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YEAR 2012 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) actively engaged in the delivery of essential public health services in the areas of family health, disease control, health education, environmental health and emergency preparedness in 2012.

The public health services and activities, as outlined in this report, helped to prevent diseases, promote healthy behaviors, and protect residents from hazards that could affect their health and safety. As always, I want to recognize and credit health department staff that enabled us to fulfill our mission by delivering the broad array of public health services in 2012 to assure the health and well being of Albany County residents. It is a privilege for me to highlight these activities in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Crucetti, MD, MPH
Commissioner of Health

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

In 2012 the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program continued to develop/enhance local public health preparedness plans and improve the County's capacity for responding to public health threats such as acts of terrorism, pandemic influenza, and other public health emergencies. The PHEP program worked with community partners to promote citizen preparedness and worked with other local, state and federal partners to ensure an integrated and cohesive approach in its public health preparedness efforts.

Cities Readiness Initiative –

To ensure continued readiness to dispense needed medical countermeasures to Albany County's entire population within 48 hours of the decision to do so, should there be a catastrophic public health emergency, CDC and state public health personnel conduct annual technical assistance reviews (TAR). The TAR scores are on a scale from zero to 100. In 2012, Albany County once again received a score of 100 on the TAR.

In addition to preparing for the TAR, Albany County utilized CRI funding to support annual drills to test the County's capacity to provide medical countermeasures to the public. In November 2012, ACDOH engaged the Capital District Chapter of the American Council of the Blind to ascertain Point of Dispensing (POD) considerations in addressing the unique needs of visually impaired/legally blind patients. POD documents were converted to braille and

large-print and were utilized during the drill. Additionally, ACDOH tested Albany County Communications Outreach Information Network (ACCOIN) partners' capacity to receive and send POD risk communication messaging to their clients.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) –

Preparedness activities funded by the PHEP cooperative agreement are targeted specifically for the development of emergency-ready public health departments that are flexible and adaptable. These efforts support the National Response Framework (NRF) , which guides how the nation responds to all types of hazards including infectious disease outbreaks; natural disasters; biological, chemical, and radiological incidents; and explosions.

New York State requires that local health departments (LHD) complete 13 specific grant deliverables on an annual basis. In addition, the PHEP grant requires LHDs to maintain capacity to meet the requirements of 22 additional maintenance deliverables, all of which were met.

As part of the PHEP grant, ACDOH engaged in seasonal influenza educational activities. PHEP staff developed a valuable toolkit to educate the public about seasonal influenza. The Stay at Home Toolkit was distributed to community partners and members of the public. It was also distributed as part of thermometer kits that are assembled by volunteers each year. In addition to the Stay at Home Toolkit, the thermometer kit contains a digital thermometer, instructions on use and cleaning, tissues, and hand sanitizer. The intent of the thermometer kit is to reach Albany County households that may not otherwise have such a resource in the home. A total of 7,000 thermometer kits and Stay at Home Toolkits have been distributed with assistance from our community partners. The toolkits are available in English, Spanish, Karen and Burmese.



Urban Area Security Initiative –

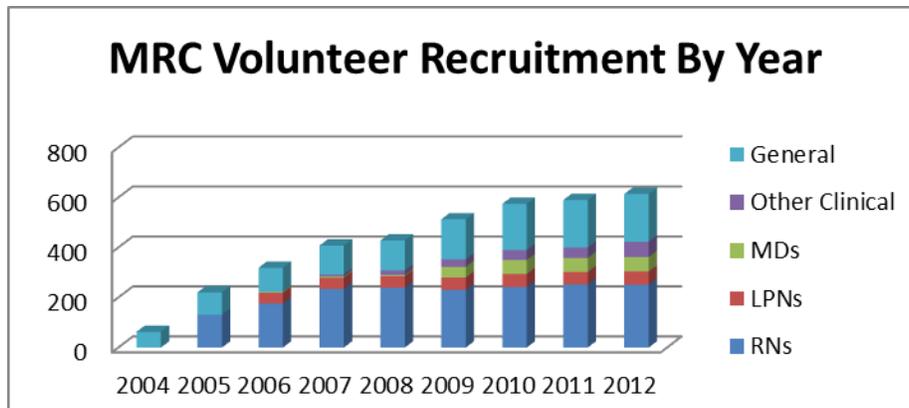
The Albany-Schenectady-Rensselaer Urban Area Working Group (including jurisdictions of the Counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Schoharie and the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy) was established to collaboratively build its capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from any manmade or natural catastrophic incident.

ACDOH collaborated with the U.S. Postal Services (USPS) on a Bio-Detection System drill called “Operation Albany” where a Point of Dispensing (POD) was activated to test the dispensing of medical countermeasures to postal employees. The “closed” POD operation was carried out using procedures developed in the event the BDS system detects aerosolized anthrax spores in the USPS Processing and Distribution Center located in Albany, NY. ACDOH dispensed appropriate antibiotics using a revised Clinic Data Management System (CDMS) form. The revised form provided for a more streamlined process for assessing eligibility of medical countermeasures appropriate for the treatment of anthrax. U.S. Postal Service employees successfully received the proper antibiotic with a throughput time of 8.5 minutes.

