

# Annual Report 2022

Delaware County Public Health Services

Amanda Walsh, Director of Public Health



Healthy people living in healthy and thriving communities

**Delaware County Public Health Services**  
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**607-832-5200**  
**[www.delawarecountypublichealth.com](http://www.delawarecountypublichealth.com)**

**OUR VISION**

Healthy people living in healthy and thriving communities.

**OUR MISSION**

Protect, promote, and improve the health and well-being of people of all generations and create healthy places to live, learn, work, and play.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

- Prevents injuries
- Protects against environmental hazards
- Promotes and encourages healthy behaviors
- Prevents epidemics and the spread of disease
- Assures the quality and accessibility of health services
- Responds to disasters and assists communities in recovery

**CORE VALUES**

- **Collaboration:** Working in partnership with individuals, the community, and organizations to strengthen our resources and achieve a common goal.
- **Excellence:** Sustaining a knowledgeable and competent Public Health workforces providing high quality services to the community.
- **Innovation:** Applying technology, knowledge, and research to implement creative and progressive interventions.
- **Integrity:** Adhering to high ethical and professional standards in the workplace to ensure transparent and accountable performance.
- **Respect:** Embracing the dignity and diversity of individuals, groups, and communities.
- **Science:** Supporting and prompting best practice in any discipline based on sound research and professional judgement.

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# Committee Members 2022

## Health Services Advisory Board

- Heather Warner
- Christina Gardner
- Dr. Rohan Jayasena
- Ed Bartos
- Dr. Riaz Lone
- Wayne Marshfield
- Arthur Merrill
- Eric Wilson
- Amanda Walsh
- Betty Scott
- Joe Cetta
- Wayne Shepard (April 2022)
- Terri Whitney (January-March 2022)
- Kyra Shew

## Community Health

- Betty Scott
- Joe Cetta
- Arthur Merrill (Chairman)
- Wayne Marshfield
- Eric Wilson

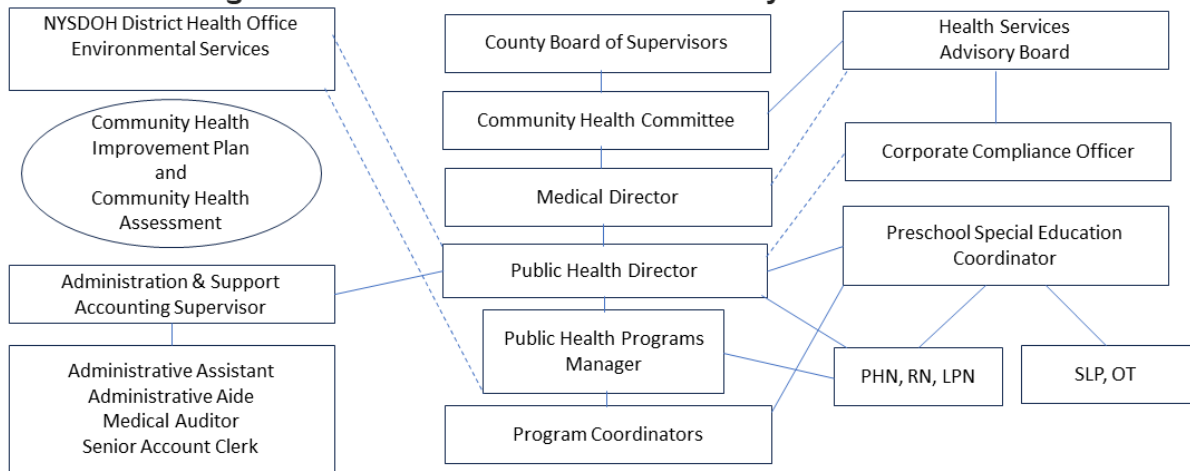
## Medical Director

- Dr. Rohan Jayasena

# Organizational Chart

Revised 6/2023

## Organizational Chart for Delaware County Public Health Services



### Chronic Disease Prevention

- Coalitions/Organizations
- Public Participation
- Community Information
- Education & Referral

### Emergency Preparedness & Response

- Planning/Education
- Training/Exercises

### Communicable Disease Control

- Arthropod Borne Vector
- General Communicable Disease
- Immunization
- Article 28 Clinics/Diagnostic & Treatment
- Rabies
- STD/AIDS/HIV
- TB/Directly Observed Therapy

### Family Health

- Child Health
- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)
- Physically Handicapped Children's Program (PHCP)
- Maternal & Infant Health
- MCH Home Visits
- Reproductive Health

### Children's Services

- Early Intervention Administration (EI)
- Early Intervention Provider Agency
- Preschool Special Education Program

