

Putnam County Department of Health

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I. Description of Department

The Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) is led by a Public Health Director with clinical services overseen by a medical consultant. PCDOH is divided into six divisions: Early Intervention; Epidemiology; Fiscal/Administration; Health Education (includes Public Health Emergency Preparedness); Nursing/Clinical Services; and Environmental Health Services. While each area operates with distinct staff, they collaborate to provide Putnam County residents with the highest quality programs and services. The Board of Health serves the PCDOH by advising on public health policy. Divisions provide regular reports to the Board and attend meetings at the request of the health director to present and discuss relevant health issues.

II. Services Provided (Divisions and Programs)

Early Intervention and Preschool Programs

The Early Intervention (EI) program evaluates infants and toddlers from birth through two years of age for developmental delays (physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional, and adaptive). If deemed eligible for services, the EI program provides special instruction, speech, occupational, physical therapy, and other services as appropriate. The Preschool Special Education program provides similar services for eligible children three to five years of age. The Early Learning Center was opened September 2025 and services universal pre-kindergarten with preschool special education students. Each inclusion classroom is staffed with experienced educators who embrace the various speeds and ways children grow, learn and develop.

Environmental Health Services

The Division of Environmental Health Services (EHS) implements specific strategies to protect environmental quality in Putnam County. Public Health Protection (PHP) strategies include but are not limited to: monitoring and regulating facilities such as service establishments, public water systems, treatment plants, sewage disposal systems, and solid waste facilities; enforcing regulations to address risks associated with rabies control, lead poisoning, air and water quality. Additionally engineering provides continued stewardship reviewing realty subdivision plans for construction and providing environmental risk assessment. EHS staff assists with countywide response to environmental emergencies. Enforcement of the New York State and Putnam County Sanitary Code and applicable laws, administrative rules, and regulations guides responding programmatic activities.

Epidemiology

Epidemiology is the foundational science of public health, focusing on the distribution and determinants of health conditions within populations. The Epidemiology Division facilitates timely public health response and supports data-driven decision making across the department and partner agencies through continuous surveillance, data analysis, assessment, and evaluation activities. The Epidemiologist also coordinates and leads the department's Outbreak Response Team. The division also houses the Data and Informatics Specialist, who advances departmental efforts to develop and implement technological solutions to improve information management. In addition, the division is primarily responsible for producing the Putnam County Community Health Assessment (CHA) and supports the development and evaluation of interventions included in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), both required by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Collectively, these efforts strengthen departmental programs and contribute to coordinated countywide public health planning and initiatives.

Fiscal/Administrative

The Fiscal/Administrative Division is responsible for the financial oversight of the PCDOH. Preparation of all financial reports, including State Aid reimbursement, grant and fiscal monitoring, purchase orders, and accounts receivable, are performed by fiscal office staff. Department-wide policies and procedures dealing with time accruals, call-in, travel requests, and reimbursement are also handled by this division as well as all personnel related needs.

Health Education

The core functions of the Health Education Division include: promoting, maintaining and improving individual and population health through multimodal community-wide information and education campaigns; and strengthening, supporting, and mobilizing communities and partnerships. Public information is made available in English and Spanish through social media, media releases, alerts and advisories. Educators connect with individuals and organizations through engagement and outreach activities, cross-sector coalitions, community presentations and professional trainings. Sustained engagement with residents, community partners, and internal stakeholders underpins PCDOH's collaborative approach to the development of the Putnam County Community Health Improvement Plan. Additionally, Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) staff work within the health education division and oversee the planning, implementation, and evaluation of PHEP, Cities Readiness Initiatives (CRI), and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Health Education is also responsible for the management of the Putnam County Employee Wellness program, supporting health improvement for all county employees.

Nursing/Clinical Services

The Nursing Division utilizes a variety of strategies to improve and monitor the health status of Putnam County visitors and residents. These include outreach to populations at risk for specific health problems, increasing access to services, either by direct provision of care or by partnering with other providers. The Maternal child health (MCH) program includes consultations, screening, surveillance for the early detection of disease, education, prevention, promotion, and coalition development within the community to

address service gaps. Nursing case management is provided through the lead poisoning prevention, tuberculosis control, and rabies prevention and control programs. Clinical services are provided in the areas of immunization, HIV and hepatitis C testing and counseling, and tuberculosis testing, diagnosis, and treatment.

III. Mission Statement

The mission of the Putnam County Department of Health is to improve and protect the health of our community.

