

# **Steuben County**

# **Public Health**

## **2024 Annual Report**

**Healthy People.**  
**Strong Families.**  
**Vibrant Communities.**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Steuben County NY

3 E. Pulteney Square  
Bath, NY 14810

[steubencountyny.gov/Public-Health](https://steubencountyny.gov/Public-Health)



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## Letter from the Director



I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report of Steuben County Public Health, reflecting a year of resilience, innovation, and continued commitment to advancing public health for all residents of Steuben. Over the past year, we have made significant progress in several key areas that directly impact the health and well-being of our community: staffing, harm reduction initiatives, and communicable disease response.

### **Strengthening Our Workforce**

Recognizing that a robust and well-supported workforce is the backbone of effective public health, we focused on rebuilding and expanding our staffing capacity. This year, we successfully filled critical vacancies and created new positions to meet emerging public health needs. We also launched targeted professional development efforts to retain and empower our talented staff. These investments have improved our responsiveness, reduced burnout, and strengthened our ability to deliver timely, equitable services.

### **Advancing Harm Reduction Efforts**

Our harm reduction programs saw meaningful expansion in 2024, with a particular focus on addressing substance use through evidence-based, compassionate approaches. We introduced or scaled up services such as a harm reduction vending machine that distributes naloxone and fentanyl and xylazine test strips as well as enhanced overdose prevention education. These interventions have not only saved lives but also helped build trust with vulnerable populations and served as an entry point for connecting individuals to treatment and recovery services.

### **Enhancing Communicable Disease Prevention and Control**

In the wake of recent global health challenges, we continued to bolster our communicable disease surveillance, prevention, and response strategies. From expanded access to vaccination clinics and testing, to improved surveillance, we've prioritized preparedness and rapid response. Notably, our collaborative outreach programs have enhanced accessibility to vaccinations, improved health care with ensured equitable access to information and care across diverse communities.

These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the guidance of our Board of Health, and the collaboration of community partners and residents. As we look ahead, we remain committed to data-driven decision-making, evidence-based practices, and building a healthier, more resilient community for all. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

In health and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darlene Smith'.

**Darlene R. Smith, MS, CPH**  
**Public Health Director**  
**Steuben County Public Health**

# Who We Are

Since 1918, Steuben County Public Health has provided the community with quality health services. Over the years, services have been updated to meet the changing needs of our community, but our commitment remains to health promotion and disease prevention.

## Our Mission

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



## Our Vision

Healthy people. Strong families.  
Vibrant communities

## Our 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. 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 we will apply for in 2026.

***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.



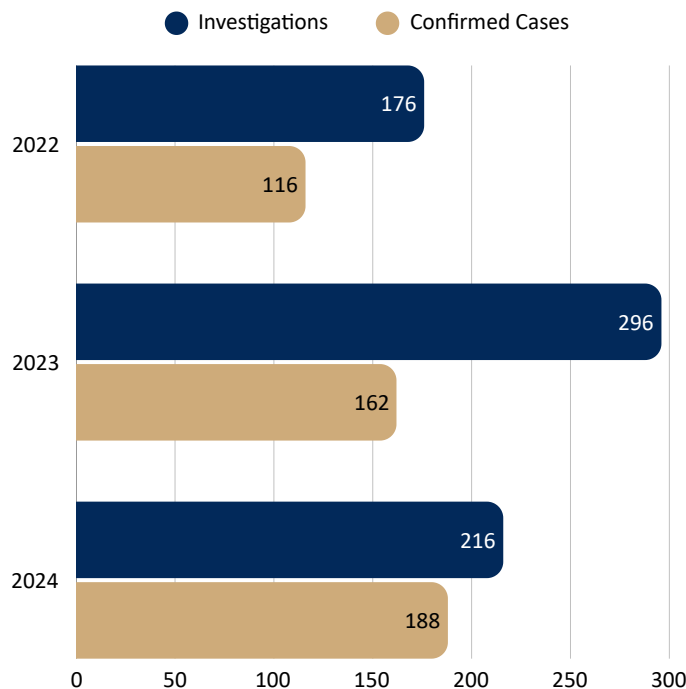
## Public Health Services

Here at Steuben County Public Health, we provide the following programs and services:

- Communicable Disease Investigations
- Immunization Clinics
- Jail Health
- STI Investigations
- Opioid Overdose Prevention Program
- Rabies Prevention
- Maternal & Child Health
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Special Children’s Services: Early Intervention & Preschool Special Education
- Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Health
- Community Health Assessment & Health Improvement Plan

### Communicable Disease Reports (Investigations) vs. Cases

One responsibility of Public Health is to investigate reports of communicable (infectious) diseases. We determine whether reports are actual cases and, if so, identifying the cause(s) of the disease or steps needed to prevent its spread to others. Here's a breakdown of the number of communicable diseases reported to Public Health and investigated. It's important to note that not all investigations result in confirmed cases. This data excludes COVID-19 cases and investigations.



