

Water Communicable
Permits • Intervention
Disease Lead Communicable
Distancing Clinics
Child
Investigation Measures
Education Fluoride
Vaccine
Nursing
Radon
Maternal • Control
Team Safety
Handwashing
Health Preschool
Communicable
Protect
Prevent
Smile
Rabies
Public
Lyme
Isolation
Opioid
Dentist
Environmental
Early Education
Masks
County Prevent
Emergency
Promote
Healthy
Septic
Health
Protect
Pandemic Disease
Emergency
Coronavirus Covid
Publichealth
Quarantine
Monitoring
Food

Tioga County Public Health 2021 Annual Report



Note From Our Director

Looking back, on 2021...Covid became all consuming. Everyone did so much as we confronted Covid head on, all facets: isolation and quarantine orders, supporting individuals, assisting businesses and schools, vaccination and testing clinics, supplies, et al...Educating the community, addressing fears and misinformation, the overwhelming contradictory messaging and guidance at both state and federal levels, conveyed by media outlets via different lenses, became a never ending task. Our focus was on providing succinct, useful information to help residents live their lives.

- Lisa McCafferty, R.S., MPH

Tioga County Public Health Staff



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Adam Ace | Mark Griep | Stephen Mastro | Laura Schurter |
| Kathryn Alliger | Janice Heyman | Lisa McCafferty | Katie Searles |
| Rachael Baker | Kylie Holochak | Denis McCann | Kim Thomas |
| Laura Bennett | Rani Kapur-Pado | Maggie McGoff | Heather Vroman |
| Ashley Coney | Albert Knapp | Abigail Reigelman | Katie Wait |
| Angel Conklin | Todd Kopalek | Eric Sarnicola | Nicole Whitmore |
| Jason Davis | Jessica Lovell | Dan Scherrer | |
| Meagan Ferguson | Jordan Marsh | Lisa Schumacher | |

Welcome New Staff

Laura Schurter - Accounting Associate III
Angel Conklin - Public Health Educator
Stephen Mastro - Public Health Educator

Staff Farewells

Kathryn Alliger, Public Health Nurse

Special Recognition

Lisa Schumacher - 20 years of service
Albert Knapp - 15 years of service
Lisa McCafferty - 5 years of service

Interns

Emily McNally - Ithaca College
Samantha Black - Binghamton University

Board of Health

Joseph Picco, DDS, President
Terry Hills, DVM, Vice President
William H Standingder III, Legislator
James Raftis, Jr., DO
Rani Kapur-Pado, DO
Thomas F Nytch, DVM
Kevin Millar, CRNA
Erica Haray-Butcher, MS, CHES

Health & Human Services Committee

William Standingder III, Chair
Tracy Monell
Dennis Mullen
Loretta Sullivan

Thank you to everyone who supported



Tioga County Public Health in 2021!

Public Health Services

Animal Bite Investigations

CarFit Program for Seniors

Children with Special Healthcare Needs

Child Find Program

Child Passenger Safety

Disease Surveillance

Drinking Water Monitoring

Early Intervention

Fluoride Varnish Program

Food Safety

Food Service Inspection

Health Education

Healthy Neighborhoods Program

Illness Complaint Investigations

Lead Poisoning Prevention

Mobile Dental Services

Opioid Overdose Prevention

Outreach to New Moms

Potable Water Supply

Public Health Preparedness

Rabies Clinics

Special Education Pre-School Program

Septic Permits & Design

School-Based Dental Clinic

Tick & Lyme Disease Education

Vaccines for Children & Adults

Weights & Measures Testing

AND MORE!

Keep up-to-date with TCPH:



607-687-8600



Tioga County Public Health Department



ph.tiogacountyny.gov

Public Health Highlights

COVID-19



2021 Coronavirus Epidemic continued with periods of high activity to lulls, maybe even dare say “normalcy,” and then back to surges.

Our team persevered through 2021 despite having to overcome continual conflicts dealing with COVID-19 including: the ever-changing rules about COVID-19 vaccinations for various populations, preparing/hosting vaccination clinics, distributing vaccine, changing quarantine guidance, record high caseloads, working with school districts on reopening plans, and state vagaries, testing requirements for schools, limited supplies, masks, and tests.

It felt as though when a process was finally streamlined, we were thrown a curveball, and we would have to rethink the process all over again. Despite the frustration our office faced over the course of the year, each and every challenge we confronted as a team, adjusting and moving forward to next iteration.

Thankfully, we were able to return to some of our normal operations!

