

THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ANNUAL REPORT
2003

SUMMARY

The Chautauqua County Department of Health is a community of professional public health workers who help you and your family enjoy better health. The Health Department protects and promotes the health of the public through preventing disease, prolonging meaningful life, protecting the environment, and providing leadership in health crises. Services include Communicable Disease Control Programs, Family Health Services, Health Education and Promotion, and Environmental Health Services. Services are offered to the community through three main service sites — Mayville, Jamestown, and Dunkirk. There are also two part-time clinic sites located in Westfield and Forestville.

Disease control is one of the main functions of a public health department. Through implementation of preventive health measures and responding promptly to incidence and disease outbreaks, community health can be maintained. The Health Department provides clinics, disease surveillance, education, and consultation pertaining to communicable and chronic diseases. Program areas include sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, communicable diseases, immunization, chronic diseases, and HIV.

Services are available to the public in the forms of Department-sponsored clinics, school-based clinics, travel clinics and other specialty clinics at five sites. Clinics are offered for tuberculosis, immunization, and HIV and STD testing. Services are available at low-cost or no cost to members of the public. For more information on Disease Control clinics or programs, call 753-4491, 661-8111, or 363-3660.

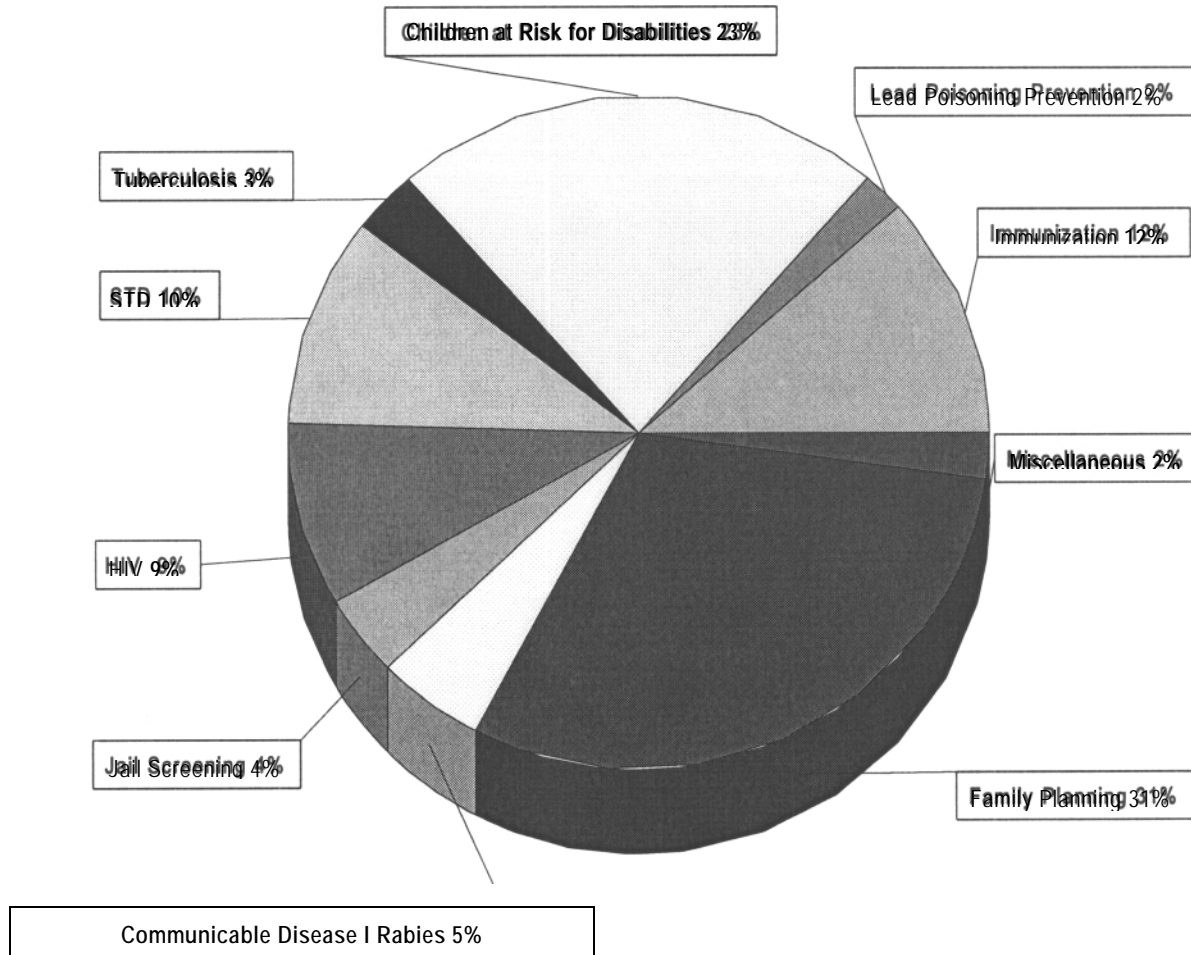
Family Health Programs include evaluations, clinical and therapeutic services, education, case management and consultation to individuals and groups at home, at work, at school, and in public health centers. Program areas include child health, early intervention, lead poisoning prevention, maternal and prenatal care, family planning, nutrition, injury prevention and control. Clinics are offered for family planning services, including pregnancy testing, prenatal support services and breast and cervical cancer screening.