Albany County Medical Reserve Corps –

The Albany County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) enhances Albany County's emergency preparedness efforts by ensuring that a trained group of healthcare professionals and community volunteers are ready to assist the County in response to a public health emergency. The MRC currently has over 590 clinical and nonclinical volunteers registered to

assist the county in a public health emergency. In 2012, MRC volunteers were deployed to municipal shelters throughout Albany County as well as Suffolk County following Hurricane Sandy.



Albany County Citizen Corps Council –

The role of the Albany County Citizen Corps Council is to create a collaborative approach to increase community and individual participation in emergency preparedness, response and recovery. The Citizen Corps Council consists of various community partners and utilizes a multi-discipline approach to bring together stakeholders to enhance public health preparedness, citizen preparedness, and volunteer recruitment in Albany County. The Albany County Citizen Corps was formally established in 2003 and was reactivated in 2009 at which time quarterly meetings were conducted with over twenty regular attendees.



Albany County Citizen Corps partnered with independent hardware stores to promote citizen preparedness during National Preparedness Month. Participating customers received an eco-friendly shopping bag with important information on how to prepare their families and pets for emergencies and disasters. Over 8,000 bags and preparedness materials were distributed during September 2012

Albany County Citizen Corps maintains its website to recruit volunteers before, during and after an emergency. The www.registeredandready.com website was launched in the spring of 2011. As of December 31, 2012, the website had over 5,500 page views.

State Homeland Security –

The State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) helped to build capacities that enhance homeland security at the local level. Efforts included security enhancements, medical volunteer training, medical exercises, local training needs assessment, citizen preparedness education and training, and information sharing and dissemination activities. ACDOH utilized SPSH funding to support PHEP personnel, staff and volunteer training, volunteer recruitment, and exercises.

In August 2010, ACDOH commissioned a citizen preparedness survey with Siena Research Institute (SRI). SRI found that while 66% of those surveyed (n=1300) feel they are very or somewhat prepared, only 17% are fully prepared for an emergency. As a result, ACDOH partnered with Albany County Sheriff's office to create a media campaign focused on

increasing the level of household preparedness in the County. During 2012, three preparedness commercials were produced and advertised on major television networks and specific cable channels in the Capital District for a three month period. Following the execution of the media campaign in the spring of 2012, Siena Research Institute conducted an additional survey to assess the impact of the media campaign and found that 66% of respondents had talked with their household members about what to do in an emergency compared to 54% in the 2010 survey. Additionally, those that had a disaster plan increased from 46% to 50% and those that had a preparedness kit increased from 34% to 44%.

SHSP funding was also utilized to implement a community based outreach initiative aimed at increasing preparedness by utilizing the expertise and outreach of our community partners including schools and community-based organizations. In September 2012, participating organizations were provided a menu of preparedness activities to choose from and tailor to their clients/customers. Special emphasis was placed on reaching the target audiences identified in the 2010 Citizen Preparedness Survey conducted by Siena Research Institute. By December 2012, over 5,000 Albany County residents participated in these preparedness activities. This initiative will continue through 2013.

Public Health Education

Public Health Programs –

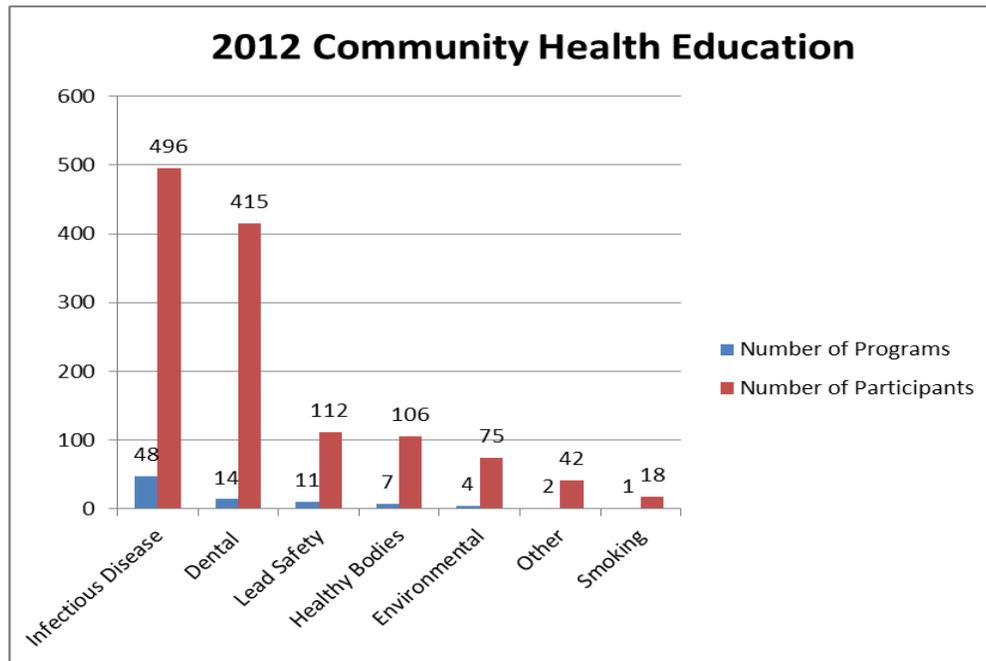
The Division of Chronic Disease / Injury Prevention and Community Health Education's mission is to prevent chronic diseases, injuries, and disabilities by coordinating health education services and promoting risk reduction activities, with special attention to underserved populations.

