

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Niagara County
Department of Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Public Health Director's Message

It is with great honor and privilege that I present the Niagara County Department of Health's 2025 Annual Report. This report provides a comprehensive overview of our programs and services, highlighting key accomplishments as well as the challenges we faced throughout the year.

Public health is the foundation of a thriving community, and 2025 was a year that reaffirmed its critical importance. From safeguarding residents against emerging health threats to promoting wellness and health equity, our work continues to shape the health and resilience of Niagara County.

In 2025, the Department continued to fulfill its mandated responsibilities while advancing critical community health initiatives and maintaining readiness for future public health emergencies. We made significant progress in strengthening communication with the public and deepening partnerships with stakeholders across Niagara County.

The Department conducted an in-depth SWOT* analysis across all divisions, providing us with a clear roadmap to enhance operations and maximize community impact. The new health department building at Stevens Street provides us with an opportunity to strengthen our workforce, expand public health services, and address public health priorities such as chronic disease prevention with a focus on health equity. We will continue to invest in innovative strategies, foster collaboration with community partners, and ensure that every resident of Niagara County has the opportunity to live a healthy life.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the dedicated team at the Niagara County Department of Health, our partner agencies, the elected officials who support our mission, and—most importantly—the residents of Niagara County. Together, we remain steadfast in our shared goal of preventing disease, promoting health, and protecting the well-being of our community. **As we move into 2026, our priorities will focus on strengthening our core programs, expanding access to public health services to advance health equity for all Niagara County residents.**

Fauzia Khan, MBBS, MPH, CPM®
Public Health Director



*SWOT: Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Highlights

- Relocated operations to a new facility in Lockport, significantly expanding service capacity and accessibility for residents in the eastern end of Niagara County.
- Executed a seamless leadership transition with the appointment of a new public health director, ensuring the department's commitment to promote and protect the health of all residents.
- Instituted a Child Safety Seat Inspection Program, completing **22** safety checks in the first year of the program.
- Completed **54** lead hazard assessments for the state-mandated Rental Registry program for pre-1980 multi-unit dwellings to ensure lead-safe housing.
- Facilitated the 2025-2030 community health assessment and improvement plan cycle, in collaboration with community stakeholders, to identify and address the most pressing health needs in Niagara County.



Public Health in Action



Beach & Lakes Water Sampling

2023	134
2024	102
2025	138



Narcotics Dispensed

2024	157*
2025	2,649

*Program started 11/1/24



Early Intervention Services

2022-23	59,735
2023-24	61,578
2024-25	55,760



Rabies Investigations

2023	547
2024	661
2025	758



Food Service Inspections

2023	1,573
2024	1,621
2025	1,566



Preschool Services

2022-23	74,356
2023-24	74,162
2024-25	79,227



Homes Assessed for Lead

2023	164
2024	90
2025	96



Rabies Vaccines Administered

2023	1,224
2024	1,378
2025	1,346



Healthy Home Visits

2023	253
2024	159
2025	189*

*Data collection not yet complete.



Client Visits - Sexual Health Center

2023	293
2024	391
2025	437



Immunizations Administered

2023	1,640
2024	2,064
2025	1,600



Tobacco Compliance Checks

2022-23	356
2023-24	369
2024-25	388

Children with Special Needs Division

Early Intervention

The Early Intervention (EI)/Child Find Program is a statewide program that provides many different types of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a developmental delay or disability and their families. These services may include Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Therapy, Educational services, Audiological services and Feeding Therapy services.

2025 Accomplishments

- The Early Intervention program served **1,076** children from birth to age three.
- Delivered **55,760** EI services to children across Niagara County.
- **78%** of participating children showed measurable improvement in their developmental skills.
- **42%** of those children graduated from their services at age-appropriate levels, ready for their next steps in learning and growth.

Preschool Special Education

The Preschool Supportive Health program works in collaboration with every school district in Niagara County.

2025 Accomplishments

- Provided **79,227** direct services to **1,089** preschoolers ages 3-5.
- Secured **328** special education placements for students, ensuring children received the classroom supports needed to meet their educational and developmental goals.

Children with Special Health Care Needs

The Children with Special Health Care Needs Program connects families of children up to age 21 with resources, referrals and community supports.

2025 Accomplishments

- Enrolled **36** children and partnered with community organizations on family-centered activities, including sensory play events at the Youngstown Recreation Center and Newfane Public Library, and the Fresh Air Friday program throughout the county.
- Families in this program have also been strong advocates for accessible recreation. Many contributed letters of support for the adaptive playground at Burmaster Park, which will be a wonderful addition for children of all abilities.



