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# Dutchess County Department of Health

## 2012 Annual Performance Report

Marcus J. Molinaro  
County Executive



Michael C. Caldwell, MD, MPH  
Commissioner of Health

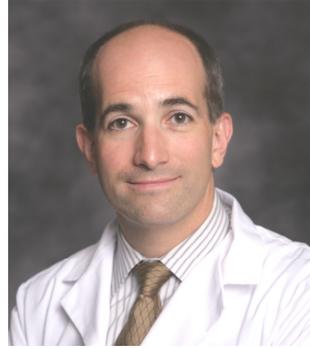
# Dutchess County Department of Health 2012 Annual Report

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the County Executive and the Commissioner of Health .....	3
Board of Health .....	4
Organization Chart .....	6
DCDOH Mission, Vision, and Values .....	7
Public Health Core Functions .....	8
Fiscal Information .....	9
Dutchess County Department of Health Annual Report of Services	
A. Preventing and Reducing the Threat of Diseases .....	10
B. Inform and Empower People about Health Issues .....	19
C. Community Partnerships.....	22
D. Protecting the Health and Lives of Dutchess County Residents .....	25
E. Employee Achievements .....	32
Abbreviations/Acronyms used in this report .....	33



Marcus J. Molinaro  
*Dutchess County Executive*



Michael C. Caldwell, MD, MPH  
*Dutchess County Commissioner of Health*

Dear Dutchess Residents,

Our Department of Health is proud to share its 2012 Annual Report to keep you apprised of the multitude of services we provide.

The Dutchess County Department of Health continues making strides toward preventing and reducing chronic and infectious diseases by informing and educating residents and visitors. We are continuously advancing community partnerships to protect and enhance the health and well-being for all.

We hope you find this publication informational and you gain insight into the scope of services provided to you by the Dutchess County Department of Health. As always, we welcome your input and participation.

Together, we will make Dutchess County a healthier community to live, work, and raise our families.

Healthy regards!

## **REPORT OF THE DUTCHESS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

### Membership

Dr. Lobsang Lungay was appointed as our third physician member, Gerald Hutchings was appointed as Legislative member, and late in 2012, our member from Beacon, Agnes Campanogne, resigned. By the end of 2012, Beacon had not yet nominated a replacement.

With many new members in 2012, the Board began a process of rigorous review of our charter and the State Public Health Law and conducted a series of meetings (open to the public) to develop a strategic approach to our duties, in order to move beyond just responding to events.

### Board Activity

Working closely with Department of Health staff, and staff from the Dutchess County Attorney's office, Mr. Miller and Ms. Nick-Torok continued their extensive review and revision of the Sanitary Code. This is a very large task which will extend into 2013.

Recognizing a need for better communication with public health partners, BOH members began attending meetings of the legislative Tick Task Force, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Health Care Access Panel (HCAP). We also met with Dr. Glatt, Dutchess County Commissioner of Mental Hygiene. The BOH made some use of its advisory role with articles in the Poughkeepsie Journal about dangers of secondhand smoke, and of hookah smoking.

The Public Health Partnership Award was presented at a Dutchess County Legislature meeting, honoring the Health Care Access Partnership (HCAP) and the anchoring volunteers Solange Muller of Hudson River HealthCare and May Mamiya, who recently retired from Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

The initiative of BOH member Karen Desmond, to engage more volunteers in public health activities, was extended to seek volunteers to help municipalities organize and report data obtained from well-water test results.

The BOH noted with some concern that the continued pressure on County resources resulted in retirements and further reductions of key Department of Health (DOH) staff. Although main functions remain intact thanks to the hard work by DOH staff, there are fewer human resources to respond to emergencies, thus undertaking new initiatives is difficult. Retirement of many senior environmental health staff was a concern, but their cooperation has prevented severe impact on our Sanitary Code review.

### Fees

As part of what is now an annual process, the Board reviewed and set fees for various permits and charges for vaccines. We do not intend for the DOH to operate as a profit center, but do believe fees should reflect the effort involved in review and that vaccine charges must change to reflect the increasing cost of vaccines.

### Strategic Review

This process was incomplete in 2012. For some years we have been developing increased concern about the extent of overweight-obesity in the county, which we consider to be a major public health problem. We also suspect that Lyme and other tick-borne diseases are a much larger and more serious problem in the county than the official Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's statistics indicate.

### Other Public Health Events

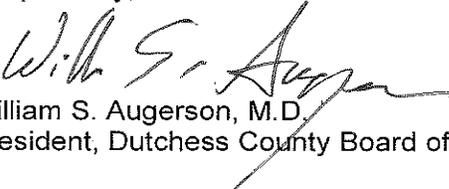
Outbreaks of norovirus in local schools and measles in a nearby private school have taught some important lessons. There were outbreaks of this virus in several school systems to which the DOH responded quickly. However, one school resisted inspections and declined to employ recommended decontamination measures. Some time was spent in correcting the situation. BOH review of the Sanitary Code indicates that the Commissioner has ample authority to insist on inspections and application of control measures for disease outbreaks. School administrators and DOH staff need to be aware of this authority, since time is critical in controlling outbreaks.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease, which produces severe and sometimes fatal illness. Wide use of measles vaccine has eliminated the disease in the United States. A child whose parents had declined immunizations, traveled abroad and on return, developed measles, after which a number of other non-immunized children in the school the child attended, also developed measles. The Commissioner of Health became aware of the outbreak and alerted schools and clinicians in the County. There were no cases in the county, and review of school immunization status indicated high percentages of immunized children. Attention to the prevalence of non-immunized children is indicated.

### NALBOH

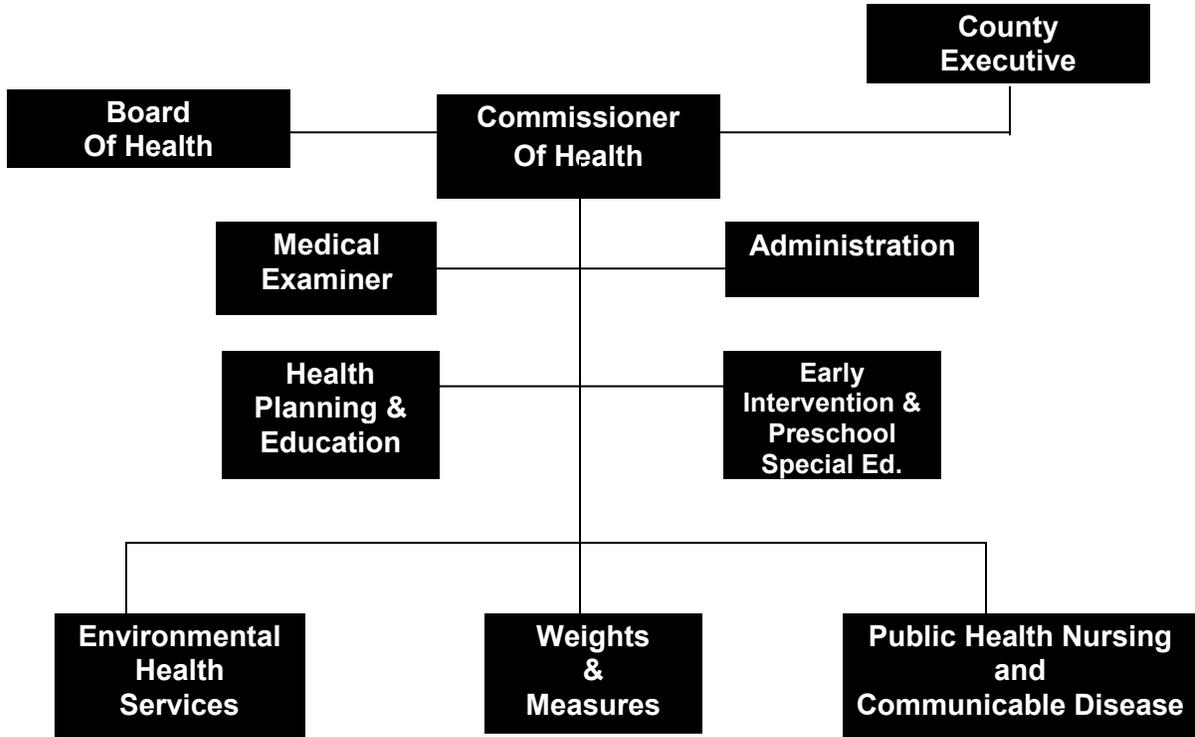
The BOH intends eventually to become certified by the National Association of Local Boards of Health. Some of our work, such as our strategic review is steps to this certification. The costs of such certification are such that we are proceeding slowly on the matter.

