

# Annual Report 2023

Delaware County Public Health Services

Amanda Walsh, Public Health Director



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Delaware County  
Public Health Services

**Delaware County Public Health Services**  
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**OUR VISION**

Healthy people living in healthy and thriving communities.

**OUR MISSION**

Protect, promote, and improve the health and well-being of people of all generations and create healthy places to live, learn, work, and play.

We serve the community through education and health promotion, prevention of illness and injury, health maintenance, advocacy, and planning. We utilize innovation, science and collaboration to educate, manage, evaluate, and regulate factors in the environment to reduce health risks, respond to public health concerns, and promote a healthy community.

**CORE VALUES**

- **Collaboration:** Working in partnership with individuals, the community, and organizations to strengthen our resources and achieve a common goal.
- **Excellence:** Sustaining a knowledgeable and competent Public Health workforces providing high quality services to the community.
- **Innovation:** Applying technology, knowledge, and research to implement creative and progressive interventions.
- **Integrity:** Adhering to high ethical and professional standards in the workplace to ensure transparent and accountable performance.
- **Respect:** Embracing the dignity and diversity of individuals, groups, and communities.
- **Science:** Supporting and prompting best practice in any discipline based on sound research and professional judgement.

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# Committee Members 2023

## **Medical Director**

- Dr. Rohan Jayasena

## **Community Health**

- Joe Cetta, Walton Town Supervisor
- Wayne Marshfield, Hamden Town Supervisor
- Arthur Merrill (Chairman), Colchester Town Supervisor
- Betty Scott, Masonville Town Supervisor
- Eric Wilson, Sidney Town Supervisor

## **Health Services Advisory Board**

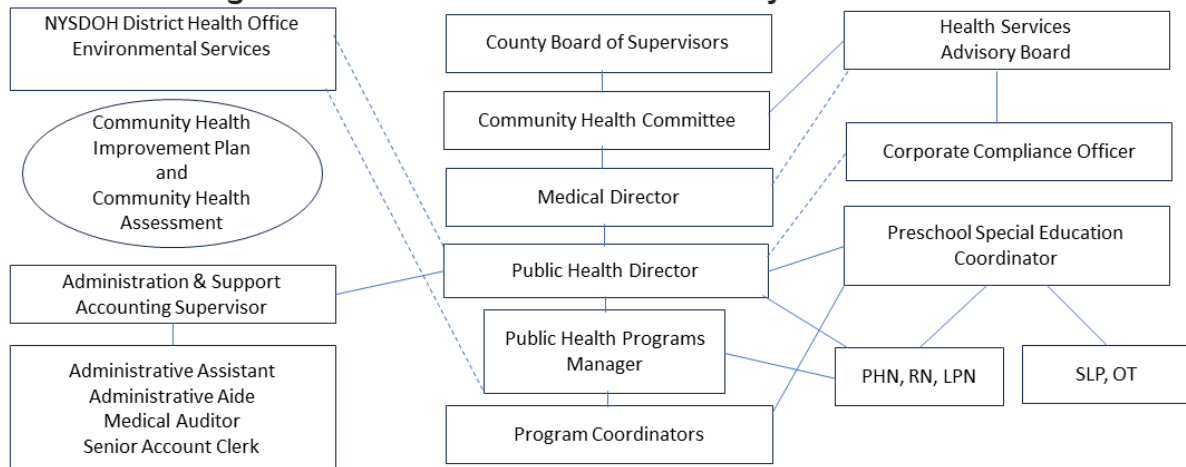
- Edward Bartos, NYSDOH Oneonta District Office
- Joe Cetta, Walton Town Supervisor
- Christina Gardner, Accounting Supervisor PH
- Dr. Rohan Jaysena, Medical Director
- Heather Warner, Public Health Programs Manager
- Wayne Marshfield, Hamden Town Supervisor
- Arthur Merrill, Colchester Town Supervisor (Chairman)
- Sarah Scobie, Public Health Nurse
- Betty Scott, Masonville Town Supervisor
- Wayne Shepard, Director Office for the Aging
- Kyra Shew, Special Education Coordinator
- Amanda Walsh, Public Health Director
- Eric Wilson, Sidney Town Supervisor



# Organizational Chart

Revised 6/2023

## Organizational Chart for Delaware County Public Health Services



- Chronic Disease Prevention**
- Coalitions/Organizations
  - Public Participation
  - Community Information
  - Education & Referral

- Communicable Disease Control**
- Arthropod Borne Vector
  - General Communicable Disease
  - Immunization
  - Article 28 Clinics/Diagnostic & Treatment
  - Rabies
  - STD/AIDS/HIV
  - TB/Directly Observed Therapy

- Family Health**
- Child Health
  - Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)
  - Physically Handicapped Children's Program (PHCP)
  - Maternal & Infant Health
  - MCH Home Visits
  - Reproductive Health

- Children's Services**
- Early Intervention Administration (EI)
  - Early Intervention Provider Agency
  - Preschool Special Education Program

- Emergency Preparedness & Response**
- Planning/Education
  - Training/Exercises

