

ALBANY COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



2015

ANNUAL PROGRAM & SERVICES REPORT



Daniel P. McCoy  
Albany County Executive

## Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Message from the Commissioner of Health	1
Board of Health	2
About Our Department	2-3
Organizational Chart	4
Public Health Planning and Education	5-9
Chronic Disease Prevention	
Tick-borne Disease Education	
Injury Prevention	
Prevention Agenda	
General Health Education	
Public Health Nursing Services Division	10-14
Pediatric Dental	
Maternal Child Health Home Visiting	
Maternal & Infant Community Health Collaborative	
Immunizations Program	
Nursing Wellness/ Health Education	
Homecare & Long Term Care Program	
HIV Surveillance (with County Surveillance Representative)	
HIV Surveillance & Partner Services Program (HPS)	
Expanded Partner Services (ExPS) Program	
Healthy Neighborhoods (HNP) & Asthma	
Epidemiology Program/ Communicable Disease	
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	
Tuberculosis (TB) Program	
Environmental Health Services Division	15-18
Restaurants, Schools, Mobile and Temporary Food Vendors	
Environmental Health Assessment and Chemical Emergencies	
Neighborhood (Pesticide) Notification Law	
Residential Environmental Problems	
Mobile Home Parks	
Temporary Residences (Hotels/Motels) and Migrant & Farm Worker Housing	
Individual Residential Water and Sewer	
Pools/Bathing Beaches	
Drinking Water Protection and Realty Subdivision	
Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA)	
Tattoo and Body Piercing	
Tanning	
Children's Camps	
Clean Indoor Air Act	
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Lead Primary Prevention Program	
Rabies	
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	19-22
Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI)	
Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)	
Albany County Medical Reserve Corps	
Albany County Citizen Corps Council	
State Homeland Security	
Finance & Administration Division	22



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Message from the Commissioner**

*The Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) strives to protect and promote the health of individuals, families and communities. With the strong support of County Executive McCoy, the Honorable Members of the Albany County Legislature and the Albany County Board of Health, we work with many community partners to offer a variety of programs and services to achieve our mission to accomplish the following:*

*Prevent communicable and chronic diseases, injuries and disabilities;*

*Protect against environmental hazards that affect health and safety;*

*Promote the health and wellness of our citizens and our communities; and*

*Prepare for and respond to public health emergencies.*

*Public Health is a science and an art that connects us all. Our team of dedicated staff is committed to working with the community we serve to ensure they receive the highest quality public health services; to limit health disparities; and to promote healthcare equity, quality and accessibility for all the citizens of Albany County.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Whalen'.

*Elizabeth F. Whalen MD, MPH  
Commissioner of Health*

## **BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS**

Christopher J. Nolin, President

Honorable Lucille McKnight

Dr. Suzie Mookherjee

Dr. Robert Paeglow

Dr. Robert Sax

Dr. Elizabeth F. Whalen, Secretary to BOH

### **WHO WE SERVE**

The ACDOH is a population-based, governmental regulatory and human service agency responsible for providing essential public health services that affect every county resident.

### **ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT**

The ACDOH ensures compliance with provisions of the Public Health Law and Sanitary Codes of the State and County. Article 6 of the Public Health Law defines six core program areas which serve as the basis for local public health work. Built around these core program areas, New York State (NYS) Regulations require the submission of a State Aid Application that outlines services provided by local health departments. In addition to these regulatory requirements, other sections of Public Health Law directly mandate the provision of services such as control of rabies, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tobacco enforcement. Essential services of the ACDOH within each core program area are listed below:

#### **FAMILY HEALTH**

This program area provides outreach to pregnant women to promote access to early prenatal and obstetrical care, maternal and child health services to assure that infants and children receive comprehensive primary and preventive health care, and preventive and primary dental care for children. Family Health activities also include a childhood lead poisoning prevention program.

#### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL**

This program area provides activities to prevent communicable diseases and investigate and manage outbreaks and epidemics; screening and medical care for active and inactive tuberculosis; confidential diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases for all age groups; childhood and adult immunizations to include rabies post-exposure protection. In addition, HIV/AIDS surveillance, partner notification services and expanded partner services track cases, ensure that individuals are connected with appropriate medical care, and provide outreach and education to high-risk individuals and populations.

## **CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION**

This program area provides public health information and education programs directed at the general public, targeted high-risk populations and health professionals. In collaboration with community partners, major emphasis is placed upon reducing the prevalence or incidence of chronic diseases and conditions such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, asthma and the underlying risk factors of tobacco use, physical inactivity and poor nutrition.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