Respectfully,

  
William S. Augerson, M.D.  
President, Dutchess County Board of Health

# Dutchess County Department of Health

## *Organizational Structure*



### Dutchess County Department of Health

387 Main Street - Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
 Tel: (845) 486-3400 TTY: (845) 486-3417 Fax: (845) 486-3447

**Weights & Measures**  
 98 Peach Rd, Poughkeepsie  
 (845) 486-2649 (tel)  
 (845) 486-2947 (fax)

**Early Intervention/Pre-School**  
 510 Haight Ave, Ste 105, Poughkeepsie  
 (845) 486-3526 (tel)  
 (845) 486-3554 (fax)

**Beacon District Office**  
 223 Main St, Beacon  
 (845) 838-4800 (tel)  
 (845) 838-4824 (fax)

**Millbrook District Office**  
 131 County House Rd, Millbrook  
 (845) 677-4001 (tel)  
 (845) 677-4020 (fax)

# **DUTCHESS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

## **VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS**

The Dutchess County Department of Health is a diverse group of capable experienced individuals and motivated professionals whose **Mission** is to protect and promote the health of individuals, families, communities, and the environment of Dutchess County.

Our **Vision** is to build on our tradition of excellence, leadership, and compassion, using the best available science and resources to promote the highest standards of Public Health in response to emerging issues to protect and assist our community.

### **We Value ...**

- The practice of prevention
- The on-going assessment of the strengths and health needs of our community
- Research and its application to Public Health practice
- The pursuit of innovative solutions to Public Health practice
- Ethical principles in the work place
- Culturally sensitive, courteous, and respectful treatment of people
- Excellence in all areas of Public Health
- Each other's input to guide decision-making
- Encouragement of staff to develop to their full potential
- Community service and volunteerism
- Public and private partnerships
- Written policies and procedures to guide our daily operations
- Sensitivity and accommodation of special needs populations
- Open and honest communications
- Best use of people and resources
- Respect for and management of confidential information
- A quality work environment and safety in the workplace

# PUBLIC HEALTH CORE FUNCTIONS

The Dutchess County Department of Health is committed to the core functions of Public Health and strives to deliver the essential services necessary for people to live healthy lives. **The Core Functions of Public Health** are:

1. **Assessment and monitoring of the health** of communities and populations at risk to identify health problems and priorities;
2. **Formulating public policies**, in collaboration with community and government leaders, designed to solve identified local and national health problems and priorities;
3. **Assuring that all populations have access** to appropriate and cost-effective care, including health promotion and disease prevention services, and evaluation of the effectiveness of that care.

**The 10 Essential Services: A Vision for Public Health** was released in 1988 by the Institute of Medicine, *The Future of Public Health* ([http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=1091](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=1091)) identified both the core functions and ten essential services required to address the mission of public health.

The following text and graphic demonstrate how the ten essential health services align with the three core functions of public health (assessment, policy development, and assurance).

## **Assessment**

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community

## **Policy Development**

3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts

## **Assurance**

6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health services when otherwise unavailable
8. Assure a competent public and personal health workforce
9. Evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10. Conduct research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems



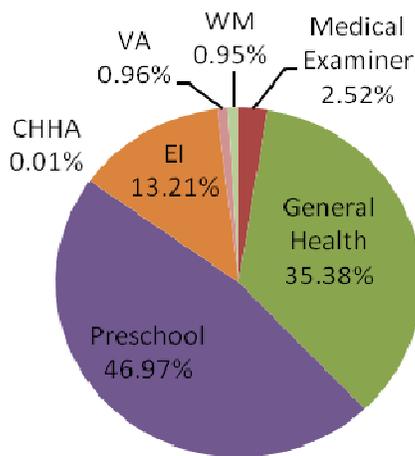
# FISCAL INFORMATION 2012

**Department Budget: \$ 33,546,621**

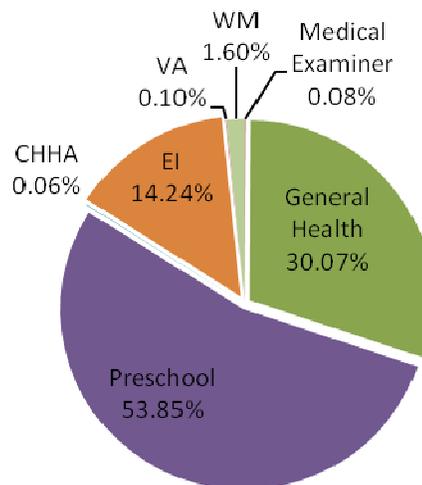
**County Contribution: \$ 16,954,327**

**Other Revenue Sources: \$ 16,592,294**

The Early Intervention (EI) and Pre School Special Education programs together represent 60% of our budget allocation, and also contribute 68% of other revenue sources. The second largest category is General Health which accounts for 35% of our expenditures. General Health includes activities within our Environmental Division, Communicable Disease Control Division, Public Health Nursing Division, and Health Planning & Education Division. Revenues for General Health include State Aid and various grants.



## 2012 EXPENSES



## 2012 REVENUES

## A. PREVENTING AND REDUCING THE THREAT OF DISEASES

### **Prevention of Disease through Vaccination**

#### Seasonal Flu/Pneumococcal Vaccine Program (Flu Information Line – (845) 486-3435)

In 2012, the DCDOH conducted five (5) seasonal flu clinics with approximately **400** residents receiving flu vaccine. The Department conducts these clinics as Points of Dispensing (PODs) in order to maintain our readiness and exercise the skills of staff and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) in the mass distribution of vaccine. The Dutchess County MRC volunteers provided support in each of the public flu PODs filling supervisory positions for several roles to enhance their knowledge, experience, and ability to respond when needed. The Department also coordinated with other flu vaccine providers to ensure access to vaccine across the county.

#### Childhood Immunization Program (845) 486-3409

Children's Immunization Clinics were restructured in 2012 from walk-in clinics to appointments. This reduced wait time for families and allowed more efficient use of nursing staff. Family Health, pediatric providers, and school nurses throughout the county were informed of the change and were instrumental in assisting the Department by informing individuals and families of this program change. Clinic schedules were made available on our website at [www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov).

The Childhood Immunization Program provides all recommended childhood vaccines to Dutchess County children. In 2012, **77%** of the children seen at our public clinics were fully immunized by age two. Evaluation of immunization rates in private medical practices continues to be a priority. The results of the analysis are used to establish accurate immunization levels and to improve immunization rates. This information is also used to target programs and services to areas with the highest rates of under-immunized children.

#### Adult Vaccine Program (845) 486-3409

In 2012, the Department continued to merge the Adult Immunization and Screening Clinic, making it easier and more convenient for residents to access a variety of services in one location at one time. It also enabled a more efficient use of staff time and resources. The Adult Vaccination Program provides vaccination and health screening for HIV and TB to individuals 18 years of age and older. Clinic schedules are made available online ([www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov)).

The Adult Immunization and Screening Clinic provided services to **1272** individuals who received **772** immunizations, **215** HIV screening tests, and **571** tuberculin skin tests. In 2012, the Department partnered with the Merck Vaccine Assistance Program to provide free vaccine to uninsured income-eligible adults resulting in ninety-four (**94**) vaccinations. Other adult vaccine initiatives, in collaboration with the Dutchess County Office of Aging, promoted the use and availability of free Zoster vaccine to eligible senior citizens.