In 2024, the most prevalent communicable diseases were Campylobacter, Invasive Streptococcus, Salmonella.

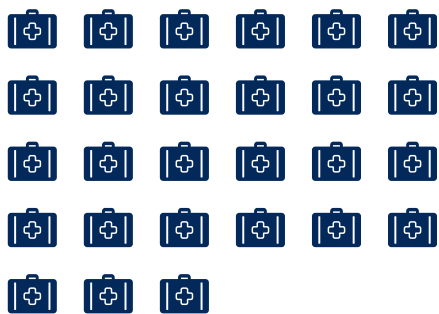
## Immunization Clinics

Public Health has historically offered routine immunizations to the community, as well as COVID vaccines and Jynneos vaccines to guard against Mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox). Utilizing 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 displays the number of children and adults vaccinated by Public Health in 2024.

	2022	2023	2024
# of children vaccinated	45	78	58
# of adults vaccinated	67	42	19

## Jail Health

Public Health holds clinics at the Steuben County Jail throughout the year, providing STI testing, education, and immunizations to keep inmates healthy. In 2024, there were...



**27 Jail Clinics**



**113 Inmates Served**



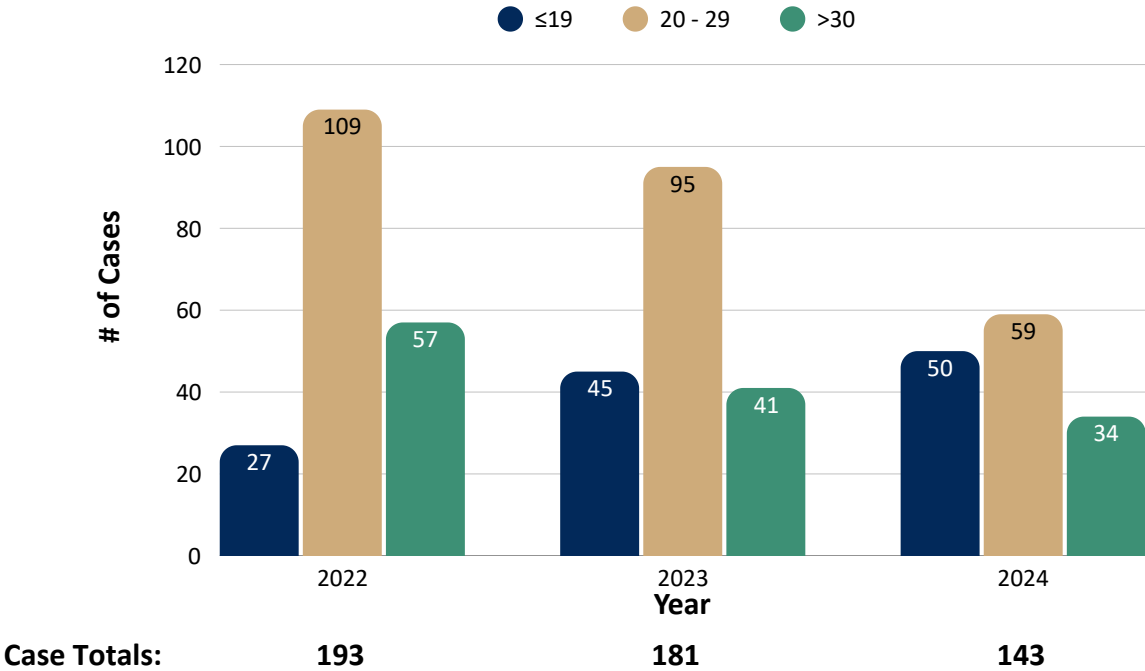
**199 vaccines given**

## STIs

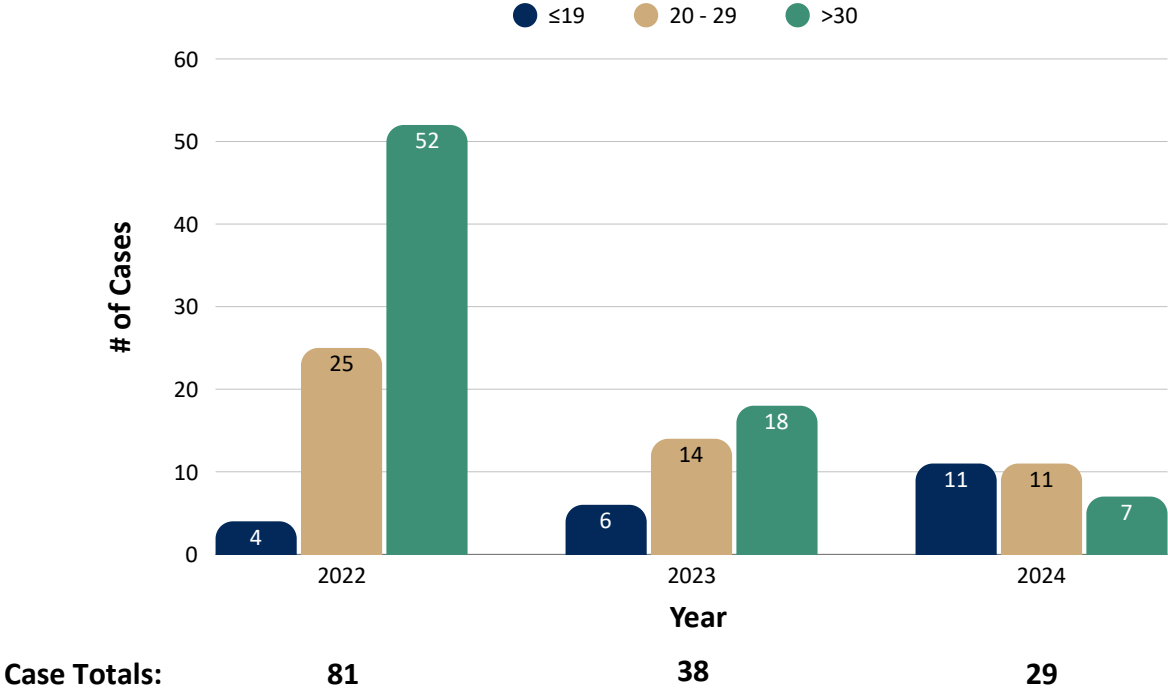
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are a category of communicable diseases that Public Health surveils. We check with healthcare providers to make sure patients are getting the appropriate treatment in an effort to slow or stop the spread.

On the two next pages, graphs provide a look at chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis cases by age group over the past several years. Chlamydia cases are much more common than gonorrhea cases. In 2024 we saw a decrease in chlamydia and gonorrhea cases. The 20-29 age group remained the leader in chlamydia cases, whereas gonorrhea cases for >30 age group dropped from previous years.