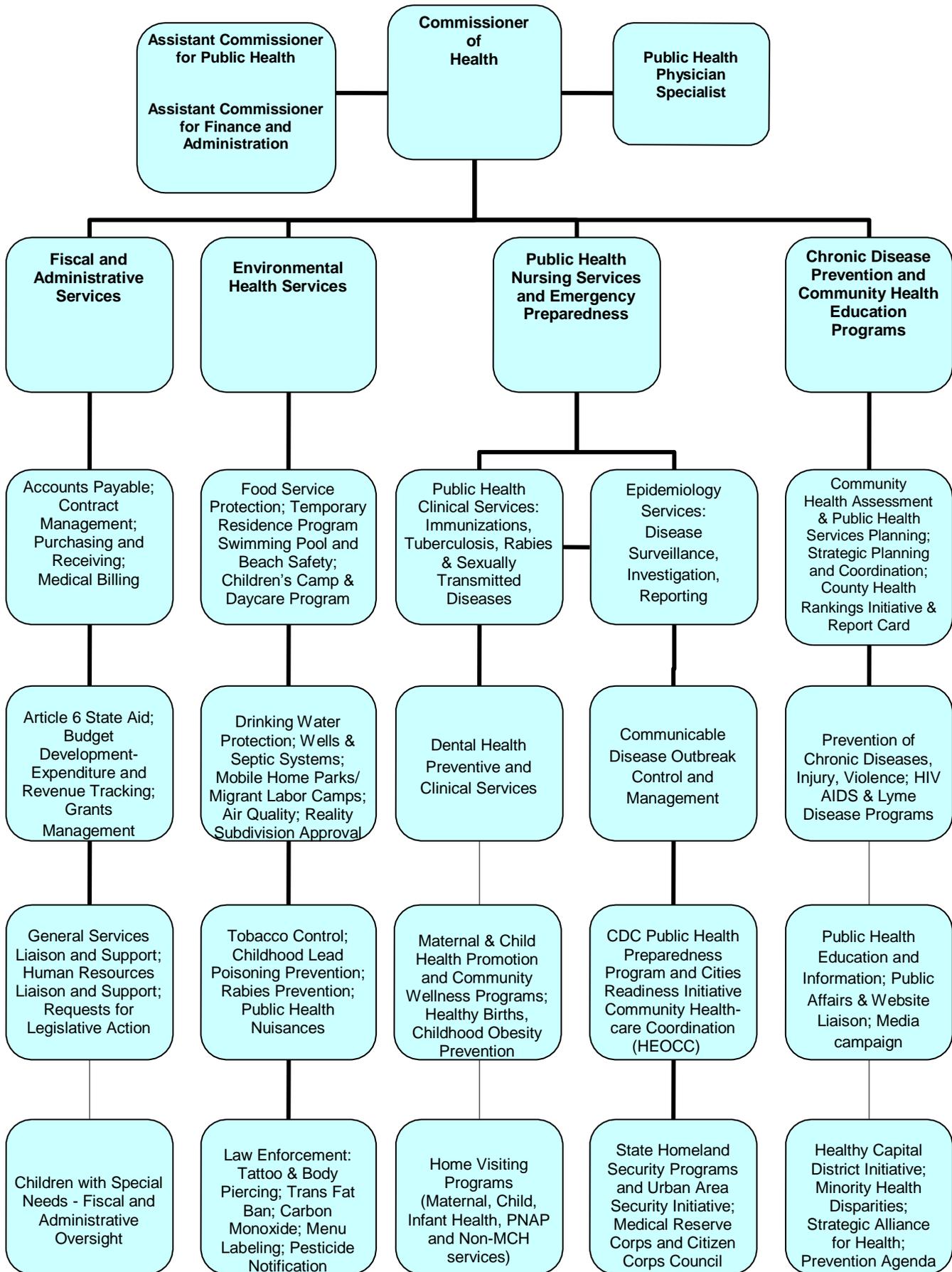
This program area provides assessment of the health status of the County by reviewing available data on a wide variety of health-related indicators. This includes review of vital statistics information, including birth and mortality; demographic characteristics of the county with attention to those parameters predictive of increased risk of morbidity and mortality; surveillance of communicable and chronic disease indicators; monitoring trends in demographic and disease data to assess emerging public health concerns and the need for public health services to residents. The Community Health Improvement Plan includes strategies and measurable objectives through which the county and its community partners will address areas for health improvement.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

This program area provides an array of services to protect Albany County residents and visitors from potential hazards in our water supply, the air we breathe and in the places where we live, work and play. This is accomplished by means of inspections, sampling, investigation, enforcement, engineering, and education. Major activities include air and water pollution control, solid waste management, and protection of the public water supply; rabies control program; food service inspections and permitting; implementation of the provisions of the Clear Indoor Air Act which regulates smoking in public areas; monitoring hotels and motels for compliance with fire and safety regulations; monitoring of individual water supply and sewage disposal systems; and lead paint investigation and abatement activities.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program helps develop local public health preparedness plans and enhances the County's capacity for responding to public health threats such as acts of terrorism, pandemic influenza, and other public health emergencies. The PHEP program works with other local, state and federal partners to ensure an integrated and coordinated approach in its public health preparedness, planning and response efforts.



## Public Health Planning and Education

The Division of Public Health Planning and Education's mission is to prevent chronic diseases, injuries, and disabilities by coordinating health education services and promoting risk reduction activities, with special attention to underserved populations. In collaboration with community partners, the department reviews community health data; identifies community health priorities; and develops companion community health implementation plans.

### **2015 Highlights:**

- Awarded a highly competitive 3-year Local Initiatives for Multi-Sector Public Health Action (Local IMPACT) grant to implement general and priority adult population strategies in community and health system settings to prevent and control obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke and reduce health disparities among adults.
- Initiated collaboration with the Albany Housing Authority to institute a smoke free policy and health education initiative in Albany City Public Housing.
- Expanded the Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health membership, a coalition of public health stakeholders, to 90 organizations increasing its collaborative impact.

### **Albany County Department of Health Community Garden**



ACDOH staff volunteered their time gardening at Hartman Road Community Garden and donated 571 pounds of produce (including yellow, green, and butternut squash; green beans; tomatoes; lettuce; collard greens, beets, Brussel sprouts and Swiss chard) to the Mission and the Food Pantry Distribution Center. This was a great team building initiative that garnered support from the press and the County Executive.

### **Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health**



The Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health (ACSAH) targets poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, and tobacco use as they are underlying risk factors for a variety of chronic diseases including diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease. The goal of the ACSAH is to create healthier communities through sustainable, innovative, evidence and practice-based community health promotion and chronic disease prevention programs that focus on policy and environmental change, rather than individual behavioral change.

**Healthy Eating-** Increased the availability and visibility of affordable healthier food and beverage options:

- *Sodium Reduction in Communities Program*

ACDOH has received a multi-year grant to work with senior meals programs and local hospitals to reduce the amount of sodium in foods and meals served to the public, employees, and visitors.



- Albany Medical Center reduced sodium in their soups by 8% (from 363 mg sodium per 8 oz. serving to 334 mg sodium per 8 oz. serving) and eliminated calzones from the menu in 2015.
- St. Peter's Hospital reduced sodium in their soups by 39% (from 913 mg sodium per 8 oz. serving to 561 mg sodium per 8 oz. serving) and reduced

sodium in dressings by 70% (from 284 mg sodium per 1 oz. serving to 86 mg sodium per 1 oz. serving) in 2015.

- *Healthy Convenience Store Makes Fresh Produce Available and Affordable in Albany, New York* Success Story published by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://nccd.cdc.gov/NCCDSuccessStories/showdoc.aspx?s=2249&dt=0>

**Active Living-** Enhanced opportunities for walking, biking, and/or other forms of physical activity for community residents of all ages and abilities:

- In conjunction with the Capital District YMCA and community partners, our staff implemented healthy walking path in City of Albany's South End.
- We reviewed programming at 5 childcare sites to ensure children are receiving proper amounts of physical activity each day.
- Albany County Department of Health, through the Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health grant program, provided funding support for rehabilitation of the North Swan Street Park. Renovations were completed and the North Swan Street Park was opened on June 27, 2015.
- Staff actively participated in Capital District Transportation Committee Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.