### Environmental

- Lead Poisoning Prevention

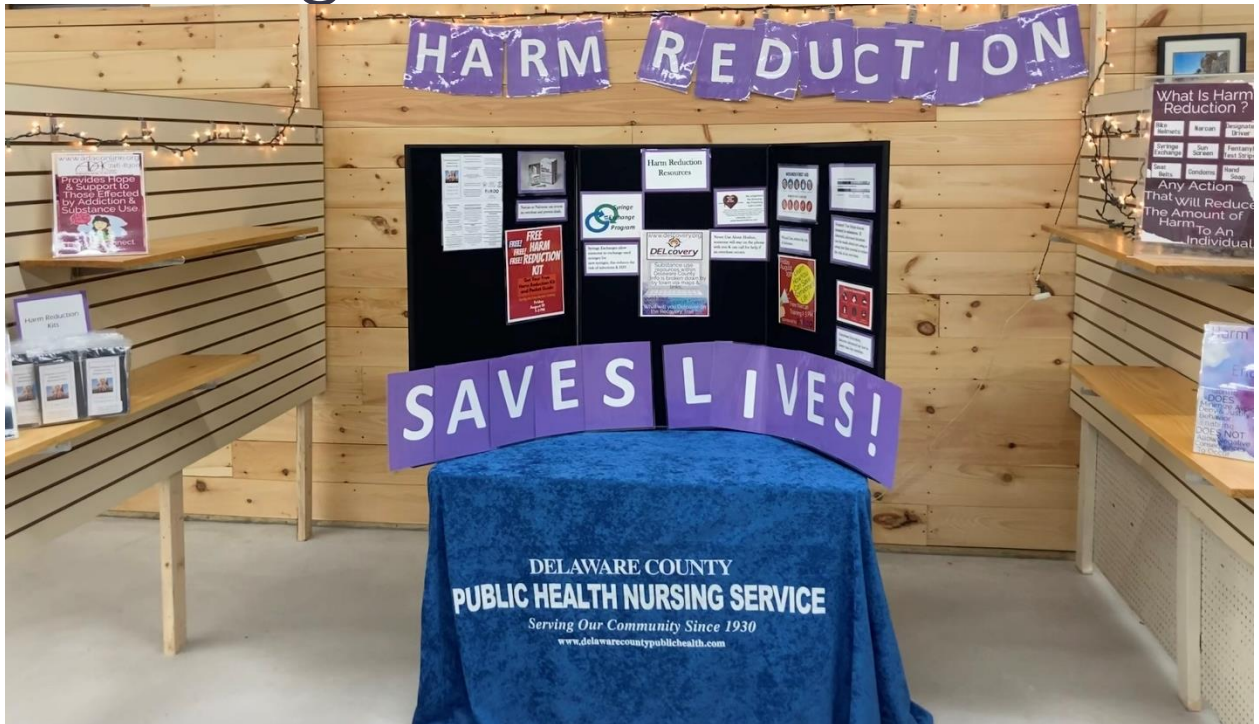
### Health

- Injury Control

- Public Health Program Manager and Preschool Special Education Coordinator perform general supervision of PHN/RN related to program activity, clinical skills are peer supervised.
- Public Health staff may be assigned to work in any Public Health Program.



# Preventing Substance Abuse



- The Substance Use Prevention Program is granted funded by New York State OD2A (Overdose To Action). The goal for this grant is to reduce substance use and educate communities.
- Delaware County Public Health collaborated with law enforcement, hospitals, and treatment and prevention agencies to provide education to the community. Topics included substance use, harm reduction resources, and prevention of substance use.
- Substance use data was collected from Tri-Town Emergency Department and the three hospitals in Delaware County, EMS, Fire Departments and Delaware County Correctional Facility.
- 500 harm reduction kits were assembled and distributed to hospitals, pharmacies, Delaware County Correctional Facility, Delaware Opportunities food bank and FOR-DO.
- An exhibit on harm reduction was featured in Cornell Cooperative Extension's Human Ecology building at the Delaware County Fair. The display was awarded 3rd place. Education was provided on harm reduction, resources, and county partner agencies. Harm reduction kits were dispersed. Staff from Friends of Recovery-Delaware Otsego also trained nine people on Narcan administration.



# Promoting Mental Health



- December 2022; The Pocket Guide to Services and Emergency Contacts in Delaware County, NY was updated.
- October 2022; Suicide Prevention Network of Delaware County co- sponsored the 10th annual AFSP KSE Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Awareness WALK. Network members hosted a prevention resource table and were available to talk, offer support and provide community resources. A memorial service was held and speeches by community stakeholders stressed the importance of mental wellness. The WALK raised +\$10,000 for research and to support community-based prevention programs.
- August 2022; The Delaware County Office for the Aging held their annual senior picnic. The Suicide Prevention Network, National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMI and Mobile Crisis Team, MCAT staff collaborated in hosting a mental health resource table at the event. A 988 display was created to raise awareness among seniors about the new 988 nationwide number for individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts, mental health and substance use emergencies or emotional distress. In an ongoing effort to reduce stigmas surrounding mental health, seniors were given the opportunity to learn about the importance of mental wellness in their lives and community resources. 988 crisis hotline and mental health resource materials were available to attendees.



# Communicable Disease Control

## Communicable Disease Report

- A total of 5,769 communicable disease laboratory reports were received and investigated resulting in 1,257 cases being completed and reported for 2022.
- **Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)**
  - Delaware County Public Health provides anonymous Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and other STD testing and treatment for Delaware County residents through contracted testing services provided by Family Planning of South Central New York. A total of 42 STD tests were conducted as part of Delaware County's STD clinic services.



