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Message from the Director

I am pleased to present the Yates County Public Health Department’s Annual Report to the Yates County Legislature. During 2021, our Public Health Department continued to operate in full pandemic response mode due to COVID-19. Many of our programs and services were put on hold or minimally done in the last year. COVID-19 vaccination clinics began in early January and continued several times a week for the entire year. In April, Public Health set up a vaccination station inside a former department store in Penn Yan. This enabled Public Health to serve a large number of individuals in a safe and effective manner. We are truly blessed to have a wonderful Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and fellow county employees who helped staff our vaccination clinics. Without their help, our mass vaccination clinics would not have been possible.

In the fall of 2021, a new coronavirus strain called Delta emerged causing a surge in cases in Yates County. Throughout this surge, the staff of Yates County Public Health was immersed in case investigations and contact tracing. Public Health was a vital resource to our schools, businesses, community partners, and community members in aiding them to stay apprised of current guidelines, mandates and prevention strategies. The year 2021 presented several challenges for our department, but I could not be more proud of the efforts put in by staff to help us overcome those difficult times.

The following report describes the programs and services provided during 2021 that were aimed at meeting the mission of the agency: promoting optimal health for people of all ages within our community. This report is a reflection of the hard work and commitment of the staff provided throughout the year as they work to address the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Sara Christensen, RN BSN
Director of Public Health
Incorporating the Ten Essential Public Health Services into the work conducted by the department, staff strive to prevent the spread of disease, protect community members from environmental hazards, prevent injuries, promote and encourage healthy behaviors, respond to disasters and emerging needs and assure the accessibility of quality health services.

### Ten Essential Public Health Services

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans and laws that impact health
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public’s health
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health
2021 Committee Membership

Human Services Committee of the Legislature

Leslie Church, Chairperson
Ed Bronson, Vice Chairperson
Terry Button
Carlie Chilson
Bonnie Percy
Richard Harper

The Yates County Legislature serves as our governing body through monthly reporting to the Human Services Committee.

Professional Advisory Committee

Eleanor DeWitt, MD, Medical Director
Sara Christensen, RN, Director
Chelsea Bailey, RN, Deputy Director
Kimberly Arnold, RN
Erica Nesbitt, RN
Vicki Dornberger

Members of the Professional Advisory Committee are appointed by the Public Health Director and serve to provide oversight to the Quality Improvement Committee of the Public Health Department. The Professional Advisory Committee meets quarterly to review policy, complaints, incidents and QI initiatives. Minutes are reviewed by members of the Human Services Committee.

S²AY Rural Health Network/Health Advisory Committee

Ed Bronson, Yates County Legislator
Amy Miller, Commissioner, Department of Social Services
Sara Christensen, Director of Public Health
Vacant, Community Representative

The S²AY Rural Health Network Board of Directors serves as the Public Health Advisory Committee. The Board of Directors is comprised of a legislator or supervisor, a consumer, a provider and the Public Health Director for each of the eight member counties.
2021 Personnel

**Administrative Staff:**
Deborah A. Minor* Director of Public Health/Patient Services/Early Intervention Official
Annmarie Flanagan* Director of Public Health/Patient Services/Early Intervention Official
Sara Christensen Deputy Director of Public Health / Director of Public Health
Dr. Eleanor DeWitt Medical Director (contract)
Chelsea Bailey Deputy Director
Autumn Serdula FT Fiscal Administrative Officer

**Support Staff:**
Dawn Chambry FT Sr. Account Clerk Typist
Valerie Hughson** FT Account Clerk Typist
Elizabeth Brigham PT Data entry/outreach Immunization/Lead (contract)

**Public Health Staff:**
Emily Warfle* FT Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Emily End** FT Health Educator, Health Education
Mary Griffiths* FT Public Health Nurse Quality Improvement
Susan Simmons* PT Registered Nurse
Mary Rainis** FT Registered Nurse, Maternal-Child Health, Immunization
Ann Murphy FT Licensed Practical Nurse, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Chronic Disease
Sharon Stefkovich FT Public Health Nurse – Children Services Coordinator
Maretta Scouten FT Temporary Public Health Nurse – COVID 19

**Special Children’s Services:**
The Public Health Department also contracts with numerous agencies and individuals to deliver specialized services to children through the Preschool for Special Education program.