The DCDOH participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Hudson Adult Immunization Coalition Meeting along with more than 75 representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), local health departments, physician practices, hospitals, and residential care facilities. The meeting agenda focused on raising public awareness and development of new initiatives to prevent vaccine preventable illness and disease.

In 2012, Dutchess County experienced a dramatic increase in pertussis case reports with more than eighty (**80**) cases reported to the Department. Community Health Nurses provided hundreds of hours of investigations of individuals potentially infected with pertussis to insure they were getting appropriate medical treatment and follow up. Two (**2**) infants in our county experienced extended hospitalizations due to severe pertussis related illness and complications.

Due to the rapid and severe nature of the pertussis outbreak in our community, the Department launched an intensive outreach campaign to area healthcare providers with additional recommendations for pertussis vaccine, disease identification, and the treatment of pertussis disease. News releases highlighting the importance of vaccination were distributed and a Commissioner's Corner were published in the Poughkeepsie Journal. The Department received 300 doses of state-funded vaccine for distribution to high-risk individuals, including immediate family and caregivers of children less than 12 months of age. One hundred and ninety-three (**193**) were given to high-risk individuals. The remaining vaccine was redistributed to area pediatricians to give to parents of infants wishing to receive vaccination. The Department also collaborated with Dutchess County Department of Social Services to offer vaccine to staff that may come in contact with pregnant women and infants less than 12 months of age.

#### Rabies Prevention Program (845) 486-3404

DCDOH conducted **587** rabies investigations for individuals who may have been exposed to rabies, this is a **20%** increase from 2011. During rabies investigations, the Department works with NYSDOH, other county's Departments of Health, police, and animal control officers.

In August, DCDOH received a report that a county resident was attacked by a beaver while swimming in the Delaware River, resulting in several bite wounds. The beaver was captured, and tested positive for rabies. Rabies post-exposure treatment was initiated. A review of the hospital record revealed the rabies immune globulin was not administered at the site of the wounds. After consultation with the New York State Department of Health, the patient was directed to revisit the hospital to receive the medication properly, which was accomplished.

When a person is bitten by a confirmed rabid animal (or the animal is a rabies vector species and is not available for testing), a post-exposure regimen of treatment is authorized. This is done in conformance with NYSDOH's "Rabies Treatment Algorithm" and guidelines from the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The DCDOH authorized the post-exposure treatment of 47 persons following their exposure to rabid or suspected rabid animals in 2012.

DCDOH submits animals suspected of rabies infection to the Wadsworth Laboratory for testing. This service is coordinated with NYSDOH's rabies exposure investigations and veterinarians. During the 2012 calendar year, a total of **101** specimens were submitted, identifying **3** positives.

The DCDOH hosted three rabies vaccination clinics for **660** dogs, cats, and ferrets in 2012, free of charge for pets of Dutchess County residents. The March clinic was held at the Milan Town Hall, July's clinic at the Town of Poughkeepsie Community Room, and the November clinic was held at the Dover Highway Garage.

#### Tuberculosis Control Program (845) 486-3505

The Department has a comprehensive tuberculosis screening program including screening and treatment of latent and active tuberculosis. In 2012, the DCDOH evaluated **51** persons for tuberculosis disease in the DCDOH Pulmonary Clinic. Eleven (**11**) individuals suspected of tuberculosis were investigated, resulting in the identification of three (**3**) active cases of tuberculosis disease. Two of the three cases were in foreign-born individuals. Both cases were complicated by drug intolerance to first-line treatment regimens, as well as additional medical conditions in these patients. Contact investigations of these cases found **one** additionally infected individual who was treated for Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI). Forty-six (**46**) cases of LTBI were identified and provided with treatment. Eighty percent (**80%**) of the LTBI cases treated were foreign-born individuals. LTBI is not contagious or as serious as active tuberculosis. however, treatment ensures individuals do not develop active disease later in life.

#### Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) / Licensed Home Care Services Agency (LHCSA) (845) 486-3419

In 2012, the Dutchess County Department of Health received approval from the New York State Department of Health to commence operations of a Licensed Home Care Services Agency. The CHHA sale process was ongoing throughout 2012; however, once we received approval to open our LHCSA we began transferring our maternal child health program patients into that program. Transfer of patients into the LHCSA was a requirement of our NYSDOH approved CHHA closure plan.

In 2012, **1,017** visits were conducted to **499** individuals needing home health services through the Department's Community Home Health Agency. The Licensed Home Care Services Agency (LHCSA) remains compliant with NYSDOH regulations for home visiting services. In 2012, **239** visits were conducted to **106** individuals needing home health services.

#### Maternal Child Health Home Visiting Program (845) 486-3419

Public Health Nurses provide education and case management to pregnant and parenting families. These services promote positive parenting skills, teach parents about childhood growth and development, injury prevention, the importance of a medical home, and immunizations for themselves and their children. Injury prevention education focuses heavily on the prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and the avoidance of second-hand smoke. Information is provided regarding early identification of children with special health care needs, education about dental care, healthy eating patterns, and physical activity to address the growing problem of childhood obesity. In 2012, **1,279** visits were conducted to **582** mothers and infants enrolled in our Maternal Child Health Home Visiting Program.

#### Newborn Screening Program (845) 486-3419

In 2012, Public Health Nurses provided coordination and follow up for **10** infants to ensure they received metabolic disease and hearing screenings, mandated under Public Health Law. Hospitals are required to complete these tests during the first 48 hours of the infant's life and regularly refer all infants who have incomplete test results or need follow up screening tests to the Dutchess County Department of Health.

#### Children with Special Health Care Needs Program (CSHCN) (845) 486-3419

The **Children with Special Health Care Needs** program is delivered through the Public Health Nursing Division and provides valuable information to families regarding particular health issues. It also serves as a source of information regarding support systems available in our community. The **Physical Handicapped Children's Program** provides financial assistance, with payment of medical bills, for financially eligible children with severe chronic illnesses and/or physical disabilities. The goal of these programs is to improve access to care and services, assist with linkages to insurance coverage and a medical home. This year, the Children with Special Health Care Needs program serviced **26** families and the Physical Handicapped Children's Program serviced **27** families.

#### Infant Child Health Assessment Program (Child Find) (845) 486-3419

Section 2542 of the Public Health Law requires the DCDOH to implement a **Child Find** system providing for the identification, and screening of children at-risk of developmental delay. Public Health nurses track and periodically screen children at risk of disability to identify them as early as possible and refer them for evaluation to the Early Intervention Program.

Public Health Nurses work with children and their families to ensure the child remains engaged in a medical home (a healthcare provider to provide routine care) and has access to health-related services needed for optimal development in the crucial early years.

Public Health Nurses work closely with the Department of Social Services to provide routine health assessments and developmental monitoring for children in foster care. In addition, Public Health Nurses review the health records of foster care children to ensure medical follow up and immunizations are current, and referrals are made for other healthcare services as needed. In 2012, **93** children were enrolled in the program, forty-three (**43**) of which were in foster care.

#### Early Intervention Program and Preschool Special Education Program (845) 486-3518

**The Early Intervention (EI) Program** for Infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families is established in Title II-A of Article 25 of the New York State Public Health Law and Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The program aims to enhance development of infants and toddlers from birth up to age three who have significant delays or disabilities, and to strengthen the capacity of families to meet their child's special needs.

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), as the lead state agency, is responsible for establishing regulatory standards, including programmatic and fiscal components as well as approval of qualified agencies/individuals to deliver services. In 2012, the Department was responsible for contracting with state-approved qualified providers.

The program components include service coordination, multidisciplinary evaluations, and the development of an Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) for eligible children and families. Services may include family training, counseling, home visits, parent support groups, special instruction, speech pathology, audiology, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. The program also provides psychological services, service coordination, nursing services, nutrition services, social work services, vision services, respite services, and assistive technology devices and services.