2022 Count of Reports and Cases by Illness		
DISEASES	REPORTS	CASES
Anaplasmosis	141	39
Babesiosis	29	7
Brucellosis	3	1
Campylobacteriosis	19	18
Chicken pox	0	0
Chlamydia	107	100
Cryptosporidiosis	11	6
E. coli	12	9
Ehrlichiosis	27	2
Encephalitis	1	0
Giardia	18	16
Gonorrhea	37	19
Group A Strep	2	1
Group B Strep	8	5
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0
Hepatitis A (HAV)	2	1
Hepatitis B (HBV)	34	1
Hepatitis C (HCV)	223	45
Total Influenza Reports (positive & negative)	3,915	
Influenza A		557
Influenza B		45
Influenza H1N1		5
Legionella	1	1
Listeria	0	0
Lyme	553	333
Measles	0	0
Meningitis	0	0
Monkeypox	5	1
Mumps	0	0
Pertussis	0	0
Perinatal Hep track	1	0
Q Fever	0	0
Rocky Mtn. Spotted Fever	107	2
Rubella	0	0
Salmonella	20	9
Shigella	0	0
Strep Pneumo	9	7
Syphilis	93	4
Tuberculosis	381	2
Vibrio	1	1
West Nile Virus	1	0
Yersiniosis	8	4
Zika	0	0
TOTAL	5,769	1,257

# Communicable Disease Control

## Immunization Program

- Public Health monthly immunization clinics continue to offer no-cost or low-cost vaccines for uninsured and underinsured individuals through participation with the New York State Department of Health Vaccine for Children's Program and Vaccine for Adults Program.
- Immunization grant staff resumed in person Immunization Quality Improvement for Provider (IQIP) visits for pediatric providers. Visits promote and support implementation of provider-level strategies designed to help increase on-time vaccination of children and adolescents. Provider specific reports were gathered in New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), prior to visits, to identify strengths or improvement opportunities within each site. Throughout the year, follow-up visits provide an opportunity for additional partnership; the goal of these visits is to continue to assist each practice on their site-specific quality improvement strategies. Delaware County Public Health visited a total of 7 providers; 3 pediatric providers, 2 adult providers, 1 school, and 1 daycare.
- New York State Public Health Law requires all mothers to be tested for hepatitis B during pregnancy. Infants who are born to mothers who are infected with hepatitis B are at greater risk of acquiring infection during birth. Delaware County provides coordination to assure at-risk infants have received appropriate preventative treatment, vaccination, and testing to reduce their risks from exposure.

# Communicable Disease Control

## Immunization Program

### Monthly Vaccine Clinics

- 60 vaccinations were given at Public Health's monthly immunization clinics.
- The agency held 3 Monkey Pox Clinics; 18 total vaccinations were administered.

### COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

- Public Health, assisted by NYSDOH, conducted 21 clinics. 11 were held in the towns of Sidney, Hancock, and Stamford. A total of 596 individuals were vaccinated.
- Public Health conducted 21 Covid-19 vaccine clinics in 2022.
- Public Health clinics administered 766 Covid-19 vaccines in 2022.
- Public Health contracted with Ambulanz to vaccinate 21 homebound residents.



# Communicable Disease Control

## Rabies Program

- A total of 295 bite reports were received in 2022.
- There were a total of 242 animal to human bite reports in 2022.
- In 2022, a total of 1,039 dogs, cats, and ferrets received rabies vaccinations at the 9 free public clinics.
- A total of 23 individuals were referred for post exposure treatment.
- A total of 30 animals were sent for rabies testing with 1 animal testing positive for rabies.

Number of Animals Tested for Rabies 2022				
Specimens	Positive	Negative	Untestable	Total
Bat		14		
Fox		1		
Cat		8		
Dog		4		
Raccoon	1			
Cow		NA		
Skunk		NA		
Other		2		
Total	1	29		30



# Communicable Disease Control

## Animal to Human Bite Reports by Town in 2022

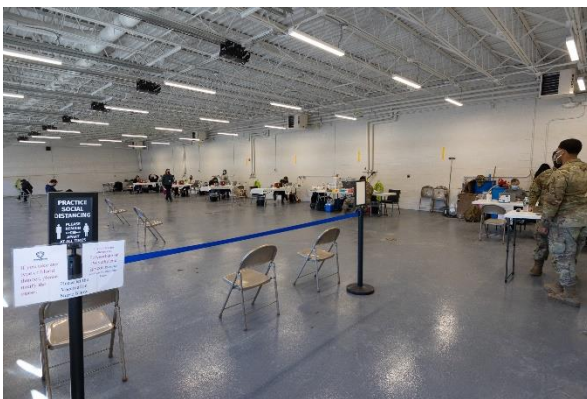
Town of Exposure	Bat	Cat	Deer	Dog	Fox	Raccoon	Skunk	Other	Sheep	Grand Total
Andes	1	2		7		1		1		12
Bovina							1			1
Colchester	2	1		6				1		10
Davenport	4	4		5			1			14
Delhi	13	9		19			1	3	1	46
Deposit	3	1		3						7
Franklin	5	3	1	3				2		14
Hamden	1	1		2						4
Hancock	2	5		5				1		13
Harpersfield	2			1						3
Kortright	2	1		6	2	2				13
Masonville				1		2				3
Meredith	2			4						6
Middletown	3	2		17		1				23
Out of County	1	3	1	9						14
Roxbury	1	3		9						13
Sidney	8	10		27			1	1		47
Stamford	1	4		7			1	1		14
Tompkins				1		2				3
Walton	10	7		13	1	1	1	2		35
Grand Total	61	56	2	145	3	9	6	12	1	295

**\*Note: Bites occurred out of the county but residents lived in Delaware County, therefore Delaware County case follow-up was required.**