- Communicable Disease was as busy as ever! We saw increases of Lyme, elevated lead levels, gastrointestinal disease, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and Hepatitis A
- Environmental Health focused on: permitting/inspecting food establishments, septic design, Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention (ATUPA) checks, water testing, rabies clinics, animal bite investigations, and more
- Health Education resumed tabling at events, continued to distribute educational materials, hosted/attended child passenger safety events and trainings, and returned to working on Cancer Prevention in Action and Immunization Action Plan grants
- Children's Services saw an increase in referrals to the Early Intervention program and Preschool/Special Education program resumed normal activity
- Dental Van had a definite increase in clientele and returned to their regular school-based schedule in September
- Administrative Services continued to triage phone calls, streamlined processes with a focus on customer service, prepared and finalized grants, handled contracts, attended various trainings, and many other activities that keep our office functioning smoothly

Our office experienced a bit of "Baby Fever"!

Congratulations to Jason Davis, Kylie Holochak, Heather Vroman, and Jessica Lovell on their newest family additions!



COVID-19 Related Numbers

March 14, 2020 - December 2021

650	Days EOC Activated
7,172	Total Confirmed Cases
19,073	Individuals Tracked
17,909	Quarantine/Isolation Orders Issued
23,081	Calls Taken
4,290	Household Trips/Deliveries
185	Complaints
868	Facebook Posts
3,204	Facebook Likes
39	Media Interviews
87	Press Releases



Reflecting on COVID-19

Challenges:

*"Constant changes in guidance" - **Katie Searles***

*"Dealing with difficult people when they need to quarantine" - **Katie Wait***

*"...working multiple jobs under the umbrella of COVID..." - **Ashley Coney***

Successes:

*"Getting to work closely with everyone in the department and building on those relationships" - **Meagan Ferguson***

*"Helping people get their vaccinations in an efficient manner" - **Dan Scherrer***

*"Being able to fully love my job, even during a pandemic. Knowing that somehow the work WE are doing has made a difference....helping our community. And the unity our team has had." - **Heather Vroman***

Looking back at 2019, 2020 & 2021

Notable Numbers:

Dental Screenings

2019: 1850
2020: 631
2021: 782



Disease Investigations

2019: 876
2020: 616
2021: 5,989



Animal Bite Investigations

2019: 197
2020: 143
2021: 150



Early Intervention Referrals

2019: 223
2020: 132
2021: 153



Newborn Baby Outreach

2019: 389
2020: 58
2021: 207



Animal Rabies Vaccinations

2019: 1016
2020: 854
2021: 1098



Facebook Likes

2019: 347
2020: 2927
2021: 329



Facebook Posts

2019: 297
2020: 639
2021: 270

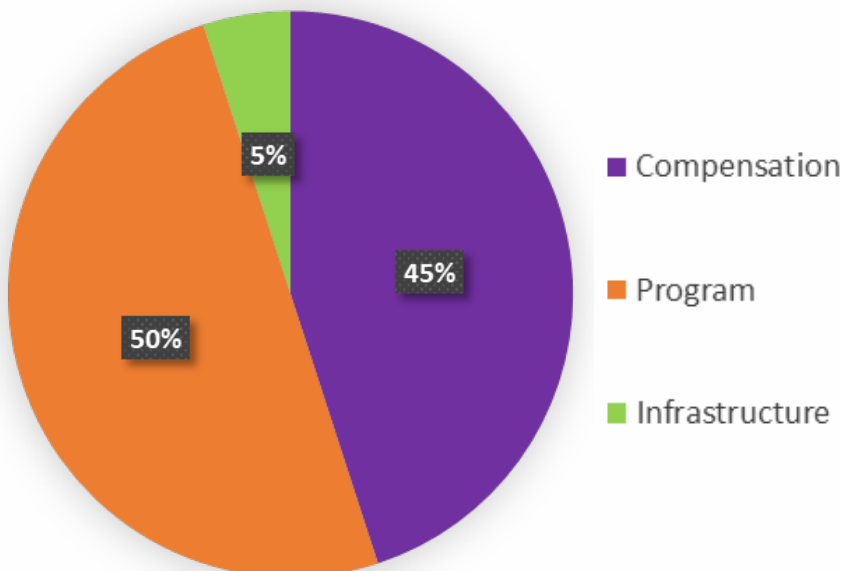


Media Interviews

2019: 28
2020: 23
2021: 18



Expenses Year-to-Date Through December 2021



2021 Employees of the Quarter!

Quarter 1: Laura Bennett



Laura joined Tioga County Public Health as a Health Educator in May 2019. Laura's duties include serving as the Cancer Prevention in Action Grant Coordinator and assisting our Nursing Department with the Lead and Immunization programs, coordinating work plans, and developing educational materials. She assists in chairing the Immunization Coalition. Laura also manages the county wellness program, and not only provides monthly education, but is often setting up walking challenges, workplace wellness contests, and other fun activities for the county or public health staff. Laura has a special talent for preparing flyers and monthly bulletins.

