



Cattaraugus County  
Health Department

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Annual Report

**2021**

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# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Dear Community,

It is my pleasure to present to you the Cattaraugus County Health Department's 2021 Annual Report. This report provides a brief overview of the many services that the department provides in an effort to preserve and promote public health in Cattaraugus County.

For the entire year, Cattaraugus County Health Department was on the front lines managing COVID-19 as it permeated throughout the community. These efforts could not have been accomplished without the assistance of county leadership, county workforce, community partners, and our remarkable public health staff who were unwavering by the amount of work required to assist in this response.

The toll that this response took on the workforce is still being felt within the department, as this was by far one of the largest and longest responses undertaken by the department.

As we continue to learn how to live and adapt to this virus and its ability to change or mutate, it is also just as important to evaluate the lessons learned from the last two years in order that we respond appropriately to other public health emergencies when they reach our shores.

I would like to personally thank all of our partners for their assistance during this second year of the pandemic. We appreciate each one of you and look forward to continuing to work on many non-pandemic projects in the future. Also, I would like to thank the many volunteers who helped during the many phases of this pandemic.

Last, and most importantly, I would like to commend our Health Department staff. This has been a long, difficult year. We have asked them to work extended hours, meet the needs of the department, and interact with the general public during all phases of the pandemic, which at times, proved to be extremely challenging. Our staff did this with grace and empathy, I could not be prouder of their efforts and we are blessed to have such a dedicated group in Cattaraugus County.

We are pleased to share this annual report with you and would like to thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with our dynamic programs and quality services. It is a pleasure to serve our residents and we look forward to maintaining a healthy relationship with you in the coming years.

*Kevin D. Watkins, MD*

Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH  
Public Health Director  
Cattaraugus County Health Department



# ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

## Mission

To engage and empower the public of all ages to live healthier lifestyles through efforts of education, prevention, promotion, monitoring, accessibility, affordability, technology, testing, diagnosing, and treating.

## Vision

A community that embraces excellence and collaboration, capable of improving the population health through data-driven decision-making and policy development.

## Values

Excellence  
Collaboration  
Compassion  
Innovation  
Professionalism  
Integrity  
Accountability

## Accreditation

The CCHD has been accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) since November 14, 2017. The PHAB is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving and protecting public health by advancing, and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments. The accreditation process provides a framework for the Health Department to identify performance improvement opportunities, improve management, develop leadership, and strengthen relationships with the community.

## Programs and Services

Local Health Departments in New York State (NYS) operate under the provisions of NYS Law. The CCHD ensures compliance with provisions of the NYS Public Health Law and the Sanitary Codes of New York State and Cattaraugus County.

Article 6 of the NYS Public Health Law defines **six core program areas** which serve as a framework for local health department activities and require the annual submission of a State Aid Application that outlines how these core program areas are addressed. The six core program areas include: (1) Family Health; (2) Communicable Disease Control; (3) Chronic Disease Prevention; (4) Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan; (5) Environmental Health; and (6) Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

The CCHD also utilizes the **Ten Essential Public Health Services** recommended by the CDC. These services provide a structure for a local public health system to better protect and promote the health of the people in its community and achieve health equity—a primary goal of the Department.

# 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

- 1 Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets.**
- 2 Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population.**
- 3 Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it.**
- 4 Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.**
- 5 Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health.**
- 6 Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health.**
- 7 Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.**
- 8 Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.**
- 9 Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement.**
- 10 Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.**

# 2021 BOARD OF HEALTH

- Joseph Bohan, MD, President
- Giles B. Hamlin, MD, Vice President
- Kelly J. Andreano, Legislative Member
- Zahid Chohan, MD
- Sondra Fox, RN, MSN, C.S
- Richard Haberer
- Kathryn Cooney Thrush, NP, MSN
- Theresa Raftis
- David L. Smith, Mayor

## Board of Health Enforcement Actions

From December 2020 to November 2021, there were 21 formal enforcement actions, five of which required a BOH hearing. The remaining were settled without the need for a formal hearing.

**21**

Enforcement Actions  
Taken

**5**

Enforcement Actions  
Required a Hearing

**\$5,750**

Total Fines Collected

# SERVICE SITES



4

Office Sites



3

Clinic Sites



1,310

Square Miles Served



76,426

Population Served



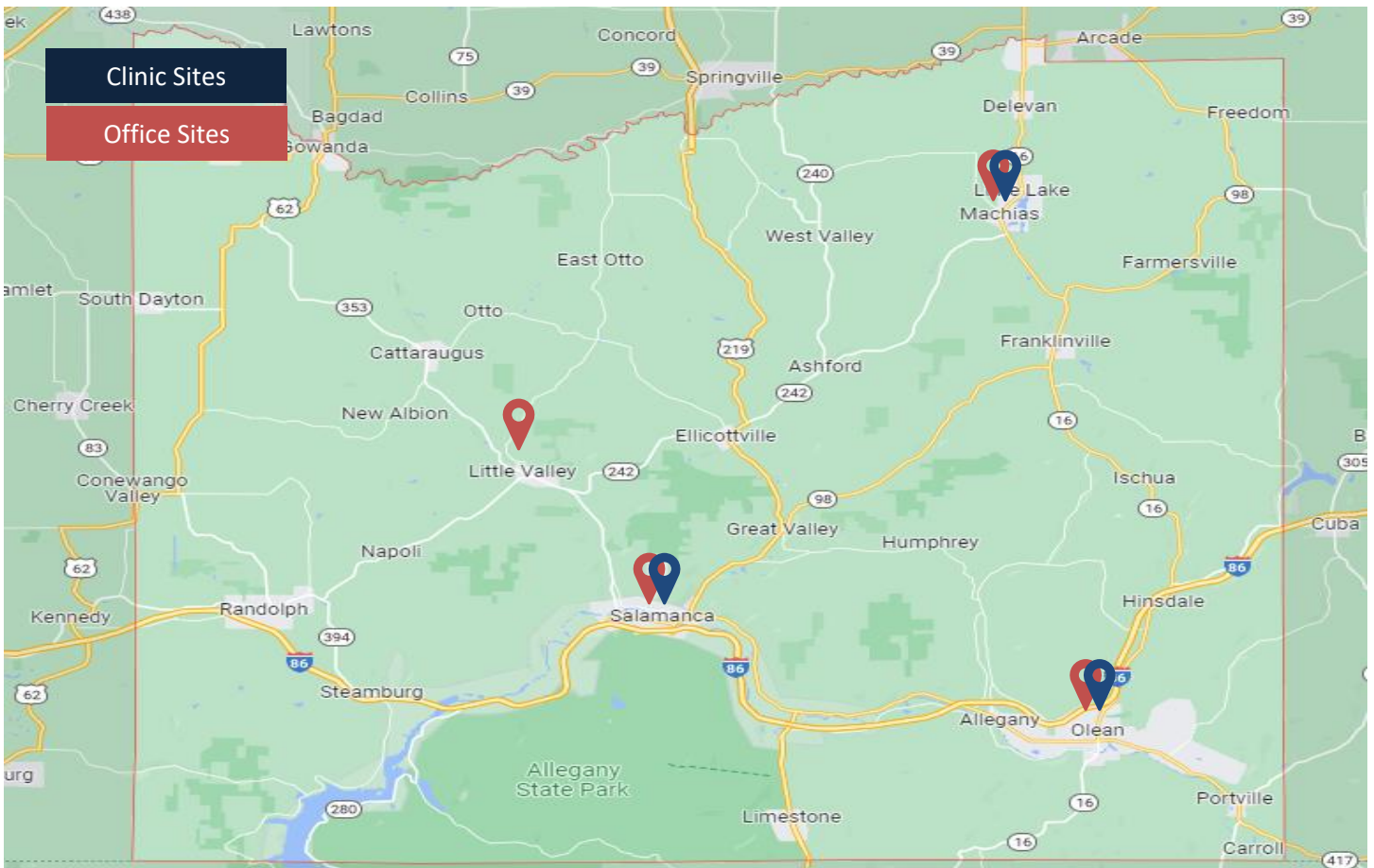
5

Years Accredited



110

Total Employees



# A SPECIAL REPORT: COVID-19

The 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a disease that can cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. People infected with COVID-19 can have symptoms ranging from a mild common cold to severe pneumonia requiring hospital care. In March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic.

## 2021 Highlights

The CCHD continued its efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2021. All staff in the department were trained and completed the John Hopkins Contact Tracing course to be able to assist in contact tracing and case investigations. Partnerships with other county departments within the county and other agencies were formed to also assist with contact-tracing, case investigations and wellness calls.

The Cattaraugus County Emergency Service Department assisted the department in all daily activities such as administering COVID-19 tests at various locations, contact-tracing, case investigations and wellness calls. The testing sites that were established throughout the county were: (1) Intandem in Allegany; (2) the Allegany Volunteer Fire Department; (3) the CCHD's Olean office. Both the Health Department and Emergency Services staff were present at all sites, where testing occurred three to five days per week.



Image 1: CCHD Staff at Vaccination POD during Fall Fest

Vaccinations were slowly made available to the community at the beginning of 2021. Because of the low supply and high demand, COVID-19 vaccines were prioritized at the beginning stages of the distribution process. The CCHD held its first COVID-19 Vaccination Point of Distribution (POD) clinic on January 6, 2021.



Image 2: CCHD Staff Administering COVID-19 Vaccine

The CCHD held its first COVID-19 Vaccination Point of Distribution (POD) clinic on January 6, 2021. Healthcare workers and high-risk long-term care facility patients were the first to be vaccinated. It was not until November 9, 2021 that the first youth, ages 5-11, POD clinic was held.

At the end of the year, COVID-19 cases increased drastically. In response to the increase, the department created a self-reporting, online isolation and quarantine order system. Through this system, residents were able to download their isolation/quarantine orders as well as their release from isolation/quarantine note in order to return to work/school. Another response to the influx of cases was the distribution of COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits. The department received and distributed 10,000 test kits throughout the county during the holiday season. Department staff created a video demonstrating how to use the test kits and properly report positive results.



