

THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

SUMMARY

The Chautauqua County Health Department (CCHD) is a community of public health professionals whose main purpose is to protect and promote your family's health. The Health Department accomplishes this mission by preventing disease, prolonging meaningful life, protecting the environment, and providing leadership during health crises. Services include Communicable Disease Control Programs, Family Health Services, Health Education and Promotion, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, and Environmental Health Services. Services are offered to the community through three main service sites: Mayville, Jamestown, and Dunkirk.

Disease control is one of the main functions of a public health department. Through implementation of preventive health measures and responding promptly to incidence and disease outbreaks, community health can be maintained. The Health Department provides clinics, disease surveillance, education, and consultation pertaining to communicable and chronic diseases. Program areas include sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, tuberculosis, communicable diseases, immunization, and chronic diseases (such as cardiovascular disease, asthma and diabetes).

Services are available to the public in the forms of Department-sponsored clinics, school-based clinics, travel clinics and other specialty clinics at three sites. Clinics are offered for tuberculosis, immunization, and HIV and STD testing. Services are available at low cost or no cost to members of the public.

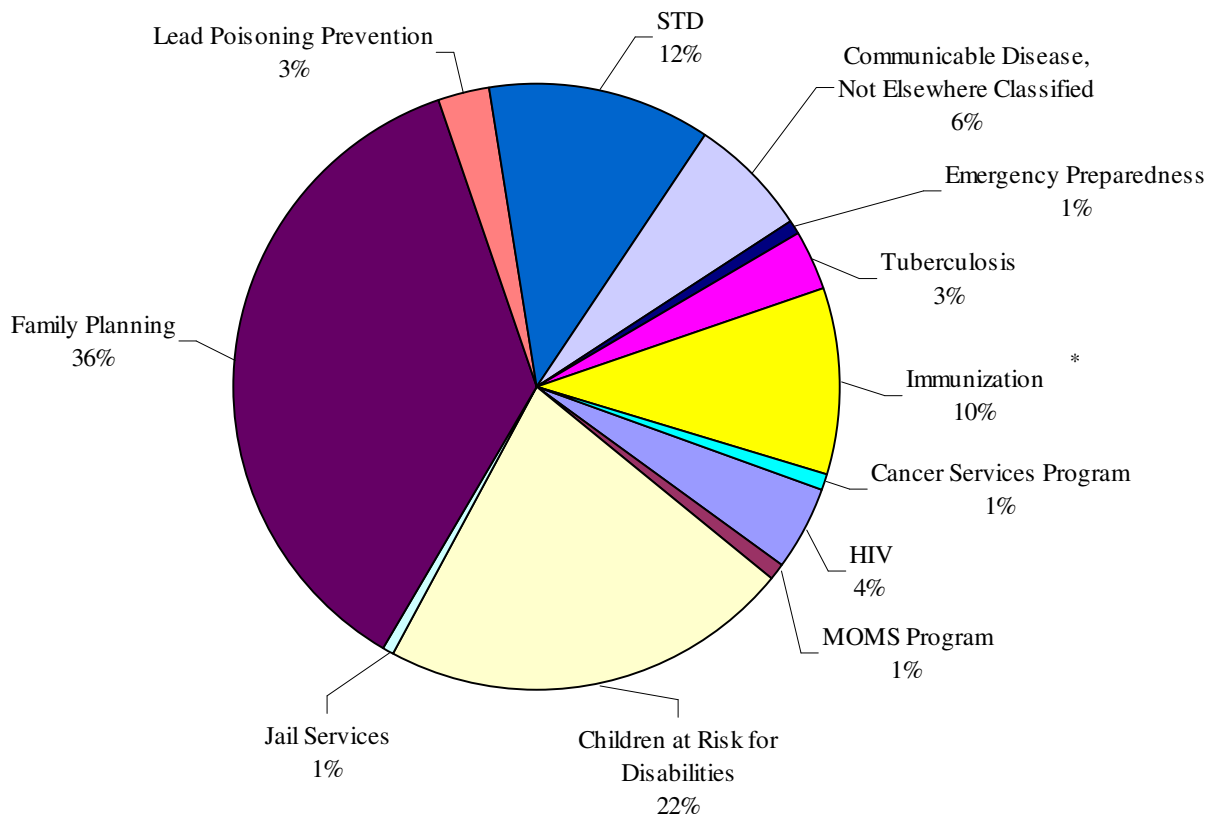
Family Health Programs include evaluations, clinical and therapeutic services, education, case management and consultation to individuals and groups at home, work, school, and in public health centers. Program areas include child health and nutrition through WIC, early intervention, lead poisoning prevention, maternal and prenatal care through the MOMS program, family planning, injury prevention and control. Clinics are offered for family planning services, including pregnancy testing, prenatal support services and breast, and cervical and colorectal cancer screening through the Cancer Services Program.

The Early Intervention program serves children from birth up to the age of three years who are at risk for developmental delay. Services available to eligible children include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, vision services, special education, audiology, nursing, and social work. The Preschool Special Education program provides services for the three to five year-old population. Services are provided in a variety of settings. The Chautauqua County Health Department provides assistance through the Physically Handicapped Children's Program for eligible children.

Family Health services are generally available at low cost or no cost to members of the public. Third party reimbursement is sought from Commercial and Medicaid insurance companies for some health services.

The following chart reflects the distribution of nursing time and effort attributed to the various disease control and family health programs implemented by the Division of Nursing Services.