**Tobacco-Free Living-** Decreased exposure to second hand smoke and the social acceptability of tobacco:

- ACDOH initiated collaboration with the Albany Housing Authority to pass a comprehensive smoke-free policy for all of its 2,200 units (4,106 people), and educational initiative to provide resources for smoking cessation and asthma information in conjunction with community partners including the Asthma Coalition of the Capital Region, Capital District Tobacco Free Coalition and Smoke Free Housing NY. Smoking will no longer be permitted indoors, including in the individual units or within 25 feet of buildings effective January 1, 2016.
- Participated in the Capital District Tobacco-Free Coalition, whose mission is to reduce adolescent and adult use of tobacco through cooperative programs in prevention, cessation, advocacy and community education. Initiatives of the group included pursuing tobacco-free spaces (i.e. tobacco-free recreational areas, smoke-free housing, tobacco-free worksites) and point of sale awareness in the Capital Region.
- Worked closely with the Capital District Tobacco-Free Coalition to assist 3 work sites to implement and/or expand tobacco-free grounds policies.
- Worked closely with the Capital District Tobacco-Free Coalition and City of Albany

to pass City of Albany passed an ordinance expanding tobacco-free areas of City parks to include the entire park properties, effective January 1, 2015.

- Participated in the Asthma Coalition of the Capital Region, whose goal is to decrease asthma morbidity and mortality, in low-income Capital Region residents ages 0-40.

### Clinic-to-Community Linkages

- ACDOH was awarded a grant over three years from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (administered by the New York State Department of Health) to prevent and control obesity, diabetes, heart disease and stroke in adults. The Local Initiatives for Multi Sector Public Health Action (or Local IMPACT program) allows ACDOH and its community partners to implement specific strategies that promote health, support and reinforce healthful behaviors, encourage lifestyle change program participation, and link community programs to clinical services.
- Initiated a program, in conjunction with community partners, to provide community forums in high-risk neighborhoods to improve the management of chronic diseases, such as asthma, through targeted education. On June 17, 2015, a Breathe EZ asthma workshop was provided to Ezra Prentice residents in Albany's South End.
- Active member of the New York State Action to Improve Control of Hypertension and Type 2 Diabetes: Health Systems Learning Collaborative, along with the Health Center Network of New York and Whitney M. Young Health Services, aimed at improving prevention and control of hypertension and diabetes in high-risk populations in Albany County.
- Supported Capital District YMCA *Clinic to Community Listening Forum* exploring the clinical landscape of the community, finding common barriers and determining the steps needed to create a plan partnership to support patient health goals.

### Tick-borne Disease Education

ACDOH Lyme disease education and surveillance program enhances public awareness of tick borne disease prevention and treatment and encourages provider reporting. Public health educators coordinate a public awareness campaign on Lyme and other tick borne diseases by disseminating educational materials (e.g. to camp directors, health care providers, municipalities, Albany County residents) and by giving formal presentations to community groups and businesses.



- Provided Lyme disease prevention and awareness presentations to 5 community organizations including public libraries, camps, garden clubs, and Cornell Extension of Albany County. Provided information tick remover kits to residents by request.
- Provided 11 health care provider practices and organizations in Albany County with Lyme disease prevention and awareness education materials and tick remover kits.
- Actively participated in Town of Bethlehem's Deer and Tick Borne Disease Committee activities including 2015 Fall community forums.

## Injury Prevention

- Supported New York State Department of Health’s “See and Be Seen” campaign to promote pedestrian safety.
- Encouraged safe disposal of prescription and non-prescription medications by promoting our Drug Take Back events and providing public information. Albany County collected 1,587 pounds of medications at 10 collection sites at the September 26, 2015 take-back event.



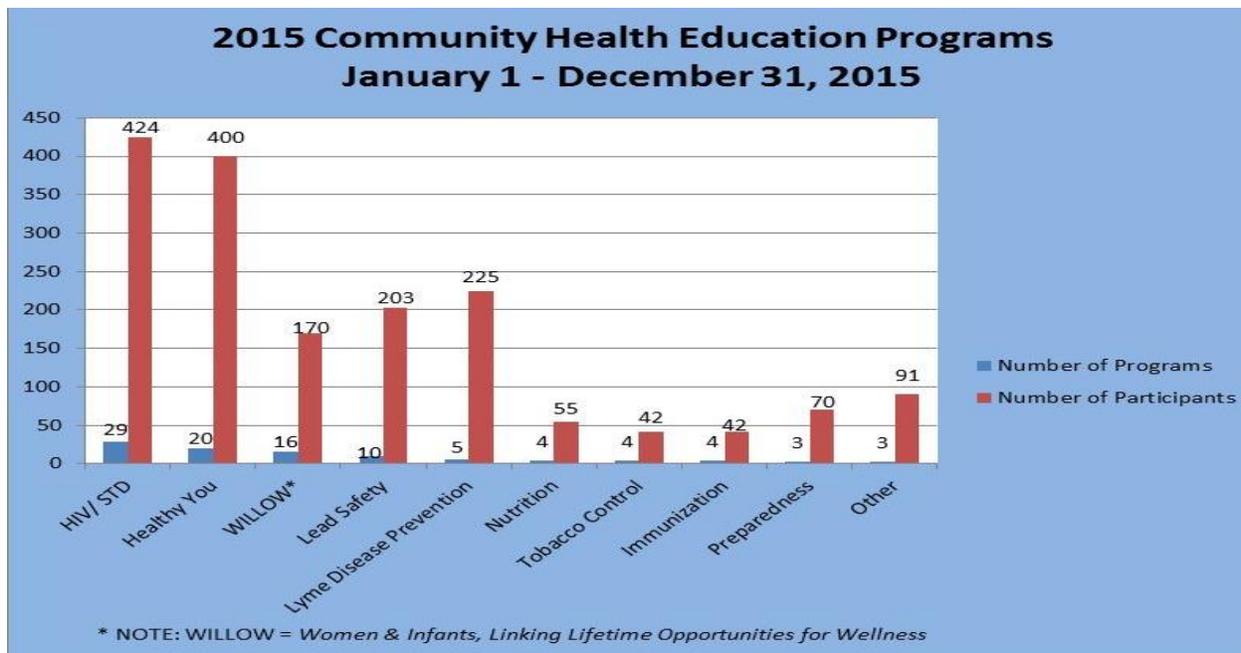
## Prevention Agenda 2013 – 2017

In conjunction with Healthy Capital District Initiative, hospitals, insurers, and community partners, Albany County Department of Health continued its implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan for 2013-2017 - a 3-year community wide effort to make significant improvements in chronic disease (diabetes and asthma) and behavioral health (opiate abuse and smoking among the mentally ill).