## 2021 COVID-19 Statistics

**9,287**

Total COVID-19 Cases

**9,121**

Total COVID-19  
Recovered Cases

**166**

Total COVID-19 Deaths

**27,420**

COVID-19 Vaccinations  
Administered

**4,361**

COVID-19 Tests  
Administered

**Figure 1 - Demographic Breakdown of COVID-19 Cases**

Age	Total Cases	Percent %	Region	Total Cases	Percent %
0-19	2,007	21.6%	Northwest	1,370	14.8%
20-29	1,448	15.6%	Northeast	1,813	19.5%
30-39	1,506	16.2%	Southwest	1,932	20.8%
40-49	1,260	13.6%	Southeast	4,172	44.9%
50-59	1,191	12.8%	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent %</b>
60-69	995	10.7%	Male	4,463	48.1%
70-79	541	5.8%	Female	4,824	51.9%
80-89	256	2.8%	<b>Healthcare Worker</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent %</b>
90 +	83	.9%	Yes	195	2.1%
			No	9,092	97.9%
<b>Symptoms</b>			<b>Number</b>		<b>Percent %</b>
Yes			195		2.1%
No			9,092		97.9%

# DIVISION OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

The Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response both coordinates and monitors the Health Department's preparation efforts during large-scale public health emergencies, through integrating a variety of public health and medical preparedness initiatives and leveraging key partnerships. The division maintains a dual role in both preparedness planning and emergency response.

## Emergency Preparedness

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (CDC PHEP) grant. The program is responsible for strengthening the ability to effectively respond to a range of public health threats, including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events. The PHEP Program:

- Develops and coordinates response plans for Public Health disasters and threats.
- Engages in collaborative partnerships with local, state and federal agencies and organizations.
- Provides training to the community on topics related to public health emergencies.
- Conducts drills and response plan exercises.
- Implements infectious disease prevention, surveillance, and response efforts.



Image 3: CCHD Staff Administering Influenza Vaccines

**100%**

Staff members completed John Hopkins COVID-19 Contact Tracing Course

**2**

FLU pod clinics organized

**6**

Established Partnerships

**194**

Employees vaccinated for FLU

# DIVISION OF CHILDREN & FAMILY WELL-BEING

The Division of Children and Family Well-Being embraces a vision of children who are healthy and thrive in safe, stable and nurturing families, schools and communities. The Division brings together programs that offer nutritional and childhood developmental services, including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Child Find Program, the Early Intervention (EI) Program, and the Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Supportive Services Program (CYSHCN-SS).

## Nutritional Services

### The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program is a federally funded program, administered by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) through local health departments and other agencies. The WIC Program safeguards the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk. It does so by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, providing information on healthy eating and lifestyles, and referring clients to appropriate health care service providers. The WIC Program provides:

- Nutrition Education and Counseling.
- Breastfeeding Promotion and Support.
- Food Assistance (Farmer's Market Coupons and Individual Service Packages).



Image 4: WIC participants at the 2021 Cattaraugus County Fair

**5,585**

Farmers Market  
coupons  
distributed

**73.8%**

Breastfeeding  
Initiation Rate  
among all WIC  
moms

**480**

Breastfeeding  
Moms

**60**

Breastfeeding  
pumps distributed

## Childhood Development Services

### Early Intervention Program

The Early Intervention (EI) Program is a voluntary developmental evaluation and services program offered by NYS and administered locally by the CCHD. The EI Program serves children from birth to three years old in Cattaraugus County whose parents have concerns with their child's developmental achievements or children who have a confirmed diagnosis or disability. Evaluations are conducted to determine eligibility. A variety of therapeutic and support services are offered to eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. **In 2021, a total of 157 children qualified to receive services through EI.**

157

Children qualified to receive services through Early Intervention

### Child Find Program

The Child Find Program is a part of the EI Program that ensures all children who are assessed for the EI Program and do not qualify for services at that time, have a primary care physician and insurance coverage. Families in the Child Find Program are encouraged to have developmental screenings for their children done at their pediatrician visits. If a child is determined to need services from the Early Intervention Program, referrals are made with parental consent. **In 2021, a total of 262 referrals were made for children with diagnosed or suspected developmental delays.**

262

Referrals made for children with developmental delays

### Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Supportive Services Program (CYSHCN-SS)

The CYSHCN-SS Program provides a wide range of services to uninsured and under-insured children aged from birth to 21 years who have a serious or chronic medical, physical, or developmental condition. The CYSHCN-SS Program is a referral service that connects families with health care and support services that will help meet the family's needs. **In 2021, a total of 38 children received approval for services.**

38

Children received approval for services

# DIVISION OF NURSING

The Division of Nursing is charged with providing a variety of nursing and clinical services to county residents such as vaccinating children and adults against disease, aiding families of children with disabilities, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, educating teens and first-time moms, working at Community Health Clinics, and providing home health visits. The community health nursing staff also investigate all reported communicable diseases to identify contacts and educate individuals regarding disease transmission and prevention.

## Community Health Clinics

The CCHD's Community Health Clinics (CHCs) provide a variety of general and reproductive health services to community members, such as Physical exams, Cancer screenings, Diagnosing and Treating Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) and testing and providing prevention methods against Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Additional services include pregnancy testing and prevention methods, and immunizations. **In 2021, there was a total of 2,120 clinic visits at all three service sites.**

**2,120**

Total Clinic Visits

### Physical Exams

CHC staff provide routine physical exams for new employees of the county, several villages, towns, fire departments, community businesses and organizations, and to individuals for school/college admission. **In 2021, the CCHD CHC staff performed 367 physical exams.**

**367**

Total Physical Exams

### Cancer and Reproductive Disease Prevention

The CCHD provides Cancer Services to individuals who are either uninsured or underinsured. These health screenings help promote early detection of cervical, breast and colorectal cancer. **In 2021, 192 cancer screening exams were performed, whereas 108 individuals received breast exams, 10 individuals received prostate exams, and 74 individuals received pap smears. Nine of the individuals who received a pap smear required further surveillance.**

**192**

Total Cancer Screening Exams

## Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Prevention and Testing

CCHD provides confidential services for the diagnosis and treatment of STIs. Services include testing and treatment for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Trichomonas, and Herpes. All clients and identified contacts receive education, treatment and follow-up. **In 2021, 751 STI and 159 HIV tests were performed, identifying 189 cases of chlamydia, 61 cases of gonorrhea, 3 cases of syphilis, and 1 case of HIV.**

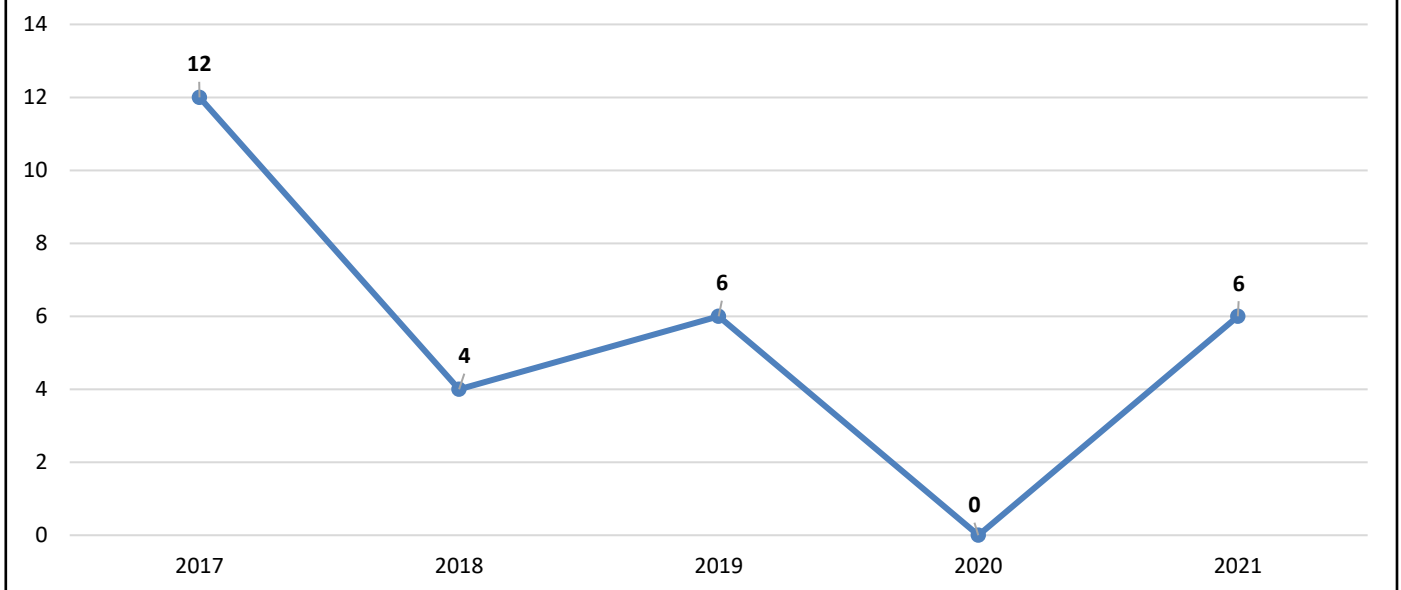
**910**  
Total STI and HIV  
Tests

## Pregnancy Testing and Prevention

In NYS, anyone over the age of 16 has the right to consent to services like reproductive health care without parental consent. **In 2021, the CCHD CHCs performed a total of 211 pregnancy tests, with a total of 12 positive pregnancy tests. Six of the positive pregnancy tests were for individuals ages 15 to 19 years. The CCHD had a total of 199 negative pregnancy tests. Figure 2 shows a five-year trend of total number of positive pregnancy tests for individuals' ages 15 to 19 years.**

**211**  
Total Pregnancy  
Tests

Figure 2 - Positive Teen Pregnancy Tests, 15 -19 Year Olds



## Immunizations

Communicable disease control and prevention improves public health by preventing the spread of disease. The CCHD nursing staff collect and analyze data on communicable disease cases, investigate those that pose a higher risk to the public, and provide prevention services such as administering immunizations as they reduce the incidence of many serious infectious diseases. **Figure 3 lists the type and total number of routine, influenza, and COVID-19 immunizations administered by the CCHD to both children and adults for 2021.**

**Figure 3 – All Immunizations**

COVID-19	27,420
Diphtheria Tetanus Acellular Pertussis- DTaP	52
Hepatitis A	59
Hepatitis B	72
Hemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib)	17
Human Papillomavirus HPV	59
Inactivated Polio -IPV	32
Influenza	1211
Japanese Encephalitis	0
Meningococcal	127
Measles Mumps Rubella - MMR	81
Pneumococcal	29
Tetanus Diphtheria Acellular Pertussis - Tdap	178
Typhoid	21
Varicella	37
Yellow Fever	0
Shingles (Shingrix)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,395</b>

Although the number of routine child and adult immunizations administered have been on a downward trend, there was a slight increase in immunizations administered during 2021. Figure 4 compares the number of influenza and routine immunizations administered by the CCHD over the past 5 years.