(FT = Full Time, PT = Part Time, *denotes retired/resigned/laid off during the year, ** denotes new employee)
Community Health Assessment

The primary authority and responsibility of each local health department is to promote, protect and improve the health of its residents by utilizing the Community Health Assessment (CHA). The Community Health Assessment is a comprehensive and systematic process of examining the health status of a population for the purposes of:

- Determining the general and disease-specific health of the community
- Assessing the underlying causes of poor health in the community
- Evaluating the effectiveness of program initiatives to maintain or improve health status
- Planning the utilization of resources to address health needs

Health priorities selected for the 2019-2021 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP):

- Chronic Disease Preventive Care and Management
  - Increase cancer screening rates
- Mental and Substance Use Disorders Prevention
  - Prevent opioid and other substance misuse and deaths
  - Prevent and address adverse childhood experiences (ACES)
  - Prevent suicides

The Choose Health Yates (CHY) Committee consists of key community partners who meet every other month. During these meetings, the committee oversees the CHIP to gather updates on work plan activities and assesses the progress of goal achievements. During 2021, the continuation of the COVID 19 pandemic resulted in multiple committee meetings being cancelled and the CHIP work activities to be done minimally by both Public Health and community partners.

Highlights of CHIP work plan activities completed in 2021:

Cancer Screenings:
- Finger Lakes Health, Soldiers & Sailors, held walk-in mammogram days. Yates County Public Health helped to promote these days.
- Keuka Health Care and Pre-Eemption Family Medicine merged to form the Solders & Sailors Health Center, allowing patients to have easier access to cancer screenings within the hospital.
- Yates County Public Health in collaboration with the Cancer Services Program of the Finger Lakes held two annual Sister’s Day Events – giving women the opportunity to get free mammograms. 21 women were screened.

Mental Health & Substance Use Issues:
- The Yates County Suicide Coalition formed a partnership with the Yates County Veterans Service Agency to provide support to area veterans and their families.
- FLACRA received a grant in support of mental health services and is funding the mental health clinic that was recently opened.
- INSYGHT conducted a Community Mental Health Assessment.
- Yates County Community Services continued to make progress with the Crisis Intervention Trainings – both Penn Yan Police and Yates County Sheriff departments participated. They also updated 911
protocols in regards to mental health emergency calls. Patrol cars are now equipped with tablets that provide officers a direct connection to mental health staff at CPEP in Clifton Springs.

- Quarter one (Q1) of 2021 opioid overdoses were 50% lower than the Q1 2020 opioid overdoses.
- DisposeRx, a safe drug-disposal method, was received and distributed by FLACRA.
- The Yates County Suicide Coalition held their Out of Darkness Keuka Lake Walk on Sunday, October 17, 2021. This event had over 200 participants and raised close to $20,000 for suicide prevention efforts.


Communicable Disease Control

Immunization Program
Immunizations for vaccine-preventable diseases are offered to the community through Public Health’s monthly immunization clinics by appointment and are also offered through the jail program. Vaccine is purchased by Yates County Public Health or provided by the New York State Department of Health and administered by Public Health nursing staff. Fifteen different childhood vaccines were offered to children under the age of 19 years through participation in the Vaccines for Children Program. Td/Tdap, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Flu vaccines are offered for uninsured or underinsured adults 19 years or older through participation in the Vaccine for Adults Program.