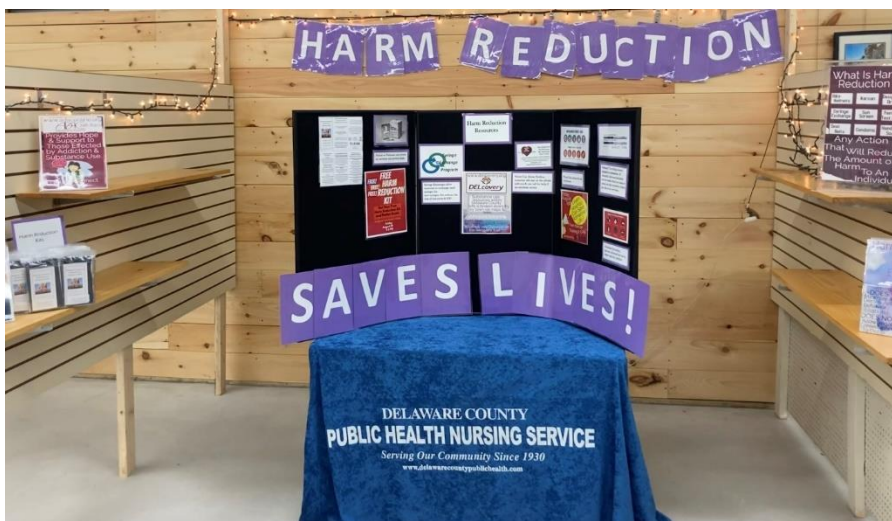
- |                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Environmental</b>        | <b>Health</b>    |
| • Lead Poisoning Prevention | • Injury Control |

- Public Health Program Manager and Preschool Special Education Coordinator perform general supervision of PHN/RN related to program activity, clinical skills are peer supervised.
- Public Health staff may be assigned to work in any Public Health Program.



# Preventing Substance Abuse

- The Substance Use Prevention Program was grant funded by New York State OD2A (Overdose To Action). The grant was funded for four years and ended on August 31, 2023. The goal of this grant was to reduce substance use and educate communities.
- Delaware County Public Health collaborated with law enforcement, hospitals, and treatment and prevention agencies to provide education to the community. Topics included: substance use, harm reduction resources, substance use trends, and prevention of substance use.
- Substance use data was collected from Tri-Town Emergency Department, O'Connor Hospital's Emergency Department, Margaretville Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department, and Delaware Valley Hospital's Emergency Department. EMS, Fire Departments, and the Delaware County Correctional Facility also provided substance use data. The data was collected to track substance use trends; data was shared with the substance use task force during quarterly meetings.
- 750 harm reduction kits were assembled and distributed to hospitals, FOR-DO, and Delaware Opportunities. Kits were also distributed during the "Healthy Delaware" Innovative Readiness Training.





# Promoting Mental Health



- Suicide Prevention Network of Delaware County consists of community partners and individuals from human services, mental health and substance use agencies, law enforcement, area hospitals, schools and other community-based agencies. Our goal is to make a difference by being suicide prevention advocates. The Network meets quarterly to review suicide data and develop programs and outreach to educate the public about the importance of mental health and Suicide Prevention.

## Network members participated in the following community outreach activities:

- July 2023 “Healthy Delaware” Innovative Readiness Initiative mission in Walton, N.Y.; a resource Suicide Prevention Network display table was created to inform the public about suicide prevention. *The Pocket Guide to Services and Emergency Contacts in Delaware County, N.Y.* was distributed by DCPH staff throughout the week-long event. Medication lock boxes and gun locks were also made available at no cost.
- September 2023; Suicide Prevention Network of Delaware County Co-Sponsored the 11th annual AFSP KSE Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Awareness WALK. Network members hosted a prevention resource table and were available to educate the public about signs and symptoms of suicide and warning signs. Support and information was also provided about available community resources. In honor of those whose lives were lost to suicide, a memorial service and walk through the Delhi community took place. This culminated in heartfelt speeches by community residents on the importance of mental wellness and self care. As a result of the event, over +\$10,000 was raised for research and to support community-based prevention programs.
- November 2023; Veterans Resource Fair, Sidney, N.Y.; DCPH staff were available to speak with veterans and their families to provide support resources and information about mental health and suicide prevention.

# Communicable Disease Control

## **Communicable Disease Program**

- The Communicable Disease program receives all NYS reportable communicable disease lab reports via the Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS). These lab reports alert the public health when a pathogen that may be a threat to the health of the community is identified, as they can be contagious. Disease control staff conduct investigations, identify causes of illness and provide prevention education.
- A total of 4,527 communicable disease laboratory reports were received and investigated resulting in 685 cases being completed and reported for 2023.
- As of December 20, 2023, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) and Varicella (Chicken Pox) are now reportable communicable diseases in N.Y.S.

## **Tickborne Disease**

- There were 604 positive Lyme laboratory results received of which, 126 met CDC case criteria for NYSDOH and federal reporting. Lyme disease can be an acute or chronic condition, either may require treatment. Individuals may have a positive Lyme lab result and receive treatment however, due to NYSDOH and CDC case definition, case numbers reported will look different.
- Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever are other tickborne diseases found in Delaware County. The number of positive Anaplasmosis lab results have been notably increasing.

## **Foodborne Outbreaks**

- Several foodborne illnesses were reported to agency. Foodborne infections were identified through the NYS Communicable Disease Reporting System. Investigations are conducted in collaboration with NYSDOH Oneonta District Office environmental health field staff.

## **Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)**

- Public Health provides anonymous and confidential Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and STD testing and treatment for Delaware County residents through contracted testing services with Family Planning of South Central New York. A total of 8 HIV tests and 43 STD tests were conducted as part of Delaware County's STD clinic services.



## Communicable Disease Report 2023

	Reports	Cases
Anaplasmosis	160	56
Babesiosis	39	5
Campylobacteriosis	28	27
Chlamydia	111	109
Covid-19	9742	1451
Cryptosporidiosis	9	5
E. Coli (STEC)	19	12
Ehrlichiosis	8	1
Encephalitis	4	0
Giardia	24	22
Gonorrhea	30	19
Hepatitis A (HAV)	5	1
Hepatitis B (HBV)	39	3
Hepatitis C (HCV)	185	29
Influenza A	2586	147
Influenza B		93
Influenza H1N1		8
Listeria	0	0
Legionella	0	0
Lyme	605	126
Measles	0	0
Meningitis, Bacterial	1	1
Meningitis, Aseptic	0	0
Monkeypox	0	0
Mumps	0	0
Pertussis	0	0
Powassan Virus	5	0
Q Fever	1	0
Rocky Mtn. Spotted Fever	80	1
Rubella	0	0
Salmonella	9	8
Shigella	0	0
Strep - Group A (Invasive)	3	3
Strep - Group B (Invasive)	3	3
Strep Pneumococcal	2	2
Syphilis	53	1
Tuberculosis	514	0
Vibrio	1	1
West Nile Virus	1	0
Yersiniosis	2	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14,269</b>	<b>2,136</b>