In 2012, the Early Intervention Program received **685** referrals and provided services to **1,179** Dutchess county infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families for a total cost of \$3,831,703.

**The Preschool Special Education Program (PSE)**, established through part B of the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Section 4410 of the New York State Education Law, entitles a preschooler (3-5 years of age) with disabilities, to receive appropriate educational opportunities. These opportunities include special programs and services as agreed upon with their respective school district's Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE).

Every year, approximately 1,500 children receive evaluations, special education instruction, speech and motor therapies, and counseling in special education preschool programs either at

home or in daycare. Half the children who receive preschool services do not require further service once they become school-aged and are able to attend regular education programs.

In Dutchess County, the Department is responsible for contracting with qualified professionals for specific related services such as physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, assistive technology, and social work. These services are prescribed on a child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) written with the parent and CPSE members. This plan indicates the type, frequency, and location of the service(s) to be provided. Services may be provided at an approved or licensed pre-kindergarten or Head Start program, at the provider's facility, the child's home, a hospital, a State facility, or a childcare location. Parents attend the service sessions to learn techniques to support their child's development. Busing is provided for families who are unable to supply their own transportation.

In 2012, the Preschool Special Education Program received **974** referrals from the 16 local area school districts and provided services to **1,097** Dutchess County children ages 3-5 for a total cost of \$14,734,228.

Both the EI and PSE programs have responded to the growing number of Spanish-speaking children and families in each program. This has been achieved by contracting with bilingual teachers and therapists in every discipline, as well as collaborating with St. Francis Preschool to provide speech therapy groups for young children with severe delays in their native language.

### Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education Enrollment Trends

Ages 0-2 Early Intervention			Ages 3-5 Preschool Special Education		
Calendar Year	Number of Children	Percent Change	Calendar Year	Number of Children	Percent Change
2008	1,378	---	2008	995	---
2009	1,332	-3.3%	2009	997	.002%
2010	1,244	-6.7%	2010	974	-2.4%
2011	1,118	-11%	2011	1,041	+6.4%
2012	1,179	+5.5%	2012	1,097	+5.4%

#### Childhood Lead Screening and Primary Prevention Program (845) 486-3419

New York State Public Health Law requires healthcare providers screen all children for childhood lead poisoning at one and two years of age and at all well-child visits up to 6 years of age. In addition, hospitals and healthcare providers are required to screen pregnant women for elevated blood lead levels (lead poisoning) as part of prenatal care.

State databases such as LeadWeb and the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) are monitored regularly by Public Health Nurses who track children with elevated blood lead levels to ensure they receive lead poisoning prevention educational materials and medical treatment and follow up.

In 2012, the Department tracked and monitored **6,891** screening tests for lead poisoning conducted by healthcare providers for children living in Dutchess County. In addition, when blood lead levels are 15 mcg or greater, Public Health Nurses provide home visits to pregnant woman and children. They provide case management and referrals to healthcare providers for lead poisoning treatment, education, and lead poisoning risk reduction activities for families. In 2012, through the childhood lead surveillance and case management program, **129** communications to parents of children in Dutchess County with elevated blood lead levels were sent; **15** met the criteria of 15mcg/dL which required investigation by the Department's Environmental Services Division.

In 2012, **30** environmental investigations were done. Staff educated property owners on the results of the investigation, outlined the local, state, and federal regulations to be followed in eliminating the lead hazards, and followed up with field visits and inspections until the lead hazards were mitigated. Sixty (**60**) Public Health Nursing visits were made to provide education and case management services to affected families.

#### Communicable Disease Control (845) 486-3402

Dutchess County Department of Health continues to monitor common and emerging communicable diseases. This is accomplished through active disease surveillance, prompt case investigation, and public immunization clinics to prevent further transmission and stop the outbreak of communicable disease. In 2012, the Communicable Disease Control Division investigated several outbreaks of foodborne illnesses and vaccine preventable diseases, such as mumps and pertussis.

#### Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Clinic (845) 486-3401

The Sexually Transmitted Disease Program remained active in 2012, receiving **709** reports for Chlamydia, which is also the most reported communicable disease in the county. Gonorrhea cases (**110**) represent a slight decline over last year. Early syphilis cases (**15**) are still primarily concentrated in young men who have sex with men (MSM) of color. However this year, a few cases of syphilis were identified in heterosexual females, which is of great concern as it increases the probability of congenital syphilis. Congenital syphilis poses the risk of major infant bone and neurological disorders, as well as potential fetal demise for those who become pregnant while infected.

In 2012, **29** new cases of HIV infection were identified. The County's HIV control program concentrates case finding efforts on working with HIV-infected persons to identify exposed contacts, as opposed to a broad spectrum outreach for those persons believed to be at high risk. Case finding and contact tracing efforts are focused on interviewing, education and long term partnership with the infected and their providers. Through these efforts, Partner Services staff identified and located **61** persons who have been exposed to HIV. Of the 61 persons, **13** were found to be infected with HIV. Access to care and additional referral services were arranged for all persons found to be infected with HIV.

#### Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (845) 486-3565

Dutchess County first became eligible for Ryan White federal emergency funds in 1995, through the original CARE Act (Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act). In October 2009, the legislation was reauthorized as the Ryan White Treatment Extension Act of 2009 and Dutchess County was designated as a Transitional Grant Area (TGA). In 2011, the County was no longer considered eligible for Part A funds and received Part B "compensatory funds" through NYS AIDS Institute. This eased the impact the transition has on the HIV/AIDS continuum of care and local service providers.

In FY 2012, only two programs were funded through this transitional award, Substance Abuse and HIV Case Management. These two services were deemed essential to the HIV care continuum by the former community-based HIV Planning Council.

**Substance Abuse** provided medical or other treatment and/or counseling to address substance abuse problems in an outpatient setting, rendered by a licensed, qualified health professional. **Thirty-one (31)** clients received substance abuse treatment and counseling services.

HIV/AIDS Case Management is client-centered services that link clients with health care, psychosocial, and other support services. Activities include assessment of client's needs and personal support system, development of an individual service plan, monitoring, and reevaluation to determine the effectiveness of interventions. A total of **one hundred and sixty-eight (168)** clients were served between two providers.

#### West Nile Virus (WNV) WNV Info-line (845) 486-3438

In 2012, Dutchess County had **3** confirmed cases of human West Nile Virus. The total number of dead birds reported was essentially unchanged from 2011 (n=30) to 2012 (n=32).

#### Tickborne Disease Infections (845) 486-3534

In 2012, **Arthropod-borne infections** (tick and mosquito-borne diseases) such as Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, Powassan virus, and West Nile Virus remained a focus of the Department's education and prevention efforts. By the end of 2012, Dutchess County cases of

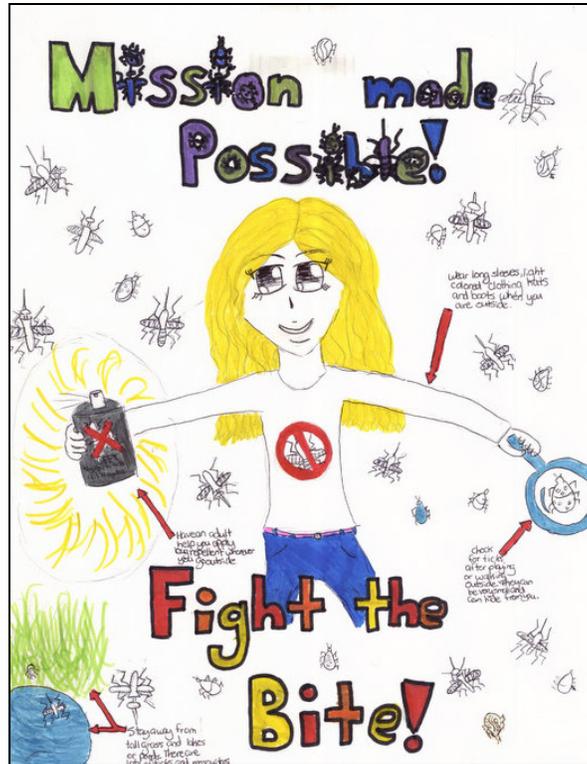
tickborne diseases remain high: Lyme disease (132/435 [*this is an estimate total from sentinel surveillance*]), Anaplasmosis (66)/Ehrlichiosis (1) and Babesiosis (21). There was (1) confirmed case of Powassan virus this year. Although these infections are not as numerous as Lyme, they are potentially life threatening and may cause significant long-term neurological effects. In response, a public health advisory was sent to local healthcare providers reminding them of the signs and symptoms of encephalitis, laboratory testing guidelines, and personal protection for these infections.

