

2024

# Annual Report

Madison County Public Health

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## Public Health Building in Wampsville



## 2024 Madison County Public Health Staff

**L-R: Front Row** – Deanna Matt, Megan Miller, Faith Hyde, Nicole Jusko, Molly Limbert, Jody Armitage, Erica Bird, Ashlyn Moon, Alaina Bushey, Sandi Bain, Rebecca LaPorte, Jessica Salay, Cat Faruolo, Laura Percival, Julia Wootton  
**L-R: Middle Row** – Keegan Richie, Lisa Bowman, Mark Miller, Ken Cronn, Megan Polhamus, Kristy Denny-Frdiae, Jared

E. R. Mitude Row: Keegan Kiehl, Lisa Bowman, Mark Miller, Ken Cronin, Megan Othramas, Kristy Denney, Erlene, Jared Gunderson, Marisa Campanaro, Tara Skinner, Aaron Lazzara, Dan Peck, Eric Faisst, Katie Landcastle

**L-R: Back Row** - Jennifer McGohan, Shelly DeGroat, Anamaria Ross, Janice VanOrnam, Sarah Eshmann



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# A Message from Director, Eric Faisst

Dear Madison County,

As the Director of Public Health, I want to thank you for your support this past year. 2024 brought many public health challenges, but it also showed how strong and caring our community can be.

This year, we worked hard to protect your health as we faced serious issues like the Avian Flu (H5N1), measles, tuberculosis, drug shortages, and a listeriosis outbreak. These health threats reminded us how important it is to be ready, work quickly, and stay connected with our community. Because of these events, we focused on building stronger systems, better communication, and faster response times.

Even with these challenges, our department made many accomplishments that we're proud to share. We improved the way we work by moving our Early Intervention and Pre-K programs to a paperless system. We improved how we collect and study health data so we can make better decisions and respond faster. Our team practiced what to do in a real emergency by holding a special training exercise for a possible measles outbreak. This helps us improve our response and be better prepared to protect our residents if an emergency happens. Through our Environmental Health Division, we introduced the Proactive Compliance initiative. This program helps keep people safe by making sure local businesses follow public health laws. It also helps new businesses understand the rules so they can do things right from the beginning.

Our department has worked hard to meet the health needs of our community. We teamed up with local partners to support families and children's oral health, hosted breastfeeding events, and made our clinics more welcoming by offering sensory-friendly experience bags. Our community health workers are trained to help residents sign up for health insurance, making it easier for people to get the care they need.

We focused on housing, because we know it affects people's health. We received \$2 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support home repairs for local families. We hosted a Healthy Homes Workshop to talk about housing needs in Madison County and how we can work together to solve them.

In 2024, we took another big step by applying for national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. This is a big deal for us—it shows our commitment to high standards and quality work.

We also want to take a moment to recognize Dr. John Endress, who has served as the President of the Madison County Board of Health for 25 years. His leadership and dedication to public health were vital to our ability to navigate the public health challenges we faced over the years, and we thank him for his service.

None of this would be possible without our incredible staff, our supportive community partners, and the strong leadership in our county. I am deeply thankful to work alongside such dedicated people who care about making a difference.

Thank you for trusting us and being part of our public health journey.

With appreciation,  
Eric Faisst  
Director of Public Health

# *Mission, Vision & Values*

## Mission

To protect and enhance the health of our community through partnerships, education, and high-quality services.

## Vision

A healthy environment and community for all to thrive.

## Values

Collaboration, respect, equity, integrity, community focus

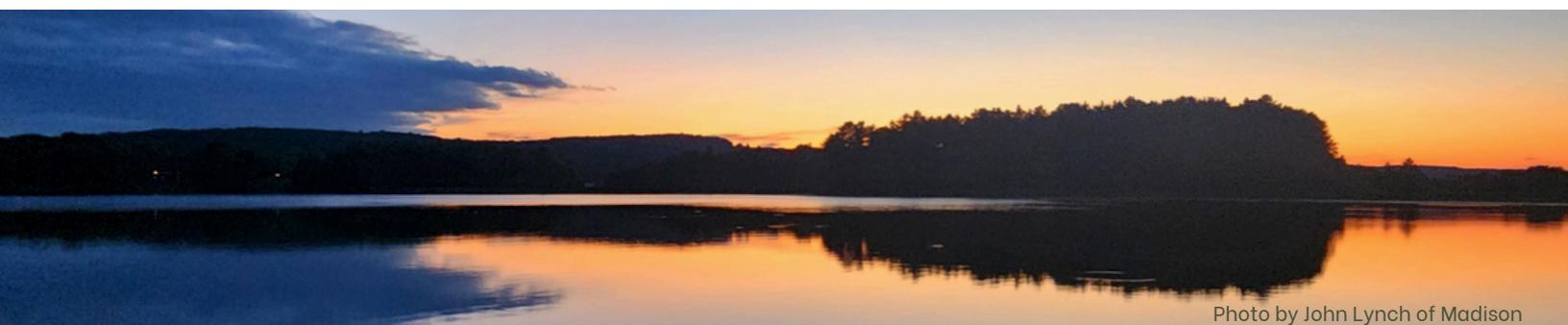
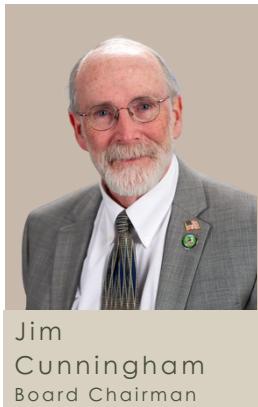