Throughout 2021, Public Health did not resume monthly in home immunization clinics for our Mennonite community due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This resulted in a decreased the number of children and adults seen for immunization appointments. However, 98% of our Immunization Clinic appointments at the Public Health Office were for our Mennonite Community. In Yates County, we have a 56% non-vaccination rate of our Mennonite children which affect our overall childhood vaccination rates.
COVID 19 Vaccination Clinics
COVID 19 vaccination clinics started for the public in January 2021. These clinics demanded a lot of time and effort from the Public Health Department. Due to limited supply of vaccine when it was initially rolled out, New York State designated priority groups of who could be vaccinated first. In January and February, essential workforces were eligible for vaccination. Then starting in early March, adults 60 years and older and anyone 19 years and older with qualifying underlying medical conditions became eligible for the vaccination. During the first three months of our vaccination efforts, we used community sites to conduct vaccination clinics including our schools, fire departments, county auditorium, Hampton Inn, and several on-the-go clinics to our DDSO homes in Yates County. When individuals 18 years and older became eligible for the vaccine in April, Public Health needed a larger and more permanent vaccination space to accommodate all eligible individuals. To accommodate this need, Public Health contracted a lease agreement with a former department store in Penn Yan, previously known as Gordmans. The Gordmans store became known as the “Yates County Public Health Vaccination Station”. In addition to holding clinics at the Vaccination Station throughout spring and summer, Public Health held “pop up” clinics in different townships. The goal of these “pop up” clinics was to help reach additional county residents who wanted to be vaccinated but may have had transportation barriers to get to Penn Yan. In late April, 16 and 17 year olds became eligible for vaccination followed by anyone 12 years and older in May. In October, booster doses became available and our vaccination clinics remained busy until the end of the year. In November, 5-11 year olds became eligible for
vaccination and Public Health held several children only clinics at Gordmans. Our COVID-19 vaccination clinics would have not been possible without the help from our MRC and fellow county employees. We will forever be grateful for their help and support that made our vaccination clinic efforts very successful. In 2021, Public Health held 167 clinics and administered 10,828 doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

**General Communicable Disease Control**

Communicable disease control is one of the core functions of Public Health and focuses on the following: early identification of disease, prompt notification to the provider community, investigation of disease sources, and education to community members to prevent spread. With the threat of disease outbreaks, whether by natural spread of emerging pathogens such as COVID-19 or by human intent such as bio-terrorism, active surveillance has become an increasingly vital component of the communicable disease program. Active surveillance necessitates a collaborative effort with health department personnel, hospital emergency department staff, school nurses, pharmacists, healthcare providers and other partners. Active surveillance attempts to identify trends in medical systems and reports of increasing numbers of provider visits or higher rates of antibiotic prescriptions. The Public Health staff also monitors for increases in similar chief complaints of emergency department patients as a strategy to identify clusters or outbreaks of illness quickly.

Passive surveillance consists of healthcare providers and laboratories reporting designated illnesses, such as salmonella, giardia, hepatitis and chlamydia to the Public Health office. This type of strategy surveillance is carried throughout the course of the year. Professional staff is on-call 24/7 to respond and investigate reports of communicable disease. The chart below illustrates the volume of investigations completed during the calendar year.
In addition to disease investigation work, the Communicable Disease Nurse and Health Educator work to keep healthcare providers and the public informed of infection control issues, illness prevention measures, and disease prevalence in our community. Methods of dissemination include blast faxes, newsletters, website, community presentations, and one-on-one education.

**COVID-19**

Our communicable disease efforts primarily focused on the COVID-19 pandemic as incident cases increased rapidly due to the Delta variant. This surge in cases directly impacted the community and required the attention of staff to shift priorities.

In 2021, 2,047 positive cases were identified in Yates County residents. Sadly, 24 residents passed away. Through contact tracing efforts, approximately 5,600 close contacts were identified from positive cases. In late December, omicron became the dominant strain leading to a winter surge that would follow us into 2022.

![COVID-19 Cases by Month](chart)

**Sexually Transmitted Diseases**

Diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases is a responsibility of each county health department in New York State. In lieu of operating an STD clinic, Yates County pays for the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases through a contract with Finger Lakes Community Health. NYSDOH personnel perform follow-up and contact tracing of STD cases with assistance from Yates County Public Health staff.

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported sexually transmitted disease in the United States. Chlamydia occurs most often in adolescents and young adults who have new or multiple sex partners and do not consistently use condoms. In 2021, 34 cases of Chlamydia were reported in the county. Of those, 16.20% of cases were identified in 15-19 year-olds, 37.80% in 20-29 year olds, and 45.90% in individuals 25 years and older. Females with chlamydia occurred in 65% of cases reported. There were eight cases of Gonorrhea in 2021. Of these, four were females and four were males.

