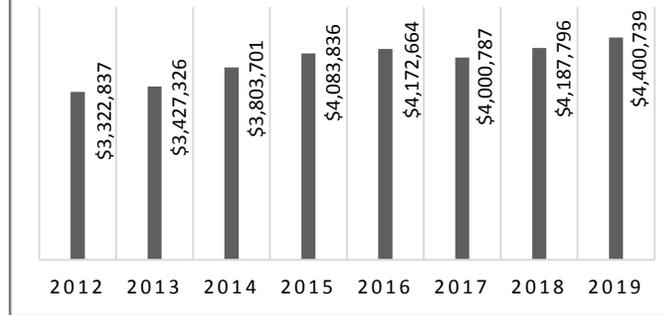


HEALTH

4010, 3510

HEALTH - COUNTY SHARE



MISSION STATEMENT

The Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) strives to protect and promote the health of individuals, families and communities. We work with many community partners to offer a variety of programs and services to achieve our mission and accomplish the following:

- Prevent communicable and chronic diseases, injuries and disabilities;
- Protect against environmental hazards that affect health and safety;
- Promote the health and wellness of our citizens and our communities; and
- Prepare for and respond to public health emergencies.

WHO WE SERVE

The ACDOH is a population-based, governmental regulatory and human service agency responsible for providing essential public health services, as defined in our mission statement, that affect every county resident.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The ACDOH ensures compliance with provisions of the Public Health Law and Sanitary Codes of the State and County. Article 6 of the Public Health Law defines six core program areas, which serve as the basis for local public health work. Built around these core program areas, NYS Regulations require the submission of a State Aid Application that outlines services provided by local health departments. In addition to these regulatory requirements, other sections of Public Health Law directly mandate the provision of services such as control of rabies, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tobacco enforcement. Essential services of the ACDOH within each core program area are listed below:

FAMILY HEALTH

This program area provides outreach to pregnant women to promote access to early prenatal and obstetric care, maternal and child health services to assure that infants and children receive comprehensive primary and preventive health care, and preventive and primary dental care for children. Family Health activities also include a childhood lead poisoning prevention program and detailing of the fluoride varnish program.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

This program area provides activities to prevent communicable diseases, investigate, and manage outbreaks and epidemics; screening and medical care for active and inactive tuberculosis; confidential diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases for all age groups; childhood and adult immunizations to include rabies post-exposure protection. In addition, HIV/AIDS surveillance, partner notification services and expanded partner services track cases, ensure that individuals are connected with appropriate medical care, and provide outreach and education to high-risk individuals and populations.

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

This program area provides public health information and education programs directed at the general public, targeted high-risk populations and health professionals. In collaboration with community partners, major emphasis is placed upon reducing the prevalence or incidence of chronic diseases and conditions such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, asthma and the underlying risk factors of tobacco use, physical inactivity and poor nutrition.

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COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This program area provides assessment of the health status of the county by reviewing available data on a wide variety of health-related indicators. This includes review of vital statistics information, including birth and mortality; demographic characteristics of the county with attention to those parameters predictive of increased risk of morbidity and mortality; surveillance of communicable and chronic disease indicators; monitoring trends in demographic and disease data to assess emerging public health concerns and the need for public health services to residents. The Community Health Improvement Plan includes strategies and measurable objectives through which the county and its community partners will address areas for health improvement.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

This program area provides an array of 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 is accomplished by means of inspections, sampling, investigation, enforcement, engineering, and education. Major activities include air and water pollution control, solid waste management, and protection of the public water supply; rabies control program; food service inspections and permitting; implementation of the provisions of the Clear Indoor Air Act which regulates smoking in public areas; monitoring hotels and motels for compliance with fire and safety regulations; monitoring of individual water supply and sewage disposal systems; lead paint investigation and abatement activities as well as implementation of specific Albany County local laws and resolutions.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

