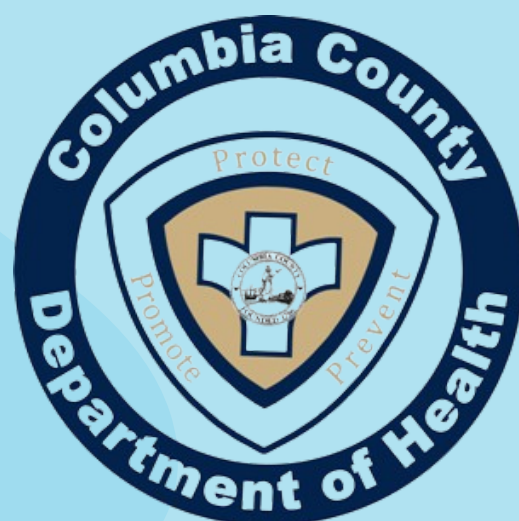


# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# COLUMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH





# Public Health Director's Message

---

With great honor and privilege, I present the Columbia County Department of Health's 2023 Annual Report. This report serves as a comprehensive overview of our programs and services, highlighting our proudest achievements and the challenges we faced this year.

In 2023, while navigating the end of the global and national emergency orders, our team remained flexible through the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We pushed forward to resume typical responsibilities and continue to prepare for the next public health emergency. Despite these challenges, our department has made real strides toward improving how we communicate with the public we serve and strengthening our partnerships with community stakeholders.

I hope you'll join me in my sincere appreciation to my colleagues here at the Columbia County Department of Health, all of our partner agencies working in Columbia County, the elected officials who support the important work that we do, and most of all, the community we serve, for working collaboratively with us towards our mission of preventing, promoting, and protecting the health and well-being of Columbia County residents.

Sincerely,

*Victoria McGahan*

Victoria McGahan, MS, CHES®  
Public Health Director



# PUBLIC HEALTH IN ACTION



## Immunizations Administered

2021	944
2022	1736
2023	1497



## Disease Investigations

2021	736
2022	1894
2023	1504



## Rabies Vaccines Administered

2021	437
2022	184
2023	378



## Animal Bite Investigations

2021	98
2022	102
2023	106



## Food Service Inspections

2021	102
2022	205
2023	222



## Water Supplies Tested

2021	53
2022	136
2023	102



## Child Safety Seat Checks

2021	10
2022	16
2023	27



## Healthy Home Visits

2021	3
2022	138
2023	312



## Early Intervention Services/Transport

2021	124
2022	159
2023	154



## Preschool Services/ Transports

2021	179
2022	153
2023	164



## Lead Care Coordination

2021	71
2022	72
2023	64



## Tobacco Compliance Checks

2021	44
2022	70
2023	59

*\*Immunizations and disease investigations do not include COVID-19 data (see page 5).*