Through presentations, health fairs, answering inquires, active involvement with community partners and dissemination of health promotion material to the public through various media, public health educators and nurses promote lifestyle change by enhancing public awareness of prevention services and encouraging environments that support good health practices.

2012 activities are as follows:

- Public health educators and nurses conducted health and wellness presentations for school age children, adult community groups, and faith based organizations on a variety of topics including nutrition, diabetes prevention, cardiovascular disease, heat safety, arthritis, falls prevention, and Lyme disease. Evaluations indicate that all program met their educational objectives.
- Distributed health education information at health fairs and community events and throughout the County of Albany.
 - Collaborated with City of Albany South End Neighborhood Association to promote prevention (falls, infectious disease, nutrition, rabies, special needs) at “National Night Out” event.
- Provided information throughout the year to callers inquiring about topics and concerns such as human tick-borne diseases, rabies, head lice, scabies, bed bugs, communicable diseases, prescription medication disposal, and mold.
- Sponsored an Albany County School Nurses workshop attended by 27 school nurses to discuss bed bugs, communicable diseases, diabetes, nutrition, and school immunization requirements.

- Actively participated in HCDCI (a coalition of area hospitals, health insurers, county health departments, catholic charities and others in Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady counties to identify some of the major barriers to health services and develop initiatives to greatly reduce them). HCDCI activities included health planning, facilitated enrollment for public health insurance, elementary school-based preventive oral services, reducing minority health disparities, and the Poverello Center which provides free adult health services.
- Distributed **HEALTHtoday** newsletters to the public.



Injury Prevention –

- Supported SNUG, a violence intervention program to reduce shootings and killings in the City of Albany.
- Supported the Safe Kids Coalition led by the Albany Medical Center, whose goal is to prevent accidental childhood injuries and accidents. Activities included health fairs and child passenger safety initiatives.
- Promoted safe disposal of prescription and non-prescription medications in Albany County by promoting area collection events and providing information for the public.



Chronic Disease Prevention –

- Participated in the Healthy Hearts on the Hill initiative with Koinonia Primary Care and the Center for Excellence in Aging & Community Wellness at the University at Albany, School of Social Welfare. Healthy Hearts on the Hill encourages primarily Arbor Hill and West Hill residents to live a healthier lifestyle staying active, eating a

well-balanced diet, and visiting a healthcare provider. Healthy Hearts on the Hill sponsors established local activity sites (called Healthy Spaces) as follows:

- Arbor Hill Community Center
- Capital Area Peer Services
- Capital District Center for Independent Living
- Koinonia Primary Care
- Salvation Army
- Trinity Alliance of the Capital District
- Westview Homes



- In recognition of the Great American Smoke Out, the Albany County Department of Health collaborated with the Center for Smoking Cessation at Seton Health to provide free smoking cessation information and services (i.e. pre-counseling intervention, screening assessment, therapy dispensing) to fifty one (51) Albany County residents. Forty per cent (40%) of respondents surveyed indicated that they were abstinent one month later.



- Participated in the Capital District Tobacco Free Coalition, whose mission is to reduce adolescent and adult use of tobacco through cooperative programs in prevention, cessation, advocacy and community education. Initiatives of the group include pursuing tobacco-free spaces in the Capital Region (i.e. tobacco-free recreational areas, smoke-free housing, tobacco-free worksites).
- Participated in the Capital Region Healthy Communities Coalition (CRHCC whose mission is to promote regional coordination and advocacy of policies and environmental changes that promote healthy living. Educational seminars for the public included Improving Bike and Pedestrian Access in our Region, Capital District's Regional Sustainability Plan, and Childhood Obesity.



Strategic Alliance for Health –



**Creating
a Culture of
Healthy Living**

Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health

The Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health (SAH), a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Communities program, targets residents in specific zip codes where poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, and tobacco use are underlying risk factors for a variety of chronic diseases including diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease. The goal of the SAH is to create healthier communities through sustainable, innovative, evidence and practice-based community health promotion and chronic disease prevention programs that focus on policy and environmental change, rather than individual behavioral change, in the City of Albany's Arbor Hill, West Hill, North Albany, and South End neighborhoods.