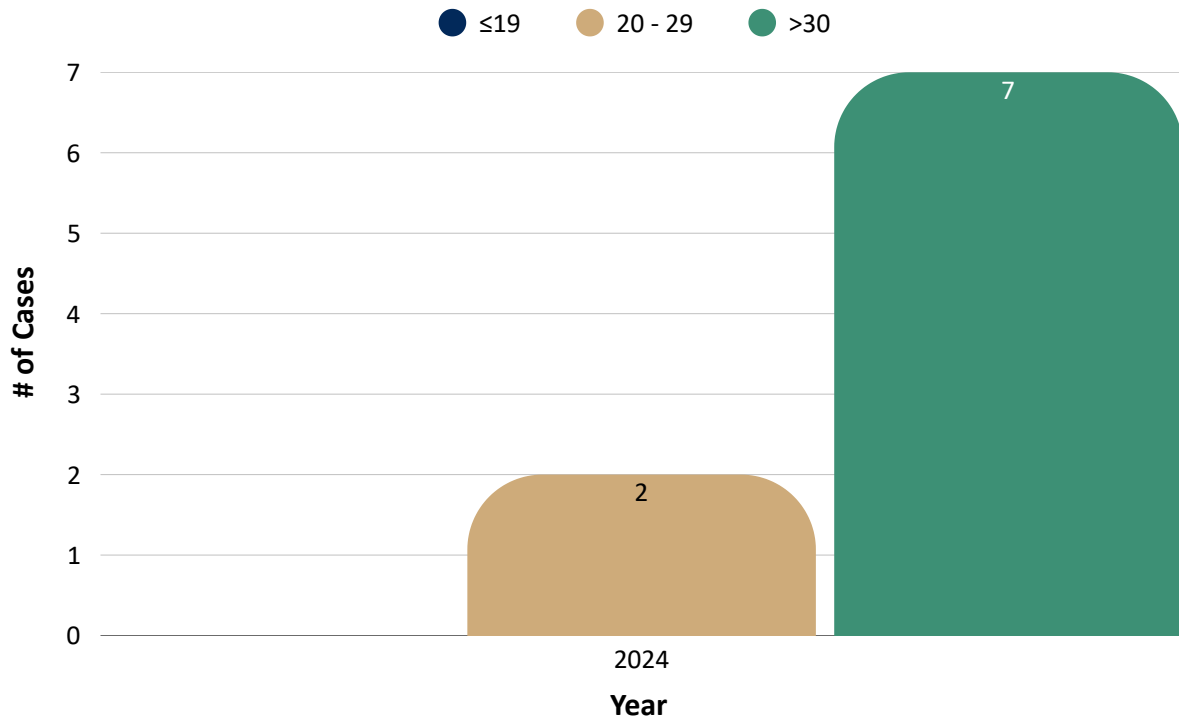
### Chlamydia Cases by Age



### Gonorrhea Cases by Age



## Syphilis Cases by Age in 2024



**1 in 5** People in the US have an STI

**PROTECT YOURSELF  
PROTECT YOUR PARTNER**

[www.cdc.gov/std](http://www.cdc.gov/std)

## 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 are available through our [website](#).

	2022	2023	2024
# of Public Health Trainings	6	7	22
# of People Trained	30	95	71
# of Naloxone Kits Distributed	24	306	129

## 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.

	2022	2023	2024
# of Rabies Vaccination Clinics	31	38	34
# of Pets Vaccinated	2,139	2,414	2,515
# of Animals Tested Positive for Rabies	5	6	7
# of People Treated for Rabies Post-Exposure	50	80	91

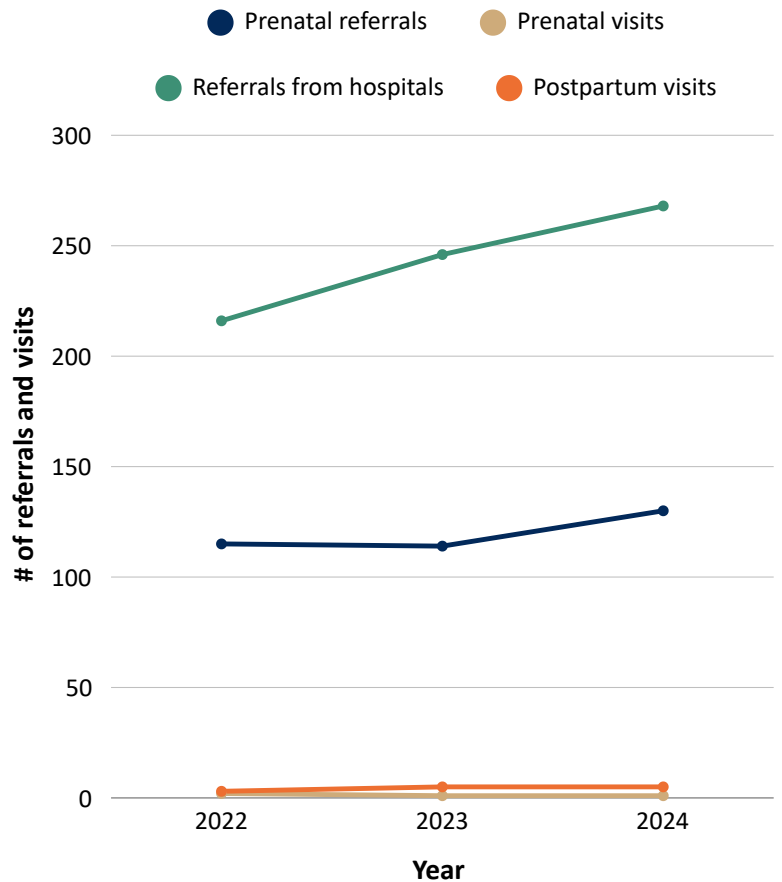
## Maternal & Child Health (MCH)

Our MCH program provides free educational home visits to all expecting and postpartum moms in Steuben County. These visits cover a range of topics from feeding to car seats to baby proofing and more. Additionally, the nurse conducting these visits is also a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC), capable of offering in-depth breastfeeding support.

In 2024, there was an uptick in the number of prenatal referrals and postpartum hospital referrals. The number of prenatal and postpartum MCH visits remained the same across 2023 and 2024.

Maternal and child health is crucial to public health as it can predict future health challenges, determine the health of the next generation, and identify existing health conditions and risky behaviors. The health of mothers can also influence the well-being of future generations, and ensuring that mothers have access to adequate health care can significantly impact the health of the entire community.

### MCH Referrals and Visits





## Moms & Babies

Free in person or virtual visits are available to all expecting, postpartum, or breastfeeding moms in Steuben County, with a nurse / Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC).