# Communicable Disease Control

## Immunization Program

- The immunization program held vaccination clinics monthly, providing no-cost or low-cost routine vaccinations to the community through the Vaccines for Children and Vaccines for Adults programs, primarily serving uninsured and underinsured individuals. The program also assisted county health care providers to assess the vaccination status of their practice to improve vaccine uptake in the community. Immunization education sessions were held for the public, as well as with community partners.
- 47 vaccinations were given at Public Health's monthly immunization clinics.
- New York State Public Health Law requires all mothers to be tested for hepatitis B during pregnancy. Infants who are born to mothers who are infected with hepatitis B are at greater risk of acquiring infection during birth. Delaware County provides coordination to assure at-risk infants have received appropriate preventative treatment, vaccination, and testing to reduce their risks from exposure.



# Communicable Disease Control

## Rabies Program

- 34 people referred for Rabies PEP treatment.
- 27 animals sent for testing, 3 tested positive: 2 raccoons and 1 skunk.
- One 6 month quarantine of a dog exposed to rabid raccoon.
- 1,071 dogs, cats, or ferrets received rabies vaccinations at 10 clinics.

<b>Number of Animals Tested for Rabies 2023</b>				
<b>Specimens</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Untestable</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Bat</b>		12		
<b>Fox</b>		NA		
<b>Cat</b>		2		
<b>Dog</b>		3		
<b>Raccoon</b>	2	1		
<b>Cow</b>		1		
<b>Skunk</b>	1	1		
<b>Deer</b>		2		
<b>Muskrat</b>		1		
<b>Other</b>		1		
<b>Total</b>	3	24		27

# Communicable Disease Control

Animal to Human Bite Reports by Town in 2023

Town of Exposure	Bat	Cat	Deer	Dog	Fox	Raccoon	Rat	Skunk	Other	Cow	Donkey	Hamster	Grand Total
Andes	6			1	3		1			2			13
Bovina			1							1			2
Colchester	6	2			7								15
Davenport	2	3			5		1	1		1			13
Delhi	7	6			13		2			1	1		30
Deposit	1	2			10				1				14
Franklin	2	1			2		1		1			1	8
Hamden	1						1						2
Hancock	1	2		1	11								15
Kortright			1		4		1		1				7
Masonville			3		3								6
Meredith					3		1			3			7
Middletown	3	2			9		1			1			16
Out of County			2		16	1	1		1	1			22
Roxbury	3	3			2		1						9
Sidney	7	8			24		1			1		1	42
Stamford	5	1			5		1			1			13
Tompkins	1	1			1								3
Walton	9	8			20		1		1				39
Delhi					1								1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>277</b>
<p>*Note: Bites occurred out of the county but residents lived in Delaware County, therefore Delaware County case follow-up was required.</p> <p>**Other may include: cow, bobcat, bear, etc.</p>													



# Emergency Preparedness & Response

- Staff training was continuously available during 2023; training opportunities included National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, HSEEP, disease control and surveillance, communication management, outbreak management, access to functional needs, psychological first aid, and mass vaccination point of distribution training.
- Drills including volunteer management (ServNY), requesting needed resources from New York State Department of Health, Point of Distribution site activation, and mass electronic communication events Integrated Health Alerting and Notification System (IHANS) were conducted to test and identify gaps in the capabilities of DCPH's ability to respond during an emergency event.
- Ebola preparedness conducted annually, staff conducted PPE donning and doffing drills. Drilling ensured a continuous effort of skills building for staff and community partners.
- The Delaware County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) set up Drill was conducted at the Public Safety Building. The EOC drill tested the capability of EOC member's ability to respond, assemble, and connect their computers to the secure Wi-Fi. Departments that participated included Emergency Services, IT, OFA, Community/Behavioral Health Services, DSS, Planning and DPW.
- Staff participated in the "Healthy Delaware" Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) at Walton High School.





# Healthy Delaware Innovative Readiness Initiative (IRT)

- The Planning Department, Southern Tier Eight, Public Health, Behavioral Health, Delaware Opportunities and key partner organizations in the Walton community participated in the local planning process with the US Army for the Healthy Delaware IRT. The event was funded through the US Department of Defense and health services were provided by the US Army and Navy. The Sheriff's Department, Department of Public Works, Emergency Services, Social Services, Office for the Aging, Economic Development and Information Technology also provided resources and support.
- Healthy Delaware IRT was a 9-day, no cost medical event for people ages birth through the lifespan. This event was open to the public and available to county residents as well as people living in the surrounding region. Held at the Walton Central School District from July 11<sup>th</sup> – July 19<sup>th</sup> the following services were provided:
  - health physicals/health assessments
  - vision
  - dental
  - behavioral health screenings and group session therapy (anger management, stress, etc.)
  - veterinary services
- A Community Resource tent including local and regional community partner agencies as well as mobile cancer screening services vans were featured.





# Injury Control

## Lead Poisoning Prevention

- The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program activities are funded by the NYSDOH Lead grant via the Center's for Disease Control as well as State Aid Article 6.
- Case management was provided to children with elevated blood lead levels of 5ug/dL or greater. Modes of communication included phone, text, mail and face-to-face.
- 18 children were identified with an elevated lead level.
- 25 cleaning kits were distributed to families. Kits included cleaning tools and educational resources.
  - 10 cleaning kits were provided to the Delhi food bank. The town of Delhi was identified as having the highest amount of lead cases.
  - 10 cleaning kits were provided to the food bank at Delaware Opportunities.
- Lead poisoning prevention information was provided to board and community members at a Town of Delhi Board Meeting. Seventeen people attended this board meeting.
- Educational resources were provided to the community at "Healthy Delaware" Innovative Readiness Training mission.
- An EPA certification class was provided to certify contractors and "DIY"-ers on how to properly remove lead during renovations. Two people attended this class.
- An in-service was provided for Delaware Opportunities. Sixty employees were educated on common sources of lead, side effects of contamination, ways to prevent lead poisoning, and how to assist families that have a child(ren) with elevated lead levels.