2012 activities of this program include:

- Hosted 10 Alliance meetings to establish goals and strategies.

- Conducted over 20 assessments of the community, community based organizations, healthcare providers, schools and workplaces to identify policy and environmental initiatives within the areas of nutrition, physical activity, tobacco use, chronic disease management, and leadership. These assessments and a consumer survey provided a “snapshot” of the community that informed Strategic Alliance for Health intervention strategies.
- Increased the availability and visibility of affordable healthier food and beverage options by:



- Introduced five (5) healthy meeting and four (4) healthy vending policies affecting 250 persons.
- Expanded the Healthy Convenience Store Initiative by three (3) stores within the City of Albany: 20,123 pounds of fresh produce purchased; \$24,737 in sales; 2,500 persons affected. The National Association of County & City Health Officials recognized the Healthy Corner Store Initiative as a 2012 Model Practice Program.



- Two (2) healthcare practices serving the City of Albany’s Arbor Hill, West Hill, North Albany, and South End neighborhoods adopted a breastfeeding policy.
- Increased the amount of physical activity in the school day apart from physical education class in six (6) City School District of Albany elementary schools affecting approximately 500 students. (12 minutes of physical activity burst per day achieved on average 4 days per week). Evaluations support the ease and benefit of increased movement in the classroom. Program recognized as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Strategic Alliance for Health Implementation Guide intervention.



- Enhanced opportunities for walking, biking, and/or other forms of physical activity for community residents of all ages and abilities in the City of Albany:
 - Continued rehabilitation of the North Swan Street Park.
 - Bicycle sharrows maintained along Delaware Avenue and Lark Street. Persons affected: 4,000



- Elizabeth Street Park playground equipment installed. Persons affected: 4,000. http://capitalregion.ynn.com/content/top_stories/596047/south-end-gets-new-playground-equipment/
- Giffin Elementary School playground equipment installed. Persons affected: 4,000



- Decreased exposure to second hand smoke and the social acceptability of tobacco:
 - Local ordinance was passed by the Albany City Common Council making City of Albany swimming pools, playgrounds, and ball fields smoke-free. Nineteen (19) City of Albany playgrounds, pools, and athletic complexes are located in the Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health catchment area.
 - An organization with multiple units (Capital City Rescue Mission) has introduced a smoke-free housing policy at two sites.
- Engaged community partners to implement local policy and environmental change (i.e. 25 organizations actively participate on the Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health coalition).



Lyme Disease Education –

The Albany County Department of Health Lyme disease education and surveillance program enhances public awareness of Lyme disease prevention and treatment and encourages provider reporting. Public health educators and a Supervising Public Health Nurse coordinate a public awareness campaign on Lyme disease by disseminating educational materials to camp directors, garden centers, school districts, veterinarians and by giving formal presentations to community groups and businesses. Educational visits are made to medical practices located in areas of the highest incidence of Lyme disease emphasizing the importance of disease reporting and providing physicians with education/prevention materials for distribution to patients.

Activities in 2012 included:

- Updated healthcare providers on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and reporting of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses (e.g. anaplasmosis) by providing a web-based continuing education program entitled “Human Tick-borne Disease in New York State and the Capital Region” in collaboration with the University at Albany Empire State Public Health Training Center. Dr. Alan Sanders, a local infectious diseases specialist, was the guest speaker.
- In March 2012, “post-it” style advertisement promoting Lyme disease awareness and prevention to Albany County residents placed in Times Union newspaper for distribution (circulation approximately 53,000).
- Distributed thirty eight (38) Lyme disease alert signs to Albany County municipalities.



- Provided eight health care providers around the county with Lyme disease prevention and awareness education materials and tick remover kits.
- Distributed Lyme disease prevention and awareness education materials via targeted mailings to schools, libraries, municipalities, and high exposure groups. Provided information and over 1,200 tick remover kits to residents by request.



Environmental Health Services

The Environmental Health Services Division provides many services to protect Albany County residents and visitors from potential hazards in our water supply, the air we breathe and in the places where we live, work and play. This mission is accomplished by means of inspections, sampling, investigation, enforcement, engineering, and in all aspects, education.

A highly trained staff of public health technicians, sanitarians, engineers and administrators are responsible for the management of these programs.

Restaurants, Schools, Mobile and Temporary Food Vendors –

Sanitary inspections are performed at restaurants, schools, mobile food vendors and temporary food vendors to ensure compliance with Subparts 14-1, 14-2, and 14-4 of the New York State Sanitary Codes. Public complaints concerning unsanitary issues and vermin are investigated.

