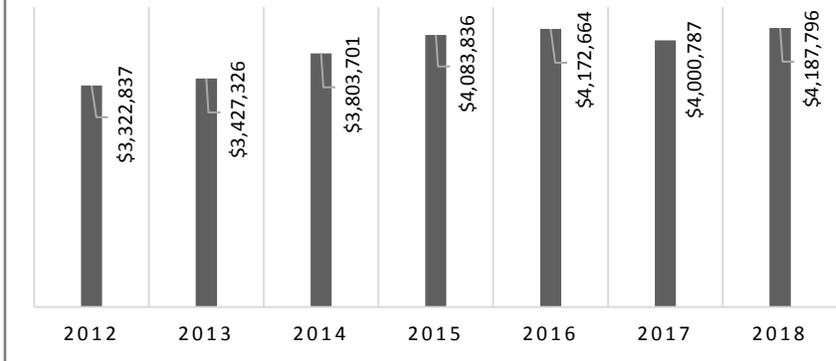


HEALTH

4010, 3510

HEALTH - COUNTY SHARE



MISSION STATEMENT

The Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) strives to protect and promote the health of individuals, families and communities. We work with many community partners to offer a variety of programs and services to achieve our mission and 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.

WHO WE SERVE

The ACDOH is a population-based, governmental regulatory and human service agency responsible for providing essential public health services, as defined in our mission statement, 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, 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 obstetric 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.

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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; lead paint investigation and abatement activities as well as implementation of specific Albany County local laws and resolutions.

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.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

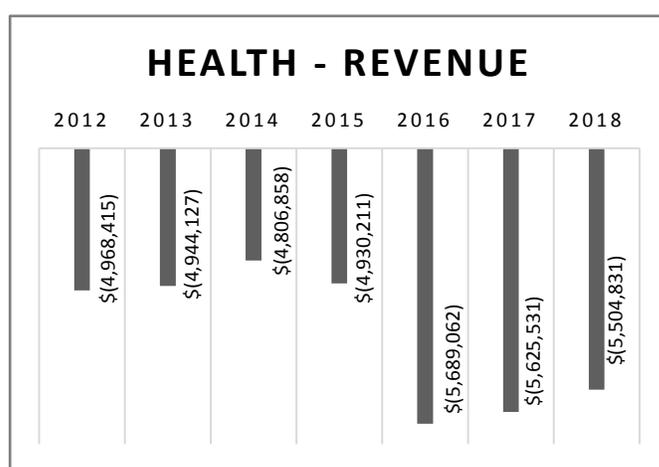
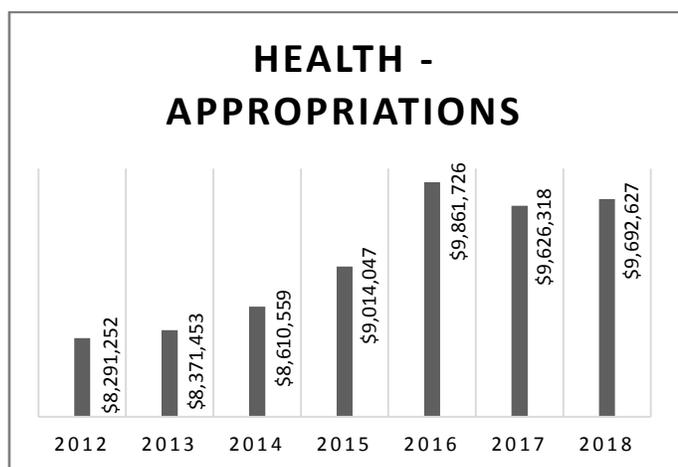
- Submission of all documents for review by the Public Health Accreditation Board completed (PHAB). PHAB site visit anticipated summer 2017. Our goal is Public Health accreditation by year's end. Preparation for Accreditation has resulted in development and implementation of Health Department Specific plans in Performance Management, Quality Improvement, Workforce Development and Communications, as well as goals for Performance Management and formation of a Quality Improvement Council.
- In collaboration with Albany County Executive's Office and Albany County Department of Mental Health, established Albany County Opioid Task Force, a multidisciplinary group with focus on law, mental health and medical interventions to stem opioid abuse in Albany County
 - In conjunction with local pharmacies, implemented Project Orange, a primary prevention strategy to increase the awareness of the importance of safe storage of opioid medications, and the appropriate and prompt disposal of unused or expired opioids.
 - Albany County Opioid Task Force is recipient of 2017 Public Service Excellence Award by the State Academy for Public Administration (SAPA).
 - Additional strategies are under development; including public health campaign "Just Ask," targeting providers to speak to their patients about opiate abuse.
- The Albany County Department of Health's *Developing Community Connections to Prevent Diabetes* initiative was selected as a Model Practice by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).
- Recipient of 2017 Capital District Child Care Council Community Collaborator Who Cares Award for its support of Physical Activity in Child Care (PACC) and its commitment to the immunization of children and adults.
- Recipient of 2017 FEMA Individual Community Preparedness Award – Outstanding Citizen Corps Initiative award for message mapping project with community partners to effectively communicate with at-risk and vulnerable populations in a public health emergency.