### Number of Newly Identified Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels

Lead level	2020	2021	2022	2023
5-9 ug/dl	18	9	11	14
10-14 ug/dl	9	1	3	1
15-19 ug/dl	5	0	1	1
20-44 ug/dl	3	5	1	2
45-60 ug/dl	0	0	0	0

# Injury Control

## Child Passenger Seat Program

- The Child Passenger Safety Program coordinated by the New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee provides grant funding for Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. The funding is used to train the public on correct installation and use of their child’s safety seat or booster seat. Seats are checked to ensure that there is a proper fit for the size of the child. Technicians are also able to determine whether a seat has been recalled or if the seat has exceeded its expiration.
- If car seat technicians are unable to safely install a car seat owned by a family, then a new car seat is provided at no cost to the family.
- Public Health contracts with Delaware Opportunities to provide a monthly car seat fitting station at their location in Hamden, NY.
- 273 total seats were distributed between the fitting station, the low-income program, and community events.
- Two car seat trainings were provided to social services caseworkers; staff were taught how to properly install a car seat. A total of nine caseworkers were trained.

## Community Car Seat Fitting Events

DATE	LOCATION	SEATS CHECKED	SEATS REPLACED
August 10, 2023	Delaware Opportunities	11	1
September 21, 2023	Cullman Center	12	4

# Mortality and Morbidity

CAUSE OF DEATH	2021	2022	2023
Accidents (Drowning or falling)	2	3	3
AIDS Related Illness	1	0	0
Alzheimer's	0	0	0
Alcohol Related	0	4	0
Cancer	75	55	65
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	36	39	41
Cirrhosis of the Liver	5	1	2
Congenital Anomalies	0	1	0
*Covid-19 & Covid-19 Related	44	13	11
Dementia	24	41	37
Diabetes Mellitus	2	1	2
Drug Overdose/Opioid Related	13	8	7
Gastritis, Enteritis, Colitis, Diverticulitis	1	7	2
Heart & Circulatory Diseases	157	133	130
Hepatitis	-	1	1
Homicide & Legal Intervention	1	1	0
Influenza	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	6	3
Multiple Organ Failure	11	7	3
Natural Aging	4	5	2
Neurologic Disease	4	1	4
Pending Investigation (Sent for Autopsy)	1	2	0
Pneumonia/Diseases Pulmonary Circulation	22	26	15
Renal Failure	12	8	7
Septicemia	24	16	14
Suicide	6	6	5
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
All Other Causes	2	2	9
<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>*388</b>	<b>*364</b>

\*Data may show lower numbers of total deaths than actual numbers due to the following factors:

- Death certificates are filed and reported to the county in which the person becomes deceased.
  - Delaware County may not receive cause of death information for every resident who becomes deceased outside of county.
  - Delaware County contains critical access hospitals only, in many cases patients are transferred out of county to larger hospitals for care.
  - Delaware County residents who qualify for placement in long term care facilities, such as a nursing home, may reside in a nursing home out of county.

# Family Health

## Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs is grant funded by NYSDOH via a federal block grant. This program provides support to children with special needs ages birth to 21.
- Program promotion and outreach was provided via social media platforms, billboards, phone, email and radio.
- One child received orthodontia services and one child received care coordination services.
- The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs program sponsored events held at O.W.L. (Oneonta World of Learning), Noah's World, sensory friendly swimming lessons and a family day held at the Catskill Recreation Center. These events promoted play, development, learning, and life skills for Delaware County children.
- Melanie Potock, MA, CCC-SLP facilitated a self-paced online training course called Feeding Development. This was to provided support to families and professionals who have or work with children experiencing feeding challenges. A total of 30 participants registered for this training.
- Education and resources for the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs program were provided at "Healthy Delaware" Innovative Readiness Training.

## Maternal Child Health Program

- 76 Home visits were conducted in 2023.
- 312 births were recorded in Delaware County in 2023.