Photo by John Lynch of Madison

# Leadership



Jim  
Cunningham  
Board Chairman



Mark  
Scimone  
County Administrator



# Board of Health



Mary  
Cavanagh  
Board Representative



R. Seelan  
Newton, MD  
Medical Director



John  
Endres, DVM  
President



Wendy  
Cary  
Vice-President



Rachel  
Elder, MD



Jennifer  
Meyers, MD



Marla Velkey-  
Reger, LCSW

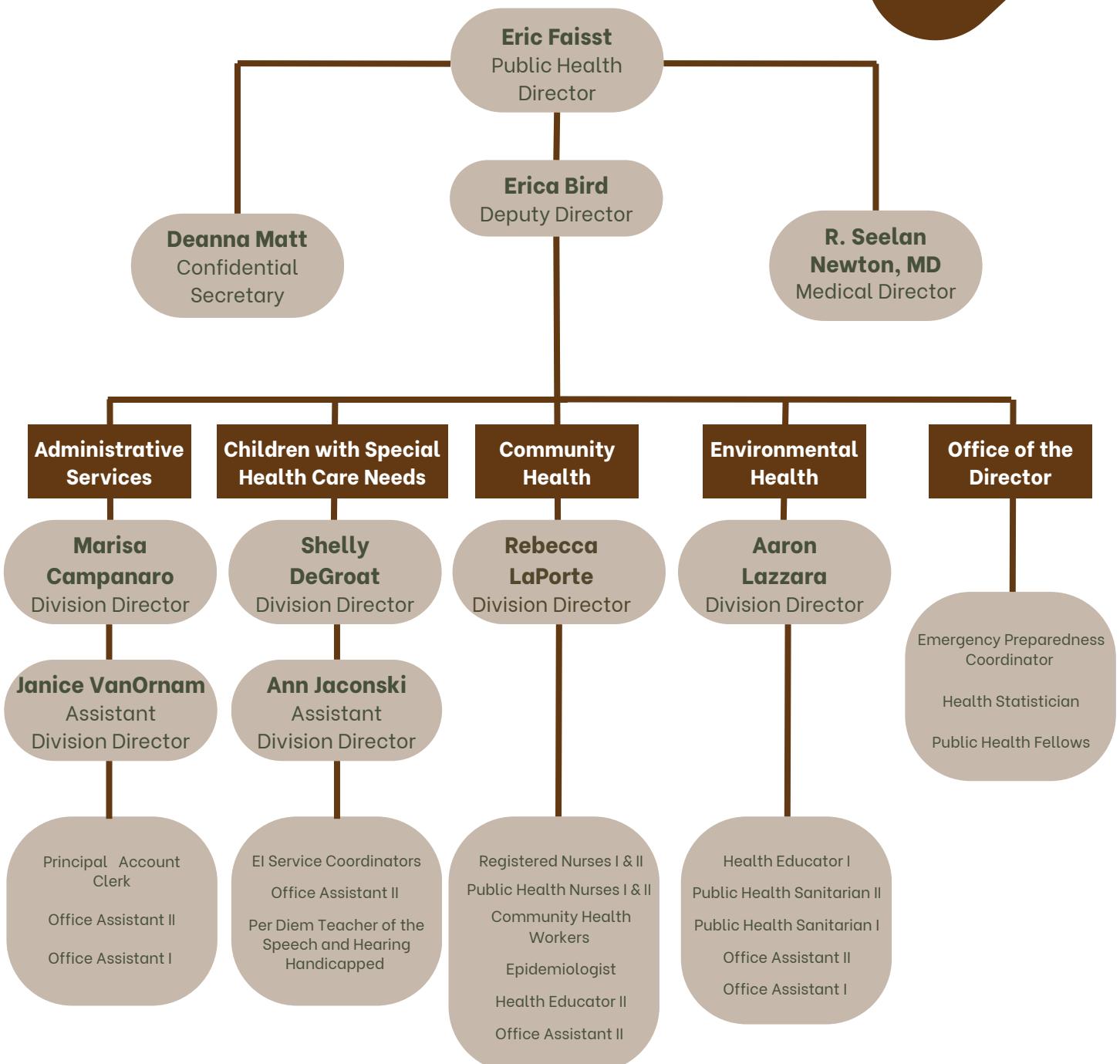


Gerald  
Edwards, MD



Kurt  
Gormley, DDS

# Organizational Chart





### 2024 Office of the Director Staff

L-R: Jennifer McGohan, Deanna Matt, Erica Bird,  
Eric Faisst, Catherine Faruolo, Megan Polhamus, Marie Saba

# Office of the Director

**The Office coordinates the planning and implementation of the County's health goals by employing the core functions and essential services of public health with a capable workforce.**

- +** The Office of the Director oversees the administration of the County's Public Health Department and its implementation of NYS Public Health Law and mandated programs.
- +** The Office coordinates activities related to the Community Health Assessment, Department Strategic Plan, Accreditation, Quality Improvement and Performance Management, Population Health Data, Professional Development, and Emergency Preparedness.

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# Director's Office Highlights

- Brought on two Public Health Fellows to assist with Accreditation and Department Priority Areas, including Chronic Disease Prevention and Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Formally submitted the Readiness Assessment and Application to the Public Health Accreditation Board in pursuit of national accreditation status. A group of 10 staff have been diligently working to compile and develop documentation in support of the application.
- Completed the Active Communities Tool with the DeRuyter community