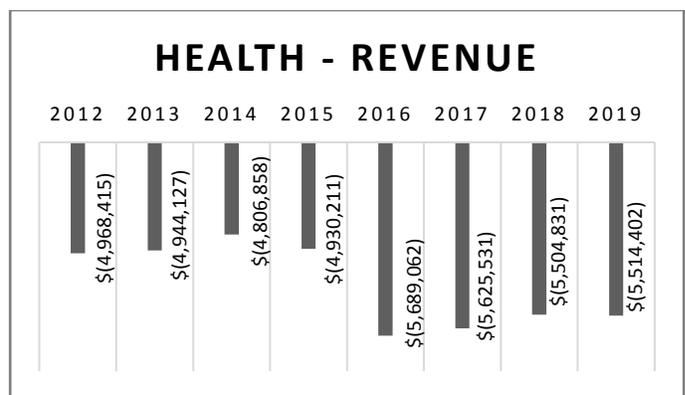
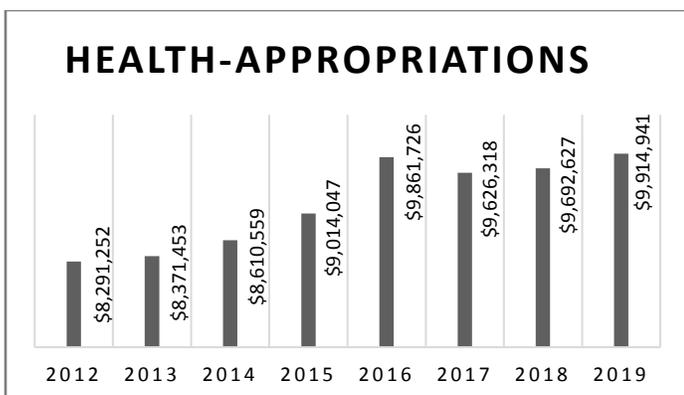
The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program helps develop local public health preparedness plans and enhances the County's capacity for responding to public health threats such as acts of terrorism, pandemic influenza, and other public health emergencies. The PHEP program works with other local, state and federal partners to ensure an integrated and coordinated approach in its public health preparedness, planning and response efforts.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- National Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) site visit completed January 2018. Additional requested documentation submitted to PHAB to be reviewed and decision on National Public Health Accreditation will be made in late 2018 or early 2019
- The Albany County Department of Health's "Municipalities on the Move: Complete Streets Collaboration" initiative was awarded a 2018 Model Practice Award by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- The Albany County Department of Health's opiate primary prevention strategy "Project Orange" was awarded a 2018 Model Practice Award by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- Continued work with the Albany County Opiate Task force included plans for a shared database that will inform real time collaborative response and shared resources across community partners responding to this public health crisis
- Conducted a full-scale exercise on April 3, 2018 to test our capacity to provide mass prophylaxis under a medical model in the event of a widespread Hepatitis A exposure, utilizing ACDOH staff, members of the Albany County Medical Reserve Corps and community volunteers. A total of 173 recipients were processed. With the assistance of the American Council of the Blind – Capital District Chapter and Hearing Loss Association of Albany, ACDOH involved and integrated vulnerable populations in planning, promoting, and evaluating the exercise
- Emergency Preparedness Program presented a poster at the 2018 NACCHO Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. The topic was "Strategic National Stockpile Exercise Planning – Phasing in Best Practices", which highlighted a coordinated, countywide response involving multiple agencies to ensure the health and safety of residents
- Collaborated with HIXNY (Health Information Exchange of New York) to use aggregate population-based data on hypertension and prediabetes to support chronic disease prevention activities
- Awarded funding from The Hortense and Louis Rubin Community Health Fund of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region to support the prevention, management, and treatment of kidney disease and associated comorbidities of kidney disease, and promotion of organ donation
- Established designated breastfeeding rooms at two (2) Albany County facilities (for employees, clients, and visitors) and created a County Department Breastfeeding Policy

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- Contracted with OCHIN EPIC, who will provide an EHR/EMR comprehensive software solution that will replace existing clinical and nursing program management systems. Beginning October 2018, OCHIN EPIC will provide ACDOH with the functionality to integrate e-prescriptions, medical billing functions and laboratory external data exchange for our Sexual Health Clinic, Immunizations and Tuberculosis Clinic
- Contracted with Better Health for Northeast New York, Inc.(DSRIP Performing Provider System) to utilize Community Health Workers to address lifestyle changes and promote increased self-management of cardiovascular disease for Medicaid and uninsured patients
- Established, with the Albany County Executive’s office, the Albany Promise, and the March of Dimes; the Albany Prematurity Network, a collaborative taskforce planning to implement and improve strategies to decrease infant prematurity and mortality rates in Albany County
- Collaborated with New York State Department of Health to host Commissioner Listening Sessions on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, with focus on racial disparities
- Recipient of New York State’s Highway Safety program grant to promote pedestrian safety
- In conjunction with Healthy Capital District Initiative, hospitals, insurers, and community partners:
 - Implemented Albany County 2016-2018 Community Health Improvement Plan
 - Offered monthly Opioid Overdose Prevention classes to the public
 - Promoted Albany County residents participation in evidenced-based chronic disease self-management programs (e.g. National Diabetes Prevention Program, Y-USA Blood Pressure Management Program)
- Implemented and enforced Toxic Free Toy Act for 2015
- Continued expansion in 2018 of the Healthy Neighborhoods Program in Albany County into adjacent zip codes in the city of Albany, providing in-home assessments and interventions for asthma, tobacco cessation, indoor air quality, lead, fire safety and other environmental hazards. Our certified Asthma Public Health Nurse received 147 referrals from the program, 82 of those referrals resulted in a home visit
- Our New York State Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program (CLPPPP) changed over from our Access Data Base to the new Co-Inspect Database, which will increase timeliness, consistency and accuracy of inspection data to inform programs in targeting and managing the highest risk housing for lead remediation
- Established interdepartmental task force for reduction of Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the community
- Commenced work on our 2018 - 2022 Strategic Plan
- The Health Department's Community Garden, in a partnership to Squash Hunger in our community, donated over 350 pounds of produce. The produce was donated to the South end Children’s Café, Food Pantry, and Capital City Rescue Mission in 2017
- In conjunction with its Million Hearts® in Municipalities program:
 - Albany County Department of Health enhanced access to places for physical activity by sponsoring Albany County Completes Streets Symposium (April 25, 2018) and implementing physical activity enhancements in communities
 - Albany County Department of Health, in collaboration with the Albany County Department of Mental Health, trained staff to provide tobacco cessation groups and establish a process to identify and refer clients to appropriate tobacco cessation resources in an effort to reduce tobacco use among people with mental illness.



