

Annual Report 2021

Delaware County Public Health Services

Amanda Walsh, Director of Public Health



Healthy people living in healthy and thriving communities

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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 2021

Health Services Advisory Board

- Heather Warner
- Christina Gardner
- Dr. Rohan Jayasena
- Ed Bartosa
- Dr. Riaz Lone
- Wayne Marshfield
- Arthur Merrill
- R. Eugene Pigford
- Amanda Walsh
- Betty Scott
- Joe Cetta
- Terri Whitney
- Kyra Shew

Community Health

- Betty Scott
- Joe Cetta
- R. Eugene Pigford (Chairman January, 2021 – June, 2021)
- Arthur Merrill (Chairman June, 2021 – December, 2021)
- Wayne Marshfield

Medical Director

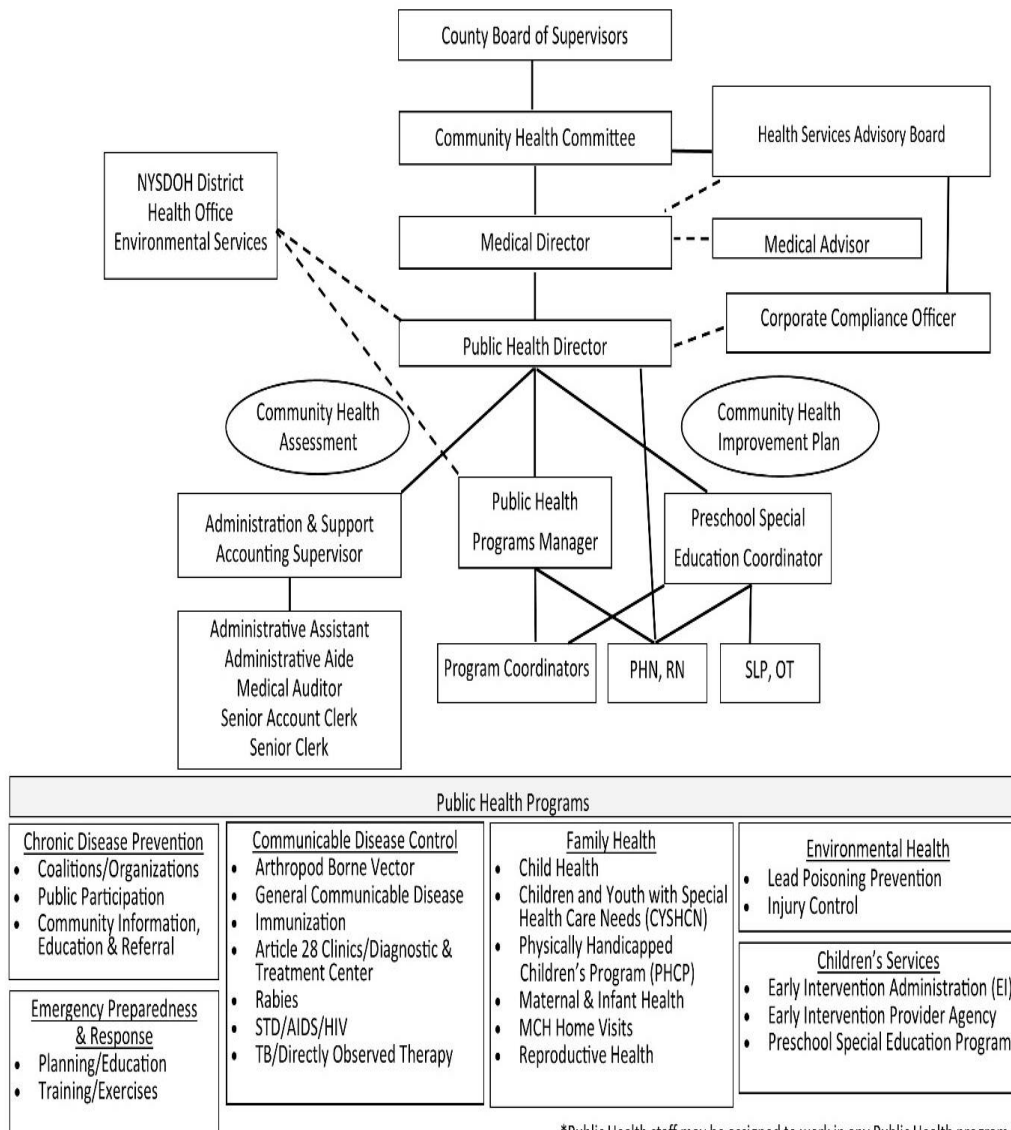
- Dr. Rohan Jayasena

Medical Advisor

- Dr. Riaz Lone

Organizational Chart

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR DELAWARE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES



*Public Health staff may be assigned to work in any Public Health program

** Public Health Program Manager and Preschool Special Education Coordinator perform general supervision of PHN/RN related to program activity, clinical skills are peer supervised.