- 1,500 Albany County individuals were trained in the New York State Opioid Overdose Prevention Program.
- 163 Albany County residents participated in evidenced-based chronic disease programs (i.e. National Diabetes Prevention Program, Diabetes Self-Management Program, Chronic Disease Self-Management Program).
- 10 organizations adopted a Healthy Meeting and Events policy.

## General Health Education

Public health educators conducted 88 health and wellness presentations for 1,544 persons including school age children, adult community groups, and members of the public on a variety of topics including HIV/STD, nutrition, chronic disease prevention, tobacco cessation, Lyme disease, *Women & Infants, Linking Lifetime Opportunities for Wellness (WILLOW)* and public health preparedness. Evaluations indicate that all programs met their educational objectives.





*Tick-borne disease prevention education provided to youth by Sara Lyons, Public Health Educator.*

- Our staff distributed health education information at health fairs and community events throughout the County of Albany.

- o Community events included Hannaford Kidz Expo, City of Albany Juneteenth celebration, National Senior Health and Fitness Day, 2015 Summer Solstice Festival, Mental Health Tobacco Cessation Kick-Off Cook Out, Centro Civico Community Health Fest, Black Arts and Cultural Festival, City of Albany South End Neighborhood Association “National Night Out”, CDPHP® Healthy Neighborhood event, CrossFit Kids, DEC Wellness and Resource Fair, Conservation Field Day, and Successful Aging in Place Kickoff Party.



- Provided information throughout the year to 69 callers inquiring about topics and concerns such as tick-borne diseases, head lice, scabies, bed bugs, nutrition, smoking, communicable diseases, and other miscellaneous inquiries.
- Provided health information to the public via social media including communications on asthma, diabetes, falls, hepatitis, immunizations, opioid poisoning, power outage, sexually transmitted diseases, and smoking.
- Provided internships, mentoring, and clinical rotation opportunities for New Visions Health Career Program students; University at Albany, School of Public Health graduate students.

## Nursing Division

The Nursing Division provides a wide array of clinical and home visiting services that supports the mission of the department.

### **2015 Highlights:**

- Receipt of the 2016 Give Kids a Smile Award given by the New York State Dental Foundation in recognition of demonstrated excellence in caring for the oral health care needs of underserved and at-risk children.
- Receipt of funding from the NYDOH AIDS Institute for Expanded Partner Services to aid in identifying HIV positive individuals in need of re-engagement in to medical care and supportive services and to assist with partner notification and testing/treatment.
- Hosted a community forum that brought together many partners and stakeholders to discuss issues facing women of child bearing age in an effort to develop strategies to improve birth outcomes.

### **Pediatric Dental Program**

The Dental Program seeks to improve the oral health of Albany County children up through the age of 18 years of age. Since many children, especially in low-income urban areas, do not have the benefit of fluoridated water, dental health in this population is not optimal. Services provided by this program include dental fillings, cleanings, sealants, extractions, and patient education. This program also provides nitrous oxide sedation as needed. Dental education programs are offered to school groups and the community upon request. Also, dental screenings are provided at some Head Start locations.

In 2015, the department provided dental services to children including 5,584 comprehensive visits and emergency visits. In addition, through presentations, elementary children in the Albany City School District 91 children received education on the importance of good oral hygiene. Through our partnership with Head Start, 120 dental screenings were conducted resulting in the identification of children in need of dental care as well as those in need of a provider.

Albany County Health Department staff has worked with the NYSDOH, Dr. Hiroko Iida, from the Oral Health Center for Excellence in Rochester and Dr. Gary Goldstein from Emblem Health and a partnership of community agencies called Cavity Free Albany, to support the development of a local action plan to reduce pediatric cavities in Albany County. In 2015, funds became available to support communities to fluoridate their water supplies. The Health Department is working with communities, including the City of Albany, to support this initiative.

### **Maternal Child Health Home Visiting**

The Maternal Child Health Home Visiting program, through contract with Eddy Visiting Nurses Association, receives referrals for Public Health Nursing Home Visits from local hospitals, prenatal care providers, clinics, clients and/or their families. Public Health Nurses (PHNs) perform nursing assessments and home visits to provide medical follow up, health education, and support to pregnant women, new mothers and their babies, and children who are at risk for or already have health problems that can be managed at home. Recent studies have shown that clients who receive home visiting programs during pregnancy have better pregnancy outcomes.

Public Health Nurses visited many pregnant and parenting residents, as well as children with special health care needs, conducting 636 visits in 2015 where they provided clinical assessments, skilled care, health education, and support and guidance.

## **Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative**

In October of 2015, the Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHC) entered into its third year of funding. The overall goal of this grant is to improve birth outcomes in high risk Medicaid eligible women of child bearing age who primarily live in zip codes in the City of Albany and the City of Cohoes that have high rates of poor birth outcomes. Under this grant which began October 1, 2013, Community Health Workers and community partners are working to meet the following objectives:

- High-need women and infants are enrolled in health insurance.
- High-need women and infants are engaged in health care and other supportive services appropriate to their needs.
- The medical, behavioral and psychosocial risk factor of high-need women and infants are identified and addressed through timely and coordinated counseling, management, referral and follow-up.
- Within the community there are supports and opportunities in place that help high-need women to be engaged in and maintain healthy behaviors and reduce or eliminate risky behaviors.

In 2015, working under the supervision of a Licensed Medical Social Worker (LMSW), three Community Health Workers (CHWs) provided 633 visits, generally for short term services consisting of about 4-5 visits/ client. A Program Director oversees the program and in December 2015, brought together community partners to develop strategies to improve health of the target population. Additionally, ACDOH and Albany County Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) are working collaboratively to implement a single point of entry process to provide streamlined access for referral services under this grant for high risk women of child-bearing age and for the 0-5 year old population served by DCYF.

## **Immunization Program**

The purpose of the immunization program is to prevent the spread of vaccine preventable disease by increasing vaccination rates of the population. Services include childhood and adult immunization on-site and off-site for Albany County residents. Outreach educational services are provided to professionals and to the community regarding vaccine preventable diseases. The Immunization Action grant provides funds for assessment of immunization rates for public clinic and other identified community providers, for education and outreach activities, for facilitation of free hepatitis A and B vaccine to high-risk groups, and to support the statewide immunization registry.



