

Dutchess County

Department of Health

2013 Annual Report

Dutchess County Department of Health 2013 Annual Report

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Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive



Kari Reiber, MD
Dutchess County Commissioner of Health

Dear Dutchess County Residents,

We are pleased to present the 2013 Annual Activity Report for the Dutchess County Department of Health. Our Annual Report illustrates the Department's efforts to promote the health and wellbeing of Dutchess County residents through a broad range of evidence-based activities.

During the year we moved our administrative offices to renovated space within the Poughkeepsie Journal Building at 85 Civic Center Plaza, inaugurated the newly constructed Medical Examiner's Office on Washington Ave, and opened our public health clinic at the family Partnership Center.

The Department released the 2013-2017 Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan, the culmination of a multi-year process involving the collaboration of many agencies across Dutchess County including County government, area hospitals, and non-profit community partners. The Plan identifies four priority issues to improve the health of our community:

- 1) Reduce Childhood and Adult Obesity
- 2) Increase Access to Preventive Healthcare and Improve Management of Chronic Disease
- 3) Reduce Tick and Insect-Related Diseases
- 4) Reduce Substance Abuse

We encourage everyone to join us by taking steps as simple as promoting healthy foods, increasing physical activity, starting a worksite wellness program, or getting involved in local efforts. Together, we can make Dutchess County a healthier community in which to live, work, and raise our families.

With our best wishes for a healthy Dutchess!

REPORT OF THE DUTCHESS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Board members:

William S. Augerson, MD, President
Robert Irving Miller, RN, Esq., Vice President
Helen Bunyi, RN, Secretary
Joseph Calabro, MD
Karen Desmond, RN
Gerald Hutchings, County Legislator
Lobsang T. Lhungay, MD
Charis B. Nick-Torok, Esq.
Michael S. Witkowski

Committees:

Strategic Planning Committee
Dutchess County Health Disparities
Smoking and Tobacco
Sanitary Code
Anti-Obesity Committee

In 2013, the Board chose to focus on promoting community interest in the fight against obesity. Community health partners and other agencies were invited by the Board to a "Healthy Dutchess" Forum on November 19, at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. More than 40 people attended, sharing information and providing insight into what their agency was doing to combat obesity. It was a very successful opportunity for all attendees to network and learn about existing programs that incorporate obesity prevention strategies.

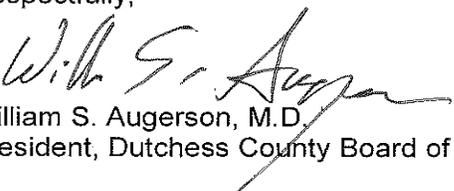
In April, the Board presented Public Health Partnership Awards to Alan Muhlneckel, Director of Food Services, Poughkeepsie City School District; Genesis Program of Hudson River Health Care; The Elymenators, an Arlington High School Student Research Team led by Maribel Pregnall; and The Dutchess County Tick Task Force. The Awards were presented on April 8th in the Dutchess County Legislative Chambers.

On June 20, a Public Hearing was held by the Board to propose the following amendments to Articles 5, 17, 18, and 22 of the Dutchess County Sanitary Code: Article 5 (Public Water Supplies), adding language to Section 5.2 which concerns supplier requirements; Article 17 (Mass Gatherings) amending sections 17.4, 17.7, 17.8 and 17.9 concerning permits, insurance requirements, proof of financial resources, variances, and waivers for mass gatherings; Article 18 (Public Functions With Attendance of 5,000 Or More People) amending Sections 18.1(D), 18.2(E)(13), 18.3(B), 18.5(B), adding a new Section 18.7 concerning variances, and a new Section 18.8 concerning waivers; Article 22 (Child Day Care Facilities and Nursery Schools) amending Section 22.1(A), the definitions section, to include "school-age child care program" in the definition of a "Child Day Care Facility" and amending Sections 22.2, 22.43, 22.4, 22.6, 22.7, 22.9, and 22.10. The amendments passed without opposition and were forwarded to the New York State Department of Health for review and filing.

The Board approved a formal sliding scale for fees charged at the Department of Health's Clinic, updated fees for vaccines, and an increase in the medical examiner's fee for inmate autopsies. At the October meeting, the Board unanimously endorsed the Environmental Services Division's proposals of implementing the Sanitary Code Article 5 Permit for Public Water Supplies and establishing a Violation Fee for non-compliance.

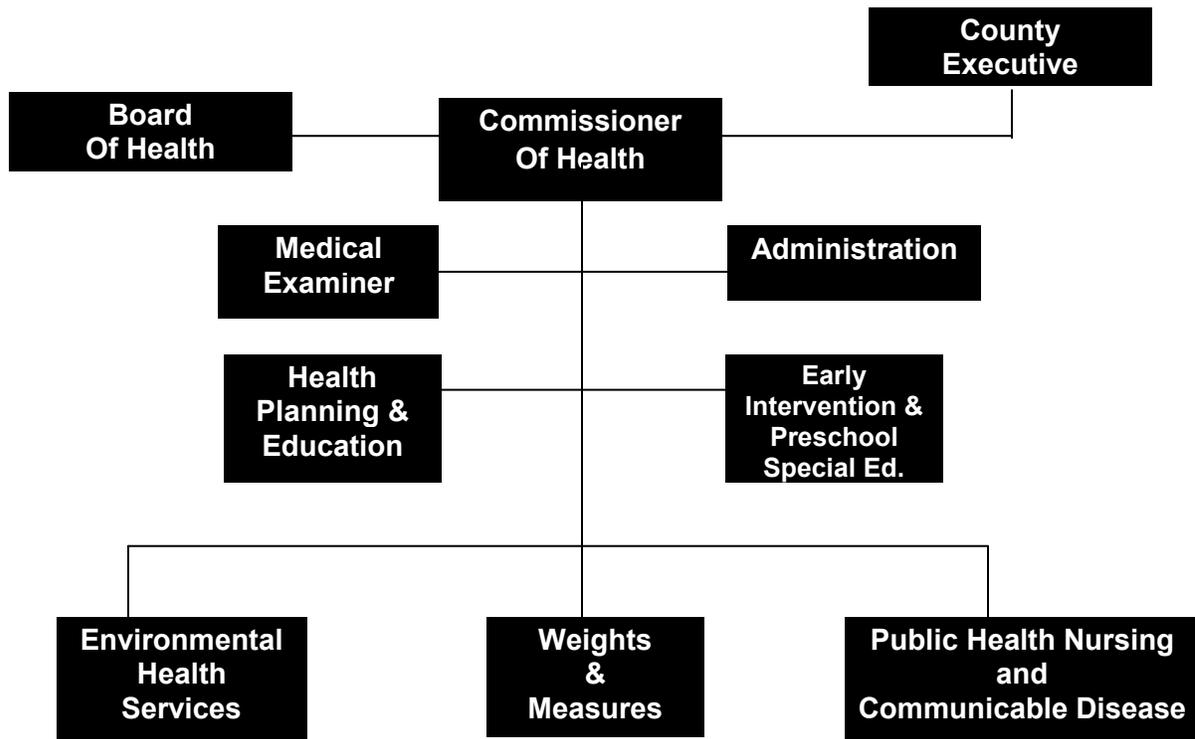
Throughout the year, several presentations were given to the Board by both Department of Health staff and community partners, on a variety of topics of public health concern, including obesity and nutrition, Disinfectant By-Products (DBPs) produced as a result of using chlorine in water sources, the 2013 Community Health Survey, the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and the Department's Lead Prevention Program.