Revised 6/2021

Preventing Substance Abuse

- Public Health continues to collaborate with other agencies in Delaware County including law enforcement, hospitals, treatment and prevention agencies to provide education to the community regarding substance use, harm reduction resources, and prevention of substance use.
- EMS agencies and the Delaware County Correctional facility began sharing data in 2021.
- 3 local hospitals continue to provide substance use data.
- 500 harm reduction kits were distributed to hospitals, EMS agencies, and FOR-DO.
- The Delcovery project was created and launched in the Fall of 2021 providing the Delaware County community with information on what resources are available for recovery, prevention and other resources the county has to offer via town and county maps, short videos featuring individuals with lived recovery experience and texts posts that are put on social media.



Promoting Mental Health

- A Display entitled “How to have a Conversation about Mental Health” was created for 2021 Delaware County Fair. The display included tips for during and after the conversation, suicidal risk factors and warning signs, data and resources. A third prize ribbon was awarded.
- Delaware County Mental Health pocket resource guides and mental health affirmations were mailed to guidance departments of the 13 school districts to address stress and anxiety experienced by staff, students and families during COVID-19 pandemic.



Communicable Disease Control

Communicable Disease Report

- A total of 5,588 communicable disease laboratory reports were received and investigated resulting in 621 cases being completed and reported for 2021.
- **Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)**
 - Delaware County Public Health provides anonymous Human immunodeficiency viruses (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. A total of 9 anonymous HIV tests were conducted.
- **COVID-19**
 - A total of 101,225 COVID-19 lab reports were received. This included both positive and negative test results. There were 5330 positive COVID cases reported in Delaware County.
 - Factors contributing to the large number of lab/test reports:
 - Bi-Weekly and weekly testing of nursing home staff was required for most of 2021. Nursing homes were required to offer testing of residents when residents and staff outbreaks occurred within the facility.
 - Weekly testing was required for non-vaccinated public school employees beginning September 2021.
 - SUNY Delhi College required students to test upon return to the spring 2021 semester and continued with weekly pooled sample testing for all students and faculty attending on campus classes, living on campus and working on campus.

2021 Count of Reports and Cases by Illness		
DISEASES	REPORTS	CASES
Anaplasmosis	135	56
Babesiosis	29	5
Brucellosis	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	34	25
Chicken pox	0	0
Chlamydia	85	83
Cryptosporidiosis	18	7
E. coli	20	12
Ehrlichiosis	7	1
Encephalitis	2	0
Giardia	14	12
Gonorrhea	15	12
Group A Strep	2	2
Group B Strep	4	4
Haemophilus Influenzae	0	0
Hepatitis A (HAV)	4	1
Hepatitis B (HBV)	40	6
Hepatitis C (HCV)	206	35
Influenza (includes positive & negative reports)	4175	135
Influenza A	-----	105
Influenza B	-----	29
Influenza Unspecified	-----	1
Legionella	4	3
Listeria	2	1
Lyme	591	65
Measles	0	0
Meningitis	0	0
Pertussis	0	0
Perinatal Hep track	6	1
Q Fever	2	0
Rocky Mtn. Spotted Fever	56	1
Salmonella	11	6
Shigella	2	2
Strep Pneumo	3	3
Syphilis	74	6
Tuberculosis	40	0
West Nile Virus	3	0
Yersiniosis	4	2
TOTAL	5,588	621

Communicable Disease Control

Immunization Program

Monthly Vaccine Clinics

- 41 vaccinations were given at Public Health's monthly immunization clinics.

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

- Public Health conducted their first Covid-19 vaccine clinic on 1/21/2021.
- Public Health conducted 57 Covid-19 vaccine clinics in 2021.
- Public Health clinics administered 5,539 Covid-19 vaccines in 2021.



Communicable Disease Control

Rabies Program

- A total of 249 bite reports were received in 2021.
- In 2021, a total of 750 dogs, cats, and ferrets received rabies vaccinations at the 8 free public clinics.
- A total of 32 individuals received rabies post exposure treatment.
- A total of 31 animals were sent for rabies testing with 1 animal testing positive for rabies.

