

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Wayne County, NY



**Community Collaboration ♦ Disease Control ♦ Immunization
Lead Poisoning Prevention ♦ Injury Prevention ♦ Rabies & Zoonosis
Pre-K ♦ Early Intervention ♦ Maternal & Child Health ♦ Child Find
Public Health Education ♦ Emergency Preparedness**

Wayne County Public Health

Mission

In partnership with the communities we serve, Wayne County Public Health works to protect the health of our citizens, prevent disease and injury, and help our residents make informed choices about their health.

Vision

To encourage and promote optimal health outcomes.

Values

Collaboration, Compassion, Integrity, Professionalism, Respect

2024 COMMITTEES

Wayne County Board of Supervisors Health & Medical Services Committee

Kim Leonard, Chairwoman
Ben Aman
James Brady
David Fantuzzo
Summer Johnson

Health Services Advisory Board Pivotal - Public Health Partnership

Professional Advisory Committee

Dr. Arun Nagpaul, Medical Director
Dr. Andrew Doniger, Consumer
Imelda Dobbins, Pharmacy Consultant
Diane Devlin, Director
Kerry VanAuken, Deputy Director
Amanda Briggs, Prevent Supervisor
Lisa O'Dell, CWSN Supervisor
Elizabeth Ferguson, PH Educator
Haley Mirarchi, PH Program Coordinator

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[A Note from the Director](#)

We are pleased to announce that in early 2024, Wayne County Public Health received its Mobile Health Vehicle (MHV). This was a huge accomplishment and we are grateful for the NYSDOH competitive grant funding we received for its purchase. The MHV was utilized through the year by WCPH, the Department of Aging & Youth and the Department of Social Services to bring health education and other human services to our residents within the communities that they live.



Throughout the year, work has commenced on obtaining a Certificate of Need so that the MHV can be used as a clinic on wheels. It is our goal to bring our clinical services to our communities in need. Be on the lookout in 2025, we will be coming to an event near you.

P.S. Honk your horn if you see us!

Diane M. Devlin RN, MS, BSN
Director of Public Health

Public Health

What is Public Health?

The CDC Foundation defines public health as “the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities”. Public health protects and improves the health of people and their communities through education, disease prevention, and health promotion. Unlike traditional healthcare, which focuses on treating individuals, public health aims to improve overall community well-being by addressing health risks before they become serious issues. Public health operates on three core principles, known as the “Three P’s of Public Health”, prevention, protection, and promotion. Prevention focuses on reducing the risk of diseases, injuries, and other health issues through proactive measures like immunization programs, health screenings, and education. Protection is about safeguarding communities from health threats, including infectious diseases, environmental hazards, and public health emergencies. Finally, Promotion is about encouraging healthy behaviors and lifestyles through education, advocacy, and community programs.

What is the Role of Public Health?

Public Health departments, such as Wayne County Public Health, work to prevent disease prolong life and promote health through various services including, disease control and immunization, health education, emergency preparedness, maternal and child health services, environmental health services, and injury prevention.

What is the Value of Public Health?

Most of us rarely think about public health until a crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, occurs. However, Wayne County Public Health works to ensure a safe, informed, and healthy community every day by implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research. Through advances in public health the U.S. life expectancy has increased by more than 30 years between 1900 and 2020. This was due to public health initiatives such as vaccinations, food safety regulations, the implementation of seat belts, and clean air and water policies (APHA, 2025).

Public health connects us all.

ACCREDITATION



The goal of accreditation is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of Tribal, State, Local and territorial public health departments. In September 2020, we received notification that we were awarded national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Established in 2007, PHAB is the nonprofit organization that administers the national accreditation program. The national program aims to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and transforming the quality and performance of governmental public health agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

PHAB's public health department accreditation process seeks to advance quality and performance within public health departments. Accreditation standards define the expectations for all public health departments that seek to become accredited. National public health department accreditation has been developed because of the desire to improve service, value, and accountability to stakeholders.

In 2024, Wayne County Public Health continued to advance the quality and performance of our local health department's programs and services. Our Performance Management Quality Improvement Committee (PMQI) continued to meet on a monthly basis. Staff developed performance measures, and reported on their progress quarterly. Data from performance measures was used to complete our annual report and to submit required reports to grant funders, county administration, and the NYSDOH. A Workforce Development Plan was created in 2024 with workforce professional development training being implemented before year end.

As an accredited local health department, Wayne County Public Health is evaluated every 5 years after initial accreditation against a set of national standards by PHAB. Reaccreditation ensures that accredited health departments continue to evolve, improve, and advance their public health practice to serve their communities. Work has commenced on meeting the standards and measures for reaccreditation. Wayne County Public Health will apply for reaccreditation in September of 2025 with all documentation to be submitted in January of 2026. The Director of Public Health and the Deputy Director directly oversee all PHAB Re-accreditation efforts.

WAYNE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Over the past several years, Wayne County Public Health has proudly facilitated the Wayne Health Improvement Partnership (WHIP), a collaborative with more than 20 member organizations including Newark-Wayne Community Hospital. The WHIP oversees the Community Health Assessment process, and is responsible for implementing the resulting Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). In alphabetical order, the Partnership has representation from the following:

Cancer Services Program	Mosaic Health
Catholic Charities	Pivotal PH Partnership (S2AY Rural Health Network)
Center for a Tobacco Free Finger Lakes	Tobacco Action Coalition of the FL
Common Ground Health	Wayne ARC
Cornell Cooperative Extension	Wayne Behavioral Health Network
Delphi Drug & Alcohol Council	Wayne CAP
Finger Lakes Community Health	Wayne County Aging & Youth
Genesee Valley BOCES	Wayne County Board of Supervisors
Head Start	Wayne County Community Schools
Literacy Volunteers of Wayne County	Wayne County Dept. of Social Services
Newark-Wayne Community Hospital	Wayne County Public Health
	Wayne County Rural Health Network
	WIC

The Community Health Assessment (CHA)/Community Service Plan, and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) were submitted on December 30th 2022, and will remain in effect until the end of 2025. Throughout 2024, our WHIP members continued to work hard on our defined interventions in order to improve the obesity, smoking/vaping, physical activity, suicide, overdose, and food insecurity rates in our county. During the second half of 2024, WHIP members began the planning process of creating the 2025 – 2030 CHA and CHIP. The interval of time between each CHA was increased from three (3) years to six (6) years by an administrative decision made by the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) in 2024.

Please click [here](#) to access a copy of the current [Comprehensive Regional Community Health Assessment](#) which includes a thorough look at the health of the residents within the Finger Lakes region and a chapter specifically looking at the health of Wayne County's residents. Please click [here](#) to access a copy of the current [Community Health Improvement Plan](#).

WHIP meetings are held bimonthly on the third Friday at 9:00am via ZOOM. Interested businesses, agencies and community members are welcome to join the Partnership. Please give us a call at (315) 946-5749 or email us at wcp@waynecountyny.gov if you are interested in attending or if you have any questions.

Performance Incentive Program

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) General Public Health Work (GPHW) program includes a statewide performance-based incentive program that allows the NYS Commissioner of Health to establish statewide performance standards for delivery of core public health services and to provide additional funding (referred to as "incentive grants") to Local Health Departments (LHDs) that meet or exceed statewide performance standards. \$1 million has been appropriated annually for the incentive awards.

The Year 12 Performance Incentive Program began in December 2023 and concluded in August 2024. The focus of the Year 12 Performance Incentive Program was on preventing chronic disease via the promotion of physical activity. The Program encouraged local health departments to work with a cross-sector team to assess community design and develop an action plan in at least one priority community within the county. The community chosen was Sodus.

In January 2025, we were notified that Wayne County Public Health would be awarded \$23,286 that would be available for claiming in 2025. As with prior Performance Incentive program years, awards must be used to support costs associated with Article 6 State Aid eligible services. While costs associated with any eligible activity are acceptable, LHDs are encouraged to consider utilizing the award funds to support ongoing chronic disease prevention activities.

Wayne County Employee Wellness

The employee wellness committee is comprised of 14 employees representing multiple departments within the county and 3 representatives from Healthy People Active Wayne, led by Public Health. The committee meets monthly to discuss a variety of ideas and potential events. The overall mission of the committee is to improve Wayne County employee's health by: encouraging healthier lifestyles, providing wellness activities that target a wide range of personal health needs, develop a positive work culture focusing on improving and celebrating the quality of life for all employees.



Trainings/ Events:

- 10 committee members completed the Health and Wellness at Work course through The EAP
- September 17th and 18th the committee held the 1st annual Employee Wellness Fair. This was held at the Public Safety Building and Department of Social Services, which allowed outside wellness businesses to attend and share wellness information to employees.

New Initiative:

In working with County leadership, the committee was able to secure grant funding through a partnership with Health People Active Wayne. This funding allowed the committee to purchase two (2) new water fountains with bottle refill stations to be installed in the Public Safety Building and the Old Court House. These drinking fountains will replace current older water fountains and will be accessible to anyone in the building.

COVID-19: Year 2024

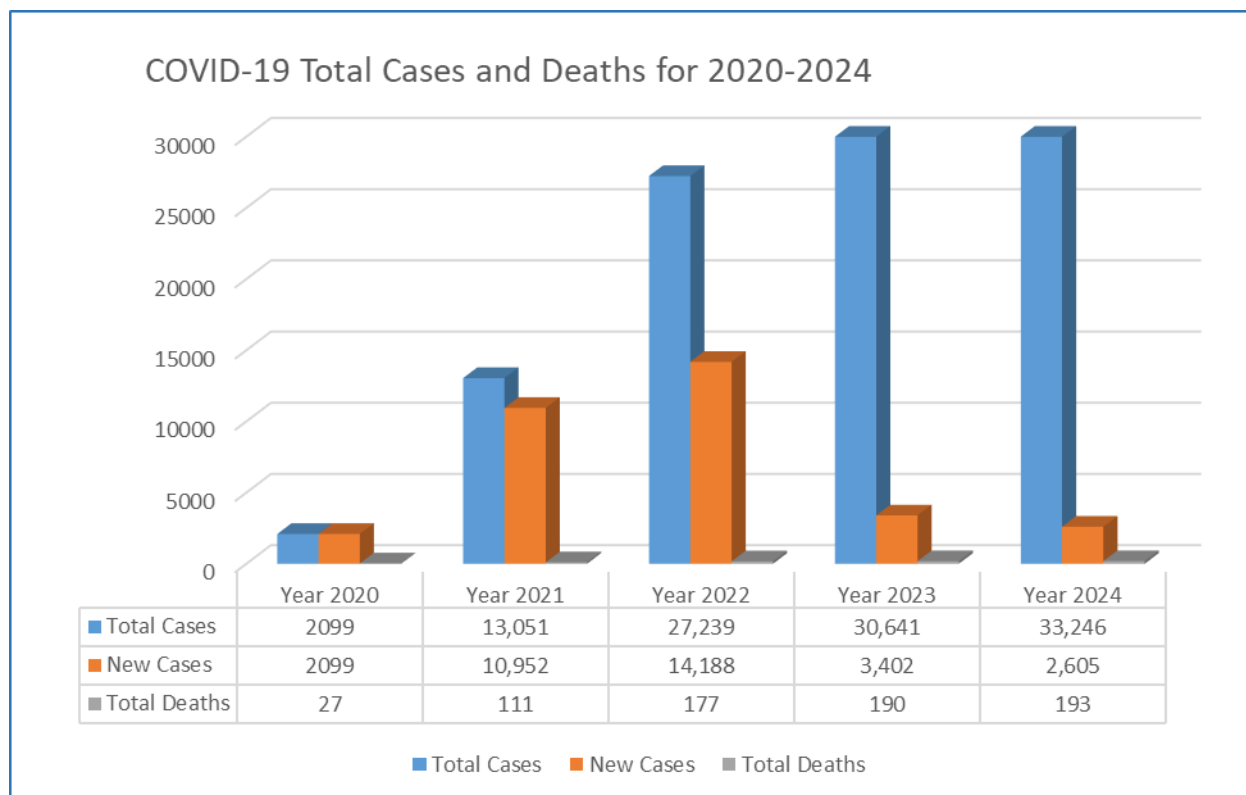
The COVID-19 pandemic ended on May 11, 2023, however the SARS-CoV-2 which is the virus that causes COVID-19 was still present throughout 2024. According to the CDC, the virus "largely circulates without clear seasonality and continues to infect, causing severe acute disease and post COVID -19 condition." The World Health Organization has had more difficulty in 2024 with monitoring circulation, severity, and virus evolution due to the decreased surveillance and testing. In the fall of 2024, a new variant-based vaccine was released for anyone eligible six months and older for the 2024-2025 season.