Activities of the Immunization Program in 2015 included administration of:

- 469 Flu vaccines at various locations throughout the community
- 1,096 Adult vaccines to prevent disease and control disease outbreak
- 1,034 Childhood vaccines in our community to provide immunity and to control disease outbreak

## **Nursing Wellness/Health Education**

Professional nurses present health and wellness information to school age children, adult community groups. The topics are varied and multidisciplinary responding to the needs of the residents of Albany County. In addition to the presentations, staff engage people at health fairs and provide health information. Specific health education and wellness activities conducted in 2015 included:

- Lead Poisoning Prevention sessions, with 203 participants to various groups in the community to raise awareness of this public health issue. Groups include daycares, Head Starts, and the community at large through media campaigns. Professional education was provided to Pediatric and OD/GYN providers.
- Sponsored and presented at the Albany County School Nurses Workshop, attended by 28 school nurses to review epidemiology updates, immunization requirements, child advocacy, drug use, Maternal Infant Community Health Collaborative and public health preparedness.
- Dissemination of information to professionals about community education offerings, such as Albany Medical Center AIDS Treatment Center's monthly "Breakfast Club" guest speakers; NYPATH: Columbia University Adolescent Health webinars; Association of Nurses in AIDS Care meeting; and Public Health Live broadcasts, including Confronting Health Disparities, Reaching the Uninsured, Breastfeeding and Infant Sleep.

### **Homecare and Long Term Care Programs**

In 2015, home care services of the Albany County Department of Health were carried out under the Licensed Home Care Services Agency (LHCSA). Additionally, a Maternal Child Health (MCH) staffing contract was in place with the Eddy VNA, a Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA), so that services could be billed under Medicaid and Medicare.

### **HIV Surveillance (with County Surveillance Representatives)**

Albany County Department of Health has conducted case reviews of HIV positive or potentially positive individual's medical records under contract with NYSDOH. In 2015, 259 records were reviewed by RN staff at health facilities within the county to gain an understanding of the numbers of individuals out of care that could benefit from re-engagement.

### **HIV Surveillance and Partner Services Program (HPS)**

HPS Staff from ACDOH work with Medical Providers and other HIV Counseling and Testing agencies to locate and contact HIV positive individuals so that partners may be identified, and then offered testing and counseling on risk reduction. In 2015, of the 35 index cases that were investigated, 44 partners were elicited. Additionally, in 2015, 50 presentations were given to 997 participants on risk reduction strategies.

### **Expanded Partner Services (ExPS) Program**

In January of 2015, the NYDOH AIDS Institute selected ACDOH to receive funding for the ExPS Program. The primary focus of this funding is to reconnect HIV positive individuals who show evidence of not receiving health care for 13 or more months, back to care. 107 cases were assigned and investigated.

### **Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) and Asthma**

In October 2015, ACDOH received funding to reinstitute the HNP which supports environmental home safety assessments and education in high risk communities. The primary focus for HNP is the zip codes 12202, 12206, 12208, 12209 and 12210. In addition to providing environmental home assessments and education, staff also refer to community resources and provide free safety and cleaning products. The program has incorporated a Public Health Nursing (PHN) component when an asthmatic is identified as living in one of these homes. This PHN, also a Certified Asthma Educator, follows up with the family to provide additional education and support regarding self-management of their asthma.

## **Epidemiology Program/Communicable Disease**

The Epidemiology and Communicable Disease Program is responsible for the surveillance and investigation of over 70 mandated reportable communicable/vector-borne diseases. This program receives reports, identifies contacts who may be infected or other individuals at risk for infection, and determines the incidence and prevalence of disease in a specific area of the county with the objective of preventing epidemics and controlling outbreaks of disease or infection.

In 2015, the Department received and investigated a total of 3,705 lab confirmed reportable disease reports. In addition, the unprecedented Ebola (EVD) outbreak in West Africa in 2014, continued into 2015 requiring monitoring of all travelers from EVD affected countries. Follow-up of Tickborne disease cases (Lyme disease, babesiosis and anaplasmosis) increased by 67% and the identification of the first NYS lab confirmed case of *Borrelia Miyamotoi*, an emerging tick borne pathogen was diagnosed in an Albany County resident keeping staff busy.

An extensive norovirus outbreak at a catered school event was investigated with nine lab confirmed cases and more than 20 suspect cases.



Zika virus outbreaks in Mexico, Central and South America prompted the department to prepare for and respond to local Zika cases and concerns. The department collaborated with NYSDOH and other healthcare partners to coordinate a local response, ensuring information, screening and testing availability to all residents as appropriate.

## **Sexually Transmitted Diseases**

STD screening and treatment is offered twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Services focus on identification, treatment and future prevention and spread of STD's. Specific services include clinical examinations, laboratory screening and treatment. In 2015, a total of 1,082 visits were made to STD clinic. Of those receiving services, 66% were male and 34% were female with 14% representing the teenage population.

## **Tuberculosis (TB) Program**

In 2015, 277 persons were evaluated through our Chest Clinical Services with 378 subsequent revisits for follow-up. In addition, 702 PPDs were placed to determine exposure to TB. Those exposed but not infectious/active were offered enrollment in our Latent Disease Program for long term follow-up. Two newly diagnosed active TB cases and 2 transfers from other counties required extensive coordination and follow-up services.

\*The following table depicts the number of confirmed cases of reportable communicable/ vector-borne diseases of public health significance in Albany County in 2014 and 2015.

<b>Disease</b>	<b>2014 Cases</b>	<b>2015 Cases</b>
Amebiasis	14	6
Anaplasmosis/Ehrlichiosis	29	68
Babesiosis	5	12
Campylobacteriosis	58	60
Chlamydia	1527	1701
Cryptosporidiosis	4	6
Chikungunya virus disease (CVD)	4	0
Dengue Fever	2	1
E. coli O157:/STEC	9	5
Giardiasis	41	52
Gonorrhea	291	389
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	3	6
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	1	0
Hepatitis A	0	2
Hepatitis B, Acute	4	1
Hepatitis B, Chronic	23	65
Hepatitis C, Acute	2	4
Hepatitis C, Chronic	160	253
Influenza	701	672
Legionellosis	11	8
Listeriosis	0	0
Lyme disease	114*	135*
Q fever	0	0
Malaria	4	5
Meningitis,viral/aseptic/other	14	15
Meningococcal Infection	1	0
Mumps	0	0
Pertussis	2	6
Salmonellosis	25	47
Shigellosis	7	9
Group A Streptococcus	15	14
Group B Streptococcus	25	39
Streptococcus pneumoniae	40	26
STSS	2	7
Syphilis, Early Latent	17	19
Syphilis, Late Latent	20	16
Syphilis, Primary	5	2
Syphilis, Secondary	11	10
Tuberculosis (TB)	8	3
Vibriosis	0	1
Yersiniosis	3	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2972</b>	<b>3705</b>

\*These figures represent Sentinel Lyme Disease Surveillance in 2015, not the actual number of cases. Sentinel surveillance involves investigating only 20% of positive Lyme disease lab reports.