On June 13, 2011, Resolution No. 155 of the Albany County Legislature requested that the Albany County Board of Health and the Albany County Commissioner of Health consider a practicable plan to amend the Albany County Sanitary Code to require food service establishments to post inspection results prior to entering restaurants to help consumers make informed choices when choosing where to eat and for giving restaurants incentive to maintain the highest food safety standards possible. This resolution was implemented on July 1, 2012. All restaurants (excluding bars that have minimal food preparation) will be displaying “Notices of Inspection” as of July 1, 2013.

2012	#Inspections	#Facilities
Restaurants/Catering Operations	1508	1262
Temporary Food Svc Establishments/Events	85	199
Schools and Colleges	307	176
Mobile Food Svc Establishments	102	68
Summer Feeding Sites	57	64
State Office for the Aging Sites	25	23
Day Care Operations	23	124

Residential Environmental Problems / West Nile Virus Prevention –

This program includes staff evaluations of conditions in homes that are reported as being substandard or inhabitable (nuisance homes). Staff works in conjunction with the Albany County Department of Social Services, Code Enforcement, and Child Protective Services to assist residents in relocation and the rehabilitation of housing. This program also investigates indoor air quality issues such as odors and mold growth and outdoor problems such as sewer odors, garbage and vermin. With surveillance methods reduced and West Nile Virus activity and transmission in Albany County appearing to have diminished from initial outbreak years, Albany County Health Department continues to provide education to the public on preventive measures and address all standing water complaints. For all residential environmental programs, 192 residences were investigated and receiving appropriate follow-up in 2012.

Mobile Home Parks –

This program provides sanitary inspection of mobile home parks (including water supply and/or septic). In 2012, 33 mobile home parks were inspected.

Temporary Residences (Hotels/Motels) and Migrant & Farm Worker Housing –

These programs provide regulatory oversight of hotels and/or motels and migrant farm worker housing camps (including fire safety, water quality, sewer/septic, food service and/or pools). In 2011, 81 hotels and motels and 2 migrant farm worker housing camps were inspected.

Individual Residential Water and Sewer –

This program oversees the planning and installation of residential wells and septic systems to ensure adequate sanitation and safety.

Services & inspections included:	2012
Septic layouts and reviews	57
Abated complaints	225
Occupancy Certificates granted	50

Pools/Bathing Beaches –

Staff inspects beach facilities and test water sanitary standards. Staff performs inspections of pools' physical condition, mechanical and water sanitary standards. In addition, staff reviews and approves engineering plans for new and upgraded pools. In 2012, 186 pools, 2 bathing beach and 2 spray parks were inspected.

Drinking Water Protection and Realty Subdivision –

This program oversees the protection of public water systems (PWS) in Albany County. Functions include overseeing PWS compliance with regulations and keeping PWS updated on new and upcoming regulation changes. Staff review and approve engineering plans for new subdivisions with water supply and sewer improvement and back flow prevention. Staff also provide technical guidance and investigate potential water borne diseases. In 2012, there were 32 community and 37 non-community public water supplies and one (1) bottled water facility being monitored by ACHD. Inspections of all facilities are performed at least once yearly.

Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA) –

The ATUPA program employs 15 and 16 year old youths who accompany inspectors to determine vendor compliance with the sale of tobacco products. Violators are fined and may (in the event of repeated violations) have their tobacco license and NY State Lottery license revoked. Under the Clean In-door Air Act (in effect since 1990), staff address work place indoor smoking complaints. The County's database of tobacco product retailers was updated and tobacco sales to minor compliance checks were performed at all the retailers. Staff also verified compliance with the County's local law requiring retail tobacco products to be displayed/ located behind sales counters.

Tobacco Sales 2012

Number of Tobacco Dealers & Vending Machines	347
Sales to Minors	5
Compliance Rate	98.5%

Tattoo and Body Piercing –

This program inspects and monitors tattoo/body piercing shops and artists to ensure proper infection control practices are in place. In addition, an exam is administered certifying tattooists and artists to practice in Albany County. In 2012, the numbers increased to 21 establishments inspected at one or more times and 71 tattoo artists were certified in Albany County.

Environmental Health Assessment and Chemical Emergencies –

Engineers in the division, in conjunction with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, are available to respond to chemical spills and provide consultation and

review of remediation plans for hazardous waste sites. In 2012, the department reviewed and provided guidance on seven (6) hazardous waste sites.

Neighborhood (Pesticide) Notification Law –

Department staff monitors compliance of pesticide application by retail vendors to ensure they provide proper notification and DEC signage that the chemical application is to occur within the next 48 hrs. Under this program resident complaints concerning pesticide applications are investigated. In 2012, 51 establishments that sell pesticides were inspected. No complaints were received in 2012.

Children’s Camps –

The Children’s Camps program regulates the operation and permitting of children’s day and overnight camps for fire safety, sanitation, water, sewer, food service, pools, and child health and safety issues. In 2012 respectively, children under the age of 18 attended 48 camps in the County of Albany, all of which were inspected twice per season.