**\*\*Other may include: cow, bobcat, bear, etc.**

# Emergency Preparedness & Response

- Staff training was continuously available during 2022; training opportunities included National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, HSEEP, disease control and surveillance, communication management, outbreak management, access to functional needs, psychological first aid, and mass vaccination point of distribution training,
- Drills including volunteer management (ServNY), requesting needed resources from New York State Department of Health (MERITS), Point of Distribution site activation, and mass electronic communication events Integrated Health Alerting and Notification System (IHANS) were conducted to test the capabilities of the DCPH staff's ability to respond during an emergency event and identify any potential gaps.
- Ebola preparedness continued throughout 2022, staff conducted PPE donning and doffing drills. Drilling ensured a continuous effort of skills building for staff and community partners.
- Delaware County was selected by New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to receive extra assistance in the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations throughout the County. NYSDOH provided vaccine and staffing; including members of the National Guard, vaccinators, data entry/registration, a pharmacist, and a nurse practitioner. Public Health Programs Manager coordinated, and managed the clinics at the Sidney Elks Club, Catskill Vet Outreach Center, Stamford, and Hancock Central School Bus Garage. COVID-19 vaccinations, and boosters were offered to all eligible individuals. Eleven clinics were conducted, and 596 vaccinations were administered.
- Public Health participated in the New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) ongoing Local Health Department (LHD) Performance Incentive Program. The LHD experience in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic became the focus for the 2021-2022 Year Ten LHD Performance Incentive Program.





# Injury Control

## Lead Poisoning Prevention

- The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is funded by NYSDOH
- Case management was provided to children and their families with elevated BLL of 5ug/dL or greater. Communication with these individuals was conducted by phone, mail, and in person.
- 16 children were identified with an elevated lead level.
- 40 cleaning kits were distributed to families. Kits included cleaning tools; in addition, education was provided on the prevention and reduction of lead poisoning.
  - 10 cleaning kits were provided to the Walton foodbank. The Town of Walton had the highest number of lead cases.
  - 10 cleaning kits were provided to a centrally located food bank at Delaware Opportunities.
  - 20 cleaning kits and lead poisoning prevention education was distributed to the community at Fair on the Square in Delhi.
- An in-service was provided for employees at Delaware Opportunities. Employees were educated on common sources of lead, side effects of contamination, ways to prevent poisoning, and how to assist families that have a child(ren) with elevated lead levels.

Number of Newly Identified Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels				
Lead level	2019	2020	2021	2022
5-9 ug/dl	4	18	9	11
10-14 ug/dl	4	9	1	3
15-19 ug/dl	0	5	0	1
20-44 ug/dl	2	3	5	1
45-60 ug/dl	0	0	0	0

# Injury Control

## Child Passenger Seat Program

- The Child Passenger Safety Program coordinated by The New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee provides grant funding for Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians to train the public on correct installation and use of their child's safety seat or booster seat. Seats are checked for proper fit for the size of the child. Technicians are also able to determine whether a seat has been recalled or exceeded its viable lifetime.
- If car seat technicians are unable to safely install a car seat owned by a family, a new car seat is provided at no cost to families.
- Public Health also contracts with Delaware Opportunities to provide car seats to low-income families; monthly fitting stations are also available at the Delaware Opportunities office in Hamden NY.
- Three staff members became newly certified as technicians; seven total staff members are certified technicians.
- Car seat distribution in 2022 for the fitting station, low-income program, and community events was 235 seats.

## Community Car Seat Fitting Events

DATE	LOCATION	SEATS CHECKED	SEATS REPLACED
June 3, 2022	Sidney Head Start	0	0
August 4, 2022	Delaware Opportunities	7	1
September 21, 2022	Kiddie Corner	3	0

## Mortality and Morbidity

CAUSE OF DEATH	2020	2021	2022
Accidents (Drowning or falling)	7	2	3
AIDS Related Illness	0	1	0
Alzheimer's	0	0	0
Alcohol Related	0	0	4
Cancer	78	75	55
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	35	36	39
Cirrhosis of the Liver	4	5	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	0	1
*Covid-19 & Covid-19 Related	NA	44	13
Dementia	31	24	41
Diabetes Mellitus	2	2	1
Drug Overdose/Opioid Related	9	13	8
Gastritis, Enteritis, Colitis, Diverticulitis	2	1	7
Heart & Circulatory Diseases	185	157	133
Hepatitis	-	-	1
Homicide & Legal Intervention	2	1	1
Influenza	2	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	6
Multiple Organ Failure	6	11	7
Natural Aging	1	4	5
Neurologic Disease	2	4	1
Pending Investigation (Sent for Autopsy)	2	1	2
Pneumonia/Diseases Pulmonary Circulation	19	22	26
Renal Failure	12	12	8
Septicemia	23	24	16
Suicide	7	6	6
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
All Other Causes	1	2	2
<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>*388</b>

\*Data may show lower numbers of total deaths than actual numbers due to the following factors:

- Death certificates are filed and reported to the county in which the person becomes deceased.
  - Delaware County may not receive cause of death information for every resident who becomes deceased outside of county.
  - Delaware County contains critical access hospitals only, in many cases patients are transferred out of county to larger hospitals for care.
  - Delaware County residents who qualify for placement in long term care facilities, such as a nursing home, may reside in a nursing home out of county.