Distribution of Nursing Division's Efforts in 2009



* Nursing time from public and school-based H1N1 clinic immunizations not included

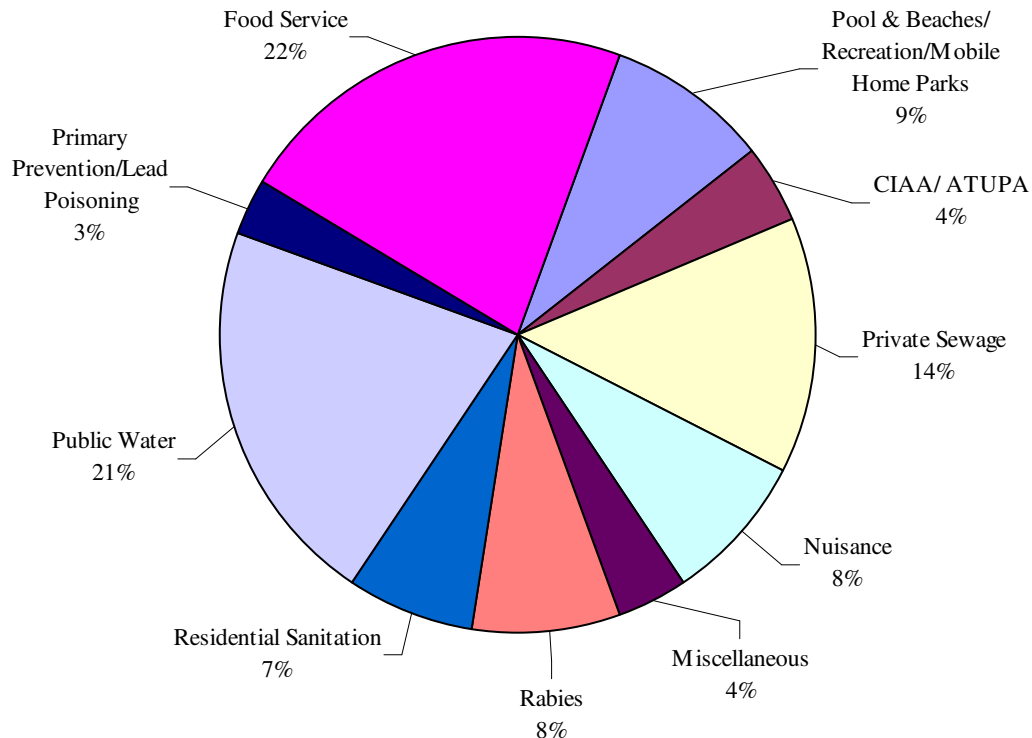
Preventive health services provided by the Nursing Division are not recorded individually, but are classified within the program areas depicted in the chart above. The small proportion of time spent on the MOMS Program is largely due to the fact that the program was internalized within the Health Department from a subcontract in November. Therefore, only two months of CCHD nursing time were recorded for the program. It is also important to note that several of the programs overlap in scope, so the proportions of time spent on each program may be slightly over- or under-estimated.

Health Education is an integral part of all Health Department programming. The focus of this division is to identify health issues of local importance, develop and implement strategies to address these issues, and strengthen the community's long-term ability to manage and improve its health and well-being. Health education and promotion presentations and information are available to the public. Program areas include all health and wellness issues, in addition to youth development, community health assessment, coordination of countywide resources, and data collection.

The Environmental Health Division ensures the residents of Chautauqua County a healthful environment through its various programs of inspections, surveillance, and enforcement. Its focus is to prevent disease by responding to emergencies and nuisance complaints, monitoring public water supplies, assisting homeowners with private water and sewage systems, inspecting food service establishments and recreational facilities, and inspecting homes for lead hazards, while preserving a safe and healthy environment for all County residents and visitors.

The following chart reflects the distribution of manpower attributed to the various programs implemented by the Division of Environmental Health Services.

Distribution of Environmental Health's Effort in 2009



Protecting and improving the public's health and promoting wellness cannot be managed by a single organization, health provider, government or community agency alone. Partnerships, coalitions and collaborations are essential to the public health effort. The Chautauqua County Health Department remains committed to the provision of high quality preventive and educational health programs, assessment of the health status of our community, and the development of policies and plans to meet identified public health needs.

The 2010-2013 Chautauqua County Community Health Assessment (CHA) was completed in 2009. The CHA seeks to identify target populations that may be at increased risk of poor health outcomes, as well as to assess the larger community environment and how it can play a role in addressing the health needs of individuals. This year's assessment was a result of collaboration between designees from each of the four County hospitals and the CCHD. The CHA is the most specific and accurate health assessment conducted for the community, by the community. The Chautauqua County Health Assessment is now available on the *new* County Health Department website: <http://www.co.chautauqua.ny.us/departments/health/>.

Additional information regarding Chautauqua County Health Department services may be obtained by calling 1-866-64-6789 or visiting the internet at URL: <http://www.co.chautauqua.ny.us/departments/health/Pages/default.aspx>

I. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

Communicable disease control is one of the main functions of a public health department.

Communicable Diseases are infectious diseases which can be transmitted from one individual to another either directly or indirectly. New York State requires over 70 diseases be reported to the local health department, requiring staff to investigate and provide education to prevent further spread of illness and to contact exposed individuals if treatment or monitoring for symptoms is needed. Phone calls are placed with each county emergency room to monitor for any increase in illness or unusual diseases. Implementing public health surveillance can help detect outbreaks and enable prompt public health intervention. Many hours are dedicated to this program to maintain the community's health. The following are some of the diseases which were investigated in 2009.