---

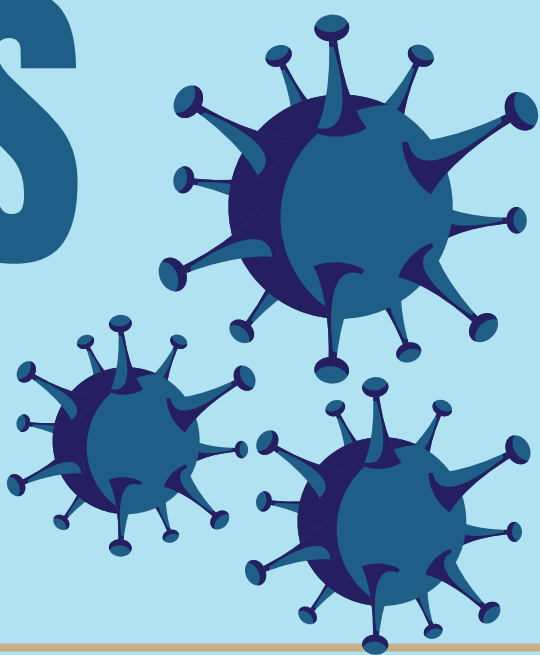
# HIGHLIGHTS

---

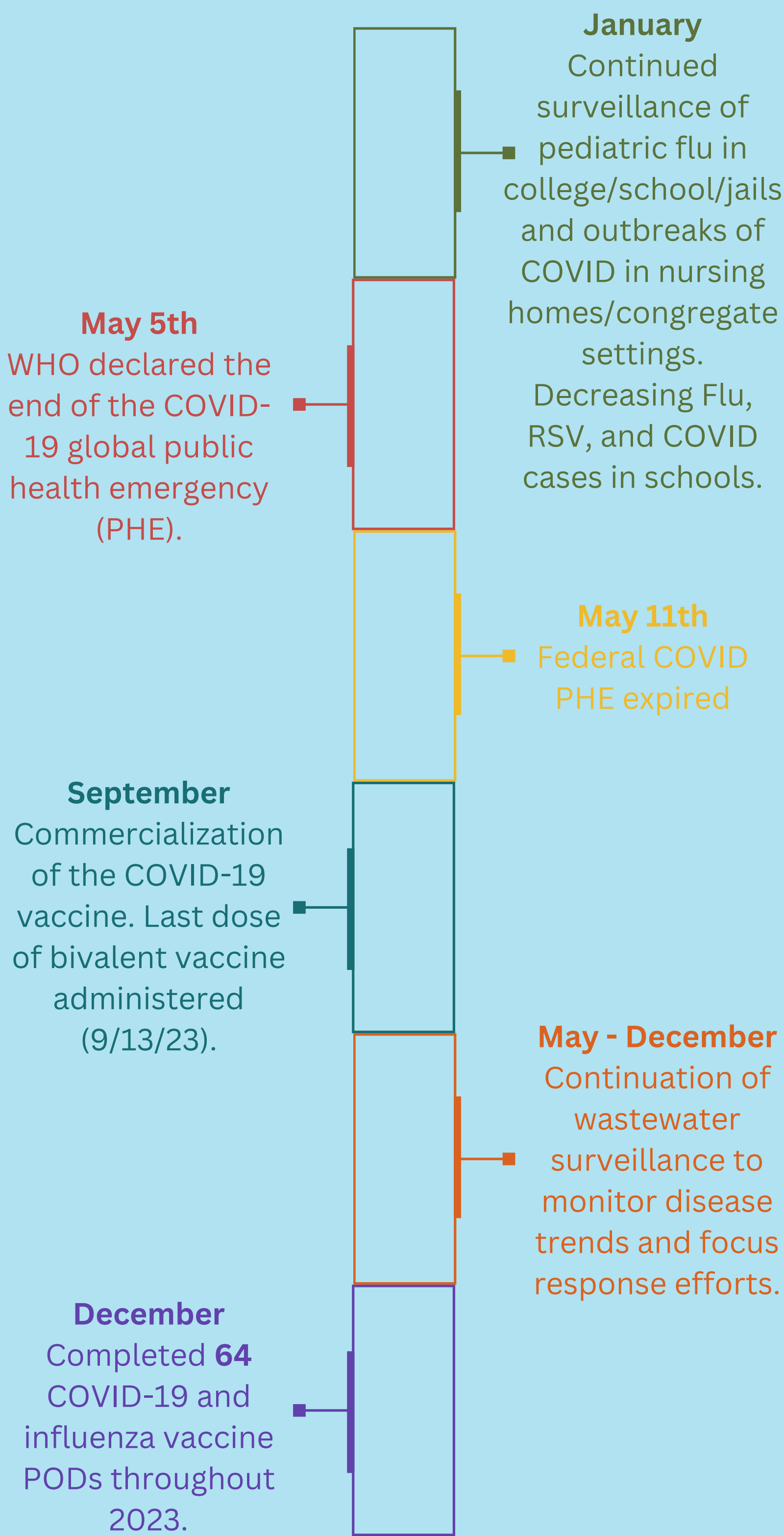
- ★ Distributed a community survey and gathered feedback from **220** unduplicated individuals to evaluate and make improvements in current service offerings.
- ★ Collected **1,522** pounds of home-generated sharps through the community sharps collection program to aid in safe disposal.
- ★ Hosted **65** educational events and attended **26** community outreach events, reaching an estimated **2,546** individuals.
- ★ Enhanced our social media presence, reaching **244** followers on Twitter and **6,921** followers on Facebook with an average reach of **6,450** per month. Our smartphone application has also been downloaded **3,133** times.
- ★ Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) completed one full scale exercise and participated in several tabletop exercises, including simulated mass casualty, radiological and active shooter drills. Our PHEP program also distributed COVID-19 test kits to municipalities.
- ★ Inspected **11** campgrounds, **16** children's day camp and **9** overnight camps for children.
- ★ Tracked **1,007** confirmed tick-borne illnesses contracted by county residents.
- ★ Our weekly STD clinic provided HIV and other STD testing for **48** patients.
- ★ Inspected **102** public water supplies and conducted **39** pre-operational and **31** operational inspections of migrant labor camps.
- ★ Reviewed **75** single lot and **10** private subdivision sewage disposal applications.
- ★ Our Public Health Fellow presented their poster on *Sepsis and Tick-borne Illness: An Information Gap* at the New York State Public Health Corps Summit.
- ★ CCDOH hosted a staff development day for our **38** staff members. Lyndon Cudlitz shared their presentation on LGBTQIA+ foundational principles and trauma-informed strategies to better serve our community.