The Early Intervention program serves children from birth up to the age of three years who are at risk for developmental delay. Services available to eligible children include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, vision services, special education, audiology, nursing, and social work. The Preschool Special Education program provides services for the three to five year-old population. Services are provided in a variety of settings. The Chautauqua County Health Department provides assistance through the Physically Handicapped Children's Program for eligible children.

Family Health services are generally available at low-cost or no cost to members of the public. Commercial, Medicaid and Medicare insurance coverage is accepted. For more information on Family Health services or programs, call 753-4491, 661-8123, or 363-3660.

The following chart reflects the distribution of nursing manpower attributed to the various disease control and family health programs implemented by the Division of Nursing Services.

Distribution of Nursing Division's Effort in 2003

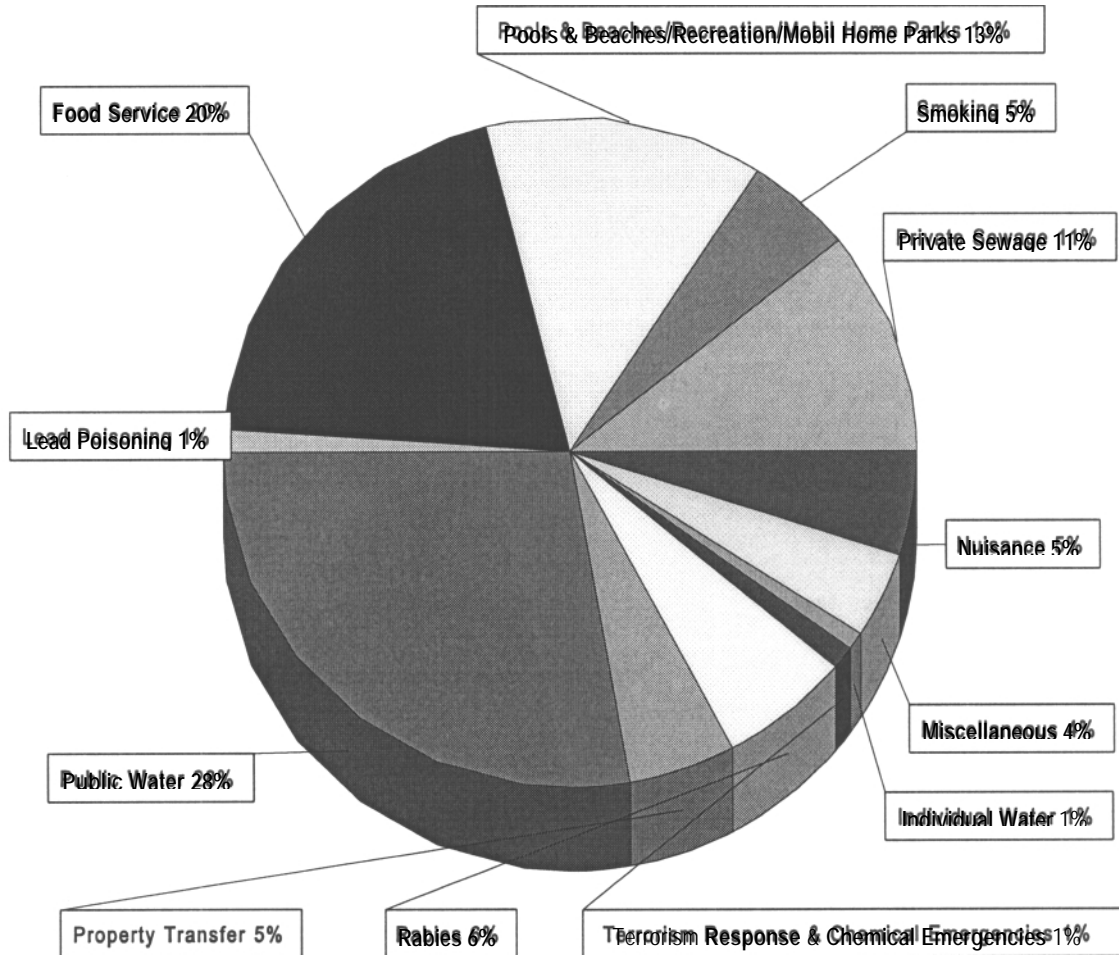


Health Education is an integral part of all health department programming. The focus of this division is to identify health issues of local importance, develop and implement strategies to address these issues, and strengthen the community's long-term ability to manage and improve its health and well-being. Health education and promotion presentations and information are available to the public. Program areas include all health and wellness issues, in addition to youth development, community health assessment, coordination of countywide resources, and data collection. For more information on Health Education programs and services, call 753-4795, 661-7795, or 363-4795.

The Environmental Health Division assures the residents of Chautauqua County a healthful environment through its various programs of inspections, surveillance, and enforcement. Its focus is to prevent disease by responding to emergencies and nuisance complaints, monitoring public water supplies, assisting homeowners with private water and sewage systems, inspection of food service establishments and recreational facilities, while preserving a safe and healthy environment for all County residents and visitors.

The following chart reflects the distribution of manpower attributed to the various programs implemented by the Division of Environmental Health Services.