Respectfully,


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

Dutchess County Department of Health

2013 Organizational Structure



Dutchess County Department of Health

85 Civic Center Plaza - Suite 106 - 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)

Medical Examiner's Office

168 Washington Street, 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)

Public Health Clinics (at the Family Partnership Center)

29 North Hamilton Street – Suite 109, Poughkeepsie
 (845) 486-3535

DUTCHESS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

The Dutchess County Department of Health is staffed by a diverse group of dedicated, experienced 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) 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

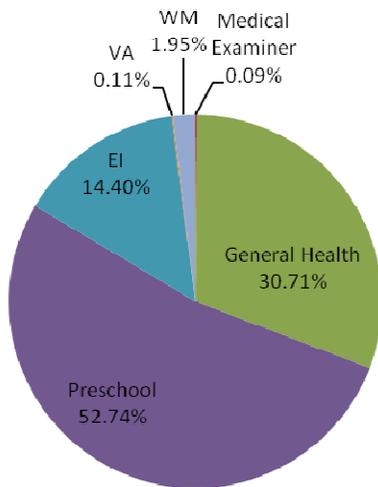
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health services when otherwise unavailable
8. Assure a competent public and personal health workforce
9. Evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality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



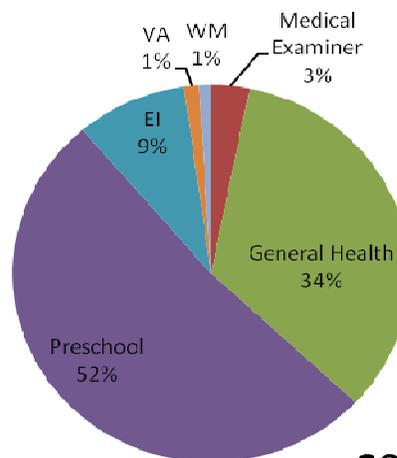
FISCAL INFORMATION

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Medical Examiner	\$ 14,483	\$ 14,094
General Health	5,032,224	4,988,202
Preschool	8,642,598	8,932,223
EI	2,359,331	2,361,240
VA	18,222	17,058
WM	319,124	264,712
CHHA	-	9,227
Physically Handicap	-	5,538
Total	<u>\$ 16,385,982</u>	<u>\$ 16,592,294</u>

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Medical Examiner	\$ 974,960	\$ 845,383
General Health	10,622,981	11,867,592
Preschool	16,246,395	15,757,313
EI	2,830,181	4,430,915
VA	375,146	320,882
WM	308,149	320,144
CHHA	-	4,392
Total	<u>\$ 31,357,812</u>	<u>\$ 33,546,621</u>



2013 REVENUES



2013 EXPENSES

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

The Public Health Nursing Division works collaboratively with healthcare providers, County departments, and community-based agencies to identify gaps and implement strategies to improve the health of our community. Public health programs focus on family and child health, children with special health care needs, childhood lead poisoning, and chronic disease prevention. Additionally, the Division coordinates the Public Access Defibrillator Programs including certifying County employees in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and Public Health Preparedness activities.

Family and Child Health

In 2013, **893** pregnant and parenting women, infants, and children were served and **1,074** home visits were conducted by Public Health Nurses, providing services mandated by New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Public Health Nurses work directly with families to provide health and nutrition assessments, health education and counseling, assistance with access to health and dental insurance programs, and referrals to primary and specialty healthcare providers and community agencies.

The Public Health Nursing Division also maintains active partnerships with local hospitals, healthcare providers, and community-based organizations promoting family and child health. Public Health Nurses conduct educational programs for a variety of community agencies and partners. In 2013, the following educational programs were conducted:

- *Education for Adolescent and Special Needs Parents* - Children's Home Adolescent Mothers Group, Dutchess County Teen Parent Program, Child Abuse Prevention Center, Special Needs Parent Support Group, and Dutchess County Healthy Families Parent Support Group.
- *Women's Health: Preconception and Interconception Health, Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases* - Hudson Valley Regional Perinatal Network Regional Community Health Education Day at the Galleria Mall, Poughkeepsie.
- *Family and Child Health Programs and Services* – Astor's 14th Annual Family Fun Festival, Astor Early Head Start Annual Staff Development Day, Dutchess County Court and Probation Employees Health Fair, Children's Services Network, and Dutchess County Health Families Advisory Committee.
- *Breastfeeding Promotion* - 12th Annual Hudson Valley Regional Perinatal Public Health Conference in Tarrytown, Mid Hudson Lactation Consortium Quarterly Meeting, and the Annual Dutchess County Breastfeeding Coalition Meeting.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

This program is a collaborative effort between the Public Health Nursing and the Environmental Health Divisions to provide case management for children with lead poisoning. Environmental inspections are held to evaluate for lead hazards in homes and properties where children with lead poisoning live and play.

In 2013, seven (7) children with lead poisoning (>15 mcg/dl) received twenty-five (25) Public Health Nursing visits for case management, nutrition education and counseling, and lead poisoning risk reduction education.

Eight (8) environmental investigations (7 primary addresses, 1 secondary address) were conducted by the Environmental Health Division to educate property owners on identifying lead hazards and local, state, and federal regulations to be followed to eliminate the lead hazards. Follow up environmental investigations were also conducted to ensure lead hazards have been mitigated.