Number of Animals Tested for Rabies 2021				
Specimens	Positive	Negative	Untestable	Total
Bat		18		
Cat		5		
Dog		4		
Raccoon	1	1		
Cow		NA		
Skunk		NA		
Other		2		
Total	1	30		31

Communicable Disease Control

Rabies Program Continued

Animal to Human Bite Reports by Town in 2021					
Town	Bat	Cat	Dog	Other**	Total
Andes	4	0	3	0	7
Bovina	0	0	1	0	1
Colchester	5	0	3	1	9
Davenport	1	3	7	0	11
Delhi	12	4	19	2	37
Deposit	3	0	3	1	7
Franklin	6	1	7	2	16
Hamden	3	4	4	0	11
Hancock	2	5	7	0	14
Kortright	4	1	10	0	15
Masonville	0	2	1	0	3
Meredith	1	2	5	1	9
Middletown	0	1	4	1	6
Oneonta	0	1	0	0	1
Roxbury	2	1	4	0	7
Sidney	3	4	16	0	23
Stamford	1	2	12	0	15
Tompkins	3	0	3	0	6
Walton	3	7	21	1	32
*Out of County	0	2	11	5	18
Total	53	41	141	14	249

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

****Other may include: fox, raccoon, skunk, cow, bobcat, etc.**

Emergency Preparedness & Response

- COVID-19 investigations and daily monitoring continued to be conducted by public health staff and the Virtual Call Center (VCC).
- Staff faithfully viewed the governor's scheduled and impromptu press conferences; to remain current on announcements, guidance, and vaccination updates. The executive branch frequently made changes to guidance, regulations, and requirements at press conferences without notifying NYSDOH and LHD's of those changes.
- Staff provided guidance, education, information, and fielded complaints from the public. Weekly school meetings were virtually attended by the Director to provide guidance and technical assistance to the schools.
- United Health Services in Binghamton coordinated the Southern Tier Vaccine Hub. Staff virtually attended weekly HUB meeting on vaccine updates. The HUB aided coordination with area vaccine providers to fulfil supply issues, and technical expertise.
- On January 21, 2021, Public Health's first COVID-19 clinic was conducted at 97 Main St., Delhi.
- The populations eligible for vaccine were limited initially. Demand for vaccine exceeded the supply provided to Public Health and the area providers. New York State set guidance and policy for providers on who they were allowed to vaccinate and the populations eligible to be vaccinated. The supply and inability to vaccinate all populations initially caused confusion and anger amongst the public seeking vaccine. By April the vaccine supply exceeded the demand making it easier for most populations to be vaccinated. To promote vaccinations unique "Get Vaccinated" videos were created by Vecc Videography featuring residents, businesses, and providers. Staff went "on the road" conducting pop-up clinics around the county, and a weekly clinic during The Delhi Farmer's Market in front of the Public Health office. Homebound residents were vaccinated by The New York State Troopers EMS program.
- Social media and website posts, press releases conducted to keep the public up to date on COVID-19 data, information, guidance, and restrictions.
- 488 COVID-19 related posts to FB
- 184 FB and website Dashboards
- 66 #MaskupDelCo posts
- 9 Public Health minute/original videos
- 20 Get vaccinated! Videos
- 88 Food/cleaning boxes delivered by Public Health staff and Probation to households in quarantine or isolation.
- 57 COVID-19 vaccination clinics

Environmental Health & Injury Control

Lead Poisoning Prevention

- Case management was provided to children and their families with elevated BLL of 5 ug/dL or greater via phone calls, mail, and doctor office contact in 2021.
- 15 newly identified children were considered lead elevated in the 2021.
- 40 cleaning kits were given to families along with education on how to prevent and reduce lead poisoning. 20 kits were provided to the community during Delhi's fair on the square and 20 kits were provided to the local food banks.
- Public Health held a virtual in-service for Delaware Opportunities employees providing education on what to look for in homes, effects of lead and how to prevent and reduce lead poisoning.

Number of Newly Identified Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels

Lead level	2018	2019	2020	2021
5-9 ug/dl	0	4	18	9
10-14 ug/dl	4	4	9	1
15-19 ug/dl	3	0	5	0
20-44 ug/dl	2	2	3	5
45-60 ug/dl	0	0	0	0

Environmental Health & Injury Control

Child Passenger Seat Program

- 159 Child Safety seats distributed through the Education and Seat Distribution Program and the Permanent fitting station.
- No car seat events were held due to COVID-19 response activities.