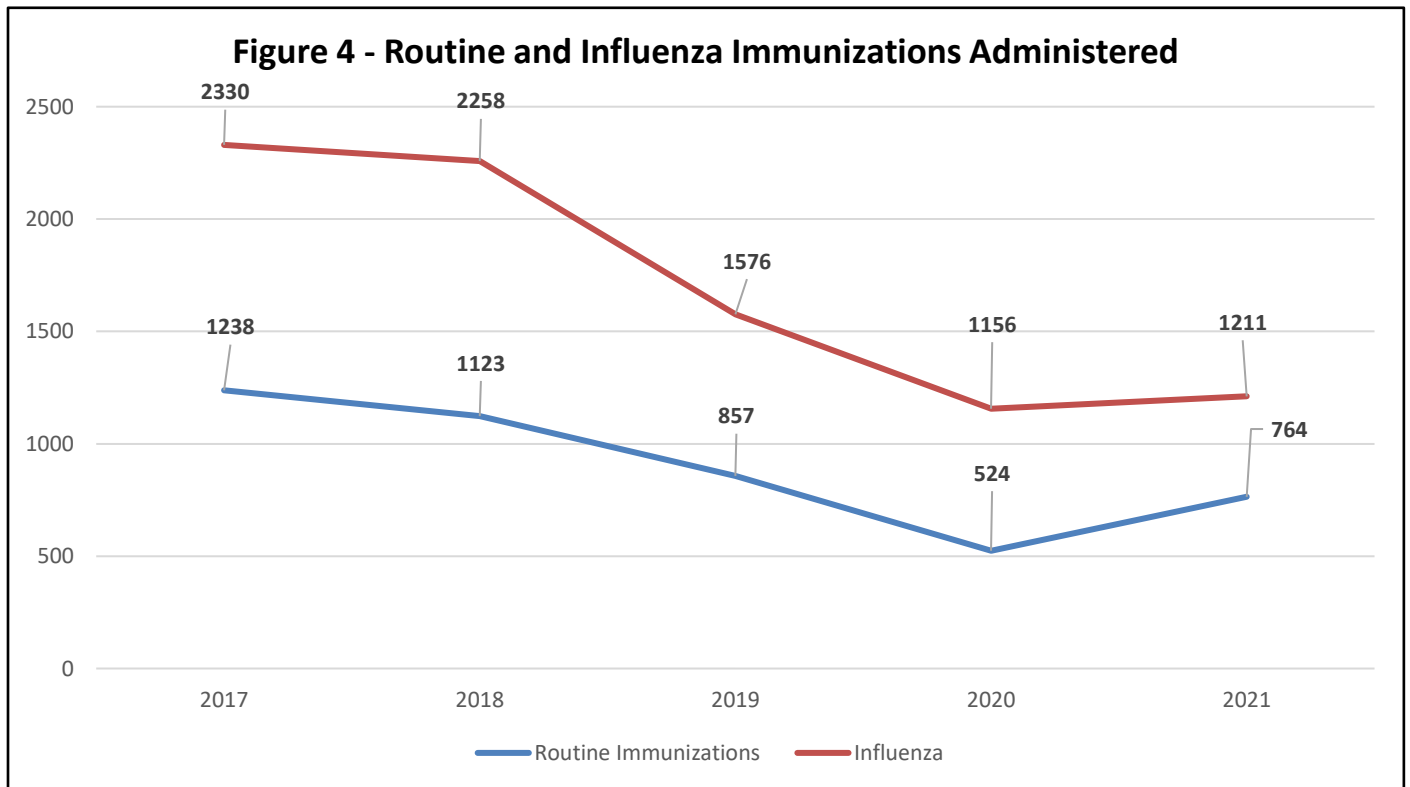


Figure 5 illustrates the total number of all immunizations (COVID-19, Influenza, and Routine) administered in 2021. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, COVID-19 accounted for 93% of all vaccinations with a total of 27,420 administered followed by influenza (4%) and routine immunizations (3%).

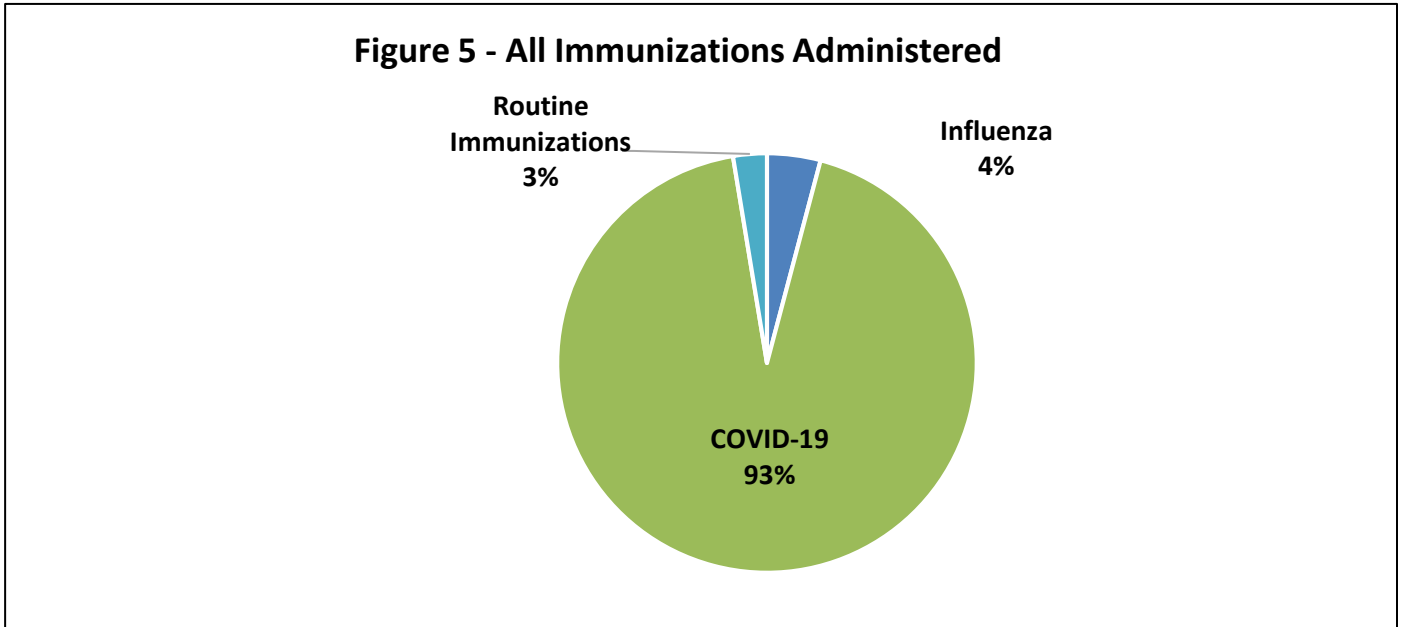
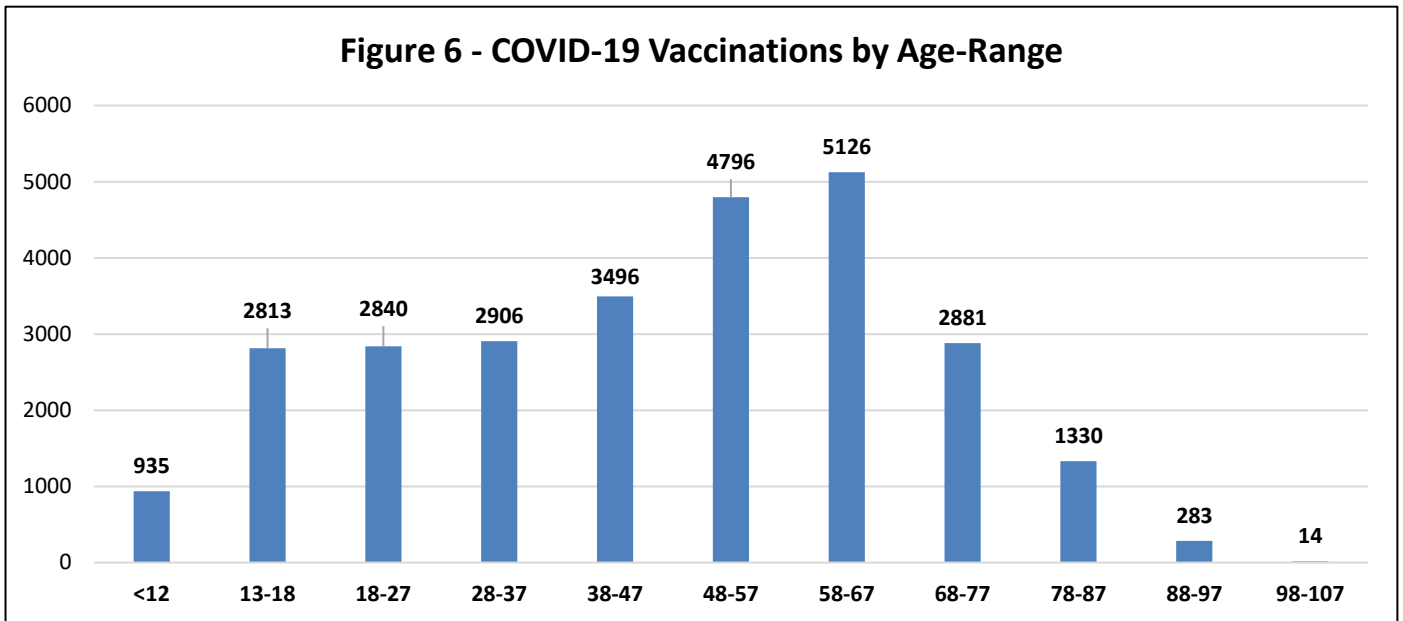


Figure 6 identifies COVID-19 vaccinations administered by Age-Range. In 2021, the most vaccinations were administered to individuals between the ages of 58-67 with total of 5,126 (18.7%).