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2019 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- The Health Department will successfully complete all essential public health services required by the New York State Department of Health pursuant to Article 6 of the Public Health Law and Part 40 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of New York State
- Achieve national Public Health Accreditation and continue to advance the culture of quality in the Albany County Health Department. Establish Performance Management System to aid in this work and advance accountability and transparency
- This year, there will be another NYSDOH incentive program that will make ACDOH eligible for extra funding based on performance measures outlined and tracked by the state. The primary focus of the Year 6 LHD Performance Incentive includes a base award to support enhanced coordination related to *Legionella* Outbreak Response, as well as an assessment of LHD maintenance of effort (MOE) for electronic inspection submittals (eForms) and reporting of environmental regulatory inspection programs. Last year, ACDOH was awarded \$51,500 for performance excellence in electronic inspection submissions and in the adequacy of gonorrhea treatment and completeness of syphilis serology over a six-month period. We are on target for winning another incentive award for Year 6
- An enhancement to the Healthy Neighborhoods Program in 2018 is the addition of the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) partnership to the program. Going forward into 2019, referrals to GHHI will potentially provide incentives to assist qualified property owners and homeowners to improve living spaces. This goal is accomplished by employing the 8 Elements of a green and healthy home to provide a safe, clean, dry, adequately ventilated, pest free, contaminant free, well maintained and energy efficient environment to improve and to ultimately ensure healthy and safe housing
- Per New York State Prevention Agenda, in conjunction with Healthy Capital District Initiative, hospitals, insurers, and community partners, complete *2019-2024 Albany County Community Health Needs Assessment*
- Albany County Dept of Health will work to promote and establish the goals of increasing the number of worksites that provide accommodations for breastfeeding employees, expanding community-based breastfeeding coalitions and promoting evidence-based breastfeeding education/management throughout Albany County
- Develop and implement a Health Department Performance Management System, to advance a culture of continuous quality improvement and help us achieve our mission and strategic goals
- Educate and enforce recently passed legislation banning the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies in Albany County
- Continue to identify cost savings while applying for additional grant funding on an ongoing basis

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

The 2019 budget contains new grant funding for participation in the New York State's Highway Safety Program. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of crashes, injuries and deaths on New York's roads.

As part of the Maternal & Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHC), our Community Health Workers (CHW) find and engage high-need women and their families in health insurance, health care and other needed community services, such as mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence. While performing community outreach, one of our CHWs encountered client C., who explained that she recently arrived from Puerto Rico, fleeing from the devastation of Hurricane Maria and discussed her frustration in not being able to receive services due to a language barrier. Our CHW assisted in getting her services at the Albany County Department of Social Services; C. was able to apply for Medicaid, temporary assistance, and SNAP. C. was also enrolled into our MICHC program at the Health Department. During her meetings with the CHW, C. explained she was depressed, living in a shelter, without a physician, and her children were not enrolled in school. She was experiencing a high level of trauma from leaving her home along with being anxious and afraid about her chronic health condition.

Our CHW assisted in getting her children enrolled in school and connecting her with other valuable services such as a family physician, food pantries and weather appropriate clothing for her children. Before meeting our CHW, C. faced many challenges, including some agencies suggesting she return to Puerto Rico. There was a point where she was so depressed she did not want to get out of bed and admitted to feeling suicidal. With the help of our CHW, C. was able to get mental health counseling and care coordination services at Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center. C. is still enrolled in the MICHC program at ACDOH and meets regularly with the CHW, focusing on housing, education on managing her health condition and healthy eating habits. ACDOH is proud to have helped C. in her time of need and our CHWs continue working to assist women and their families to access needed health and social services.