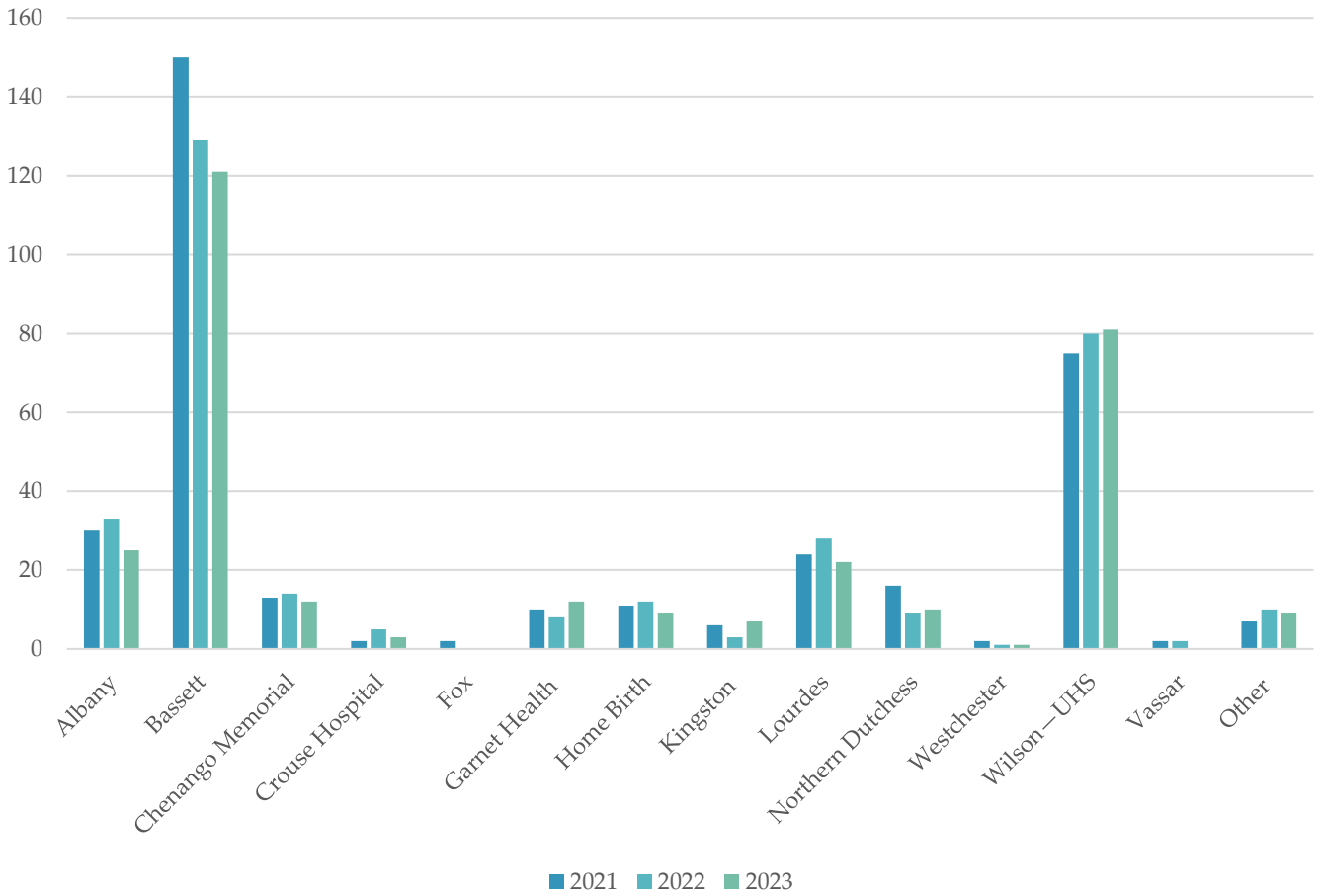
# Maternal Child Health Program

<b>Births By Town</b>			
<b>TOWN</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Andes</b>	8	10	8
<b>Bovina</b>	5	3	5
<b>Colchester</b>	18	18	14
<b>Davenport</b>	22	18	21
<b>Delhi</b>	25	20	25
<b>Deposit</b>	12	11	8
<b>Franklin</b>	16	25	21
<b>Hamden</b>	11	6	7
<b>Hancock</b>	27	36	20
<b>Harpersfield</b>	4	9	5
<b>Kortright</b>	8	14	9
<b>Masonville</b>	8	8	12
<b>Meredith</b>	14	7	15
<b>Middletown</b>	20	17	20
<b>Roxbury</b>	17	13	13
<b>Sidney</b>	63	57	50
<b>Stamford</b>	23	17	14
<b>Tompkins</b>	5	6	6
<b>Walton</b>	44	39	39
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>312</b>



# Maternal Child Health Program

## Births By Location





# Early Intervention Program

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) is New York State's implementation of Part C of the Federal Individual with Disability Act. The EIP has been in effect since July 1, 1993, and serves infants and toddlers, birth to three years of age, who have developmental delays.

Young children learn and develop differently. One child may walk earlier than another, while other children may talk first. Often these differences will even out over time; but some children need extra help. *Early Intervention does make a difference in a child's life.*

The EIP assists families by identifying and obtaining evaluations as early as possible. For infants and toddlers whose development may be delayed, providing an appropriate intervention can improve child and family development. Services are provided at no out-of-pocket costs to families for children who meet eligibility criteria for participation in the EIP.

During 2023, three Service Coordinators helped guide families through the EIP. Service Coordinators help develop IFSPs, link families to resources, work with other agencies, and manages the services. Service Coordinators also help families in finding pediatricians, applying for health insurance, supplying information on child development and other family concerns. Service Coordinators assist families navigate the transition to preschool programs as the EI child turns 3 years old.

Referrals to the EIP can be made to the Delaware County Early Intervention Program by; parents/families, physician, or other professionals. Any child from birth up to age 3 years of age with a developmental delay, disability or specific condition may be eligible for EI services. Eligibility for services is determined by the NYS Department of Health and is based on the degree of delay or a child's diagnosis. The delay must be 33% in one or 25% in two developmental domains.

The EIP offers a variety of therapy and support services to children who are eligible for the program. These services include Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech, Hearing and Vision services, nutrition services, service coordination, and assistive technology devices and services.

# Early Intervention Program

## **Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council (LEICC):**

As part of the EI Program each county is required to have a Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council (LEICC). The role of the LEICC is to advise the EIO on matters pertaining to the planning, delivery and evaluation of EI services for eligible children and their families, including methods to identify and address gaps in services. The LEICC advise the EIO of identification of service delivery reforms necessary to promote the availability of EI services within natural environments. It coordinates public and private agencies, along with other matter that may be brought forward by parents, providers, and public agencies to the municipality, as they relate to the EI policies and procedures.

During 2023 two LEICC meetings were held by Zoom in May and November. During the May there was a guest speaker, Lucas Stone. Mr. Stone represented STIC (Southern Tier Independence Center) He reviewed what the Triad Service's (Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities) is and how it can help families.

At the November LEICC meeting- Delaware Opportunities was present to explain and review the services at Delaware Opportunities.