Clean Indoor Air Act –

On July 24, 2003, New York State enacted new provisions to the existing Clean Indoor Air Act, which required nearly every workplace (including all bars and restaurants) to be smoke-free. The implementation of this law initially added a substantial workload to the Division associated with education of the public and affected businesses and in response to complaints. The public's awareness and compliance with the law has increased and is reflected in the reduction or stability of the incidence of complaints received and investigated since 2004.

Complaints Received and Investigated:

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
112	60	56	29	31	21	21	27	12

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Lead Primary Prevention Program –

These programs support and enhance continued efforts to reduce the prevalence of elevated blood lead levels in children. Primary and secondary prevention includes public and professional outreach and education, collaboration with local primary care providers for screening, diagnostic evaluation, medical management, and educational and environmental interventions. The Childhood Lead Primary Prevention Program implements a pro-active plan to prevent exposure to lead based paint in the high risk zip codes of 12202, 12206, 12208, 12209, and 12210. This approach is targeting homes before the child is poisoned. In 2011 the Childhood Lead Primary Prevention Program performed 196 inspections clearing 180 homes with either interior, exterior or both lead based paint hazards. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program addresses intervention when a child has been tested by a pediatrician and is found to have an elevated blood lead level. Both lead programs employ certified lead risk assessors who oversee lead remediation in homes, schools, daycare settings, and anywhere a child may frequent for more than eight hours a week. In 2012, implementing the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 47 homes were visited resulting in 50 homes being remediated.

Rabies –

The Rabies program provides follow up and intervention when necessary to all reported potential rabies exposures to humans and/or animals. Staff interacts with primary care providers, emergency rooms, veterinarians, animal control officers and county residents.

Also, rabies immunization clinics are offered for dogs, cats, and ferrets to Albany County residents in cooperation with local veterinarians, their staff, Albany County Health Department staff and volunteers from each municipality. Four rabies clinics are held annually throughout the county (in the town of Berne, the town of Bethlehem, the village of Colonie and the Village of Green Island) resulting in the following animal vaccinations for the year 2011.

Vaccinated Animals in 2012		
Dogs	Cats	Ferrets
496	315	1

Other –

In January of 2012, the New York State Department of Health notified the Albany County Health Department of five cases of Legionellosis (Legionnaire’s Disease) associated with patrons of an Albany County hotel (also called a temporary residence, The Best Western Sovereign). After working with hotel management to notify guests, extensive water sampling of the water tank, supply lines, showerheads and faucets, it was determined that a very old holding tank at the hotel was the source of the legionella growth and that contaminated showerheads in many of the rooms were responsible for the exposures and infection(s). After many months of water sampling, working with the hotel manager and owner to assist us with notifying patrons who had stayed at the hotel, several consultations with the New York State Department of Health and with a private consultant hired by the hotel, heat flushing and sanitizing the lines and shower heads was accomplished several times and a new gas chlorine water treatment system was designed and installed by the hotel owner. As of the end of the year, there were twelve total cases of Legionellosis associated with this incident. Monitoring of the hotel will continue into 2013 to assure that the treatment system is functioning properly and that hotel staff is appropriately maintaining levels.

Nursing Division

Pediatric Dental Program –

The Dental Program seeks to improve the oral health of Albany County children up through the age of 18 years of age. Since many children, especially in low-income urban areas, do not have the benefit of fluoridated water, dental health in this population is not optimal. Services provided by this program include dental fillings, cleanings, sealants, extractions, and patient education. This program also provides nitrous oxide sedation as needed. Dental education programs are offered to school groups and the community upon request. Also, dental screenings are provided at some Head Start locations.

In 2012, the department provided dental services to 2,116 children including 5,642 comprehensive visits. In addition, through 14 presentations, 415 elementary children in the Albany City School District received education on the importance of good oral hygiene. Through our partnership with Head Start, 211 dental screenings were conducted resulting in the identification of children in need of dental care as well as those in need of a provider.

Maternal Child Health Home Visiting –

The Maternal Child Health Home Visiting program, through contract with Eddy Visiting Nurses Association, receives referrals for Public Health Nursing Home Visits from local hospitals, prenatal care providers, clinics, clients and/or their families. Public Health Nurses perform nursing assessments and home visits to provide medical follow up, health education, and support to pregnant women, new mothers and their babies, and children who are at risk for or already have health problems that can be managed at home. Recent studies

have shown that clients who receive home visiting programs during pregnancy have better pregnancy outcomes.

Public Health Nurses visited many pregnant and parenting residents, as well as children with special health care needs, conducting approximately 907 visits in 2012 where they provided clinical assessments, skilled care, health education, and support and guidance.