Distribution of Environmental Health's Effort in 2003



For more information on Environmental Health services, call 753-4481, 661-8110, or 366-8831. Protecting and improving the public's health and wellness is something that no single organization or health provider, government or community agency, can manage alone. Partnerships, coalitions and collaborations are essential to the public health effort. The Chautauqua County Health Department remains committed to the provision of high quality preventive and educational health programs, assessment of the health status of our community, and the development of policies and plans to meet identified public health needs.

Additional information about the Health Department is available on the internet at URL <http://www.co.chautauqua.ny.us/health/healthframe.htm>. This includes data concerning specific program areas, found in Appendix II of the Health Department's Community Health Assessment.

I. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

Communicable disease control is one of the main functions of a public health department. Through implementation of preventive health measures and responding promptly to disease incidence and outbreaks, community health can be maintained. The list of reportable diseases defined in the NYS Sanitary Code was modified in 2003 in response to new emerging infections and changing priorities for disease surveillance. There are now 71 reportable diseases for which public health nurses conduct follow up that may include the following: interviews for food and travel histories, identify gaps in prevention, identify missed opportunities for vaccination, monitor distribution of drug-resistant strains, conduct patient education, risk assessment, and counseling, and surveillance, obtain specimen collection, provide treatment of cases and exposed contacts, monitor county disease trends and patterns, provide individuals, contacts, health care providers, schools, and agencies with disease control recommendations. The Chautauqua County Department of Health also participates in a food borne disease active surveillance network in collaboration between Centers for Disease Control, New York State Department of Health. Public health nurses in the project participate in active surveillance for food borne diseases to better understand the epidemiology of food borne disease in the United States. In 2003, public health nurses engaged in the follow up activities for 808 reportable diseases.

Immunization Program

The Immunization Program provides protection for vaccine preventable disease by the administration of vaccines to the public through regularly held Health Department sponsored Immunization Clinics, school based clinics, travel clinics, STD clinics, Family Planning clinics and County Jail setting as well as other specially held immunization clinics. In 2003, a total of 9,608 doses of vaccine were administered by public health nurses to infants, children, adolescents and adults. Chautauqua County participates in the State-wide Healthy Shot software registry system for tracking and monitoring of all vaccine recipients. The age distribution of vaccines administered reflects the incidence of young adults without health insurance that are at risk for vaccine preventable disease.

Number of Doses of Vaccine Administered by Age, 2003

0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total
2,037	699	2,397	1,421	634	1,279	865	276	9,608

A Perinatal Hepatitis B Program was conducted to track infants born to hepatitis B surface antigen positive mothers and provide hepatitis B vaccination to infant and household members.

Participation in the Immunization Action Plan in order to improve Chautauqua County immunization rates included Physician Based Immunization Assessments conducted at pediatric practices within the county. In addition, the Health Department engaged in a collaborative educational outreach program with local hospitals nurseries to make available a baby feeding bib listing immunization schedules to serve as a preventive health care reminder for parents of newborns.

To reduce perinatal hepatitis B transmission public health nurses conducted quality assurance site visits at area birthing hospitals in collaboration with NYSDOH.

Public health nurses conducted education and outreach activities to inform health care professionals, day care providers and schools about the benefits of up to date immunizations. Private schools with low immunization rates were visited by public health nurses to provide immunization information and education to parents and school officials.

Rabies Control

Ten Animal Rabies Clinics were conducted by the Health Department and by towns/villages and cities in cooperation with the Health Department in year 2003. Ongoing rabies vaccination is also conducted by the Humane Society in cooperation with the Health Department. Rabies vaccination was administered to 5,142 animals (2,792 dogs and 2,327 cats and 23 ferrets). Twenty three individuals began rabies post exposure prophylaxis due to bites/exposure from at risk animals. Eleven individuals received pre-exposure rabies vaccine due to high risk occupation. Sixteen individuals received rabies serologic testing. Investigations were conducted on 499 animal bite/incident reports. A total of 66 animal specimens were submitted for testing with no animals testing positive for rabies for the first time in many years. Terrestrial rabies has spread to all but the one southwestern township of Mina. To reduce the incidence of raccoon and other wildlife rabies incidence a wildlife oral rabies vaccination program was conducted in 2003 that included all townships.

West Nile Virus (WNV)

WNV was first introduced into the Western Hemisphere in the summer of 1999. To date, no human cases have been identified in Chautauqua County. In 2003, there were 90 ill or dead crow reported sightings measured, establishing a dead crow density of 0.08 dead crows per square mile. In 2003, 48 birds were tested for WNV. Twenty crows (out of 25 submitted) tested positive for WNV. Twenty birds of other species were tested of which 3 blue jays tested positive for WNV. There were no mammals identified with positive WNV testing. A total of 73 mosquito pools from approximately 6 locations were submitted for WNV testing along with partial pools of adult mosquitos; there were no positive pools identified in 2003.

Tuberculosis Program

The local health department has the primary responsibility for preventing and controlling Tuberculosis (TB). Prevention and control efforts include identifying and treating all persons who have TB disease, finding and evaluating persons who have been in contact with TB patients to determine whether they have TB infection or disease, and treating them appropriately, and testing high-risk groups for TB infection to identify candidates for treatment of latent infection and to ensure the completion of treatment. Approximately 1,500 individuals were enlisted in the program in 2003 with 102 individuals receiving nine month treatments for latent tuberculosis infection.