Public Health Nurses provide continuous surveillance of children who are screened for lead poisoning through the NYSDOH LeadTrak database. In 2013, 226 notification letters were sent to parents advising repeat screening and pediatric follow up for children with elevated lead levels of 5-9 mcg/d. These blood lead levels, although not yet critical, require intervention and monitoring to ensure they decrease. Public Health Nurses also provide lead poisoning prevention education, technical support, and referrals to the Regional Lead Poisoning Resource Center for healthcare providers, WIC nutrition programs, school nurses, and parents of children with lead poisoning.

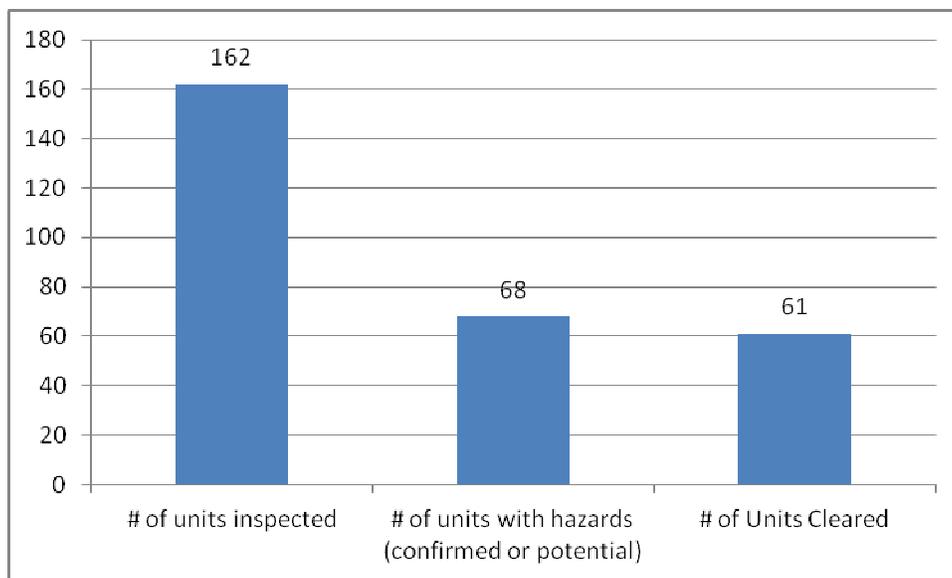
Public Health Nursing Outreach and Education	
Family and Child Health	
Educational Programs	22
Program Participants	867
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention	
Outreach and Education	135
Individuals reached	1,334

Lead Primary Prevention Program - Housing Intervention

Primary Prevention focuses on the early identification and reduction of lead hazards to prevent childhood lead poisoning. The Dutchess County Department of Health partners with the City of Poughkeepsie to evaluate for lead hazards in homes within the 12601 zip code, an area identified by the NYSDOH as having the highest incidence of childhood lead poisoning in Dutchess County. Properties are selected for inspection based on a number of factors, including age of the building, presence of children, and referrals from local agencies who work with DCDOH Public Health Nursing.

In 2013, **100** properties consisting of **168** units/apartments were inspected for the presence of lead, with **105** children in residence. Half of all unit/apartment inspections resulted in the identification of potential lead hazards inside the apartments. Potential exterior hazards were identified in **40%** of properties. While the greatest risk of lead exposure to a child is indoors, exposure risks are also present outside the premises, particularly during the spring and summer months.

*Childhood Lead Primary Prevention Program Data
2013 Housing Intervention
Within the 12601 Zip Code*



Children with Special Health Care Needs

The Children with Special Health Care Needs Program provides information, education, and referrals for families of children with special health care needs. Information includes support agencies and services in our community, as well as financial assistance to parents of physically handicapped children. The goals of these programs are to improve access to care and services, and to assist with linkages to insurance coverage and a medical home. In 2013, the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program serviced **41** families, with **17** families receiving financial assistance for physical handicap services.

In March 2013, Public Health Nurses participated in the Annual March of Dimes Student Convocation Event at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park with **250** adolescents and young adults in attendance. Public Health Nurses set up an educational exhibit to provide information and education about children with special health care needs, services, and family and child health programs.

Public Health Nurses provide tracking and follow up for NYSDOH referrals from the Newborn Metabolic Screening Program, which mandates hospitals to provide comprehensive metabolic screening for infants at birth. Infants who need to be tested or re-tested are referred to Public Health Nurses for tracking and follow up.



EARLY INTERVENTION & PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) aims to enhance the 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. Program components include service coordination, multidisciplinary evaluations, and the development of 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.

New York State Bureau of Early Intervention (BEI) took over the fiscal management of Early Intervention programs on April 1st, 2013; the purpose of this change was to hold 3rd party insurers accountable for their portion of EIP costs. Dutchess County Early Intervention staff worked closely with the BEI to set up an escrow account for our fiscal responsibility and worked with the Dutchess County Comptroller's Office to manage this change and ensure fluid replenishment payment transactions could occur.

A committee of Early Intervention staff revised the Respite Services Policy for the program and resumed the responsibility of fiscally managing respite services for eligible families in the program, saving the program approximately \$3,000.

In 2013, **697** children aged 0-3 were referred for early intervention evaluation and **340** found to be eligible for services. A total of 1,151 children ages 0 to 3 were enrolled in the EIP Program and received services in 2013.

The Preschool Special Education Program (PSE) serves children aged three to five. Part B of the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Section 4410 of the New York State Education Law, entitle a preschooler (3-5 years of age) with disabilities to receive appropriate educational opportunities. This includes special programs and services as agreed upon with their respective school district's Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE).

In Dutchess County, the Department of Health is responsible for contracting with qualified and licensed 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/Program (IEP) written with the parent and CPSE members. 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 another childcare location. Parents also 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 2013, the Preschool Special Education Program received **789** referrals from the **16** local area school districts and provided services to **1,354** Dutchess County children ages 3-5 with an expenditure of **\$15,433,994**.