# RESPIRATORY ILLNESS SNAPSHOT



## 2023 Respiratory Illness Timeline



COVID-19  
Disease  
Investigations:  
**1841**

COVID-19  
Immunizations  
Administered:  
**523**



Influenza  
Cases:  
**107**

Influenza  
Immunizations  
Administered:  
**716**

*\*COVID-19 disease investigations and influenza cases are laboratory confirmed only*



# HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM



The Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) is a FREE service that aims to improve the health, safety, and environmental living conditions for all residents in Columbia County. It is funded through a grant provided by the New York State Department of Health.

The HNP seeks to help promote healthy homes through the following goals:

1. Increase fire safety and prevent residential fire deaths
2. Reduce asthma triggers in the home
3. Increase homes tested for radon
4. Reduce indoor air pollution



Columbia County  
Healthy Neighborhoods Program

Participants are visited in their home by HNP educators who work with residents on how to keep a healthy and safe home. During the home visit, HNP educators may identify safety or health hazards and provide information and free materials to help improve the area of concern. Products may include: Fire extinguishers, 10-year sealed smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, radon test kits, asthma management tools, green cleaning items, child safety, and fall prevention items

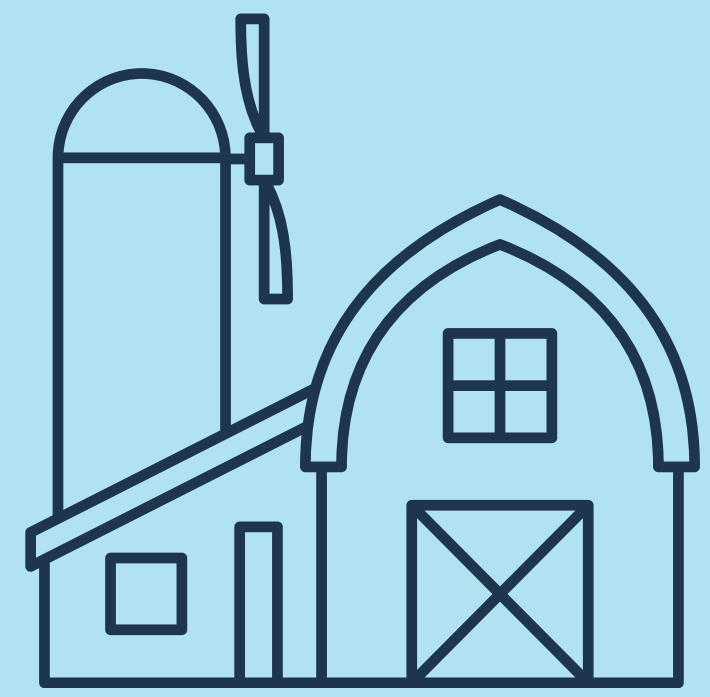
There are no income or age requirements to be eligible for the program! All residents who live in Columbia County are strongly encouraged to participate. You do not need to own a home to receive a home visit; renters are also welcome. Visit: [columbiacountynyhealth.com/healthy-neighborhoods-program/](https://columbiacountynyhealth.com/healthy-neighborhoods-program/) for more information or call (518) 828-3358.

