



Paul A. Pettit, MSL, CPH
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GO Health 2024: A Year in Review

2024 was a busy and successful year for the Genesee and Orleans County Health Departments (GO Health). Throughout this year, staff remained dedicated to advancing their efforts for Public Health Accreditation, eagerly awaiting the outcome in early 2025. The pursuit of accreditation required an immense amount of hard work and commitment, and staff takes great pride in the accomplishments made to ensure that GO Health delivers high quality programs and services to the community. Several teams throughout GO Health were engaged in diverse projects and activities, and they achieved great success.

The **Community Health Services** team continues to actively address health issues impacting residents by providing health services, monitoring and containing the spread of disease, and sharing public health data. The team is committed to improving the health and well-being of children and families through its Maternal and Child Health Initiative, which uses evidence-based home visiting programs (programs proven to be effective) to help improve outcomes for mothers and babies. In 2024, over 800 vaccines were administered during routine and community immunization clinics. Additionally, 530 vaccines were administered, and 615 various healthcare services were provided on-site to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Furthermore, 39 individuals received post-exposure rabies treatment after being exposed to a confirmed or suspected rabid animal. Staff conducted over 500 communicable disease investigations and developed two publicly available data dashboards inform partners and the public of local [respiratory illness](#) and [drug overdose](#) activity.

Environmental Health regulates various permitted facilities throughout Genesee and Orleans Counties, implementing measures to ensure compliance with the New York State (NYS) Sanitary Code. They help ensure the community is safe from foodborne illnesses by conducting inspections of food service establishments. Environmental Health Specialists also inspect septic systems, monitor Public Water Supplies, enforce the NYS Clean Indoor Air Act, and offer free rabies clinics throughout the year. The Lead Program educates and provides outreach to enhance lead poisoning prevention



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and promote lead testing for children. In 2024, GO Health was awarded a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address housing-related health issues throughout the GLOW region.

Staff within our **Children with Special Needs Programs** work with families of our youngest children (age's birth to three) providing case management, education, support, and referrals. Some of the services children receive through this program are speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and special education teacher services. For children with special needs, ages 3 to 5, the counties work with local school districts to ensure they receive the services that they need. The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs grant (for age's birth - 21) continued a subcontract with Independent Living of the Genesee Region, which has led to a significant increase in referrals.

The **Public Health Education (PHE)** team devoted a lot of effort into carrying out initiatives that addressed the Community Health Improvement Plan's (CHIP) priority areas. Educators implemented three National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) classes throughout the two counties reaching approximately 19 residents. This is a lifestyle change program aimed to help people at high risk for type 2 diabetes to reduce their risk by making lifestyle changes. PHE staff attended over 77 events in the community and educated over 3,369 people on various public health topics. Additionally, staff began the 2025-2030 Community Health Assessment and CHIP process.

Some developments occurring within **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)** included helping to re-establish community organizations active in disaster, improving plans for mass sheltering, greater attention to extreme weather and heat through promotion of registered summer cooling centers, and establishing outreach activities with the GO Health Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to include first aid centers, cooling centers, and safety trainings. As part of these activities, PHEP and MRC developed "Safety and Wellness Kits" with messaging focusing on summer safety, cooling and hydration, and mental health resiliency. PHEP also helped to reorganize and relaunch the community preparedness apps of Ready Genesee and Orleans Aware to better share emergency alerts and promote resources.

Weights & Measures (W&M) completed 513 inspections, accounting for over 1,100 commercial weighing and measuring devices within the two counties ensuring compliance with NYS standards. The department also collected 144 fuel samples confirming fuel sold within both counties met a variety of parameters. GO Health W&M created and presented "Difficulties in the Field" at the regional meeting hosted in Genesee County. Gas station inspections totaled more than 7,400 gallons of fuel pumped. Since transitioning to a department of one in 2020, W&M has shown savings greater than \$250,000.



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“Serving the residents of Genesee and Orleans Counties is a pleasure,” stated Paul Pettit, Public Health Director for GO Health. “We appreciate the support and collaboration of the Genesee and Orleans County Legislatures, as well as all of our community partners, volunteers, and Board of Health members. We wish everyone a safe, healthy, and Happy New Year.”

For more information on GO Health programs and services, visit GOHealthNY.org or call your respective health department at:

- Genesee County: 585-344-2580 ext. 5555
- Orleans County: 585-589-3278

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