Communicable Disease Reports for Chautauqua County, 2009 Preliminary Data

Disease Name	Freq	Rate	Disease Name	Freq	Rate
Campylobacteriosis	7	5.2	Chlamydia	341	254.9
Giardiasis	9	6.7	Gonorrhea	42	31.4
Salmonellosis	13	9.7	Syphilis (Secondary & Latent)	1	0.7
Cryptosporidiosis	5	3.7	Legionellosis	1	0.7
Meningitis (other bacteria)	0	0.0	Lyme Disease	12	9.0
Meningitis, aseptic	7	5.2	Meningococcal Disease	1	0.7
Streptococcal Pneumoniae Invasive Disease	21	15.7	Haemophilus Influenzae Invasive Disease (not type B)	2	1.5
Streptococcal Group A Invasive Disease	8	6.0	Streptococcal Group B Invasive Disease	11	8.2
Hepatitis B, chronic	9	6.7	Pertussis	23	17.2
Hepatitis C, chronic	106	79.2	Tuberculosis	1	0.7
Hepatitis C (acute)	4	3.0	Influenza A	428	319.9
Mumps	2	1.5	Influenza B	19	14.2

*Rates per 100,000 population, based on 2008 county population of 133,789

While only 428 cases of Influenza A were reported in 2009, the actual incidence was much higher due to the H1N1 pandemic. Routine testing was not recommended by the CDC and NYSDOH for influenza-like illness; therefore, not all cases were confirmed. Staff worked with community-based organizations and schools, providing education to limit the spread of disease when dealing with cases of influenza-like illness.

Immunization Program

The Immunization Program provides vaccination for children and adults against vaccine-preventable disease by the administration of CDC-recommended immunizations. International travel vaccinations are also available for community residents traveling to developing countries in order to prevent illness and to reduce communicable disease importation upon return.

As of 2008, the Health Department no longer holds immunization clinics at public schools. All twelve Amish schools were visited by Public Health Nurses in 2009. During these visits, immunization education and promotion of childhood vaccination were provided for all parents.

Assessment, Feedback, eXchange and Incentive (AFIX) visits were conducted with private health care providers for the purposes of assessing immunization rates and the standards of

pediatric immunization practices. Educational material and information were provided at all visits.

Number of Doses of Vaccine Administered by Age, 2009 Preliminary Data*

<i>0-2 yrs</i>	<i>3-6 yrs</i>	<i>7-12 yrs</i>	<i>13-18 yrs</i>	<i>19-24 yrs</i>	<i>25-44 yrs</i>	<i>45-64 yrs</i>	<i>65+ yrs</i>	<i>Total</i>
921	1423	2466	2093	824	1219	1785	967	11698

*As of February, 2010

Tuberculosis Program

The local Health Department has the primary responsibility for preventing and controlling Tuberculosis (TB). Prevention and control efforts include identifying and treating all persons who have TB disease, finding and evaluating persons who have been in contact with TB patients to determine whether they have TB infection or disease, and treating them appropriately, and testing high-risk groups for TB infection to identify candidates for treatment of latent infection and to ensure the completion of treatment. In 2009, 128 individuals were evaluated for treatment of latent tuberculosis infection. One new case of active TB disease was identified.

Jail Screening

The Chautauqua County Health Department provides the following services at the county jail:

- HIV education, counseling and testing; partner notification, referral services for Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia testing with education, treatment, and contact investigation
- Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Tetanus/diphtheria vaccination

One hundred and eighty-six persons received HIV testing with no positive results.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The Health Department and the Office of Emergency Services continues to partner with and share *Public Health Preparedness and Response to Bioterrorism (BT)* funds through CDC and NYSDOH. The outcomes or deliverables of this grant focus on public health emergency preparedness planning, training, education, and communication.

Major events conducted during the year include:

- Successful completion of a series of drills utilizing alternative forms of communication including cellular phones, non-Internet connection to the Health Information Network, and cascading alerts through the Health Alert Network.
- Six staff members completed Psychological First Aid Training.
- Vulnerability assessments were completed on municipal water systems serving greater than 3,000 residents.
- Drafting of a Chautauqua County Health Department Continuity of Operations Plan
- Review and amendment of Strategic National Stockpile plan
- Participated in standard operating procedures (SOP) for radio technology.
- Activities in response to H1N1 pandemic.
- Activities in response to August flood in the North County.

A great deal of Public Health Emergency Preparedness time and effort was contributed to H1N1 response in 2009 through the beginning of 2010. Working collaboratively with Emergency

Services, the CCHD was charged with the responsibility to track illness, receive and relate messages from state and federal health agencies, communicate with and educate the public, obtain and distribute H1N1 vaccine, and to plan and implement vaccination clinics to at-risk populations throughout the County. Nearly 10,000 vaccinations were administered to County residents through CCHD school-based and public H1N1 clinics. The following bullets describe activities conducted from the beginning of the epidemic in Chautauqua County through the present.

H1N1 Response Events:

- CCHD and Emergency Preparedness participated in 4 cascading notification drills pertaining to H1N1 event.
- On April 27, first two suspect cases reported in Chautauqua County.
- On April 30, first H1N1 case confirmed.
- One school district (Bemus Point Central School) was closed as a result of a positive H1N1 case.
- Three press conferences were held by the County Executive and the Public Health Director.
- A call center was available for public questions May 2nd and 3rd.
- To follow up on H1N1 cases, communicable disease nurses used line lists and testing was completed at the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory in Albany and was reported via the Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS).
- Federal funding totaling \$440,549 was distributed to the CCHD for vaccine, distribution, planning, administration, lab, epidemiology and surveillance, and education.
- Several presentations were conducted at schools to provide information about H1N1 disease and vaccinations available for their children.
- Proper handwashing techniques were taught to the public and to students through multiple presentations on eight different occasions at schools and other popular venues.
- H1N1 funds were used to hire a coordinator as well as temporary nurses and clerical staff to vaccinate, assist the public, and enter data.
- CCHD worked with Emergency Services as well as local Fire/EMS staff, the Sheriff's Department, and school administrators to plan and carry out point of dispensing units for H1N1 vaccinations.
- H1N1 vaccinations were administered to students and staff during 38 school-based PODs at 18 public school districts and one private school. Public were permitted to attend 15 of the 38 school-based PODs.
- Public vaccination PODs were held on 11 different occasions throughout the County at colleges, the Chautauqua Mall, senior centers, soup kitchens, and medical offices.