- The Department's Conference Room was officially named the Dr. John Endres Conference Room in honor of Dr. John Endres, DVM, who served as Board of Health President for over 25 years. Dr. Endres, who stepped down in August upon relocating from Madison County, guided the department through pivotal moments such as 9/11, the COVID-19 pandemic, and local crises like the Oneida floods and Smithfield tornado. His legacy of dedicated service leaves a lasting impact on our community.
- The Healthy Housing Workshop, held on September 11th in Cazenovia, brought 43 professionals together to address housing challenges and lay the groundwork for a local Housing Coalition. Featuring expert presentations and collaborative discussions, the event fostered innovative strategies, networking opportunities, and momentum toward improving housing conditions in Madison County.



PH Fellow, Megan prepares for the POD training at SUNY Morrisville.

- In 2024, the Department reviewed and updated its Continuity of Operations and Non-pharmaceutical Interventions Plans
- In March 2024, the Department conducted a point-of-dispensing (POD) exercise in response to a simulated measles outbreak to test notification and assembly times, facility setup, and just-in-time training plans and processes. Strengths and lessons learned from this exercise help the Department to improve its emerging response capabilities.



### 2024 Administrative Services Staff

L-R: Front Row -Janice VanOrnam, Ashlyn Moon, Faith Hyde

L-R: Back Row - Robin Warner, Vanessa Baker, Marisa Campanaro

**The Administrative Services Division provides essential, efficient, and effective support that enables the delivery of high-quality public health services.**

*Administrative  
Services*

++ The Administrative Services Division supports the Health Department's three service-based divisions: Environmental Health, Community Health, and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. It provides essential services such as centralized cost accounting, personnel and payroll management, budget development, financial oversight, and office management and communication. Additionally, it handles information security, HIPAA compliance, corporate compliance, and mandated reporting.