STD Program

People requesting STD clinic services during year 2003 increased with 1,166 people seen. These clients made a total of 1,449 visits. Eighteen cases of gonorrhea, 75 cases of chlamydia, and no cases of syphilis were diagnosed through the clinic testing. The greatest proportion of sexually transmitted infections continues in the 15 to 29 year age group.

The partnership with the Erie County Department of Health for the "Taking Action Against Hepatitis" initiative continued. This initiative offers free testing for hepatitis C and vaccine for hepatitis A and B.

Many community educational programs are presented each year reaching a varied audience of students and adults through schools, community agencies, health fairs, social groups, and prisons. A total of 30 presentations reached 573 participants. In addition, literature is made available to the community.

HIV Program

Through regularly scheduled community presentations and meetings, the Health Department provided HIV educational information to schools, human service providers, and community organizations. Twenty-six events were conducted, providing 2,737 individuals with information. Material distribution including pamphlets, booklets, and other HIV related educational items totaled approximately 3,800 pieces. In 2003, 1,239 people requested HIV testing through the HIV clinic.

For National HIV Testing Day in June, testing was offered at seven community sites. A total of 136 people were screened during this special activity.

In addition, health care management to individuals who are HIV positive was provided to 93 people. They made a total of 619 visits for medical services. This service is provided in collaboration with the Erie County Medical Center.

Jail Screening

The Chautauqua County Department of Health provides the following services at the county jail: HIV education, counseling and testing; partner notification, referral services.

Syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia testing with education, treatment, and contact investigation

Hepatitis B vaccination and education

Hepatitis C testing and education

Hepatitis A vaccination and Tetanus/diphtheria vaccination

Tuberculosis screening

In 2003, 1,406 inmates received tuberculin skin testing and 25 were found to be tuberculosis infected. There were 170 syphilis tests conducted with one positive finding, 64 gonorrhea tests conducted, and 64 chlamydia tests conducted with three positive findings. One hundred and thirty two inmates received hepatitis B and A vaccination. Two hundred and fourteen inmates received HIV pretest counseling with 160 requesting HIV testing; 130 received HIV post test counseling.

Bioterrorism

The Health Department participated in several drills and other activities while we implemented the Public Health Preparedness/Response for Bioterrorism plan. Major revisions were also made to the Small pox and Strategic National Stockpile plans. Listed below are some of the major initiatives for the year:

- Through the collaboration of the New York State Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control, the Health Department implemented a smallpox post-exposure plan. Several HD staff were sent to regional smallpox vaccination trainings and later vaccinated. HS staff developed a post-exposure clinic schedule for vaccinating the entire county. HD staff, in coordination with the Office of Emergency Services, conducted a smallpox vaccination clinic drill on October 29.
- The Health Department participated in a radiological drill at Silver Creek High School on August 16 with the Office of Emergency Services, Erie County ECHO and SMART teams, NYS Department of Health, State Emergency Management Office, Sheriff's Department, NYS Police, Chautauqua County HAZMAT team, area hospitals and various fire and law enforcement. The purpose of the drill was to train area agency personnel how to respond to a radiological incident and to test communication systems.
- On July 28th HD staff and others participated in a Hazard Analysis project directed by the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency management Office.
- HD staff participated in the June 24th Airport Disaster Exercise at the Chautauqua County Airport. The drill simulated a commuter plane crash with 19 passengers aboard that collided with a Federal Express Caravan. Some of the passengers on the commuter flight were theoretically exposed to SARS on a recent trip to China to train local emergency and hospital staff in tracking and isolating communicable diseases.
- The Health Department continues to participate in a variety of activities to assist the Office of Emergency Services meet multiple deliverables for BT funding, training, education, communication and planning.

II. FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

Family Health Service programming involves the provision of nursing services to individuals and groups at home, at work, at school, and in public health centers. Public health nursing integrates its services with those of other health and allied workers in the planning and implementation of community health programs.

Family Planning Clinic Program

Family planning reproductive health services continue to be offered at the Health Department's two main office sites, Jamestown and Dunkirk, and two satellite clinic settings, one in Forestville and one in Westfield. Clinics are available daily on weekdays. The unduplicated patient count was 3,001. These patients made a total of 6,746 visits.

Community education was provided through a variety of settings totaling 33 presentations reaching 626 individuals with information about contraception, women's health issues, and hepatitis. Educational materials were also provided to the community totaling 1,510 pieces. Visits were made to the school nurses in all 18 school districts plus two BOCES. A special peer education workshop, "Tools for Tomorrow", was held for 25 youth.

Ongoing staff trainings were held during the year with two major topics being HIPAA and HIV Rapid Testing.

Chautauqua County Partners for Prevention

This cancer screening services program was formally known as the Women's Health Initiative of Chautauqua County. The coalition has joined forces with the colorectal/prostrate cancer education and detection effort and chose a new name to represent the merger. The program reaches out to the low income, underserved, and uninsured men and women of Chautauqua County to promote breast, cervical, and colorectal screening for the early detection of cancer. Activities included education and community outreach, clinic services, mammography, and distribution of FOBT kits. One hundred sixty-four women were screened for breast and/or cervical cancer and 57 men and women were screened for colorectal cancer in 2003.

