



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Steuben County NY



Steuben County Public Health *2022 Annual Report*



3 E. Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

[Steubencountyny.gov/publichealth](https://www.steubencountyny.gov/publichealth)

Letter from the Director



I am pleased to present to you Steuben County Public Health's Annual Report for 2022 which outlines the hard work and dedication of the staff of Steuben County Public Health. Each year seems to have its own unique set of challenges, and this year was no different.

We spent a good part of the year equipping various school districts with air filtration units for their classrooms to help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 between students and faculty. The filtration units help to circulate and purify the air.

Most NYSDOH mandates related to COVID were lifted, easing the burden on schools, health care, and organizations in

relation to testing, screening, and masking. Vaccines remain readily available within our department and area pharmacies.

With COVID-19 mostly in the rearview mirror and potentially shifting to a mostly annual respiratory illness, we have been able to get back to providing the usual services and programs that you have been accustomed to over the years. Steuben County Public Health promotes and protects the health of all who live, work, and play in Steuben County. Our mission related to this is accomplished through direct services and community partnerships in the following areas:

- Development and maintenance of individual and community preparedness for public health hazards and events.
- Investigation, prevention, and control of communicable diseases.
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles through outreach and education.
- Provision for evaluation and services to individuals, children, and families that have developmental delays and concerns.

The pages that follow highlight our accomplishments and challenges in these areas. We pride ourselves on being as responsive, informative, and helpful as possible. Thank you for partnering with us in keeping Steuben County as healthy as possible.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darlene R. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Darlene R. Smith, MS, CPH

Public Health Director

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Mission



Steuben County Public Health will protect and promote the health and wellbeing of our community through education, collaboration and prevention efforts.

Vision



Healthy people. Strong families. Vibrant communities.

Values



Quality. Empowerment. Responsiveness.



We are proud to be a nationally accredited Public Health Department!

We officially became accredited through the Public Health Accreditation Board ([PHAB](#)) in September 2020. Why is being accredited important to us? According to PHAB:

Accreditation means excellence. It means that a health department is committed to continuous quality and performance improvement. Accreditation is a way to engage all staff in transformation and improvement efforts.

Steuben County Public Health became accredited as part of a Multi-Jurisdiction Application in partnership with Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates County Health Departments. Our six-county group is now working towards re-accreditation, which will be applied for in 2025.

A framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities.

PHAB uses the Ten [Essential Public Health Services](#) to structure the domains. The Essential Public Health Services aim to achieve optimal health for all, actively promote policies, systems, and services that enable good health, and seek to remove obstacles and systemic and structural barriers, such as poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of oppression, that have resulted in health inequities. The goal is for everyone to have a fair and just opportunity to achieve good health and well-being.



Public Health Services

In 2022, Public Health was able to return to focusing more on the programs and services we provide:

- Immunization clinics
- STD surveillance
- Jail health
- Community Health Assessment & Health Improvement Plan
- Lead poisoning prevention
- Rabies prevention
- Special Children’s Services: Early Intervention & Preschool special education
- Communicable disease investigations
- Maternal & child health
- Emergency Preparedness

Immunization Clinics

Public Health has always provided routine immunizations to the community, and also offered COVID vaccines and Jynneos vaccines to protect against Mpox (formerly called Monkeypox). Through our Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adults (VFA) funding, regular immunizations are provided to residents who are uninsured or underinsured. The table on the right shows how many routine immunization clinics were provided in 2022, along with how many children and adults were vaccinated by Public Health.

Routine Immunization Clinics 2019 – 2022

COVID vaccines not included

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of	27	14	5	50
Children	78	50	50	45
Adults vaccinated	185	206	205	67

COVID Vaccine Clinics

Public Health COVID clinics slowed down in 2022, but COVID vaccines and boosters continued to be offered throughout the year. COVID vaccines were first approved in late December 2020. Public Health held our first COVID vaccine clinics in January 2021. Below is a look at the number of clinics held and vaccines provided by us.

COVID Vaccine Clinics 2021 – 2022

	2021	2022
Number of COVID	170	50
Number of COVID	>21,000	1,103

Pictured to the right is a graphic used to promote vaccines available through Public Health, including COVID vaccines.

Get Vaxxed

Vaccines available at:
Steuben County Public Health
Monday - Friday

Call to schedule:
607-664-2438

Routine, required, and other vaccines available weekdays, including:
 COVID, MMR, Tdap, HPV, Polio, Hepatitis, Varicella, Mpox & More

Public Health
 Protect • Promote • Prevent
 Steuben County NY

COVID

All staff returned to the Public Health office in 2022 and remained together for the rest of the year. We continued to track and update case information through December 19, 2022. Below is a look at COVID cases and deaths reported from 2020—2022.

In January 2022, Public Health handed over the investigation and contact tracing of new positive COVID cases to New York State’s Virtual Call Center (VCC). The VCC program continued this service for Steuben until services ceased at the end of April 2022.

At that time, Public Health focused on continuing to provide education and messaging around continued COVID protocols. Individuals who tested positive by home test could report their test on the Steuben County website, and all positive individuals, by either home test or lab test, were able to get their isolation orders on the Steuben County website.

	COVID Cases	COVID Deaths
2020	3,493	139
2021	11,483	135
2022	16,707	34
Total	31,683	308

Public Health continued to distribute masks and home tests, primarily through the Southern Tier Library System, throughout 2022. We also provided testing support to schools with over 76 deliveries. Public Health also provided 107 air purifier units and replacement filters to six participating school districts across the county.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Home Tests Distribution



Getting COVID vaccine information out was another priority for Public Health, in our efforts to keep hospitalizations and fatalities low as new variants continued to emerge. Public Health worked with Steuben County’s Office for the Aging to create a postcard that was distributed to those at higher risk for illness or hospitalization due to age. The postcard can be seen to the right.