Emergency Preparedness was also challenged by the occurrence of a 100-year flood in Silver Creek in August, 2009. The flood caused a great deal of damage and impacted many lives.

- People affected by the flood in the Silver Creek area totaled 546.
- 37 trailers were destroyed at the Silver Creek Mobile Home Park.
- Office of Emergency Services (OES) staff were required on scene for 25 days straight with an additional staff member or two visiting the site daily thru October.
- 42 different fire departments responded as part of the county fire and EMS mutual aid plan providing thousands of hours of volunteer manpower.

- The Ladies' Fire Auxiliary, along with the Salvation Army, and the Red Cross provided food to the responders and the public.
- The OES continues to assist with long-term recovery as needed and assisted with the original organization of volunteer groups sent through the volunteer organization assisting in disaster (VOAD) to do the clean-up.
- Public Health issues that arose, such as Tetanus vaccinations, potential growth of mosquito populations, public water system safety, sanitation, mold, and hazardous waste were addressed by the CCHD.

Other activities included extensive staff preparedness training, communication systems coordination and continued efforts to develop and document Public Health Emergency Response policy and procedures.

II. FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

Family Health Service programming involves the provision of nursing services to individuals and groups at home, work, school, and in public health centers. Public health nursing integrates its services with those of other health and allied workers in the planning and implementation of community health programs. CCHD clinics are licensed Title X, Article 28 Diagnostic and Treatment Center facilities.

Family Planning Clinic Program

Family planning reproductive health services are offered at the Health Department's two main office sites, Jamestown and Dunkirk. These services are directed to individuals of reproductive age desiring comprehensive family planning health care services aimed at avoiding unintended pregnancy. Funding for clinic services is achieved through a Title X grant and through public and private health insurance billing.

Up until 2007, the community's demand for clinic services had gradually declined from 2001 in large part due to availability of health insurance for low income persons and private provider capacity. However, an increase in clinic visits was seen in 2009 with 6,571 visits made by 2,970 clients.

STD Program

During 2009, STD clinic services were used by 1,472 people making a total of 1,967 clinic visits. STD program public health nurses also provided contact and disease follow up for 42 cases of gonorrhea, 341 cases of Chlamydia and 1 case of syphilis. The greatest proportion of sexually transmitted infections was among the 15 to 29 year old age group.

Through regularly scheduled community presentations and meetings, the Health Department provided STD/HIV educational information to schools, human service providers, and community organizations

HIV Program

In 2009, there were 1,498 visits to CCHD's HIV Confidential Testing Clinics. HIV tests conducted totaled 1,504 with an additional 1,041 tests conducted at the Family Planning Clinic. The majority of the testing is performed using an HIV rapid testing method where most results are available in 20-40 minutes.

In addition, health care management for HIV-positive individuals is provided in collaboration with the Erie County Medical Center. These patients are able to access medical services at the Jamestown and Dunkirk clinic sites.

Cancer Services Program

In April 2009, the Partners for Prevention program became the Cancer Services Program (CSP). CSP is funded through NYSDOH to provide breast and cervical screening for uninsured women and colorectal screening for uninsured men and women. The program provides outreach and education about the importance of timely cancer screening, as well as case management during the screening process. Patients receive services through a private physician's office or through the Health Department clinics in Jamestown or Dunkirk. In 2009, among women with an annual household income at or below 250% of the federal poverty level in the County, 18.3% of women aged 40-64 received a mammogram, 8.5% of women 18-64 received a Pap test, and 10.3% of women 18-64 received a clinical breast examination through the CSP. Additionally, 85 men and women received colorectal screening. A competitive RFA was issued by NYSDOH during 2007 and the Health Department submitted an application in December requesting funding to screen 600 people annually through 2013.

Medicaid Obstetrical and Maternal Services (MOMS)

The CCHD has been the MOMS health supportive services provider for Chautauqua County for many years. In May, 2009, the program was internalized within the CCHD clinics and is no longer subcontracted to an external agency. MOMS clients are seen in the Jamestown, Dunkirk, and Mayville Health Department clinics. The MOMS program has two components: the prenatal medical care provided by the private obstetrical provider and a supportive services package which includes case management, outreach, presumptive Medicaid eligibility, prenatal education, psycho-social assessment and counseling, nutritional education and counseling. The number of women seen in 2009 through this program for supportive services totaled approximately 956.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The Chautauqua County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CCLPPP) is an important public health program aimed at reducing the incidence of childhood lead poisoning and associated health consequences. Lead poisoning prevention education, case management, environmental investigation, lead hazard assessment, and abatement follow up are activities conducted in the lead program through a large collaborative county level. Monitoring of children with elevated blood lead levels is an important component. In 2009, approximately 2,529 child blood lead tests were performed in Chautauqua County. Twenty-three new children were followed due to blood lead levels ≥ 10 ug/dL, *up* from twenty-one children in 2008.