Scan the QR  
code to request  
a home visit!





# MIGRANT HEALTH PROGRAM



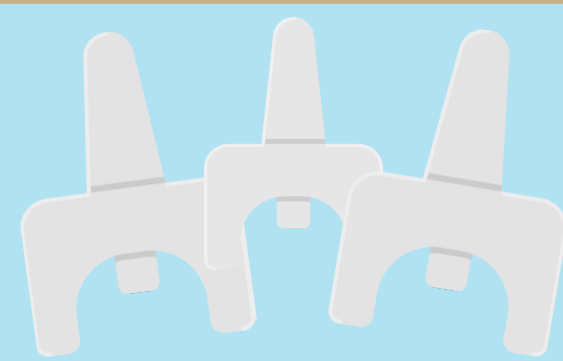
The Migrant Health Program serves migrant seasonal workers (MSWs) in Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer and Dutchess Counties, and is funded through a grant from NYSDOH. Department staff visited eight farms in 2023, for screenings, vaccines, and education. We held the Migrant Spring Health Fair in March, at St. Joseph's Church in Stuyvesant Falls. It was our first health fair since 2019. We held two flu clinics – one in October and the other in December. We had a successful summer farm outreach, attended by **146** migrant workers. We vaccinated **46** workers against the flu; **17** workers received the Twinrix hepatitis series; **18** received Td/Tdap; **6** received HPV. Many workers are now fully vaccinated. **146** workers were screened for BP, BS and TB. They all received health education. **46** workers were seen by resident doctors. Throughout the year, our staff provided culturally sensitive healthcare and outreach services, clinics and educational events to **355** unduplicated farm workers and family members.

Our Community Health Worker provided translation and transportation for primary medical care, specialty care, dental care, and care for pregnancy. Through **417** separate encounters, the CHW assisted with access to medical appointments as well as to social services such as WIC, SNAP, DSS, and legal services.