DCDOH has various partnerships in the community for tick-borne disease issues. DCDOH continues an active membership on the Legislative Tick Task Force, which consists of local officials, concerned citizens, and patient advocates. This year also concluded a 5-year grant partnership with Bard College. The collaboration was an effort to determine the reservoir host of both Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis.

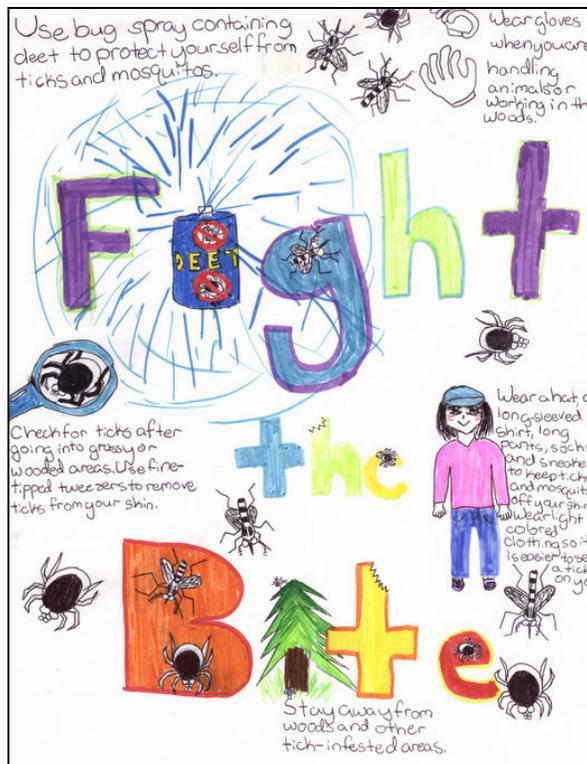
The Department also collaborated with NYS Senator Steven Saland to host two spring public events designed to educate the general public about tick-borne disease prevention. Senator Saland promoted a “town hall” type events with a panel of experts, including DCDOH staff, presenting topics ranging from environmental issues to personal protection of tick-borne diseases. Community members were able to interact and ask questions of the panel after the presentations.

Additional educational efforts include a Lyme Disease Information telephone line for the public to call and listen to tick-borne disease prevention tips. DCDOH also presented to community and work groups, as well as attended local community events, distributing and answering questions regarding tick-borne diseases.

DCDOH continued to promote awareness and prevention of arthropod-borne diseases in our schools. In the fall and spring of 2012, letters were sent to district superintendents and principals of schools with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders about the annual Fight the Bite! Poster campaign, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DEET Education program. In 2012, two Dutchess County students were selected as the winners for New York State, and were honored at a County Legislative meeting during May Lyme Awareness Month. This was the third consecutive year a Dutchess County student won at least one of the two New York State Awards.



**Elena Poon, Beekman Elementary**  
**2012 NYS Winning Entry – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**



**Katrina Poon, Unionvale Middle School**  
**2012 NYS Winning Entry – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

## **B. INFORM AND EMPOWER PEOPLE ABOUT HEALTH ISSUES**

Health information, education, and communication activities are designed to reduce risk and promote better health. All are crucial to ensure a healthy community. Putting Public Health on the community agenda is one of the critical tasks local health departments are called upon to do. The Dutchess County Department of Health accomplished this by increasing its communication with the public through the media, participating in health fairs, community events, as well as engaging in direct community educational presentations.

### Health Communication Activities

Communications and Public Health Information is formulated and disseminated through the **Health Planning and Education Division (HP&E)** by providing continuous, accurate, and timely information for all audiences within the community to increase awareness and help reduce health risks while promoting better health.

In 2012, the Department continued to use a variety of resources to disseminate key information to their myriad audiences, including public health advisories, and the Quarterly Morbidity Report. The Department also provides a featured column in the Dutchess County Medical Society newsletter to educate and inform more than **700** members of the medical community. News releases, a monthly featured Poughkeepsie Journal article, the Commissioner's Corner Webpage, and the Veterinarian Newsletter allow the Department to reach both residents and visitors of Dutchess County.

Through numerous media outlets, community members were informed of health topics including clinics for adults, children, flu and pneumonia vaccination, and rabies vaccination for pets. They also were informed about health surveys, safety, rabies prevention, lead poisoning prevention, and arthropod borne disease like West Nile and Lyme. Additionally, information was distributed for drowning prevention, prescription drug disposal, gastrointestinal illnesses, pertussis, and measles outbreaks in the community, as well as Board of Health and Early Intervention meetings. A vast majority of this information is also available online through the County's website, [www.DutchessNY.gov](http://www.DutchessNY.gov), which resulted in **573,663** hits (visits) to the Department's nearly **1,000** pages in 2012.

**Information telephone lines** were available for individuals to pursue information on health topics such as West Nile Virus (WNV), Lyme, and Adult Public Flu Clinic Program.

Dutchess County Department of Health staff also organized and participated in special events such as Public Health Week, Lyme Disease Month, Go Red, and World AIDS Day. The Department continues to receive requests for presentations from day care providers, camps, colleges, schools, senior centers, faith-based organizations, and the community at large.

### Community Education

The Nutrition/Diabetes and Physical Activity programs are offered to healthcare professionals, schools, seniors, and community residents to promote healthier lifestyle choices. A Public Health Nutritionist provides training to doctors, pediatric nurses, school teachers, and residents on ways to promote healthy eating and physical activity. One hundred and one (**101**) sessions to more than **3300** residents were offered, with programs such as *Portion Distortion* and *Diabetes Guidelines*. Additionally, *Diabetes Awareness Sunday* was presented to faith-based congregants.

The Department offers drowning prevention seminars to lifeguards and the general public interested in learning about drowning victim recognition. In 2012, fifteen (**15**) drowning prevention seminars were conducted, reaching a total of **179** individuals.

Fourteen (**14**) food safety trainings were provided to restaurant owner/operators, food service workers and management in 2012. Approximately **100** individuals were educated about food safety principles and how to implement effective food safety management systems in their food service establishments.

### Dutchess County Prescription Discount Card Program (877) 321-2652

The **NACo Prescription Discount Card Program**, sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo), continued to offer savings to our county residents. This free program, while not an insurance plan, affords all residents assistance in obtaining necessary medications and assists residents whose plans do not cover certain medications.

Cards are issued with no enrollment form, no membership fee, and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. The cards may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage and are accepted at **56** pharmacies throughout the county. A national network of more than **59,000** participating retail pharmacies honors the NACo prescription discount card.

For 2012, the program served **3,586** people, with **8,484** prescriptions covered, yielding a year-to-date total of \$241,003.00 representing **32.41%** price savings for prescriptions filled.

### Dutchess County Dental Discount Program (877) 354-6226

In August 2011, Dutchess County launched a Dental Discount Program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo). Program information was promoted to dentists, pharmacies, community organizations, government agencies, media, and through the county website. With **298** new clients enrolled during 2012, this program provides discounted services for a low monthly fee, saving members 5-50% on dental procedures including routine oral exams, cleanings, denture, root canals, crowns, and more.

### C. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Several initiatives addressing chronic diseases, and access to care continued in 2012. All of these programs involved the community through coalition building and public/private partnerships.