In November 2005, Chautauqua County was awarded a third Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant for 2.2 million dollars. The Lead Safe County III Grant has allowed continued lead hazard control activities in low-income housing occupied by children under age six throughout Chautauqua County (especially rental housing) and to undertake extensive training, education, and outreach to parents, educators, human service workers, property owners, and contractors. The program was administered through the County Health Department, with implementation facilitated by a subcontract with Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation (CHRIC). Lead Safe County III Grant proposed to complete 175 units of lead-safe housing, 96% of which would be rental units.

In 2009, 77 units were completed. From 2005 to 2009, 184 units were completed, 86% of which were rental units.

In November 2009, Chautauqua County was awarded a fourth Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant for 2.6 million dollars. In 2007, "Primary Prevention" of childhood lead poisoning became the focus of the CCLPPP. Primary prevention reduces or eliminates exposure or risk factors before a child's blood lead levels become elevated. The CCLPPP's goal is to reduce residential lead hazard by building partnerships with other public and private agencies, conducting assessments of local needs and resources, and developing and implementing local policies and programs. In October 2008, the CCHD was awarded a three-year Primary Prevention Lead grant from the NYSDOH to aid in the prevention of childhood lead poisoning in the City of Jamestown. The entire City of Jamestown has been declared a high-risk area for lead poisoning due to its old housing stock. As part of the Chautauqua County Lead Task Force, the Health Department assisted in the coordination of a lead poisoning awareness campaign, which promoted lead poisoning prevention information and safe work practices and stressed the importance of having children tested for lead poisoning. Education was provided through public service announcements, cable television ads, and numerous on-site demonstrations.

Children at Risk for Disabilities Program

The Early Intervention component of this program serves children from birth up to the age of three years who have been diagnosed with a developmental delay. CCHD public health nurses provide service coordination. Services available to eligible children include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, vision services, special education, audiology, nursing, and social work. Services are provided in a variety of settings which include the home, child care home, day care and center-based programming. Preliminary data for 2009 indicates that 425 children were enrolled into the Early Intervention Program, 213 children were enrolled into the Child Find Program, and 293 children received services through the Early Intervention Program.

The Preschool Special Education component of the program provides services for the three to five year-old population. Authorization for services is made by committees on Preschool Special Education representing the county's 18 school districts. Services are provided within three Chautauqua County center-based special education programs and in less restrictive settings including Head Start, regular nursery schools, and the home by certified professionals. During the 2009-2010 school year (as of February, 2010), 434 children were qualified to receive related or center-based services through the Preschool Education Program. Of those who qualified, 116 received center-based services while 299 received related services. The challenges for the Preschool program are increased costs related to rates designated by the State Education Department and new restrictions in the services that can be billed for Medicaid reimbursement.

Physically Handicapped Children's Program

Financial assistance for medical and treatment services is available through the Chautauqua County Health Department for eligible children from birth up to the age of 21 years. Eligibility to receive financial assistance is based upon a covered serious or chronic physical condition, and the financial status of the parents. In 2009, there was a decrease in participation, which is directly related to the decreased funding available to the program and elimination of orthodontic

treatment. There was also a reorganization of Kaleida Health System, which directly affected the referrals for new and re-certifications of children associated with Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

III. HEALTH EDUCATION and PROMOTION

Chautauqua County 2010-2013 Community Health Assessment

In keeping with the Commissioner of Health's statewide mission to improve the health of all New Yorkers, the New York State Department of Health requires local health departments to conduct Community Health Assessments (CHA) every four years, and local hospitals to submit a Community Service Plan (CSP) every three years. The latest round of assessments and plans provided a unique opportunity to enable the hospitals and local health departments to join forces to prioritize community health needs and to develop remedial strategies. This process created a shared vision and built true collaborations within the health care community. The Chautauqua County Health Assessment is now available on the new County Health Department website; <http://www.co.chautauqua.ny.us/departments/health/>.

Designees from Women's Christian Association Hospital (WCA), Brooks Memorial Hospital, Westfield Memorial Hospital, Lakeshore Hospital, Chautauqua County Health Network and CCHD met monthly to compile and analyze local, regional and state data to gain a better understanding of the County and its existing health needs in various communities.

The CHA seeks to identify target populations that may be at increased risk of poor health outcomes, as well as to assess the larger community environment and how it can play a role in addressing the health needs of individuals. The CHA process also identifies those areas where better information is needed, especially information on health disparities among subpopulations, quality of health care, and the occurrence and severity of health care barriers in the community. The CHA is the basis for all local public health planning.

This latest CHA process sought the direct input of the community. Thirty-eight community focus groups were conducted from January to May 2009, throughout multiple regions in the County. A total of 525 individual responses to the question "What are the health needs of our community" were collected and tabulated. During the community engagement process it became obvious that the community identified that the three health priority areas should be chronic disease prevention, access to care, and increased physical activity and improved nutrition. The community-selected priorities mirrored the health care community's selected priorities, with the exception of infectious disease. The CHA is the most specific and accurate health assessment conducted for the community, by the community.

Public Relations and Outreach

The Health Education Division generated 71 news releases in 2009, which included water emergencies, rabies exposures, chronic diseases and local resources, as well as promotion of clinic services. Many of these releases generated television or radio interviews.

The Chautauqua County Health Department is currently working to enhance public relations and health promotion efforts through the expansion of the Health Education Division. A health educator was hired in April to provide additional health education and promotion services to the County. Overall in 2009, the Department participated in 55 events that included presentations, promotion of services, and health fairs, reaching over 6,400 County residents. Venues for promotion of services and presentations of health information included schools, municipal

buildings, shopping centers, parks, fairs, soup kitchens, religious centers, and workplaces. Topics varied but mainly focused on Health Department programs (MOMS, WIC, CSP, Lead, and the family planning clinics), as well as nutrition, physical activity, H1N1 influenza, breast health, food safety, patient empowerment, rabies, and smoking cessation.