# Family Health

## Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs is grant funded by NYSDOH. This program provides support to children who are from birth to 21; children are diagnosed with a serious or chronic medical condition.
- Outreach was provided through social media platforms, phone, email and radio.
- Three children received orthodontia services.
- The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program sponsored events held at O.W.L (Oneonta World of Learning). These programs promoted play, development, and learning among 114 children that live in Delaware County.
- A speaking event was held in June at SUNY Delhi College; the guest speaker was Mary Muscari, PhD, MSCr, CPNP, PMHCNS-BC, AFN-BC. Mary spoke about children and emerging adults with special health care needs as victims and perpetrators of violence. Topics included effects of violence and violence exposure, special needs of victims with disabilities, and special needs of children/youths with disabilities who commit delinquent acts. This speaking event was open to the community, parents, providers, and professionals.

## Maternal Child Health Program

- 74 Home visits were conducted in 2022.
- 334 births were recorded in Delaware County in 2022.

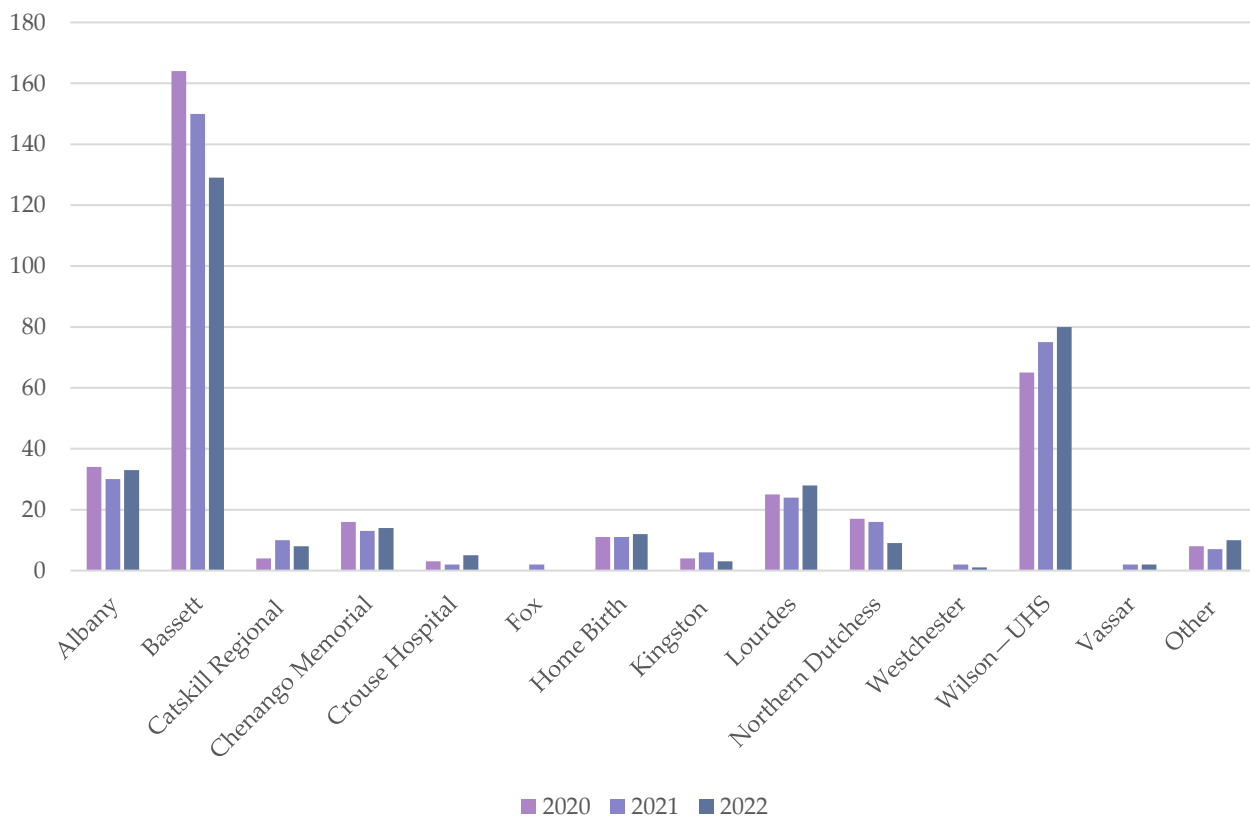
# Maternal Child Health Program

Births By Town			
TOWN	2020	2021	2022
Andes	4	8	10
Bovina	3	5	3
Colchester	9	18	18
Davenport	22	22	18
Delhi	36	25	20
Deposit	10	12	11
Franklin	23	16	25
Hamden	10	11	6
Hancock	22	27	36
Harpersfield	8	4	9
Kortright	12	8	14
Masonville	12	8	8
Meredith	10	14	7
Middletown	19	20	17
Roxbury	13	17	13
Sidney	53	63	57
Stamford	21	23	17
Tompkins	5	5	6
Walton	59	44	39
TOTALS	351	350	334



# Maternal Child Health Program

Births By Hospital





# Early Intervention Program

## Early Intervention

- Total number of referrals 90
- Total number of enrolled children 84.
- 3 agencies provided evaluations.
- 3 EI evaluator agencies provided all evaluations for children.
- Early Intervention virtual services continued to occur as well as in-person services.
- Early Intervention Services includes; Speech, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy, and Special Instruction.
- EI community Facebook page was updated with information on a monthly basis.
- Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council (LEICC) meetings were held 2 times per year.
- Outreach was provided at the local farmer's market.