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- In conjunction with the County Executive's office, the Department of Children, Youth and Family Services, and the Department of Mental Health, established the Albany County Suicide Task Force, a community and provider collaboration to examine current County data on suicide, evaluate and implement innovative and evidence-based community interventions.
- Active Participant in DSRIP Medicaid Reform program. Entered into contracts with both DSRIP Performing Provider Systems in Albany County: With Albany Medical Center (Better Health New York) for Patient Activation Measure, to assess and increase the capacity of Medicaid beneficiaries and uninsured individuals to seek and utilize the benefits of primary care and preventative services, and with the Alliance for Positive Healthcare and in collaboration with the Eddy Licensed Home Care Agency and the Albany County Licensed Home Care Agency to provide home based asthma management services to Eligible Albany County residents.
- Conducted a full-scale exercise to test our capacity to provide mass prophylaxis under a medical model in the event of a novel avian influenza outbreak. Under the medical model, limited clinical professionals can dispense medications in Points of Dispensing (PODs) when there are no temporary suspensions or modifications of laws facilitating public health response efforts. The average throughput time for dispensing mock medication was 7 minutes per POD recipient.
- Became participating provider with HIXNY- Health Information Exchange Network of New York. Implemented availability to obtain public health information sharing, with plans to integrate to Electronic Medical Records in 2018.
- The ACDOH tuberculosis clinic has transitioned to a more accurate TB screening test and protocol, which will improve the evaluation and treatment process for foreign born and other at risk populations.
- Dental Clinic implemented digital dental x-ray sensors to replace the x-ray processor. The digital images are clearer and can be stored electronically. Film and chemicals for the processor are no longer needed.
- Continued Expansion Healthy Neighborhoods Program in Albany County, providing in-home assessments and interventions for asthma, tobacco cessation, indoor air quality, lead, fire safety and other environmental hazards. In 2016, 869 home visits and 107 revisits were made in Albany County under this program, reaching hundreds of individuals and offering education and guidance to improve safety, health and peace of mind for residents in their own homes. Our Asthma Educator Certified Asthma Nurse placed 154 visits to homes identified as having an asthmatic child in 2016. In conjunction with Healthy Capital District Initiative, hospitals, insurers, and community partners:
 - Implemented 2014-2017 Community Health Improvement Plan
 - Offered Opioid Overdose Prevention classes.
 - Promoted Albany County residents participation in evidenced-based chronic disease self-management programs (i.e. National Diabetes Prevention Program, Diabetes Self-Management Program, Chronic Disease Self-Management Program).
- Developed regulations and an educational component in conjunction with the Albany County Department of Law to educate Toy Retailers on Local Law 1 for 2015, the Toxic Free Toys Act. Information provided via mailing and website to each Albany County toy retailer on the law and requirements. Implementation and testing to begin on November 1, 2017.
- Implemented strategies to improve management of hypertension and prevent type 2 diabetes in 5 Albany County primary care medical practices under the IMPACT grant.
- Worked with NYSDOH to develop guidelines for the Directors of Albany County Children's Camps on implementation of newly enforced New York State Sanitary Code (Part 7-2) regulations regarding Developmentally Disabled campers. These regulations provide an extra measure of safety and attention to *any* developmentally disabled child attending *any* camp in New York State.
- Coordinated response to Mumps outbreak on an Albany County College Campus with student health service, including full epidemiologic investigation, activation of a POD (point of dispensing) for MMR vaccine, which was delivered to 118 individuals, and issuance of a Public Health Order for unvaccinated susceptible students to remain off campus until the risk had passed.
- Detailed epidemiologic investigation in the case of a rabid farm animal at an inner city ecologic center visited by numerous children in Albany County. Provided education, identified at risk contacts and coordinated/ administered rabies post exposure vaccinations.
- Application to be submitted Fall 2017 for designation as a Million Hearts Provider.