Environmental Health Division

The Environmental Health Division protects the citizens of Niagara County by conducting inspections and issuing permits following New York State and Niagara County Sanitary Codes.

Programs include:

1) Inspection & Permitting:

- Food Service Establishments
- Children's Camp
- Hotel/Motel
- Campground
- Bathing Beach
- Swimming Pool
- Rooming House / Bed and Breakfast
- Tattooing & Body Piercing certification
- Migrant Camps
- Mobile Home Parks

2) Rabies Prevention

3) Public Health Nuisances

4) Environmental Lead Assessment – EPA Certified Lead Risk Assessors – residential, etc.

5) Healthy Neighborhoods Program

6) Sewage Disposal System Testing & Design

7) Water Supply Testing & Monitoring

8) Cooling Tower Monitoring



2025 Accomplishments

- Partnered with Niagara County Youth Bureau and inspected **54** summer feeding sites that provided **37,171** breakfast and **45,928** lunch to vulnerable youth.
- Distributed **50%** more rabies baits than the previous year for a total of **9,364** baits distributed.
- The following inspections were completed: **1,566** food service, **439** temporary food vendors, **82** pools, **12** campgrounds, **80** temporary residences, **3** swimming beaches, **22** rooming houses, and **32** mobile home parks.
- Ensured the safety of **1,942** children at **28** summer camps.
- Partnered with NYS Department of Labor and inspected **33** migrant farmworker housing establishments.
- Inspected **42** tattoo establishments. Tested and certified an additional **104** artists during the 2025 Niagara Tattoo Expo.



Nursing Services Division



The Nursing Services Division continues to strengthen Niagara County's public health infrastructure by preventing illness and managing existing health challenges. From controlling the spread of infectious diseases like Tuberculosis to providing immunizations and lead screenings, the nursing staff remains committed to fostering a healthier, more informed population.

2025 Accomplishments

- Re-established the Western New York Immunization Coalition to bring together County Health Departments, New York State Department of Health, Vaccine Manufacturers, and immunization providers.
- Responded to increased demand for “back to school” immunizations for children at risk of school exclusion by providing **228** vaccines in **3** Niagara County schools and hosting additional immunization clinics to meet community demand.
- The Sexual Health Clinic (SHC) saw an **11.8%** increase in patient volume from the previous year.
- Lynne Clark, ANP, provider in Sexual Health Clinic, won the Award of Excellence in Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Care.
- Authorized and facilitated rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP) to **88** individuals which was a **44.3%** increase from the previous year.
- In August, Rabies Program nurses rapidly initiated rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP) for **15** individuals following exposure to a single confirmed rabid animal.
- The Diabetes Prevention Program was conducted from April 2024 through April 2025; **11** individuals were enrolled, and **9** completed program requirements. **7** participants demonstrated improvement in glycemic control, with A1c levels returning to below the prediabetic range. Collectively, participants achieved a total weight loss of **162** pounds over the duration of the program.
- The Lead Program medically discharged **35** children who met state requirements for no longer being lead poisoned.
- The Communicable Disease Program investigated **21** cases of Salmonella infection, **3** of which required exclusion.
- Communicable Disease staff increased surveillance, working with New York State Department of Health regarding possible Measles cases and had several rule-out investigations.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Division



The Division of Public Health Emergency Preparedness is responsible for preparing Niagara County for emergencies that impact the public's health.