Environmental Health & Injury Control

Mortality and Morbidity

CAUSE OF DEATH	2019	2020	2021
Accidents	8	7	2
AIDS Related Illness	0	0	1
Alzheimer's	0	0	0
Alcohol Related	4	0	0
Cancer	89	78	75
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	34	35	36
Cirrhosis of the Liver	6	4	5
Congenital Anomalies	0	1	0
*Covid-19 & Covid-19 Related	NA	NA	44
Dementia	18	31	24
Diabetes Mellitus	4	2	2
Drug Overdose/Opioid Related	6	9	13
Gastritis, Enteritis, Colitis, Diverticulitis	0	2	1
Heart & Circulatory Diseases	171	185	157
Homicide & Legal Intervention	0	2	1
Influenza	-	2	-
Multiple Organ Failure	8	6	11
Natural Aging	-	1	4
Neurologic Disease	1	2	4
Pending Investigation (Sent for Autopsy)	3	2	1
Pneumonia/Diseases Pulmonary Circulation	64	19	22
Renal Failure	8	12	12
Septicemia	16	23	24
Suicide	6	7	6
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
All Other Causes	1	1	2
TOTAL DEATHS			
*Deaths are reported to the county in which a person becomes deceased.	447	431	447
COVID positive patients receiving higher levels of care would have been sent to larger hospitals outside of Delaware County.			

Family Health

Children with Special Health Care Needs

- In 2021 seven children received active care coordination and two children received orthodontia services.
- Outreach was provided through social media platforms, phone, email and radio.
- In 2021 three short videos were created and distributed on social media to promote activities that could be done at home for families to promote development and growth in children of different ages and stages of development. Occupational, Speech and Physical Therapists provided tips and activities for parents to do at home with their children age birth to eleven years old.

Maternal Child Health Program

- 40 Home visits were conducted in 2021.
- 350 births were recorded in Delaware County in 2021.
- 19.8% of mothers self reported smoking during pregnancy in 2021.
- 8.3% of mothers self reported drug use during pregnancy in 2021.

Maternal Child Health Program

Births By Town			
TOWN	2019	2020	2021
Andes	3	4	8
Bovina	3	3	5
Colchester	8	9	18
Davenport	29	22	22
Delhi	20	36	25
Deposit	19	10	12
Franklin	20	23	16
Hamden	7	10	11
Hancock	21	22	27
Harpersfield	5	8	4
Kortright	9	12	8
Masonville	8	12	8
Meredith	13	10	14
Middletown	15	19	20
Roxbury	15	13	17
Sidney	71	53	63
Stamford	15	21	23
Tompkins	8	5	5
Walton	54	59	44
TOTALS	343	351	350

Births By Hospital			
HOSPITAL	2019	2020	2021
Albany	34	34	30
Bassett	149	164	150
Catskill Regional	8	4	10
Chenango Memorial	18	16	13
Crouse Hospital	3	3	2
Fox	2	0	2
Home Birth	5	11	11
Kingston	4	4	6
Lourdes	32	25	24
Northern Dutchess	6	17	16
Westchester	-	-	2
Wilson—UHS	76	65	75
Vassar	-	-	2
Other (car, ambulance, other, hospital not listed)	6	8	7
TOTALS	343	351	350



Early Intervention Program

Early Intervention

- Total number of referrals 108
- Total number of enrolled children 107.
- 3 Service Coordinators.
- 3 evaluators provided evaluations.
- By July 2021 all 3 evaluators were offering in-person evaluations. Virtual evaluations continued to be an option for families.
- In 2021 services for 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.
- Facebook page-monthly EI information (i.e. milestones, developmental areas).
- Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council (LEICC) meetings.
- 2 newsletter per year.
- Informational table at local farmers markets.

Enrollment By Town	Total Children
Andes	0
Bovina	0
Colchester	5
Davenport	6
Delhi	8
Deposit	5
Franklin	4
Hamden	1
Hancock	7
Harpersfield	1
Kortright	3
Masonville	1
Meredith	5
Middletown	3
Roxbury	6
Sidney	27
Stamford	4
Tompkins	1
Walton	20
Total:	107



Early Intervention Program

Child Find

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

Child Find 2021	
Number of Referrals	Number of Children Enrolled
34	13

Speech Language Pathologist

- Public Health employs a full time Speech Pathologist to fill gaps in speech services to children in the Preschool and Early Intervention program. The speech pathologist resigned in August, 2021 and the position remains vacant.
- Average speech therapy sessions a week: 12

Preschool Special Education Program

Service Providers:

- Delaware County contracts with individual providers for related services, as well as 7 school districts to provide services to preschool children. Professionals include:
 - 7 Occupational Therapists
 - 4 Physical Therapists
 - 2 Special Education Teachers
 - 7 Speech and Language Pathologists
 - 2 Speech Therapists

State Approved Preschool Special Education Programs (4410 Program):