Quarter 2: Daniel Scherrer



Dan joined Tioga County Public Health in November 2013 as a Public Health Sanitarian. Dan wears many hats in our department, including making sure that our drinking water is safe to consume, conducting food inspections, and going on many Healthy Neighborhood Visits to homes across the county. He also manages our Rabies Prevention Program and coordinates the many rabies vaccination clinics that we hold each year! Dan is one of the most helpful staff members in our department. He is someone that you can ask for help when you need an extra hand. Often times he will help without being asked and without hesitation.

Quarter 3: Katie Wait

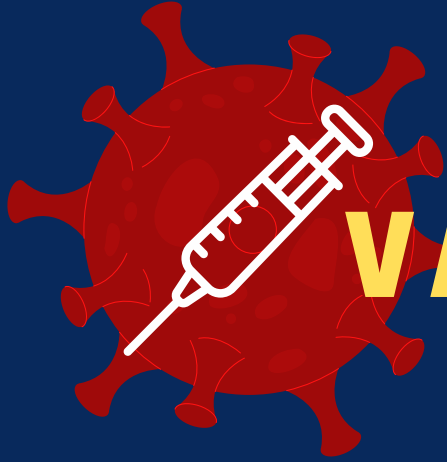


Katie joined Tioga County Public Health in May 2019 as a Public Health Educator and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Katie has been an instrumental member of our team throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. One of her more noteworthy assignments has been scheduling and coordinating COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout Tioga County. She has also recruited many new members to be part of the Tioga County Medical Reserve Corps. She is also a Case Investigator, and took on the role of being a COVID-19 School Liaison. Outside of Emergency Preparedness work, Katie truly loves being able to do health education work.

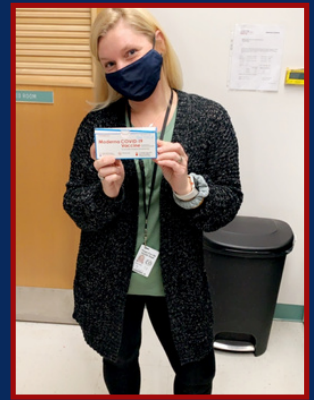
Quarter 4: Nicole Whitmore



Nicole started working on the Tioga Smiles Dental Van in 2014 as a Contracted Dental Hygienist. In January 2020, she officially became an employee of Tioga County when she became the Dental Health Coordinator. In January 2021, Nicole was promoted to Director of Dental Services. When you talk to Nicole about working on the Dental Van, it is very clear how passionate she is about her job and how much she truly cares about our community members, especially the children! While many of us may not have known Nicole well two years ago, we were all fortunate to get to know her throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Nicole stepped up and learned each role that was handed to her.



COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS!



On January 13th, 2021 we held our first COVID-19 vaccination clinic at UHS in Owego. 100 doses of the Moderna vaccine were administered to essential workers!

In 2021 we held a total of 36 clinics and administered 4,264 vaccinations!
Our largest clinic vaccinated about 460 individuals.



We were also able to vaccinate 10 homebound individuals with the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine!

Thank You!

Our clinics would not have been possible without help from our local community partners and Medical Reserve Corps!



Rabies Prevention

Through partnership with Stray Haven we were able to hold 6 rabies clinics in 2021!

2021 Rabies Numbers!

152 Animal Bite Investigations

54 Wild Animal

98 Domestic Animal

38 Animals Submitted for Testing

4 Positive for Rabies

6 Rabies Vaccination Clinics

1098 Animals Vaccinated

Our department also received a new grant that will allow us to assist the elderly population with animal care!



Visit ph.tiogacountyny.gov or our Facebook page for our 2022 Rabies Vaccination Schedule!

Environmental Health

Through American Water Works Association, Dan Scherrer, PH Sanitarian, hosted a meeting for water operators in the Southern Tier to receive continuing education credits for their certifications. The topics of the meeting were "Sanitary Surveys & Waterborne Diseases."