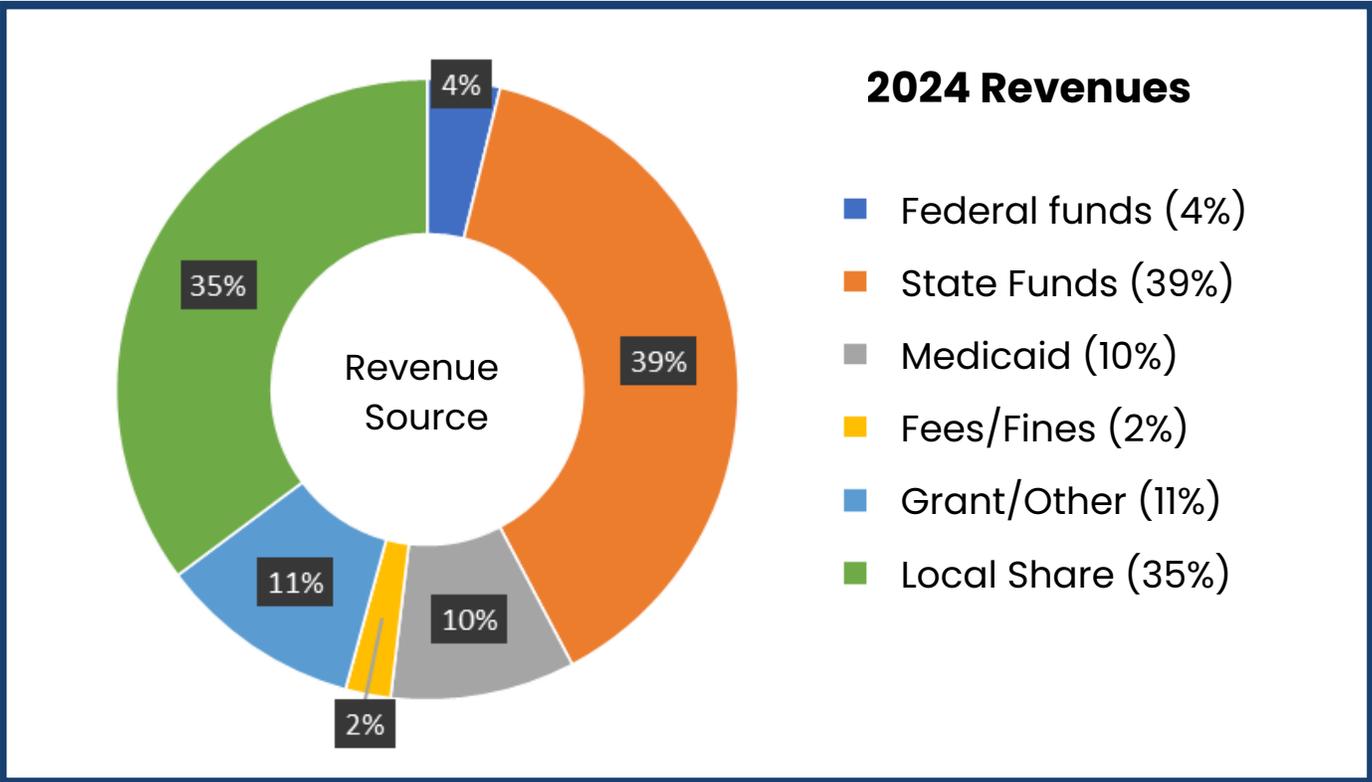
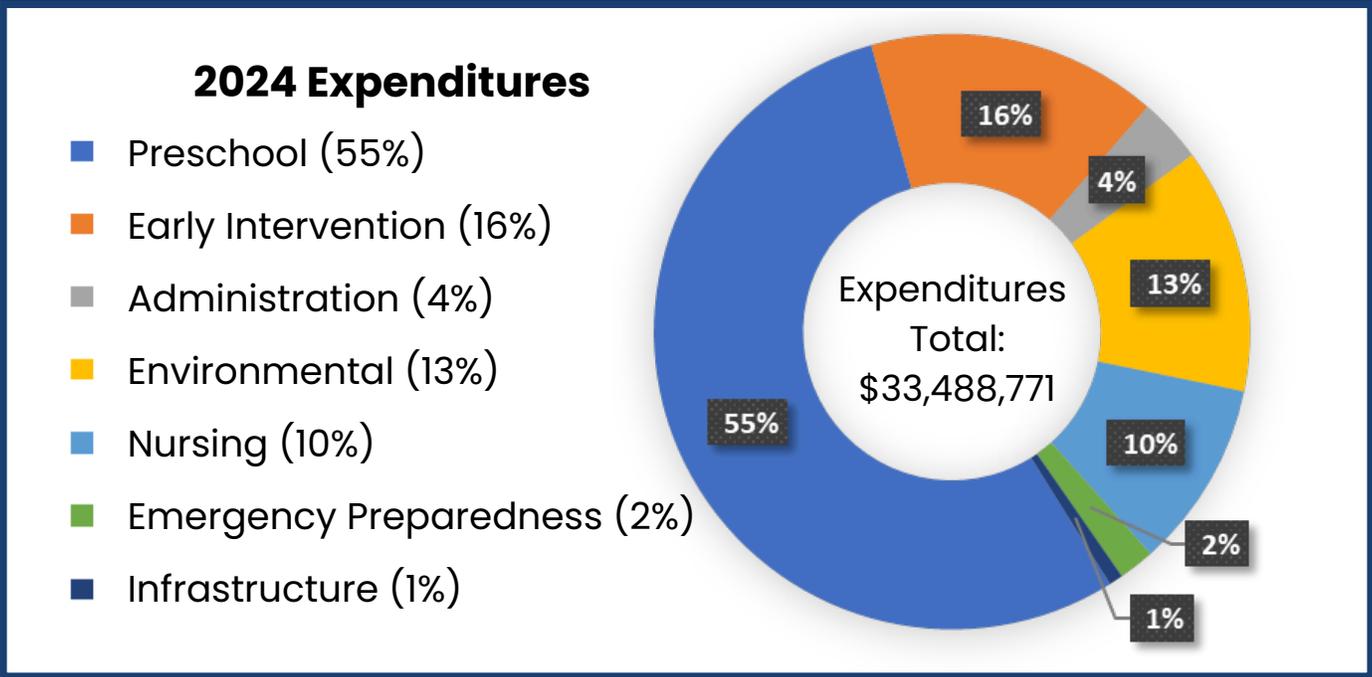
Preparedness staff manage a group of medical and non-medical volunteers, the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), that would be activated during a public health emergency or non-emergent situations (such as a drill or exercise).