Throughout the year, the health department has offered COVID-19 vaccine clinics monthly through our VFA (Vaccine for Adult) and VFC (Vaccine for Children) programs. While supplies lasted the health department also offered free COVID-19 home test kits. The health department continued to monitor COVID-19 positive lab reports daily as well as obtained monthly waste water surveillance reports from NYSDOH Wastewater Management.

In 2024, COVID-19 variants continued to emerge from the Omicron strain. This year the positivity rate dropped in the early spring months, slightly peaked in the summer months and then started to decline. In the winter months the positivity rate did spike slightly, however not nearly as high as previous years.

COVID-19 Cases and Deaths Reported for 2024

In 2024, Wayne County had 2,605 new lab confirmed cases of COVID-19, with a grand total of 33,246 cases since the beginning of the Pandemic. . Wayne County had 3 COVID-19 related deaths reported in 2024, which is a significant decrease from previous years. Our sincere condolences go out to the families who have lost a loved one or friend due to COVID-19 complications.



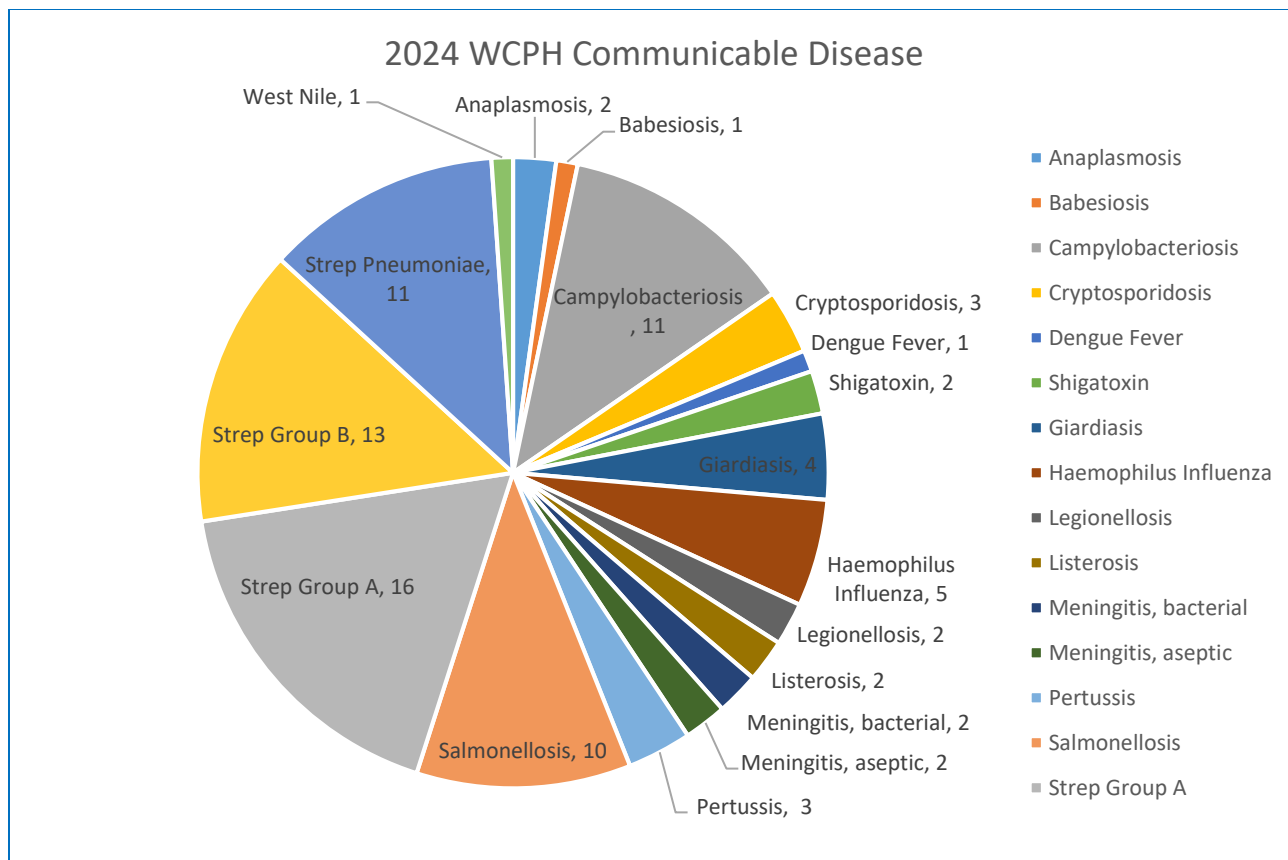
WCPH COVID-19 Data - 2024

DISEASE CONTROL

Public Health Law 2100 requires local health departments to have a Communicable Disease Surveillance, Reporting, and Control Program. This program is responsible for the prevention, investigation, reporting, diagnosis, and treatment of reportable communicable diseases in Wayne County. Preventing epidemics and controlling communicable disease are some of the core functions of Public Health. Programs include Communicable Diseases and Tuberculosis Control. Staff members monitor disease activity within the community and work closely to develop education, outreach, testing, and treatment strategies to minimize the impact of communicable diseases.

Communicable Disease

As a local health department, we are required by New York State law to investigate and report all state reportable communicable diseases, as well as outbreaks of any communicable disease. The graph below shows the percentage of communicable diseases that were investigated, excluding rabies, tuberculosis, influenza, and RSV in 2024.



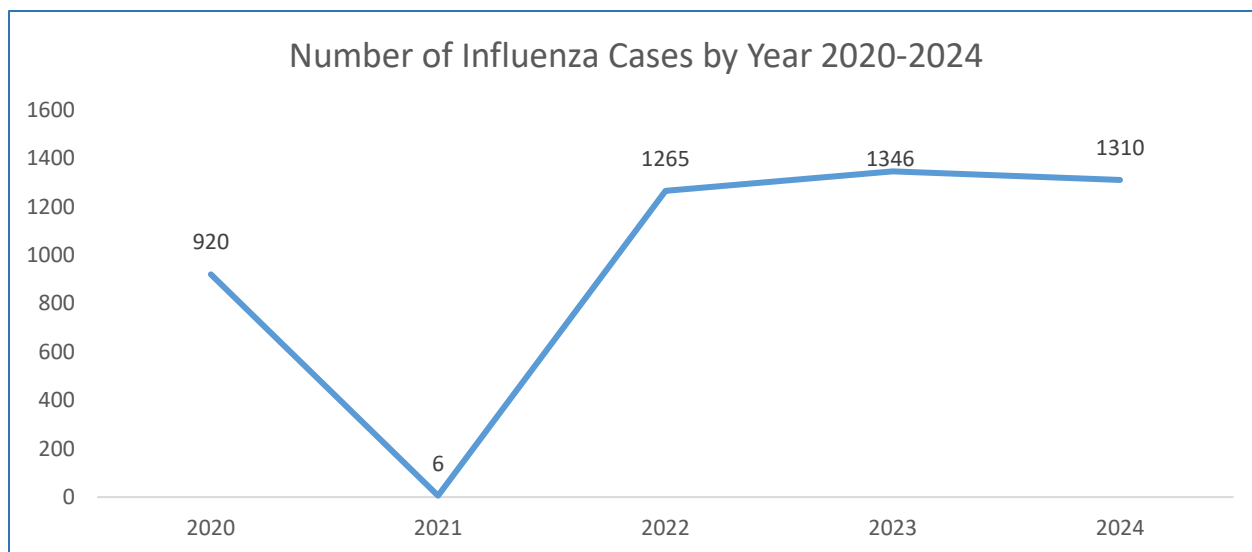
Wayne County Public Health Communicable Diseases Investigated, 2024

Influenza

WCPH receives lab confirmed results for influenza testing however; the health department is not required by NYSDOH to investigate the positive results. The main task of the health department is to provide education to our residents on how to protect one’s self from contracting either Influenza A or B. Below is the total number of Influenza reports received from 2022 - 2024. Please note, these numbers are based on a calendar year and not on a flu season that flows from one year into the next.

Total # of Influenza Cases by Year: 2022 – 1265, 2023 – 1346, 2024 – 1310

WCPH makes every effort to prevent illness, reduce hospitalizations, and prevent premature deaths resulting from Influenza disease by ensuring vaccinations are accessible to all county residents. Vaccinations are key in reducing the severity of flu illnesses, doctors’ visits and missed work and school due to the flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths. Influenza vaccines are readily available from local pharmacies.