Maternal and Child Health

The Health Department continues to administer through a subcontract with COI the supportive services portion of the Medical Obstetrical and Maternal Services (MOMS) program. The MOMS program has two components: the prenatal medical care provided by the private obstetrical provider and a supportive services package which includes case management, outreach, presumptive Medicaid eligibility, prenatal education, psycho-social assessment and counseling, nutritional education and counseling. The number of women seen through this program for supportive services totaled 826.

The Nursing Division continues to provide newborn visits for health guidance and child care purposes based on selected risk criteria. In 2003, seventy five public health nursing visits were made to children and parents for health guidance purposes and to assist children with special health care needs. In 2003, 1559 public health nurse visits were made to children in the Early Intervention program.

Child Care Health Consultant

In 2003, this program that can help with child health and safety concerns became available to all licensed day care and family day care providers in Chautauqua County. Public Health Nurses assist child care facilities with the following issues: child safety, illness outbreaks, nutrition and feeding,

normal child development and developmental concerns, immunizations, parent education, care for children with special needs, environmental safety, and health insurance.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The Chautauqua County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is one that involves the monitoring of children who have elevated lead levels. Lead poisoning prevention education, case management, and environmental investigation, identification, and abatement follow-up are activities conducted in the lead program. In 2003, approximately 2,920 child lead tests were conducted in Chautauqua County. 2,667 tests were initial tests and 253 were repeated tests. Forty-three new children were followed due to lead levels 10 ug/dL.

In October 2002, the county was awarded a \$1.75 million Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant. The Lead Safe County II Grant has allowed us to continue lead hazard control activities in low-income housing occupied by children under age six throughout Chautauqua County (especially rental housing) and to undertake extensive training, education, and outreach to parents, educators, human service workers, property owners, and contractors. Lead Safe County II proposed to complete 200 units of lead-safe housing, 96% of which would be rental units. The program is being administered through the County Health Department, with implementation facilitated by a subcontract with the Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation & Improvement Corp (CHRIC). As of 12/31/2003, 104 units had been inspected, 55 units had been completed and cleared for occupancy, and 23 other units were under construction.

Children at Risk for Disabilities Program

The Early Intervention component of the program serves children from birth up to the age of three years who have been diagnosed with a developmental delay. Services available to eligible children include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, vision services, special education, audiology, nursing, and social work. Services are provided in a variety of settings which include the home, baby sitter, day care and center-based programming. In 2003, 412 children were enrolled into the Early Intervention/Child Find program, and 289 children received services through the Early Intervention Program.

The Preschool Special Education component of the program provides services for the three to five year-old population. Authorization for services is made by Committees on Preschool Special Education representing the county's 18 school districts. Services are provided within four Chautauqua County center based special education programs and in less restrictive settings including Head Start, regular nursery schools, and the home by certified professionals. Three hundred and twenty nine children were enrolled in the Preschool Special Education program during the 2002/2003 school year.

Physically Handicapped Children's Program

Financial assistance is available through the Chautauqua County Health Department for eligible children. Eligibility to receive financial assistance is based upon medical diagnosis and the financial status of the parents. In 2003, 399 children were enrolled with 475 services being authorized during the year.

III. HEALTH EDUCATION and PROMOTION

Family Planning and Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Community information and public information remains a vital component in the Chautauqua County Comprehensive Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care Services program. During 2003, we continued to follow in the direction of ground-level prevention. Working with the community as well as working for them continues to be our course of action. The Chautauqua County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition (CCTPPC) meets quarterly and involves up to 30 members from area youth serving organizations, agencies, and community groups. The group shares information and discusses adolescent needs, issues, and future plans.

One community program area where human sexuality education is provided to youth under age 14 is in the Carrera model programs. Youth begin in these programs at age 10. The seven Carrera program components: academic support, physical health, counseling, lifetime sports, personal expression, human sexuality, and career development is provided. The first Tier, known as the "Way to Go" program, has seen its youth graduate from high school and go on to college, jobs, and military service. A few of these youth still touch base with their "home away from home". Tier II of the program, known as "Reach for the Stars", serves their component of 20 children aged 12-16 at the Jamestown Boys & Girls Club. Tier III, called "Smart Moves", is located at the North County Boys & Girls Club and has approximately 10 active youth, age 11-16. This program has been struggling with consistency of program attendance and leadership. It is undergoing a process of reevaluation. The Anthropology Department of the University of Akron evaluates the programs.

The greatest strength in our outreach and education component continues to be our focus on adolescents. We have continued our collaboration with several community agencies and organizations to expand our approach. While strengthening our existing programs, we have continued to develop innovative ways to assist communities in uncovering and developing their assets for youth.

We are continuing to explore ways to increase male involvement. The Health Education Aide provided six sessions in 2003 that reached significant male populations. Other sessions, such as those provided through school districts and BOCES sites, had a strong male presence in the audience, but were applicable to both males and females.

