



## **St. Lawrence County Public Health Department**

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### **Press Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **St. Lawrence County Public Health Department offers Maternal Child Health Program for New Parents**

**Canton, NY** — The St. Lawrence County Public Health Department Maternal Child Health (MCH) program continues to make a significant impact on new parents, offering crucial education and support during the postpartum period. In 2024, the program marked impressive growth in the number of referrals and services provided to needy families.

The MCH program has empowered new parents with the knowledge and resources needed to care for their newborns and maintain their health. Services provided include one-on-one education on breast/chestfeeding, postpartum self-care, and newborn care, as well as a one-time nurse home visit to review education and perform a comprehensive head-to-toe assessment of the newborn.

In 2022, the program received 10 referrals. This number grew significantly in 2023, with 24 referrals received. Of those, 9 home visits and 10 educational telephone interviews were completed. All families that were referred received a *Congratulations Parent Packet*, which included educational materials and a list of valuable community resources.

The program's growth continued into 2024, with an astounding 116 referrals, a 391% increase from the previous year. Of these, 14 home visits and 58 educational telephone calls were completed. This substantial increase in referrals demonstrates the growing recognition and demand for the services offered by the MCH program.

Parents who accepted home visits for lactation assistance have shared overwhelmingly positive feedback, expressing deep gratitude for the free, in-home support. Many have suggested that more people should be aware of this valuable community resource, underscoring the program's importance in helping new families.

Looking ahead, the program is excited to continue its growth in 2025. A Public Health Specialist will be pursuing the Certified Lactation Consultant Course to further expand the team's expertise. The MCH program remains committed to offering accessible, impactful care to new parents in the community.

For more information or to refer a new parent to the program, visit <https://stlawco.gov/Departments/PublicHealth/ChildrensPorgrams#MCH> or contact (315) 386-2325.

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