Enrollment By Town	Total Children
Andes	0
Bovina	1
Colchester	6
Davenport	7
Delhi	11
Deposit	1
Franklin	2
Hamden	1
Hancock	7
Harpersfield	0
Kortright	3
Masonville	1
Meredith	1
Middletown	5
Roxbury	5
Sidney	14
Stamford	5
Tompkins	0
Walton	20
Total:	90

# Early Intervention Program

## Child Find

- Child Find is part of the Early Intervention Program.
- Child Find is designed to follow children at risk for a developmental delay.

Child Find 2022	
Number of Referrals	Number of Children Enrolled
37	6



IDENTIFY | LOCATE | EVALUATE

# Preschool Special Education Program

The Preschool Special Education Program provides special education services to children aged three to five years old, who have a disability that affects the way they learn. Eligibility for services is determined by the child's school district's Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). The decision for services is determined by CPSE following part 200 of the New York State regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Services that are provided through the committee include evaluations, related services, special class integrated preschool programs (4410), special class programs, and transportation services. The CPSE creates an Individualized Education Program (IEP). IEP addresses the services the child may need to assist in the learning. Preschool children who receive an IEP in New York State are classified as a "Preschooler with a Disability".

## **Related Services**

- Delaware County contracts with individual service providers for related services. Services are provided to eligible preschool children in preschool programs, day cares, and homes.
- Professional Related Services include: Speech and Language Pathologists, Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists.

## **State Approved Preschool Special Education Programs (4410 Programs)**

New York State Education Department is the lead agency that oversees and approves agencies to operate a 4410 special education programs for preschool. These programs are able to provide evaluations, serve as related service providers, Special Itinerant Education Teachers (SEIT) services, integrated classrooms, and special classes for eligible preschool students.

## **4410 Programs:**

- Carousel Children's Services (DELARC)- Delhi, NY (only 4410 program located in Delaware County)
- The Child Development Center (FEN-Family Enrichment Network)-Norwich, NY
- G&D Therapies-Liberty, NY
- Handicapped Children's Association (HCA)-Johnson City, NY
- Kids Unlimited (Springbrook, INC)-Oneonta, NY
- Whispering Pines Preschool-Cobleskill and Delanson, NY

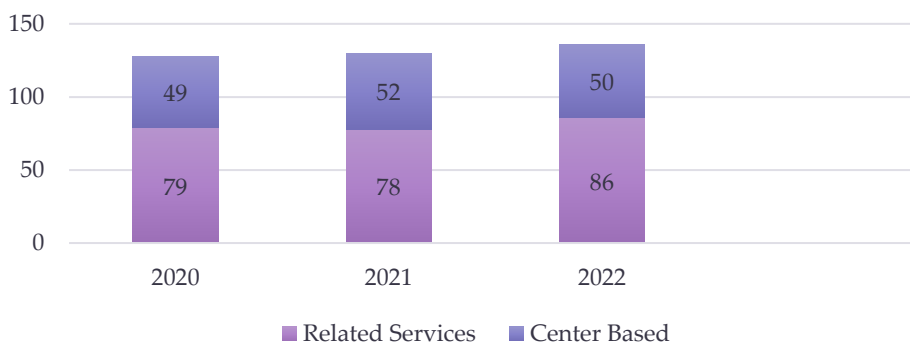
\*According to a New York State Education Department Part 200 of the regulations-school districts are approved evaluators that may conduct evaluations for preschoolers\*

## **Transportation**

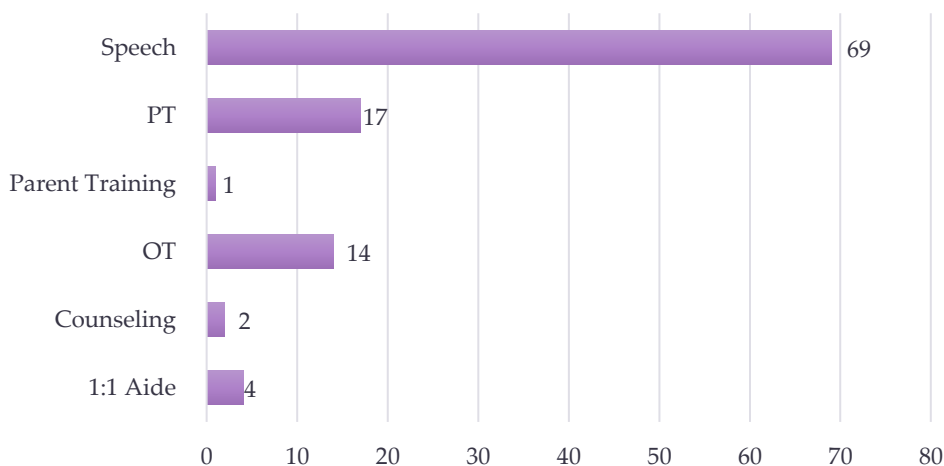
- Municipalities are responsible for transporting eligible preschool children to 4410 programs. Delaware County Public Health maintains contracts for transportation. The agency also contracts with VMC Consultants to determine transportation routing for transportation bid specifications and processing.