IV. Population Served

Putnam County Department of Health services are made available to all residents. Early Intervention, Preschool, and Child Find serve children birth to five years of age, and their families.

V. Significant Events and Accomplishments in 2025 (by division and committee)

Early Intervention (EI) and Preschool Programs

- The Early Learning Center received Office and Family Services approval and opened in September 2025, housing 28 students.
- New York State changes to the program that encompasses Early Intervention have resulted in the closure of many center-based programs. Children with severe delays now face a system with minimal capacity to deliver services. PCDOH Early Intervention continues to seek different ways to collaborate with parents and early intervention providers to fill the gaps and attempt to meet mandates.
- The cost (price per student) as well as enrollment (number of students eligible) in center-based programs are increasing. The EI supervisor has been working with the school districts to identify innovative and sustainable ways to provide the mandated services to support these children.
- Putnam County Early Learning Center (ELC) opened in September 2025 in an interim space at the local Inter-Arts program in Patterson. This program integrates typical universal pre-kindergarten students with students that have been identified through committees on preschool special education within local districts. The ELC offers all children an opportunity to engage in higher quality education in a supportive setting. There are existing plans to expand this program from a capacity of 24 to 100 students when a new building on that site is erected, in 2026.

Environmental Health Services

Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA)

- Recent changes in law have made it illegal to sell flavored vapor products in New York State. 14 cases were concluded in 2025, and \$27,675 was collected in civil penalties for tobacco and vapor product enforcements.

Rabies

- 402 potential rabies exposures were investigated, 47 treatments for potential rabies exposure, 74 samples tested for rabies, and two positive rabies results (bats).

- Three rabies clinics were held: March, July, and November. A total of 269 animals were vaccinated for rabies (169 dogs, 91 cats and 9 ferrets).
- The Feral Cat Task Force, a partner program with Putnam Advocats, processed 175 cats, 35 of those were fostered/adopted. All cats over four months old receive rabies vaccinations before they are released or adopted. The Towns of Patterson and Putnam Valley and the Putnam Humane Society provided additional funding to support the initiative.

Childrens Camps

- 20 permits were issued, 24 injuries investigated, 8 illnesses investigated, and 2 epinephrine administration reported.
- On April 29, 2025, the Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) camp program staff hosted a virtual "Children's Camp Seminar" via Microsoft Teams. Nineteen out of the 21 camp operators attended the session. Presentation topics included: Trauma Informed Practices, Vaccine Preventable Diseases/Measles, Reproductive Health/STI, Narcan availability/training, ADA compliance. The presentation slides and a recording of the meeting were shared with all camp operators and made available on the Putnam County Health Department's website.

Complaints/Requests for Services

- 214 complaints/requests for services were investigated. Complaints may include issues at regulated facilities, septic system failures, lake and stream pollution, private and public water supplies, indoor air, hazardous waste investigations, and more.

Food Program

- PCDOH Food Program staff worked with the Putnam County Youth Bureau, parents, and children to ensure safe food operation at the Youth Business Market at Tilly Foster Farm on June 8th, 2025. Youths prepared and sold lemonade, baked goods, and other food items.
- Food Program staff participated and provided food safety education at the ACE Endico Spring Showcase on February 2nd, 2025 and the ACE Endico Fall Culinary Expo on September 9th, 2025.
- In addition to routine inspections of food service establishments and food service complaint/food borne illness investigations, PCDOH food program staff provided additional food safety education for staff at the Brewster Schools and The Plaza at Clover Lake assisted living facility.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- There were 8 (eight) new cases of children with elevated blood lead levels, which required environmental health to perform inspections to assess lead hazards and provide guidance for the correction of any identified hazards

Beaches

- During the summer of 2025, several public bathing beaches were impacted by environmental conditions that caused closures. Closures were due to the presence of bacteria, and blue-green algae blooms.

Solid Waste Management:

- A Solid Waste Program Manager position was filled and began working on January 13, 2025. The prioritization for this position was to revise the expired Local Solid Waste Management Plan to identify waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and other sustainability initiatives and materials.

- The Local Solid Waste Management plan was released for public review with the public comment period beginning November 18 and closing December 31, 2025. The proposed adoption date for this plan is February 2026, contingent upon approval from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Two Household Hazardous Waste Collection events were held at Fahnestock State Park, a combined 593 residents attended both events and safely disposed of their household chemicals.

Engineering & Water:

Commercial Campus at Fields Corners (T)SE: The project consists of two large warehouse buildings that will be broken up into several different tenant spaces.