Wayne County Public Health Influenza Data, 2024

Disease Surveillance

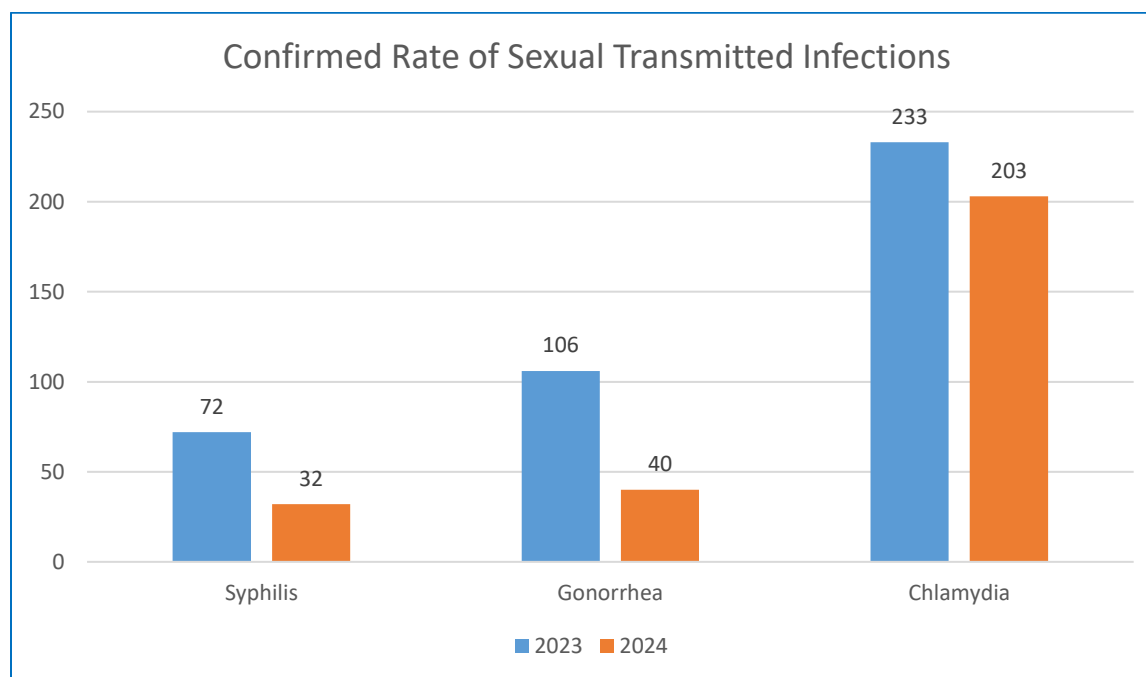
Disease surveillance continues with Newark Wayne Community Hospital's Emergency Department through NYSDOH's Electronic Syndromic Surveillance System to identify any unusual diseases or clusters that may indicate bioterrorism activity or emergence of a new trend or outbreak. Public Health continues to act as a resource for medical providers, schools, and community members for a variety of communicable disease and immunization matters. No unusual diseases or clusters were noted in 2024 other than COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases, such as RSV and Influenza.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

NYSDOH relies on local health departments to control, investigate, test, treat, and report sexually transmitted infections (STI). This includes, but is not limited to, syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia. Since 2015, STI diagnosis and treatment services have been contracted out to Finger Lakes Community Health (FLCH). This has provided residents with more locations and scheduling availability, bilingual care (English or Spanish), and access to the additional medical services that FLCH provides. Wayne County residents are able to access five (5) different FLCH Centers located within Wayne County and its surrounding counties. A comprehensive list of diagnostic and treatment services are provided that align with requirements in 10NYCRR 23.4. Treatment services may be billed to the patient's private or public health insurance payer. However, the patient has the right to refuse for privacy reasons and in these situations, the health department is the payer of last resort.

[Syphilis](#) is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that if left untreated can cause serious health complications. In 2024, Wayne County's Syphilis and Gonorrhea cases have decreased considerably compared to 2023's number of confirmed cases. The chart below represents the

total confirmed cases of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia for 2024 in comparison to 2023.



Wayne County Public Health STI Data, 2023-2024

Public Health is a member of the regional Finger Lakes Sexual Health Coalition. The coalition enables the health department to provide and receive updates on the status of the AIDS epidemic NYSDOH programs, and identify new and emerging issues that would benefit from interagency collaborations.

Children's Immunization Clinic

Free vaccines for children are provided by NYSDOH through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. The VFC program is a federally funded CDC program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay. To be eligible for the State funded vaccines (VFC for children and VFA for adults) one must be Uninsured, Underinsured, have Medicaid, Child Health Plus, Blue Choice Option, or one of the Managed Medicaid programs, or be American Indian or of Alaskan descent. These publicly funded vaccines are a critical resource for filling gaps in the nation's immunization coverage. The health department will continue to serve eligible children and adolescents under this program. Privately insured children receive their vaccinations mostly from their primary care physicians.

WCPH holds two regularly scheduled children's vaccination clinics per month. One of the clinics is held at the health department by appointment for children from birth to age 19 on the third Wednesday of the month. An additional children's immunization clinic is offered and held in the homes of Amish families. For Amish clinics, two Public Health Nurses will travel from home to home of families with a scheduled appointment to administer vaccinations to children and adults as needed.

It has taken quite some time over the last few years for the nurses to build the relationship with the Amish. They are very private and don't often look outside their tight knit community for assistance. Now not only are the nurses able to provide vaccinations in the homes but they also share information about the many other programs at public health such as car seat inspections, lactation support and adult immunizations.

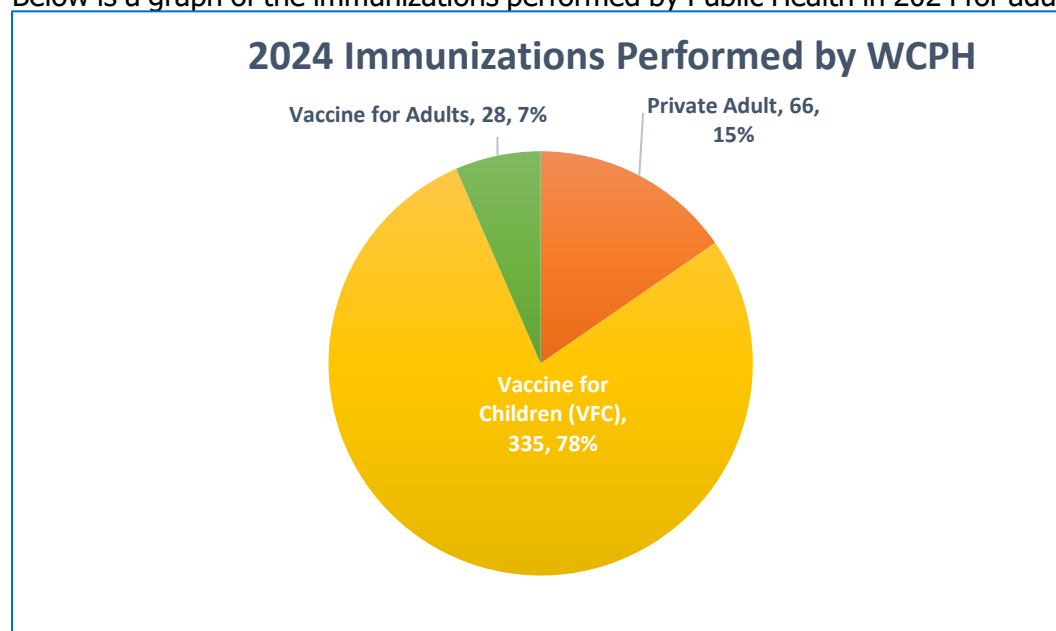
In 2024 a total of 335 immunizations were provided to 176 children at the WCPH clinics. Of those, 71 immunizations were given to 37 Amish children during the in-home visits.

Adult Immunization Clinic

In 2015, the NYSDOH expanded its adult immunization program into a Vaccine for Adults Program (VFA). The VFA Program provides a safety net for the vaccination of adults who do not have health insurance coverage. The VFA Program provided 28 free vaccinations to 24 adults in 2024. Adult immunizations were provided at the health department by appointment.

Public Health also provides vaccinations to adults who have insurance through our private stock of vaccine. In 2024, 66 privately funded immunizations were administered to 53 adults with services billed directly to the consumer.

A main focus of our adult immunization program is to conduct outreach within the community, educate residents on the benefits of adult vaccines, and build awareness of their availability to ultimately minimize the incidence of vaccine-preventable disease within our adult population. This outreach was conducted via social media, website postings, and in-person education in 2024. Adult vaccinations are available by appointment during our monthly Adult Immunization Clinic. Below is a graph of the immunizations performed by Public Health in 2024 for adults and children.



Wayne County Public Health Immunization data, 2024

Rabies & Zoonosis

The Rabies Prevention and Control Program is part of the NYSDOH Communicable Disease Program. Positive cases of rabies and exposures to rabies from animal bites are reportable under the NYSDOH Communicable Disease reporting requirements.

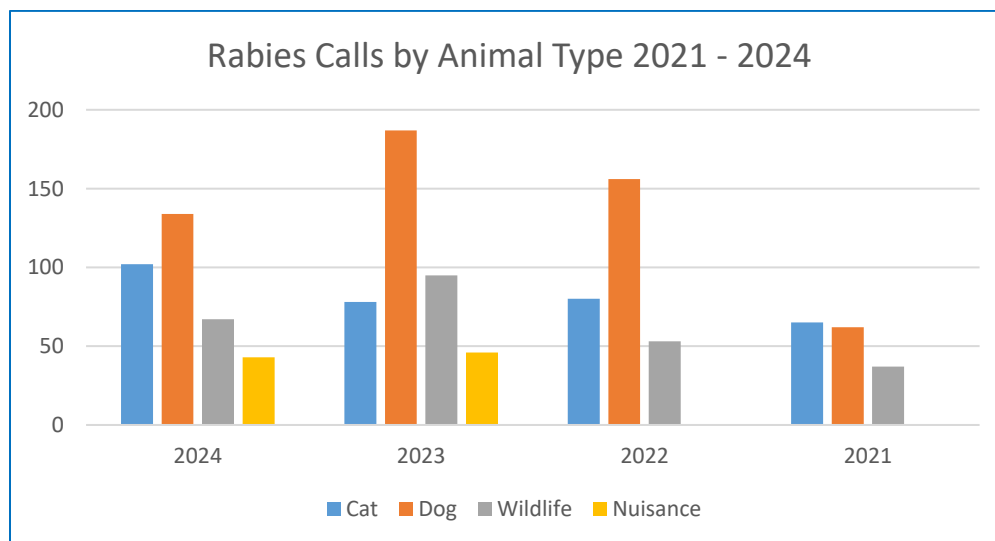
Rabies is a disease that is almost always deadly to humans and unvaccinated animals. Rabies is caused by a virus found in the saliva of animals. Most exposures occur through a bite from wildlife and an exposure can occur through saliva entering the eyes, mouth, nose or an open wound. There is no known cure if Rabies infection is acquired. Common rabies carriers are raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats.

Through vaccination we are able to protect humans, pets and livestock from contracting rabies. By vaccinating your pets and livestock against rabies, you are ensuring the safety of your family and animals. Please contact your local Veterinarian to obtain Rabies vaccinations for your pets and livestock.