Yates County Public Health continues to work with the staff at Finger Lakes Community Health and private
healthcare provider practices to decrease the incidence of STDs by providing education to teens and young adults. Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) education continued with our local providers via both in-person and virtual outreach. EPT is the clinical practice of providing individuals with chlamydia or gonorrhea medication or a prescription to deliver to their sexual partner(s) as presumptive treatment for chlamydia, gonorrhea or trichomoniasis without completing a clinical assessment of those partners. This strategy has been effective at reducing reinfection rates.

**Tuberculosis Control Program**
Targeted testing strategies are used to identify those at greatest risk of Tuberculosis Infection. This includes routine testing of inmates housed at the Yates County Jail and health care workers. In 2021, 19 tuberculin skin tests were placed. Of those, zero were identified as positive for TB infection. Zero LTBI (Latent Tuberculosis Infection) referrals were received from Keuka College and local healthcare provider offices. 3HP remains the preferred method of treatment for patients who qualify. Completion rates have improved significantly due to the shortened length of treatment. As always, Direct Observed Therapy (DOT) is preferred, but is not required. The active case reported to us in 2020 completed their treatment and DOT through Public Health in 2021.

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**Confirmed STDs**

- **Chlamydia**
- **Gonorrhea**
- **Syphilis**

**Tuberculin Skin Testing**

- **TSTs Placed**
- **Positive TSTs**
Rabies Control Program

Since the emergence of raccoon Rabies in Yates County in 1991, considerable staff time (including a 24-hour on-call system) has been devoted to investigating rabies-related incidents. Since rabies is a fatal disease, it is critical to prevent cases of human rabies and to reduce the spread of disease to domesticated pets. All reports of human or pet exposure to a potentially rabid animal are promptly investigated by the Public Health staff. Rabies vaccination status of pets is verified, confinements or quarantines are ordered as appropriate, and when indicated, specimens are submitted for testing to the New York State Laboratory at Wadsworth in Albany.

Fifteen rabies specimens were sent for testing in 2021. Three specimens were positive for rabies: one raccoon, one fox and one skunk. Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) was authorized for eight individuals and seven accepted and completed treatment. One animal was quarantined for 6-months. Seventy-two animals were confined for 10-days.

When rabies PEP is indicated, humans exposed to the rabies virus are assisted in obtaining treatment at the local emergency department. To ensure that there is no barrier to treatment, any uncovered medical costs related to PEP is covered by Yates County Public Health.

To ensure that the cost of vaccine is not a barrier to pet owners keeping their animals protected, rabies clinics are held throughout the county. The vaccine is available at no cost to the pet owner. In 2021, a total of 578 dogs,
cats, and ferrets were vaccinated at county sponsored rabies clinics. Six clinics were held at various locations in the county (Penn Yan, Potter, Italy, Benton, and Dundee) to provide optimal access to the vaccine.

**Arthropod-borne Disease Surveillance and Control**

Local health departments are responsible for surveillance, investigation and reporting of suspected zoonotic diseases (disease spread by animals to humans). Additionally, the local health department is responsible for increasing public awareness of arthropod-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus, Lyme disease, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Public Health conducts public education through local media, newsletters, informational displays, the county website and Facebook. In addition to general community education, steps are taken to educate the medical community by ensuring current treatment guidelines are distributed to provider offices.

In 2021, there were 39 Lyme disease investigations including 20 confirmed cases that met NYSDOH case definition, 16 probable cases and 3 suspected cases. Several other reports were investigated, but did not meet criteria. Due to under-reporting and a strict case definition that excludes some testing done at local hospitals, our numbers do not reflect the actual burden of disease. Starting in 2022, the NYSDOH will no longer require local health departments to investigate Lyme disease reports as they will be evaluated by NYSDOH for surveillance data only. The Public Health department will continue to engage with our community and community partners to distribute Lyme disease education, post signage in at-risk areas and distribute tick-removal kits.
Family Health

Maternal Child Health Program
Our primary role in the Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program is to connect pregnant women to services they are eligible for to help receive proper care, support and education. Public Health offers one time visits to educate pregnant women and new mothers on services available in Yates County that they could benefit from. Referrals are made to several agencies including Care Net, Child & Family Resources, Finger Lakes Community Health and ProAction Head Start. In 2021, our MCH program continued to be on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chronic Disease Prevention