Live it up! Be healthy!

Now that gathering and travel are part of our normal life again, make sure you're protected and protecting others by staying up to date on your COVID vaccines.



Those age 50+ are eligible for any COVID vaccine and can receive up to 2 booster doses.

Call Steuben County Public Health at 607-664-2438 to schedule your shot or visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) for other clinic locations.

COVID & Emergency Preparedness

COVID was a long-lasting emergency that required coordination among various county departments and help from over 500 staff and volunteers from 2020 to 2022 to investigate positive cases, contact trace, distribute supplies, answer phones, support testing and vaccine clinics, and provide data input.

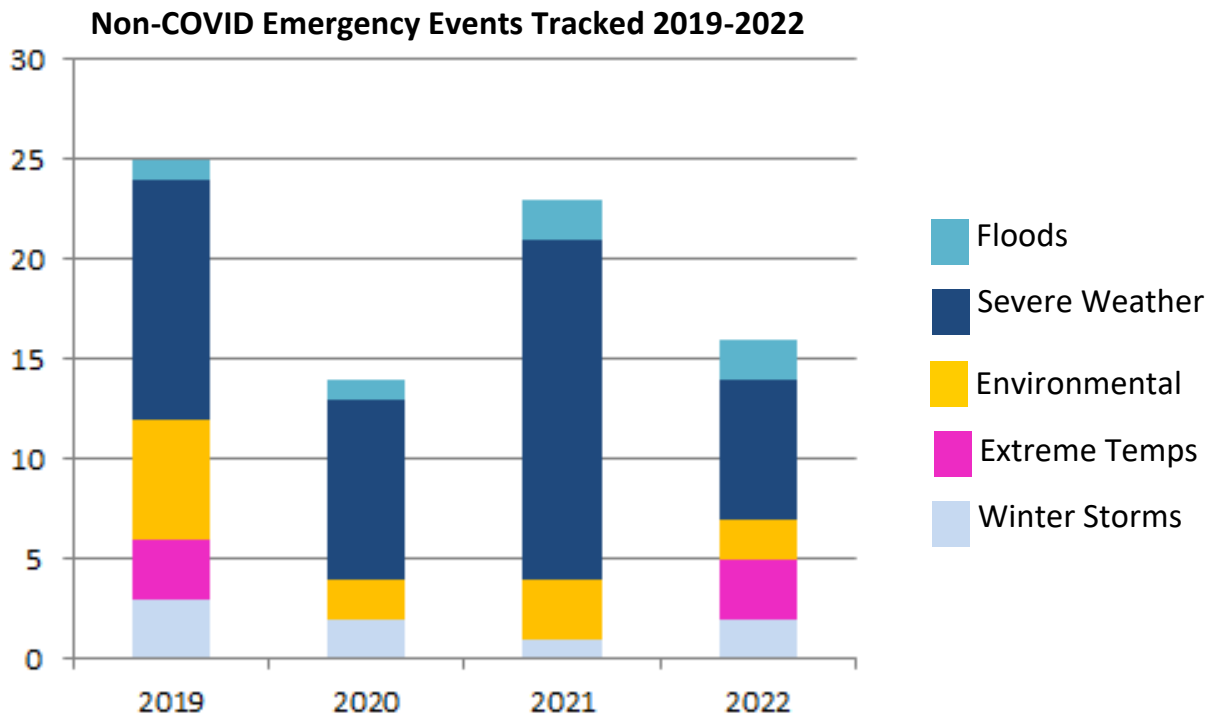
In May 2022, we recognized and celebrated our amazing volunteers. For anyone interested in offering volunteer services in the future, we welcome you to [sign up for our ServSTEUBEN MRC](#) or contact our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator by calling 607-664-2438 or [email](#).



Our Emergency Preparedness efforts revolve around trying to educate residents on how to prepare themselves for any emergency events that may occur in the future. We also respond to emergency events to help mitigate the impact.

Pictured above: PH staff and volunteers at Volunteer Recognition, May 2022

When not involved in an ongoing and active emergency, like COVID, there are other events that are tracked, and education and awareness are provided to the community as appropriate. Below is a look at what non-COVID emergency events were tracked in 2019-2022.