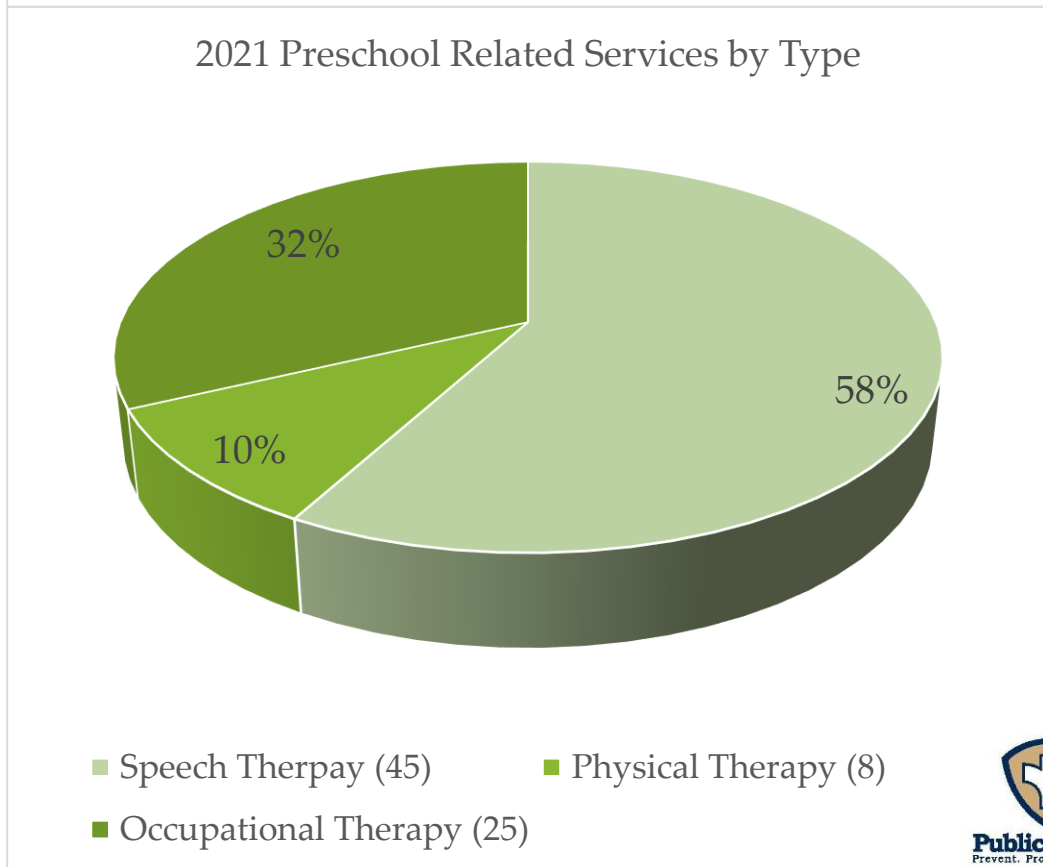
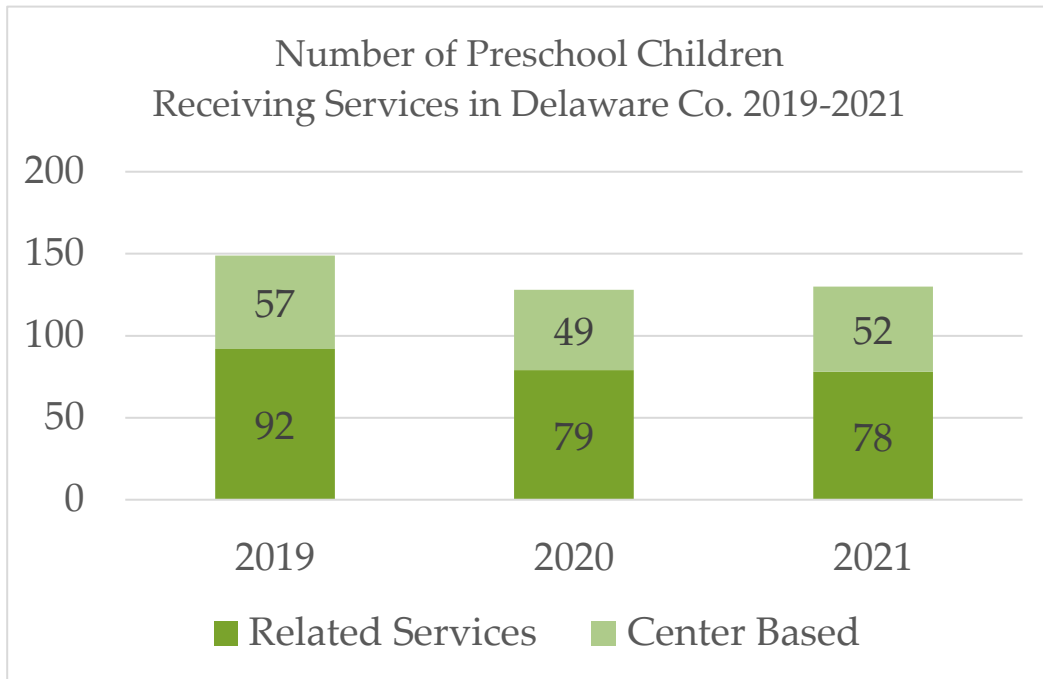
- Four 4410 programs were available for evaluations for preschool students:
 - Carousel Children's Services- Delhi, NY
 - Family Enrichment Network-Norwich, NY
 - Handicapped Children's Association (HCA)- Johnson City, NY
 - Whispering Pines Preschool-Cobleskill and Delanson, NY
- 52 children attended a 4410 preschool.
 - Carousel Children's Services- Delhi, NY
 - Family Enrichment Network-Norwich, NY
 - Handicapped Children's Association (HCA)- Johnson City, NY
 - Springbrook (Kids Unlimited)-Oneonta, NY
 - Whispering Pines Preschool-Cobleskill and Delanson, NY