Mobile Mammography
In 2021, cancer remained the leading cause of preventable death in Yates County. According to the most recent data available on the NYSDOH Cancer Registry, Yates County’s average annual cases of female breast cancer rose from an average of 9 annual cases diagnosed in 1976 to an average of 20 annual cases ending in 2018. While the average annual cases of breast cancer increased over the past 40+ years, there was also an increase in availability and accessibility of cancer screenings. According to the cancer registry data, the average annual deaths remained between an average of 3-4 women per year and did not show any correlation with the increased number of diagnosed cases. An increase in routine screening and early detection efforts may have helped to detect cancers early so they are treated right away. Early detection saves lives! Yates County Public Health (YCPH) has a good understanding of our county’s special populations. Knowing that cancer does not put itself on-hold during a pandemic, YCPH again worked with the Cancer Services Program of the Finger Lakes Region (CSP FLR), Rochester Regional’s Mobile Mammography Unit and the Benton and Himrod Volunteer Fire Departments to arrange and host two targeted screening events. These events were targeted towards both Mennonite and all women alike, dubbed “Sister’s Day”, in September and again in November of 2021. Staff had to operate under strict COVID 19 regulations but the breast cancer screening day proved to be a success once again! YCPH plan on providing cancer screening services that are both locally and easily accessible. This will be accomplished by continuing ongoing collaborations with the CSP, Rochester Regional, and our local health system provider, Finger Lakes Health’s Soldiers and Sailors Hospital. We are continuously looking for new partners to promote mobile mammography, walk-in screening days, and cancer prevention education about all cancers to our residents.

Data: Benton Fire Department
September 14, 2021

- # of women screened - 6
- Age range - (5) 40-64
  (1) 65 and over
- # of first time ever screens - 2

- # called back for additional images - 0
- + Cancer diagnoses made? - 0

Data: Himrod Fire Department
November 15, 2021

- # of women screened - 15
- Age range - (7) 40 - 64
  (8) 65 and over
- # of first time ever screens - 6
  (age range 44-65 !)

- # called back for additional images - 0
- + Cancer diagnoses? - 0
Environmental Health

Injury Prevention & Health Education
The health and safety of residents is a primary concern to Public Health staff. Programs and initiatives are planned around the special needs of our population. Public Health reaches out into the community to educate residents and visitors about safety for both children and adults. Prevention is key to reducing many of the injuries that occur every year. Due to COVID-19, several injury prevention activities were put on hold.

Efforts in 2021 to raise community awareness and reduce injuries included the following initiatives:

- YCPH expanded their social media platforms and are now on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. On these platforms we shared numerous posts regarding:
  - Winter weather safety, emergency preparedness tips, drug and alcohol awareness, sexual assault prevention & awareness, exercise and physical activity, mental health, COVID-19, early intervention, smoking cessation, stroke awareness & prevention, diabetes prevention, teen pregnancy, farm safety, vehicle (including horse & buggy) safety, tick & Lyme disease, preventing heat exhaustion & stroke, wild roaming animals & rabies prevention, swim safety, sun safety, boaters safety, eye safety, vaccinations to prevent illness, lead poisoning, firework safety, harmful algal blooms, fall prevention, naloxone use to prevent overdose, PrEP for HIV/AIDs, STI prevention/safe-sex practices, domestic violence/teen dating violence, food safety during holidays, decorating safety during the holidays, and pet safety during extreme weather.

- Newspaper articles, public service announcements, press releases, and advertisements on various Public Health programs are submitted routinely to The Chronicle, The Observer, Finger Lakes Times, Lake to Lake, WFLR, WYLF, and The Flame.

- Promotion of events and prevention programs including the Yates County Sheriff’s Office Drug Take Back Days, the Hope Walk of Yates County, the Out of the Darkness Walk, etc.

- Health Educator presented on family planning resources, STI prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, & sexual assault prevention at Dundee Central School to all 10th graders.

- Health Educator attended the Hope Walk of Yates County, a walk to raise awareness and funding towards cancer & cancer prevention. See pictured: large inflatable colon with examples of diverticulitis and stage 1,2,3 & 4 polyps.