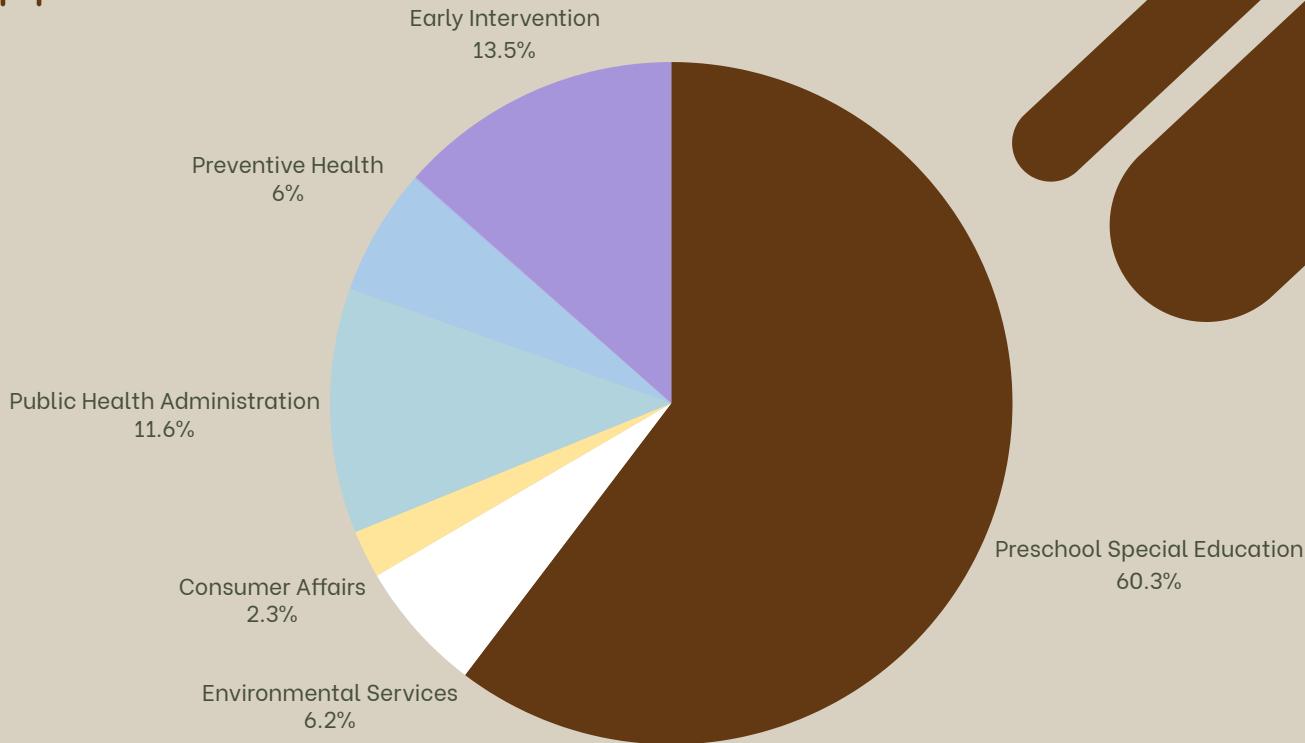
*Admin Highlights*

- Implemented Propio, an on-demand language interpretation service. Propio has considerably improved the efficiency and convenience of communicating when a language barrier exists with the community members we serve.
- Obtained Alchemer, a survey platform that will be instrumental in obtaining community input for the Community Health Assessment.
- Developed departmental-specific coding in our Electronic Medical Records system to improve accuracy in Clinic billing.

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# Financial Expenditures



## Department Financial Report

### Madison County Public Health Statement of Revenues and Expenses Fiscal Year Ending 12/31/2024

	Modified Budget	1/1/2024-12/31/24	(Under) Over
<b>Revenues</b>			
Public Health Administration	830,295	656,738	(173,557)
Preventive Health	627,488	721,619	94,131
Federal/State Grants	61,291	65,926	4,635
Early Intervention	234,350	175,370	(58,980)
Preschool Special Education	1,912,038	1,753,750	(158,288)
Environmental Services	826,797	696,529	(130,268)
Consumer Affairs	10,360	9,145	(1,215)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>4,502,619</b>	<b>4,079,077</b>	<b>(423,542)</b>

	Modified Budget	1/1/2024-12/31/24	Under (Over)
<b>Expenses</b>			
Public Health Administration	1,237,552	1,088,576	148,976
Preventive Health	1,114,317	945,010	169,307
Federal/State Grants	68,841	63,299	5,542
Early Intervention	781,283	676,952	104,331
Preschool Special Education	4,400,160	3,998,757	401,403
Environmental Services	1,047,507	928,627	118,880
Consumer Affairs	73,786	93,658	(19,872)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,723,446</b>	<b>7,794,879</b>	<b>928,567</b>

	County Share Budget	Actual County Cost	Actual/Budget Comparison	
<b>County Share</b>	<b>\$4,220,827</b>	<b>\$3,715,802</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>\$ 505,025.00</b>
			-	Worse than Expected compared to Budget
			+	Better than Expected compared to Budget