Both the EI and PSE programs have responded to the growing number of Spanish-speaking children and families in each program. Bilingual teachers and therapists are available in every discipline. Additionally, collaborating with St. Francis Preschool, the program provided speech therapy groups for young children with severe speech 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
2001	1,002	---	2001	876	---
2002	1,140	14%	2002	896	2%
2003	1,156	1%	2003	920	3%
2004	1,259	9%	2004	990	8%
2005	1,286	2%	2005	1,000	1%
2006	1,339	4%	2006	1,012	1%
2007	1,379	3%	2007	998	-1.3%
2008	1,378	0%	2008	995	-.3%
2009	1,332	-3.3%	2009	997	.2%
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%
2013	1,151	-2.4%	2013	1,354	23.4%

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIVISION

Vaccine Preventable Disease Control

Prompt investigation of vaccine preventable diseases such as measles, pertussis, and mumps remains a priority for the Communicable Disease Control Division (CDCD).

For only the second time in ten years, a case of suspected measles was investigated. The suspect was a child recently returned from a country in which measles is endemic and too young to have been vaccinated against the disease. The child's clinical presentation was consistent with measles. Confirmatory laboratory results were not available until after the window for vaccine prophylaxis had passed. The child had been evaluated at three separate clinical settings, whereby all persons potentially exposed at each location required confirmation of their measles immunity. In all, the immune status of more than **50** persons had to be confirmed.

The incidence of vaccine preventable disease was significantly reduced in 2013, particularly with regards to pertussis. This decline in pertussis cases may be attributed to the Department's activities, including raising awareness among healthcare providers and the public, and distributing free vaccine to those caring for infants at most risk. Vaccinating caregivers provides "cocoon protection" to infants until they are old enough to receive their full primary pertussis-containing vaccine series.

In 2013, there were no infants hospitalized with pertussis, a successful year as compared to the **6** pertussis-related infant hospitalizations in 2012. The Department provided **50** doses of Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine to a medical provider with six sites throughout Dutchess County in an effort to immunize family members of infants less than 12 months of age. This "push out" vaccine was targeted for the uninsured only.

In September 2013, Dr. Reiber's "Commissioners Corner" feature article addressed the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine. The article focused on the well documented cancer prevention benefits of the vaccine when administered according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other health authority guidelines.

Outbreak Control

In 2013, the CDCD investigated several outbreaks of noro-like virus in schools, camps, and day care settings. Educational letters, cleaning recommendations, and ill-person exclusions were the primary mitigations employed to stem the outbreaks. The Division worked closely with the members of the Department's Collaborative Outbreak Response Team (CORE) in response to these frequent outbreaks.

Community Health Nurses investigate all reported cases of foodborne illness. Salmonella and E. coli were responsible for more than **300** known infections in 2013. This year, a case of Listeria infection, a foodborne illness caused by consuming contaminated cold cuts, cheeses, or other food items caused a septic abortion in a pregnant woman at 13 weeks. The Department reminded healthcare providers the consumption of certain foods during pregnancy can increase the risk of fetal infection and demise.

Arthropodborne infections

In 2013, arthropodborne disease surveillance and prevention remained a major focus of the CDCD staff effort. More than **2,000** unique investigations were conducted for Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, Powassan virus, West Nile Virus, and Lyme disease. There was one (**1**) confirmed case of Powassan virus infection. Although rare, Powassan virus is potentially life threatening and can have significant long-term neurological effects.

The Department and the County designated May as "Tickborne Disease Awareness Month" and added a "Be Tick Free!" webpage to the Department's website. The Public Health Partnership Award was given to Arlington High School "Elymenators," a Lyme Disease Education Group of students. The award was presented at the June meeting of the Dutchess County Legislature.

Tuberculosis Control Program

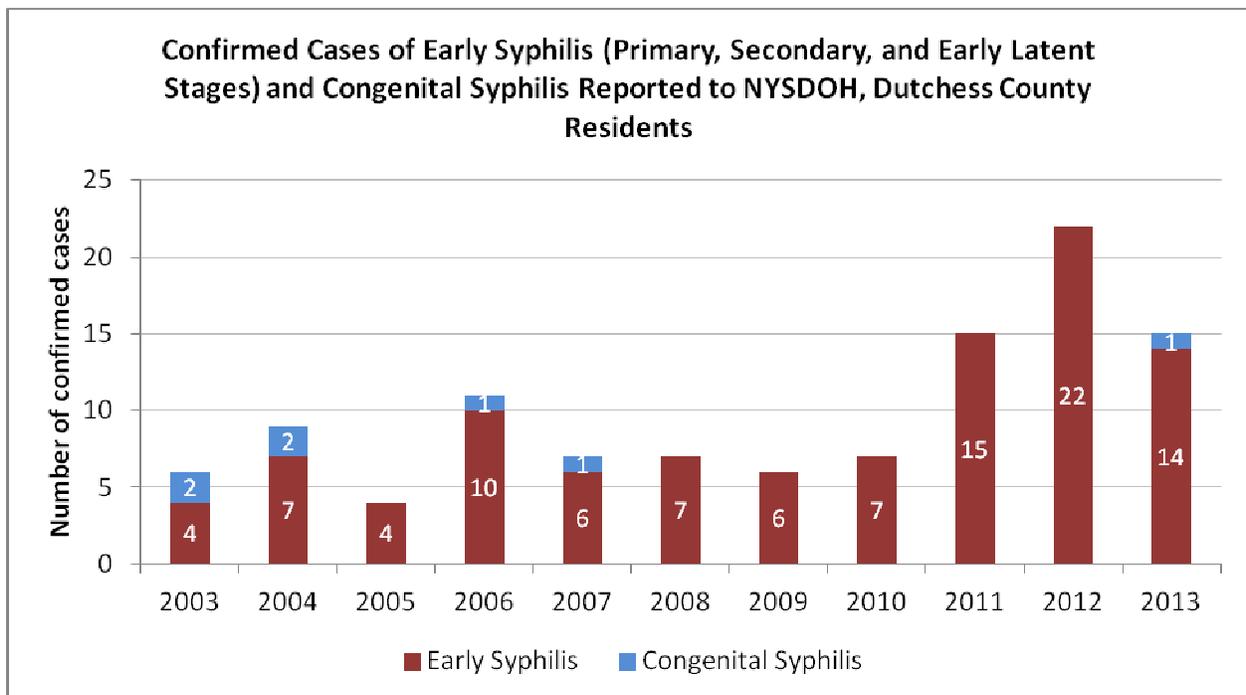
In 2013, **58** persons were evaluated for tuberculosis disease at the DCDOH Pulmonary Clinic. **Thirteen** (13) individuals suspected of TB disease were investigated and **seven** (7) active cases identified. **Three** (3) of the seven cases were among foreignborn individuals. Contact investigations conducted for these active cases identified **one** (1) infected contact requiring treatment for Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI). **Fifty-seven** (57) cases of Latent TB infection in uninsured individuals were followed at the clinic; 85% of these individuals were foreign-born. LTBI is not contagious and is not as serious as active TB; however, treatment insures patients do not develop active disease later in life. In all, **571** persons were screened for TB at the adult clinic.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Program