## **Early Intervention Outreach:**

During 2023 Early Intervention provided the following outreach activities:

- Outreach during the Delhi Farms Market
- Facebook page-monthly EI information (i.e. milestones, developmental areas)
- Updated Early Intervention Posters to distribute to doctor's offices
- LEICC meetings

# Early Intervention Program

Enrollment By Town	Total Children
Andes	0
Bovina	1
Colchester	4
Davenport	8
Delhi	12
Deposit	7
Franklin	5
Hamden	2
Hancock	8
Harpersfield	3
Kortright	6
Masonville	3
Meredith	7
Middletown	5
Roxbury	4
Sidney	17
Stamford	4
Tompkins	2
Walton	14
<b>Total:</b>	<b>112</b>

# Early Intervention Program

## Child Find

- Child Find is part of the Early Intervention Program (EIP). It is a voluntary program designed to identify and monitor those children at risk for developmental delay but who do not qualify for Early Intervention services at that time.
- An at-risk child is any child who meets one or more of the following; was born prematurely, 10 or more days hospitalization in NICU, exposure to environmental lead, has a growth or metabolic disorder, maternal PKU, history of maternal alcohol or substance abuse, prenatal exposure to therapeutic drugs, suspected hearing or vision impairment, illness or traumatic injury, congenital infections, chronic serous otitis media, central nervous system insult or abnormality, congenital malformations, asphyxia, abnormalities of muscle tone, hyperbilirubinemia, hypoglycemia, lack of prenatal or well-baby care, diagnosis of genetic syndrome that may confer increased risk for developmental delays, parental developmental disabilities or mental illness, parenting concerns, family history of child abuse or neglect, homelessness, any concerns about the child's development.
- Service Coordinators work with families and health care providers to monitor the child's skills by using developmental screenings as part of their regular health care follow-up from birth through 2 years of age.

<b>Child Find 2023</b>		
<b>Number of Referrals</b>	<b>Number of Children Enrolled</b>	<b>Number of Children Referred to E.I.</b>
31	8	2

# Preschool Special Education Program

The Preschool Special Education Program provides special education services to children ages three to five years old, who have a disability that affects the way they learn. Eligibility for services is determined by the child's school district's Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). The decision for services is determined by CPSE following part 200 of the New York State regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Services that are provided through the committee include evaluations, related services, special class integrated preschool programs (4410), special class programs, and transportation services. The CPSE creates an Individualized Education Program (IEP). IEP addresses the services the child may need to assist in the learning. Preschool children who receive an IEP in New York State are classified as a "Preschooler with a Disability".

## **Related Services**

- Delaware County contracts with individual service providers for related services. Services are provided to eligible preschool children in preschool programs, day cares, and homes.
- Professional Related Services include: Speech and Language Pathologists, Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists.

## **State Approved Preschool Special Education Programs (4410 Programs)**

New York State Education Department is the lead agency that oversees and approves agencies to operate a 4410 special education programs for preschool. These programs are able to provide evaluations, serve as related service providers, Special Itinerant Education Teachers (SEIT) services, integrated classrooms, and special classes for eligible preschool students.

## **4410 Programs:**

- Carousel Children's Services (DELARC)- Delhi, NY (only 4410 program located in Delaware County)
- The Child Development Center (FEN-Family Enrichment Network)-Norwich, NY
- G&D Therapies-Liberty, NY
- Handicapped Children's Association (HCA)-Johnson City, NY
- Kids Unlimited (Springbrook, INC)-Oneonta, NY
- Whispering Pines Preschool-Cobleskill and Delanson, NY

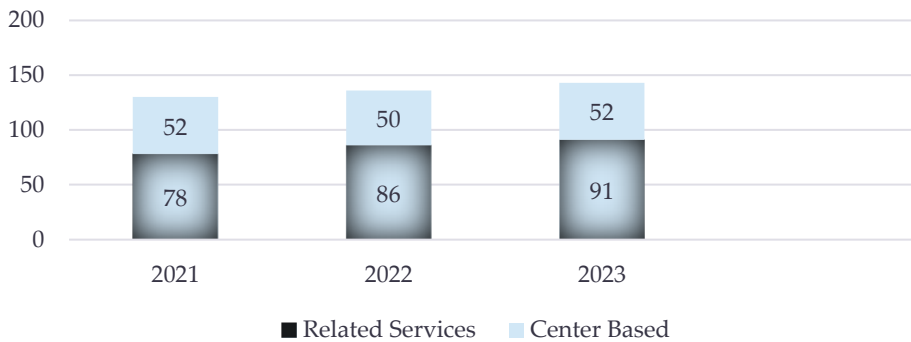
\*According to a New York State Education Department Part 200 of the regulations-school districts are approved evaluators that may conduct evaluations for preschoolers\*

## **Transportation**

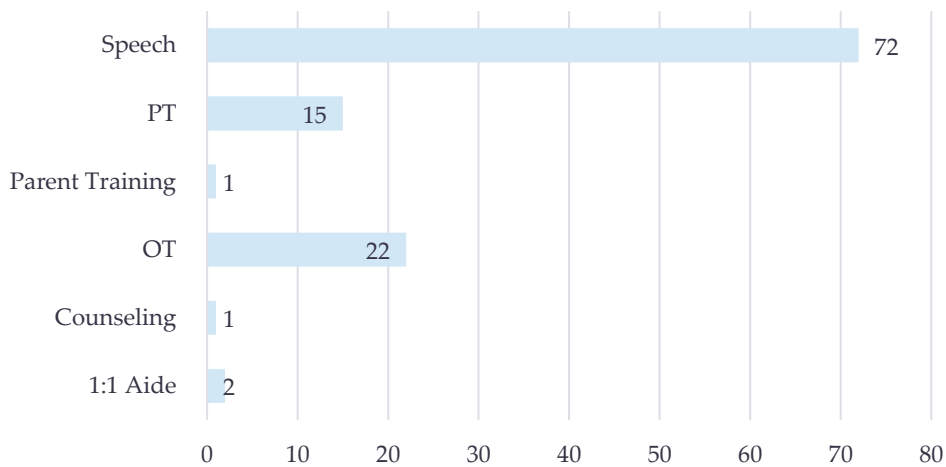
- Municipalities are responsible for transporting eligible preschool children to 4410 programs. Delaware County Public Health maintains contracts for transportation. The agency also contracts with VMC Consultants to determine transportation routing for transportation bid specifications and processing.