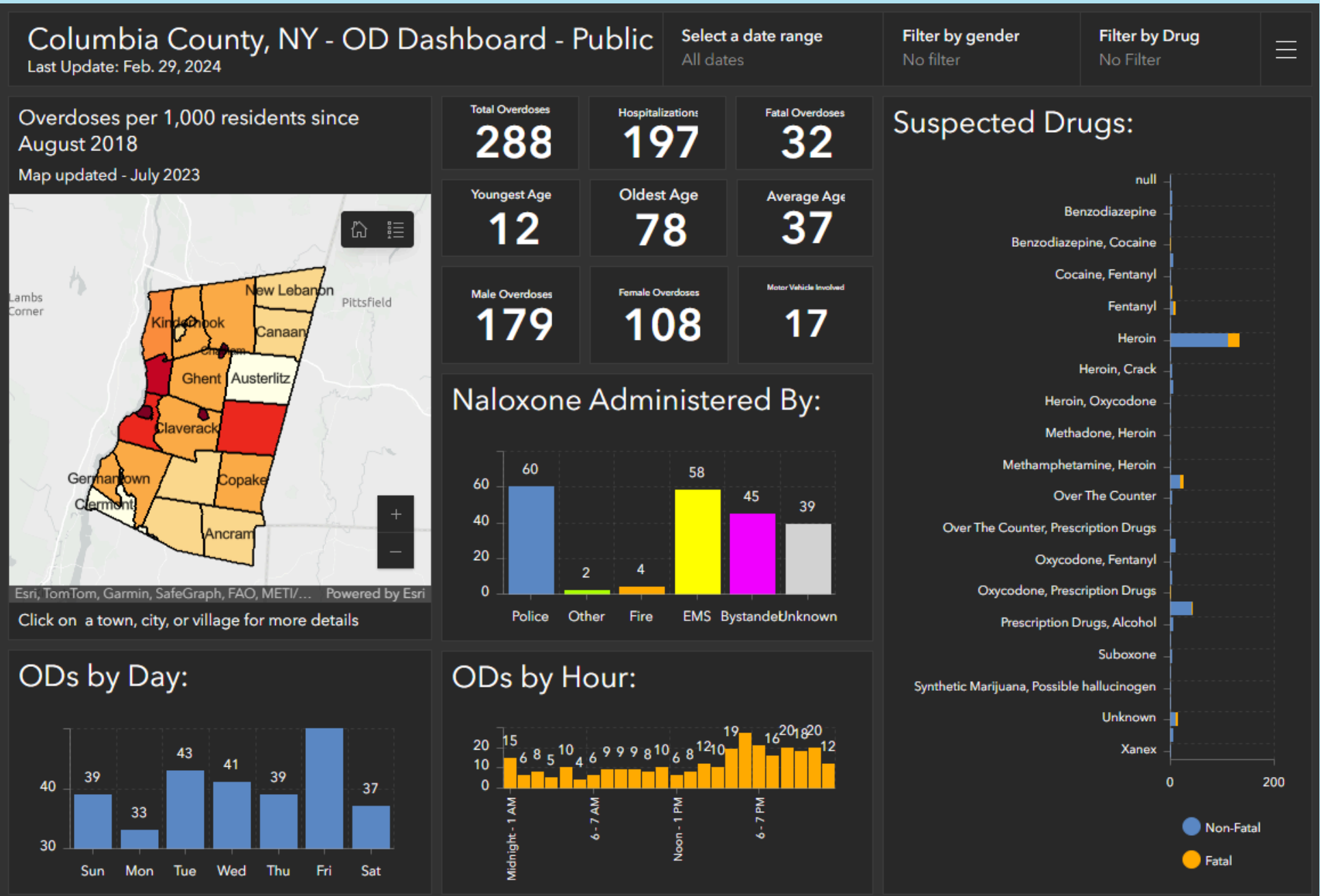
# OPIOID RESPONSE



CCDOH also continued their opioid use disorder (OUD) prevention and response efforts throughout 2023 with various partner agencies including Greener Pathways, Twin County Recovery Services, Columbia-Greene Addiction Coalition, Columbia County Pathways to Recovery, Re-Entry Columbia, Columbia County Sheriff’s Department and the Columbia County Mental Health Center. OUD prevention and response efforts included opioid overdose reversal training (i.e., nasal Naloxone, known as Narcan) and dispersal of harm reduction supplies such as Fentanyl and Xylazine testing strips, Narcan and medication disposal pouches. In 2023, CCDOH provided **705** Narcan trainings and distributed **711** Narcan kits to various community members and partner organizations. There are also **55** Naloxboxes throughout Columbia County which contain opioid emergency kits for community use. Harm reduction education and coasters were also distributed to **63** bars and restaurants throughout the county.