In 2013, there were more than **860** cases of Chlamydia reported to the Department, representing an **18%** increase compared with 2012. Chlamydia is largely concentrated in the adolescent population (ages 13 -24). The Department applied for, and was granted, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/New York State Department of Health “*Carry it Forward*” funds targeted to identify new and innovative ways to address this epidemic. The DCDOH HIV/STD Control Unit used the funds allocated for a multifaceted campaign designed to partner with pediatric healthcare providers to push out free screening tools, incentives, and educational outreach to providers and the adolescent population at risk.

The number of cases of Gonorrhea (**111**) in 2013 was virtually unchanged compared to 2012. Early syphilis cases remain high at **13** and are primarily concentrated in young men having sex with men (MSM.)

In 2013, the first case of congenital syphilis since 2007 was confirmed. A Public Health Advisory was forwarded to all County obstetrical care providers reminding them of appropriate diagnostic and treatment recommendations for this potentially devastating infection.



Data Source: NYSDOH Division of Epidemiology, Communicable Disease Registry

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

The purpose of the Public Health Preparedness Program is to provide oversight and planning for a coordinated and effective response to any public health emergency requiring the activation of County employees and other emergency measures.

In 2013 the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program focused on refining the Department's All-Hazards response plan to address all kinds of emergencies. One such plan delineates the processes and procedures for selecting, equipping, staffing, and operating an Alternate Care Site (ACS), Community Triage Point (CTP), or Community-based Care Center (CBCC) within Dutchess County during a public health emergency when area hospitals reach their surge capacity.

In the spring of 2013, we collaborated with the Department of Emergency Response on an Alternate Care Site (ACS) orientation program. The program consisted of orientation sessions to the ACS Plan for county employees, Medical Reserves Corps volunteers, and community partners. The orientation was followed by a tabletop exercise for key stakeholders.

The Department provided technical assistance to three nursing homes and two agencies serving special needs populations. The Department trained agency personnel to develop emergency preparedness plans and drill procedures to respond to emergency situations in which closed points of distribution (POD) clinics would have to be set up and operated.

Ongoing preparedness training for County employees and the public is integral in maintaining the infrastructure and readiness to respond to public health emergencies. In 2013, Public Health Nurses conducted the following educational and training programs:

- Guest lecturer at Mount Saint Mary College for **50** nursing students on the topic of public health preparedness.
- POD training conducted for **37** employees of agencies serving special needs populations and **14** employees of area nursing homes.
- Vaccine administration training and competency evaluations for **17** Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) volunteers
- **764** hours of preparedness training and drill sessions for **224** MRC volunteers.

DIVISION OF VETERANS SERVICES

The Dutchess County Division of Veterans Services (DVS) connects veterans, members of the armed forces, and their families with the economic, medical, and social benefits available to them as a result of active duty military service. Their core mission is to provide benefits, counseling, and advocacy for Dutchess County's **18,500** veterans and their families. In 2013, the Division had **14,079** contacts and rendered **21,704** services to the community. More than \$36,995,000 benefit dollars aided Dutchess County residents in 2013 including compensation for service-connected disability, dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected deaths, pension for non-service-connected disabilities, education, vocational rehabilitation/employment, and burial for veterans and their survivors. Additionally **\$59,944,000** was made available for medical care expenditures, services, administration, and facility maintenance.

DVS reaches out to veterans and their families providing advocacy and counseling, and ensuring benefits granted by law for their service to our country are rightly received. Outreach activities include attending events such as Dutchess County Office for the Aging Senior Socials and Community Day celebrations/fairs, and working closely with Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Outreach staff. In May, the Division participated in the first 'Armed Forces Day on the Hudson' Celebration. In honor of Memorial Day 2013, DVS collaborated with the Pleasant Valley American Legion and the Town of Lloyd Veterans of Foreign Wars to hold a Memorial Day Eve event on the Walkway over the Hudson with more than **200** in attendance.

Division staff attended seminars and conferences held by the Department of Veterans Affairs, American Legion, New York State County Veteran's Service Officers Association and New York State Division of Veterans Affairs. These trainings enable staff to remain current with the frequently changing benefits and services available to veterans.

DVS also participates in a variety of coalitions and workgroups to ensure the healthcare, disability, and unemployment needs of veterans are met in each of the following settings:

- Dutchess County Housing Consortium
- Dutchess County Long Term Care Council
- Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board
- New York State Industry for the Disabled (NYSID - Preferred Sources Solutions)
- Department of Labor

Memorial Day Eve Illumination of the Walkway Ceremony

Sunday, May 26, 2013 - 7:45pm
at the Flag Pole in the center of the Walkway Over the Hudson

Join Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro, the Dutchess County Division of Veterans' Services, and Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park for a very special event to honor those who gave their lives for our country.

Ceremony Overview

- Flag Ceremony with the Pleasant Valley American Legion, Highland Veterans of Foreign Wars, and New York State Park Police
- Retired Flag Presentation with The Daniel Center, Inc
- Buglers Across America will span the Walkway to play Taps

Sunset Illumination Vigil to Span the Walkway

Please bring something to "illuminate" the Walkway, i.e. flashlight, glow stick. Please No Open Flames!

For more information:
Dutchess County Division of Veterans' Services
(845) 486-2060
www.dutchessny.gov



On May 25th, DVS was presented the *2013 Beacon Peace Award* at the historic Howland Cultural Center, in Beacon.

On November 2nd, the Dutchess County Veterans Appreciation Day was held at the Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home, Hyde Park. This overwhelmingly successful event was attended by more than **30** federal, state, local government agencies, and veterans' organizations as well as **300** veterans and family members. **Five** veterans were presented with their long overdue medals, ribbons, and badges.