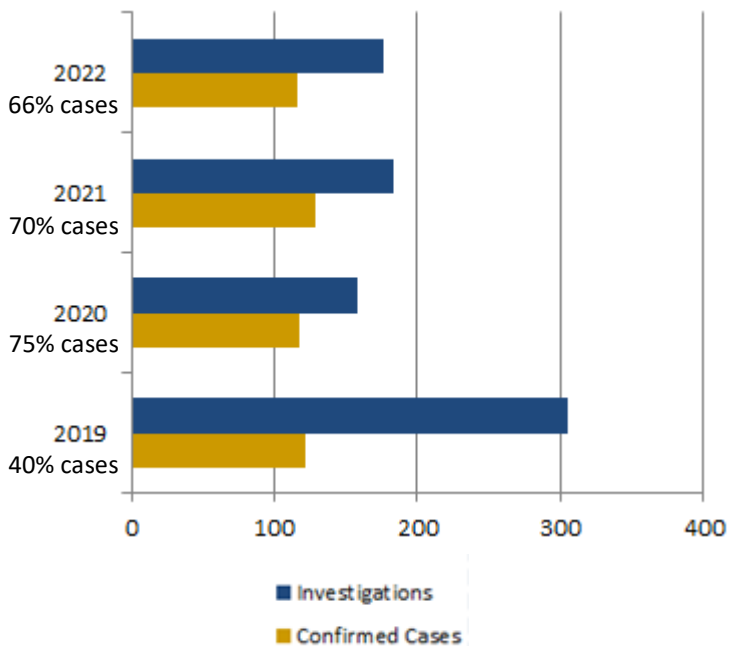
Communicable Disease

Another function of Public Health is to investigate communicable (infectious) disease reports and to determine if the report is an actual case, and if so try to identify the cause(s) of the disease or steps needed to stop the spread of the disease to others. Below is a look at the number of communicable diseases that were reported to Public Health and investigated. Not all investigations end up being confirmed cases. The information below does not include COVID-19 cases and investigations.

The most prevalent communicable diseases in 2022, besides COVID, were Campylobacter, Salmonella, Strep pneumonia, and Giardia.

Of note, in September and October, there was an outbreak of Salmonella Typhimurium in the Western Region of NY. There were approximately 274 cases across the state and an additional 12 cases from other states among people who had visited NY. Steuben had eight cases as part of the outbreak, with a 60% hospitalization rate in our cases. The definitive source of the outbreak is still unknown.

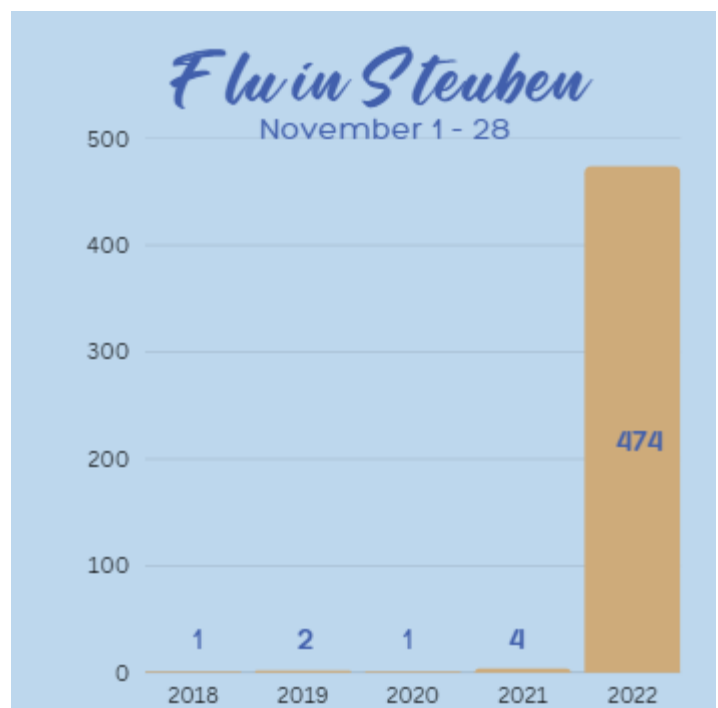
Communicable Disease Reports (Investigations) vs. Cases



Communicable diseases not routinely seen in NY made an appearance in 2022 with polio and Mpox (formerly called Monkeypox). Steuben had no cases of either polio or Mpox in 2022, but other parts of the state experienced outbreaks of each.

2022 was the year of the “triple-demic” with three respiratory viruses circulating at heightened rates at the same time in the fall: COVID, RSV, and flu. There were concerns that the healthcare system would be overwhelmed and access to care would be threatened. Fortunately, Steuben County did not experience that.

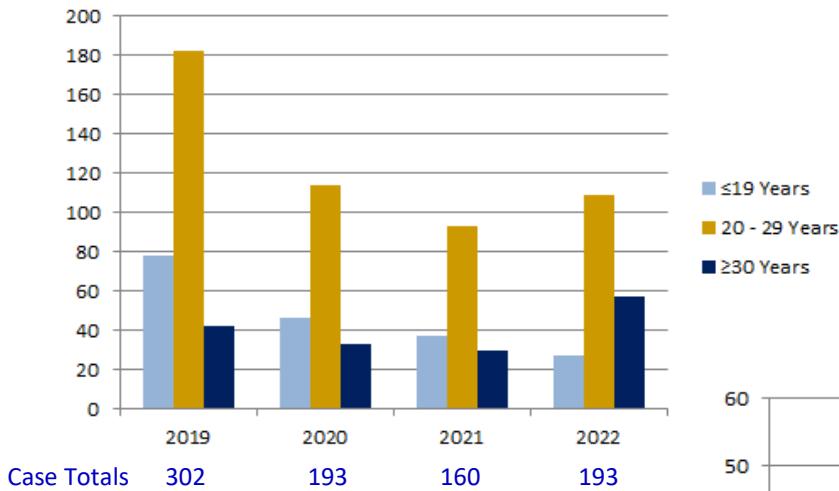
We did see extremely heightened rates of flu earlier than usual, starting to increase in late October. A look at November cases of flu year to year can be seen to the right. Nearly 2,100 cases of flu were reported from September through December 2022.