Transportation:

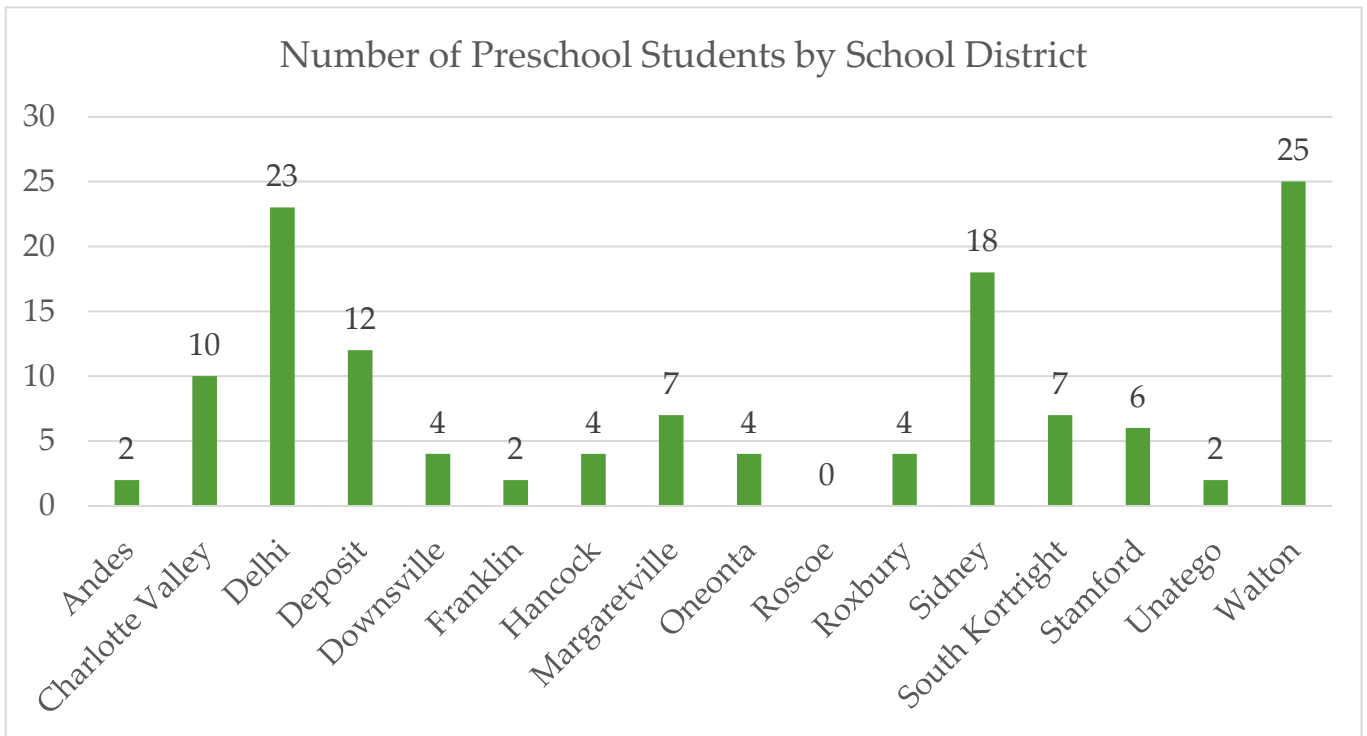
- 2 Transportation companies (Birnie Bus Corporation and Rolling V Transport) were utilized to transport preschool children to the 4410 programs.