Standing Left to Right: Nelson Eddy Rivera, Director of Veterans' Services; Specialist Four Alfred A. Lawton; Lance Corporal Murray Z. Hastie; Specialist Jorel Edwin Abreu; Corporal George Dahlgren; William O'Neil, Assistant to the County Executive. Seated: PFC Anthony Sorci

DIVISION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The Division is responsible for enforcing many Dutchess County and State laws, including Article 16 of the New York State Agricultural and Markets Law. Inspections are performed annually at every Dutchess County establishment with a weighing or measuring device in the sale of a product. These inspections protect both the buyer and the seller. The buyer is assured they get what they pay for; the seller is assured of a marketplace based on fair competition.

The Division is responsible for enforcing Dutchess County local laws pertaining to the following:

- *Gasoline*: The sale of motor vehicle fuel, the prohibition of water contamination, lead contamination, and the proper labeling of motor vehicle fuels for use in both vehicles and engines is monitored.
- *Precious Metal Licensing Law*: Persons engaged in the business of purchasing or exchanging precious metals including gold, silver, platinum and coins, utensils, or objects of art containing one or more of these metals are monitored.
- *Supermarkets*: Individual item pricing is a vast undertaking for the Division.
- *Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practice Law* including the regulation of gas stations' road signage.

In 2013, **679 establishments** were inspected. Additionally, a total of **1,066** inspections were performed, including:

- **4,814** weighing and measuring devices
- **60** item pricing inspections at supermarkets
- **25** scanner accuracy inspections at pharmacies
- **9** precious metal inspections

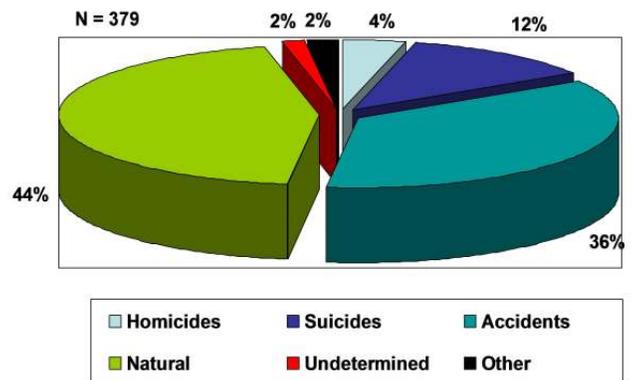
In accordance with New York State Petroleum Quality Program, a total of **324** gas samples taken from **132** gas stations, were submitted for octane analysis. Dutchess County Local Law (Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices) was amended to include the regulation of gas station signage at the road. This prompted written notification to all **132** gas stations in Dutchess County. To ensure compliance with the Law, gas station monitoring is ongoing. Additionally, there were **44 complaints** which included gas signage, water in gas, amount of gas dispensed, item pricing in supermarkets, and supermarket scale accuracy.

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

The Dutchess County Medical Examiner's Office marked a turning point in July 2013 with the opening of their new facility on Washington Street. From a caseload perspective, the need for a new facility was amply justified with **873** cases reported in 2013 (a **13.38%** increase in total workload since 2012). The number of autopsies increased by **40%** due to a sharp increase in violent deaths (the rate of vehicular fatalities, homicides, and suicides doubled compared to 2012). Dutchess County will benefit from the upgraded facility on many levels:

- The ability to handle an increased caseload more efficiently and provide better service to the community.
- The capacity to merge the forensic nursing program into the medical examiner's program providing comprehensive forensic clinical services while establishing stronger relationships between the medical examiner, other divisions of the Department of Health, and other County agencies.
- The potential to develop a regional medical examiner system.
- The ability to better respond to a multiple fatality event.

FATALITIES 2013
AUTOPSIES, EXTERNAL EXAMS & CERTIFICATIONS



MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES: 2003-2013											
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cases Reported	573	641	623	700	668	703	760	735	812	770	873
Cases Declined	390	349	318	393	349	372	386	407	465	453	475
Cases Accepted	183	292	305	307	319	331	374	328	347	317	398
Autopsies	165	202	190	202	217	204	207	200	220	176	247
External Exams	8	38	53	41	29	45	63	39	49	54	57
Certifications	9	45	56	54	53	66	82	70	64	79	75
Consultations	1	7	6	10	20	16	22	19	14	8	19

HEALTH PLANNING AND EDUCATION DIVISION

The Health Planning and Education Division (HP&E) is unique in the diversified roles it plays. Under the umbrella of communications and planning, it works on the development and implementation of health initiatives, along with dissemination of public health materials. It also drives the Department's strategic planning process. HP&E's data support "arm" is based on disease surveillance and monitoring through ongoing data analysis. Additionally, it extends into the development and maintenance of internal monitoring systems assisting other divisions in understanding the populations they serve.

Reports

In 2013, the Division developed and published the New York State's mandated Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). These documents include Dutchess County's epidemiological profile as well as focus group and survey results identifying key areas of public health importance in Dutchess County. The CHIP consists of a series of goals, objectives, and strategies to address selected health priorities.

Other ongoing data reports providing health-related snapshots of the County include the Annual Morbidity Report, the Community Health Status Report Card, and the biannual Veterinarian Newsletter. All reports are available on the Department's webpage.

Communications and Public Health Information

The Division develops and maintains resources for ongoing and new health-related campaigns and initiatives (e.g. posters, web-based materials, etc) and oversees the Department's Website Team responsible for website maintenance and updates. DCDOH received **1.23** million visits to its website which includes more than **1,200** web pages (www.dutchessny.gov/health and www.cancerfreedutchess.net) and the Division ensures that content is up-to-date and correlates with campaigns and health education messages

During 2013, there was a significantly higher request and viewing of online reports, including Statistics and Data Reports, Department Publications, Annual Reports, Publications for healthcare providers, Veterinarian News, the Lead Primary Prevention Program, and Flu information. The Division developed a consolidated water webpage for residents who want to learn more about their drinking water. The information on this webpage outlines who is responsible for specific water supplies and where residents can get additional data and research to be an informed water consumer.

The HP&E Division received **73** requests from the media and community organizations for interviews and presentations as well as **9** data requests from community organizations, residents, and other county offices.

The HP&E Division coordinates a monthly article from the Commissioner of Health for publication in the Poughkeepsie Journal on the second Sunday of each month. Topics are timely and seasonal, including Lyme, childhood vaccinations, diabetes, and prescription drugs. Additionally, in an attempt to reach out to the Hispanic community, these same articles are shared and translated into Spanish for the La Voz magazine issued by Bard College.

