

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

A quarterly newsletter from the Clinton County Health Department

SIGNIFICANT SHORTAGE OF INTERVENTION SERVICES IN CLINTON COUNTY

Receiving appropriate intervention services as quickly as possible is critical for children to maximize the effectiveness of interventions. A wait of six months for a two year old represents a quarter of that child's life, putting them at risk of falling further behind developmentally while they wait for a provider to become available.

Unfortunately in Clinton County and throughout New York State (NYS), an increasing number of children have been unable to receive services after being identified as needing them. Currently in Clinton County, approximately 16% of children (44) participating in CCHD's Early Intervention Program (EIP) are waiting for at least one service. Children are most commonly waiting for occupational and physical therapy services, although some children are also waiting for speech therapy and special instruction services. A dozen children are waiting for more than one service. These shortages also extend into the Committee on Preschool Special Education, the program designed for 3-5 year olds to receive intervention services.

Contributing to this delay are increases in referrals to the program and children with significant delays, compounded by decreases in the number of therapists available. Several therapists have been recruited by school districts and hospitals, three therapists moved out of state, and one therapist retired. The Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) continues to work with partners within the county, region, and state to advocate for system-wide changes to help families in need of these services. Materials and resources to support caregivers are available at www.clintonhealth.org/specialneeds. These include access to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Developmental Milestones, Physical Development/Tummy Time Tips, and activities for caregivers.

LOCAL RESOURCES ADDRESSING FIREARM SAFETY

Although firearm ownership statistics in Clinton County are limited, it is estimated that 19.9% of adults in NYS own a gun. Considering the rurality of our area and popularity of recreational activities like hunting, we can infer that this statistic is likely much higher in our county. However, some statistics that we do know show that Clinton County's rate of death from firearms and rate of deaths due to suicide are both higher than the NYS average. This calls into question what resources are in our area that can help prevent injuries and promote safe use and storage of firearms.

Through a new initiative aimed at addressing this concern, the CCHD will be:

- Equipping at least 300 front line professionals with direct resources to help clients.
- Promoting consistent community messaging to normalize discussion and planning around firearm safety on multiple media platforms.
- Providing and supporting community member education on firearm safety.
- Purchasing and distributing firearm locks to community members, through programs like the Healthy Neighborhoods Program.

CCHD's **Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP)** offers a wide variety of in-home health, safety and environmental assistance, with services including fire safety, lead, indoor air quality, injury prevention, and asthma. The program also provides firearm locks to community members completely free. For more information about firearm safety in your home, please call 518-565-4870 or visit www.clintonhealth.org/healthynighborhoods.

CLINTON COUNTY CONTINUES TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Have you seen these stickers being used by local businesses? Scan the QR code to [learn why](#).



CHEST/BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY PHARMACIES

The transfer of medications into human milk is often a concern for parents and is cited as a reason that families decide to formula-feed their babies. According to the CDC, most medications have little or no effect on milk supply or infant well-being and few medications should not be taken while chest/breastfeeding. Since 2017, the Clinton County Chest/Breastfeeding Coalition and local pharmacists have worked together to ease the minds of chest/breastfeeding families by supplying evidence-based *Medication and Mother's Milk* resource kits.

Resource kit materials are evidence-based and research supported tools that pharmacists can use to ensure chest/breastfeeding families have the information needed to make informed decisions regarding their health and the health of their child(ren).

Medication and Mother's Milk resource kits include:

- 2023 *Medication and Mother's Milk* book by Dr. Thomas Hale,
- A link to LactMed, an online drug and lactation database,
- A lactation warm line for live assistance,
- 2023 Clinton County Chest/Breastfeeding Resource Guide, and
- A counter display, encouraging parents to ask about medication and human milk interactions.

Pharmacists are a valuable resource for local families. The Clinton County Chest/Breastfeeding Coalition would like to recognize and thank them for their partnership in promoting, supporting and protecting chest/breastfeeding in our community.

Partnering pharmacies include:

- Condo Pharmacy
- Cornerstone Drug & Gift
- Hannaford Pharmacy
- Keeseville Pharmacy
- Kinney Drugs (all 6 Clinton County locations)
- Maggy Pharmacy
- Market 32 Pharmacy
- Target Pharmacy
- UVMHN-CVPH Outpatient Pharmacy
- Walgreens Pharmacy
- Walmart Pharmacy

Thank you!

For more information about the Clinton County Chest/Breastfeeding Coalition and other chest/breastfeeding efforts in the county, visit www.clintonhealth.org/cbfc.

WIC PROGRAM UPDATES

After a long 3.5 years, WIC is excited to return to remote clinic sites post the COVID-19 pandemic. Clinic locations include the Three Steeples United Methodist Church in Champlain, Altona Town Hall and Peru Town Hall. All WIC services can be accommodated at each clinic site.

Visit www.clintonhealth.org/wic to view the full clinic schedule.

ANNUAL TUBERCULOSIS UPDATE

National incidence of reported tuberculosis (TB) increased slightly during 2022 to 2.5 cases per 100,000, compared to 2.37 in 2021. However, reported cases remained below the 2019 rate of 2.71 per 100,000. A total of 8,300 TB cases were reported during 2022, 426 more than in 2021 (7,874) and 600 fewer than in 2019 (8,900).

TB epidemiology in 2022 was characterized by more cases among non-U.S. born persons newly arriving in the United States. In 2022, 73% (6,009 of 8,248 TB cases in persons for whom birth origin was known) of TB cases occurred among non-U.S. born persons, compared with 72% in 2021. Among U.S. born persons, TB incidence was 0.8 during both 2021 and 2022. Among non-U.S. born persons, incidence increased slightly from 12.6 in 2021 to 12.8 in 2022, according to the CDC.

In NYS (excluding NYC), the incidence of TB was 1.6 per 100,000 during 2022; this is the most recent state-level data available. In Clinton County, the incidence of TB was 1.3 per 100,000 during 2022; no cases of TB were reported in Clinton County during 2020 or 2021.

Pandemic mitigation efforts and reduced travel may have contributed to the reported decrease in TB across the U.S. in recent years. While the reported national incidence of TB increased slightly from 2021 to 2022, concerns for missed or delayed TB diagnoses remain. Health care providers are encouraged to consider TB disease when evaluating patients with signs and symptoms consistent with TB (e.g. cough of >2 weeks in duration, unintentional weight loss, and hemoptysis). Additional information about diagnosing and treating TB can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3zogisC>.