- The total square footage of both warehouses is 933,100 sq. ft.
- All construction has been completed and all compliance permits issued as of 6/10/2025

Brewster Yards: Located at Fields Corners Lane & Pugsley Rd (across the street from the Commercial Campus Project).

- Proposed commercial septic system and public water supply.
- Approved by PCDOH on February 8, 2024
- No construction has commenced to date

EE Brewster: Located on Route 22 across from the Lakeview shopping center (formerly the Golf Dome)

- Application for two new wells.
- Proposed community public water supply and commercial septic system.
- NYSDOH approved the new community water system on December 6, 2024
- NYCDEP approved the septic system on November 20, 2024
- PCDOH approved the septic system on January 21, 2025.
- No construction has commenced to date.

HHR Subdivision:

- HHR is a proposed 24 lot subdivision off of Route 9 south of the intersection of East Mountain Road South and Old Albany Post Rd.
- The septic will be a central system for all 24 lots. There will be no individual septic systems.
- Application was submitted at the end of 2023. Currently under review.
- Estimate approval date in early 2025.
- Still not approved to date. Waiting for HOA to be formed.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (Phase 1):

- Formerly the Garrison Golf Club (2015 Route 9, Garrison, NY (T) Philipstown)
- The Banquet Hall, Inn, Restaurant, and Bar to remain in use.
- New Outdoor Theater (in use from early spring to late fall).
- Application has been reviewed and received verbal approval on December 18, 2024. Formal approval granted on 4/8/2025.

PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl AND Polyfluoroalkyl Substances):

- NYSDOH lowered the Maximum Contaminant Level from the EPA guideline of 70 ppt (parts per trillion) to 10 ppt effective August 26, 2020.
- Since that time, PCDOH has received numerous applications for community and non-community, non-transient water systems to treat PFAS with Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filtering Units.

- In 2025, PCDOH, in conjunction with the NYSDOH Bureau of Water Supply continued ongoing review and approval of PFAS treatment systems.

Fiscal/Administration

- Fiscal worked with IT throughout 2025 to design a digital Car Dashboard. The Dashboard will include a car request/sign-out, as well as a maintenance section. Fiscal will communicate any maintenance needs with DPW. The completed Car Dashboard is expected to roll out January 2026.
- Fiscal ensured all staff have access on the department Sharepoint to the County Executive's newly implemented digital Education and Travel Request Form.

Notable Savings Realized

- In 2025, the State reimbursed Putnam County Health Department an additional \$500,000 due to changes that were enacted in 2022, which added fringe benefits to the allowable expenses for reimbursement from the State at 36%. These additional revenues will continue year after year.

Epidemiology/Informatics:

Disease surveillance and response:

- Static weekly Respiratory Virus Activity Reports were replaced with an interactive [Respiratory Virus Surveillance Dashboard](#). The highly automated dashboard allows users to compare trends for COVID, influenza, and RSV in one location and is updated weekly using the County's ArcGIS platform. It includes charts displaying case counts by week and incidence rates by age group, and maps of incidence by localities in the county. Epi provides supplementary respiratory virus data analysis internally each week via email for situational awareness and to inform programmatic decision making.
- Physician advisories were sent to County healthcare providers via the Integrated Health Alerting Network System (IHANS), alongside public messaging, to alert them of the following:
 - Launch of the [Respiratory Virus Surveillance Dashboard](#) in April
 - Measles case exposures in a public setting in June
 - Reminder about [Respiratory Virus Surveillance Dashboard](#) availability at the start of Respiratory Virus season in October
 - Rapidly increasing cases of influenza in December
- New staff in the nursing division were trained to perform daily monitoring of the New York State Electronic Syndromic Surveillance System (ESSS). This system provides a means for early identification of unusual disease occurrences and visualization of regional emergency department syndromic trends.
- To provide ongoing situational awareness of disease trends and emerging issues, Epi circulates internal emails summarizing information shared on the weekly NYSDOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control conference call.

