

# New York State Children's Environmental Health Centers

Progress Report: 2022-2023



Released: March 2024

# Healthy environments

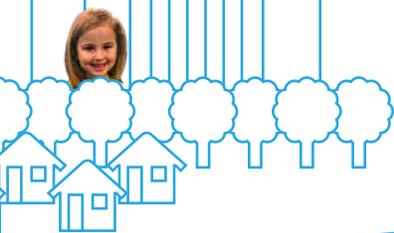
mean clean air, soil, and water for children.

## Asthma

An Ulster County child's asthma was getting worse, with mold and pest problems in the home environment. The child was seen by the **Hudson Valley Children's Environmental Health Center**. They worked with the Ulster County Health and Buildings Departments to assess the housing issues, and Network social workers helped the family work with the agencies and their property owner. The child's symptoms abated when they were relocated.

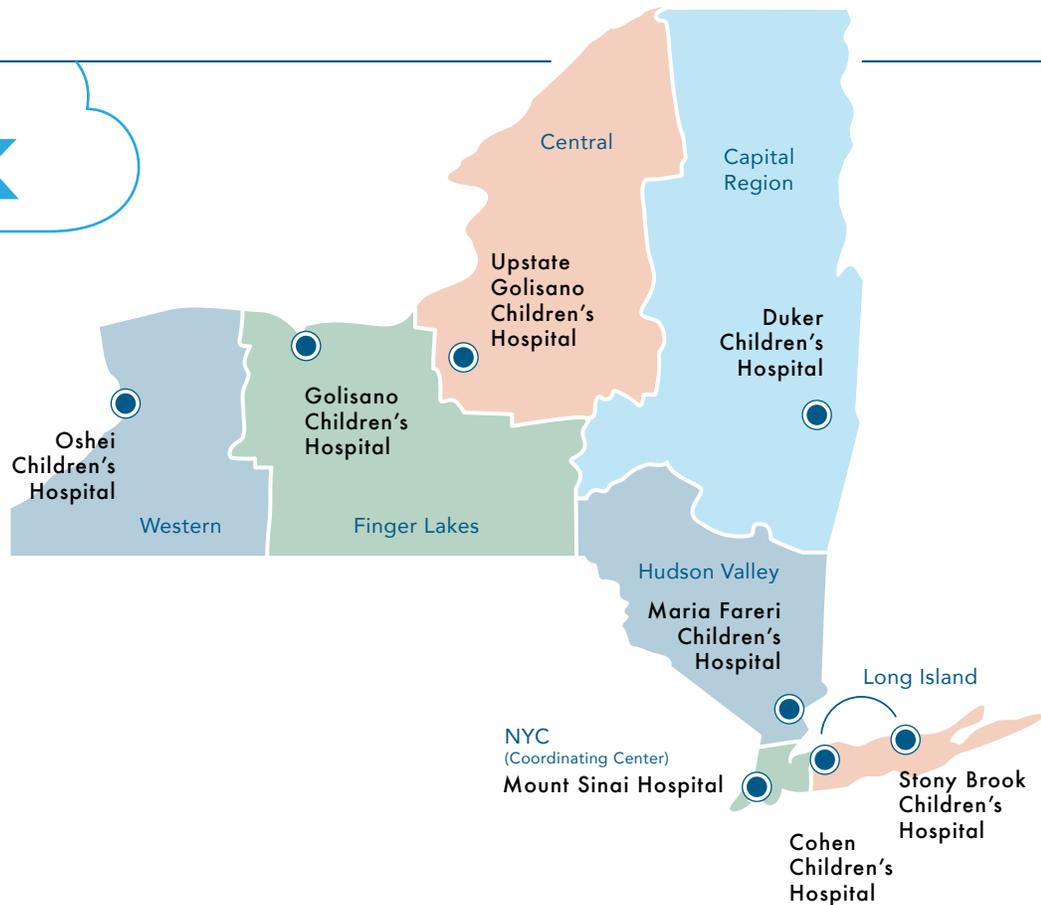
## Lead

A family contacted the **Finger Lakes Children's Environmental Health Center** concerned about the development of their 3 year-old child who was not yet talking, had hand-to-mouth behaviors, and lived in a 100 year old farmhouse. Testing the child and the home showed high lead levels. The Center coordinated with the Genesee and Monroe County Health Departments to conduct a home inspection and referred the family to autism resources. The family relocated to a lead safe home and the child's lead levels have declined.



# NYSCHECK

provides support to families and clinicians across rural, suburban and urban New York State.

