

New York State Children's Environmental Health Centers

Progress Report: 2017-2022



Released: March 2023

Healthy environments

determine the overall health, growth and development of children.

Children are more vulnerable than adults to environmental hazards.

They are rapidly growing, more heavily exposed to toxic substances in proportion to their body weight, and have more years of life ahead of them during which early exposure can have effects.

Low-income communities and communities of color are unequally burdened by harmful exposures.

The New York State Children's Environmental Health Centers (NYSCHECK) prevent, diagnose, and treat environmental health conditions during pregnancy and throughout infancy, childhood and adolescence. Key services include:

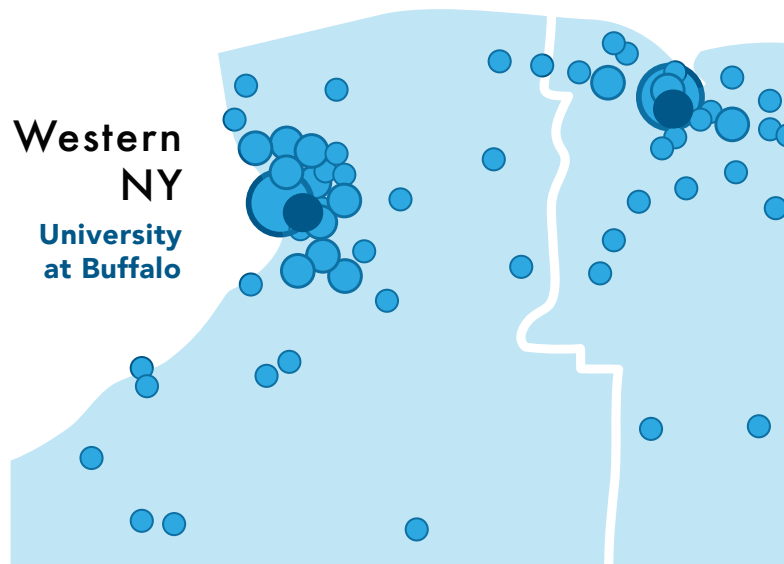
Environmental exposure screening during clinic visits and referrals to needed resources

Clinical consultations with families and their pediatric health care professionals

Capacity-building through partnerships with social service agencies, health care professionals and community networks