# Preschool Special Education Program

## Number of Preschool Children Receiving Services in Delaware Co. 2021-2023



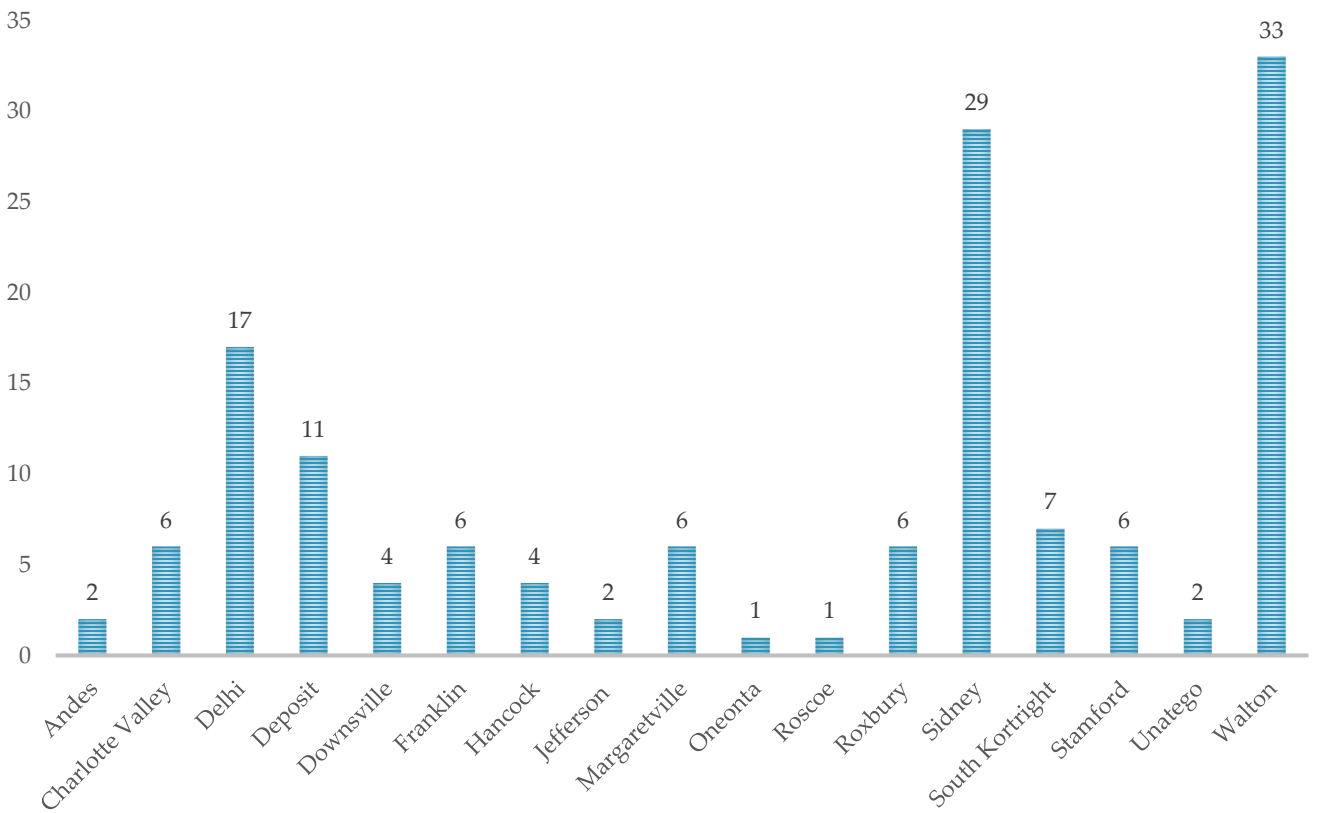
## 2023 Preschool Related Services by Type





# Preschool Special Education Program

NUMBER OF PRESCHOOL STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT



# Programs and Funding

- Delaware County Public Health Services had expenses totaling \$5,343,116 and was able to secure funding totaling \$3,287,895 resulting in a net cost of \$2,055,221.

## Highlights:

- The largest source of funding for local health departments is Article 6 State Aid. In 2023 Delaware County Public Health Services received \$658,149 of funding through state aid to support the following core program areas:
  - Chronic Disease Prevention,
  - Communicable Disease Control,
  - Family Health,
  - Environmental Health,
  - Emergency Preparedness and Response,
  - Community Health Assessment.
- Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education Programs received a total of \$1,568,482 through Medicaid, Private Insurance, New York State Department of Health and New York State Department of Education.
- New York State Department of Health allocated funding for recruitment and retention bonuses to qualified healthcare and mental hygiene workers. Delaware County Public Health Services received \$25,836 for qualified employee bonuses.
- Our COVID-19 Response FEMA application was approved and paid in the amount of \$75,667. This funding reimbursed for eligible overtime costs incurred from March 2020 through September 2020.
- We were awarded the Public Health Strengthening Infrastructure, Workforce and Data Systems grant. This is a five-year grant running from 12/1/2022–11/30/2027. The purpose of this grant is to strengthen the public health workforce through hiring of positions, supporting retention or current staff, making upgrades to the workplace to increase employee satisfaction, providing public health training, and providing public health support services to the department.



# Programs and Funding

Grants provide additional funding to support specific program objectives.