Preschool Special Education Program



Preschool Special Education Program



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 Public Health Director annually certifies to the NYS Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) that the agency compliance program satisfactorily meets 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 problems. The 2019 Compliance Committee met four times in 2019 to discuss any potential compliance risks.

2021 Corporate Compliance Activities

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

Financial Report

PROGRAMS AND FUNDING

Chronic Disease Prevention – Funded through State Aid

Communicable Disease Control – Funded through State Aid and

- A **Rabies** grant to provide human post exposure treatment, specimen testing and vaccination clinics
- **Immunization Action Plan** to increase immunization rates, improve immunization records, and promote immunizations through education and training.

Family Health – Funded through State Aid and

- **Children with Special Health Care Needs** grant to eliminate gaps and barriers which prevent families of children with special needs from obtaining insurance, health services, and community resources and assist them with navigating the healthcare system.

Environmental Health – Funded through State Aid and

- **Lead Poisoning Prevention** grant to increase awareness of lead poisoning, identify high-risk populations, increase lead testing/screening and provide follow-up to children with elevated lead levels.
- **Child Passenger Safety** grant to increase the proper use and installation of child safety seats through check events and a low-income distribution program.
- **Overdose Data to Action** grant for enhanced response activities associated with the opioid crisis.

Emergency Preparedness and Response – Funded through State Aid and

- **Public Health Preparedness** grant which provides for planning, training and exercises in preparation for a public health emergency.

Community Health Assessment – Funded through State Aid

Early Intervention – Funded through an administration grant, Private Insurance, Medicaid and New York State Department of Health.

Preschool Special Education Program – Funded through Medicaid and New York State Department of Education.



Financial Report

In 2021 Delaware County Public Health Services received additional emergency funding related to the COVID19 Pandemic.

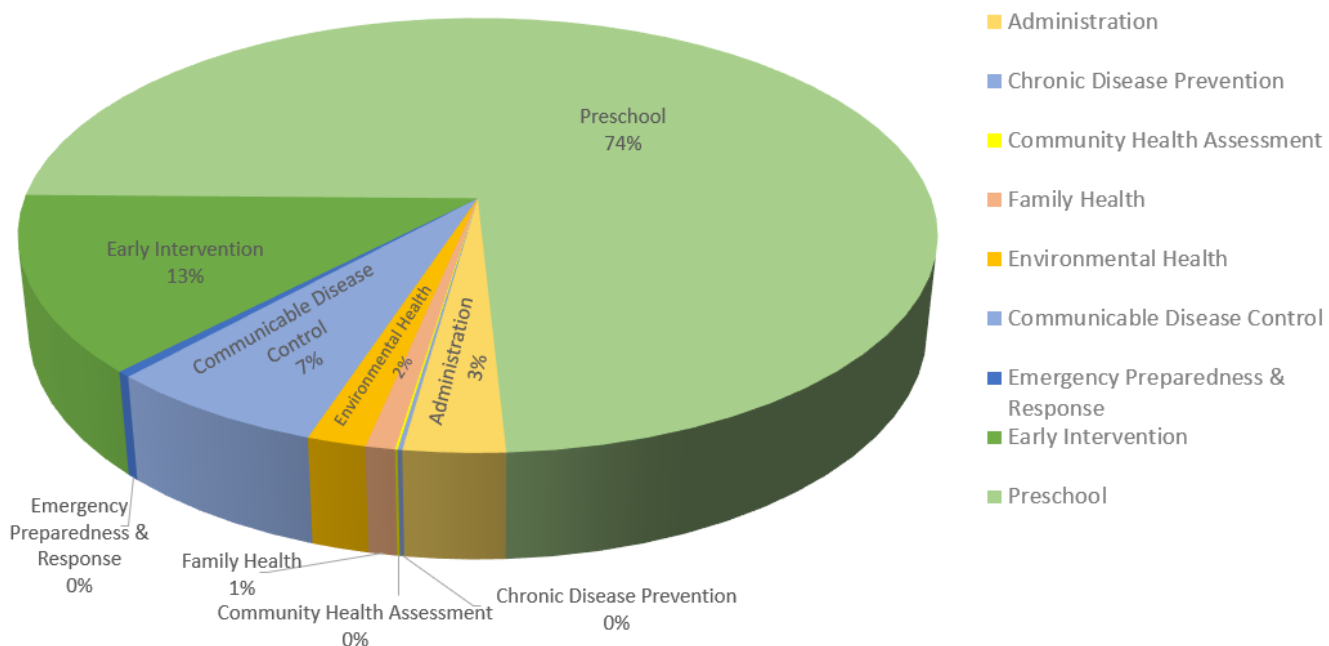
June, 2021 - \$312,079.00 for enhanced COVID-19 detection activities including case and contact investigations.