If you encounter a stray or wild animal, please leave it alone. If any human, pet or livestock animal has been exposed to a suspect rabid animal, please contact WCPH immediately during regular office hours from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm at (315) 946-5749 and after hours at (315) 946 - 9711

In 2024 WCPH:

- Held 4 drive-thru Rabies Vaccination Clinics; 706 animals received Rabies vaccination.
- Sent 41 specimens to the NYS Wadsworth lab for Rabies testing. With 2 of these testing positive for Rabies.
- 79 people received post-exposure Rabies prophylaxis.
- 449 animal bite investigations were completed compared to 406 last year



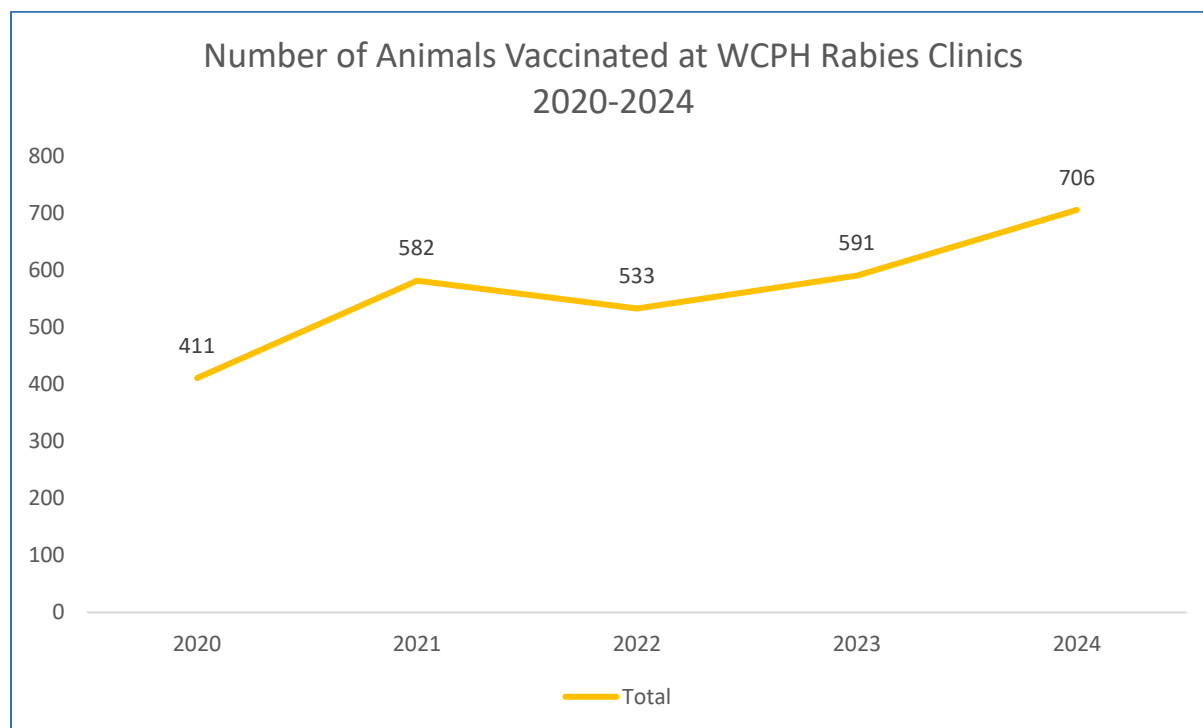
WCPH Rabies Investigation Calls, 2024

Rabies Vaccination Clinics

WCPH held four drive-thru rabies vaccination clinics in 2024. This format is efficient and we will continue to hold drive-thru style Rabies clinics in the future. The rabies clinics are free of charge for dogs, cats, and domesticated ferrets to help keep our community safe. Donations are accepted. All clinics are advertised in advance in local penny savers, on the WCPH website, and Facebook.

(www.facebook.com/waynecountypublichealth)

Below is a graph depicting the total number of dogs, cats, and ferrets vaccinated at the WCPH Rabies Vaccination Clinics in 2020 - 2024.



Wayne County Public Health Rabies Clinic Data, 2024

Tuberculosis (TB) Control

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and was once the leading cause of death in the United States (CDC). The bacteria usually attacks the lungs, but can attack other parts of the body such as the lymph nodes, eyes, kidneys, knee, spine and brain. If not treated properly, TB can be fatal.

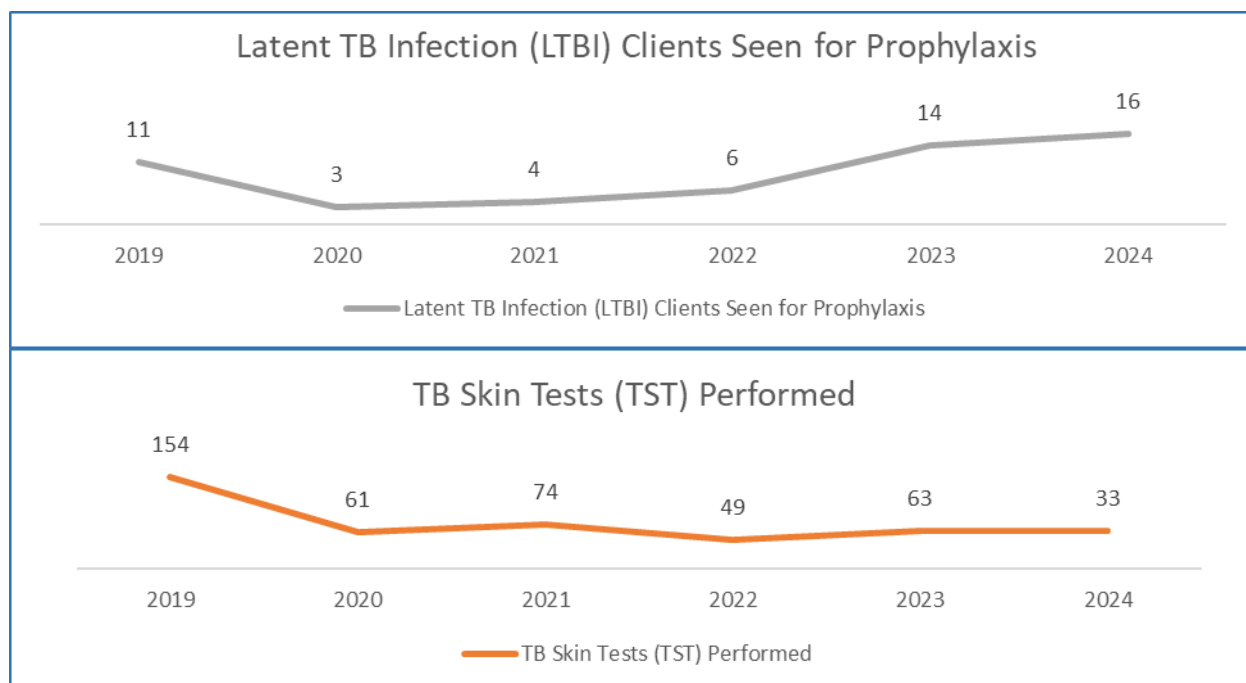
The TB Program provides comprehensive testing, diagnosis, and treatment of latent (infection) and active (disease) TB cases in Wayne County. Latent TB infection (LTBI) means that you carry the bacteria within your body however, you are not symptomatic and are unable to spread the

infection to others. LTBI can be easily treated. On the other hand, active disease (TB) is easily spread from person to person through droplets, and requires multiple medications to eliminate. This program decreases the threat posed by active TB in our community through thorough evaluation, closely monitored treatment regimens (including directly observed therapy AKA DOT), and promotion of preventive therapy as indicated for contacts of cases.

The health department is seen as the expert in Tuberculosis Control in Wayne County. Local doctors, hospitals, medical centers and medical providers at the jail report most positive TST (tuberculin skin test) results to WCPH for our investigation, case management, and treatment. The TB Program works closely with NYSDOH on all active and suspect cases.

Wayne County Public Health offers testing for LTBI via a Tuberculin skin test (TST). There are two types of blood tests; a T-spot and a QuantiFERON Gold. These tests are more accurate and have become the gold standard and require no return visit. Our TB Program works toward the United States goal of eliminating TB by 2035 by offering diagnostic testing for diagnosis of LTBI or TB, and with appropriate treatment via the TB consultant and TB nurse. The goal of the program is to protect our residents from a disease that can be costly and damaging to their health.

Wayne County Public Health offers Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) clinics every Monday, except for holidays, from 9 AM to 11 AM, and monthly TB clinics for LTBI and TB infected individuals. In 2024, Wayne County TB Program held nine TB clinics with our consultant treating seven individuals for LTBI. The program had no new active cases of TB present in 2024. The graphs below depict the number of TB Skin Tests (TST) performed and the number of clients seen and treated for a Latent TB Infection.





Wayne County Public Health TB Data, 2024

Shown above: TB Consultant Dr. Mary Kate Hinkle and TB Program Coordinator Veronica LaFave-Boughton RN, BS.

FAMILY HEALTH

Dental Health

WCPH strives to ensure that all children, up to age 21, and their caregivers have access to information about dental health. The Public Health Educator teamed up with the Chronic Disease Nurse and one of the Program Coordinators to curate educational campaigns, presentations, and programs to promote early dental care to children. Public Health staff take every opportunity at clinics, home visits, health fairs, and outreach events to educate clients about good dental health habits and practices.

Dental Health efforts were continued throughout 2024 through the WHIP Dental Health Subcommittee, where WCPH collaborates with community partners to identify and assess disparities, and address the dental needs of Wayne County residents. A unified approach was taken to overcome dental health obstacles throughout the year, such as a shift in the community dentistry program. WCPH and participating partners came together through the committee to support a unified message to the community in the transfer of the school community dentistry programs from Mosaic Health to Finger Lakes Community Health.

Family Planning & Reproductive Health

WCPH provides free family planning and reproductive health educational materials through our education boards and tables located near the main entrance to the health department and in the waiting room. Educational materials are targeted to women and men of various ages and provide a different topic each month. Reproductive health education and materials were also disseminated on Facebook, the agencies website (wcphny.com), and sent to medical provider offices.

Free male and female condoms are ordered from the NYSDOH and are distributed in our safe sex kits to requesting adults at the department's reception window, in the Department of Social Services waiting room and restrooms, and the Health Services Building restrooms. Included in

the safe sex kits are condoms, educational brochures regarding breast and testicular self-exams, signs and symptoms of a sexually transmitted infection (STI), and locations for free STI testing. In 2024, there were 466 safe sex kits distributed.

Injury Prevention & Control

WCPH continues efforts to reduce preventable and unintentional injuries within Wayne County through the development and implementation of educational program, as well as collaboration with community partners.

In 2024, WCPH had an additional staff member trained as a car seat technician. Currently, WCPH has six trained staff members who are able to perform car seat inspections and facilitate distribution classes. Throughout 2024, the technicians performed 72 inspections, of which, 60 failed (please note that failed inspections result in the distribution of a car seat), and distributed a total of 101 car seats.

WCPH staff engaged with Wayne County youth and parents through various avenues such as

festivals, farmer's markets, community centers, summer programs, and school events to provide bike safety education and free bike helmets. 2024, may have been our busiest bike helmet year yet, with a total of 396 helmets distributed to Wayne County youth ages 3-14.



Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

The Wayne County Public Health Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (OOPP) provides Narcan trainings to community responders and members in compliance with the New York State Department of Health Opioid Overdose Prevention Program and Public Health Law section 3309. The OOPP aims to reduce the burden of opioid overdose within Wayne County, by providing overdose education and Narcan training. In 2024, a total of 846 Narcan kits were dispensed through the OOPP program. Recipients consisted of: Various Red Boxes, Lyons Soup Kitchen, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, BOCES students, Wayne County Open Access Center, V-Tech, Gananda Central School District staff, Lyons Library, North Rose Wolcott Central School District staff, North Rose Wolcott High School Students, Lincoln Fire Department, Palmyra Library, Emmanuel Methodist Church Food Pantry staff, Newark Civil Air Patrol, Sodus Point Lifeguards, Wayne County Nursing Home staff, Wayne County Aging and Youth staff, United We Stand, Sodus Steady Work, Marion Central School District, and numerous members of the community.

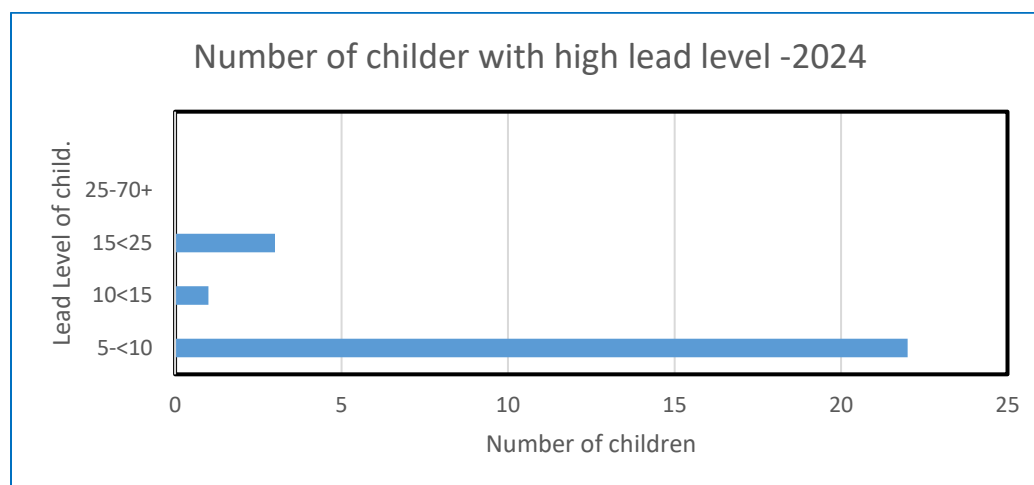
With the support of Opioid Settlement funds, WCPH was able to continue the Red Box initiative to place free Narcan kits throughout the county for easy access in the event of an opioid overdose emergency. At the end of 2024, there were a total of 23 Red Boxes

placed at the following locations: Wayne County Health Services, Wayne County Fire Safety Training, Wayne County Soil and Water, Wayne County DSS, Wayne County DMV, Wayne County Treasurer's, the Old Wayne County Court House, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Wayne County 911 Call Center, Wayne County Probation, Wayne County Nursing Home, Wayne County Highway Department, Evergreen Hills Apartments, Lyons Library, Palmyra Library, Sodus Point Lifeguard Office, Emmanuel Methodist Church, Sodus Steady Work, United We Stand, Newark Library, Newark Post Office, and Helpful Hearts. Efforts to increase the amount of Narcan Red Boxes available to the county will continue in 2025.



Lead Poisoning Prevention

The goal of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is to reduce the prevalence of elevated blood lead levels in young children. This is achieved by conducting surveillance, screening, case management, health education, and outreach. In 2024, there were 26 children reported to WCPH with a blood lead level of > 5ug/dl. The graph below shows the percentage of children who have a blood lead level > 5 ug/dL.



Wayne County Public Health Lead Data – 2024

For children with a blood lead level > 5 ug/dl, the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Coordinator, Christine Gedney RN, BSN, makes a home visit to conduct a lead exposure assessment and to provide lead poisoning prevention education. In addition, a referral is made to an Environmental Sanitarian at the NYSDOH Geneva District Office for an environmental investigation to determine the lead source and to provide lead remediation education.

A main objective of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is to increase the number of children who are tested for lead at ages 1 and again at age 2, as required by the NYSDOH. In 2024, 645 Lead Birthday Letters were sent to all children who were turning one (1) or two (2) years old. These letters are used to remind parents of the importance of having their one or two year old child tested for lead.

Another important objective for the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is to provide lead poisoning prevention education to the communities and medical providers in our county. The following efforts were made in 2024:

- Provided Lead Poisoning Prevention educational pamphlets to local hardware stores and libraries for distribution to their customers.
- Lead poisoning prevention education was posted on WCPH’s Facebook page and website.
- Distributed Lead Poisoning Prevention Guidelines to pediatric and OB/GYN medical provider offices.
- Worked collaboratively with Section 8 and other subsidized housing agencies to ensure lead safe homes for children

- Provided Pediatricians with lists of one and two year old children associated with their practice that had not received any lead poisoning testing. This information has been utilized by pediatric medical practices to perform outreach to families of these children.
- Two lead educational billboards were placed in Wayne County

Two FREE Renovation, Repair, Painting (RRP) classes were held certifying 29 persons in Lead safe renovation home improvement practices.

Prenatal Care & Infant Mortality

The Tender Care Program is an educational and support program for pregnant women and women with children 5 years and younger. Wayne County Public Health works with expecting and post-partum women to ensure positive birth outcomes. In addition, home visits are made to pregnant women and parenting families with educational information and demonstrations provided as needed. Educational information shared includes pregnancy, nutrition, labor and delivery, breastfeeding, infant care, immunizations, and child safety. In 2024, 8 referrals were received for maternal child health educational home visits.

Each Wayne County family, who welcomes a new baby and is identified as being high risk for poor maternal child health outcomes, is sent a letter offering a free educational and confidential newborn baby visit with Susan Sheets, RN, Maternal Child Health (MCH) Coordinator. Post-delivery visits are educational and can help answer any questions a new family may have. Approximately 314 letters were sent to families in 2024.

Susan Sheets, RN is also a Certified Lactation Consultant who is able to assist breastfeeding families in the comfort of their homes. In 2024, two breastfeeding mothers reached out for breastfeeding assistance and home visits were made to each.

In 2024, The Breastfeeding Leadership Counsel of Wayne County (by member choice) continues holding monthly virtual meetings. Maternal Child Health (MCH) Regional Work Group offers "Hybrid" meetings allowing members to either attend in person or via Zoom. A new focus for the regional workgroup has been the development of a free Basic Breast-Feeding Class for expectant mothers and their support persons. A few of our neighboring counties have held these classes and they were well attended. A class was offered in March of 2024, but was cancelled due to low interest.

PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

All local health departments are required to provide health education services. Health education is the process of assisting individuals and groups to make informed health decisions and build healthy skills and behaviors affecting personal, family, and community health and wellbeing. Through health education, the gaps between the public and the health sciences community is bridged, promoting awareness and prevention efforts.

The Public Health Educator along with one of the Public Health Program Coordinators and the Public Health Nurses attended various health events to promote health and wellbeing, as well as raise community awareness on services provided by Wayne County Public Health. These events included: the Wayne County Fair, various festivals and health fairs throughout the county, farmer's markets, school events, and many more. In addition to these events, Public Health staff provided regular education at the Sodus Lunch Club 60 site, Hannick Hall, and the Emmanuel United Methodist Church. These health events prove important for Public Health to connect with the county's population and build meaningful relationships in order to have a positive impact through health education.



(PHE outside MHV at National Night Out in Gananda)



(MHV set up for tabling event at Emmanuel Methodist Church)

Nicotine Cessation Services

In 2024, Wayne County Public Health continued nicotine cessation efforts by working with individuals who are highly motivated to quit the use of nicotine products including, but not limited to, cigarettes, vapes, and chew tobacco. Public Health provides free Nicotine Replacement Therapy for up to 6 months to individuals who are uninsured/underinsured or those who cannot afford the cost of Nicotine Replacement Therapy. To those trying to quit, Public Health is able to offer nicotine patches, lozenges, and gum. In 2024, the Public Health Educator worked with 15 individuals over the age of 18, who wished to quit the use of nicotine products. The majority of referrals Public Health receives for nicotine cessation services came from our partners at Wayne Behavioral Health Network, while others learned of these services through outreach efforts including community events, social media, and the Wayne County Public Health website. Through our partnership with the Wayne Behavioral Health Network, we are working to reduce health disparities among vulnerable populations, such as those living with substance use disorders or a mental health condition diagnosis.

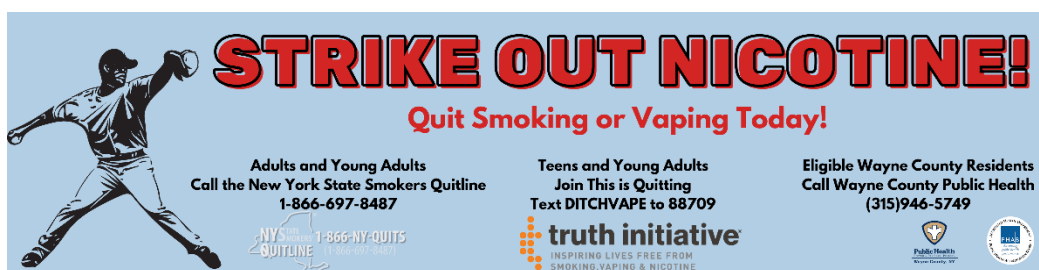
In 2024, the Public Health Educator offered INDEPTH, an alternative to punitive action nicotine intervention program, and N-O-T, a youth focused nicotine cessation program, to address vaping among youth. In 2024, the Public Health Educator met with 2 students from Williamson, who

were in violation of their school’s vaping policy, to provide the INDEPTH program. Throughout the course of this intervention program, students learned of the health dangers of vaping, gained insight into their vaping behaviors, and learned of the financial and social costs of vaping. The students that participate in INDEPTH gain skills to adopt healthy behaviors to deter from bringing their vapes to school and avoid violating the school’s vaping policy again. These skills can be adapted further to allow the students to also develop healthy stress management techniques.

Social Media and Other Communications for Education

In addition to in-person outreach, the utilization of Facebook, Instagram, and other social media outlets were deemed the most effective for conveying comprehensible and credible health messages to Wayne County residents. Using social media avenues allowed for frequent and timely messaging that was tailored for various health messages and events. The Public Health Educator and the Public Health Program Coordinator curated messaging campaigns to educate the county on various health concerns. Some of these messaging campaigns centered around Eastern Equine Encephalitis, West Nile Virus, Dental Health, and Mental Health. There was also a focus to curate messages that followed along with the various health awareness months to take the opportunity to educate the public on several health concerns. Social media engagement remains high with over 9,800 followers and over 164,000 views on Facebook alone.