Outbreak Team:

- Training requirements and offerings were initiated to increase proficiency:
 - Fifty-eight percent of the team roster completed an introduction to outbreak investigation training in 2025

- Seventy-three percent of tier 1 members completed role specific training in 2025
- In collaboration with the NYSDOH regional epidemiologist assigned to PCDOH, Epi developed and hosted [in-person outbreak investigation interview trainings](#) at BES in November. A total of 16 PCDOH staff, 9 MRC members, and 1 NYSDOH staff member participated in these role-playing based trainings.
- Informatics consolidated several SharePoint lists into a single centralized Outbreak Tracker to improve the team's ability to efficiently share, monitor, and document information related to potential and confirmed outbreaks.
- On-site infection prevention education was provided to staff and residents at an assisted living facility with a history of gastrointestinal (GI) illness outbreaks. A checklist for control GI outbreaks in congregate living settings was developed by team members and provided to the facility in English and Spanish.
- The team participated in investigative and disease control activities related to the following outbreaks and incidents:
 - An outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild and collection birds at Green Chimneys School Farm (refer to Nursing Division for more details).
 - A GI-illness outbreak attributed to sapovirus at an assisted living facility with 20 total cases in residents and staff
 - A COVID outbreak with five linked cases at an assisted living facility
 - A single imported case of measles with exposures in a public setting

2022-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Cycle

- Feedback was received from NYSDOH on final CHIP workplan updates submitted at the end of 2024. All interventions were rated as evidence based and including strong measures to evaluate intervention results.

Early Childhood Vaccination Intervention

- Epi continued to lead an evidence-based intervention designed to increase early childhood vaccination rates by working with County pediatric practices to improve data quality and utilization of reminder/recall functionality in the New York State Immunization System (NYSIIS). Since initiation of efforts in 2023, there has been a 40% yield on vaccination appointments made per notifications sent as a part of the intervention and early childhood vaccination coverage rates in patients 2-5 years of age at participating practices have improved by a range of 8%-27% from baseline.

Community Health Assessment:

- In March Epi released an [Executive Summary](#) of the [2025 County Health Roadmaps and Rankings \(CHR&R\) findings for Putnam County](#). Based on CHR&R's scoring methods, Putnam continues to be among the healthiest counties in New York State.
- In the fall Epi released reports on the findings of three broad-based health surveys contributing to the Comprehensive Community Health Assessment (CHA) required by NYSDOH by the end of 2025. [Mid-Hudson Region Community Health Survey: Putnam County](#): developed in collaboration with the Dutchess County Department of Health and Siena Research Institute and administered to Dutchess and Putnam residents in the summer of 2025. Survey findings were detailed to community partners in presentations to the Putnam Hospital Community Health Committee in August and the Live Healthy Putnam Coalition in November.

- [Community Health Experience Survey](#) (survey of residents) and the [Community-Based Organization Survey](#) (survey of staff of organizations serving Putnam residents): administered in the summer of 2024 in collaboration with Nuvance and the data analytics company Datagen.
- [2025 Mid-Hudson Region Community Health Assessment](#) and the [2025 Putnam County Community Health Assessment](#):
 - The Regional CHA (done in collaboration with local health departments in the six other counties in the Mid-Hudson Region) provides added value for partners and stakeholders whose service areas cross county boundaries and should be thought of as a reference for a broad range of indicators at the regional level.
 - The Putnam County CHA provides a more “Putnam-centric” perspective. It describes health indicator data in eight focus areas and should be considered as a reference for top-line county level findings.

Population Health Initiative Tracking and Evaluation:

- Coordinated department-wide systematic tracking of process and outcome metrics for all PCDOH population health initiatives. In 2025 metrics were tracked for 35 initiatives.

Information Systems:

- Created a submission form and associated SharePoint list for tracking requests for assistance from the Epidemiology Division on projects involving health data or using technology to manage information.
- Created a digital planner for project management in the Epidemiology Division using SharePoint Lists.
- Created a HIPAA-compliant interface to be used by PCDOH visitors to check in and out of the building and complete customer satisfaction surveys.
- Created a digital dashboard and associated user submission form for recording and tracking department-wide Quality Improvement/Performance Management metrics.

Health Education

Health Education Programming, Media, and Community Relations:

- Published 11 monthly employee spotlights, highlighting 11 employees and their work serving county residents.
- Social media post impressions increased sevenfold from 2024. Post shares increased 26% and engagement across three platforms continued increasing.
- Developed a climate and health section for the Climate Smart Communities webpage to provide comprehensive information to residents about how the climate impacts their health, and steps to take to minimize negative effects.
- Created a webpage specifically for satisfaction surveys, helping to streamline internal processes and making surveys easier to find on the Department of Health’s website.
- Participated in a panel on Overdose Fatality Reviews and Co-facilitated a breakout session on Conducting a Mock Overdose Fatality Review at the Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium.
- Co-facilitated Trauma-Informed training for County leadership.
- Contributed to organizing orientation through the Co-Occurring System of Care Coalition’s Orientation workgroup.