# Children with Special Health Care Needs



## 2024 Children with Special Health Care Needs

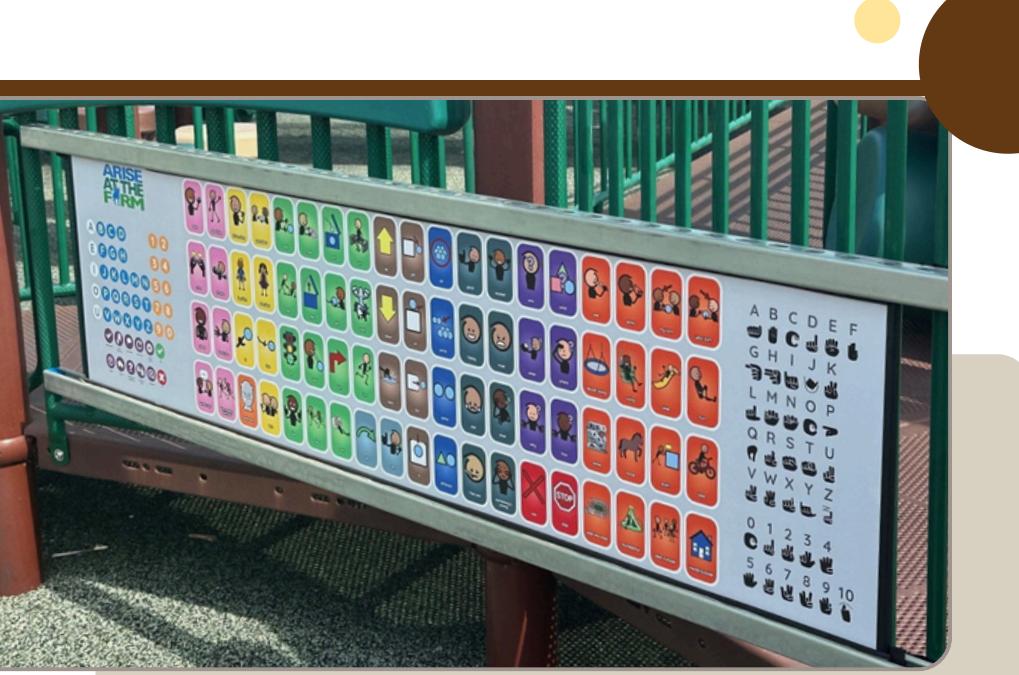
L-R: Shelly DeGroat, Julia Whootton, Ann Jaconski, Sarah Eschmann, Tara Skinner, Jessica Salay

**The Children with Special Health Care Needs Division is made up of three programs that assist children and their families from birth to age 21, residing in Madison County. We are committed in providing services to help children and their families overcome barriers and foster improvement in their overall health development.**

**The Preschool Program** (4410) in Madison County offers special education, therapy, and parent training for eligible children through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in settings like daycare, Head Start, and home, with transportation available for center-based programs.

**Early Intervention** (EI) is a voluntary, family-centered program that offers therapy and special education services based on a child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) in natural settings, with the Child Find Tracking program available for families of children not eligible for services to monitor development through biannual questionnaires

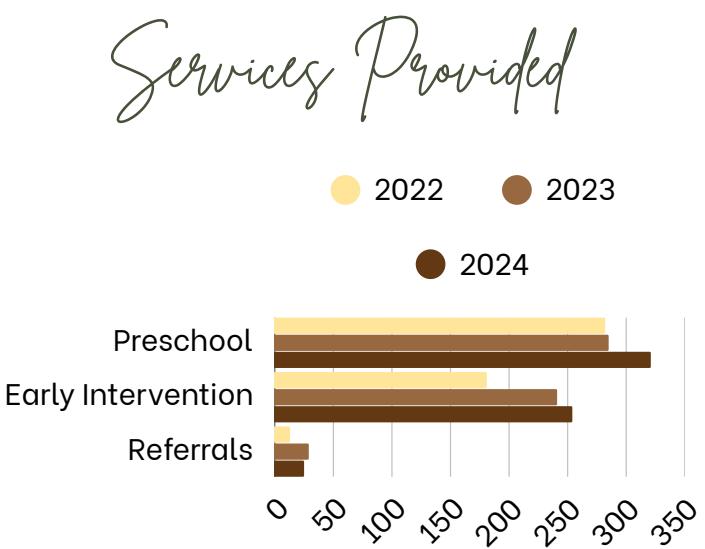
**The Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs** (CYSHCN) Information and Referral Program supports Madison County families of children (birth to age 21) with or suspected of having serious or chronic conditions by connecting them to health insurance, support groups, parent trainings, and other community resources



A Communication Board, funded through the CYSHCN Grant, was installed at ARISE on the Farm playground in spring 2024 to help non-speaking individuals communicate using pictures, promoting inclusivity.