## Communicable Disease Control

Communicable Disease prevention, surveillance, and containment are core functions of the CCHD CHCs. All cases of communicable disease are investigated by a nursing staff to ensure that every possible measure was taken to prevent, detect, treat and contain the spread of disease. In 2021, 9,843 cases of communicable diseases were reported in Cattaraugus County, including COVID-19. Figure 7 indicates the total number of communicable disease cases by type reported in 2021.



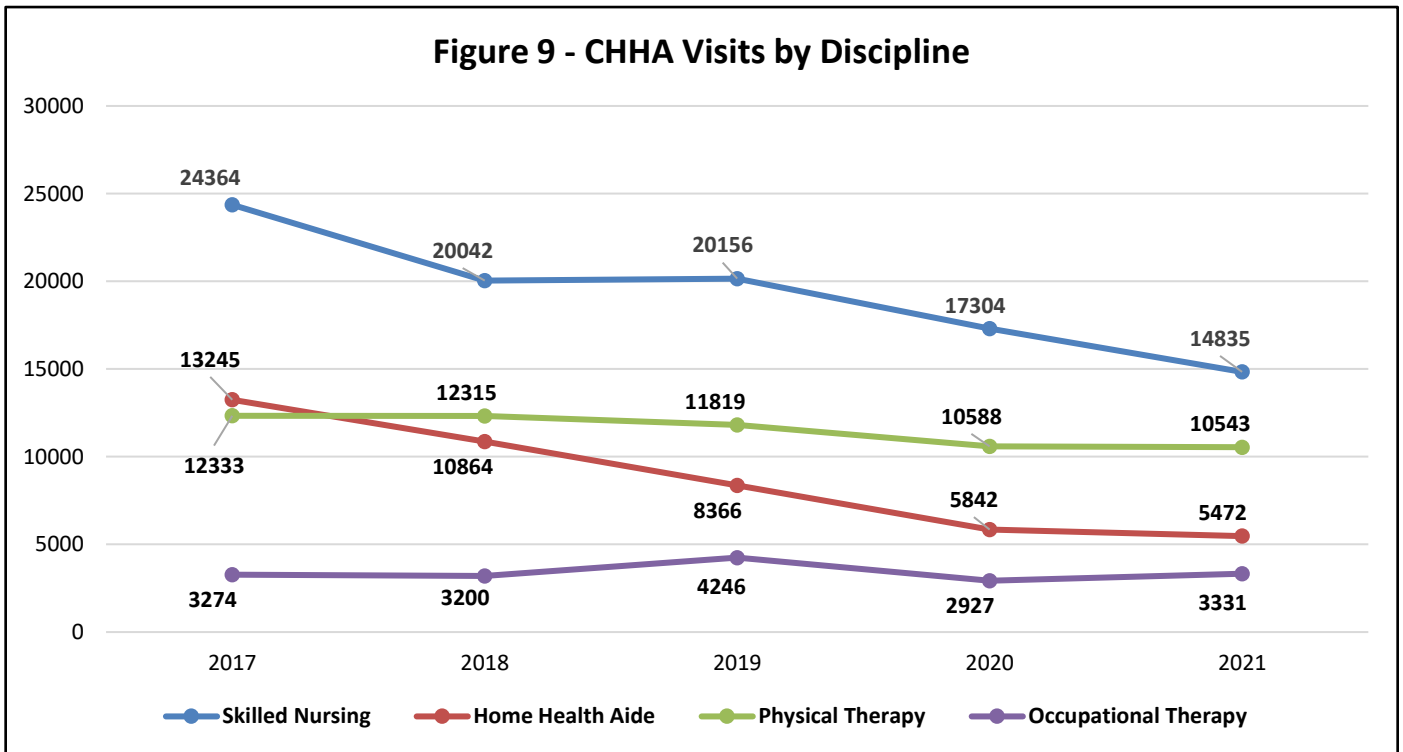
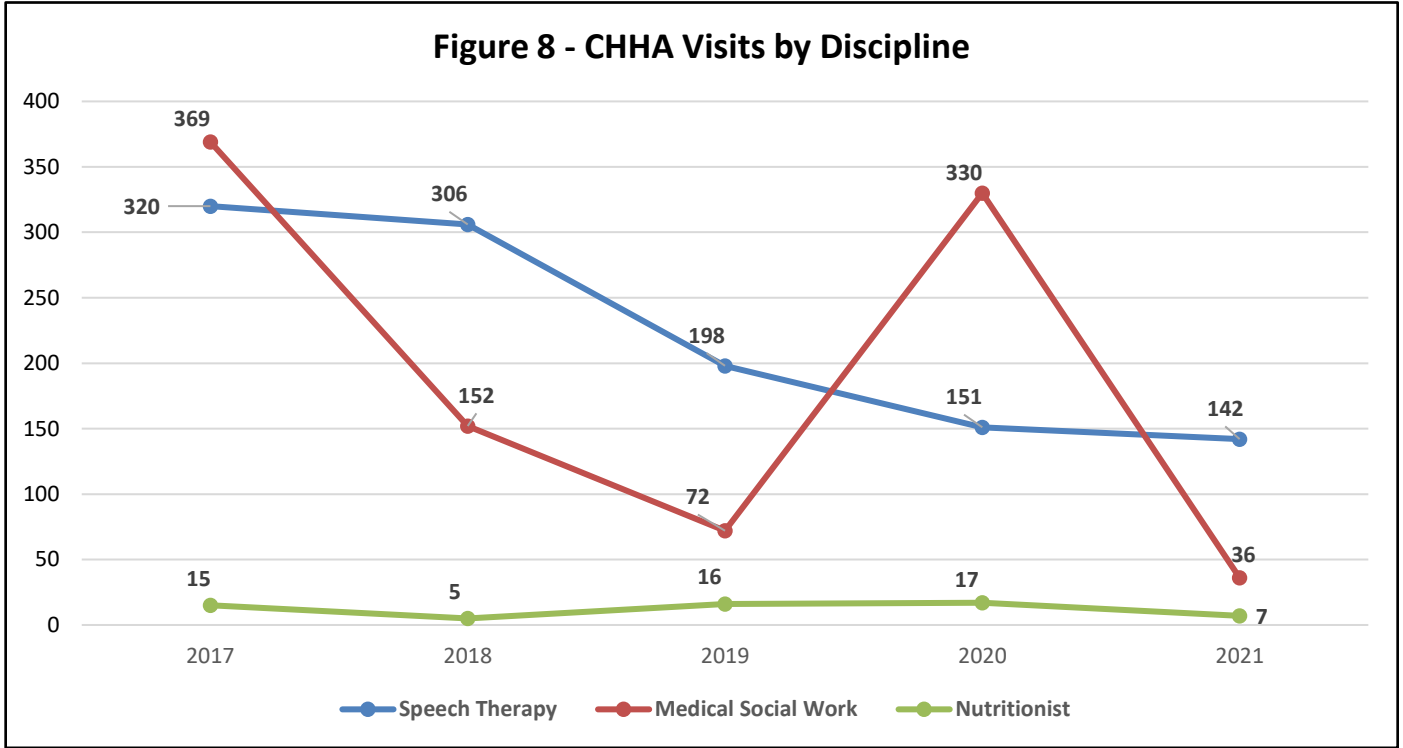
**Figure 7 - Categories of Disease**

Anaplasmosis	0
Amebiasis	0
Blastomycosis	0
Brucellosis	0
Babesiosis	0
Campylobacteriosis	7
Candida Auris	0
Cryptosporidiosis	1
COVID-19	9,287
Chlamydia	189
E.Coli (all)	0
Ehrlichiosis (all)	0
Gonoccal PID	2
Gonorrhea	59
Giardiasis	10
Hemophilus Influenzae (all)	0
Hepatitis A	5
Hepatitis B	2
Herpes	0
Hepatitis C (all)	35
Influenza A	129
Influenza B	60
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	0
Legionellosis	2
Lyme Disease	32
Measles (all)	0
Meningococcal Infection	0
Meningitis (all)	1
Mumps	0
Pertussis	0
Q Fever (all)	0
Rocky Mtn. Spotted Fever	0
Rubella	0
Salmonellosis (all)	5
Shigellosis	0
Streptococcal Diseases (all)	14
Staphylococcal (all)	0
Syphilis (all)	3
Western Equine Encephalitis	0
Trichinosis	0
Tetanus	0
Tuberculosis	0
Zika Virus	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,843</b>

Most commonly reported communicable diseases in 2021 include COVID-19 (9,278); Chlamydia (189); Influenza A and B (129; 60); Gonorrhea (59); Hepatitis C (35); and Lyme Disease (32).

# Home Care

The CCHD offers Home Care services through the Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) Program. The CHHA provides skilled services to individuals of all ages following an acute illness, injury or surgery as well as to individuals with chronic disease. Services may include nursing care, speech, physical and occupational therapies, home health aide, and personal care. In 2021, CCHD's CHHA provided 34,692 home visits to 1,431 individuals. Figures 8 and 9 illustrate a five-year trend of the total number of visits across all disciplines for the CHHA.



## Maternal and Child Health

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) addresses the health and lives of pregnant and reproductive-age women, infants, children, and adolescents, including children and youth with special health care needs. MCH programs and services take a broad approach to disease prevention and health promotion including Newborn Services, Skilled Home Visits, Medicaid Obstetrical and Maternal Services Program (MOMS), and the Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program (CLPPP).