Information regarding HIV/AIDS, STIs, contraception, and Health Department policies and services were offered to all members of our community. Many community-based education programs were presented reaching a varied audience of teens and adults through community agencies, health fairs, social groups, human service providers, and the youth serving organizations. Overall, a total of 101 presentations were provided in 2003.

Tobacco Use Prevention

The Chautauqua County Tobacco Control Coalition actively participated in the New York State Tobacco Control Program's goals and objectives during the work plan year 2003. The accomplished work plan goal implemented in our county included; eliminating exposure to second hand smoke, decreasing the social acceptability of tobacco use, and promote cessation from tobacco use.

The following implemented programs reached their goals and objectives for the work plan year 2003, executed by the Chautauqua County Tobacco Control Program, in association with the Chautauqua County Department of Health:

Baby & Me — Tobacco Free Program. This successful cessation program helps pregnant smoking women quit while they are pregnant and stay quit after the birth of the baby. The mothers receive

free diapers, for up to one year, if they continue smoke free. The cessation services are provided in North and South County facilities. The number of women enrolled this year was 87. As of January 1, 2004, 78 had delivered, 76 were still smoke free, 56 of the women have delivered and stayed smoke free for longer than 6 months. This tremendous program has been recognized at the State level and many other counties are utilizing the program.

Clean Indoor Air. The passage of the new comprehensive Clean Indoor Air Law on July 24, 2003, provided an opportunity for the coalition to educate our communities on the dangers of second hand smoke. Before the law was enacted, the coalition provided educational roundtable discussion with over 230 business owners in Chautauqua. Partnering with the support and assistance of the environmental department, these sessions provided promotional items and print material on the facts of the law. A media campaign educating the community was launched using radio, print, and Television mediums. The coalition continues to sponsor community events to help educate our county residents on the benefits of the law.

Smoke Free Home and Car Kits. A toolkit mailed to county residents and/or handed out at health fairs and community events educated adults on the importance of not exposing children and nonsmokers to the dangers of secondhand smoke. Over 250 kits were distributed in the county in 2003. The kits include information on second hand smoke, tips on quitting, the toll free number to the NY State Smokers Quitline, and decals to display in their home and cars.

Project – Know I Don't Smoke. By partnering with the Erie 2 BOCES educational center, the coalition provided a curriculum for 5-7th graders. This powerful education tool informed youths on the manipulative tactics of the tobacco industry, the harmful ingredients in tobacco products, and the immediate unpopular side effects of smoke on a teenager. Over 1,000 students received this education, including signing pledges to stay smoke free, educational brochures, and "Know I Don't Smoke" t-shirts.

Chronic Disease

Chautauqua County was one of four counties selected by New York State to be part of their application for the Steps to a Healthier US grant. The Public Health Educator wrote the Chautauqua County portion of the application, including the workplan. In September, we were notified that the NYS application was awarded the grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Twelve awards were made nationwide; four from our eligible category.

As part of this award, Chautauqua County will receive \$298,000 per year for five years to promote community initiatives that promote better health and prevent disease. The STEPS program seeks to help Americans live longer, better, and healthier lives by reducing the burden of diabetes, obesity, and asthma. The project also addressed three related risk factors – physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and tobacco use.

The Chautauqua County plan includes strengthening existing health provider networks through the use of telemedicine, provider training and detailing, enhanced referral systems, and increased physical activity and nutrition program options. The PHE spent considerable time and effort informing and involving large numbers of community agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals to be part of this collaboration.

Injury Prevention

The Injury Prevention Coalition continues to meet twice each year to discuss numerous safety initiatives that are offered by various participating community agencies. Members include the Sheriff's Department, area hospitals, Red Cross, Office for the Aging, public schools, Success By Six, Department of Emergency Services, Department of Social Services, Chautauqua Opportunities and Department of Health. Program examples in 2003 included Walk Our Children To School Week, Home Safe Home, playground safety, traffic safety, emergency room accident reporting, bioterrorism, smoke alarms and the Health Department's Child Safety Seat Program.

In 2003, the CCHD sponsored five child safety seat checkpoints in Lakewood, Sherman, Brocton, Dunkirk and Westfield. A total of 156 child safety seats were checked. Only two were installed correctly. The CCHD received \$3,000 in grant funding from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and was able to distribute 79 car seats to low-income families in Chautauqua County with numerous referrals from DSS and Early Intervention staff. GTSC has doubled the grant award for 2004 to cover the sharp demonstrated need for additional low-income child safety seat distribution. The theme for this year's program was once again, "Score One for the Home Team. Buckle Your Child in a Child Safety Seat." Program messages were broadcast during home games and events sponsored by the Jamestown Jammers, Buffalo Sabres and the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena. Additional education programs were presented on cable television and radio programs. A display was also set up at the Chautauqua County Fair. Unintentional injury remains the number one cause of death for children in this country. The number one cause of unintentional injuries in the U.S. remains automobile accidents.

Environmental Health Promotion

Only one Household Hazardous Waste Day was held in 2003 at the landfill in Ellery. The Health Department did a mass mailing to various farms, businesses, schools, golf courses and green houses. Posters and fliers were created by HD staff and distributed by environmental personnel during routine inspections countywide. In total, 277 households were served. Specifically, 880 gallons of oil base paint, 50 gallons of antifreeze, 211 gallons of various household liquids, 169 gallons of liquid pesticide, 1,300 pounds of solid pesticide, 13, 160 pounds of miscellaneous solid waste, 120 pounds of fluorescent bulbs and 30 pounds of mercury containing waste was collected. The antifreeze was recycled by the county.