Grant Name	Objective	2023 Funding
<b>Rabies</b>	To provide animal bite investigations and follow-up for potential rabies exposure, human post exposure treatment, specimen testing, animal vaccination clinics and rabies prevention and education.	14,886
<b>Immunization Action Plan</b>	To increase immunization rates and reduce the occurrence of vaccine preventable disease, improve immunization records and promote immunizations through education & training.	37,457
<b>Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs</b>	To support families of children and youth with special needs by providing information and referrals to insurance, health services, and community resources to address their identified needs.	61,823
<b>Lead Poisoning Prevention</b>	To increase awareness of lead poisoning, identify high-risk populations, increase lead testing/screening and provide follow-up to children with elevated lead levels.	33,842
<b>Child Passenger Safety</b>	To increase the proper use and installation of child safety seats through fitting stations, check events and a low-income distribution program.	18,584
<b>Overdose Data to Action</b>	To enhance response activities associated with the opioid and substance use.	51,438
<b>Public Health Emergency Preparedness</b>	For planning, training and exercises in preparation for a public health emergency.	69,031
<b>Early Intervention Administration</b>	To identify and evaluate as early as possible those infants and toddlers whose healthy development is compromised and provide appropriate intervention to improve child and family development.	36,931
<b>Climate and Health Adaptation Initiative</b>	To address and prevent the health impacts of climate change.	3,000
<b>Public Health Infrastructure</b>	To strengthen the public health workforce, support retention of healthcare workers, upgrade work environments and systems, and provide training and support services to public health employees.	8,018

# Programs and Funding

Delaware County Public Health received additional emergency grant funding related to the COVID19 Pandemic.

<b>ELC Enhanced Detection</b>	<b>For increased capacity to conduct case and contact investigations for COVID-19.</b>	<b>74,319</b>
<b>ELC Reopening Schools</b>	To enable schools to establish COVID-19 screening testing programs to support and maintain in-person learning and keep schools operating safely.	428,561
<b>COVID19 Vaccine Response</b>	To promote and increase COVID-19 vaccinations.	12,008
<b>COVID Fellowship</b>	To build public health capacity to support COVID-19 response operations and increase preparedness for future public health emergencies and begin to build workforce capacity	64,832

# Administration

## Corporate Compliance Program

The Public Health Corporate Compliance Program was developed to ensure standards of care, ethical behavior and compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the agency. Compliance Program policies and procedures are in place to identify and report fraud, waste, and abuse of public resources. The Agency's compliance program must meet requirements of NYS Social Services Law ("SSL") Section 363-d and 18 NYCRR Part 521. The compliance committee uses a team approach to ensure the identification, investigation and correction of compliance issues. The Compliance Committee met periodically to review and discuss potential compliance risks.

## 2023 Corporate Compliance Activities

- Monitoring of approximately 200 providers and entities with the KChecks system. KChecks (Kinney Services, Inc-KChecks Automated Exclusion Management) is a web-based system that provides a monthly search from a central repository with uploaded names. This identifies any individuals or entities that have been excluded from participating in federally funded healthcare programs such as, Medicaid. KChecks adheres to Medicaid standards to audit providers.
- Docusign Software was introduced to staff. Docusign is a secure web-based platform to obtain needed signatures for confidential documents and for agency contracts. Docusign is utilized by the individuals' email address. Docusign's software adheres to the confidentiality policies and procedures of the agency.
- The Sharepoint system is utilized to share confidential documents with contracted staff. Sharepoint requires a password protected login system.
- Annual Corporate Compliance Training was completed for Public Health staff, Health Services Advisory Board, and Board of Supervisors.

# Agency Summary

## **Staffing**

Two Program Coordinators and an LPN left the agency in August and November. We hired a Health Education Program Coordinator in October. The Public Health Fellowship program began to wind down and the Senior Public Health Specialist accepted another position outside of the Fellowship Program. The Agency precepted a SUNY Binghamton Master of Public Health student from August - December 2023.

## **Master of Public Health Student Project**

DCPH hosted Alex Buncy a graduate student pursuing her masters degree in Public Health for two semesters of internship work. Project work included the conduction of a school mental health resource survey project, development of a mental health resource guide for schools and the assessment and organization of existing local substance use data.

## **Public Health Programs**

Substance use prevention activities included the continued collaboration with community partners, data collection, distribution of harm reduction kits to community agencies and the public.

The Suicide Prevention Network participated in the community resource tent at "Healthy Delaware" IRT where the *Pocket Guide to Services and Emergency Contacts in Delaware County* was distributed. Medication lock boxes and gun locks were made available at no cost. The Network co-sponsored the annual AFSP KSE Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk and participated in the Veterans Resource Fair where community outreach and education was provided.

A total of 4,527 reportable communicable disease lab reports, resulting in 685 reportable cases. A total of 277 animal bite reports were received by the rabies program. Rabies vaccination was provided to 1,071 dogs, cats and ferrets.



# Agency Summary

## Public Health Programs continued

The preparedness program focused on staff training related to emergencies and drills. Preparedness staff and administration participated in planning meetings as well as attended the “Healthy Delaware” IRT.

The lead program sponsored an EPA lead renovation certification class for local contractors and “DIYers”. A lead poisoning prevention in-service was held for Delaware Opportunities staff. Case management of children with elevated lead levels continued and cleaning kits were distributed to families and community members.

Seventy-six health guidance home visits were provided to new moms and babies. Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs program sponsored events for children with special needs at Oneonta World of Learning, Noah’s World, sensory friendly swimming lessons and a self-paced nutrition and feeding course for families, community members and professionals to provide support for children with feeding challenges.

## EI and Preschool

There were 112 children enrolled in the Early Intervention program. The provider shortage for speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy continues for both EI and the preschool special education program, with waitlists for services. The agency continues to canvass for a speech language pathologist and part-time occupational therapist. A total of 143 children received preschool special education therapy services with 52 of those children attended center based preschool programs.