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- ACDOH changed medical waste services in 2017, which resulted in a 50% savings. The department coordinated monthly pickup times with the Mental Health Department facilitating one charge for the pickup. Each department is invoiced 50% of the pickup charge per month.
- The Immunization Clinic receives free adult vaccines to offset the cost of providing adult vaccines to the uninsured and underinsured.
- Enrollment in the Federal 340B drug discount program has provided the purchase of low cost STD and TB drugs. The program allows us to continue to provide comprehensive services to our community without increasing our medical supply costs.



2018 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- The Health Department will successfully complete all essential public health services required by the New York State Department of Health pursuant to Article 6 of the Public Health Law and Part 40 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of New York State.
- Work with HIXNY- Health Care Information Exchange of New York to implement health information sharing and data aggregation for public health processes and an electronic medical record in our clinical services areas.
- Implement Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and is connecting with HIXNY, the Health Information Exchange of New York. The EMR is expected to decrease staff time required for input of patient information on multiple forms, and to decrease the need for paper. With access to HIXNY, it is expected that patient records from other providers can be accessed in a timely manner in order to make treatment decisions.
- In conjunction with Healthy Capital District Initiative, hospitals, insurers, and community partners, continue to implement 2016-2018 Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Continue to work with Albany County DSRIP Performing Provider Systems to implement population health strategies related to asthma and chronic disease. Additional opportunities to contract have been identified for strategies related to cardiovascular disease and asthma.
- Work with unfluoridated municipalities to encourage fluoridation of community water supply, funding for which is currently offered by a grant administered by NYSDOH.
- Continue to partner with the Department of Mental Health and other community partners to implement strategies around Opiate abuse/ Heroin Use.
- Commence testing and enforcement of Local law 1 for 2015, the Toxic Toy Law.
- Albany County Dept of Health will work to promote and establish the goals of increasing the number of worksites that provide accommodations for breastfeeding employees, building or expanding community-based breastfeeding coalitions and promoting evidence-based breastfeeding education/management throughout Albany County.

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SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

The 2018 budget contains new grant funding for a “Creating Breastfeeding Friendly Communities” initiative with NYS and St. Peter’s Hospital. Due to the reductions made in the 2017-18 NYS Aid to Localities enacted budget, reductions were applied to the TB, Willow/MCHE and the Healthy Neighborhoods Program.

SUCCESS STORY

ACDOH was notified of an outbreak of mumps at the University at Albany on April 21, 2017. Epidemiology staff members interviewed cases to learn of possible exposures, identify close contacts, assess vaccine status, and ensure isolation while contagious. Unvaccinated and under-vaccinated cases and contacts were offered vaccine. ACDOH and UAlbany Student Health Services worked together closely to identify additional suspect cases, coordinate testing, and ensure isolation as needed. Local healthcare providers were notified of the situation via blast fax to increase awareness, provide guidance on patient management when mumps is suspected, and emphasize the role of vaccination in preventing disease.

Education on preventing mumps was provided to members of the UAlbany community through the UAlbany Administration, Student Health Services, and the Athletic Department. An Epi Problem Alert was issued by the New York State Department of Health to raise awareness among local health departments of the outbreak as the students were finishing the semester and preparing to leave Albany County. ACDOH staff responded to media requests, providing TV and radio interviews as needed.

To limit the extent of the outbreak, an order excluding students without documented immunity from campus was issued by the Commissioner of Health. Fewer than 25 students from the over 17,000 enrolled students were excluded from campus during the outbreak period. ACDOH, in conjunction with UAlbany, provided an on-campus vaccination clinic where unvaccinated and under-vaccinated students could receive vaccine and remain on campus. 118 individuals received vaccine at the clinic

This quick and coordinated response is an excellent example of how we fulfill our mission to the residents of Albany County, illustrated by the “four Ps”: **P**revent communicable disease, **P**rotect against hazards that affect health and safety, **P**romote health and wellness, and **P**repare for and respond to health emergencies.