June, 2021 - \$1,383,725.00 to assist schools with testing implementation ensuring the health and safety of all students.

September, 2021 - \$176,662.14 to promote and increase COVID19 vaccinations.

September, 2021 - \$719,282.00 to hire public health fellows to build public health capacity and increase preparedness for future public health emergencies.

2021 Net Costs



Agency Summary

The year 2021 continued to be a year heavily focused with COVID-19 response activities. There were numerous executive orders issued by the New York State Governor/executive branch with changes to guidance, emergency regulations and requirements were produced without advance notice to NYSDOH or the local health departments. Notification was often made via press conference. Local health departments were tasked with receiving new executive orders without notice and assisting their communities in navigating these requirements, while other orders immediately placed additional responsibilities on the local health departments with either immediate or very quick implementation timelines.

Administration and staff provided guidance, education, and information, regularly via press and social media as well as field complaints from the public. Weekly virtual meetings attended by the Director provided guidance, support and technical assistance to the local schools.

COVID-19 investigations, daily monitoring and follow-up continued for public health staff and the NYS Virtual Call Center (VCC).

The NYS vaccination plan for COVID-19 was underway in 2021. January 21, 2021 marked the date of Public Health's first mass vaccination clinic for COVID-19, held at 97 Main Street, Delhi. Vaccine was initially limited to specific eligible populations and demand for vaccine exceeded initial supply chains. Vaccine supply was mostly allocated only to local health departments, hospitals and the NYS mass vaccination sites. By April, vaccine supply more readily available for most of the general population to receive. Public Health hosted vaccination clinics 2-3 times per week from January 21st – through May. Weekly farmer's market clinic as well as pop up clinics were held through the summer. Homebound residents received vaccinations via the NYS Police Community Paramedic Program in the summer.

The largest covid case surge seen throughout New York State began in November 2021 and continued through the end of 2021.

Agency Summary

Highlighted Executive Orders:

- February, 2021 – Nursing homes were able to expand visitation, Restaurants began to increase capacity
- March, 2021 – Pharmacies were allowed to begin COVID-19 vaccinations
- April, 2021 – All NYS vaccination sites excepted walk-ins, Outdoor event venues were open with capacity restrictions, Graduation ceremonies were permitted with capacity restrictions
- May, 2021 – Vaccinated people did not have to wear masks in indoor public settings, Capacity restrictions for large outdoor events were lifted, Indoor social gathering limited expanded, Pools and beaches were able to operate with restrictions, Outdoor social gathering limit increased to 500 people, Decreased restrictions for barbershops and salons
- June 16, 2021 – Governor Cuomo ended restrictions for most businesses. This excluded public transit, K-12 schools, nursing homes, healthcare facilities, correctional facilities.

A total of 101,225 COVID-19 lab reports were received (negative & positive) resulting in 5,330 positive COVID cases.

The first Delaware County Public Health COVID-19 clinic was conducted on 1/21/2021. 57 COVID-19 vaccine clinics were conducted for the year, resulting in the administration of 5,539 COVID vaccine shots provided.

By late spring, early summer the Agency began to resume more of the regular Public Health activities.

Substance use prevention activities included the continued collaboration with community partners, distribution of 500 harm reduction kits and the launching of the Delcovery project, a social medial campaign, promoting recovery-based resources to community residents.

Agency Summary

The Suicide Prevention Network featured a “How to have a Conversation about Mental Health” display at the Delaware County Fair, pocket resource guides were provided to the 13 school districts within the county to assist with mental health effects experienced by staff, students and families during COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 5,588 reportable communicable disease lab reports, resulting in 621 reportable cases. A total of 249 animal bite reports were received by the rabies program. Animal rabies vaccination clinics resumed.

In person lead poisoning prevention program services resumed, cleaning kits were distributed to families, an in-service was provided to Delaware Opportunities. Health guidance visits to new moms and babies resumed.

There were 107 children enrolled in the Early Intervention program. In person evaluations began to occur in July, in person therapy and virtual services continued. The Agency’s full-time speech language pathologist left the area in fall of 2021. 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 2021. 130 children received preschool special education therapy services with 52 of those children attending a center based preschool program.