Wayne County Public Health also sponsored the 2024 season of the Newark Pilots allowing for banners promoting services to be displayed throughout the season and was able to table at one of the home games allowing for community engagement.



Public Health Emergency Preparedness



Public Health plays an integral role in assisting the public plan for, effectively respond to, and recover from emergencies. Emergencies that affect public health can range from natural disasters, to communicable disease outbreaks, to acts of terror that can compromise or disrupt access to food and water or even acts of cyber terrorism that can compromise our protected health information. Wayne County Public Health partners with the Wayne County Office of Emergency Management and other state, local, and federal partners to ensure Wayne County residents are prepared for emergencies. Our planning, exercises and outreach activities help to ensure our communities are resilient and can recover from emergencies. The Public Health Response team participates in local and regional planning, drills and exercises. Drills and exercises are a way to test our response plans before emergencies occur so we can make improvements to enhance our response.

Trainings/ Community Events/ Drills:

In 2024, the PHEP program was committed to our efforts of continuing to provide valuable education to both the community and staff. Some highlights of this work include;

- Internal quarterly staff trainings with topics such as Incident Command 101, Countermeasure Data Management System (CDMS), situational flooding exercise and plan review.
- Community trainings during National Preparedness month where 26 individuals were trained in Psychological First Aid.
- Targeted personal preparedness education at FLACRA's Youth Clubhouse, GlowUp Girls, Hannick Hall, and Wayne County School Superintendents.

New Initiative:

In September, a new committee was started under the PHEP program. The committee is the Community Partners Public Health Emergency Committee which has a mission to bring valuable community partners together quarterly to have regular conversation and collaboration related to public health emergency preparedness in Wayne County. The 2024 meetings had about 20 representatives in attendance ranging from Office of Emergency Management, to local libraries,

to long term care, and to surrounding counties emergency planners. Looking forward to 2025, this committee is hopeful to grow in numbers as well as provide additional preparedness education to the community.

Other Highlights from the Year:

- Planning for and educating the community in relation to the Total Solar Eclipse that happened on April 8, 2024.
- Response through the Finger Lakes Public Health Alliance (FLPHA) to support and observe Yates County Public Health for a Hepatitis A outbreak during April.
- Participation in the State (7/9) and Federal (8/20) Ginna Nuclear Plan exercises.

Children with Special Needs

The following programs work to ensure appropriate services and resources are provided to eligible children with special needs and to the families of these children.

Early Intervention

The New York State Early Intervention Program (EIP) is part of the nationally mandated Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

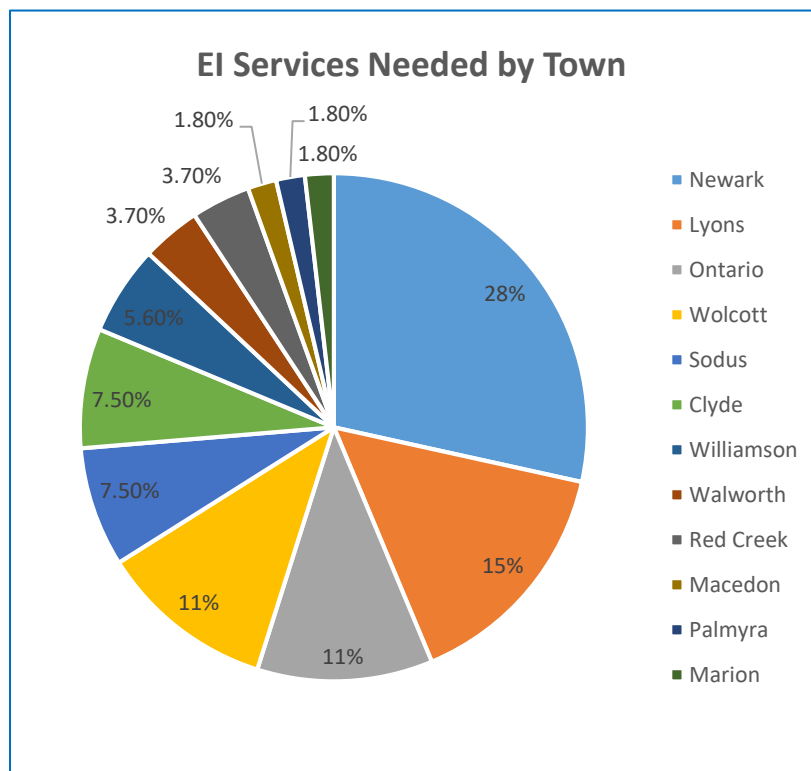
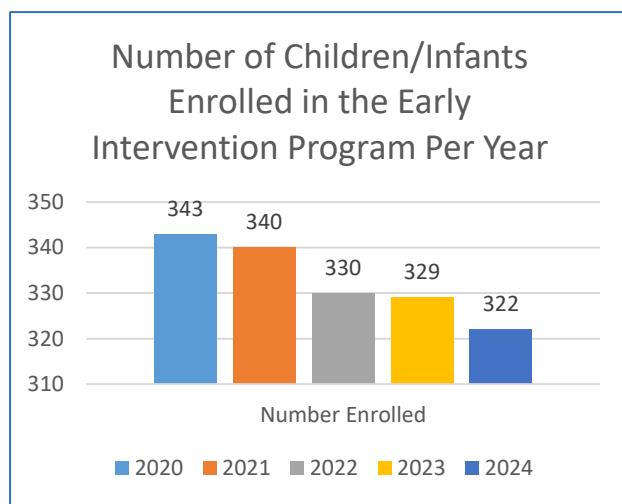
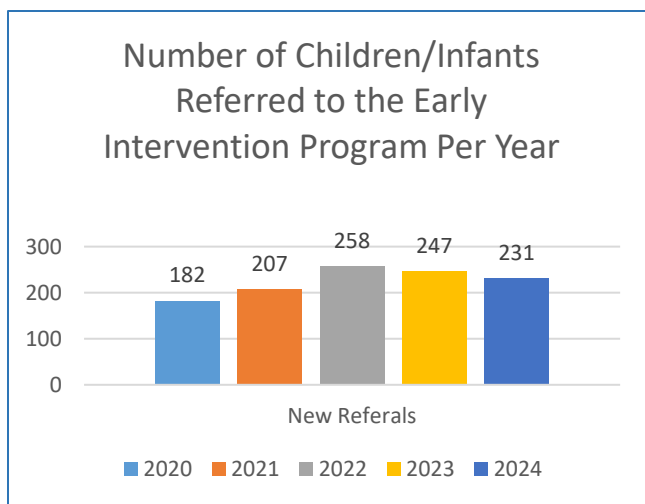
To be eligible for services, children must:

- be under the age of 3; and
- have a confirmed disability or established developmental delay in one or more of the following areas of development: physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional, and/or adaptive.

The Early Intervention Program offers a variety of therapeutic and support services to eligible infants/toddlers with disabilities and their families. Some of the services included as part of the EI Program are:

- assistive technology devices and services
- audiology
- family education and counseling, home visits, and parent support groups
- occupational therapy
- physical therapy
- psychological services
- service coordination
- special instruction
- speech pathology
- vision services

In 2024, the number of referrals made to the Wayne County Early Intervention Program (EIP) was 231, a decrease of 6.4% compared to 2023. Referrals generally come from a parent, doctor’s office, Head Start, or Child Protective Services. There were 322 infants/children enrolled in Early Intervention throughout the year. This number is down by 7 cases from 2023. At the close of 2024, there were 42 Wayne County children under the age of 3 on the county’s waitlist who need services. There were 53 services needed: 35 speech therapy; 10 special instruction; and 7 occupational therapy.



Wayne County Public Health Early Intervention Program Data, 2024

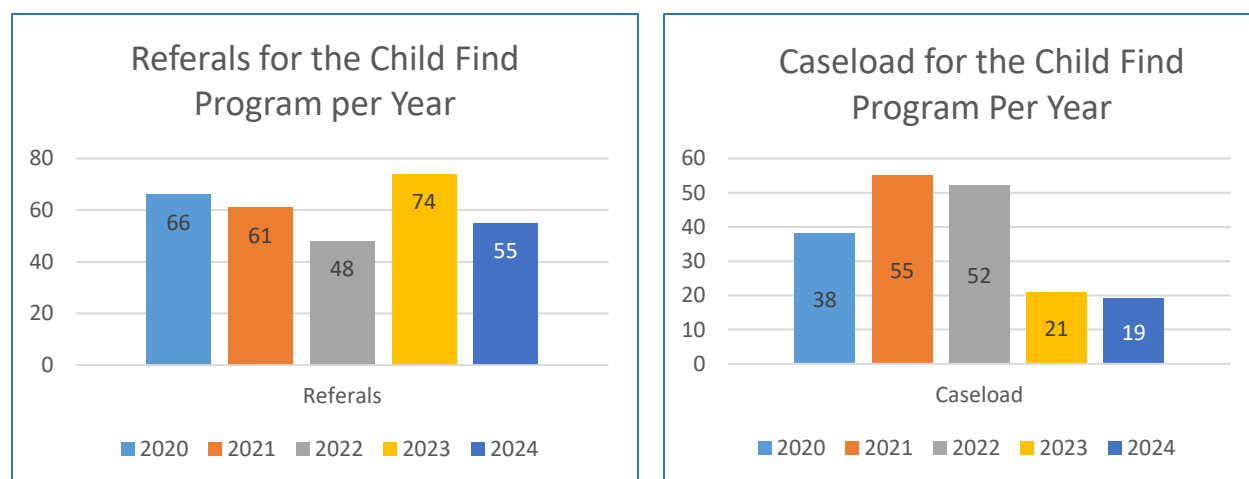
A waitlist of needed services is sent bi-weekly to EI service providers working in Wayne County. Service providers either work for an approved EI agency or work independently, both contract directly with the State for reimbursement of their services.

Child Find

The Child Find (CF) Program is part of the Early Intervention program. It identifies children, birth through three years, who may potentially be eligible for EI services and who are at-risk for developmental delays. It further acts to facilitate their participation with a primary health care provider, ensures their access to developmental screenings, and opportunities to access health care insurance.

The CF Program Coordinator monitors the child's development, provides information/suggestions on ways to improve a child's developmental skills, and makes referrals to community resources for children ages birth to 3, who are at-risk for developmental delays.

The Child Find program received 55 referrals in 2024, which is an 11.2% decrease from 2023. The current caseload is 19 children, down 2 from this time in 2023. This program is a voluntary program, so not all families referred to the program will decide to participate. Referrals generally come from Public Health's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Child Protective Services, MD offices/hospitals, or community agencies.



Wayne County Public Health Child Find Data, 2024

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)

The CYSHCN program assists families of children (birth – age 21) with special health care needs and identifies resources to obtain necessary health services, including specialty care providers, related health care services, and health insurance. The CYSHCN program is a NYSDOH grant-funded program.