The Health Department has also contracted with a media specialist to design and implement a strategic marketing/public relations campaign and branding strategy that will promote and advertise all Health Department programs and services. As a result, the CCHD demonstrated a much stronger presence in the media during 2009 than it has the past. In 2009, 19 different commercials or news appearances were televised, 16 different radio advertisements aired on local stations, and several promotional items were designed and released to the public. Specifically, bags, magnets, stickers, key chains, hand sanitizers, pencils, Frisbees, water bottles, and coasters were designed to promote Health Department programs.

Family Planning and Teen Pregnancy Prevention

The Chautauqua County Health Department has continued to provide high quality reproductive health services for the community through clinical services and the promotion of public health education. Data continues to show the success of the program in reaching the adolescent target group.

The maternal and child health statistics for Chautauqua County compiled by the New York State Health Department demonstrated a significant decrease in pregnancy incidence from 1993 to 2004 among girls ages 15 to 19 with a pregnancy rate per 1000 females of 60.8 in 1993 dropping to a rate of 44 in 2004. Since 2004, rates of teen pregnancy have fluctuated slightly each year. In years 2005 and 2006, the rate increased to 48.7 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years, then decreased to 39.4 in 2007. While an increase in rates to 48.7% was noted in 2005 for teens 15-19 years of age; the three year average for the period 2003-2005 shows a moderate decrease from the 2001-2003 levels. The 2003-2005 rates for 10-14 year olds was 1.0 pregnancy per 1,000 female residents, while the rates for 15-17 year olds and 15-19 year olds were 24.4 and 45.7, respectively. Rates for 2006 and 2007 were similar.

Community information and public education to improve the community's health remains a vital component in the Comprehensive Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care Services Program. The greatest strength in our outreach and education component is collaboration with community agencies and organizations.

Education was provided in a variety of settings totaling 287 presentations reaching 5,893 individuals with information about contraception, healthy decision making, women's health issues, and STD/HIV prevention. Awareness promotional visits were made to school nurses in all 18 districts. One hundred and ninety-one educational sessions were presented in seventeen schools (13 school districts) and one college (JCC) reaching 4,016 students.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is a federal program filtered down to the County through New York State. WIC, a special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children, provides nutritious foods including low-fat or fat-free milk, whole grains, vegetables and fruits, breastfeeding support or formula to low-income pregnant or breastfeeding women, infants and children up to age five.

The CCHD recently received a grant from the NYSDOH to run the WIC program in the County for five years. The program is operated in collaboration with Cornell University Cooperative Extension. Nutrition and health education are key components of the program. Complete implementation and operation of the Chautauque County WIC program will occur during 2010.

Tobacco Use Prevention

Chautauque County Health Department held four grant contracts with NYSDOH Bureau of Tobacco Use Control and Prevention for over \$700,000. The programs worked to reduce the burden of tobacco use in Chautauque, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties. The Tri-County program implemented policy and system changes to reduce outdoor tobacco use, retail tobacco advertising and secondhand smoke exposure. Although Chautauque County's funding ended for the Tri-County Tobacco Free Program in August 2009, continued grant coverage will be administered by Cornell Cooperative of Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties. Chautauque County DOH will continue to collaborate with the Tri-County Tobacco Free Program to support tobacco free initiatives and help smokers quit. The CCHD received hundreds of nicotine replacement products and distributed them to eligible clients. The CCHD referred the public to the NYS Smokers' Quitline for assistance in quitting smoking. The number of Chautauque County residents calling the Quitline in 2009 exceeded 2,900.

The Reality Check program worked to reduce the impact of the tobacco industry manipulative practices in marketing to our youth. The program administration, as of August 1, 2009, was transferred to the Allegany Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Chautauque County youth are being serviced by the coordinator who implements program goals and activities in Chautauque and Cattaraugus County. The CCHD will continue to support the youth programs to reduce the impact of tobacco marketing in the County.

The Baby and Me- Tobacco Free Program and College Action Project Against Tobacco ended March 31, 2009. The three-year pilot programs resulted in published research data that will contribute to the science of tobacco control. The Baby & Me – tobacco Free Program enrolled over 1,000 pregnant smoking women with a 60% success quit rate 6 months post-partum. The College Action Project worked with 5 SUNY universities across NY State to assist in reducing tobacco marketing and advertising on school campuses.

Chronic Disease

The funding for Steps to a Healthier NY expired in 2008. The program focused on the prevention of diabetes, obesity and asthma and the control of risk factors including poor nutrition, physical inactivity and tobacco use and exposure. Since the grant period ended, the County has not had the funding to support chronic disease prevention programs. During the joint Community Health Assessment and Community Service Plan planning, it was determined that the County hospitals and the Health Department would work collaboratively to develop a Diabetes Prevention and Management Task Force. Health Department staff members have periodically provided physical activity and nutrition education at health fairs throughout the County.

Dental Health

The Health department assists with referral to a dental van run by the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. The van operates with Article 28 status accepting Medicaid, Child

Health Plus, private insurance or fees given on a sliding scale. University at Buffalo staff plans to apply for grant funding in the near future to replace the aging 38-foot mobile dental unit.