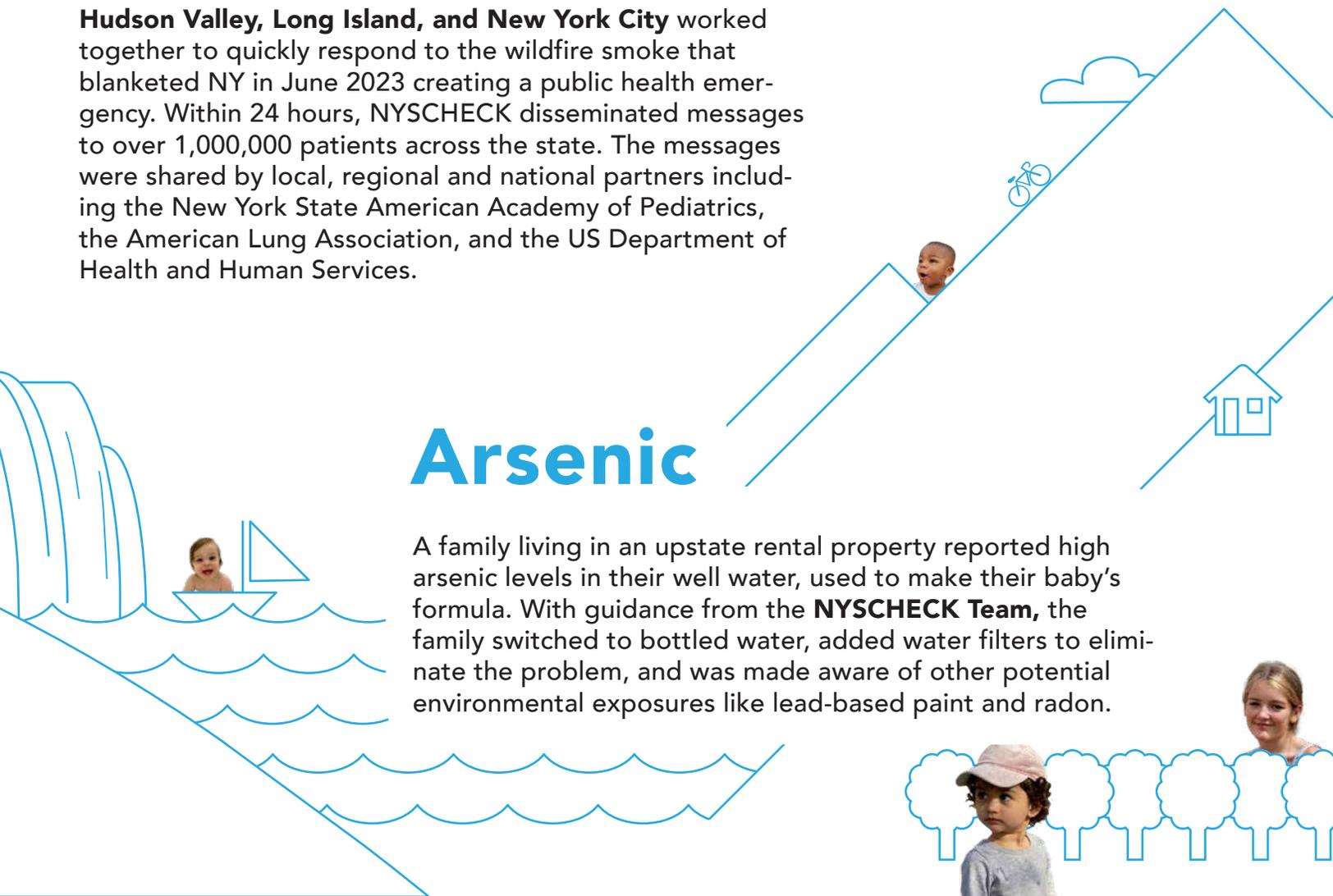


## Wildfire Smoke

Hudson Valley, Long Island, and New York City worked together to quickly respond to the wildfire smoke that blanketed NY in June 2023 creating a public health emergency. Within 24 hours, NYSCHECK disseminated messages to over 1,000,000 patients across the state. The messages were shared by local, regional and national partners including the New York State American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Lung Association, and the US Department of Health and Human Services.

## Arsenic

A family living in an upstate rental property reported high arsenic levels in their well water, used to make their baby's formula. With guidance from the **NYSCHECK Team**, the family switched to bottled water, added water filters to eliminate the problem, and was made aware of other potential environmental exposures like lead-based paint and radon.