### Newborn Services

The CCHD assists the NYSDOH Wadsworth Lab in obtaining initial and repeat blood samples for Newborn Screenings (NBS). NBS detect over 40 genetic diseases such as cystic fibrosis, phenylketonuria (PKU) and Krabbe Disease. In many cases, early diagnosis and medical treatment can prevent serious permanent illness. **In 2021, there were a total of 56 NBS, a decline from 72 in 2020.**

56

Newborn Screenings performed

### Skilled Home Visits

Skilled nursing visits are provided to pregnant and post-partum women, as well as infants and children, following referral by a hospital or medical provider. A registered nurse develops a home care plan that includes skilled assessments, interventions, education, and reinforcement of positive health behaviors in the individual's own environment. **In 2021, there were a total of 66 skilled home visits, a decline from 224 visits in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to the decline in visits.**

66

Skilled Home Visits

### Medicaid Obstetrical and Maternal Services Program (MOMS)

The NYSDOH developed the MOMS Program to improve birth outcomes in the high-risk Medicaid population. Nurses, social workers, and dieticians provide education and care management services to participants with the goal of decreasing the incidence of premature and low birth weight infants. **In 2021, CCHD two individuals without insurance were assisted to receive presumptive Medicaid and 12 individuals received 20 visits in which one was a new admission.**

12

Individuals received services from the MOMS Program

## Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) seeks to eliminate lead poisoning in children. The CLPPP also established the Lead Prevention Partnership (PbSP) to further increase lead testing rates and spread awareness about the dangers of lead poisoning. In 2021, there were a total of 46 newly confirmed children with an elevated blood lead level (EBLL) greater than 5 micrograms/deciliter (ug/dl). 41 of the 46 children were less than six years old at the time they were tested. Figure 10 below illustrates a 5-year trend of childhood EBLL cases by lead level.

46

Newly confirmed children with EBLL >5 ug/dl

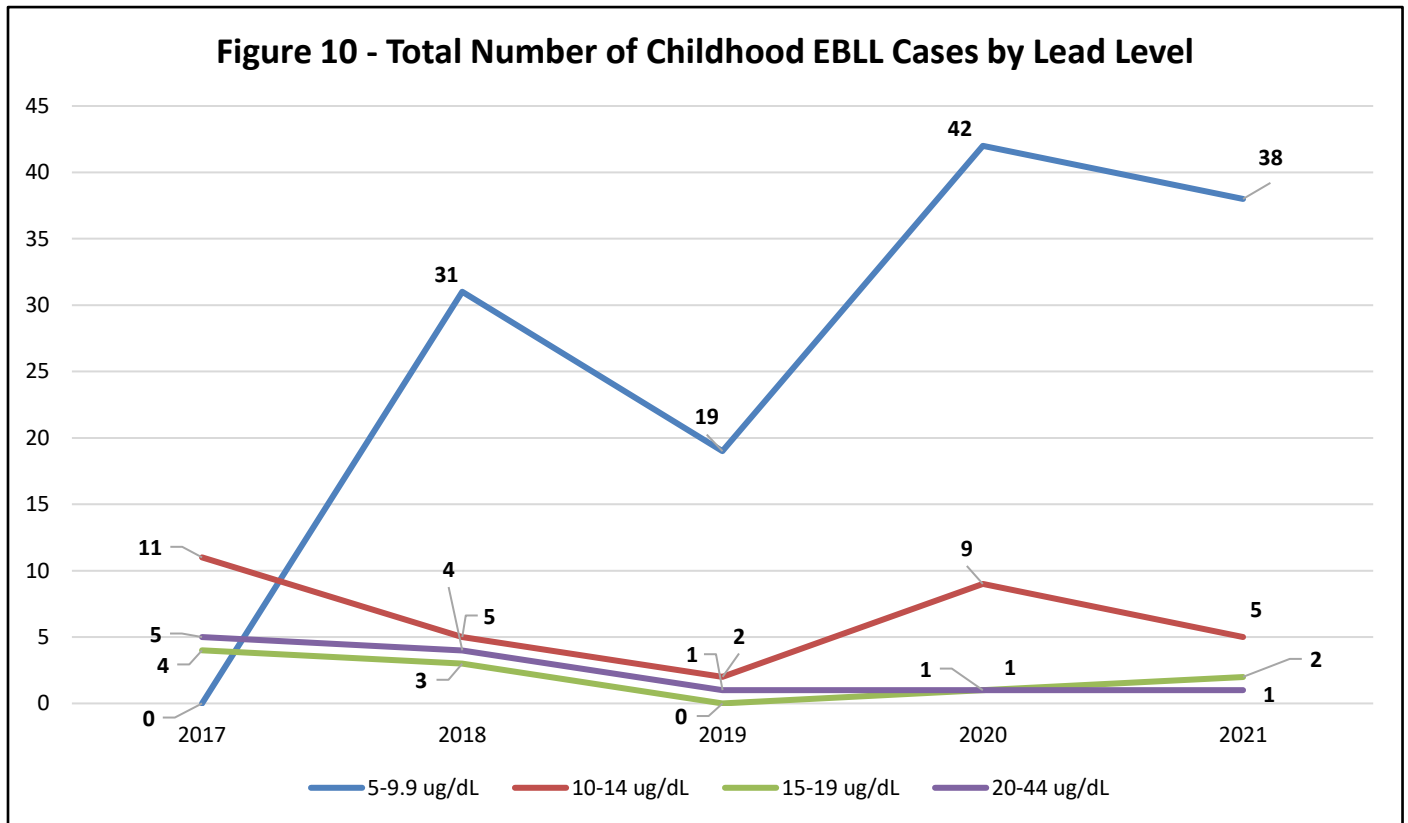


Image 5: Lead Nurse at the 2021 Cattaraugus County Fair

# DIVISION OF HEALTH EDUCATION & PLANNING

The Division of Health Education and Planning strives to improve the health status of Cattaraugus County Residents through health promotion programs and services and planning activities associated with National Public Health Accreditation, strategic planning, and community health reports. Division staff also participate in community outreach by bringing community partners together and establishing partnerships to identify health issues and develop plans that address those issues as well as facilitate programs that provide support, resources, or services to communities within Cattaraugus County.

## School Age and Community-Based Programming

CCHD Public Health Educators conduct numerous programs and initiatives designed to address general health education topics (nutrition, physical activity, substance use) and reproductive health topics in an effort to educate and positively influence the health attitudes and behaviors of county residents. CCHD health education programs are designed to meet the needs of different ages, be adaptable to specific community groups or schools, and are free of charge. **Due to COVID-19 precautionary measures, there were no general or reproductive health programs implemented during 2021.**

## Planning

### Accreditation

To maintain accreditation, Public Health Educators collaborate with various department staff to implement Performance Management and Quality Improvement systems, complete Strategic and Community Health Improvement plans, and organize community partnerships. **In 2021, the CCHD submitted its fourth and final annual report to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Beginning in October 2022, CCHD will begin the process of reaccreditation.**

### Strategic Plan

A strategic plan provides a local health department (LHD) and its stakeholders with a clear picture of where it is headed, what it plans to achieve, the methods by which it will succeed and the measures to monitor progress. It acts as a leadership tool grounded in decisions the organization has made about strategic priorities for the near future and is aligned with other important assessment, planning and evaluation documents such as the Community Health Improvement Plan. **As a strategic plan is so fundamental to effective management, it is one of three prerequisites for LHDs seeking national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The CCHD will undergo a new strategic planning process in 2022.**

### Community Health Reports

- Prevention Agenda
- Community Health Assessment
- Community Health Improvement Plan

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic response efforts, there were no numerical data measured or completed to update the CHIP Dashboard. However, a narrative update was submitted to NYSDOH regarding the department's efforts. In anticipation of the 2022-2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), a Steering Committee was established at the end of 2021 to provide insight and input concerning the local community needs and resources available. The steering committee analyzes data, identifies and prioritizes needs, implements action plans, and assists in composing the CHIP dashboard report.

## Community Outreach

### Veggie Wheels Program

Veggie Wheels launched in 2017 in response to the lack of access to healthy foods in rural communities around Cattaraugus County. It is a volunteer-based program that brings fresh vegetables and fruits to low-income individuals and families and works with local area businesses, such as Canticle Farms, Child's Blueberries, Great Valley Berry Patch, Stayer's Greenhouse, and Miller's Farm Market to obtain fresh produce. In recent years, the program has been sustained through endowment funds provided by the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation. **In 2021, Veggie Wheels began its seventh year providing fresh fruits and vegetables to community residents. Throughout the year, volunteers worked out of locations in Salamanca, Olean, and Delevan and provided fresh fruits and vegetables to 611 individuals, 94.7% adults and 5.3% youth aged 3 to 12.**



Image 6: Veggie Wheels Salamanca Site

### Healthy Livable Communities Consortium

The Cattaraugus County Healthy Livable Communities Consortium (HLCC) formed as a call to action in 2011. It continues to make strides toward creation of healthier, sustainable lifestyle opportunities for residents. The Consortium meets quarterly with sub groups meeting more frequently. Since initiation of the HLCC, it has been the intent of the CCHD and its partners to instill upon key stakeholders that all are called to action to tackle health issues. **Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the HLCC was not active throughout 2021.**



Image 7: Cattaraugus County Community Members Filling Out Surveys

# DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Division of Environmental Health (EH) enforces the NYS Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR), the Sanitary Code of the Cattaraugus County Health District, and parts of NYS Public Health Law. The Division also issues permits and reviews engineering plans for projects, facilities, and activities that potentially impact public health. EH staff also conduct public health nuisance investigations and provide education to residents regarding environmental health concerns.

## Facility Permits and Inspections

Proper operation and maintenance of facilities serving the public can minimize disease outbreaks, health risks, and improve the overall quality of life for county residents. The Environmental Health (EH) Division is charged with permit issuance and inspection of several types of establishments, facilities and activities which may impact public health including; Public Bathing Facilities, Public Food Service Establishments, Mobile Home Parks, Temporary Residences (Hotels, Motels & Cabin Colonies), Campgrounds & Migrant Farmworker Housing, Children's Camps, Body Art (Tattooing & Piercing Shops), and Public Swimming/Bathing Facilities.