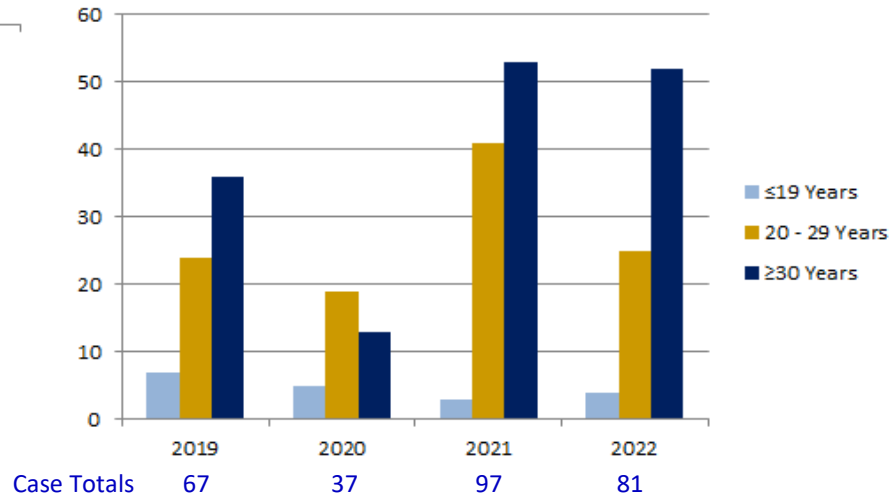
STIs

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are another category of communicable diseases that Public Health surveils and checks with healthcare providers to make sure patients are getting the appropriate treatment in an effort to slow or stop the spread. Below is a look at chlamydia and gonorrhea cases by age group over the past several years. Chlamydia cases are much more common than gonorrhea cases. The highest age group for chlamydia is 20-29 years, whereas gonorrhea is becoming more common in those age 30 and older.

Chlamydia Cases by Age



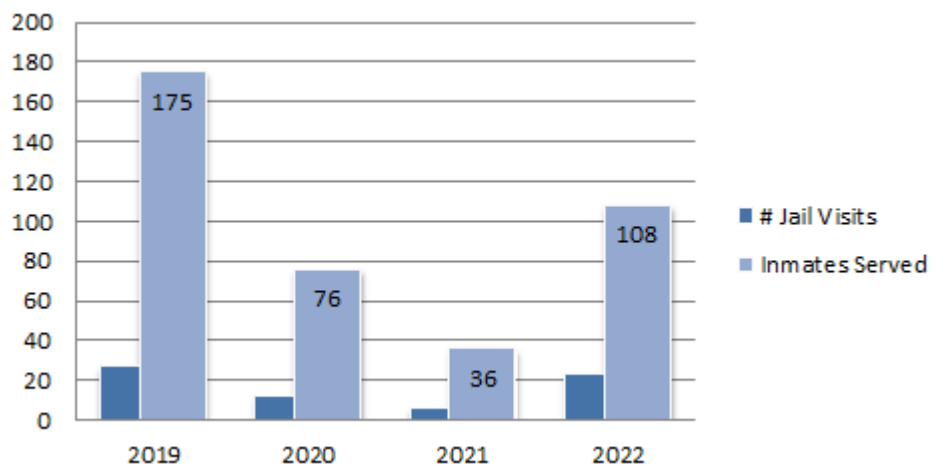
Gonorrhea Cases by Age



Jail Health

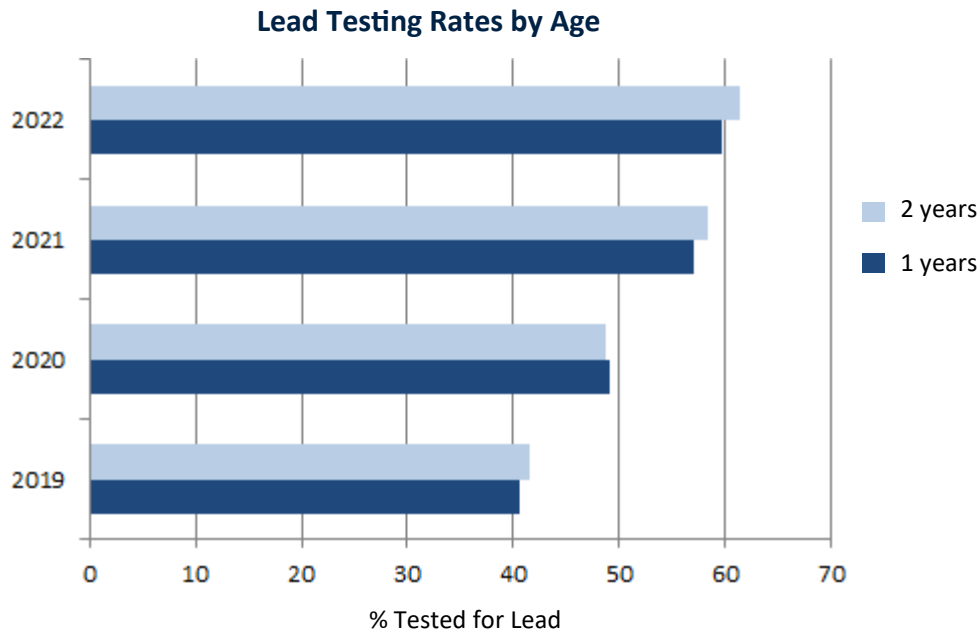
Public Health visits the Steuben County Jail throughout the year, offering STI testing and education, and immunizations to keep inmates healthy. The graph to the right shows the number of visits to the jail along with how many inmates were served at that time.