*Visit topics include:*

- Feeding (breast / bottle)
- After-delivery care for both mom & baby
- Safe sleep
- Answers to all questions!
- Car seat safety
- Developmental milestones

**To schedule or with questions, call or text a nurse / CLC:**

**Kat: 607-329-6823**

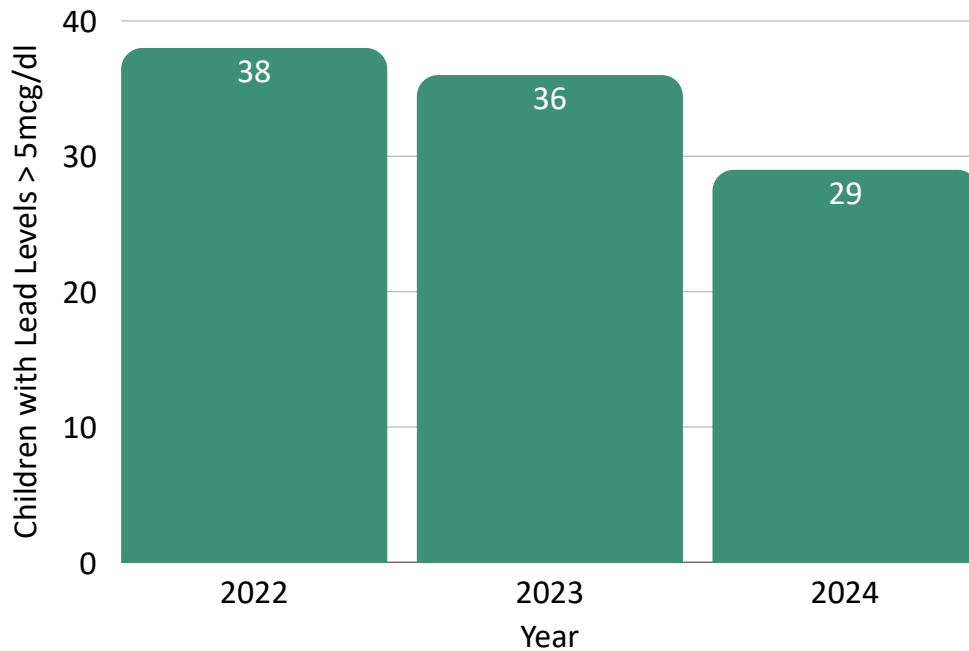
**Or call the Public Health office: 607-664-2438**

## Lead Poisoning Prevention

In New York State, all children are expected to undergo lead testing at the age of 1 and then again at the age of 2. In Steuben County, the lead testing rates for 2024 were **63% for 1-year-olds** and **63% for 2-year-olds**.

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

### Children in Steuben County with Elevated Lead Levels



Annually, we revise [a housing map](#) of the county, pinpointing areas with elevated lead levels, as well as identifying fair and poor condition homes constructed before 1978 when lead paint was phased out. This map also encompasses data on WIC participation levels and socioeconomic status levels.

**Lead-based paint** can be found both inside and outside the home. Do you know where to look for lead?

Exterior paint that is flaking, peeling, or deteriorating can contaminate soil where children may play.

Deteriorating lead-based paint can also contaminate dust in your home.

Exterior paint

Interior and exterior windows and window sills

Interior paint, (e.g., kitchen and bathroom paint)

Soil (especially under friction surfaces, such as windows)

Interior and exterior doors and door frames

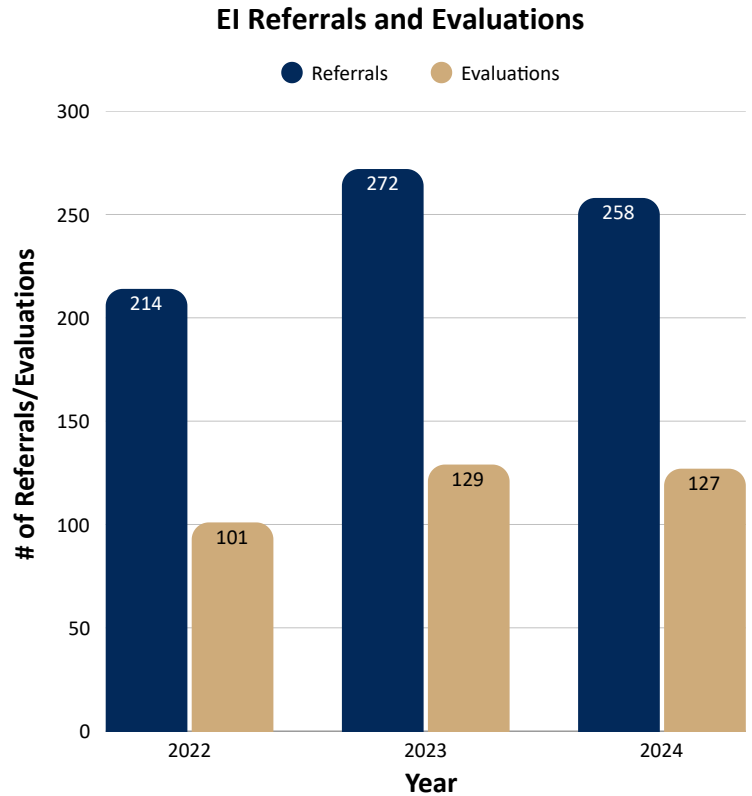
EPA [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) #leadfreekids

# Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program seeks to improve the system of care for children and youth with special health care needs from birth and up to 21 years of age and their families. The Program helps to shape public policy so families can get the best health care for their children.