Community Health Worker Program –

The Community Health Worker Program is a home visiting program that seeks to prevent premature birth and other poor birth outcomes and to improve overall child health. This program is unique in that it hires paraprofessional Health Workers from the community they serve to engage pregnant women in prenatal care and primary health care services by conducting outreach, canvassing, and home visiting in designated zip code areas in Albany County. The program provides home visits that include education, support, case management, and referral for pregnant and parenting women and their families. In 2012, there was 673 visits conducted focusing on improving birth outcomes of high risk, low income pregnant and parenting families.

Immunization Program –

The purpose of the immunization program is to prevent the spread of vaccine preventable disease by increasing vaccination rates of the population. Services include childhood and adult immunization on-site and off-site for Albany County residents. Outreach educational services provided to professionals and to the community regarding vaccine preventable diseases. The Immunization Action grant provides funds for assessment of immunization rates for public clinic and other identified community providers, for education and outreach activities, for facilitation of free hepatitis A and B vaccine to high-risk groups, and to support the statewide immunization registry.

Activities of the Immunization Program in 2012 included administration of:

- 1,032 flu and 10 pneumonia vaccines at various locations throughout the community
- 1,492 Adult vaccines to prevent disease and control disease outbreak
- 1,368 Childhood vaccines in our community to provide immunity and to control disease outbreak.

Nursing Wellness/Health Education –

A Social Worker and professional nurses present health and wellness information to school age children, adult community groups as well as faith based groups. The topics are varied and multidisciplinary responding to the needs of the residents of Albany County. In addition to the presentations, staff engage people at Health Fairs and provide health information. Specific health education and wellness activities conducted in 2012 included:

- Presented 2 Infant/pregnancy nutrition sessions at ALPHA Pregnancy Center for Parents with over 40 participants attending.
- Presented one ten-week educational series for pregnant or parenting teens focusing on healthy behaviors including self-care, infant care, and family planning, with the goal of being a healthy mom and baby. These sessions were conducted in the Spring of 2012 at the Abrookin-Vocational Technical Center teen parent program for teens who wished to continue their education at an alternate, off site location from the Public Jr and Sr High School.

- Presented 11 Lead Poisoning Prevention sessions, with 112 participants to various groups in the community to raise awareness of this public health issue. Groups included daycares, Head Starts, and the community at large through media campaigns. Professional education was provided to Pediatric and OB/GYN Providers
- Conducted a School Nurse Workshop in August with 27 participants
- Participated in 5 Health Fairs for various age groups from elementary aged children through seniors with 945 participants.
- Presented an educational session on managing diabetes to a mental health group of 15 participants.
- Answered community phone inquiries: 64 calls regarding Lyme disease and ticks, 63 calls regarding bedbugs, 21 calls regarding communicable diseases, 4 calls regarding disposal of prescription drugs and many other calls on assorted topics.
- Disseminated information to professionals about community educational offerings, e.g. Public Health Live broadcasts on Falls Prevention and Chronic Disease Management

Homecare and Long Term Care Programs –

Licensed Home Care Services Agency In 2012, home care services of the Albany County Department of Health were carried out under the Licensed Home Care Services Agency (LHCSA). Additionally, an MCH staffing contract was in place with the Eddy VNA, a Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA), so that services could be billed under Medicaid and Medicare.

Personal Care Aide Program (PCP) Program

The PCP program was a collaborative partnership between the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Health where a nursing assessment of Albany County residents who may benefit from personal care aides is conducted to assist clients in their desire to remain independent in their own homes. If personal care aids are deemed appropriate, nurses provide an orientation and supervision for the personal care aides who are assisting clients with their personal care and light housekeeping tasks. In 2012, 664 assessments and aide supervision visits were conducted through this program. As of August 31st, the program was contracted out by DSS to another agency.

HIV Surveillance (with County Surveillance Representatives) –

As of August 1, 2012, Albany County Department of Health has conducted case reviews of HIV positive or potentially positive individual's medical records under contract with NYSDOH. In 2012, 93 records were reviewed by RN staff at health facilities within the county.

HIV Surveillance and Partner Services Program (HPS) –

HPS Staff from ACDOH work with Medical Providers and other agency HIV Counseling and Testing agencies to get assistance in reaching and contacting HIV positive individuals so that partners may be identified, and then offered testing and counseling on risk reduction. In 2012, 27 index cases were interviewed and counseled. Additionally, in 2012, 51 presentations were given to 551 participants on risk reduction strategies.