#### HEARTSafe

The **HEARTSafe** program promotes and supports CPR training in the community. It provides public access to defibrillation through strategic placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), early advanced care, and increases the out-of-hospital survival rate. The cornerstone of this program is the designation of **HEARTSafe** Communities to businesses, schools, and organizations who have met or exceeded these requirements, including an AED installed in their facilities. There are currently **55 HEARTSafe** community and municipal organization designations.

#### Operation Heart Beat

The **Dutchess County Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program** has **21** County PAD sites. Forty-six (**46**) AEDs are located throughout Dutchess County Government buildings. Each PAD site has a Site Representative to assist with maintenance of the AEDs. There are currently **337** certified responders at the **21** sites. AED/CPR drills are conducted quarterly on site followed by a review of AED and CPR protocols.

#### Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus

The Department of Health worked with Maternal Infant Services Network to assist with identifying families who may not know they are eligible for health insurance coverage through Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus. Information packets were created in English and Spanish, and distributed at Department of Health clinics and through nursing home visits. Dutchess County school superintendents and principals were also sent packets containing reproducible materials for Child Health Plus, complete with financial guidelines for distribution to their students and parents.



#### HealthCare Access Partnership (HCAP)

HCAP is a multi agency group that meets to help promote healthcare access through advocacy for the uninsured. Through advocacy and the creation and maintenance of linkages between agencies working together, information was successfully shared. Although funding is no longer available, the agencies strong commitment to this mission has allowed them to continue to meet and share information. In addition, HCAP received the **2012 Public Health Partnership Award** presented by the Dutchess County Board of Health.

### Maternal Child Health Partnership

The Department continues to actively partner with local hospitals, healthcare providers, and community-based organizations to promote maternal/child health initiatives such as home visits, education, breastfeeding consultation, development screening and other related maternal-child health concerns to pregnant and post-partum women and their infants. Partners include Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Hudson River Health Care, Dutchess County Healthy Families, the Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network and the Dutchess Breastfeeding Coalition, which held its Seventh Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Walk in August with more than **400** participants, gathered together to raise public awareness about the benefits of breastfeeding.

### Lead Primary Prevention Program

The Dutchess County Department of Health partnered with the City of Poughkeepsie to help prevent childhood lead poisoning. The **Lead Primary Prevention Program** concentrated on City of Poughkeepsie homes within the 12601 zip code. The New York State Department of Health identified this zip code as having the highest annual incidence of Blood Lead Level (BLL) in Dutchess County.

The City of Poughkeepsie Building Department Inspectors conducted **156** housing-unit inspections identifying **46** units with potential lead-based paint hazards and **4** confirmed. Property owners were referred to the DCDOH to obtain training in the US EPA's Lead Safety for Remodeling, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Course. In 2012, **9** RRP Courses were offered to **107** individuals.

A Community Outreach Media campaign included billboards, home shows, Kid's Expo, and health fairs. Knowledge of this serious, preventable public health issue, emphasizes the importance of ensuring children have a blood lead levels tested at ages one and again at age two, or at any time lead exposure is suspected.

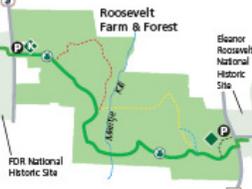
### Great Halloween Candy Exchange Program

**The Great Halloween Candy Exchange (GHCE) Program's** goal is to help reduce the obesity epidemic in children and promote healthier choices. The Department along with Fishkill AllSport, Children's Medical Group, Learning Insights, and The Literacy Connection held the 7<sup>th</sup> annual event. This allowed children to donate their candy in exchange for books, roller skating passes, etc. In 2012, **2,040** pounds of candy was shipped to military personnel on a USS aircraft carrier located in the Indian Ocean and to troops in Afghanistan. Two new collection sites were added this year; Dover and Pawling schools. Since 2006, GHCE committee has shipped **15,380** pounds of candy to military personnel.



## Other Coalitions

The Department of Health continues to work with the Town of Hyde Park Recreation, National Parks Service (FDR and Vanderbilt), and Winnakee Nature Preserve on promotion of the **Hyde Park Healthy Trails Walkabout**. This features **11** trails and a walking promotion, in which individuals can earn a patch by completing **5** of the trails.

<p><b>D. Hackett Hill Park - Woodland and Guinea Community Trails</b> (1.1 mile loop)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland trail (green) easy walking, Guinea Community trail (red) moderate, rough surface.</li> <li>• Park office information desk and seasonal restrooms.</li> <li>• Parking is at the Hackett Hill parking lot, on East Market St.</li> </ul>	<p><b>E. Winnakee Nature Preserve Trail</b> (1.3 mile round trip)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy to moderate walking on dirt-surfaced woods roads with rolling hills.</li> <li>• Solid lines are measured loop, dashed lines are other open trails.</li> <li>• Parking is in back of Pete's Famous Cafe &amp; Grill on Route 9, or at end of Terwilliger Rd. Ext.</li> </ul>	<p><b>F. Roosevelt Woods Trail</b> (3.3 mile round trip)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate walking on dirt-surfaced woods roads with some steep hills. Tulip-tree markers and green blazes.</li> <li>• Henry Wallace Visitor Center info desk, restrooms &amp; seasonal cafe are available.</li> <li>• Parking is at main parking area for the FDR National Historic Site.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>G. Roosevelt Farm Lane Trail</b> (3.6 mile round trip)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy walking on gravel-surfaced woods roads with gently rolling hills.</li> <li>• Bicycling permitted March - November on Farm Lane. No biking on Red, Yellow, Blue or any other trails.</li> <li>• Parking at Rt. 9 trailhead, just north of Hyde Park Steakhouse &amp; Brewing Company, or at Rt. 9G across from Val-Kill entrance.</li> </ul>	<p><b>H. Eleanor's Walk</b> (1.0 mile loop) <b>I. Top Cottage Trail</b> (2.0 mile round trip)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate walking on woodland paths with some steep hills on both Eleanor's Walk (red) and Top Cottage Trail (tulip-tree leaf marker).</li> <li>• Visitor Center information desk and restrooms are available seasonally.</li> <li>• Parking is at the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site parking lot.</li> </ul>	<p><b>J. Blue Trail</b> (2.4 mile one-way) <b>K. White Trail</b> (1.75 mile one-way)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enter &amp; park at Mills Mansion, walk down paved road toward river.</li> <li>• Hike J: Moderate to steep walking. Rolling hills on paved and woods roads with river views.</li> <li>• Hike K: Moderate walking along river path. From Mills Mansion take Blue Trail to White Trail.</li> </ul>	
			<p><b>The Hyde Park Trail</b> system includes nearly 16 miles of trails linking parks and historic sites in the town of Hyde Park, NY. The members of the Hyde Park Trail Partnership and many dedicated volunteers have worked since 1988 to build these trails for local residents and visitors alike.</p> <p><b>Enjoy them!</b></p> 

Department personnel continue to participate in various other coalitions including the Eastern Dutchess Rural Health Network, Dutchess County Housing Consortium, American Cancer Society, Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrition Advisory Council (NAC), Dutchess Healthy Partnership, American Heart Association, and the Children Services Providers Network.

## D. PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND LIVES OF DUTCHESS COUNTY RESIDENTS

### Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety

The Department of Health is responsible for the enforcement of the Dutchess County Sanitary Codes, and through agreements with NYSDOH, enforces many sections of the New York State Sanitary Code. These Codes address a multitude of public health issues, including oversight of the food industry, the protection of our drinking water supply, the enforcement of clean air standards, and the follow up of hazards and exposure-related diseases identified in occupational and community settings.

Enforcement of the Sanitary Code includes unannounced regular inspections to determine and assure compliance with current regulations. During these inspections, violations are cited, and hearings and penalties may follow when code items are out of compliance. The tables below highlight the enforcement actions as well as community sanitation activities occurring in 2012. Community Sanitation includes: food served in restaurants and hot dog trucks, hotels/motels, children's camps, day care centers, sewage systems, water supplies, residential housing, and nuisances.