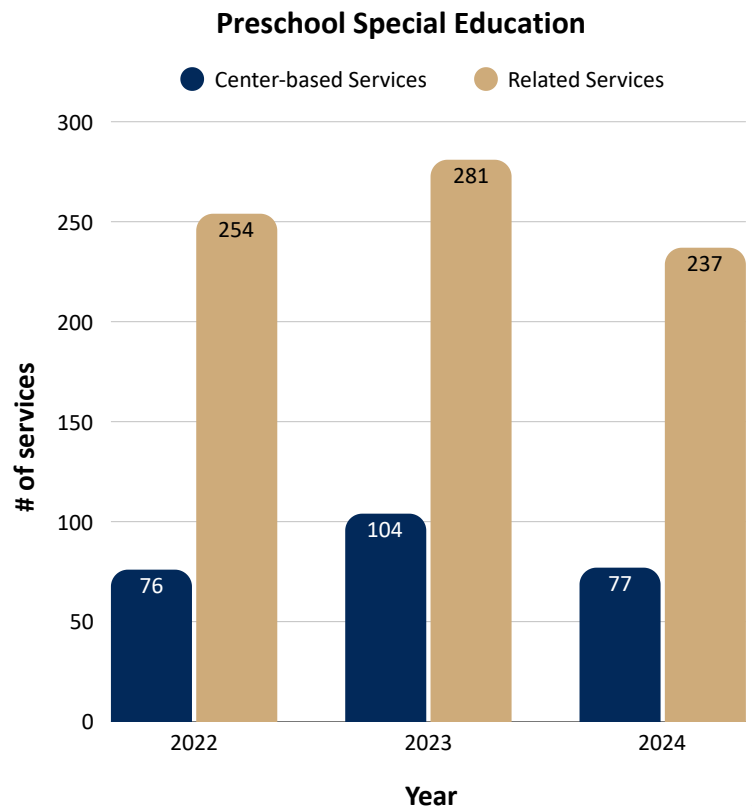
## Early Intervention (EI)

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.



## 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.



## Emergency Preparedness

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.

When not involved in an ongoing and active emergency, there are other events that are tracked, and education and awareness are provided to the community as appropriate. Below is a look at some of the events our emergency preparedness staff were involved with in 2024:



Public Health staff and volunteers participating in a Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise.



Public Health's Mobile Unit was purchased using grant funds in 2024 to further reach the rural communities in Steuben County and support response efforts during emergencies.



In 2024, Public Health continued to provide Covid-19 test kits for the community.