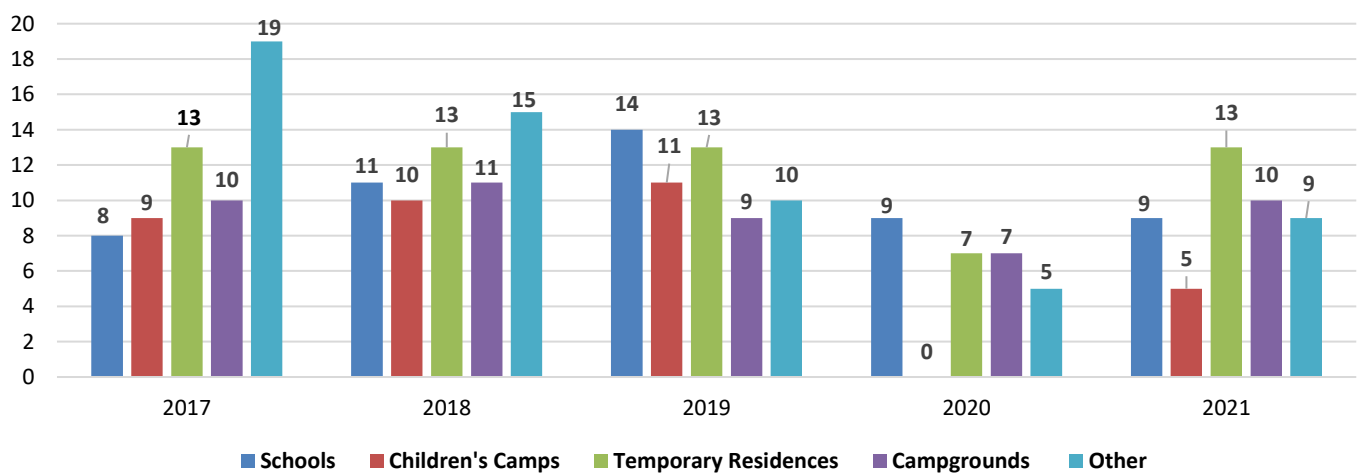
### Public Bathing Facilities

Public bathing facilities include swimming pools and bathing beaches. In 2021, the CCHD permitted and oversaw the operation of 46 public bathing facility organizations and completed 24 routine inspections at schools, children's camps, temporary residences, campgrounds, and other facilities. A total of 30 violations were discovered. Additionally, there were 49 beach samples collected for analysis with a total of nine exceeding. Figure 11 shows the total number of public bathing facility organizations over a 5-year period.

24

Public bathing  
facility inspections  
performed

Figure 11 - Public Bathing Facilities by Organization



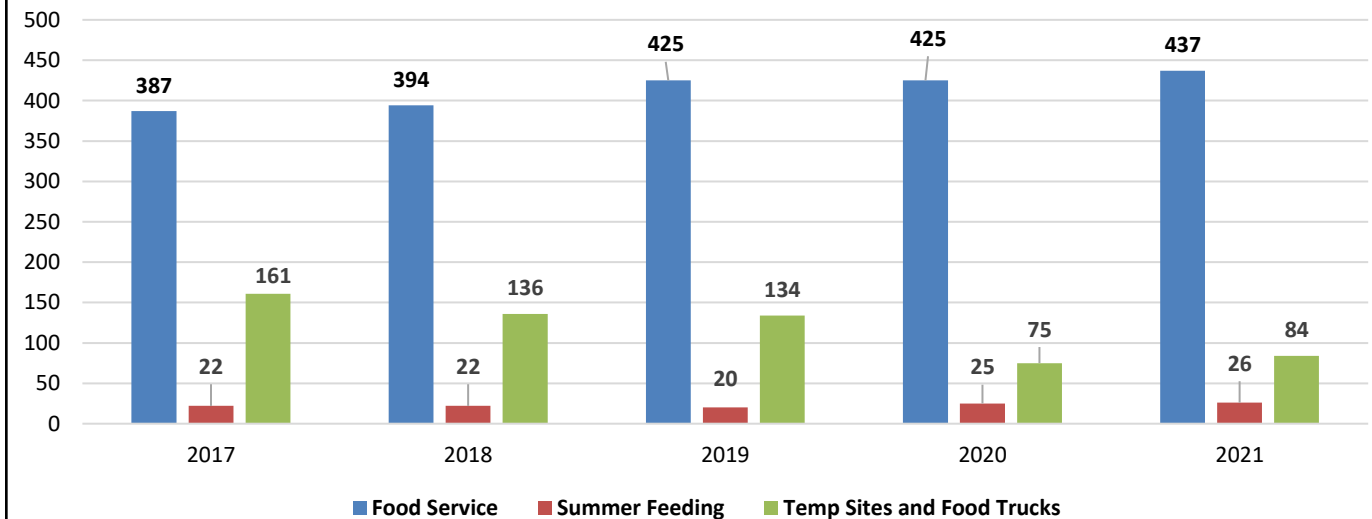
## Food Service Establishments

Any operation preparing, handling, and serving food directly to the general public requires a permit. In 2021, there were a total of 547 regulated food facilities in the county. EH staff completed 161 routine inspections of these facilities, resulting in 83 critical violations. The EH Division also issued permits for 84 temporary food sites and 26 summer feeding sites. Figure 12 illustrates a 5-year trend of food facilities regulated by the CCHD.

161

Food service  
establishment  
inspections  
performed

Figure 12 - Food Facilities Regulated by CCHD



## Mobile Home Parks

Permitted mobile home park (MHP) capacity ranges from 5 to over 300 homes. In 2021, there were 33 mobile home parks operating in Cattaraugus County. EH staff completed 30 routine MHP inspections during which 107 violations were discovered. EH staff followed up on numerous complaints and violations regarding sewage, water electrical, and garbage issues.

30

Mobile home  
inspections  
performed

## Temporary Residences

A temporary residence is defined as any facility that is maintained for 11 or more overnight guests for at least 60 cumulative hours per year and includes hotels, motels, cabin colonies, and campgrounds. In 2021, there were 49 temporary residences under permit in the county. The Environmental Health Division performed 29 routine inspections and uncovered five violations.

29

Temporary  
Residence  
inspections  
performed



## Children's Camps

Children's camps are operated by scouting, religious, or other non-profit organizations. **In 2021, there were five children's camps under permit in the county. EH staff performed five routine inspections throughout the year during which six violations were found.**

5

Children camp inspections performed

## Body Art Facilities

Body Art facilities include tattoo and piercing shops and salons that have permits for microblading. **In 2021, there were a total of 15 tattoo and piercing shops and a total of four salons that were under permit for microblading that operated in Cattaraugus County. For these facilities, a total of seven routine inspections were conducted throughout the year during which five violations were found.**

7

Body art facilities inspections performed

## Water System Compliance and Protection

### Public Water Systems

A Public Water System (PWS) is a water system meeting certain definitions found in Federal and State drinking water regulations. **In 2021, EH staff performed 66 required inspections at Public Water Systems. There were 45 violations discovered.**

66

Public Water System inspections completed

### Public Water Quality Monitoring

A key to providing safe and healthy drinking water is by routine water testing. Federal and state regulations identify hundreds of potential contaminants and designate a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for each. **In 2021, there were a total of 1,673 microbiological and nitrate samples collected for analysis by EH staff from public water systems.**

1,673

Microbiological & nitrate samples collected for analysis

## Private Water Systems

County residents who live in rural areas often get their water from drilled or driven wells or springs, referred to as Private Water Systems. It is up to the owner to maintain their private water system and ensure that it is safe to use. Private water systems are inspected when a property is sold. **In 2021, EH staff performed 457 private water system inspections.**

457

Private Water System inspections completed

## Wastewater

### Commercial Wastewater Treatment Systems

Large commercial wastewater treatment systems (CWTS) require a State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit issued by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The EH Division contracts with NYSDEC to inspect some of these systems. **In 2021, EH staff performed 104 SPDES permit inspections.**

104

State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) inspections

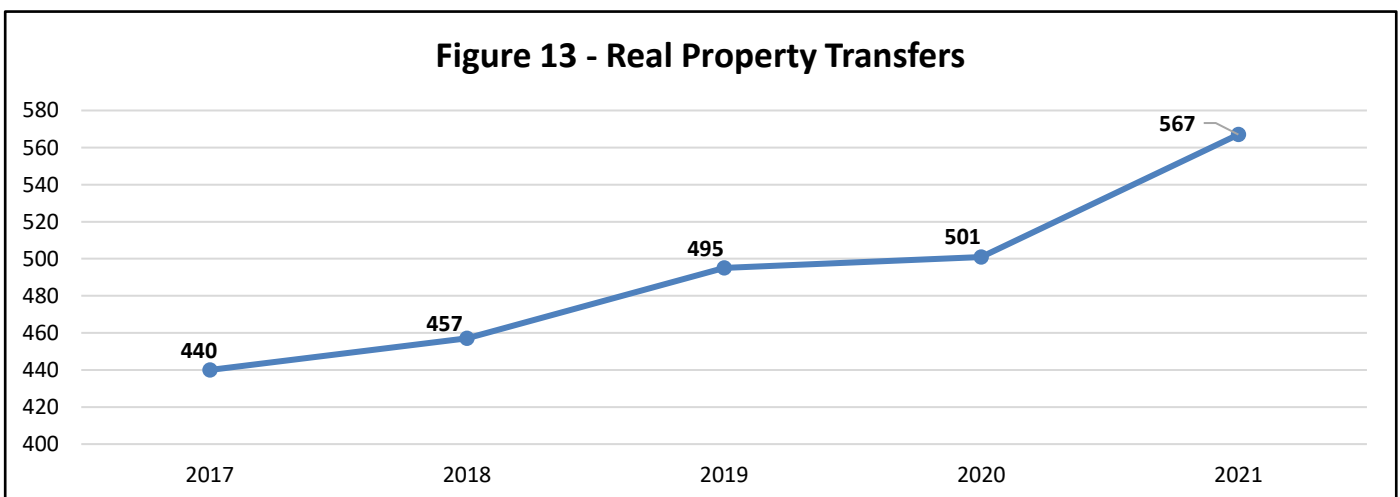
### Real Property Transfer (RPT)

When real property is sold or transfers ownership, EH staff perform routine inspections of private on-site sewage and water systems to determine the need for repair or replacement. **In 2021, EH staff performed 567 RPT inspections. Figure 13 illustrates a five-year trend of RPT inspections by EH staff.**