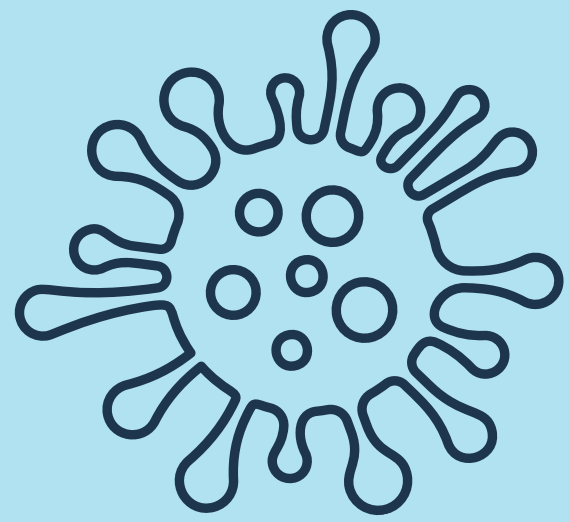


In collaboration with the Columbia County Planning Department, Columbia County 911 and New York State Police, CCDOH also helps to maintain an Opioid Overdose Dashboard that is located on the CCDOH website. The goal of the dashboard is to ensure that Columbia County residents understand the threat that opioid drugs pose in our community and recognize that overdose deaths affect a wide range of ages, people of any gender identity, and all racial and ethnic groups.





# PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Early Intervention & Preschool  
Immunization

Communicable Disease

STI Clinic

Arthropod Illness

Pool & Beach Regulation

Campgrounds & Children's Camps

Child Passenger Safety

Chronic Disease Interventions

Food Service Inspection

Lead Case Investigation &

Lead Poisoning Prevention

Migrant Labor Camps

Temporary Residences

Mobile Home Parks

Water Supply Safety

Sewage Disposal

Opioid Prevention

Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention (ATUPA)

Rabies Prevention & Control

Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention

Nuisance Complaints

Realty Subdivisions

Public Health Preparedness

Healthy Neighborhoods

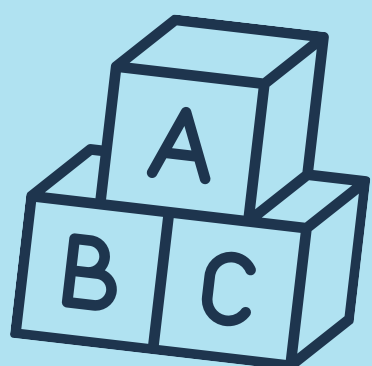
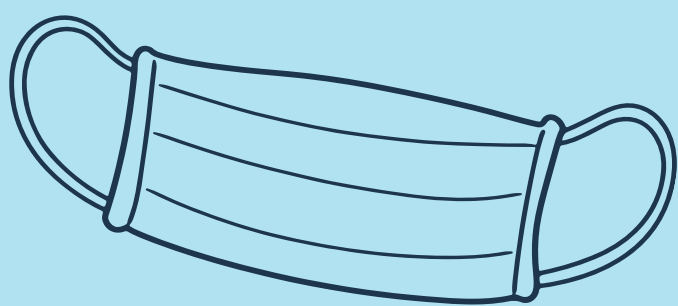
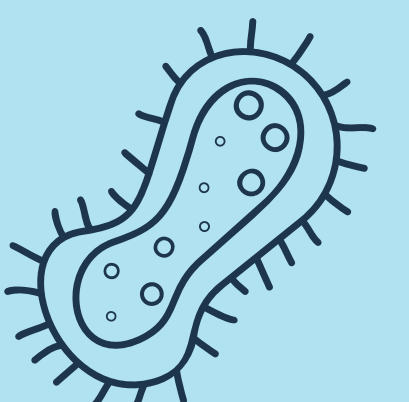
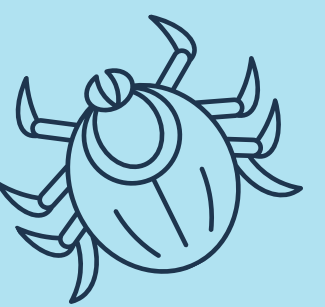
Maternal Child Health (Newborn and Perinatal