# Our Impact 2022-2023

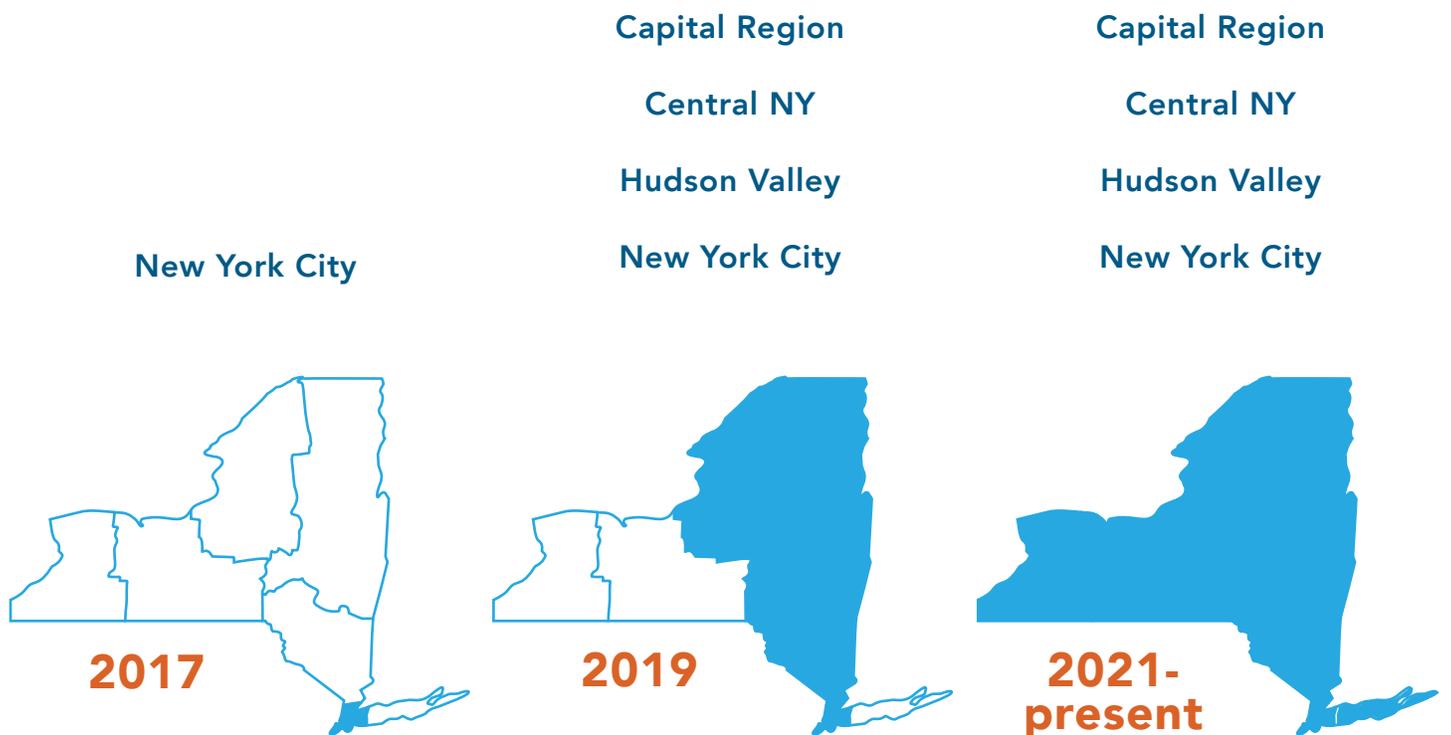
From 2017-2023, environmental health screening and consult services expanded from one center in NYC to all seven centers; in tandem, new partnerships were cultivated with community based organizations offering services to reduce those environmental problems, especially in the home environment.

Specialized clinical tools were developed to support environmental intervention services, and environmental health training programs were launched reaching health care professionals and trainees, including the NYSCHECK Environmental Health Scholars Program and the NYSCHECK Summer Academy.

NYSCHECK is building long lasting environmental health programs with institutional and community roots.



Environmental health screening now occurs at all seven network centers!



# 94,686

Services Provided  
to Families

Patients Screened  
for Environmental  
Health Concerns

# 58,977

Healthcare  
Professionals  
Attended  
Educational Events

# 8,115

Students  
Participated in  
EH Educational  
Sessions

# 738

Wow!