Program accomplishments in 2024 include:

- 8 children are enrolled in the CYSHCN program. Follow up is done with families at least quarterly to see what assistance they may need.
- Brochures were disseminated to all the libraries in Wayne County.
- Approximately 600 brochures were mailed to all families who have a child in the 3-5 program and Child Find.
- Children’s sensory items were purchased through the CYSHCN grant and were made available for children and families to use in the Sensory Tent at the Wayne County Fair. The CYSHCN program coordinator was present in the tent for the whole week of the Fair.
- Print Ads for CYSHCN ran in the Times of Wayne County.
- CYSHCN campaign ads ran on the RTS bus system.
- A parent summit was held in May 2024 at the W-FL BOCES conference center. Several families registered for the event, unfortunately only one family actually attended. This event was designed to share relevant information about community resources with families who have children with special needs. The one family that did attend, was able to connect with needed resources for their child.
- The CYSHCN program coordinator met with the Newark Pediatrics Healthy Steps Social Worker to discuss the CYSHCN program.
- The CYSHCN program coordinator met with Dr. Steven Schultz, RRH Pediatric Medical Director to discuss the Early Intervention, Child Find and CYSHCN programs.
- Quarterly participation in zoom meetings with Regional CYSHCN staff.
- Participated in the NYS EI/CYSHCN conference in May in Albany.
- The CYSHCN program coordinator became a member of the Wayne County Schools Health and Wellness Steering Committee.
- Weekly posts about CYSHCN related information were on the WCPH Facebook page.
- Promotional items were ordered for the CYSHCN program- pens, pencils, note pads and 2 standing banners.
- 30 families reached out to the CYSHCN program coordinator. Assistance was given for U of R developmental evaluations, information about CPSE, kinship navigator information and where to find mental health providers.

3-5 Preschool Special Education Program

The County’s Preschool Special Education Program (Pre-K) provides mandated evaluation, educational, therapeutic, and transportation services for 3-5 year-old children who have a disability that affects their learning.

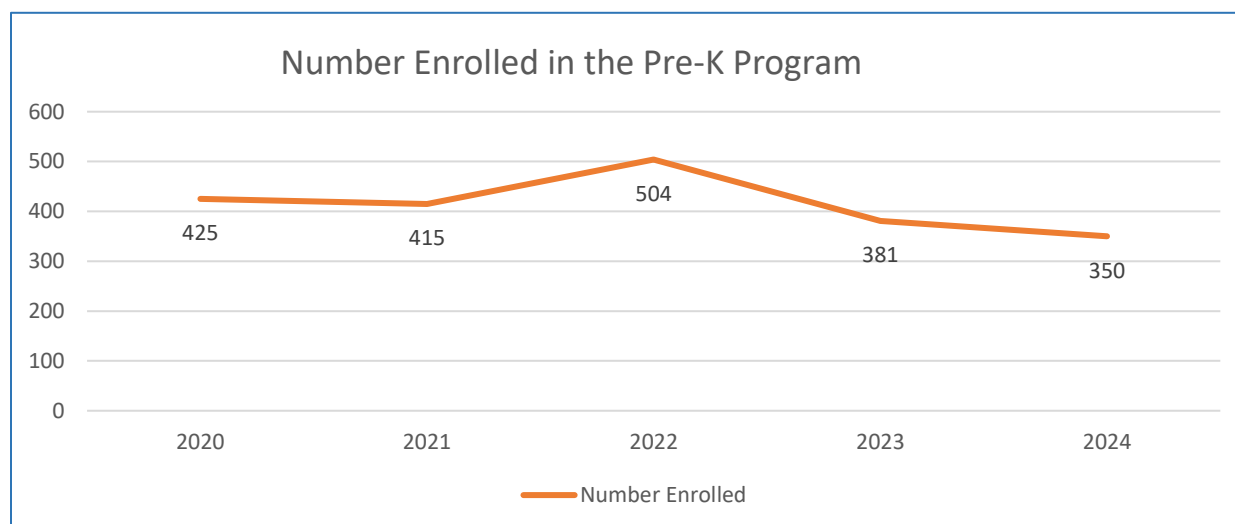
Sixteen (11 in county and 5 out of county) local school district Committees for Preschool Special Education (CPSE) authorize Preschool Special Education Services. The County and New York State Education Department (NYSED) provide funding for these services.

In the 2023-2024 school year, 350 preschool children received services. 296 children received related services (PT, OT, Speech, etc.) 81 received SEIT (special education itinerant teacher) and 80 attended a center-based program. This number is down 8% compared to the 2022-2023 school year.

During the 2024 Extended School Year (July –Aug.) 202 children received services compared to 214 the previous summer.

Evaluations Completed and % of Children Eligible for Preschool Services

2022-2023 School Year = 280	Eligible = 86%
2023 Extended School Year = 49	Eligible = 94%
2023-2024 School Year = 256	Eligible = 82%
2024 Extended School Year = 32	Eligible = 81%
9/1/2024 – 12/31/2024 = 82	Eligible = 84%



Wayne County Public Health Preschool Data, 2024

In 2024, a new cycle of 3 year contracts were executed between Public Health and 56 Preschool contractors (8 school districts, 5 center-based programs, 14 agencies and 29 independent providers). Services may be provided within a child's home, daycare, preschool, or within a center based setting. Wayne County continues to have a shortage of therapy and special education providers, especially in eastern Wayne County. Provider shortages are a statewide issue and we continue to seek and contract with additional providers throughout the year.

Municipalities are required to financially support the 3-5 Preschool Program as well as pay for transportation costs associated with children attending center-based programs. Each school district's Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) determines which services children will receive. Wayne County Public Health's Municipal Representative, Andrea Morgan, participates in most CPSE meetings during which a child's eligibility and services are discussed and determined.

Municipalities are required to cover all upfront costs and then seek reimbursement through Medicaid and State Aid. Any costs left over (at least 40 percent for non-Medicaid students) are the county's burden. New York State is the only state in the nation that mandates municipalities to fund a share of the Preschool Special Education program.

Transportation

Transportation within Wayne County continues to be provided by a municipal agreement with Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES acting as the contractor for the county's school districts. The cooperation of Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and the school districts in the transportation of Pre-K children within the county has continued to be a positive experience and has provided safe, dependable, cost efficient transportation. For the 2024-2025 school year, 45 students receive in-county transportation services.

Out-of-county transportation is currently provided by Transpo Bus Services. For the 2024-2025 school year, 15 preschool children are receiving transportation services.

Parents are encouraged and offered the option of transporting their own child to and from center-based programs and they can receive mileage reimbursement at the IRS rate. This option is most cost effective and is done by a handful of families.

The in-county contract with W-FL BOCES will expire at the end of the 2024-2025 school year and the out-of-county contracts expires the end of August. The bid process for transportation contracts will begin early Spring 2025.



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

Department of Health

JAMES V. McDONALD, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, M.S.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

New York State Department of Health Geneva District Office Contribution to Wayne County Public Health Department 2024 Annual Report

In 1921 legislation was enacted that empowered New York State counties to create county health districts. The purpose of a county health district was to consolidate local authority for the oversight of public health work at the county level rather than having public health activities dispersed to the constituent county cities, towns, and villages. Counties were not required to create such health districts and as time passed it became evident that many rural counties (including Yates) that had not formed a county health district would face increasing logistical and financial challenges that coincided with expanding public health needs and requirements. County health departments that operate in counties without county health districts are known as “partial services” county health departments.

As a matter of policy, not law; the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) addressed the need to preserve a baseline of environmental health programs and services in partial services counties by creating District Offices. Nine (9) district offices operate in New York State and in Wayne County; it is the NYSDOH Geneva District Office (GDO) that provides core environmental health programs and services to County residents and visitors. In partnership with Wayne County Public Health (WCPH) and other state and local agencies, the GDO enforces environmental health regulations and oversees a variety of programs that are designed to protect public health and safety. The attached pdf document provides a summary of the GDO’s duties and responsibilities and of the services that are provided to Wayne and to Ontario and Yates – the other two counties that are located within the GDO’s jurisdiction.

In addition to its core duties and responsibilities, highlights of the GDO’s activities in Wayne County during the 2024 calendar year included the following:

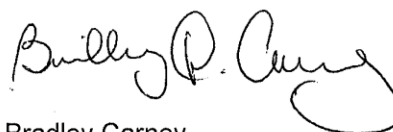
- Conducted 316 inspections at the County’s approximately 307 food service operations.
- Conducted 369 pre-operational and operational inspections at the County’s 171 migrant farmworker housing facilities.
- Conducted 14 pre-operational and operational inspections at the County’s 10 Children’s Camps.
- Conducted 0 inspections at the County’s 5 tanning facilities.
- Conducted 4 required 2024 inspections at the County’s 40 Mobile Home Parks.
- Conducted 26 pre-operational and operational inspections at the County’s 21 Swimming Pools.
- Conducted 3 pre-operational and operational inspections at the County’s 3 Bathing Beaches.
- Conducted 2 inspections at the County’s 7 Temporary Residences.
- Conducted 0 underage compliance checks and 91 adult checks to ensure compliance with the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA).

- Investigated 32 complaints alleging sanitary code violations at regulated facilities.
- Work with WCPH to conduct lead-based paint risk assessments at 35 private Yates County residences in response to referrals of children with elevated blood lead levels as necessary.
- Issued 26 formal enforcement actions (Administrative Tribunal Notice of Hearing) to address violations of the NYS Sanitary Code at regulated facilities.
- Conducted 49 sanitary surveys (enhanced inspections) at Public Water Supplies.

From January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 the Geneva District Office issued 0 Administrative Tribunal Notice of Hearing (enforcement action) to the owner of a tobacco retail outlet citing the illegal sale of tobacco products to an individual under twenty-one years of age.

From January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 the Geneva District Office issued 0 enforcement actions (Administrative Tribunal Notice of Hearing) for public water supply.