## CSHCN Highlights

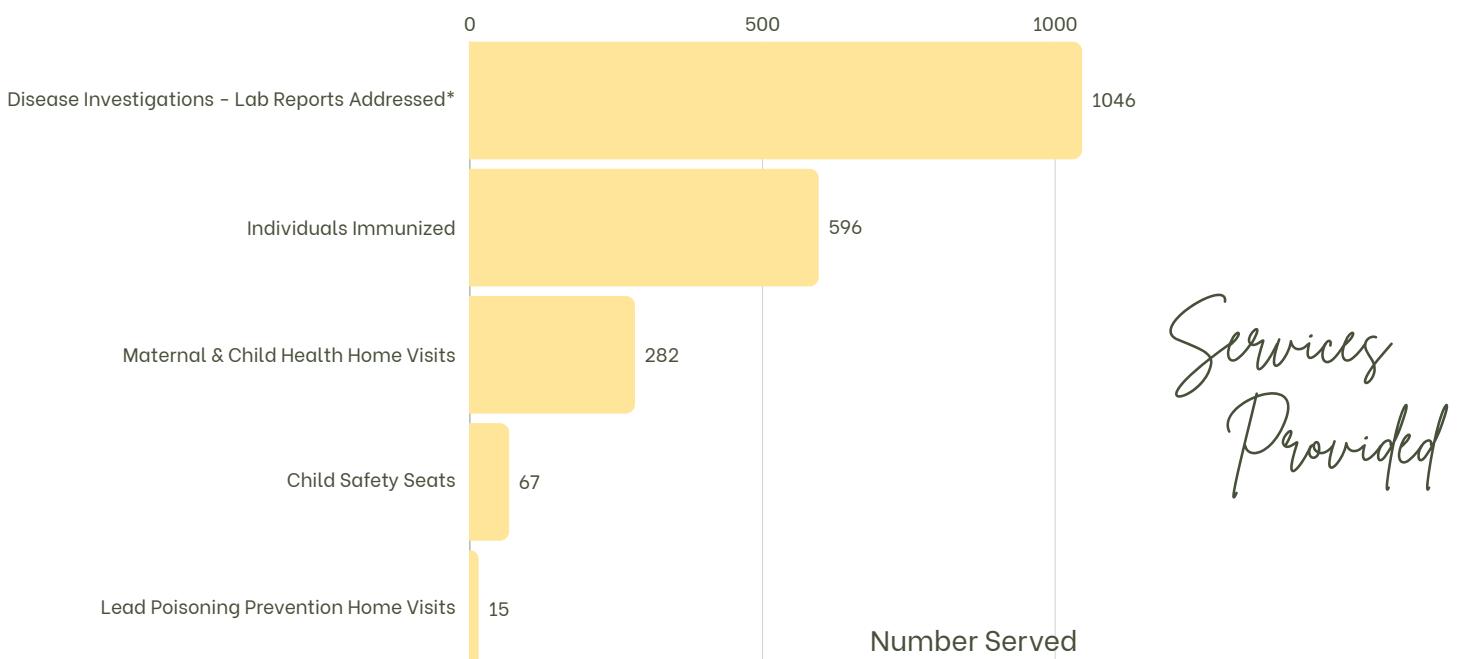
- Text appointment reminders were introduced, providing notifications 48 hours before appointments; thereby reducing missed visits while receiving positive feedback from parents.
- The transition to the cloud-based iCentral system enabled the division to move towards paperless operations, improve record access, streamline documentation, and enhance audit efficiency.
- Progress comparisons from entry to exit or transition to the Preschool program showed:
  - 97.7% of children made progress in social-emotional skills (e.g., expressing emotions and playing with others).
  - 94.7% made progress in acquiring and using knowledge and skills (e.g., imitation, problem solving, attention, and communication).
  - 72.2% increased their skills in using appropriate behavior to meet needs (e.g., adaptive skills like feeding, toileting, and getting help).
- The Madison County Early Intervention Program received 175 referrals in 2024, made 3,495 phone call contacts, and completed 467 visits.
- Service Coordinators and CSHCN staff promoted EI, Child Find, and CYSHCN programs through collaborative meetings and in-person presentations, improving communication and streamlining referral processes.
- An Assistant Director joined the team to lead the CYSHCN Information and Referral activities and oversee transportation for preschool and EI children.



# CH Highlights



- In 2024, our Community Health Worker became a certified Cavity Free Kids Trainer, delivering oral health education to local child care centers. Additionally, Community Health Workers became certified New York State of Health Online Assistors, helping families navigate health insurance options.
- The Birth Packet Mailing Program was revamped to include a QR code flyer, providing easier access to parenting resources while reducing costs. The Maternal Child Health Program also transitioned to a paperless referral process using Medent, enhancing efficiency and document tracking.
- A Public Health Nurse and IBCLC hosted a meeting for Certified Lactation Consultants, providing updates on immunizations and lactation support, which helped build momentum for our most successful World Breastfeeding Week event to date—drawing 175 attendees and offering educational activities and family-friendly programming.
- The Lead and Immunization Program expanded Spanish-language outreach to help families stay current with recommended healthcare. Public education efforts also grew through social media and press releases on topics such as cervical cancer, hepatitis B, oral health, and maternal-child health.
- Over 200 individuals were trained in naloxone (Narcan) administration, and four naloxone boxes were installed in the community. The department also implemented H5N1 (Bird Flu) Surveillance Systems for early detection and response, and educated healthcare providers on Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) for STI treatment to improve access to care.