- The traveling youth vaping education and prevention display was hosted at 4 libraries in Putnam.
- Together with the Prevention Council of Putnam, PCDOH offered vaping and smoking education and prevention education in Putnam County schools. In total, 8 Neuroplasticity workshops and 4 “Escape the Vape” sessions were delivered.
- Health Ed staff planned and implemented a 3-day Red Ribbon Week activity for seventh and eighth-grade students at Putnam Valley Middle School. The interactive presentation promoted resilience and identification of protective factors, highlighted their personal strengths, and had students reflect on the people and activities that support and encourage them.
- Identified, wrote, and published 51 news items on the PCDOH website under “News & Events,” including 15 media releases and advisories disseminated directly to the media. These efforts produced 107,553 hits on the website, more than double the previous year’s tally of 45,661.
- At year’s end, the highest yielding posts included three from the first quarter: H5N1 Positive Goose: Risk Remains Low to Public (6186 visits), Preparing Before Disaster Strikes (4660), and Get Ready Putnam Residents: The Ticks Are Coming (4235).
- Biggest news of 2025: June 4, Putnam’s single measles case yielded same day television coverage by News12, with on-camera interviews conducted with health director Rian Rodriguez and epidemiologist Alison Kaufman. Six digital news outlets ran same-day coverage online, including CBS Local News and LoHud. The following day online services MSN News and two other Hudson Valley news organizations ran the story. The measles story also ran all four Putnam weekly print publications, with front-page placement in three of them.
- Live Healthy Putnam, a community-based coalition led by the health department, began an “On-The-Road” meeting series where coalition members were invited to learn about other coalition organizations and view their facilities. Group efforts shifted in the latter half of the year to review CHA data in preparation for providing input on the new CHIP. Membership in the coalition has grown approximately 38 percent over the past year due in part to efforts to include under-represented and faith-based organizations.
- Collaborated with the Sheriff’s Office, Prevention Council of Putnam, and Putnam Hospital at two Medication Take Back events to collect 400 pounds of old or expired medication and 499 pounds of used sharps.
- Hosted 1 health education intern in 2025.
- Maintained participation on numerous county-wide task forces and coalitions: Community Resource Group, Communities That Care Coalitions, Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition, *Putnam County Co-Occurring System of Care Coalition*, Live Healthy Putnam, Suicide Prevention Task Force, Reproductive Health Coalition, *School District Health and Safety Committees*, Putnam Hospital Community Health Needs Committee, Putnam County Food Systems Coalition, and Putnam County BR;DGE Alliance.
- The New York State Public Health Corps Fellows in Putnam County provide valuable assistance to a wide range of initiatives and interventions undertaken by the Putnam County Department of Health. There were 2 fellows hosted at PCDOH in 2025.

- “Hairy Styles” and “Scrappy” (tick education stuffed dogs) engage community members of all ages and emphasize routine tick checks on pets and proper tick prevention methods to reduce the risk of tick-borne disease in the community.
- The Putnam County Suicide and Overdose Fatality Review Team, co-led by PCDOH conducted one overdose fatality review and one suicide fatality review. The multi-sector team, as well as a robust recommendations committee, ensure that findings from the review are integrated into system improvements.
- Putnam County received the first disbursements of JUUL settlement funding and with stakeholder input, PCDOH identified several areas of prioritization for use, including: responsible vape disposal, youth-led vaping prevention, education, and cessation campaigns, and co-occurring disorders awareness curriculum implementation.
- NYSDOH’s performance incentive for year 13 focused on addressing the climate’s impact on health. PCDOH completed the following related activities: updates to the County’s Climate Smart Communities website to include health effects of a changing climate, expanded social media on a variety of climate-related topics, and expanded awareness of cooling center needs for a heat vulnerable community.
- Developed a Putnam County Employee Wellness fitness discount flyer to encourage healthy, active lifestyles beyond the workday.
- Added a second annual blood drive initiative in partnership with the New York Blood Center. According to NYBC, the two drives in 2025 resulted in 59 pints collected which translates into 177 lives saved.
- Expanded employee walking challenge. A total of 58 county employees participated, logging an impressive, combined count of 3,674,606 steps.
- Re-established County-wide Employee Wellness Committee.
- The Employee Wellness Coordinator now integrates employee communications focused on safety and health into overall wellness initiatives.
- Employee Wellness offered three pop-up fitness classes, including strength training sessions, to promote physical activity and overall health.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI),
Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

- Clinical and non-clinical volunteers assisted staff at 2025 PCDOH influenza clinics. Volunteers contributed 90 hours for an economic value of \$3,608.
- Revised the PCDOH Public Health Asset Distribution (PHAD) Plan.
- Developed an Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) outlining future departmental planning, training and exercise priorities.
- Continued bi-monthly MRC volunteer newsletters.
- Developed policy on Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers and an Operational Playbook.
- Hosted MRC volunteers for “Arts and Eats” thank-you event.