567

Total number of Real Property Transfer Inspections (RPTs)

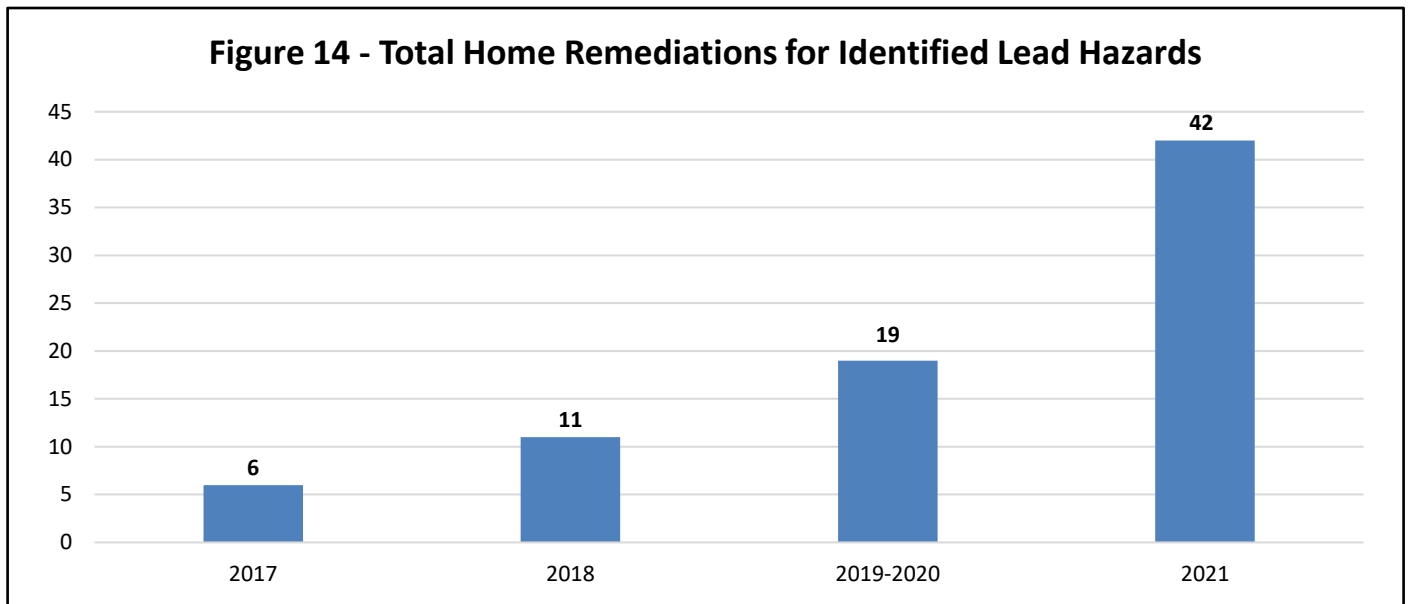
Figure 13 - Real Property Transfers



## Environmental Contaminant Control

### Lead Hazard Control

EH staff are responsible for the assessment of a child's living environment if blood lead levels are  $5\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$  or greater. If a lead paint hazard is identified at a residence, the homeowners are informed and educated regarding associated risks. **In 2021, 50 homes were investigated in response to EBLL of children. Lead hazards were identified at 42 homes where remediation work was subsequently started and/or completed. Figure 14 illustrates a five-year trend of home remediations for identified lead hazards.**



### Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA)

The Clean Indoor Air Act was passed to regulate indoor and outdoor smoking, as well as to prohibit smoking in all places of employment and restaurants. **In 2021, smoking compliance checks were conducted in 73 establishments around the county. There were no violations discovered.**

### Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA)

In November 2019, individuals under the age of 21 were prohibited from purchasing tobacco products by NYS Law. **In 2021, EH staff performed a total of 57 compliance checks at 52 licensed establishments. There were no violations discovered.**

## Vector Borne and Zoonotic Disease Surveillance and Control

### Mosquito Surveillance

Mosquitoes can carry certain diseases including West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and Zika Virus all of which are threats to public health. **In 2021, 20 mosquito specimen pools were submitted to the state arbovirus laboratory to determine the presence of Eastern Equine Encephalitis. None of these pools tested positive. However, the CCHD received notification from the NYSDOH that a horse in the Conewango Valley Area tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). The CCHD also conducted aerial spraying to eliminate mosquito larvae in breeding areas located in the townships of: Allegany, Carrollton, Great Valley, Hinsdale, Olean,**

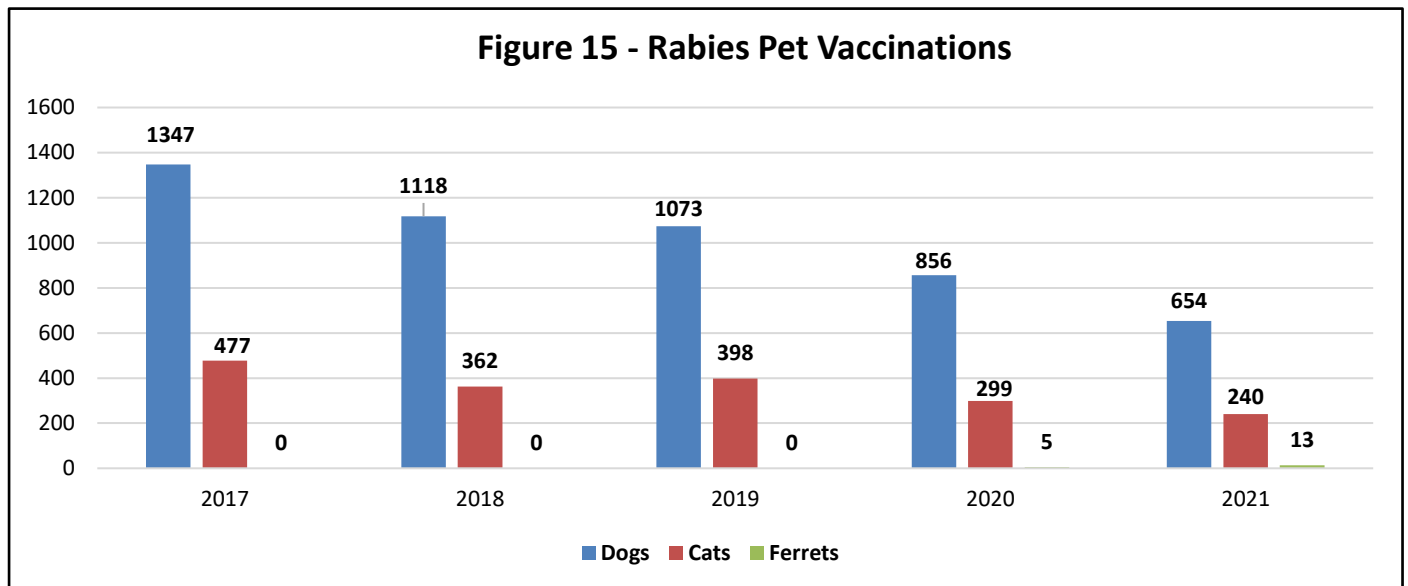
Portville, and Salamanca. Since surveillance began in 2016, no specimens of mosquitoes that carry Zika Virus have been obtained.

## Tick-Borne Disease Surveillance

As a part of active surveillance, NYSDOH staff completes tick dragging and flagging at various locations within Cattaraugus County to collect and test for the presence of disease borne pathogens, such as those that cause Lyme Disease. However, **due to the COVID-19 pandemic this effort was not completed in 2021.**

## Rabies Prevention

Rabies is a viral disease that can be transmitted by bites, licks, or scratches of infected animals such as bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, as well as dogs and cats. EH staff promote rabies vaccinations for pets, investigating all potential rabies exposures (animal bites & scratches) that are reported to the Department, and submit certain animal specimens to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory for rabies testing. **In 2021, EH staff conducted 205 animal bite investigations and referred six people to the Nursing Division for post-exposure immunizations. There were a total of 55 specimens submitted to the NYS Rabies Laboratory for analysis in which six positive specimens for rabies were identified: one deer, two raccoons, one bat, one cat, and one skunk. Additionally, the CCHD hosted five pet vaccination clinics throughout the county in 2021. Figure 15 shows a 5-year trend of the number of animals that were vaccinated.**



## Nuisances and Complaints

Many environmental health risks are identified through the programmatic activities outlined above. However, county residents themselves often file formal complaints and report potential public health nuisances. **In 2021, EH staff responded to 122 complaints regarding possible public health issues, none of which resulted in formal enforcement action.**

122  
**Total Complaints**

0  
**Total Formal Enforcement Actions**

# DIVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES

The Cattaraugus County Health Department Laboratory (CCHDL) is a Clinical Lab Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Certified Clinical Laboratory that performs various specialty tests in the areas of microbiology, diagnostic immunology, chemistry, and hematology. In addition, the CCHDL is also a NYS and Pennsylvania Certified Environmental Laboratory that performs total coliform, fecal coliform, and E. coli testing for various types of water including hi-dilution beach water, wastewater, and drinking water. The CCHDL also performs nitrate testing in dialysis water.

**4474**

## Microbiology Tests

Microbiology tests include various virology tests such as molecular, viral antigen, and culture tests.

**COVID-19 = 97.5%**  
**Influenza A & B = 2.5%**

**2,094**

## Hematology Tests

Hematology tests are blood tests that include Complete Blood Count (CBC) tests and Fecal Occult Blood tests

**180**

## Diagnostic Immunology Tests

Diagnostic Immunology tests include serologic assays for the detection of patient antibody responses to bacteria, parasites and viruses.

**RPR Syphilis = 100%**  
**HIV = 0%**

**18,350**

## Chemistry Tests

Chemistry tests include various Clinical Tests, Urinalysis tests, and Endocrinology Serum and Urine Human Chorionic Gonadotropin Hormone (HCG) tests.

**436**

## Drug Screening Tests

Drug screening tests are taken from hair, urine, or blood samples.

**3495**

## Water Tests

Water tests include Bacterial and Nitrate testing.