# Community Health



## 2024 Community Health Staff

L-R: Front Row - Alaina Bushey, Jody Armitage, Sandi Bain, Joan Gallimo, Rebecca LaPorte

L-R: Back Row - Sue Nichols, Nicole Jusko, Chrystal Johnson, Molly Limbert

**The Community Health Division provides programs and services which focus on illness prevention and health maintenance. This division is responsible for immunization clinics, tuberculosis assessment and treatment clinics, communicable disease investigation, maternal child health home visiting, car seat distribution, lead poisoning prevention home visiting, and other programs.**

- +** The Community Health Division promotes the highest level of health for Madison County residents through health education and promotion, outreach and referral, prevention of illness and injury, control of community infection, health maintenance, advocacy, and health care planning.

# EH Highlights



- In 2024, Madison County Public Health introduced a “Proactive Compliance” plan to enhance community safety and streamline regulatory adherence to public health law. The initiative focuses on addressing the most frequently cited violations across programs, including food service inspections and children’s camps. By identifying common issues and providing targeted guidance, the plan promotes preventative action and hopes to ensure higher compliance standards. This forward-thinking approach reflects our commitment to safeguarding public health through education, collaboration, and proactive measures.



HHP Coordinator, Keegan Richie displaying supplies available to participants of the Healthy Homes Program

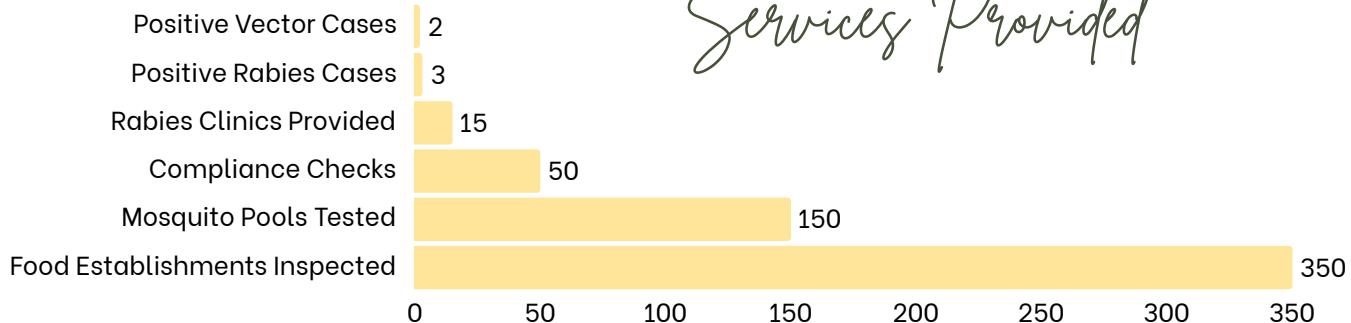
- This year, the Healthy Homes Program showcased its dedication to safety and well-being by identifying and addressing a critical gas leak in a participant’s home. During a home visit, the team used a natural gas detector to locate the leak, ensuring immediate action was taken. Following this, carbon monoxide detectors were provided to enhance ongoing safety. This incident highlights the program’s vital role in fostering healthier and safer living conditions for the community.

- In 2024 MCPH was awarded a \$2,000,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These grant funds will support the Madison Healthy @ Home program. Over a 42 month period, we plan to conduct healthy homes assessments at approximately 150 housing units and complete health and safety repairs and interventions at 100 of those housing units.
- The Weights and Measures program was audited by the Division of Local Government and Accountability of the Office of the NYS Comptroller. We saw this as an opportunity for growth. Our Department embraced some of the recommendations provided within the report to provide stronger consumer protections for our residents.
- The Weights and Measures program tested over 450 individual petroleum meters connected to dispenser nozzles at gas stations within Madison County. Over 2100 gallons of gasoline and 850 gallons of diesel were pumped in order to ascertain whether customers’ were receiving the proper amount of fuel based on their purchase. Less than 1% of the tested meters were out of specified tolerances.