### COMMUNITY SANITATION

<u>Service Type</u>	<u># Completed</u>
<u>Food service inspections and re-inspections</u>	<u>2802</u>
<u>Nuisance field visit and complaint investigations</u>	<u>500</u>
<u>Subdivision and individual lot inspection/re-inspection</u>	<u>326</u>
<u>Residential Sanitation (housing) and complaint investigations</u>	<u>361</u>
<u>Residential Lead investigation field services</u>	<u>115</u>
<u>Animal bite/Rabies investigations</u>	<u>587</u>
<u>Rabies specimens to Albany for testing</u>	<u>101 with 3 positives</u>
<u>Rabies post-exposure treatments</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Drowning prevention seminars</u>	<u>15 (179 attendees)</u>
<u>Food safety training</u>	<u>14 classes (100 attendees)</u>

### Weights and Measures

This Division carries out inspections of commercial scales, gas pumps, home heating fuel delivery meters, package commodities, scanner, and item pricing found in retail establishments to assure consumers of their accuracy. Through the New York State Petroleum Quality Program, inspections of gasoline and diesel fuels were performed heightening consumer confidence that the petroleum products they purchase meet the labeling standards. In 2012, **866** inspections were completed, including **4,194** device inspections in **627** Dutchess County establishments.

### Clean Indoor Air, Tobacco Sales, and Tobacco Use

The New York State Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA) prohibits the sale of tobacco products, including cigars, cigarettes, and chewing tobacco to minors less than 18 years of age. It also requires retailers to obtain positive proof the person buying these products is 18 years of age and older. The Dutchess County Sanitary Code requires retailers to obtain a County permit in order to sell tobacco products and electronic cigarettes.

Routine checks are done in order to verify compliance with current ATUPA regulations. These checks include the use of underage youth to verify businesses are not selling age-restricted tobacco products to minors and to confirm valid permits and signage are properly displayed.

When a store has been ordered not to sell tobacco products, adult compliance checks are conducted to ensure tobacco products are not being sold during the restricted periods.

Between April 1 and December 31, 2012, there were **18** ATUPA violations resulting in **\$10,500** in penalties. **Three** retailers with prior tobacco sales to minor violations were assessed a fine, a six month suspension of their State and County tobacco permits, and their Lottery licenses.

There were **316** retail tobacco vendors and one tobacco vending machine under permit with the Department at the end of 2012. As of April 1, 2012, the grant period for the ATUPA program was changed from October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Since the beginning of the new grant period, **306** compliance checks were conducted with minors at tobacco retail establishments and vending machines throughout the county. Thirty-three (**33**) compliance checks with adults were also completed. Adult compliance checks are done at specific businesses that may not be appropriate for minors; they are also done to confirm facilities with suspended permits are not selling tobacco products. As a result of these efforts, sixteen (**16**) tobacco retailers were cited for selling tobacco products to minors.

The Department also enforces the **Clean Indoor Air Act** at bars, restaurants, places of employment, and open to the public, and investigated **18** complaints of indoor smoking in 2012.

### Environmental Hazards

The DCDOH reviews spill reports to the Department by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). These spill reports are evaluated for potential impacts on nearby public and private water supplies. The Department of Health also reviews the results of water samples collected to monitor water treatment systems installed at spill sites and advises NYSDEC if and when water test results meet the criteria for removal of water treatment systems. The Department also coordinates the response to Indoor Air Quality issues arising from oil spills in private residences and commercial buildings. In 2012, there were **347** reported oil spills in Dutchess County.

In 2012, the Environmental Health Assessment program continued its transition away from its previous radiological activities by returning these responsibilities to New York State Department of Health. Many tasks remained in traditional areas, including Childhood Lead Poisoning, chemical spill response, indoor air quality and complaints (asbestos, radon, mold, and toxins), public health nuisances, tanning facility inspections, technical guidance for private on-site water supplies, and Preparedness/Response Readiness.

The Environmental Health Assessment program devoted efforts to respond to other complaints and issues affecting or referred to DCDOH, in areas such as outdoor air quality/environmental contamination. Examples of these are responding to public concerns over radiofrequency and electromagnetic emissions from microwave and cellular phone towers, and legislative inquiries regarding neighborhood notification laws for pesticide application, as well as responses to inquiries about ozone standards, and complaints of wood-boiler outdoor heating systems, and the recall of synthetic cannabinoids. The year also saw an increase in involvement in the NYS Lead Primary Prevention Initiative, including follow-up inspections, dust wipe reimbursement, and distribution of remediation supplies as incentives to property owners for repairs and renovations of deteriorated paint.

Other noteworthy activities include the replacement of the aging radioactive source material in the Department's X-Ray Fluorescence meter for lead paint and an inventory of surplus radiological equipment to be turned over to the state.

According to the Dutchess County Sanitary Code and the NYS Public Health Law, tanning devices are to be inspected every two years. In 2012, only five facilities needed to be inspected, as many were inspected in 2011.

#### Public Water Supplies (PWS)

The Department regulates approximately **670** public water supplies (PWS). In the city of Beacon and the city and town of Poughkeepsie, approximately 100,000 people rely on public water. This represents one-third of the population of Dutchess County. These larger community supplies, along with smaller public water supplies, are monitored by the Environmental Health Services' Engineering Section. Water supplies at facilities under permit (restaurants, motels, camps, day care centers, etc.) are inspected by public health sanitarians. There are approximately **250** of these water supplies. The remaining supplies, nearly **300**, are monitored by the Department's Water Enhancement Program staff.

During 2012, as a result of more than **700** inspections, re-inspections, and sanitary surveys at public water supplies, approximately **300** violations were issued. The most common violations were: failure to monitor for contaminants in a timely manner, incomplete or unacceptable reporting by the supplier of water, the presence of a cross-connection between potable and non-

potable water, unsatisfactory operation of treatment equipment, source water pollution, failure to maintain disinfection chemicals at proper concentrations, and modification to the treatment system without approval. During 2012, **7,720** bacteriological samples were collected by water suppliers and the Department. Any positive sample results were addressed by the Department.

A large share of field investigation and data processing involving public water supplies is the responsibility of the water program is partially supported under a New York State grant, and is audited quarterly by the NYS Department of Health's Bureau of Water Supply Protection and evaluated for a variety of qualifying parameters. The NYS Department of Health also evaluates any significant non-compliance issues for the public water supplies in the county on a monthly basis. The Department EHS Water Program is often referenced by NYS Department of Health as a complex, well-organized program.

### Engineering

The Dutchess County Department of Health engineers approved **188** plans for subdivisions, individual lots, commercial properties, public water and sewerage systems, and public swimming pools during 2012; including water and sewer connections for the Culinary Institute of America Hotel and Conference Center, Bard College Alumni Center, Poughkeepsie Water Main at Metro-North Bridge, Maple Brook School Dining Hall and Residence Hall, Rhinebeck Village Police Department Sewage Disposal System, and the Village of Red Hook Well Field Improvements among others. Additional reviews during 2012 include: Village of Rhinebeck water main relocation, Dogwood Knolls Public Water Supply filtration, and Dover Junior/Senior High School water system modification

The Department's Engineering Unit continues to provide technical assistance and support to town and village officials, residents, and developers on water and sewage systems, as well as treatment options when dealing with contamination.

### Maintaining Public Health Preparedness

The Department maintains its ability to protect the health of residents by using an all-hazards approach in response to public health emergencies. In 2012, the Department continued to enhance their public health preparedness roles and responsibilities of surveillance, community mitigation, risk communication, and medical countermeasure distribution through planning, participation in community exercises, and responding to real-time events.

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) continues to be an integral part of maintaining public emergency preparedness. Besides deployment for the Department's Public Flu Clinics and shelter operations, the MRC conducted multiple training/drill sessions utilizing numerous volunteers for education during the 2012 calendar year.