Epidemiology Program / Communicable Disease

In 2012, the Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) Epidemiology Program investigated a total of 2739 confirmed communicable disease reports. Highlights of 2012 communicable disease investigations are as follows:

- Lyme and other tickborne disease cases remained high with 209 confirmed cases reported in 2012. This figure (209 cases) does not represent the total number of Lyme disease cases in Albany County in 2012. As Lyme disease is endemic in Albany County, and has been for several years, the ACDOH chose to participate in the NYSDOH Lyme Disease Sentinel Surveillance (LDSS) program. Under LDSS, Albany County only investigates 20% of all positive Lyme disease lab results. Using this data, NYSDOH extrapolates an estimate of what the case rate would be in Albany County if 100% of positive Lyme disease lab reports were investigated.
- In 2012, the Epidemiology Program experienced a significant increase in pertussis cases. Pertussis outbreaks also occurred in many other counties in NYS and many other states as well. Albany County reported 15 pertussis cases in 2011 and 62 cases in 2012 representing an increase of over 400%. The majority of the cases occurred in middle school age children who were completely vaccinated.
- A rare case of infant botulism was diagnosed in a three-month-old Albany County resident in 2012. As the infant had been breast feeding exclusively since birth a food source was ruled out. It was felt that the infant had exposure to contaminated soil as the parents did a lot of gardening. The infant was given Infant Botulism Immune Globulin (Baby BIG) flown in from California. The infant started to improve shortly after being given the Baby BIG.
- In 2012, the Epidemiology Program investigated two cases of *Salmonella typhi* (Typhoid Fever) in Albany County. Both cases had spent several weeks in India visiting family (the two cases were not related to each other). One of the cases was a four-year-old child who attended a daycare center in Albany. The child was not allowed to return to the daycare center until two negative stool specimens were obtained.
- Influenza season started in Albany County in early December. In 2011 there were 120 confirmed flu cases and in 2012 there were 248 cases. This increase was seen throughout NYS as well as nationwide. The most prevalent strain was Influenza A H3N2. While this strain was contained in the 2012-2013 flu vaccine, it was also the strain that tends to cause more severe illness.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases –

The ACDOH offers STD screening and treatment at our STD Clinics twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

In 2012, a total of 1,260 visits were made to ACDOH STD clinics, representing a 3.6% decrease compared to 2011. 60% of the clients were male, and 40% were female. 16% of ACDOH STD clinic clients tested positive for an STD. In 2012, 19% of the STD Clinic clients were in the teenage population. This represents a slight increase when compared to 2011, when 17% of ACDOH STD Clinic clients were in the teen population.

1,394 cases of chlamydia were reported in 2012, a decrease of 5% compared to 2011.

Gonorrhea cases decreased by 17% with 260 cases reported in 2012, compared to 313 cases in 2011. Due to the high percentage of STDs (particularly among adolescents and young adults) the ACDOH formed a consortium with NYSDOH and other community partners working with teens and young adults, to discuss the issue and develop effective strategies.

Tuberculosis (TB) Program –

- In 2012, the Epidemiology Program oversaw the care and treatment of 6 cases of active tuberculosis (TB). Only two of the cases had pulmonary TB, while the other four had extra-pulmonary TB. Five of the six cases were foreign born; only one was born in the U.S. All six of these patients received directly observed therapy (DOT) which involved an ACDOH staff member visiting the patient’s home daily to watch them take their medications for six months.
- Also in 2012, 300 persons were evaluated in our Chest Clinic by a pulmonologist. In addition, 332 county residents with latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) made revisits to Chest Clinic for medication refills or reevaluation. Persons with LTBI are not contagious and cannot give TB to another person. These patients are given a single TB medication daily for nine months to prevent them from developing active TB disease.
- Cases of active TB continue to remain at low levels in Albany County. The majority of all active TB and latent TB infection (LTBI) cases continue to be diagnosed in foreign-born residents.
- In 2012, a total of 721 PPDs were placed on Albany County residents by ACDOH program staff, of which 42 (5.8%) were positive.

The following table depicts the number of confirmed cases of reportable communicable diseases of public health significance in Albany County in 2011 and 2012.

Disease	2011 Cases	2012 Cases
Amebiasis	7	12
Campylobacteriosis	58	45
Chlamydia	1466	1394
Cryptosporidiosis	1	5
Cyclosporiasis	2	0
Dengue Fever	0	0
E. coli O157:H7	3	5
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis	19	11
Giardiasis	40	33
GISA/VISA	0	0
Gonorrhea	313	260
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	7	8
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0
Hepatitis A	1	1
Hepatitis B, Acute	2	1
Hepatitis B, Chronic	55	50
Hepatitis C, Acute	2	0
Hepatitis C, Chronic	180	172
Influenza	120	248
Legionellosis	15	16
Listeriosis	3	3

Lyme disease	501*	209*
Q fever	0	0
Malaria	3	4
Meningitis, viral/aseptic/other	8	15
Meningococcal Infection	1	1
Mumps	1	0
Pertussis	15	62
Salmonellosis	42	44
Shigellosis	8	5
Group A Streptococcus	9	16
Group B Streptococcus	34	39
Streptococcus pneumoniae	41	44
Syphilis, Early Latent	6	6
Syphilis, Late Latent	8	9
Syphilis, Primary	3	0
Syphilis, Secondary	13	4
Syphilis, Unknown Latent	2	6
Tuberculosis (TB)	10	6
Vibriosis	1	3
Yersiniosis	2	2
TOTAL	3022	2739