## Environmental Health Services

The Environmental Health Services Division provides many services to protect Albany County residents and visitors from potential hazards in our water supply; the air we breathe; and in the places where we live, work and play. This mission is accomplished by means of inspections, sampling, investigation, enforcement, engineering, and in all aspects, education.

### **2015 Highlights:**

- In response to heightened media and community concerns, our department took steps to determine the presence of illegal or unlicensed products such as synthetic cannabinoids in 103 retail establishments within the county. The information gathered was turned over to the New York State Drug Enforcement Agency and subsequent legal action was taken.
- Funding was received from New York State Department of Health to reinstitute the Healthy Neighborhoods Program which supports environmental home safety assessments and education in addition to in home nursing asthma educational visits in high risk neighborhoods.
- The department engaged in activities to ensure compliance with the Emergency Regulations set forth by the Governor and the New York State Health Commissioner in response to the unprecedented Legionella outbreak in New York City. This had major implications for all counties in New York State, including Albany County.
- The department worked closely with the Department of Law in researching the most effective way to implement Local Law “J”, otherwise known as the Toxic Toy Law and continues to move forward with drafting sound regulations.
- The department continues to assist in evaluating New York State Department of Environmental Conservation air testing results and the potential impacts on air quality to residents residing in Albany’s South End related to the operations of Global Partners oil storage and transfer facility located in the Port of Albany.

### **Restaurants, Schools, Mobile and Temporary Food Vendors**

Sanitary inspections are performed at restaurants, schools, mobile food vendors and temporary food vendors to ensure compliance with Subparts 14-1, 14-2, and 14-4 of the New York State Sanitary Codes. Public complaints concerning unsanitary issues, potential foodborne illnesses and vermin are investigated.

<b>2015</b>	<b>#Inspections</b>	<b>#Facilities</b>
Restaurants/Catering Operations, Schools and Institutions	1535	1345
Temporary Food Svc Establishments/Events	202	182
Mobile Food Svc Establishments	93	65
Summer Feeding Sites	64	54
State Office for the Aging Sites	26	22
Day Care Operations (inspected every other	31	103

### **Environmental Health Assessment and Chemical Emergencies**

Engineers in the division, in conjunction with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), are available to respond to chemical spills and provide consultation and review of remediation plans for hazardous waste sites. In 2015, the department reviewed and provided guidance on five (5) hazardous waste sites.

## **Neighborhood (Pesticide) Notification Law**

Department staff monitors compliance of pesticide application by retail vendors to ensure they provide proper notification and DEC signage that the chemical application is to occur within the next 48 hours. Under this program resident complaints concerning pesticide applications are investigated. In 2015, 42 establishments that sell pesticides were inspected. Three chain stores were cited and fined for missing notification signs.

## **Residential Environmental Problems**

This program includes staff evaluations of conditions in homes that are reported as being substandard or inhabitable (nuisance homes). Staff works in conjunction with the Albany County Department of Social Services, Code Enforcement, and Child Protective Services to assist residents in relocation and the rehabilitation of housing. This program also investigates and/or educates indoor air quality issues such as odors and mold growth and outdoor problems such as sewer odors, garbage and vermin. With surveillance methods reduced and West Nile Virus activity and transmission in Albany County appearing to have diminished from initial outbreak years, Albany County Health Department continues to provide education to the public on preventive measures and address all standing water complaints. For all residential environmental programs, 103 residences were investigated and receiving appropriate follow-up in 2015.

## **Mobile Home Parks**

This program provides sanitary inspection of mobile home parks (including water supply and/or septic). In 2015, 31 mobile home parks were inspected.

## **Temporary Residences (Hotels/Motels) and Migrant & Farm Worker Housing**

These programs provide regulatory oversight of hotels and/or motels and migrant farm worker housing camps (including fire safety, water quality, sewer/septic, food service and/or pools). In 2015, 81 hotels and motels and 4 migrant farm worker housing camps were inspected.

## **Individual Residential Water and Sewer**

The Individual Residential Water and Sewer program oversees the planning and installation of residential wells and septic systems to ensure adequate sanitation and safety.

<b>2015</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Septic layouts and reviews	5
Abated complaints	103
Occupancy Certificates granted	2

## **Pools/Bathing Beaches**

Staff inspects beach facilities and test water sanitary standards. Staff performs inspections of pools' physical condition, mechanical and water sanitary standards. In addition, staff reviews and approves engineering plans for new and upgraded pools. In 2015, 193 pools, 2 bathing beach and 2 spray parks were inspected. In addition, we provided courtesy inspections to 8 non permitted spray pads.

## Drinking Water Protection and Realty Subdivision

This program oversees the protection of public water systems (PWS) in Albany County. Functions include overseeing PWS compliance with regulations and keeping PWS updated on new and upcoming regulation changes. Staff review and approve engineering plans for new subdivisions with water supply and sewer improvement and back flow prevention. Staff also provide technical guidance and investigate potential water borne diseases. In 2015, there were 32 community and 33 non-community public water supplies and one (1) bottled water facility being monitored by ACHD. Inspections of all facilities are performed at least once yearly.

Each year, under the direction of the New York State Health Department every county in New York State is invited to hold a “Water Taste Test”. This contest is held in order to determine which water samples will be sent on to vie for “Best Tasting Water in the State”. In 2015, Albany County held our test at the Empire State Plaza with the Latham Water District coming in first place and the towns of Bethlehem and Guilderland tying for second place. The finals were held in Syracuse at the New York State Fair, with the City of Schenectady taking home the top prize in the state.



Photos from the New York State Water Taste Test 2015 at the NY Empire State Plaza

## Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA)

The ATUPA program employs 16 and 17 year old youths who accompany inspectors to determine vendor compliance with the sale of tobacco products. Violators are fined and may (in the event of repeated violations) have their tobacco license and NYS Lottery license revoked. Under the Clean Indoor Air Act (in effect since 1990), staff addresses work place indoor smoking complaints. The County’s database of tobacco product retailers was up-dated and tobacco sales to minor compliance checks were performed at 331 Retail Tobacco Dealers and 4 Tobacco vending Machines. Staff also verified compliance with the County’s local law requiring retail tobacco products to be displayed/ located behind sales counters.