2025 Accomplishment

- Throughout the first full year of the Opioid Overdose Prevention (Naloxone/Narcan) Training Program, **2,649** kits were dispensed and **592** people were trained.
- MRC members volunteered **139.25** hours of their time this year, bringing the economic value of MRC volunteers' contribution to **\$4,142.47** for the year.
- Distributed **339** "Baby Bundles" at various events.
- Delivered health services and education at various local venues, including the Niagara County Fair, Lewiston Peach Festival, Celtic Festival, and community food pantries, to promote preventive services.
- Provided "Stop the Bleed" training to **388** individuals.
- Conducted **5** training exercises and coordinated **3** vaccination clinics.
- Orchestrated the complex logistics and physical move of the Health Department from the Shaw Building to Stevens Street, optimizing the new workspace for enhanced service delivery.
- Published **1,171** posts and reached **340,632** people across all NCDOH social media channels to encourage healthy behaviors, deliver timely information, and connect individuals to reliable information. Expanded our reach with **595** new followers on Facebook and **67** new followers on Instagram.

Budget

Actual annual fiscal data is available after the first quarter of the following year. In 2024, the administration of Children with Special Needs Early Intervention and Preschool programs constituted **71%** of the Health Department's expenditures. The remaining **29%** is allocated across various areas and is tied to essential service mandates.



Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

The Niagara County Departments of Health and Mental Health, with partners Catholic Health, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, and HEALTHeLINK, lead a multi-sector Steering Committee to improve local health outcomes. Using community health data, and feedback from **52** providers, **105** residents, and **50** community-based agencies, five priority areas were set, and progress will be tracked monthly and reported annually.

Priority Areas & Objectives

- **Mental Health:** Reduce frequent mental distress **from 13.4% to 12.0%**, targeting low-income households.
- **Overdose Prevention:** Lower overdose deaths **from 32.3 to 22.6 per 100k**.
- **Maternal Health:** Decrease postpartum depression **from 11.9% to 9.9%** via screenings and home visits.
- **Chronic Absenteeism:** Reduce K-8 absenteeism **from 26.4% to 18.5%** by addressing health/immunization barriers.
- **Chronic Disease:** Improve hypertension medication management to **81.7%** among adult Medicaid members.

The Way Forward

The results of the SWOT analysis will serve as a strategic guide for strengthening the Niagara County Department of Health's operations and impact. By leveraging identified strengths—such as our dedicated workforce and strong community partnerships—we will build on existing programs and enhance service delivery. Opportunities highlighted in the analysis, including emerging technologies and expanded funding streams, will inform future initiatives aimed at improving access and efficiency. We will address weaknesses, such as resource limitations or infrastructure gaps, through targeted investments and process improvements. Finally, by proactively mitigating external threats—such as evolving public health challenges and regulatory changes—we will ensure resilience and adaptability. This data-driven approach will enable us to prioritize actions that advance our mission of protecting and promoting the health of Niagara County residents.



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← Visit our website at:
www.niagaracounty.gov/health

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