The Health Department also exhibited a live mosquito display at the county fair depicting hatching mosquito larvae collected from various sites around area homes and yards. Educational displays and pamphlets were seen and distributed to 829 area residents.

Dental Health

Initiatives established by the Chautauqua County Dental Advisory Committee, Southern Tier Health Care System Dental Committee, University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine and the American Dental Society were instituted during a variety of programs throughout the year. During National Children's Dental Health Month in February, 17 dental programs were given by CCHD staff to area, schools and community programs benefitting 949 children and 162 adults. Educational materials and oral hygiene materials were distributed during the presentations. Oral B and the University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine donated the toothbrushes and toothpaste. Future plans include the establishment of a regional dental bank to provide emergency and educational dental materials to children and families in need throughout the Southern Tier.

The preschool dental program just completed its third year. Dental programs utilizing dental puppets and books were given at area preschools and daycare centers benefitting 1,500 children in conjunction with staff from UB, Success By Six and CCHD staff. All children received dental kits containing oral hygiene materials and educational pamphlets for parents. Dental screenings were also conducted at county preschools by a dental hygienist from the mobile dental van.

The Success By Six/UB mobile dental van is out of the red financially for the second year in a row. The van now employs 4 pediatric dentists that are present on the van five days per week. The van parks at area schools and community centers on a rotating schedule treating approximately 2,500 children each year. The van operates with Article 28 status accepting Medicaid, Child Health Plus, private insurance or fees given on a sliding scale. UB staff plans to apply for grant funding in the near future to replace the aging 38-foot mobile dental unit.

Smile Education Day was once again a success countywide in 2003. All third grade classrooms received dental hygiene kits and presentations made by area dentists, hygienists and CCHD staff. All dental materials were provided by UB.

Health Promotion and Education - General

As part of the Success By Six Lead Task Force, the Health Department assisted in the coordination of a lead poisoning awareness campaign, which promoted lead poisoning prevention information and methods, and stressed the importance of having children tested. Education was provided through public service announcements, talk radio guest appearances, cable television spots, and on-site demonstration/information.

The Health Department, in conjunction with the Chautauqua Health Network and others, helped to facilitate the Excellence In Healthcare Delivery Conference on May 29 and 30 at Chautauqua Institution. The primary focus of the conference was to educate area medical professionals, social service agencies, government officials and local residents about the healthcare industry. Nationally recognized speakers presented at the grant-funded conference to get ideas for improving healthcare from some of the best experts in America without having to travel long distances and pay large conference fees.

Community and Youth Development

The Community Health Facilitator (CHF) attends regular monthly meetings and related committee meetings of six grassroots communities who look to provide local services. Community coalitions are represented by elected officials, residents, businessmen, youth, school and agency personnel and are also supported by the efforts of community builders sponsored by the United Way of Southern (and Northern) Chautauqua County and the Chautauqua Council for Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Community support crosses many municipal borders as well as many informal geographical, social, ethnic and economic lines.

The CHF serves as a participant, ally, coach, and resource to the elevation of community members, including youth, in policy and decision-making within their communities. Most activities focus on the relationships between the community and their youth, the "professionals" and the community, and other assets that exist to enhance the potential of the community to prevent risk behavior.

Youth empowerment activities remain strong and a cornerstone to our activities. The Chautauqua County Peer Education Project collaborated with several youth serving agencies to host a day long leadership training and networking opportunity for youth participating in peer education projects of the north county. Approximately 80 youth and adults of these various organizations participated together in workshops focused on teambuilding and planning, storytelling, sexuality sensitivity, activism, advocacy and making healthy choices to stress reduction such as healthy snacking,

exercise and massage therapy. Agency representatives plan to hold a similar training opportunity for peer educators of the south county in the coming year.

An added benefit to this project was the engagement of youth serving agency representatives. This was a great, non-threatening opportunity for networking among agency representatives and to learn the unique talents and assets each agency has to offer the larger population. It is hoped that the relationship building begun here will serve as the foundation or at least a model for broader collaborative efforts for and among youth in Chautauqua County.

The CHF again participated in the administration of Kids First Mini-grants. Forty-five applications were submitted requesting more than \$46,279 from the Community Conscious Youth of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. The group took a mentoring approach by dividing 18 youth into 6 teams facilitated by an adult advisor. Over \$18,800 was awarded to 31 projects. A report provided to the CCTPPC used a project awarded just \$100 to demonstrate the success of the program. This project met each criterion for funding, to engage youth in designing and implementing programs that affect their lives, promote a connection within the community, engage youth and their assets, develop a cooperation between youth and adults, "quite a bang for your buck"! To date the Community Conscious Youth of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation have allocated over \$65,000 funding over 100 projects.

The Public Health Educator remains involved in a countywide community profile development and mobilization effort, based on the MAPP process. The process is coordinated with the Chautauqua Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council, the United Way, and the Chautauqua County Health Network (state-funded rural health agency). The intention is to create a more accurate picture of the health and well-being issues facing Chautauqua County residents, while increasing community participation and input in community health policy and programs.