Sales to Minors	17
Compliance Rate	95%

## Tattoo and Body Piercing

ACDOH’s Tattoo and Body Piercing program staff inspect and monitor tattoo/body piercing shops and artists to ensure proper infection control practices are in place. In addition, an exam is administered certifying tattooists and artists to practice in Albany County. In 2014 there were 20 Tattoo/Body Piercing establishments permitted, 5 “piercing only” establishments and 75 Tattoo/Body Piercing Artists permitted in Albany County. All shops are inspected at least once per year.

## Tanning

In 2015, the Division of Environmental Health staff continued an inspection program to inspect indoor tanning facilities in Albany County for sanitation, safety and compliance with Subpart 72-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code. There are 23 facilities in Albany County each of which is inspected once every two years.

## Children's Camps

The Children's Camps program regulates the operation and permitting of children's day and overnight camps for fire safety, sanitation, water, sewer, food service, pools, and child health and safety issues. In 2015 respectively, children under the age of 18 attended 52 camps in the County of Albany, all of which were inspected twice per season.

## Clean Indoor Air Act

On July 24, 2003, New York State enacted new provisions to the existing Clean Indoor Air Act, which required nearly every workplace (including all bars and restaurants) to be smoke-free. The implementation of this law initially added a substantial workload to the Division associated with education of the public and affected businesses and in response to complaints. The public's awareness and compliance with the law has increased and is reflected in the reduction or stability of the incidence of complaints received and investigated since 2004.

Clean Indoor Air Act Complaints Received and Investigated:

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
112	60	56	29	31	22	21	27	12	26	15	6

## Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Lead Primary Prevention Program

These programs support and enhance continued efforts to reduce the prevalence of elevated blood lead levels in children. Primary and secondary prevention includes public and professional outreach and education, collaboration with local primary care providers for screening, diagnostic evaluation, medical management, and educational and environmental interventions. The Childhood Lead Primary Prevention Program implements a pro-active plan to prevent exposure to lead based paint in the high risk zip codes of 12202, 12206, 12208, 12209, and 12210. This approach is targeting homes before the child is poisoned.

In 2015, the Childhood Lead Primary Prevention Program performed 195 inspections clearing 119 homes with either interior, exterior or both lead based paint hazards. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program addresses intervention when a child has been tested by a pediatrician and is found to have an elevated blood lead level. Both lead programs employ certified lead risk assessors who oversee lead remediation in homes, schools, daycare settings, and anywhere a child may frequent for more than eight hours a week. In 2015, implementing the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 28 homes were visited resulting in 13 homes being remediated.

## Rabies

The Rabies program provides follow up and intervention when necessary to all reported potential rabies exposures to humans and/or animals. Staff interacts with primary care providers, emergency rooms, veterinarians, animal control officers and county residents.

Also, rabies immunization clinics are offered for dogs, cats, and ferrets to Albany County residents in cooperation with local veterinarians, their staff, Albany County Department of Health staff and volunteers from each municipality. Four rabies clinics are held annually throughout the county (in the town of Berne, the town of Bethlehem, the Village of Colonie and the Village of Green Island) resulting in the following animal vaccinations for the year 2015.

Dogs	Cats	Ferrets
427	254	0

## Public Health Emergency Preparedness

In 2015, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program advanced local public health preparedness and response plans and improved the County's capacity for responding to public health emergencies.

### **2015 Highlights:**

- Expanded its medical countermeasure distribution and dispensing capacity by conducting a full-scale Point of Dispensing exercise to test a new strategy to dispense medications that ultimately reduced client processing time by 2 minutes.
- Worked with each municipality to create and update municipal points of dispensing plans to ensure continuity of operations for first-responders and critical infrastructure staff.
- Coordinated a comprehensive county response to Ebola Virus Disease with the NYS Department of Health, local hospitals, EMS, emergency management and regional coalitions. Health Department staff were trained and drilled monthly to increase their capacity to respond to and manage persons under investigation.

### **Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI)**

To ensure continued readiness to dispense needed medical countermeasures to Albany County's entire population within 48 hours of the decision to do so, should there be a catastrophic public health emergency, CDC and state public health personnel conduct an annual Operational Readiness Review (ORR). ACDOH continues to be nationally recognized for its established program.

In May 2015, the PHEP program conducted its annual Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise at Cornell Cooperative Extension. Staff worked with community partners serving vulnerable populations to provide strategies to enhance communications, POD accessibility and clinical operations. Additionally, ACDOH tested a new strategy for dispensing medications at the POD. Pre-registered clients were processed with only one POD staff from start to finish. The combined average processing time for an individual client was decreased by 2 minutes.

This summer, PHEP staff worked with every municipality in Albany County to prepare for a public health emergency requiring local distribution of medications. Municipalities, with technical assistance from PHEP staff, have created pro-active and cooperative plans for effective and efficient delivery of medications to protect municipal employees and other identified non-critical staff to reduce interruption of local government function and maintain critical infrastructures.

### **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)**

Preparedness funds received through the PHEP cooperative agreement supported activities outlined in the National Response Framework (NRF), which guides how the nation responds to all types of hazards including infectious disease outbreaks; natural disasters; biological, chemical, and radiological incidents; and explosions.

New York State requires that local health departments (LHD) complete 15 specific grant deliverables on an annual basis. Also, the PHEP grant requires LHDs maintain capacity to meet the requirements of 19 additional maintenance deliverables, all of which were met.

ACDOH was actively involved in preparedness activities to ensure that Albany County residents remained protected from Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). Following requirements set forth in the NYSDOH Commissioner's Orders, ACDOH developed specific protocols related to registration, monitoring, transport and disinfection/waste management of persons under suspicion (PUI) of EVD. ACDOH continued to train and exercise its capabilities to respond to PUIs on a monthly basis.

## **Albany County Medical Reserve Corps**

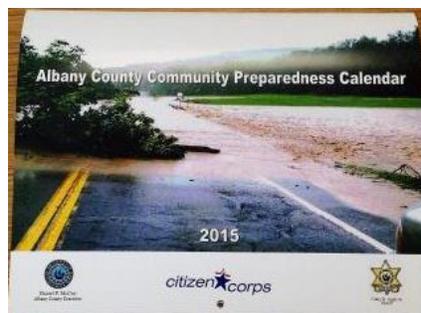
The Albany County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) enhances Albany County's emergency preparedness efforts by ensuring that a trained group of healthcare professionals and community volunteers are ready to assist the County in response to a public health emergency. The MRC currently has 572 clinical and nonclinical volunteers registered to assist the county in a public health emergency. In 2015, MRC volunteers participated in a number of trainings, including New Volunteer Orientation, Introduction to Point-of-Dispensing, Adult CPR/AED Certification Training, Four Lenses Training, Cognitive Disorders Training, and Psychological First Aid Training. Additionally, MRC volunteers participated in the Department of Health's Point of Dispensing (POD) Exercise on May 21, 2015 at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville. At the POD Exercise, volunteers participated in Just-In-Time-Training and dispensed mock medications to volunteer recipients. MRC Volunteers also responded to a total of eight notification drills in 2015: four via e-mail using the ServNY system, and four via the ACCESS automated phone system. During National Nurses Week in May, a volunteer recruitment ad for the Albany County MRC ran in a special edition of the Albany Times Union Newspaper called Salute to Nurses. In April, MRC Volunteer Reverend Stephen Lalor was honored as one of the County Executive's Volunteers of the Year.