Jail Clinics and Inmates Served



Lead Poisoning Prevention

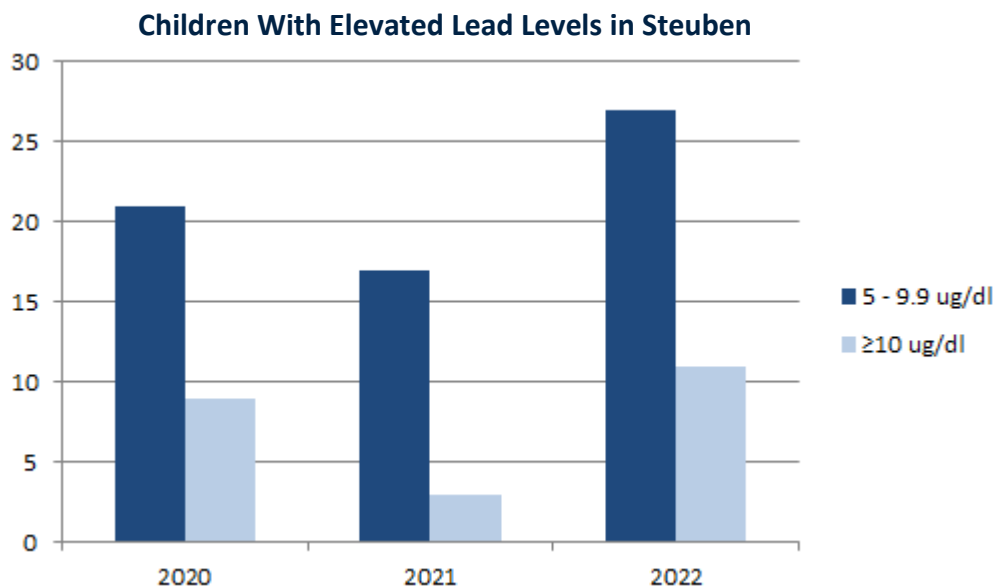
All children are supposed to be tested for lead at age 1 and again at age 2 in New York State. Lead testing rates for 2022 were 59.7% for 1-year-olds and 61.26% for 2-year-olds in Steuben, which is an improvement over previous years as seen in the graph below.



All children with a lead level of ≥ 5 ug/dl require environmental investigation, further screening, educational intervention, and case management.

In 2022, we saw an increase in the rate of children being tested and also in the number of cases of elevated lead levels, as seen in the graph below. This increase in testing and cases could be due to children not being routinely tested during the pandemic as a comparison point, spending more time at home where lead exposure most often occurs, and now returning to their routine screenings and healthcare in 2022 as COVID started to ease.

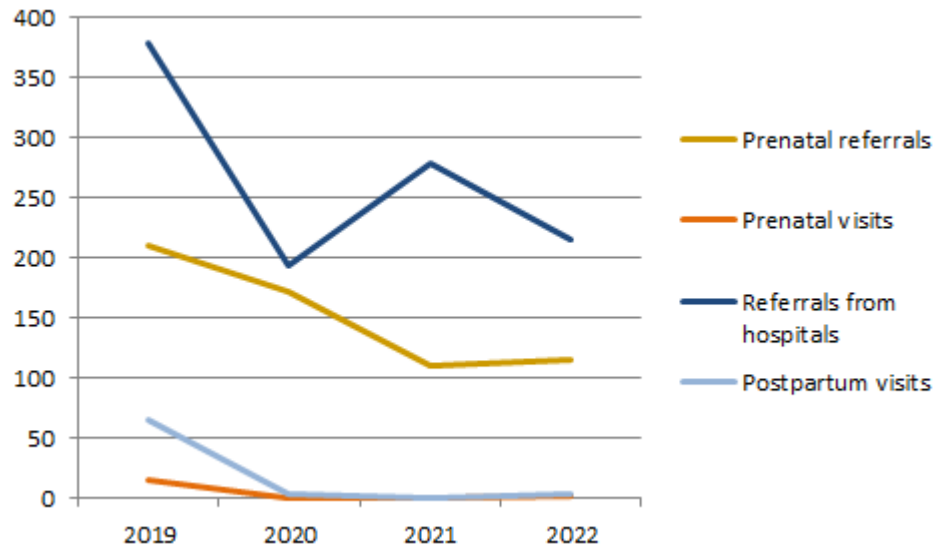
Each year, we update a [housing map](#) of the county that highlights areas with elevated lead levels, fair and poor condition homes built before 1978 when lead paint ceased to be used, WIC participation levels, and socioeconomic status levels.



Maternal & Child Health (MCH)

Our MCH program offers free educational home visits to all expecting and postpartum moms in Steuben County. The visits cover topics from feeding to car seats to baby proofing and more. Additionally, the nurse offering visits is also a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) and is able to provide more in-depth breastfeeding support. During the pandemic, visits were offered virtually, but seen to the right, both referrals and visits dropped in 2020 and acceptance of visits has not significantly increased since.