In October 2012, the Department prepared for Hurricane Sandy utilizing the Health Annex of the Dutchess County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), including mitigating the health effects of the hurricane through the use of risk communication strategies and outreach to particularly vulnerable and at-risk populations. The Department sent an e-mail to public water supply operators prior to the storm to encourage them to take steps to prepare for the event. In addition, the Department sent a Public Health Advisory to all medical facilities and physician practices to provide advance guidance regarding the management of vaccine supplies in the event of a power failure. The Department was represented at the County Emergency Operations Center by the Commissioner of Health, public health nurses, and environmental sanitarians ready to respond to public health needs as necessary.

Following the hurricane, public water supply operators were contacted to assess the impact of the storm. These efforts focused on the towns of Pawling and Dover as these municipalities were without electricity and experienced flooding. Though multiple facilities were out of power or running on generators, most had their electricity restored by November 1, 2012. One community, however, was without power until approximately November 6, 2012. In addition, operators at the Poughkeepsie Water Treatment Plant reported the flooding of the Hudson River was about to inundate their intake pump chamber at the height of the overnight high tide. In preparation for the storm, they had their reservoir full and the intake chamber shut down. Normal operations were resumed the day after the storm.

### Medical Examiner's Office

The Dutchess County Medical Examiner's Office strives to inform, educate, and support all County and State agencies concerned with sudden, unexpected, or suspicious deaths in previously healthy individuals, violent deaths due to homicide, suicide, or accident, pediatric deaths, deaths at the work place, and deaths in custody. The Medical Examiner's Office is also actively involved in investigating patterns of drug abuse along with law enforcement and other County agencies.

Construction of the new Medical Examiner facility began in the fall of 2011, with completion scheduled for spring 2013. The Medical Examiner participated in weekly meetings with the construction crew and staff from the Dutchess County Department of Public Works.

A total of **770** cases were reported to the Medical Examiner's Office in 2012; **176** cases (228%) required a full autopsy; in addition there were **54** external examinations, **79** certifications, and **8** consultations.

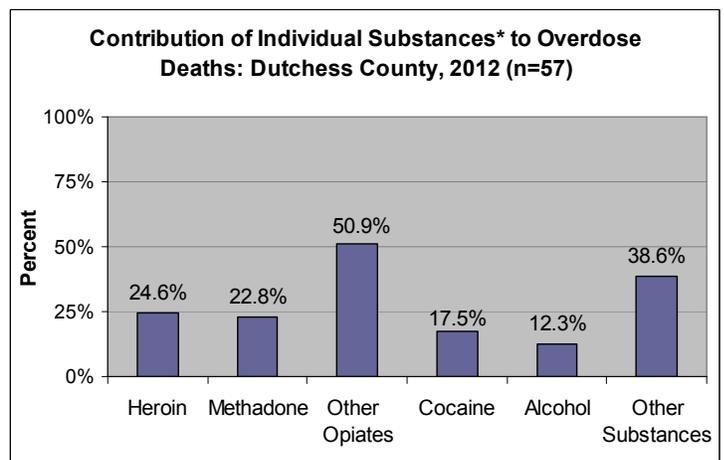
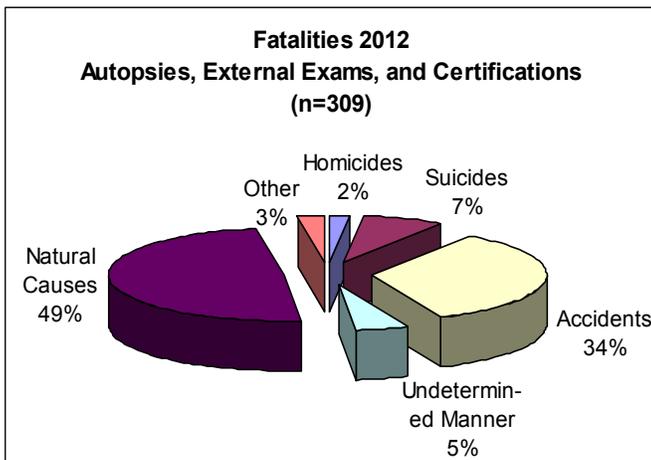
During the week of May 14-18, 2012, the Dutchess County Medical Examiner's Office and Office of Emergency Management hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Regional Mass Fatality Management Training and Exercise at the Emergency Response Center in Hyde Park. The three-day event was designed to test the NY/NJ/CT/PA Regional Catastrophic Planning team's ability to respond to a mass fatality event in an outlying jurisdiction, activate the Fatality Management Branch within the Operations Section of the Incident Command System (ICS) structure, exercise disaster morgue operations, and discuss the complexities of setting up a local Family Assistance Center. The Exercise drew a large number of local, regional, and national participants as well as an international delegation from Canada. A tremendous amount of equipment and resources were effectively deployed in support of the operation. On the whole, the exercise bolstered the Regional Plan while bringing to light new planning and operational challenges for Dutchess County, and was a resounding success.

## Medical Examiner Cases:

Autopsies, External Exams & Certifications by Manner of Death					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>*Total Cases Reported</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>770</b>
Autopsies (A)	204	207	200	220	176
Externals (E) & Certifications (C)	111	145	109	113	133
<b>Total A+E+C</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>309</b>
<b>Total Violent Deaths</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>149</b>
Homicides	6	6	15	8	6
Suicides	26	27	36	31	23
Vehicular Accidents	32	29	11	37	17
Accidental Overdoses	24	28	36	32	50
Other Accidents	27	34	27	41	38
Undetermined Manner	13	12	11	7	15
<b>Natural Causes</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>

\* Total cases reported include consults and declined cases and are not charted.

**Note:** Other cases include deaths in utero, skeletal remains, and violence against animals, which do not fit into the other categories.



\*Note: 54% of deaths involved more than one substance

## E. EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENTS



### Dutchess County Commissioner's Award NYS Public Health Works! Honor Roll

As the Coordinator of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the Lead Primary Prevention Program at the Dutchess County Department of Health, **Wendy Johnson** demonstrates leadership in the pursuit of program goals and essential public health services. Through Wendy's timely follow-up, teaching and case management, she has assisted children and families in accessing medical care and alternative housing. She works closely with Environmental Health colleagues to assess housing for lead hazards and has been instrumental in guiding families to healthy outcomes.

Wendy has gained the trust and respect of medical providers throughout the community. She completes lead assessment and educational visits to pediatric and family practice offices, which has been successful in increasing the numbers of physicians who routinely test their patients for lead levels at guideline ages of one and two. Additionally, she has been supportive to physician practices by assisting them with implementation of new technology whenever possible.

Wendy has accomplished all of the essential public health services as they pertain to the problem of lead poisoning, prevention and control in Dutchess County.

### Abbreviations/Acronyms Used in this Report

AED	Automated external defibrillators
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ATUPA	Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act
BOH	Board of Health
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CHHA	Certified Home Health Agency
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CPSE	Committee on Preschool Special Education
CSHCN	Children with Special Health Care Needs
DCDOH	Dutchess County Department of Health
EI or EIP	Early Intervention or Early Intervention Program
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FDR	Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
GHCE	Great Halloween Candy Exchange
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICHAP	Infant Child, Health Assessment Program (ChildFind)
ICS	Incident Command System
IEP	Individualized Education Plan
IFSP	Individualized Family Services Plan
LHCSA	Licensed Home Care Services Agency
MD	Doctor of Medicine
MPH	Master in Public Health
MRC	Medical Reserve Corps of Dutchess County
MSM	Men who have sex with men
NALBOH	National Association of Local Boards of Health
NAC	Nutrition Advisory Council
NACo	National Association of Counties
NY/NJ/CT/PA	New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania
NYS	New York State
NYSDOH	New York State Department of Health
NYSIIS	New York State Immunization Information System
PAD	Public Access Defibrillation Program
PHN or PHND	Public Health Nurse / Public Health Nursing Division
POD or PODs	Point of Distribution clinics
PSE	Preschool Special Education
PWS	Public Water Supplies
RRP	Remodeling, Repair, and Painting Course
STI / STDs	Sexually Transmitted Infections / Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TGA	Transitional Grant Area
WEP	Water Enhancement Program
WNV	West Nile virus