Much time has been spent in maintaining linkages with the community and other agencies to enhance the utilization of referrals and decrease duplication. The Health Education Division has been directed on numerous occasions to build and/or participate in coalitions.

The following list represents some of the 2003 coalitions/task force involvement by the Health Education Division personnel:

1. Chautauqua County Health Association*
2. Injury Prevention Coalition*
3. Chautauqua County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition*
4. Chautauqua County Tobacco Coalition
5. Coordinated Children's Services Initiative
6. Chautauqua County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
7. Community Health Network of Western New York
8. Success by Six Dental Task Force*
9. Success by Six Advisory Committee
10. Western New York Family Planning Educators
11. Western New York Public Health Educators
12. Family Planning Advisory Board*
13. Chautauqua County Outreach Network
14. Western New York HIV/AIDS Public Health
15. Western New York 50+ Consortia
16. Chautauqua County AIDS Advisory Board
17. Chautauqua County Health Network Citizen Advisory Board

18. Health Education Network
19. Chautauqua County Community Prevention Coalition
20. High Risk Committee
21. Diversity Coalition
22. Chautauqua County Peer Education Project*
23. Chautauqua County Dental Advisory Committee*
24. Southern Tier Healthcare System Dental Committee
25. Community Profile Committee*
26. Success By Six Lead Task Force
27. Western New York Asthma Coalition
28. Western New York Diabetes Partnership
29. Rural Mental Health Network
30. Counter Terrorism Task Force
31. Chautauqua County Ophelia Project*
32. Chautauqua County Steps Consortium*
33. New York State Steps Consortium
34. Eat Well Play Hard Coalition
35. Coalition for Quality of Life in Silver Creek
36. Support Group of Southwestern Chautauqua County – Clymer
37. Brocton/Portland Recreation Committee
38. Chautauqua Lake Community Coalition Advisory Committee
39. Ripley Community Partners Coalition
40. Southwestern School CASS Project * denotes Health education personnel serving in a leadership capacity

Public Relations

The CCDOH continued coordination of "Lifebeat Chautauqua," its local television program on community health and well-being issues. The Public Health Educator serves as Coordinator for this project, which has the potential of reaching 89,000 individuals. This program airs nightly on a local cable station. The programs include, but are not limited to, community building, relational aggression, health myths, and public health services. Future programs are slated to address reproductive health and male health issues, along with a program designed and hosted by youth on topics that they feel are important.

The Health Education Division generated 42 news releases, several of which were done in conjunction with other agencies or County departments. Media included radio, television, and newspapers, with topics ranging from dental health, rabies, bioterrorism, West Nile Virus, flu shots, World AIDS Day, youth risk behavior, clinic services and location change, and tobacco.

Public service announcements (psa's) on household hazardous waste, car seat safety, lead poisoning, and tobacco were written and recorded at local radio stations. The Health Department also contributed an article outlining its services in the Medical Services Directory feature for the Post-Journal and the Observer.

Two Health Education staff members also provided information via local radio programs. Child passenger safety seats and healthy vision were discussed through both Dunkirk (WDOE) and Jamestown (WJTN) radio stations.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Division of Environmental Health Services strives to prevent disease and preserve a safe and healthy environment for all county residents and visitors. The services provided by this division include:

- * Inspection and permitting of food service and recreational facilities, such as motels, hotels, camps, pools and beaches.
- * Permitting and inspecting all private sewage systems being installed in the county.
- * Protecting public water supplies through inspection, monitoring and water analysis.
- * Responding to public health emergencies, chemical releases and public health nuisance conditions.
- * Performing property transfer surveys of on-site water and sewage systems
- * Providing consultation with homeowners on their water and sewage systems and performing bacteriological analysis of drinking water.
- * Preventing disease through programs for lead poisoning of children, exposure to rabies and West Nile Virus, smoking regulations and other environmental diseases.

The Division of Environmental Health Services had significant highlights in several of these program areas in the year 2003.

Water Resources

Through the State-sponsored Enhanced Drinking Water Program, water supply staff have aggressively pursued improving our 250 public water systems, and also provided assistance to many of the 20,000 private water system owners to assure safe drinking water for all county residents and visitors. This program, that brings \$174,000 of grant funding to the county each year, also precipitated development of the Chautauqua Water Network or WaterNET. Developed through a partnership with SUNY Fredonia, it created a storehouse of critical water data including information about groundwater levels, stream flow, lake/reservoir levels and weather from 30 stations throughout the county. Anticipated to be an ongoing program and an important tool for drought forecasting, additional stations will be added to the network each year to fill gaps in the county coverage.

Individual Sewage System Funding

Chautauqua County received a New York State Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$270,000 for a wastewater assistance program. The program will be implemented by Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. and the Division of Environmental Health Services to provide financial assistance to low income homeowners to correct individual sewage system failures.

Rabies Control

There were no positive rabies specimens in 2003 for the first time in many years. This success can be attributed, at least partially, to the wildlife rabies baiting program that was conducted at no cost to the county and the vaccination of 5,142 domestic pets at clinics throughout the county. The Environmental Health Division investigated 499 animal contacts and submitted 66 specimens to the state laboratory for testing.