Prepared by

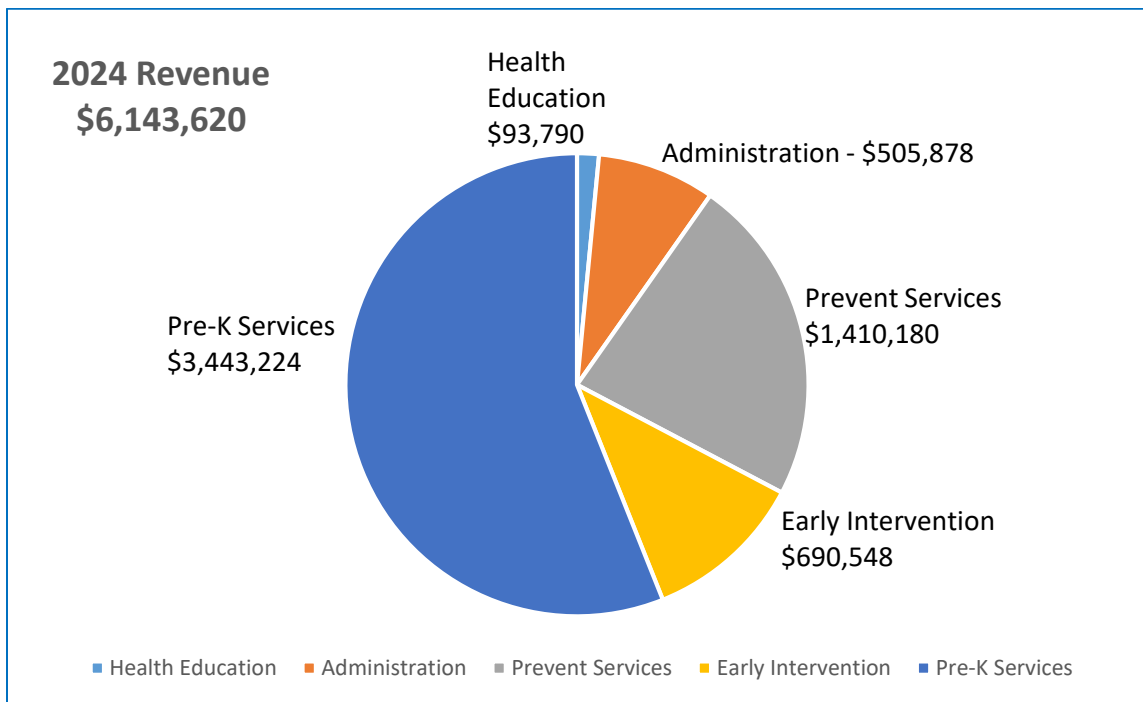
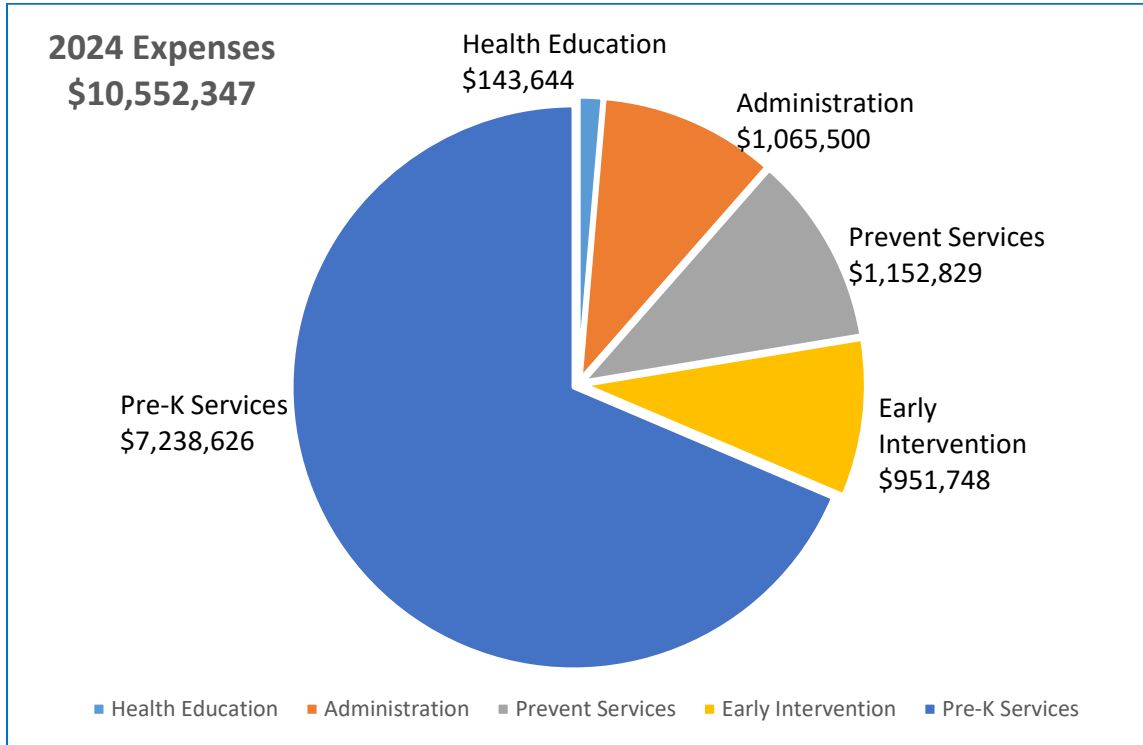


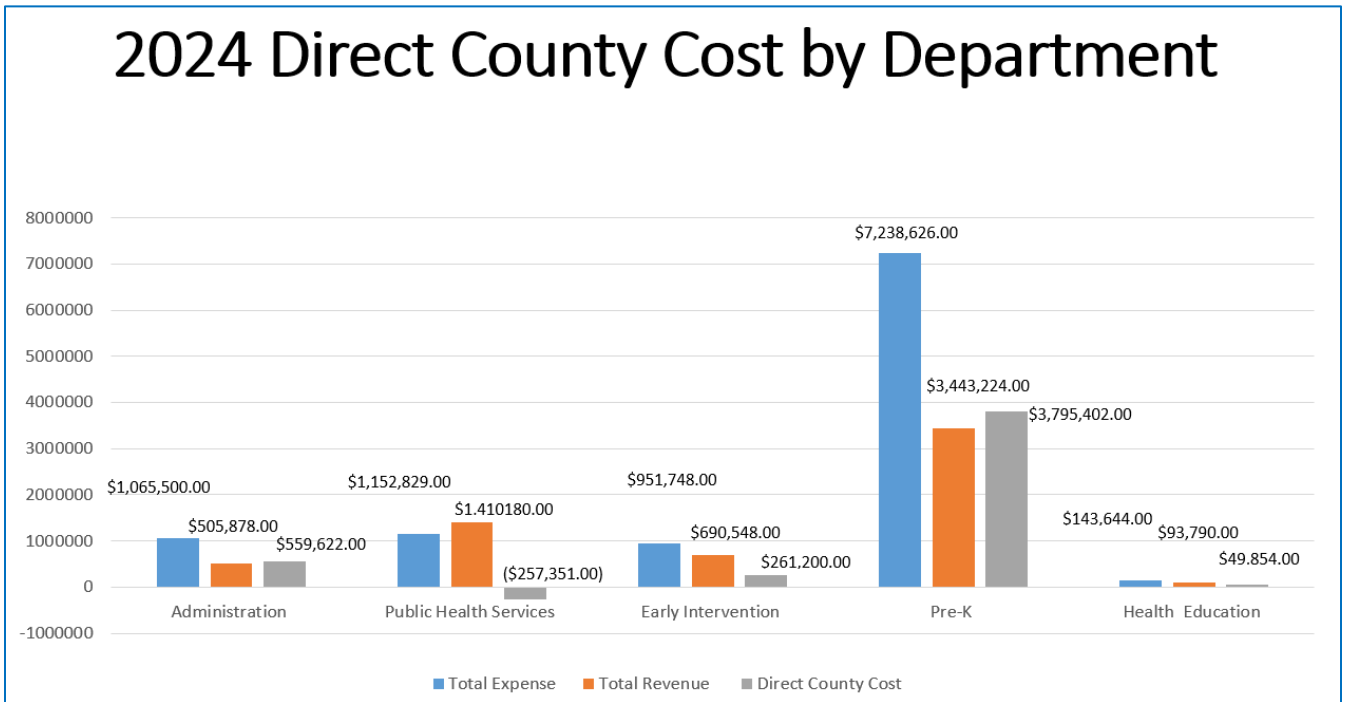
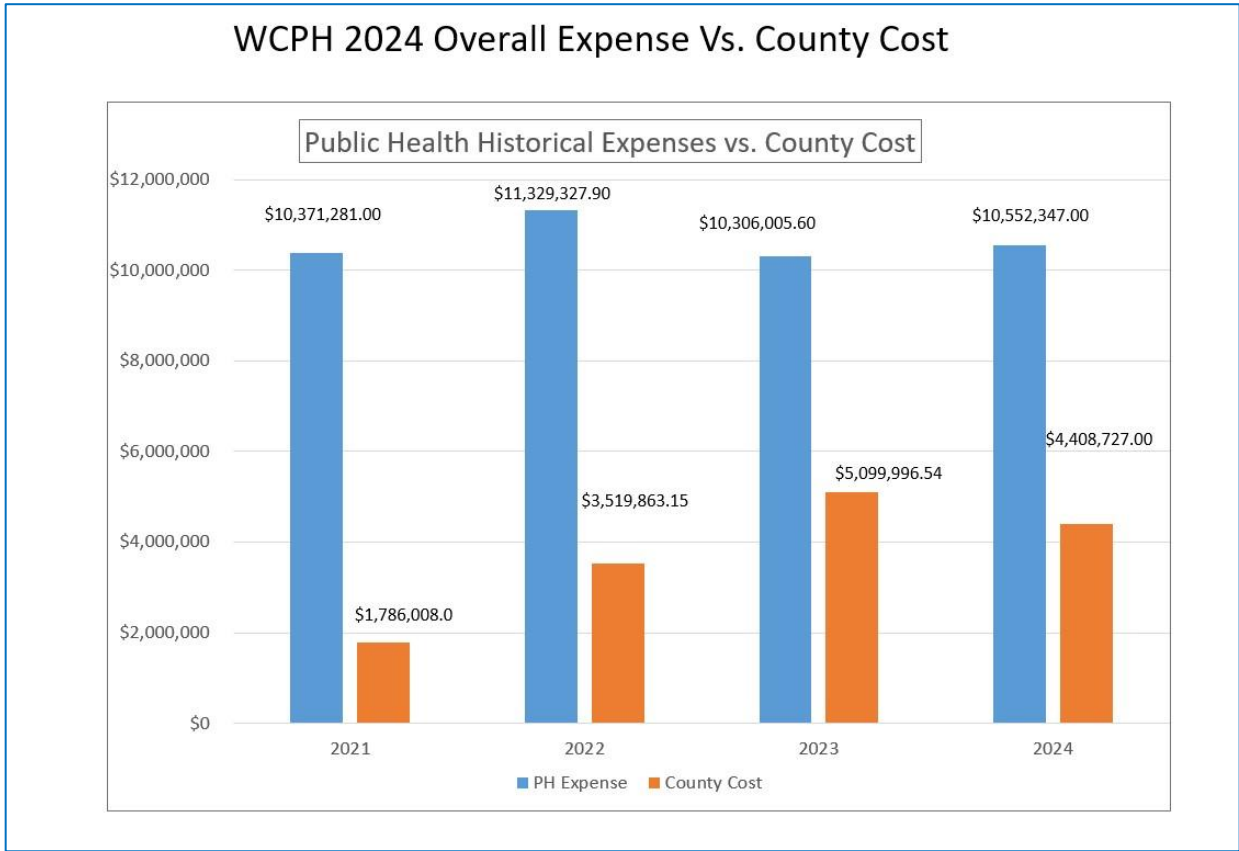
Bradley Carney
Principal Sanitarian
NYSDOH – Geneva District Office

March 17, 2025

2024 Overall Expenses and County Cost

Below is the breakdown of WCPH’s expenses and county cost for 2024.





Wayne County Public Health Fiscal Data, 2024