity where we live, learn, work and play.”***



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Broome County  
Health Department**