Food Safety

182 Food Establishment Inspections

8 Temporary Food Inspections

26 Establishments with Violations

Weights & Measures

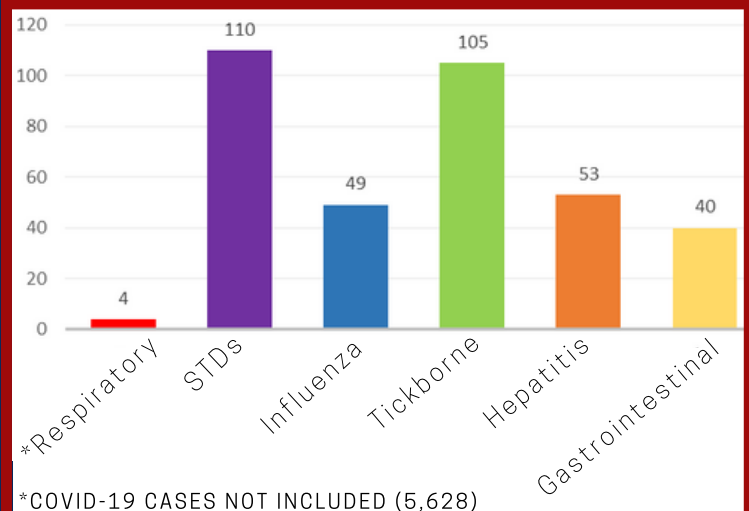
129 Inspection Sites

499 Devices Inspected

Nursing

Staff continued to stay up-to-date with the latest COVID guidelines, while keeping up with routine communicable disease duties. Our nurses played a critical role in distributing COVID-19 vaccines by serving as vaccinators at clinics, organizing vaccine clinics supplies, and ensuring the vaccines were stored properly.

Communicable Diseases Reported in 2021



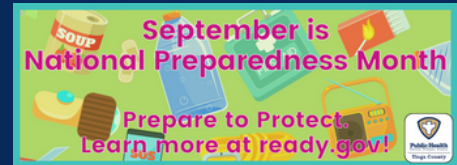
Health Education

COVID-19!

Health Education stepped up to help complete case investigations, coordinate and help at COVID-19 vaccination clinics, and served as school liaisons.

Two temporary Health Education positions were also filled to help solely with COVID-19 work. They have been instrumental in helping our department keep up with our caseload!

2021 was a busy year for media interviews as well as outreach and education! From updating the public on new COVID-19 guidelines, to creating billboards and newspaper ads on a variety of health topics, to completing work for our various grants and programs there was never a shortage of work to be done!



NEW GRANT!

Our department was awarded 50k for the **Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Grant!** This grant will allow us to work with local schools, business, and municipalities to improve access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity!



Children's Services



Despite the challenges COVID-19 brought to Children's Services, our Early Intervention Service Coordinators adapted in order to continue serving the families on their caseload while making improvements to their program along the way!



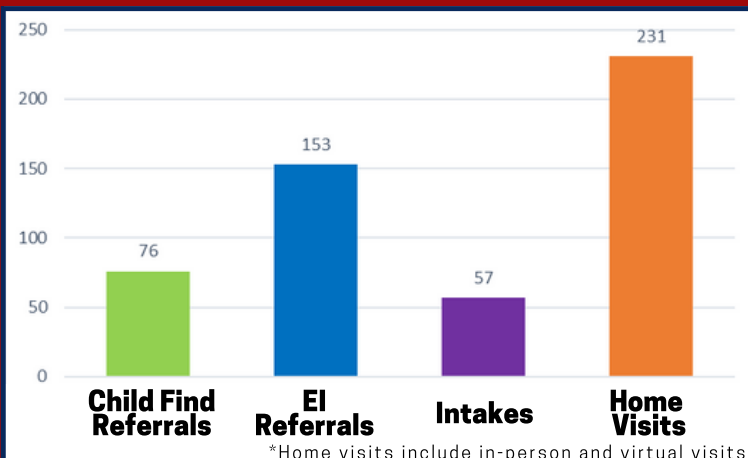
Children Services referrals increased, but conducting timely evaluations and coordinating necessary therapies was challenging for our service coordinators due to provider capacity issues such as compensation, geographic location, and services rendered.



Our Child Find program now has an online screening tool, making the process more user friendly for parents!



Early Intervention Numbers



What is Child Find?

The purpose of Child Find is to screen children (birth-3years) that are suspected or at risk of a developmental delay or disability. Parents are sent a developmental questionnaire to monitor their child's progress. If a delay or disability is suspected, they are referred to the Early Intervention program.



Dental Services



After a year of assisting with COVID-19 related work, our Dental crew was happy to return to the Dental Van!



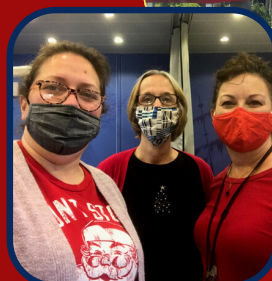
March 3rd, 2021 - Dental Van re-opened for non-emergency care!



September 10th, 2021 - Returned to the school-based program, re-opening at Waverly School District!

2021 Highlights:

782	Dental Screenings
727	Dental Cleaning
409	Sealants
466	Restorations (Fillings)
179	Extractions
154	New Patients



Visit ph.tiogacountyny.gov for the Dental Van schedule!

Administrative Services



Our admin staff continued to triage the many COVID-19 related phone calls our department received, as well as provide documentation for those released from quarantine



In response to the NYS mandate for weekly testing of unvaccinated school employees, our department coordinated with Cayuga Medical Center to provide weekly testing in schools



Admin continued normal activities of fiscal operations (grants, contracts, accounting), in addition to acquiring needed supplies and providing support to the department



Tioga County Public Health
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Owego, NY 13827

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