Training future generations of environmental health leaders

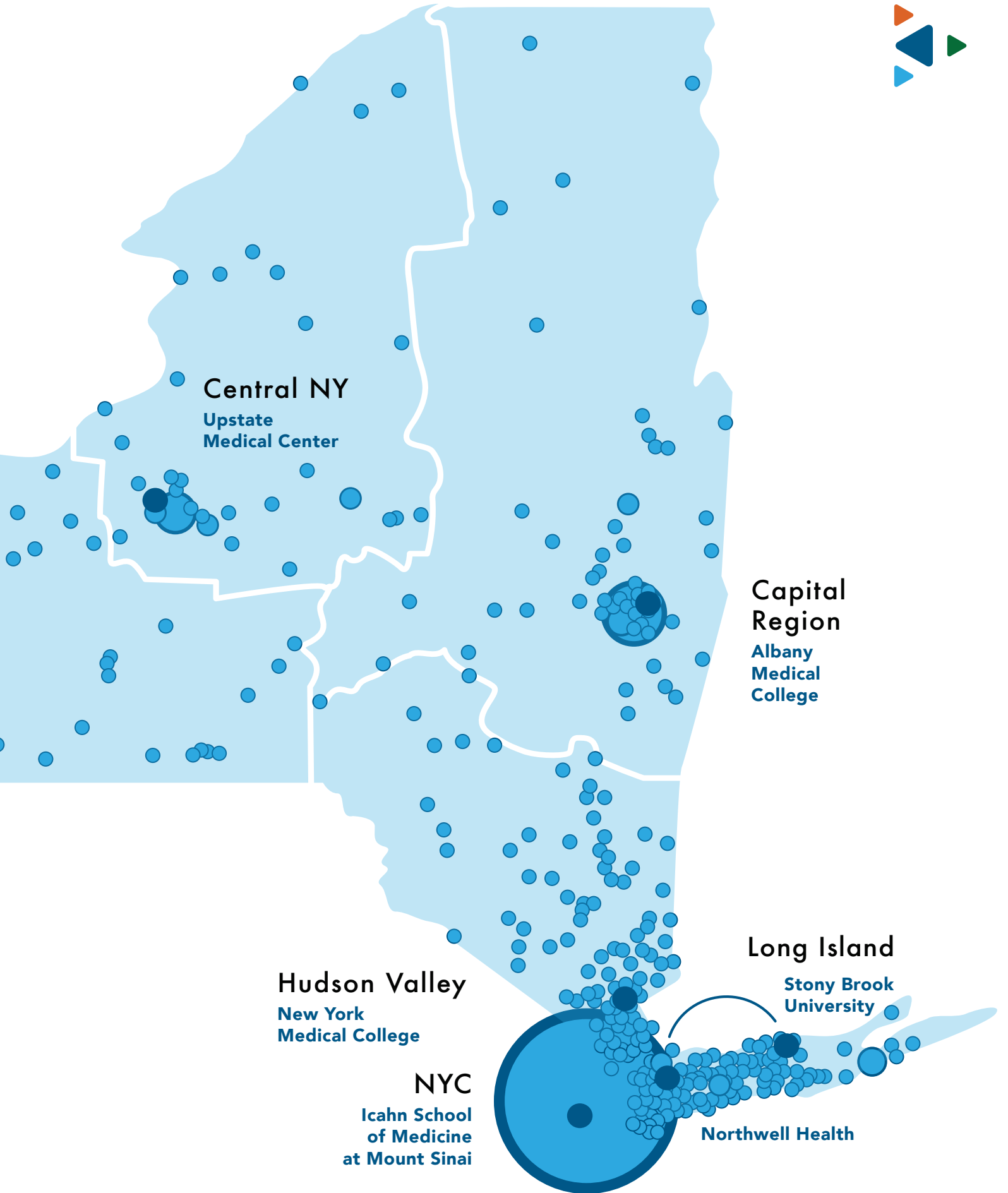
**Finger Lakes
University of Rochester**



NYSCHECK.org geographic reach (November 2017-October 2022)
79,843 website views across the state

- = NYSCHECK Regional Center
- = Geographic site of viewer

The network of seven NYSCHECK Centers in Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, Westchester, New York City and Long Island work closely together to meet the environmental health needs of families and communities across the state, thanks to funding through the New York State Department of Health.



151,406

Families Served

Through clinical services and educational outreach

32,810

Health Workers Educated

In children's environmental health

1,792

Future Leaders Trained

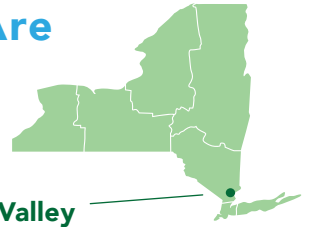
as the next generation of leaders (health professions, college and high school)

62/62

New York State Counties Served



Wow!



Screening for Environmental Health Needs

Through NYSCHECK's environmental health screening in pediatric care, families are asked about things in their children's environments that might be affecting their health. Is there mold? Are there pests? Is there tobacco smoke? When the answer is "yes," families are referred to local community services to solve the problem.

New York State is the first in the country to implement such a program, demonstrating how prescribing healthy homes can be integrated into clinical practice.

Since the launch of NYSCHECK, over **90,000** New York State families have been screened as part of routine well child care.

Routine environmental exposure screening includes:

Clinical counseling on environmental concerns

Referrals to needed environmental interventions and resources

Stronger health-promoting networks through partnerships with social services agencies, health care professionals and community organizations

A Rockland County patient with asthma was referred to the Hudson Valley Center. In addition to a mold condition, which can trigger asthma, the consultation uncovered a potential gas leak.

The family was referred to the Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) of Rockland County for safe mold remediation. HNP also determined that carbon monoxide was leaking from the gas fireplace, which was then capped (shut off).

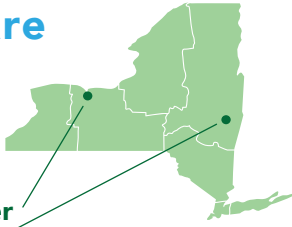
This case highlights the power of thorough home assessments with community referrals to identify and address multiple issues for full family health.