Nursing and Clinical Services

Information systems

- All nursing services that have a patient interaction have been successfully moved to the EMR. This includes MCH mother/baby visits, Child Find visits, Lead, Immunization, HIV/Hep C testing, and Rabies.
- All new staff were trained on the Outbreak Communication log, a centralized communication system.
- Time off calendars have been moved to a central online calendar.

Communicable Disease Prevention and Control:

In the first 11 months of 2025, the communicable disease prevention and control program:

- Received and reviewed 12,999 lab reports of reportable communicable diseases, a 25% increase as compared to the first 11 months of 2024.
- Based on assessment of these lab reports, staff conducted 7302 unique investigations of suspected cases of reportable communicable diseases, a 39% increase as compared to the first 11 months of 2024.
- Based on the findings of investigations, staff created 417 confirmed or probable cases of reportable communicable disease and initiated disease control measures as appropriate to the nature of the disease, a 7% decrease as compared to the first 11 months of 2024.
- Tickborne disease (other than Lyme disease) reports and cases increased as compared to the first 11 months of 2024 with a combined total of 317 lab reports received (10% increase), 180 investigations (24% increase) and 75 cases created (56% increase) for 5 different diseases.

2025 Outbreaks and Notable Investigations:

GI illness

- An Adult Care Facility in Putnam County experienced an outbreak of GI illness in January and February of 2025.
- The outbreak consisted of a total of 19 probable and one confirmed case of sapovirus. Five cases were in staff and 15 were in residents.
- PCDOH Outbreak Team response included site visits, collection and submission of specimens for testing, patient interviews, data analysis, provision of infection control guidance, and review of facility GI illness plans.

Avian Influenza

- The farm at Green Chimneys School experienced an outbreak of avian influenza in wild and collection birds with 32 birds reported dead, sick, or missing between 12/30/2024 and 3/10/2025.
- Six birds were confirmed positive for avian influenza by testing.
- PCDOH worked collaboratively with NYS Departments of Health, Agriculture and Markets, and Environmental Conservation to coordinate a response that involved containing disease among animals and minimizing risk of human exposure.
- PCDOH monitored the health of 10 Green Chimneys staff members and volunteers with continuous exposure daily throughout the outbreak

Measles

- A case of measles in a Putnam resident returning from travel abroad. PCDOH investigated an exposure in a public setting related to the case.

- 6 susceptible contacts were identified and monitored for the incubation period of 21 days and no secondary cases were identified
- 15 contacts were immunized to prevent disease (due to either an unknown vaccine status or not vaccinated)

Vaccine Disease Prevention Program

- All Putnam County parents of newborns receive a postcard with PCDOH information directing to “Parents of Newborn” informational page.
- Birthday postcards are sent to remind parents to have children tested for lead at age 1 & 2 and to be up to date on immunizations.
 - 682 postcards were mailed out for 1yr olds
 - 596 postcards were mailed out for 2 yr olds
- Although demand for travel vaccines has increased, PCDOH placed the travel clinic on hiatus for 2025 due to lack of nursing staff.
- The Vaccine for Adults Program (VFA) is held monthly, except for August and November. 72 people received 227 vaccines in 2025.
- VFA flu clinics were held in October and November with 76 flu vaccines administered.
- School Based Flu Clinics were suspended in 2025 due to lack of staff.
- PCDOH employees were encouraged to attend the Public Flu clinics.
- 2 Public Flu clinics in Brewster-Drive Through with 219 vaccines administered
- 1 Public Flu Clinic in Garrison Fire Department -Walk In with 46 vaccines administered
- 4 Office of Senior Resources (OSR) flu clinics with 113 vaccines administered

Tuberculosis

- Tuberculosis Disease (Active TB) - 1 case required the following:
 - Coordination with NYSDOH TB control for case management.
 - Supervision of Directly observed therapy (DOT) of 19 in person home visits and 49 telehealth were completed.
- Tuberculosis infection (Latent TB infection)- 5 cases initiated voluntary prophylactic treatment.
 - 3 patients completed treatment.
 - 13 office visits and 0 in person home visits were completed.
- PPD (TB skin screening tests): 40 tests were completed for employees and the public.
- Continued to work with the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Open Door Brewster, to improve process for referrals, and coordinating care for all TB patients per contract with clinic.
 - 10 total referrals received from or made to Open Door Brewster in 2025.
- A staff member attended a 4-day TB intensive training at the Rutgers TB Institute to increase knowledge and to effectively work in the TB program.