# Preschool Special Education Program

## Number of Preschool Children Receiving Services in Delaware Co. 2020-2022

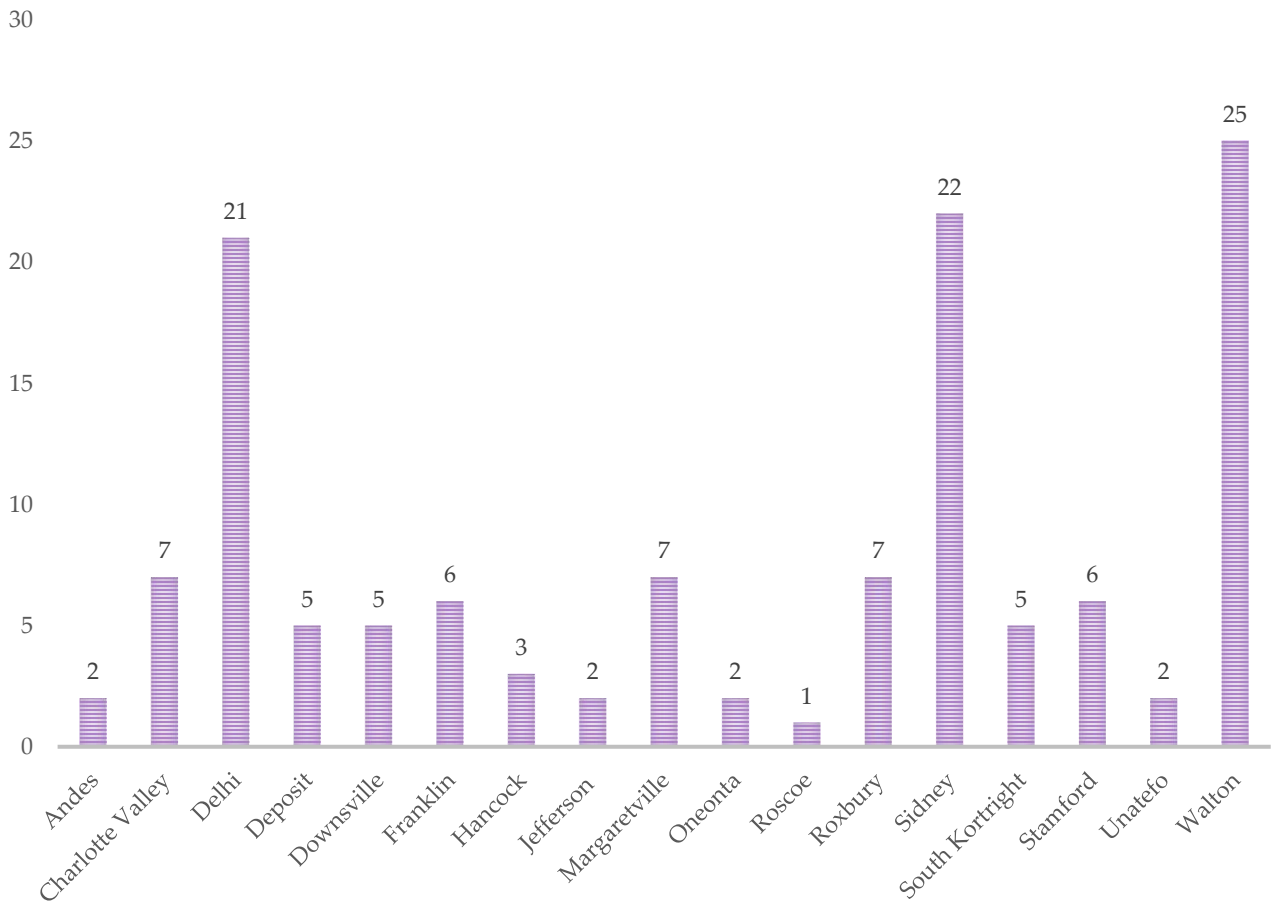


## 2022 Preschool Related Services by Type



# Preschool Special Education Program

NUMBER OF RESCHOOL STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT



# Programs and Funding

- In 2022 Delaware County Public Health Services had expenses totaling \$4,661,002 and was able to secure funding totaling \$2,781,848 resulting in a net cost of \$ 1,879,154.
- Our Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education Programs received a total of \$1,384,471 through Medicaid, Private Insurance, New York State Department of Health and New York State Department of Education.
- The largest source of funding for local health departments is Article 6 State Aid. In 2022 Delaware County Public Health Services received \$595,569 of funding through state aid to support the following core program areas:
  - Chronic Disease Prevention,
  - Communicable Disease Control,
  - Family Health,
  - Environmental Health,
  - Emergency Preparedness and Response,
  - Community Health Assessment.



# Programs and Funding

Grants provide additional funding to support specific program objectives.

Grant Name	Objective	2022 Funding
Rabies	To provide animal bite investigations and follow-up for potential rabies exposure, human post exposure treatment, specimen testing, animal vaccination clinics and rabies prevention and education.	\$ 15,545
Immunization Action Plan	To increase immunization rates and reduce the occurrence of vaccine preventable disease, improve immunization records and promote immunizations through education & training.	\$ 30,431
Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs	To support families of children and youth with special needs by providing information and referrals to insurance, health services, and community resources to address their identified needs.	\$ 22,373
Lead Poisoning Prevention	To increase awareness of lead poisoning, identify high-risk populations, increase lead testing/screening and provide follow-up to children with elevated lead levels.	\$ 29,269
Child Passenger Safety	To increase the proper use and installation of child safety seats through fitting stations, check events and a low-income distribution program.	\$ 16,034
Overdose Data to Action	To enhance response activities associated with the opioid and substance use.	\$ 64,722
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	For planning, training and exercises in preparation for a public health emergency.	\$ 22,289
Early Intervention Administration	To identify and evaluate as early as possible those infants and toddlers whose healthy development is compromised and provide appropriate intervention to improve child and family development.	\$ 28,931

# Programs and Funding

Delaware County Public Health has received additional emergency grant funding related to the COVID19 Pandemic.