Access to Care

The HP&E Division promotes the NACo (National Association of Counties) prescription Drug Discount Card, available at no cost to residents who need assistance with prescriptions. More than **180** residents were enrolled in the prescription discount program. The table below illustrates the average savings per prescription filled from 2010 to 2013.

NACO PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM, DUTCHESS COUNTY: ANNUAL SUMMARY								
Year	Average number of utilizers per month	Number of prescriptions for which NaCo card was presented	Number of prescriptions where plan price was below retail	Percent of prescriptions where plan price was below retail	Total original retail price for prescriptions filled at plan price	Total user savings on prescriptions filled at plan price	Average savings per prescription filled at plan price	Average percent savings
2010	776	20,673	17,148	83%	\$1,287,756.46	\$387,885.18	\$18.76	30%
2011	727	19,443	15,323	79%	\$1,282,027.79	\$380,698.54	\$19.59	30%
2012	549	12,547	8,484	68%	\$765,742.92	\$240,503.05	\$19.12	31%
2013	339	7,689	5,084	66%	\$459,057.13	\$161,213.53	\$21.09	35%

Additionally, the HP&E Division promotes the NACo Dental Discount Program which provides access to more than **50** dentists, orthodontists, and dental specialty practices with savings of 5-50% for dental procedures.

The County was presented with the Excellence’s Award at the National NACo Conference and Exposition in Fort Worth Texas, in recognition of best marketing practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Environmental Health Services Division's core programs focus on environmental sanitation for public health. During 2013, the Division conducted **1,300** site visits to public water supplies in Dutchess County, performed **3,000** inspections at food service establishments, and handled **700** formal engineering submittals for the approval of water supply and sewage disposal.

The Division has been actively working with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to find a viable option for the treatment of radium at small public water supplies. Though affordable technology exists for the reduction of radium, the use of this technology does not meet the groundwater standards established through the NYSDEC. The two agencies continue working together to address this concern.

The Division Director and the Commissioner of Health participated in a water forum in the fall of 2013 organized by the Poughkeepsie Journal. This event provided the public with an opportunity to address questions on public water. In addition to DCDOH representatives, the water quality panel included individuals from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and a local consulting firm.

In the spring, the Environmental Division attended public meetings in the Towns of East Fishkill and Hyde Park to address public concerns related to notices sent out in response to water quality violations in public water supplies. The purpose of the meetings was to inform the public on their specific issues and clarify the role of their public water supply owner and that of the Dutchess County Department of Health.

High Meadows, a public water supply in the Town of Dover, has taken further steps this year to investigate and mitigate a history of iron and manganese complaints in their distribution system as well as address a source capacity issue. In the fall of 2013, they conducted work on the wells to increase their yield. In an attempt to decrease areas within the distribution system that still experience iron and manganese complaints, the Environmental Health Services Division required the supply to conduct first draw iron and manganese testing monthly. As the Division receives complaints, the information is transferred to the public water supply to determine locations for sampling. As sampling results indicate the need, additional investigation and mitigation is conducted.

The Division met with owners and operators of public water supplies that purchase water from the Poughkeepsie Water Treatment Facility to discuss challenges facing these systems, due to evolving federal and state regulations as well as the expansion of these distribution systems.

Though these systems are separate public water supplies, they all share in the benefit of the systems working together and sharing information.

The Division responded to a “boil water” notice in the City of Poughkeepsie in July 2013 and handled inquiries from the public, elected officials, and the media through a telephone hotline and the website. Division staff worked diligently with the City of Poughkeepsie Public Water Supply to ensure the problem was remediated and no one became ill.

Hyde Park Mobile Manor, a public water supply in the Town of Hyde Park, obtained approval for the drilling of a new public water supply well. The well was required due to the existing sources being depleted by demand over annual usage. This well has been drilled and is being tested so that it can be connected to the current distribution pipeline. The additional source should reduce any pressure or water use interruptions for the facility in the future.

In August 2013, a blue-green algae bloom affected a lake in Dover, causing a fish kill and the closure of a bathing beach, and prompting outreach to homeowners bordering the lake. Warm temperatures over the season were responsible for the bloom.

Spills/Engineering

The Environmental Health Services Division investigated **315** Spill Reports from the NYSDEC. These reports are complaints or reports submitted to the NYSDEC from the public. The Division is notified of the complaint or spill before the NYSDEC has investigated the potential contamination for environmental impact. In an effort to be proactive, the Division investigates whether any public water supply in proximity to the area of the reported contamination has been impacted; if found the staff can assess the need for additional testing based on the information in the report. This allows DCDOH to identify any potential contamination risk as soon as possible.

The Department assisted the NYSDEC Spill Response Team with the investigation of a fuel oil spill in the Town of LaGrange. Staff conducted surveillance of private and public wells in the area of the spill for water quality monitoring to assess impact of the spill. The spill was successfully cleaned up in conformance with NYSDEC standards. It is normal protocol for DCDOH staff to assist the NYSDEC on large spill incidents in an effort to identify and reduce public health impact.

The Department currently regulates **684** 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 **125** others, are regulated by the engineering section of the Environmental Health Services Division. There are approximately **260** water supply facilities under permit (restaurants, motels, camps, day care centers, etc.) inspected by public health sanitarians, with the remaining nearly **300** water supplies monitored by the Department's Water Enhancement Program staff.

Community Sanitation

The Division handled several food-related illness outbreaks affecting numerous individuals at various locations, including: College campuses in February and March (**100+** persons) and November (**19** persons); a wedding reception in May; a children's camp in July and August (more than **200** persons), and a children's overnight camp in August (**30** campers and staff). In all cases, control measures were put in place to avert the spread of the illness and prevent future illness.