HIV/AIDS

- 5 HIV screenings through PCDOH
- 108 HIV screening tests were completed through the 3rd Q 2025 at Open Door through the PCDOH contract.
- 99 safe sex kits were dispensed through the Putnam County harm reduction vending machine.
- 3 Hep C screenings through PCDOH.

Rabies

- Rabies treatment was recommended for 46 potential cases, with 1 traveler from overseas to Putnam County. Two people refused treatment, for a total of 44 individuals treated.
- Pre-exposure vaccine was provided for 13 individuals for either travel-related prevention or working with animals/wildlife.

Lead Prevention Program

- 1823 children tested for lead in 2025.
- 12 children with an elevated blood level of greater than 5 µg/dL are in Nursing case management as of December 2025.
- 2 children required chelation due having blood lead test results of ≥45 µg/dL. Both referred to Child Find program for developmental assessment and follow up.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

- 167 MCH referrals received, and a total of 139 home visits conducted
- 28 active Child Find cases, with 96 home visits were conducted
- New Moms group continues at the Mahopac Library. Groups provide peer support from other moms as well as breastfeeding support, parenting education, and educational presentations on a variety of topics by subject matter experts.
- Participated with community partners of MISN, Healthy Families, and WIC in a baby shower for the Brewster community.
- All newborns in New York State are screened before being discharged from the hospital for a variety of rare but serious disorders:
 - 3 cases referred for assistance, 3 cases retested by private practitioners, 3 cases within normal limits, 0 case with abnormal (positive) results.

Community Outreach

- The evidence-based smoking cessation program, Freedom from Smoking, held one group in the Spring of 2025 at no-cost for anyone who works or lives in Putnam County.
- PCDOH continues the condom outreach initiative in an effort to reduce high STI rates. Over 2,300 condoms were distributed this year.
- Continued collaboration with Mount St Mary's College to provide a Public Health clinical rotation for BSN students.

Department-wide Committees

Accreditation

- Completed the first Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) annual report for the current cycle. Feedback was received and implemented for continued accreditation.
- Continued work toward maintaining accredited status, including looking at ways to improve efficiency in demonstrating how the department meets the standards and measures set forth by PHAB.

CHA/CHIP

- Was briefed monthly by the Epidemiologist on the CHA process and progress
- Reviewed and discussed findings of three broad-based health surveys completed as a part of the 2025 CHA
- Disseminated reports on these surveys to staff in their divisions and led discussions regarding the findings and how they may be used to inform programmatic work

- Represented the committee at meetings of the Live Healthy Putnam Coalition
- Reviewed and provided feedback on the Putnam County CHA to the Epidemiologist

Communications

- Improved communications accessibility by increasing the translating of media releases, online news briefs and social media messages into Spanish.
- Launched and produced four quarterly issues of The PCDOH Post, an internal employee newsletter.

Department Leadership Council

- The Divisional Leadership Council was initiated in 2025 to serve as a senior advisory body, ensuring operational alignment to mission & vision, disseminating information departmentally and driving the strategic goals of the department.

Personnel

- The Employee Orientation Manual was completed, incorporating feedback from new employees.
- Interview Guidelines were updated and are awaiting review with the Personnel Department.

QIPM

- Expanded Use of PDSA Methodology, which has led and supported multiple administrative and programmatic PDSA initiatives, including the successful digitization of animal bite case records in the Environmental Health Division to improve efficiency, data security, and FOIL response timelines.
- Developed and launched a centralized QIPM dashboard to improve access to administrative and programmatic performance measures and support data-driven decision-making.
- Sustained efforts to normalize customer feedback collection, including expanded use of QR codes across all divisions, front-desk technology enhancements through the implementation of a front-desk tablet for customer check-in, check-out, and satisfaction survey completion.
- The QIPM coordinator participated in statewide and national learning opportunities, including the PHIT Virtual Workshop Series, to increase knowledge and apply best practices to public health services.