# Our Impact 2022-2023

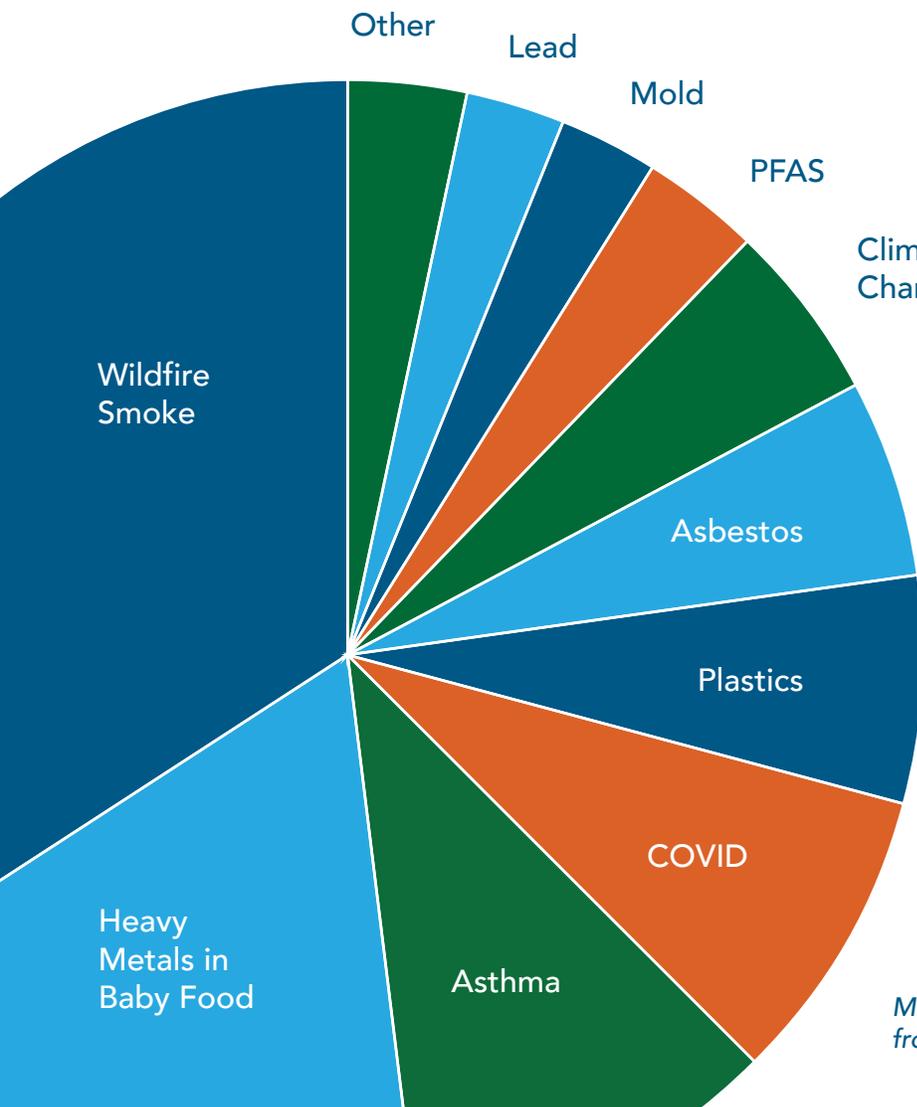
	Family Services	Healthcare Professionals Educated	Student Trainees
2018	18,196	4,750	100
2023	94,686	8,115	738

5-Year Growth

**5x**  
more family services

**2x**  
Almost twice as many healthcare professionals educated

**7x**  
more trainees



Our [NYSCHECK.ORG](https://www.nyscheck.org) website is a living library of common environmental topics that's growing as our Network responds to emerging concerns among families in New York State!

*Most commonly viewed topics on NYSCHECK.org from Nov 2022 to Oct 2023*

# Building the New York State Environmental Health Workforce

## Class of 2023

NYSCHECK's Environmental Health (EH) Scholars Training Program builds environmental health capacity across New York State by training future leaders. Scholars work on NYSCHECK-related projects, mentored by NYSCHECK experts.



Additional state funding in 2023 enabled NYSCHECK to more than double our team from 5 in 2018 to 12 in 2023.



"Being an EH Scholar allowed me to make system's level changes that can truly have an impact on the health of the families I serve. It has given me hope."

Rebekah Prasad, Nurse Practitioner  
Finger Lakes CEHC

"I am grateful for the outstanding learning opportunities, hands-on mentorship, and the chance to join an extraordinary community of multidisciplinary professionals united in their commitment to enhance the well-being of children, patients, and the planet as a whole."

Laurie Thibodeau, Emergency Medicine Physician  
Capital Region CEHC

## Class of 2018



The New York State Children’s Environmental Health Centers (NYSCHECK) is a network of seven children’s hospitals working to prevent, diagnose, and treat environmentally related conditions for families in all 62 counties across New York State. Funded through the New York State Department of Health, NYSCHECK is the first state-based model for pediatric environmental health services in the country.

Our centers are strategically located across the state:  
Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, Westchester, New York City and Long Island.

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City serves as the coordinating center.

Funding is provided through the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).



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