## **Albany County Citizen Corps Council**

The role of the Albany County Citizen Corps Council is to create a collaborative approach to increase community and individual participation in emergency preparedness, response and recovery. The Citizen Corps Council consists of various community partners and utilizes a multi-discipline approach to bring together stakeholders to enhance public health preparedness, citizen preparedness, and volunteer recruitment in Albany County. The Albany County Citizen Corps was formally established in 2003 and was reactivated in 2009 with over 40 participating partner agencies.

During 2015, the Albany County Citizen Corps coordinated trainings for its members, Albany County MRC volunteers, and Albany County Department of Health staff, including Adult CPR/AED Certification Training, Psychological First Aid Training, Four Lenses Training, Volunteer and Donations Management Training, and Management of Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers Training. Emergency Preparedness Trainings were also provided to multiple organizations and community groups including the Northeastern Association of the Blind, the Bethlehem Lions Club, and the Capital City Seventh Day Adventist Church of Albany. On August 19, 2015, the Albany County Citizen Corps Coordinator presented on the Albany County Citizen Corps' Outstanding Local Initiatives at the FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Workshop in New York City.

The Albany County Citizen Corps remains committed to providing preparedness materials to Albany County residents. In 2015, over 19,000 pieces of materials were distributed, including the Albany County Community Preparedness Calendar, which was utilized by numerous community groups, day care centers, schools, hospitals, and Albany County agencies.



Throughout 2015, the Albany County Citizen Corps continued to partner with the American Red Cross, Eastern New York Region, and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany to support their efforts to establish an Albany County Disaster Response and Recovery Committee (ACDRRC) following the direction of the “Whole Community Approach” model from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Albany County Citizen Corps currently leads the Volunteer Management Workgroup, as well as actively participates in the Executive Committee and Access to Emergency Services Workgroup.

Albany County Citizen Corps maintains its website to recruit volunteers before, during and after an emergency. The [www.RegisteredandReady.com](http://www.RegisteredandReady.com) website was launched in the spring of 2011. In late 2014 through early 2015, the Albany County Citizen Corps partnered with WTEN TV to implement a ten-week long mass e-mail messaging campaign with a focus on emergency preparedness for special populations and volunteer recruitment via [www.RegisteredandReady.com](http://www.RegisteredandReady.com). A total of 300,000 e-mails were sent to Albany County residents (further details regarding e-mail messaging can be found in the following State Homeland Security section). In addition, the Albany County Citizen Corps implemented a media advertising campaign in 2015 consisting of print and web ads in all Albany County editions of the Spotlight News, as well as ads on CDTA busses. As a result of these methods, the website has had a 51% increase in webpage views, with a total of 51,808 views.



## State Homeland Security

The State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) helped to build capacities that enhance homeland security at the local level. Efforts included security enhancements, medical volunteer training, medical exercises, local training needs assessment, citizen preparedness education and training, and information sharing and dissemination activities. ACDOH utilized SPSH funding to support PHEP personnel, staff and volunteer training, recruitment, and exercises.

SHSP funding was also utilized to conduct a message mapping initiative to create specialized risk communication messages specific to identified special needs populations. Working with Albany County Outreach Information Network partners, PHEP staff developed a communications survey to identify populations served, outreach capabilities and cultural/social practices to be considered for messaging. Participating agencies provided feedback on the appropriateness of developed messages and then tested their ability to send approved message maps to their identified communication pathways. In 2015, notification drills were completed with several Albany County Community Outreach Information Network (ACCOIN) partners, including Albany County Department of Social Services and Capital Region Center for Independence. After Action Reports were completed and provided agencies with feedback on how to improve communication among their partners and staff.

SHSP funds were also used to implement a mass e-mail messaging campaign with a focus on emergency preparedness for special populations. The campaign consists of 10 e-mail messages, each with a different emergency preparedness theme that is widely distributed to e-mail recipients in Albany County. Targeted special populations within Albany County include: African-Americans, high-school graduates (no college education), annual income less than \$30,000, occupations including sales, service and blue collar, people who rent rather than own a home, students, and people aged 20-35 years. The six remaining messages of this campaign were distributed in early 2015:

- On January 8, 2015, the fifth mass e-mail message was distributed. The theme of this message was “Your Emergency Car Care Checklist.”
- On January 17, 2015, the sixth mass e-mail message was distributed. The theme of this message was “Family Preparedness: Create a Communications Plan.”
- On January 23, the seventh mass e-mail message was distributed. The theme of this message was “Family Preparedness: Make A Plan (Continued).”
- On January 30, 2015, the eighth mass e-mail message was distributed. The theme of this message was “Volunteer Recruitment: Join the Albany County Medical Reserve Corps.”
- On February 7, the ninth mass e-mail message was distributed. The theme of this message was “Family Preparedness: Protecting Your Information.”
- On February 13, the tenth mass e-mail message was distributed. The theme of this message was “General Preparedness: Make a Plan, Build a Kit, Be Informed.”

SHSP grant funds were used to coordinate 45 trainings to staff, volunteers and partner agencies as well as 18 drills and exercises related to public health emergency preparedness and response.

### Finance and Administration

The Division for Finance and Administration contributed to the operation of the department by processing payroll authorizations, submitting vouchers, transmitting deposits, claiming insurance, submitting grant and State Aid vouchers, paying claims and processing purchase orders.

**2015 Highlights:**

- Processed more than 7,602 claims for insurance.
- Submitted 98 grant and State Aid vouchers totaling \$3,897,997.
- Transmitted 98 deposits totaling \$1,224,438 (of this amount, \$46,628 for the Department of Mental Health).
- Produced 414 purchase orders and processed 1,219 vendor invoices totaling \$1,079,120.

<b>2015 Fiscal Summary:</b> Total Expenditures	Total Revenue
\$7,206,669	\$5,075,087