Environmental Health Services 2013		
Service provided:		Completed:
Community Sanitation	Food Service Inspection and Re-inspections	3211
	Nuisance and complaint investigations	421
	Individual Lot/Subdivision inspection	317
	Housing and complaint investigations	270
Lead	Residential Lead Investigation Field Services	62
Rabies	Animal Bite/Rabies Investigations	720
	Rabies Specimens for testing	110 (6 positive)
	Rabies Post Exposure Treatment	43
	Rabies Vaccination Clinics for Pets	3 clinics (631 pets)
Education	Food Safety Training	7 classes (40 attendees)
Private Well Initiative	Number of Private well test results posted	417
	Number of letters sent to home owners	322
Public Water Supply	Site Visits at Public Water Supply	1300
	Sanitary Surveys at Public Water Supply	348
	Public Health Violations Cited	424
	Water Quality Samples Collected by Division Staff	3000
	Water Quality Results Monitored by Division Staff	37,000
Engineering	Engineering Plans Submitted for Formal Review	751
	Processing of Septic Information - Local Bldg Dpts	134
	Well Permits Processed	106
	Processing of Septic Repairs	150
Spills	Spill Investigations	315

SPECIAL INITIATIVES:

Building the Foundation for a Healthier Dutchess

Chronic Disease Prevention

The Public Health Nursing Division partners with healthcare providers to implement targeted initiatives to reduce the incidence of cardiovascular disease by reducing and controlling blood pressure in those diagnosed with hypertension. In 2013, subsidized by grant funding, Public Health nurses collaborated with Hudson River Health Care, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Dutchess County to implement the **Million Hearts**, a home monitoring blood pressure program at their Beacon site.

The Dutchess County **Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program** has **23** sites, with a total of **46** Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) located throughout County government buildings. This is a decrease due to changes within the Department of Mental Hygiene and Department of Health. A total of **5** AEDs were relocated, **4** to the Department of Emergency Response and **1** to the Department of Social Services.

Each PAD site has a Site Representative to assist with maintenance of the AED. There are currently **348** cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certified employees. In 2013, **108** individuals were trained in CPR and the use of AED AED/CPR drills were conducted quarterly at each site followed by a review of CPR and AED protocols.

The **HEARTSafe program** promotes and supports CPR training in the community, public access to defibrillation through strategic placement of AEDs. These are intended for use by public safety professionals and other trained community members, leading to early advanced care and an increase of out of hospital survival rate.

The **Nutrition/Diabetes and Physical Activity** programs are offered to healthcare professionals, schools, seniors and community residents to increase awareness and promote healthier lifestyle choices. Sixty-four (**64**) programs including *Know Your Numbers*, *Healthy Eating Portion Distortions*, *Childhood Obesity*, and *Stanford Chronic Disease Self Management* programs were conducted throughout the year. These programs served **188** youth and **811** adults and seniors.

Additionally, *Diabetes Sunday*, *Go Red Sunday*, and *the Power to Prevent Stroke Sunday* are five minute educational awareness programs offered to faith-based congregants. A total of **12** sessions and **1,447** individuals benefited from these programs.

In collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension, with a grant from United Way, a presentation on the *Weight of the Nation* was conducted in which **200** Astor Head Start staff participated in this childhood obesity training.

Poughkeepsie Plenty, a collaborative effort with the Department and the Poughkeepsie Farm Project, received a US Department of Agriculture grant. The group works with a number of other organizations in the City of Poughkeepsie to complete a community food assessment survey. The Department's staff and interns surveyed a random sample of households throughout the City of Poughkeepsie. The Department completed and analyzed **357** surveys providing the basis for the *Food Security and Choice Report*. This Report culminated in community meetings and the establishment of the Poughkeepsie Plenty Food Coalition. The Coalition is an independent effort fiscally sponsored by Dutchess Outreach, which coordinates ongoing efforts related to healthy food access in the City of Poughkeepsie.

The Great Halloween Candy Exchange Program's goal is to help reduce the obesity epidemic in children and promote healthier choices. The Department of Health, along with Fishkill All Sport, Children's Medical Group, Learning Insights, the Literacy Connection, and All Access Dental held their 8th annual 2013 event where children donate their candy in exchange for books and fun passes for mini-golf, the Children's Museum, ice skating, or All Sport Fitness Center. Approximately **2,000** pounds of candy was shipped to military personnel on an aircraft carrier in the Indian Ocean and to troops in Afghanistan.



Community Health Assessment & The Community Health Improvement Plan

Dutchess County has embraced a process for community planning bringing together diverse interests to determine the most effective way to improve community health. The collaborative process resulting in the 2013 Community Health Improvement Plan began in early 2011.

The Department worked with the Integrated Community Assessment Workgroup (ICA), to implement a countywide survey. ICA consists of a small group of individuals from the lead Dutchess County agencies including Health, Social Services, Youth, Mental Hygiene, Probation, Aging, and Veterans. Community participants include the Dyson Foundation, the Foundation for Community Health, the Mental Health Association, Health Quest, and St. Francis Hospital. The countywide survey identified the following priority issues from the perspective of Dutchess County residents: Substance abuse (**42%**); Lyme disease (**65%**); and Health insurance (**11.6%**).

In July 2013, the Department finalized the compilation of the community health survey and presented the results to the ICA. The group discussed the next steps, including a forum to finalize the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). A prioritization survey was distributed to **100** community stakeholders via survey monkey asking them to identify top priorities. Local data was provided as an attachment to give participants background information on the topics at hand, including the county health status indicators and the community survey results. Four priorities were identified:

1. Reduce Childhood and Adult Obesity
2. Increase Access to Preventive Healthcare and Improve Management of Chronic Disease
3. Reduce Tick and Insect-Related Diseases
4. Reduce Substance Abuse

All survey participants, other members of their organizations, and community partners were invited to participate in the CHIP Prioritization Forum with a presentation of the New York State Prevention Agenda, the community health assessment summary, and the CHIP prioritization survey results. Each topic's workgroup was provided with evidence-based practices and intervention strategies as resources, and were asked to identify goals and measurable short-term and long-term objectives to address their topic.

The Community Health Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan is available at: <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Health/HDindexpub.htm>

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Michele Eberling was the recipient of the 2013 Commissioner's Award and was also named to the New York State Public Health Works! Honor Roll for her achievements.

As a Public Health Advisor, Michele is responsible for investigating cases of communicable disease, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS. Michele Eberling was recognized as an outstanding Public Health employee who performs multiple essential public health services with precision and excellence.

Ms. Eberling's outstanding investigative skills recently identified a cluster of HIV infection significantly impacting Dutchess County as well as the HIV morbidity in several neighboring counties.

In response to the identification of this expanding cluster of HIV illness, this employee mobilized community partners through outreach and education. Ms. Eberling's work with individual patients is just as stellar. She ensures prompt access to care for each and every patient she works with. Essential public health services require new insight and innovative solutions to public health problems. The cluster of illness discussed above centered heavily around the use of social networking for the transmission of infection.



Ms. Eberling worked tirelessly to learn these networks, acquire access to the new technology required, and was so successful in this endeavor that New York State Department of Health has changed its investigative protocols to model the ones she established.