- Health Educator attended Conservation Field Day, a day for all Yates County 6th graders to learn about Environmental Health/Conservation. YCPH presented on Rabies, Ticks & Lyme disease.
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Young children may be exposed to lead poisoning when they put paint, soil, dust, certain toys, or other materials containing lead into their mouths. It is a requirement by NYS Public Health Law that children be tested for lead poisoning at age one and again at age two. Younger children are higher at risk of developing elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs) because they are more prone to put objects in their mouth and their bodies absorb lead more easily than adults.

All Yates County children who have a confirmed venipuncture lead level of ≥ 5 ug/dL receive care coordination services through the Public Health department and environmental management from the Geneva District Office (GDO). Our Lead Program offers Care Coordination services to children with EBLLs. These services ensure that the child’s healthcare provider (HCP) has completed all follow up care coordination activities. If the follow up actions are not fulfilled by the HCP, Public Health must ensure services are provided. In 2021, 25 children EBLLs received care coordination services.

In July 2021, our Lead Program, as well as pediatric provider offices, were notified of a widespread recall of certain lead testing kit materials that are used in our LeadCare II finger stick lead testing device. This device allows for quick and efficient blood lead level screening to determine if further venous blood lead testing is needed. Since the implementation of this screening tool, YCPH and provider offices have enjoyed greater success with increasing blood lead testing rates. This recall not only affected the ability to test children for lead poisoning locally, but regionally and nationally as well. The ability to test children during regular scheduled vaccine clinics or routine well-child appointments was halted, resulting in decreased lead testing rates amongst the already restrictive complications brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. YCPH continues to keep in contact with the device company and testing kit vendor to keep abreast of the recall status. In addition to this, we continuously educate and encourage our providers and parents to not delay in blood lead testing. While the finger stick test kit issues are being resolved, one way YCPH tries to encourage testing is to inform parents about the need to obtain a lab slip from their child’s HCP and then take their child directly to the lab for their lead test.

In 2021, a total of seven Yates County children were confirmed to have EBLLs by venous blood draw and subsequently enrolled in the Lead Program for Care Coordination. Five children were enrolled with blood levels of 5-9.9 ug/dL and two children were enrolled with lead levels starting at 16 and 17 ug/dL, respectively. Most of the care coordination admissions in 2021, were accomplished over the phone due to the ongoing prevalence of COVID-19 in the region and by choice of the parent(s) due to concerns of possible exposure to COVID-19. Medical discharge of children enrolled into care coordination can be considered when two venous blood lead results, taken at least three months apart, are < 5 ug/dL and all environmental follow up actions have been completed. A total of seven children were able to be discharged from Care Coordination Services during 2021.
A total of 342 blood lead tests were performed on Yates County children in 2021. Some of these children have had multiple tests due to lead level elevations.

**Blood Lead Testing for Yates County Birth Cohort Year 2018**

In 2018, there were 340 births in Yates County. The chart below illustrates Yates County lead testing rates for our one and two year olds. The overall lead testing rates of our county can be directly affected due to our fairly large Mennonite population. This is mostly because the Mennonite community does not actively seek out preventative care, including having their children tested for lead poisoning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Children tested at 1 year</th>
<th>149</th>
<th>44%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children tested at 2 years</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children tested at 1 &amp; 2 years</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children with at least one lead test by 35 months</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children tested at 1 year (less Mennonites with no lead test)</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children tested at 2 years (less Mennonites with no lead test)</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As you can see in the chart above, our lead testing rates are 15-20% higher when the Mennonite children with no history of a lead test are taken out of the equation. In 2018, there were 154 Mennonite births and 70% of the children have no history of a lead test. The pandemic impacted our Mennonite lead testing rates as many families sought lead testing through our department and our lead testing machine was unavailable for testing for the latter half of 202. Furthermore, several of our childhood vaccination clinics were cancelled due to the pandemic which did not give the Mennonite children an additional opportunity to get tested. YCPH will continue to strive to get routine testing back on track for all Yates County children despite unforeseen delays and hesitancy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

New York State Department of Health Geneva District Office Contribution to Yates County Public Health Department 2021 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 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 Yates 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 Yates County Public Health (YCPH) 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 Yates and to Ontario and Wayne — 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 Yates County during the 2021 calendar year included the following:

- Conducted 98 inspections at the County's approximately 117 food service operations.
- Conducted 3 inspections at the County's 3 migrant farmworker housing facilities.
- Conducted 5 inspections at the County's 5 Children's Camps.
- Conducted 2 inspections at the County's 3 tanning facilities.
- One of the County's Mobile Home Park was required to receive an inspection in 2021 which was completed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of children tested at 1 &amp; 2 years (less Mennonites with no lead test)</th>
<th>38%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children with at least one lead test by 35 months (less Mennonites with no lead test)</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Conducted 19 pre-operational and operational inspections on regulated swimming pools.
- Conducted 17 pre-operational and operational inspections on regulated Bathing Beach inspections.
- Three of the County's Temporary Residences were required to receive an inspection in 2021 which were completed.
- Conducted 0 student aide compliance visits and 0 adult checks to ensure compliance with the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA).
- Investigated 5 complaints alleging sanitary code violations at temporary residences, food service establishments, campgrounds, and institutional food services.
- Work with YCPH to conduct lead-based paint risk assessments at 5 private Yates County residences in response to referrals of children with elevated blood lead levels as necessary.
- Issued 2 formal enforcement actions (Administrative Tribunal Notice of Hearing) to address violations of the NYS Sanitary Code at regulated facilities.
- Conducted 6 sanitary surveys (enhanced inspections) at community water systems and 40 sanitary surveys are regulated facilities with onsite water supplies.
- Continued special sampling outreach at the Penn Yan Village Water Treatment Plant regarding microcystin (harmful algal blooms) sampling. Sampling revealed no toxins in the finished water.

From January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 the Geneva District Office issued zero Administrative Tribunal Notices of Hearing (enforcement actions) to the owners of tobacco retail outlets citing the illegal sale of tobacco products to individuals under twenty-one years of age.

From January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 the Geneva District Office cited no owner of a tobacco retail outlet for the illegal sale of tobacco products to an individual under eighteen year of age for the second time within the above three-year period.

From January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 the Geneva District Office issued no enforcement actions (Administrative Tribunal Notice of Hearing) for public water supply.

Prepared by

Michael Vaccaro
District Director
NYSDOH — Geneva District Office

March 11, 2022
Emergency Preparedness and Response

YCPH had a very busy year responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. From drive through testing sites to vaccine clinics, staff and volunteers were continually busy. Despite the busy year, YCPH remains prepared by planning for potential biological, chemical, or radiological terrorist events as well as naturally occurring large-scale communicable disease outbreaks or natural disasters.

The work of the YCPH Emergency Preparedness and Response is overseen by the Health-related Emergency Operations Planning (HEOP) Task Force composed of representatives from many partner community organizations and agencies. YCPH Emergency Preparedness Core Team regularly assists in decision making and action taking relative to Emergency Planning and Response.

The YCPH Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) Plan is the written plan used as the guide to preparedness and response activities. This entire plan and all its attachments are reviewed and revised with input from YCPH staff, local response partners and regional and state representatives every two years, with the next update slated to occur in 2022.

Activities in 2021 included:

- Drive through COVID-19 test sites.
- COVID-19 vaccine clinics (PODs- Point of Dispensing) sites.
- YCPH Emergency Preparedness information continues to be created and distributed throughout the department, on YCPH Facebook and on the YCPH website.
- Continued work to maintain volunteers in the Yates County Public Health Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).
- Participated virtually with national, state, regional and local agencies on networking and training programs maintaining awareness of issues related to emergencies and appropriate action. Provided applicable education and training to all YCPH staff to maintain appropriate readiness to emergency response.

Yates County Public Health Emergency Planning continues to work in liaison with and to participate in planning with local health care workers, community agencies and emergency providers, as well as regional and state networks. We also analyze and interpret local, regional and state public health-based data. All required national, state and local directives relative to emergency preparedness and response are completed and reported as applicable.

Special Children’s Services

Child Find
Child Find is a state-funded program to track infants and children 0-3 years of age who are at high risk for physical or developmental disabilities. The main focus of Child Find is to ensure children have a healthcare provider and are receiving ongoing developmental screening from their primary healthcare provider, have health insurance, and are referred to Early Intervention for a full evaluation if needed. In 2021, there were 34 referrals to the Child Find
Program, 30 of which were automatic referrals from the Department of Social Services. Two children were subsequently enrolled in the Child Find Program. In addition, all new parents received a congratulatory letter and packet of information regarding children’s services offered through Yates County Special Children’s Services and the Maternal Child Health Program. The packets include resources regarding child development and accessing Special Children’s Services (i.e. Child Find, Early Intervention, and Preschool Services).