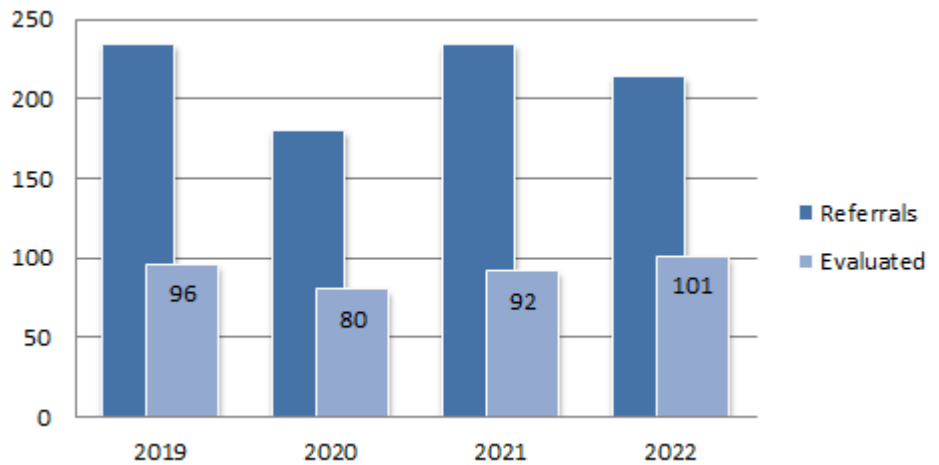
MCH Referrals and Visits



Early Intervention (EI)

EI is a free, statewide program that provides early identification, screening, evaluations, special services, and service coordination for infants and toddlers at risk for developmental delays from birth to 3 years old. Service Coordinators at Public Health work with families to meet the needs of their children and provide a link to community services, including special instruction, speech therapy, physical therapy, psychological services, social work, occupational therapy and, nutrition services.

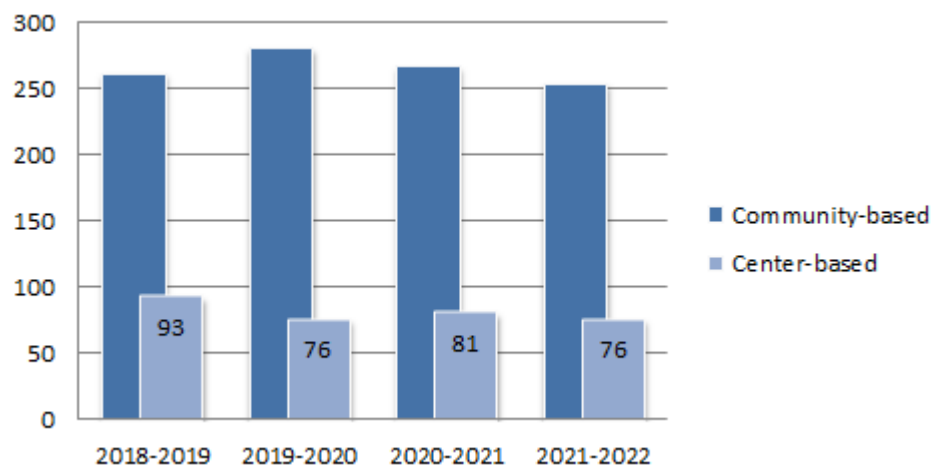
EI Referrals and Evaluations



Preschool Special Education

Children ages 3 - 5 years old with suspected disabilities are eligible for referral to their school district for preschool special education. Evaluations are conducted and individual education plans are developed that recommend either center-based programming or community-based related services. Services may include physical, speech or occupational therapies, social work, or psychological services. Transportation is provided to center-based programs, and there is no cost to families for any of the services.

Preschool Special Education



Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (OOPP)

Steuben County Public Health became an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program in 2018, allowing us to provide training on how to recognize an overdose, administer naloxone, and distribute free naloxone to residents. Trainings and distribution of naloxone were sidelined during the pandemic, but the program slowly started back up in 2022. To the right is a look at OOPP activities in 2019 and 2022.

	2019	2022
# Trainings	6	6
# People Trained	16	30
# Naloxone Kits	16	24

Rabies Prevention Program

Rabies is a fatal virus, so regulations and programs are in place to ensure pets are vaccinated and for Public Health to assess any bites that occur to prevent the potential for rabies infection.

Public Health provides rabies vaccines to local municipalities to host clinics throughout the year. Public Health also covers any costs that insurance does not for post-exposure treatment when needed. Below is a table that highlights the results of the rabies program over the last several years.

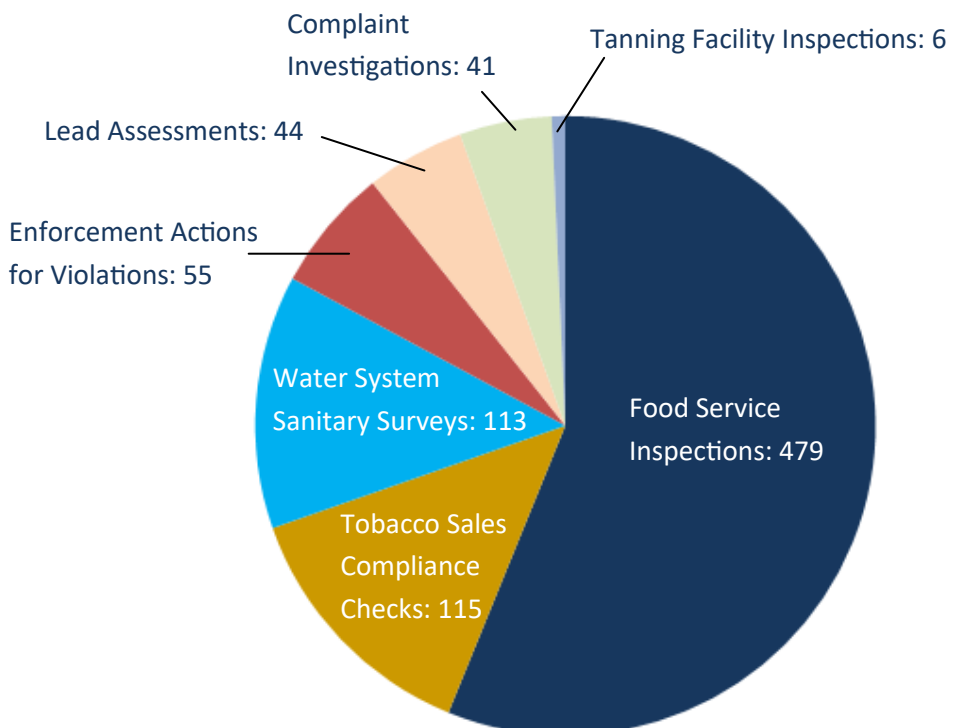
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Rabies Vaccination Clinics	40	14	29	31
# Pets Vaccinated	3,274	1,628	2,003	2,139
# People Treated for Rabies Post-Exposure	52	57	57	50
Animals Tested Positive for Rabies	11	6	5	5