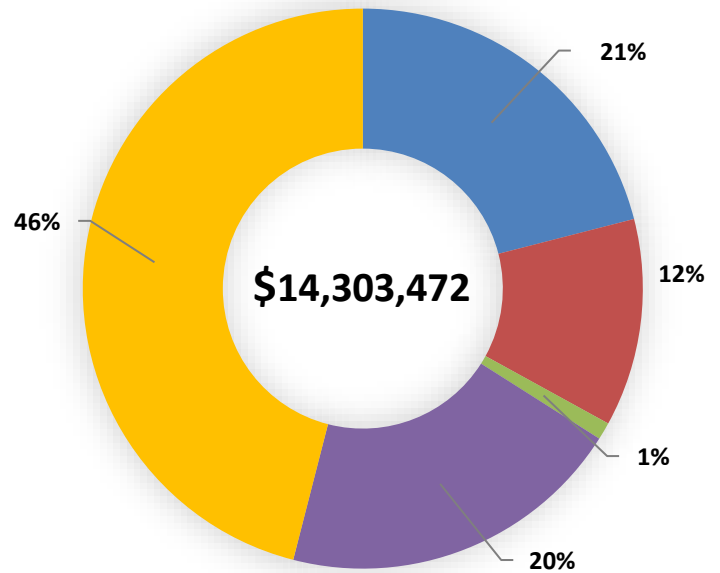
**Bacterial Water Tests = 93.6%**  
**Nitrate = 6.4%**

# DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

The Division of Administration and Finance (AFD) is charged with financial planning and fiscal management of the Department including revenue, expenditures, billing, accounting, and payroll. The AFD is responsible for purchasing, preparing, and submitting grant reimbursement claims to State and Federal Agencies, as well as preparation and monitoring of the Department’s annual budget.

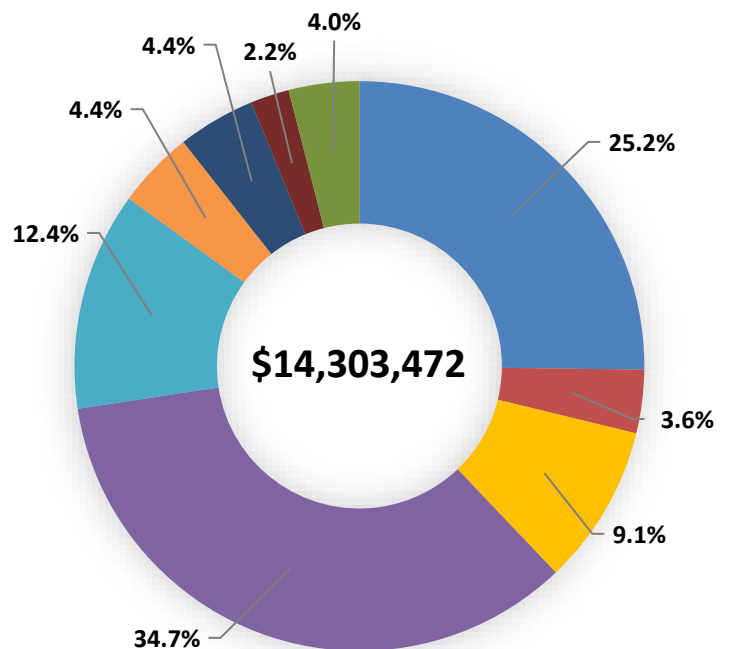
## Revenue

- Federal Funds
- NYS Aid
- Other Funds
- County Share
- Fees



## Expenditures

- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)
- Laboratory Services
- Community Health Clinic (CHC)
- Certified Home Health Care (CHHA)
- Division of Environmental Health
- Early Intervention Program
- Administration
- NYS PH Corp Fellowship
- Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)



# STAFF DIRECTORY

### **Administration**

Kevin Watkins, MD, MPH  
Gilbert N. Witte, MD  
Debra Lacher

Public Health Director  
Medical Director  
Secretary to the Public Health Director

### **Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA)**

Lynne Moore  
Carol Skudlarek  
Amit Benedict  
Sandra Grey  
Kristin Brown  
Laura Fuller  
Chastity Standish  
Brooke Schnell  
Teneille Andrews  
Karin Jochen  
Susan Boyle  
Deborah Pettinato  
Michelle Jennings  
Desiree Ottley  
Earlena Baer  
Erin Keim  
Charity Burtion  
Gina Chafee  
Ashley Dahill  
Amber Everitt  
Samanatha Hochadel  
Ellen O'Neil  
Melissa Spencer  
Heather Thurston  
Erica Andera  
Joshua Creed  
Tyler Harvey  
Abbey Hayes  
Lois Lowry  
Jennifer Rasinski  
Patricia Searle  
Holly Whippo  
Kristin Francis  
Nancy Fuller  
Heather Hale  
Meegan Howard  
Judy Wylllys

Director of Patient Services  
Supervising Community Health Nurse  
Supervising Community Health Nurse  
Supervising Community Health Nurse  
Community Health Nurse (Intake)  
Medical Services Specialist  
Authorizations  
QAPI  
QAPI  
QAPI; Community Health Nurse  
Account Clerk Typist  
Keyboard Specialist II  
Keyboard Specialist II  
Keyboard Specialist  
Keyboard Specialist II  
Social Worker  
Community Health Nurse  
Community Health Nurse  
Community Health Nurse  
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Community Health Nurse

Patricia Feuchter  
Marcia Blumenthal  
Tina Farr  
Deb Debrant  
Kathleen Threadgill  
Kari Wampler

Community Health Nurse  
Home Health Aide  
Home Health Aide  
Home Health Aide  
Home Health Aide  
Home Health Aide

**Environmental Health**

Eric Wohlers  
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Timothy Zerfas  
Andrew Wolf  
Chris Covert  
Eli Rust  
Michael Hastings  
Mariel Grey  
Renee Herc  
Rhonda Kelley  
Richard Dayton  
Rigel Johnson  
Samuel Dayton  
Elaine Fowler  
Regina Rogers  
Teresa Ross

Environmental Health Director  
Senior Sanitarian  
Water Resource Specialist  
Sanitarian  
Sanitarian  
Sanitarian  
Sanitarian  
Sanitarian  
Sanitarian  
Sanitarian  
Sanitarian  
Sanitarian  
Sanitarian  
Sanitarian  
Keyboard Specialist II  
Keyboard Specialist  
Keyboard Specialist

**Early Intervention Program (EIP)**

Patty Cheek  
Jenn Schosek  
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Alyssa Dean  
Nikki Pratt  
Lanette Dwaileebee

Service Coordinator E.I.O.D  
Service Coordinator E.I.O.D  
Service Coordinator E.I.O.D  
Service Coordinator E.I.O.D  
Child Find Assistant  
Keyboard Specialist II

**Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Supportive Services Program (CYSHCN-SS)**

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Marissa Del Monaco

Resource Specialist  
Resource Specialist  
Resource Specialist

**Administration and Finance**

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Anthony Smrek  
Jeffrey Toner  
Michele Spring  
Kathleen Hewitt  
Renee James  
Mary Jo Pula  
Patricia Metler  
Amy Weaver

Administrative Officer  
Senior Accountant  
Accountant  
Accountant (Billing)  
Senior Account Clerk Typist  
Senior Account Clerk Typist  
Senior Account Clerk Typist  
Senior Account Clerk Typist  
Senior Account Clerk Typist  
Senior Medical Billing Clerk



Heather Drayton  
Stacey Santee  
Rachel Chesner

Medical Billing Clerk  
Medical Billing Clerk  
Medical Billing Clerk

### **Health Education and Planning**

Deb Nichols  
Matthew Tyssee  
Heidi Reese  
Tara Leonard

Public Health Educator  
Public Health Educator  
Public Health Educator/ Health Education Assistant  
Reproductive Health Educator

### **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)**

James Lawrence  
Shomita Steiner  
Michael Reynolds

Emergency Preparedness Director  
Emergency Preparedness Director  
Emergency Preparedness Director

### **Laboratory Services**

Donald Higgs, MD  
Paula Ketchner  
Kandra Yeager  
Kimberly Stewart  
Amy Johnson

Laboratory Director  
Laboratory Supervisor  
Clinical Laboratory Technician  
Clinical Laboratory Technologist  
Phlebotomist

### **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

Donna Higley  
Michele Phelps  
Summer Jolley  
Christian Bowser  
Molly Higgins  
Rachel Renninger  
Carla Jefferlone

WIC Director  
MS, RD, CLC  
MS, RD, CLC  
Nutrition Program Assistant I  
Nutrition Program Assistant I  
Qualified Nutritionist  
Beast Peer Counselor

### **Maternal and Child Health (MCH)**

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Kerime Perese  
Barb Parish  
David Fancher  
Gayler Faulkner  
Kaurie Rzucek  
Sidney Earley  
Adrienne Ratzel  
Lora Prey  
Desiree Ottley

Clinical Physician  
Nurse Practitioner  
Community Health Nurse  
Community Health Nurse  
Community Health Nurse  
Community Health Nurse  
Community Health Nurse  
Keyboard Specialist II  
Keyboard Specialist II  
Keyboard Specialist II

### **NYS Public Health Corp Fellowship (NYSPHCF)**

Marissa Del Monaco  
Alyssa Dean

Graduate Fellow  
Fellow

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Special thanks to Alyssa Dean, Marissa Del Monaco, Dr. Christopher Crawford, Dr. Pauline Hoffmann, Matthew Tyssee, Debra Lacher and James Lawrence for their dedication in assuring that a quality report was produced this year. Their devotion, commitment and dependability are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to the entire Health Department staff for all that they do on a daily basis to meet the needs of the community as well as in meeting requirements per New York State Department of Health.

In 2021, we stood together again in the trenches for Public Health and I look forward to another year working together for the residents of Cattaraugus County.

A special thank you to the entire Cattaraugus County workforce for all that you did to support the department's efforts to respond to COVID-19.

*Kevin D. Watkins, MD*

Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH  
Public Health Director  
Cattaraugus County Health Department



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

**Cattaraugus County  
Health Department**

# Cattaraugus County Health Department

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Little Valley  
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**The value of a strong public  
health system is all around us.**

**It's in the air we breathe; the  
water we drink; the food we eat;  
and the places where we live,  
learn, work, and play.**