Strategic Plan

- Committee leadership shifted in 2025, giving different employees the opportunity for leadership.
- Bi-annual department-wide meetings were held in March and October. During the March meeting at the Carmel Fire Department, the new Public Health Director was welcomed, and the outgoing Commissioner said his farewell. The October meeting was held at Hudson Valley Interarts in Patterson, which also house the new Early Learning Center. Tours of the ELC were offered to all health department staff after the meeting.
- The Strategic Plan committee organized and reinstated Joint Committee meetings with chairs of the other committees. These meetings will continue quarterly to foster collaboration and efficiency.

Workforce Development

- 2024-2029 WFD plan is being reorganized to mirror PHAB guidelines
- 2023 Public Health Works Honor Roll was announced

- Survey was sent out to PCDOH employee for morale booster ideas

VI. Staffing changes in 2025

- Newly Hired:
 - Public Health Director
 - Assistant Public Health Engineer, Water Program
 - Public Health Nurses (4), Communicable Disease (3), Maternal-Child Health (1, Spanish Speaking)
 - Public Health Director
 - Spanish-Speaking Assistant Public Health Educator
- Reduction in number of New York State Public Health Corps Fellows.
- Fiscal vacancies: Office Assistant, Account Clerk II
- Reduction in FTE to PT: Fiscal Technician
- Internal hire: Public Health Program Assistant

VII. Sources of Revenue

- In addition to state aid, award and grant revenues, sources of revenue include: EHS permitting, fees, and fines as well as certain nursing clinical service fees.
- Notable Revenue for 2025:
 - PCDOH Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA) enforcement activities collected \$27,675 in fines.
 - Year 12, NYSDOH Performance Incentive Program, PCDOH was awarded \$23,286.
- PCDOH continues to conduct programs aligned with Article 6 of New York State Public Health Law, which enables partial reimbursement to local health departments for eligible expenses related to many public health services.

VIII. Goals for 2026

Early Intervention and Preschool Programs

- Increase accessibility to services through group offerings.
- Offer professional development for the service coordinators on the changing landscape of scope of services.
- Continue to expand local offerings so that students attending therapeutic programs outside of Putnam can remain closer to home.
- Expand ELC to accommodate more students.

Environmental Health Services

- Hire an Environmental health aide in Engineering.
- Expanded focus on water quality
- LSWMP implementation

Epidemiology/Informatics

- Advance state, regional, and local data modernization efforts.
- Explore opportunities for collaboration with health care delivery system partners to assess access to health care services in the county.
- Develop and launch a SharePoint interface for Population Health Initiative Tracking (currently in excel workbook). Work with programs to update initiatives and goals based on 2025 evaluation metrics.

- Support the selection, development of protocols, and establishment of evaluation metrics for evidence-based interventions to be in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) due to the NYSDOH by June 30, 2026
- Work with the QIPM Committee to establish a centralized and standardized system to house and track updates for all PCDOH policies and procedures.
- Work with the Nursing Division to develop a centralized and standardized call log for tracking calls received and any follow-up required.
- Launch an interactive web-based application that allows residents to find solid waste and septic haulers that meet their needs and specifications.

Fiscal/Administration

- Fiscal staff will continue “Fiscal Fairs” trainings for employees on all fiscal-related procedures. Topics will be determined based on staff input.
- Continue to work with IT to modernize and streamline the timesheet/daysheet process. The goal will be to provide all Health Department employees a new document utilizing a drop-down menu.

Health Education

- Coordinate and implement “Let’s Talk Health” community sessions in all towns/municipalities and school districts to engage community members in the prioritization and feedback process of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) due to NYSDOH June 2026.
- With stakeholder input, identify internal PCDOH health improvement priority interventions with associated measurable outcomes for inclusion in the CHIP as well as coalition-based health improvement priority interventions.
- Enhance collaborations with faith-based and Spanish speaking communities to ensure equitable delivery of services, including health promotion programming and community health improvement activities.
- Ensure all web-based materials and communications are updated to meet ADA requirements by April 2026.
- Oversee a successful completion of the Year 14 incentive program related to oral health.

Nursing and Clinical Services

- Staff development and training is a top priority and will continue throughout 2026.
- Resumption of Travel clinic by the end of 1st Q 2026.
- Resumption of school-based flu clinics for fall of 2026.
- Increased outreach to vulnerable populations for vaccines.
- Create an automatic referral system for a child with elevated blood-lead levels to the MCH program for assessment of developmental milestones.
- Increase condom distribution to community partners by 20% to 6000.