**Early Intervention Program**

In 2021, 60 children were referred to the Early Intervention (EI) Program. Of the 60 children referred, 21 families either declined services or did not respond to attempted contacts, 1 child did not reside in Yates County, 37 multidisciplinary evaluations were completed, 22 children were found eligible to receive services and 15 children did not meet the criteria for eligibility and 1 child’s multidisciplinary evaluation is scheduled for 2022. No families chose to be referred to Child Find.

Of the EI children who qualified for services, we had children on a waitlist for services due to a lack of available providers because of either “capacity issues”, or no provider available serving Yates County. The wait list fluctuated in 2021, with a peak of 8 children for Speech Therapy (ST), and 4 children for Physical therapy (PT).

**Preschool Special Education Program**

In 2021, 66 children were enrolled in the Preschool Special Education program. Of these 66 children, 27 attended a center-based program, 16 were in a UPK/3PK Preschool setting, 6 were at a daycare site, and 17 received services at home.
In March 2021, Durham School Services, the County’s long-time contracted transporter of preschool children with disabilities, gave official notice of the closure of their regional hub and the expiration of their contract effective August 2021. As a result, advertisements for sealed bid proposals for preschool transportation were publicly announced in June 2021. In July 2021, two bids were submitted for consideration. On August 9, 2021, the Yates County Legislature issued resolution 294-21, awarding the contract to NYSARC Inc dba Mozaic. This new partnership secured transportation services for 21 children in Yates County.

Provider capacity is still a great concern as children qualify for the Early Intervention and Preschool programs. Yates County had a waitlist of up to 5 children at a time in Preschool, mainly for Speech Therapy and SEIT (Special Education Itinerant Teacher) services. For Early Intervention, there is a consistent waitlist averaging six children per month, with the greatest need in Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy. Currently the Bureau of Early Intervention has a task force in place to look at NYS provider capacity issues and evaluate contributing factors and possible solutions. With our partners in the S²AY Rural Health Network and Common Ground Health, we continue to communicate this service shortage and advocate for the need of service providers in rural areas and statewide.

**Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)**

This program serves families with children, birth to 21 years of age, who have or are suspected of having a serious or chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition which will require health or related services of a type or amount beyond that required by a typical child. Staff assists families by making referrals to available resources that can assist or support them in meeting the needs of their child.

Four children were enrolled in the CYSHCN program in 2021 as they exited our Early Intervention program. Parent resources regarding educational opportunities (in the form of webinars or online training) and support services (parent or diagnosis specific support groups) were periodically emailed throughout the year, to Early Intervention parents willing to receive email notifications. This information was mailed to homes without email capability.

**Performance Management/Quality Improvement**

In 2021, the Performance Management Quality Improvement (PMQI) program and activities were put on hold for much of the year due to the demands of the pandemic response. Public Health is eager to resume PMQI activities in 2022 to help support the opportunity to increase the effectiveness of Public Health programs.

**Accreditation Efforts**

In 2021, Public Health completed and submitted our annual report to the National Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The purpose of the annual report is to show continued advancement in quality and performance and ensure our department remains in conformity with the requirements set forth by PHAB under which it was reviewed for accreditation. The report has three sections: Section I addressed the health department’s continued accreditation status, Section II addresses the health department’s ongoing quality improvement work and Section III addresses population health outcomes reporting.
2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

The fiscal analysis that follows includes the operational budget of the Public Health Department. Within the Public Health budget are included programs for Emergency Preparedness, Chronic Disease, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Children with Special Health Care Needs, Early Intervention, Injury Prevention, Family Health and Communicable Disease.

Public Health Expenditures

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<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contractual</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>Rabies Control</td>
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<td>Early Intervention</td>
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<tr>
<td>PreSchool</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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*Some budgeted expenses tied to grants which have an end date beyond December 31st become 2021 expenses.

Public Health Revenues

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March 2022