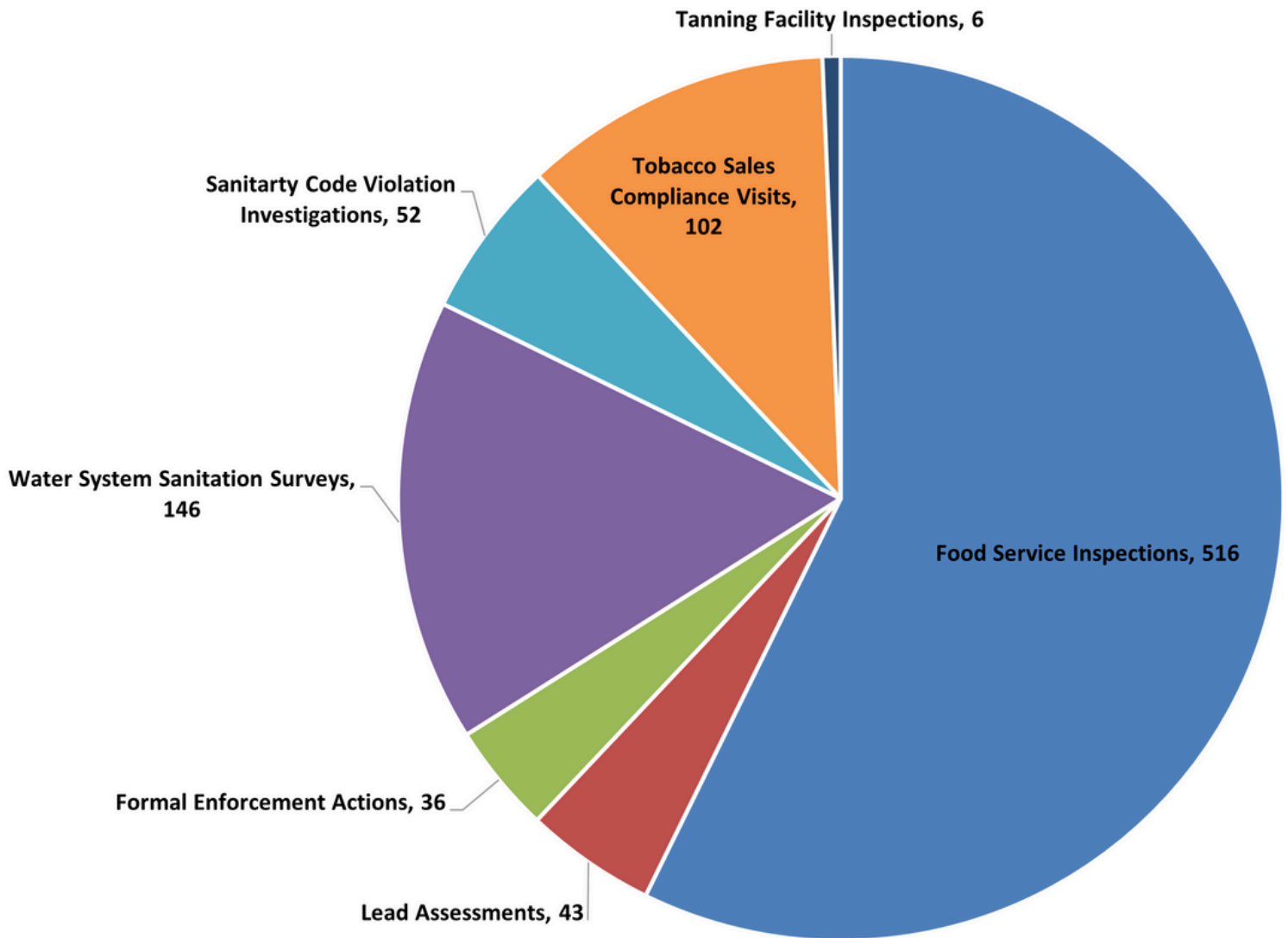
A picture of the Jasper-Troupsburg High School during the flooding event following Hurricane Debby. Public Health worked closely with Emergency Management to respond to this county-wide event.

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](#).

## Environmental Health (EH)

Steuben County Public Health operates as a partial service health department, meaning that environmental health services are managed by the New York State Department of Health Hornell District Office (HDO). The HDO's responsibilities include issuing permits to regulated facilities, conducting inspections and investigations for licensed and permitted facilities, outbreaks of food or waterborne illnesses, conditions related to elevated lead levels, and monitoring tobacco sales compliance, among other duties.

The graph below illustrates HDO activities in 2024.



For more information or to contact the New York State Department of Health Hornell District Office, visit <https://www.steubencountyny.gov/296/Environmental-Services>

## Public Health Education and Outreach

Education on all health topics is a top priority for Public Health. To reach a wide audience quickly, Public Health regularly utilizes social media platforms such as [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). We also issue press releases for traditional media outlets like radio, newspapers, and TV, and include information on our [website](#). Additionally, staff attend in-person events to share information about their programs.



## Community Health Improvement

The [Prevention Agenda](#) of New York State serves as a blueprint for state and local initiatives designed to enhance the health and well-being of all New Yorkers. It aims to promote health equity across all populations experiencing disparities.

Every three years, Steuben County Public Health collaborates with local hospitals and community partners to assess the community's health needs. This team of partners, known as Smart Steuben, uses the results of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP aims to address the most pressing health needs and improve the health of county residents by utilizing the resources available through the partner organizations. Smart Steuben completed the [CHA](#) and the 2022-2024 CHIP in December 2022.

### SMART Steuben Coalition Members

- Steuben County Public Health
- Arnot Health
- Guthrie Corning Hospital
- UR St. James Hospital
- Common Ground Health
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben
- Corning Community College
- Finger Lakes Community Health
- Foobank of the Southern Tier
- Oak Orchard Health
- Pivotal Public Health Partnership
- ProAction of Steuben & Yates, Inc.
- Southern Tier Library System
- Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition (STTAC)
- 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)
- Wegmans in Corning



## Staff in Action

Steuben County Public Health is grateful and honored to have dedicated group of professionals working at the department. Public Health staff engages in trainings, workshops, and community outreach events that address public health priority areas. Our staff works hard to enhance our collective well-being, ensuring longer and healthier lives for everyone.