# Environmental Health

- ++ The Environmental Health Division applies the
- ++ principles of engineering, biological and social
- ++ sciences for the detection, evaluation, control and
- ++ management of those factors in the environments
- ++ which influence public health.

## Services Provided



## 2024 Environmental Health Staff

L-R: Front Row - Anamaria Ross, Megan Miller, Laura Percival, Lisa Bowman

L-R: Back Row - Kristy Denny-Erdige, Keegan Richie, Chris Platt, Ken Cronn, Mark Miller, Alexa Kiser, Aaron Lazzara



# County Healthy Rankings

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# 8<sup>th</sup>



Healthiest  
County in  
New York State

[www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

# # 363

Ranked Among  
Top 500  
Communities



[usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/new-york/madison-county](http://usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/new-york/madison-county)

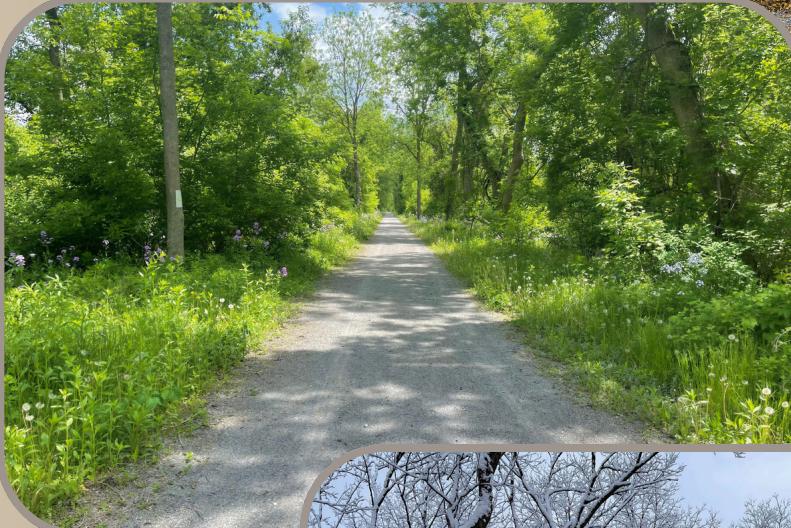
## Health Outcomes

	<b>Madison County</b>	<b>New York</b>	<b>United States</b>
Premature Death	6,100	6,400	8,000
Poor or Fair Health	13%	14%	R
Poor Physical Health Days	3.7	3.1	3.3
Poor Mental Health Days	5.5	4.2	4.8
Low Birthweight	7%	8%	8%
Life Expectancy	79.6	79.7	77.6
Frequent Physical Distress	16%	13%	13%
Frequent Mental Distress	16%	13%	15%
Diabetes Prevalence	9%	10%	10%

# Health Factors

	<b>Madison County</b>	<b>New York</b>	<b>United States</b>
Adult Smoking	18%	12%	15%
Adult Obesity	36%	29%	34%
Food Environment Index	8.6	8.6	7.7
Physical Inactivity	21%	25%	23%
Access to Exercise Opportunities	70%	93%	84%
Excessive Drinking	19%	18%	18%
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths	21%	21%	26%
Sexually Transmitted Infections	174.4	512.5	495.5
Teen Births	8	11	17
Food Insecurity	8%	11%	10%
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	6%	2%	6%
Drug Overdose Deaths	19	25	27
Insufficient Sleep	33%	33%	33%
Uninsured	4%	6%	10%
Primary Care Physicians	1,350:1	1,240:1	1,330:1
Dentists	2,800:1	1,200:1	1,360:1
Mental Health Providers	440:1	280:1	320:1
Preventable Hospital Stays	2,431	2,641	2,681
Mammography Screening	50%	43%	43%
Flu Vaccinations	47%	50%	46%
Uninsured Adults	5%	7%	12%
Uninsured Children	2%	3%	5%
Other Primary Care Providers	750:1	650:1	760:1
High School Completion	93%	88%	89%
Some College	63%	70%	68%
Unemployment	3.4%	4.3%	3.7%
Children In Poverty	15%	19%	16%
Income Inequality	4.6	5.8	4.9
Children in Single-Parent Households	17%	26%	25%
Injury Deaths	60	56	80
Disconnected Youth	3%	7%	7%
Median Household Income	\$69,900	79,500	74,800
Living Wage	\$48.18	\$62.46	-
Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch	39%	55%	51%
Severe Housing Problems	12%	22%	17%
Long Commute - Driving Alone	38%	29%	36%
Homeownership	78%	54%	65%
Severe Housing Cost Burden	13%	19%	14%
Broadband Access	87%	88%	88%





# The beautiful view through the year of the Oneida Rail Trail in Wampsville