Hep B Follow-Up, Perinatal Nurse Navigator)

Public Health Education

Public Health Fellowship

Migrant Farm Worker Program





# 2023 STAFF

Patricia Abitabile

Tara Becker

Marsha Bishop

Samantha Black

Melissa Blass

Adrienne Burger

Alysaa Conn

Edward Coons

Emily Crimmins

Rajkumarie Matthiesen

Lucia Cunningham

Irish Falkner

Pamela Ferber

Alejandro Fernandez

Brenda First

Kristy Frederick

John Mabb

Emily Haigh

Luanne Kline

Colleen Melino

Chloe Meltz

Donna Monska

Timothy Moore

Elizabeth Neale

Christina Nelson

Cailey Nieto

Marissa Pappalardi

Emily Quist

Chelsea Rice

Cheryl Ronsani

Yuleiva Rosa-Brown

Joshua Ryder

Amy Schober

Miranda Utterback



## Management Team

Victoria McGahan

Elizabeth Galle

Anna Papadakis

Magnolia McBroom

## Special Acknowledgements

Matt Murell, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Ananthakrishnan Ramani, MD, Medical Director

### Health & Human Services Committee

Donal Collins, Chair

Kathy Eldridge, Deputy

Robert Lagonia,

Matt Murell,

David Helsey,

Abdus Miah,

Claire Cousin,

Brenda Adams,

Ronald Knott

### Board of Health

Patricia DiGrigoli, President

Alan Topal, DVM, Vice  
President

Patrick Grattan,

Marcia Fabiano,

Wendell Cook,

David Harrison Jr.,

PJ Keeler,

Jane Meicht,

Daniel Melamed, MD,

Anna Maria Assevero, MD

### PAC Committee

Ananthakrishnan Ramani, MD

Patricia Abitabile

Elizabeth Galle

Jennifer DePew

Pamela Ferber

Kristy Frederick

Ashling Kelly

Jack Mabb

Victoria McGahan

Elizabeth Neale



# WELCOME & FAREWELL!

## New Staff in 2023!

Christina Nelson  
Joshua Ryder  
Yuleiva Rosa-Brown  
Samantha Black



## Farewell!

Stacey Anderson  
Phyliss Higgins  
Mary Jason  
Chuck Kaiser  
Jack Mabb  
Janice Nieto



Good luck in all your future endeavors (:

## WHAT'S NEXT IN PUBLIC HEALTH?



“ In 2024, I’m looking forward to helping empower individuals to manage chronic conditions. Cancer is a leading cause of death among Columbia County residents so I’d like to explore grant opportunities that could provide resources and support for those in all aspects or stages after being diagnosed. Resources could include social and emotional support services, screening and transportation assistance, self-management strategies, access to medical supplies and ambulatory assistive devices, meal services, hygiene practices, and more specialized support services. I’ve witnessed how stressful this experience can be and I’d like for residents to have a certain peace of mind knowing that they can turn to CCDOH for help.

*Raj Matthiesen, Bookkeeper* ”

“ We’re excited to expand chronic disease intervention offerings like Bingocize, Walk with Ease, the National Diabetes Prevention Program and the Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program!

*Health Education Division* ”

“ Our 2022-2024 Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan help to frame our work with a health equity lens, ensuring that our public health efforts eliminate disparities and improve opportunities for all community members to lead healthier lives.

*CCDOH* ”

“ What I am looking forward to in Public Health in 2024 is rising to the challenge of addressing emerging and reemerging infectious diseases and finding the human side of these population challenges. Beyond the numbers and statistics, there are real people who want to learn and protect their families. I also look forward to seeing more of a One Health approach, which acknowledges the interconnectedness of human and animal health and encourages partnerships that bridge these two areas.

*Emily Crimmins, PHN* ”