In regards to dental health, the main goal of the Health Department is to increase the proportion of parents and care givers who use feeding practices that prevent baby bottle mouth and tooth decay to 75%. To meet that goal, handouts and referrals to the dental van are provided on an as-needed basis to parents by the WIC, MOMS, and EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program) programs, and are available at expectant parent classes and dental offices.

Linkages and Coalition Building

The Health Education Division has been challenged in the area of building and/or participating in coalitions. The following list represents the 2009 coalitions/task force involvement by assisting Health Department personnel with immediate needs of the Health Education Division:

1. Coordinated Children's Services Initiative
2. Chautauqua County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
3. Community Health Network of Western New York
4. Western New York Family Planning Educators
5. Family Planning Advisory Board
6. Chautauqua County Outreach Network
7. Western New York HIV/AIDS Public Health
8. Western New York 50+ Consortia
9. Chautauqua County AIDS Advisory Board
10. Lead Task Force
11. Western New York Asthma Coalition
12. Western New York Diabetes Coalition
13. Human Needs Task Force
14. Chautauqua County Health Network Citizen Advisory Board
15. Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition
16. P2 Collaborative of WNY
17. Cancer Services Coalition
18. Faith-Based Initiative

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Division of Environmental Health Services strives to prevent disease and preserve a safe and healthy environment for all county residents and visitors. The services provided by this division include:

- Inspection and permitting of food service and recreational facilities, such as motels, hotels, camps, pools and beaches.
- Permitting and inspecting all private sewage systems being installed in the county.
- Protecting public water supplies through inspection, monitoring and water analysis.
- Responding to public health emergencies, chemical releases and public health nuisance conditions.
- Performing property transfer surveys of on-site water and sewage systems
- Providing consultation with homeowners on their water and sewage systems and performing bacteriological analysis of drinking water.

Environmental Health's greatest success story each year is the absence of any environmental, food or water- borne illness outbreaks at facilities regulated by the Health Department.

Jamestown Branch Closure

The Environmental Health Division of the CCHD underwent several structural changes in 2009. The most notable change was the closure of the Jamestown Environmental Health office. The sanitarians and clerical staff formerly stationed at the South County Office Building were relocated to the main Health Department offices at the Hall R. Clothier Building in Mayville. It is expected that this move will result in long-term cost savings for the County. The North County Environmental Health branch continues to operate in Dunkirk at the D&F Plaza.

Food Service Establishment Permitting and Inspections

The CCHD Environmental Health Division performs regular inspections of permanent, temporary, and mobile food service establishments. Food service establishments are classified as low, medium or high risk. Bar-only operations are classified as low risk and are inspected every two years. Medium-risk restaurants are inspected once per year. These restaurants are commonly referred to as "cook and serve," where foods are prepared for immediate consumption.

High-risk food services establishments prepare foods in advance and then cool the food item to be reheated when served to the customer. The objective here is to limit the amount of time that foods are held in the "danger zone." The danger zone is the temperature range from 41 degrees to 135 degrees Fahrenheit where pathogenic bacteria can begin to replicate into dangerous numbers capable of causing illness. High-risk restaurants must be inspected either two times per year or undergo one inspection and one Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP). During the HACCP process, one potentially hazardous food item is tracked from the point of delivery until it is served to the customer. This process identifies critical points in the process during which food preparers can stop the transmission of foodborne illness.

In 2009, public health sanitarians conducted 586 initial inspections, 44 HACCPs, and 132 reinspections in the 678 permitted food service establishments in the County. Sanitarians

identified 233 red critical violations in the course of their inspections. Red critical items relate directly to factors which lead to foodborne illness. These items must receive immediate attention and must be addressed prior to the inspector leaving the restaurant.

Temporary food service establishment operators must obtain a permit for every event they service. At each of these events, a sanitarian inspects the establishments on-site. Mobile food service establishments must be permitted each year and are inspected at the time the permit is requested. Mobile food service establishments are additionally inspected throughout the year at events that they service.

In the event of a complaint, all restaurants are inspected within seven days. During all inspections, sanitarians check to see that service workers are handling food properly, that foods are kept at the proper temperature and are being stored properly. They also ensure that the restaurant environment meets the requirements of the New York State Sanitary Code.

Food Handler Training

The Sanitary Code of the Chautauqua County Health District was amended in May of 2009 to include requirements for food handler training in permitted medium and high-risk food service establishments. The impetus for requirement was the number of red critical health violations cited in food service establishment and the investigation of outbreaks of illnesses caused by infected food handlers or foods improperly held after being prepared.

The food handler training program was developed by a public health sanitarian that became a Registered Trainer with the National Environmental Health association (NEHA) and will utilize their Certified Professional Food Handler textbook in a 3-hour class and upon completion food service workers will receive a certificate valid for 3 years.

Rabies Control

Fourteen animal rabies clinics were conducted by the Health Department and by towns/villages and cities in cooperation with the Health Department in 2009. Ongoing rabies vaccination is also conducted by the Humane Society in cooperation with the Health Department. Rabies vaccination was administered to 5,693 animals (2,770 dogs and 2,903 cats and 20 ferrets). Thirty-three individuals received authorization for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis due to bites from or exposure to high risk animals. Thirteen individuals received pre-exposure rabies vaccine due to high risk occupation. Thirty-three individuals received rabies serologic testing. Investigations were conducted on 439 animal bite/incident reports. A total of 73 animal specimens were submitted for testing with one raccoon and one cat testing positive for rabies. Land animals infected with the Rabies virus have been detected in all townships except for Mina, located in the southwest corner of the County. The last wildlife oral rabies vaccination was conducted in 2008. The vaccination program could not be conducted in 2009 due to cuts in funding.