Dr. Lauren Zajac talks with Habib, age 5 (and a half!) at the Mount Sinai environmental health clinic

We Are Here

Rochester
Albany



The Finger Lakes Center Project ECHO platform trains pediatric healthcare professionals across the state in children's environmental health wherever they are.

This online community spans 27 counties to make sure providers can serve their families from urban to rural areas with the same quality care.

When it comes to asthma, what happens at home can matter most. Along with minimizing triggers such as mold and pests, it's important to use the right medication at the right time. The Capital Region Center launched New York's first Community Pharmacy Asthma Coalition to label asthma medications for "daily" or "rescue" use with stickers from the pharmacist.

2017-2022

By the Work

Prescriptions for Prevention

NYSCHECK Prescriptions (Rx) for Prevention are used to incorporate environmental health screening and services into routine pediatric care. They provide clinicians with key environmental information for families to help prevent and reduce environmental asthma triggers and improve care of children with asthma. Currently, there are over 30 topics available in both English and Spanish. Centers have customized the Rx tools to include resources available in their particular community. Find them here: nyscheck.org/rx



A tilted graphic with a light yellow background. At the top left, it says 'PRxscription for Prevention' with a small logo. Below that, the word 'MOLD' is written in large, bold, orange letters. Underneath 'MOLD' is the heading 'Action Plan' in blue. There are three checklist items, each with a square checkbox: 1. 'Fix plumbing leaks, replace water-damaged materials and ventilate rooms. If renting, report water problems to your landlord.' 2. 'After repairs, scrub surfaces with soap and water and allow to dry completely.' 3. 'Avoid using bleach unless cleaning sewage. Do not paint over moldy surfaces. Discard moldy items like carpets.' Below the checklist is another checklist item: 'For new floods or leaks, remove wet items and the area within 48 hours.' To the right of the checklist is a section titled 'Did you know?' in blue, with the text: 'Mold needs moisture to grow. Fix the water problem to fix the mold problem!' At the bottom left of the graphic is a logo with four colored triangles (orange, blue, green, light blue) and the letters 'PRx'. At the bottom right, there is a partial URL '...resources' and '...v.gov' and the text 'and your home''.



Children's Environmental Health Day

Every October, the NYC Center hosts a Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Day event to raise awareness about the importance of healthy environments for children. We hosted in-person events in 2018 and 2019, and then transitioned to virtual celebrations led by youth environmental justice advocates in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Our reach has expanded across the state with events sponsored by Centers and partners from NYC, LI, Albany, Rochester, and more.

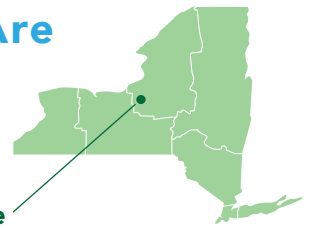


October 11, 2018: Celebrants of NYS Children's Environmental Health Day gather at the NY Academy of Medicine in NYC



October 12, 2022: Youth leaders and moderators present their environmental justice projects in an online format

We Are Here

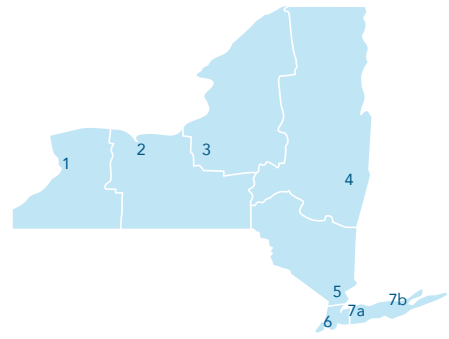


Syracuse

The I-81 Viaduct was built more than fifty years ago, displacing the working-class Black community.

At the request of the Syracuse Housing Authority (SHA), the Central NY Center, in collaboration with Upstate Medical University colleagues, students and community partners, developed recommendations to help SHA in the planning and response to the NYS Department of Transportation proposed highway reconstruction project.

The recommendations focus on not only safe construction practices to reduce environmental exposures but also best practices for design of healthy communities and environmental justice.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7a 7b