ELC Enhanced Detection	For increased capacity to conduct case and contact investigations for COVID-19.	\$ 43,121
ELC Reopening Schools	To enable schools to establish COVID-19 screening testing programs to support and maintain in-person learning and keep schools operating safely.	\$ 390,114
COVID19 Vaccine Response	To promote and increase COVID-19 vaccinations.	\$ 91,837
COVID Fellowship	To build public health capacity to support COVID-19 response operations and increase preparedness for future public health emergencies and begin to build workforce capacity.	\$ 43,510

# Administration

## Corporate Compliance Program

The Public Health Corporate Compliance Program was developed to ensure standards of care, ethical behavior and compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the agency. Compliance Program policies and procedures are in place to identify and report fraud, waste, and abuse of public resources. The Agency's compliance program must meet requirements of NYS Social Services Law ("SSL") Section 363-d and 18 NYCRR Part 521. The compliance committee uses a team approach to ensure the identification, investigation and correction of compliance issues. The Compliance Committee met periodically to review and discuss potential compliance risks.

## 2022 Corporate Compliance Activities

- Continued monitoring of providers within the KChecks system.
- Annual Corporate Compliance Training completed for Public Health staff, Health Services Advisory Board, and Board of Supervisors.

# Agency Summary

The was a year of recovery. The agency continued to conduct COVID clinics January – March. NYSDOH and CDC revised the Isolation and Quarantine guidance. In January 2022, New York State no longer required local health departments to conduct individual contact tracing, quarantine monitoring and case investigations. Public Health focused on larger case clusters and outbreaks in congregate settings.

New York State face mask requirements for the community, schools, public transportation and correctional facilities were lifted in September 2022. Mask requirements were still in effect for hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, congregate settings and those individuals recovering from COVID illness.

Day to day tracking and data reporting decreased and rolled over to the NYS COVID Dashboard reporting system. By late spring, the agency had resumed more typical day to day local health department work. The agency COVID-19 After Action Report was submitted to NYSDOH.

COVID-19 cases were still prominent in fall and winter 2022. Increases in influenza illness occurring in early November, were a nationwide phenomena as flu hospitalizations increased and cases continued to rise and remain high through December.

## **Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan**

Public Health collaborated with O'Connor Hospital, Delaware Valley Hospital – UHS, and Margaretville Memorial Hospital – Westchester Medical Center Health Network to complete the 2022-2024 Community Health Assessment. Data mining and regular meetings with hospitals and public health occurred from February to September. Online community and professional surveys were initiated from May through August. Hospital community service plans and the Delaware County Community Health Improvement Plan were developed and submitted to NYSDOH, with the Community Health Assessment in December.

# Agency Summary

## Staffing

One per diem Nurse retired and our per diem Occupational Therapist left the agency in early 2022. Our Clerk left in February and our Administrative Assistant and one full-time Nurse resigned in April 2022. We hired a full-time LPN and Senior Account Clerk in April and May and an existing staff member was promoted to Administrative Assistant. In August, we hired a Senior Public Health Specialist through the NYS Public Health Fellowship grant. This individual is a contracted employee with NYS, working directly for Delaware County Public Health and paid via the PH Fellowship grant.

## Public Health Programs

Substance use prevention activities included the continued collaboration with community partners, data collection, distribution of harm reduction kits and the harm reduction exhibit at the Delaware County Fair.

The Suicide Prevention Network updated the *Pocket Guide to Services and Emergency Contacts in Delaware County*, co-sponsored the annual AFSP KSE Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk and provided community outreach and education.

A total of 5,769 reportable communicable disease lab reports, resulting in 1,257 reportable cases. A total of 295 animal bite reports were received by the rabies program. Rabies vaccination was provided to 1,039 dogs, cats and ferrets.

The agency held 21 COVID-19 vaccination clinics, resulting in 766 vaccinations and coordinated with Ambulanz to provide covid vaccination to homebound individuals. Three Monkey Pox clinics were held in addition to the regular monthly immunization clinics.

# Agency Summary

The preparedness program focused on staff training related to emergencies, drills, local COVID-19 clinics conducted in cooperation with NYSDOH and the Year Ten Performance Incentive Program activity of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff participated in the newly formed Chenango, Otsego and Delaware VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) Committee meetings.

Public Health staff provided a lead poisoning prevention in-service to Delaware Opportunities staff. Case management of children with elevated lead levels continued and cleaning kits were distributed to families and community members. Opportunities. Health guidance visits to new moms and babies resumed.

Seventy-four home visits were provided to new moms and babies. Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs program sponsored a guest speaking event at SUNY Delhi for community members, parents and professionals, related to children and emerging adults with special needs as victims and perpetrators of violence

## **EI and Preschool**

There were 90 children enrolled in the Early Intervention program. The agency's per diem occupational therapist left in early 2022. The provider shortage for speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy continues for both EI and the preschool special education program, with waitlists for services. Canvassing for a replacement speech language pathologist yielded no new applicants by the end of 2022. 136 children received preschool special education therapy services with 50 of those children attended center based preschool programs.