Environmental Health Promotion

Three Household Hazardous Waste Days were held in 2009 in Chautauqua County. The Health Department did a mass mailing to various farms, businesses, schools, golf courses and green houses. Posters and fliers were created by Health Department staff and distributed by environmental personnel during routine inspections countywide. In total, 683 households were served. Specifically, 3,000 gallons of antifreeze, 9,805 gallons of various household liquids,

1,300 gallons of liquid pesticide, 2,000 pounds of solid pesticide, 2,050 gallons of oil based paint and 785 pounds of fluorescent bulbs were collected. The antifreeze was recycled by the county.

Water Supply Emergencies

July – The Health Department placed the Village of Fredonia on a boil water order for 4 days due to a water main break in a 10 inch line on Water Street near Canadaway Creek. The break was significant enough to decrease water pressure in many parts of the system, warranting the boil order.

August – The Health Department assisted the Village of Silver Creek in issuing a boil water order due to the flooding that occurred on August 10th. This order was precautionary since many parts of the distribution system were under water, and there were many water main breaks. The order was lifted after 2 days.

The Health Department issued a boil water order to the entire Village of Forestville from August 10th – 12th due to loss of pressure from main breaks during the flood. The initial boil order was lifted after 2 days. However the Cedar Street area remained under a boil water order until September 22nd, when the water main under Walnut Creek was repaired.

The Chautauqua County Health Department issued a boil order to the Town of Pomfret's Van Buren Water District and in the Town of Portland in the Van Buren Point and Greencrest. It included all customers in Pomfret and Portland whose water comes from the City of Dunkirk. The order was due to water main breaks and loss of water in the Portland water storage tank and lasted for 6 days until breaks were repaired and passing samples verified water quality.

Comprehensive Drinking Water Needs Assessment (Water Study)

In response to drinking water emergencies that occurred in 2006 and 2007, environment health staff under County Executive guidance, initiated a comprehensive water system evaluation of all municipal drinking water systems. This project will identify each system's strengths, weaknesses and improvements needed to provide safe and reliable public water to county customers for the next several generations (50 to 100 years). The County's municipal water systems are over 100 years old and are in need of significant upgrades to their sources, treatment plants, storage tanks and water mains to ensure public health and economic development. The project also identifies areas where extension of public water is needed to solve private water drinking water problems. Because this is a regional problem, creative solutions including municipal partnerships, interconnections and shared services must be explored to economically solve the problem. The assessment of public water supplies in the North County was completed in 2008.

Drinking Water System Upgrades

The Environmental Health Division is currently working with several municipal water suppliers to inspect and upgrade aging infrastructure. The Water Resources team is working closely to assist the Villages of Cherry Creek and Forestville on major system upgrades. They also worked closely with the City of Dunkirk to develop and initiate plans to upgrade critical components in their water system.

Water/Sewer Mapping Project

This mapping project creates a parcel based information collection and storage application that gives Environmental Health inspectors access to private sewage and water well data for parcels while in the field. It includes data entry of historical water-sewage records and the ability to conduct septic and water sewage survey inspections using state-of-the art technology.

The Environmental Health Division supervised data entry of 6,010 historic septic system records in 2009, adding to a total of 15,045 over 2 years. This task was initiated in May 2008, and is nearly complete for the entire county. It consisted of creating a data entry application and scanning and linking historic inspection sheets and associated design maps to parcels. This task gives inspectors access to all of the historical information in the field and streamlines office efficiency. While this proved a monumental effort, it will increase Department efficiency and ultimately save both office and field staff time.

Digital data collection applications for septic inspections, water sewage surveys, and GPS collection of septic system components and well head points have been developed and are currently being field tested by staff. An associated office application which allows for the clerical staff to assign work and track progress of jobs was also created and is currently being piloted.

Findley Lake Sewer Project

Environmental Health staff completed a study to address septic system contamination around Findley Lake. We are now working closely with the Town of Mina in planning a central sewage collection and treatment system to address the problem.

Dunkirk Beaches Study

Beginning in 2008, Environmental Health partnered with the SUNY Fredonia Biology Department in an effort to identify sources of *E. coli* contamination that has resulted in public bathing beach closures in the Dunkirk area over the past several years. To determine problematic areas and animal origins of the bacteria, *E. coli* exceedances were coupled with microbial source tracking methods. In microbial source tracking, the DNA of *E. coli* bacteria is compared to a library of *E. coli* DNA from known sources to identify its origin (human, domestic pets, birds, cattle, etc.).

Two years of routine sampling, observation, and special investigations led to the conclusion that weather variables play a significant role in *E. coli* exceedances at the beaches. Surface runoff that follows periods of heavy rainfall carries bacteria and potentially more pathogens from non-point sources to the beaches, thereby threatening the health of the lake system, bathers, and animals. Urban and agricultural runoffs seem to be the greatest contributors to *E. coli* loads; however, we have identified one definite source of pollution and several areas of concern that should be investigated in the future.

Definite Sources:

- Chautauqua County Fairgrounds during fair week

Areas of Concern:

- Hyde Creek East and West Branches South of Route 20 in Sheridan
- Crooked Brook Creek South of Site 2 (Paper Factory)

- Goose Creek on Franklin Street between Tenney and Talcott Streets
- Canadaway Creek north of Spoden Road in Pomfret

Regulatory authorities have been notified of the study's results. Microbial source tracking has not provided any solid evidence that any particular animal source is to blame for *E. coli* exceedances. Testing for human-specific *Bacteroides* provided evidence that human waste is present in the waterways that contribute to the Dunkirk Beaches. The CCHD is currently working to locate funding sources to conduct additional investigations and mitigate pollution from known sources.