Environmental Health (EH)

Steuben County is a partial service health department, which means that environmental health services are covered by the New York State Department of Health Hornell District Office (HDO). Among other things, the HDO issues permits to regulated facilities, conducts inspections and investigations related to licensed and permitted facilities, food or waterborne illness outbreaks, conditions related to elevated lead levels, and oversees tobacco sales compliance.

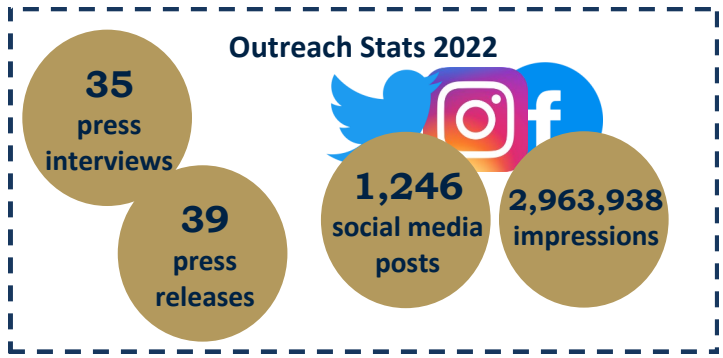
The graph to the right shows HDO activities in 2022.

EH Activities 2022



Outreach

Education around any and all health topics is a top priority for Public Health. To reach a large population quickly, Public Health regularly utilizes social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#)), puts out press releases for traditional media to run (radio, newspapers, TV), and includes information on our [website](#). Staff also attend in-person events to share about our programs.



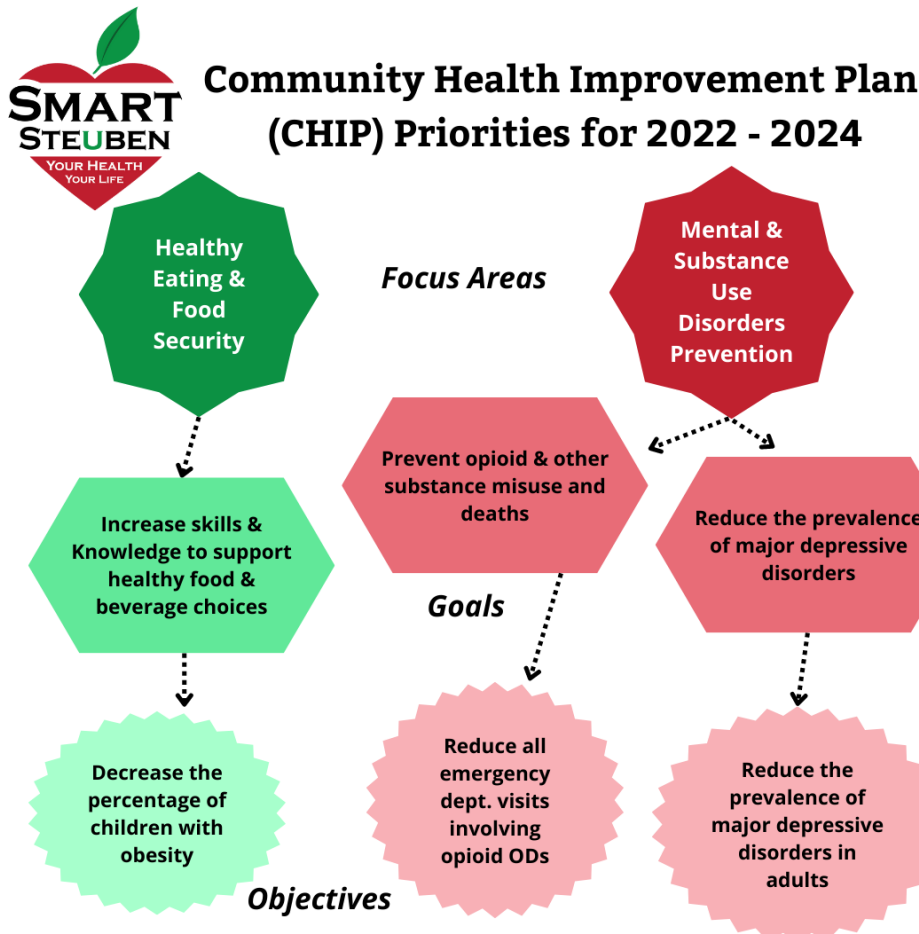
Community Health Improvement

New York State’s [Prevention Agenda](#) serves as the blueprint for state and local action to improve the health and well-being of all New Yorkers and to promote health equity in all populations who experience disparities.

Every three years, Steuben County Public Health, along with our local hospitals and community partners, assesses the community’s health needs. The team of partners, called Smart Steuben, then develops a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) based on the results of the Community Health Assessment (CHA). The CHIP’s goals are to address the greatest health needs and improve the health of county residents by utilizing the resources available and offered through the team of partners. Smart Steuben completed the [CHA](#) and the 2022 - 2024 [CHIP](#) in December 2022.