### Clerical, Preschool, & Accounts Staff



From left to right: Robin Conley, Senior Account Clerk Typist; Wendi Tarr, Senior Typist; Judith (Judy) Pease, Senior Typist; Elizabeth (Betty) Sine, Chief Fiscal Officer

### Nursing Staff



From left to right: Brittany Pfunter, BSN, RN; Kat Potter, RN, CLC; Jennifer Keenan, RN; Micayla Decker, LPN

### Early Intervention/Special Children's Services Staff



From left to right: Nicole Hogan, Administrative Officer; Jessica Douglas, EI Service Coordinator; Ellen Feidner, EI Service Coordinator; Haley Finch, EI Service Coordinator

### Education Staff



From left to right: Genevieve Elliott, Public Health Education Coordinator Assistant, CYSHCN Coordinator; Mealea VanDenburg, Public Health Education Coordinator

### Emergency Preparedness Staff



Ryan Stryker, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

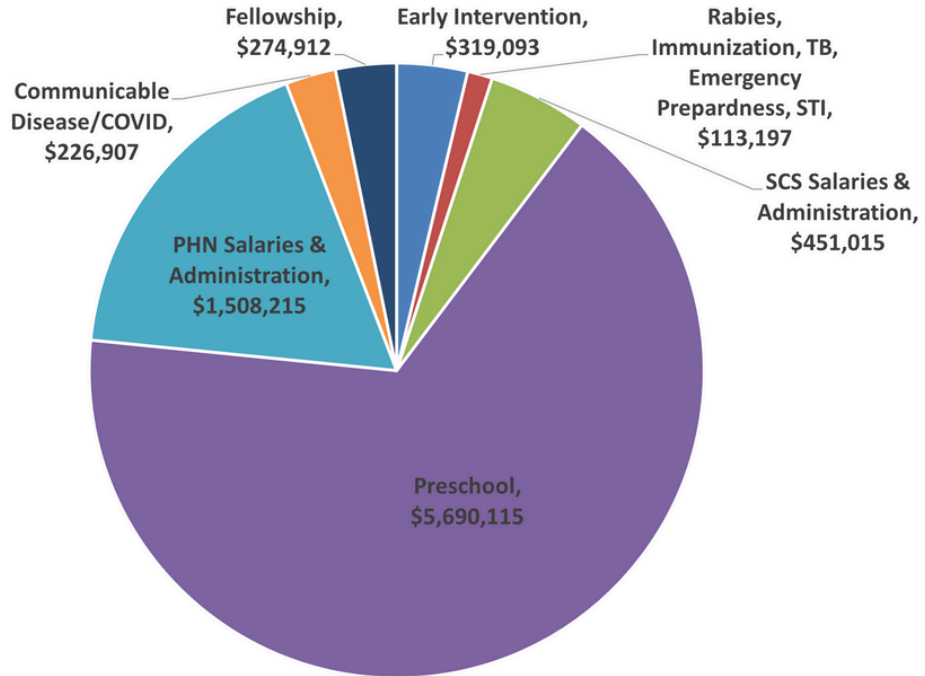
### Administrative Staff



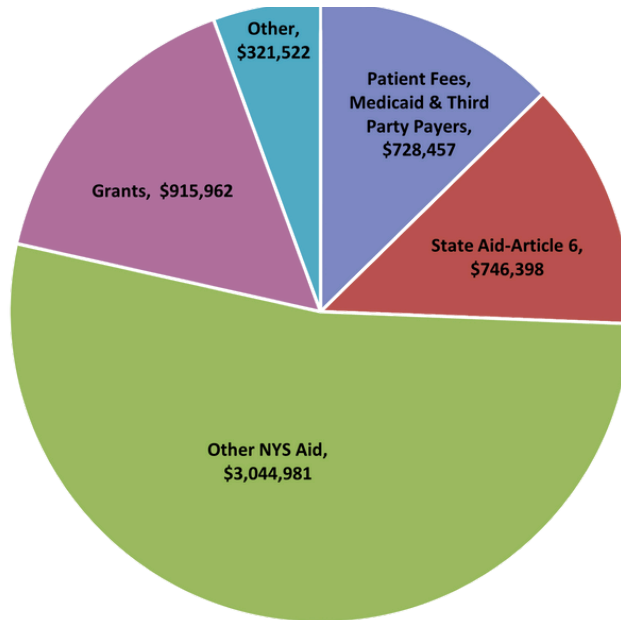
Matthew Marmor, Deputy Director

# Budget Summary 2024

## Expenditures



## Revenue Sources



	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$8,174,478	\$7,570,100	\$8,583,454
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$6,494,019	\$5,699,725	\$5,757,320
<b>County Cost</b>	\$1,653,459	\$1,870,375	\$2,826,134