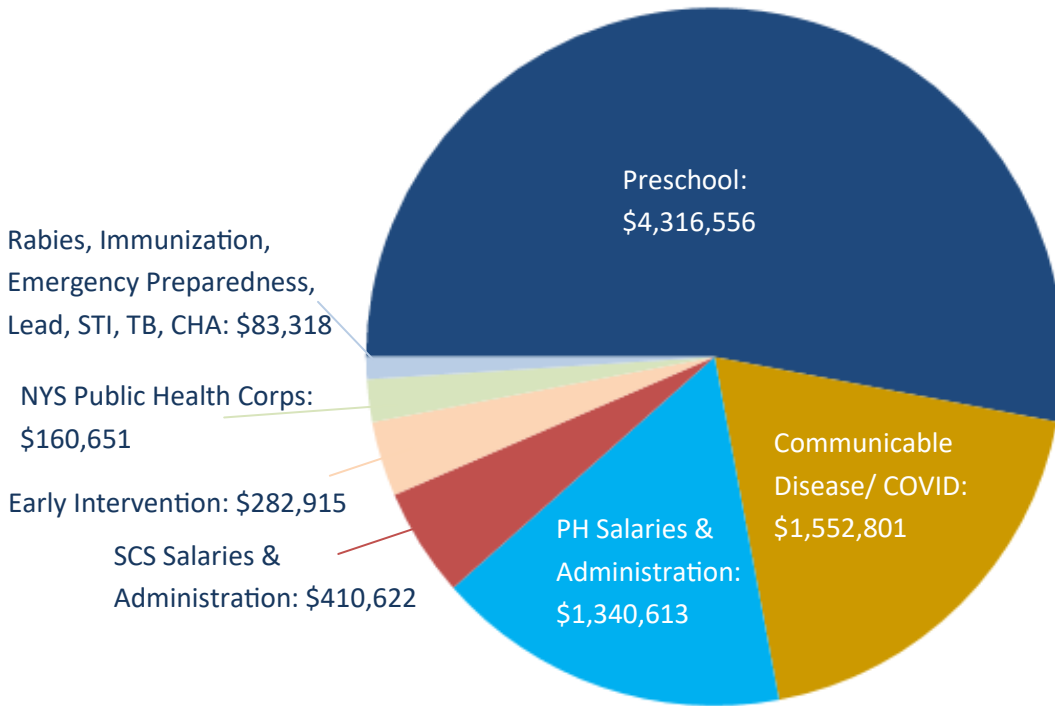
Smart Steuben Team Members

- [Steuben County Public Health](#)
- [Arnot Health](#)
- [Guthrie Corning Hospital](#)
- [UR St. James Hospital](#)
- [Catholic Charities of Steuben / Livingston Prevention Services](#)
- [Common Ground Health](#)
- [Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben](#)
- [Corning Community College](#)
- [Finger Lakes Community Health](#)
- [Hornell YMCA](#)
- [Oak Orchard Health](#)
- [Pivotal Public Health Partnership](#)
- [ProAction of Steuben & Yates, Inc.](#)
- [Southern Tier Library System](#)
- [Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition \(STAC\)](#)
- [Steuben County Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services \(SCASAS\)](#)
- [Steuben County Community Services / Suicide Prevention Coalition](#)
- [Steuben County Legislature](#)
- [Steuben Prevention Coalition and Opioid Committee](#)
- [Steuben Rural Health Network \(IHS\)](#)
- [Tri-County Family Medicine](#)
- [VA Finger Lakes Healthcare System](#)
- [Wegmans in Corning](#)

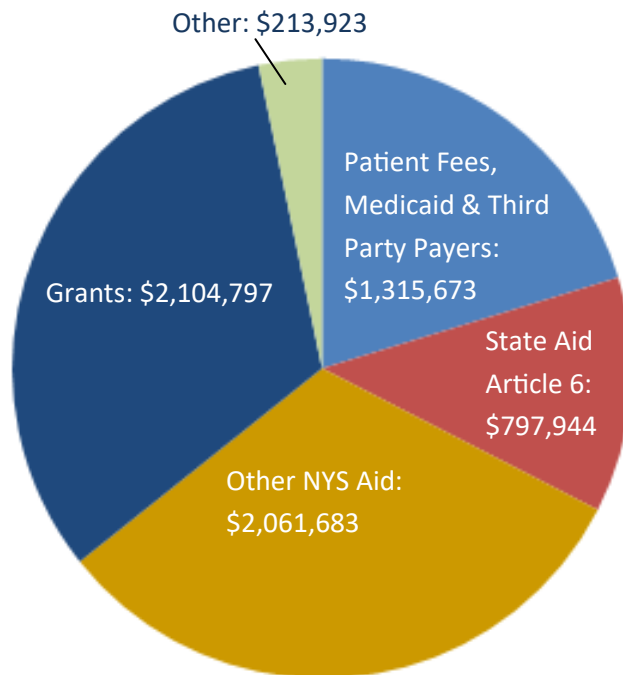


Budget Summary 2022

Expenditures



Revenue Sources



	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Expenses	\$6,082,807	\$5,243,409	\$6,486,517	\$8,147,478
Total Revenue	\$3,985,669	\$3,567,369	\$4,781,613	\$6,494,019
County Cost	\$2,097,138	\$1,676,040	\$1,704,904	\$1,653,459