

Tioga County Public Health

2025
Annual Report



Note from the Public Health Director

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to share the remarkable progress and accomplishments of Tioga County Public Health. Our team is the backbone of this work, and their dedication ensures that we continue to protect, promote, and improve the health of our community.

In 2025, we achieved significant milestones that demonstrate our commitment to excellence. We completed every goal in our agency Strategic Plan, continued with several Quality Assurance and Improvement efforts, and launched new programs to make public health services more accessible. From expanding partnerships and implementing innovative technology, to improving internal processes, these efforts strengthen our ability to serve Tioga County residents effectively.

Behind the scenes, we focused on operational improvements—streamlining workflows, enhancing staff training, and investing in resources that make our work more efficient. We also prioritized staff wellness and engagement, recognizing that a strong team is essential to delivering high-quality public health services.

Our department received positive recognition from state audits and shared our expertise through statewide presentations and collaborations. These achievements reflect not only the hard work of our team but also the trust and support of our community partners.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will continue building on this momentum.

Our goals include:

- Retaining and engaging our workforce through training and wellness initiatives.
- Developing a new three-year strategic plan aligned with our mission and vision.
- Focusing on the nuts and bolts of public health—improving processes through quality initiatives and implementing the Community Health Improvement Plan to guide our work.
- Preparing for National Public Health Accreditation, ensuring Tioga County remains a leader in public health.

First and foremost, thank you to our dedicated team for your incredible commitment and hard work. We also extend our gratitude to the County Legislators, County Administrator, Board of Health members, agency partners, and our community for your unwavering support. Together, we are building a healthier, stronger Tioga County.

-Heather Vroman, MPH, MEd.
Public Health Director



Tioga County Public Health Team



Laura Bennett	Janice Heyman	Misty Malmstrom	Abigail Reigelman	Mackenzie Squair
Jordan Carne	Cristin Hickey	Stephen Mastro	Kristin Russell	Kim Thomas
Jason Davis	Kylie Holochak	Denis McCann	Dr. John Sarnicola	Katie Wait
Louise Dorsey	Tamie Jacobs	Susan Medina	Daniel Scherrer	Nicole Whitmore
Betti Dow	Alexander Knapp	Meagan Mertson	Lisa Schumacher	Heather Vroman
Danielle Gregrow	Todd Kopalek	Melanie Miller	Katie Searles	

Welcome New Staff

Danielle Gregrow - *Public Health Sanitarian*
Cristin Hickey - *Public Health Educator*
Meagan Mertson - *Early Intervention Service Coord.*
Mackenzie Squair - *PH Emergency Preparedness Coord.*

Special Recognition

Lisa Schumacher - *25 years of service*
Jason Davis - *5 years of service*
Janice Heyman - *5 years of service*
Kim Thomas - *5 years of service*
Nicole Whitmore - *5 years of service*

Staff Farewells

Rachael Baker - *Early Intervention Service Coord.*
Mark Griep - *Director of Weights & Measures*
Vandya Kamagere - *Seasonal Public Health Educator*

Interns

Eileen Gallardo - *Binghamton University*

2025 Team Members of the Quarter

Quarter 1: Denis McCann



Denis has worked at Tioga County Public Health for almost 23 years! Denis has served as the Director of Administrative Services since August of 2002. Denis oversees all fiscal related matters for Tioga County Public Health. This includes managing the department's operational budget and ensuring grant and State Aid reimbursements. Denis is a dedicated supervisor to the Administrative Services team. He is part of the Quality Assurance Team and is involved in department quality improvement projects; he is currently leading a strategic plan project focused on communicating Public Health's taxpayer value to the community.

Quarter 2: Misty Malmstrom



Misty joined Tioga County Public Health in April 2024 as an Office Specialist III, assisting with our Early Intervention, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Welcome Baby, and Immunization programs. Misty is the first face you see when you enter our department, always greeting the public with politeness and a smile. She has become an integral part of our team, taking personal ownership of her tasks while assisting others at every turn. She actively seeks to be a part of Public Health events, like rabies clinics, community and outreach activities, and voluntarily takes on additional tasks to help the rest of the team.

Quarter 3: Alex Knapp



Since joining our team in September 2024 as a Public Health Technician, Alex has demonstrated exceptional dedication and professionalism in his work within the septic program. He has quickly developed extensive knowledge of septic systems, engineering design, and blueprint interpretation – skills that have made him an invaluable resource to both our team and the community. In addition to his work in the septic program, Alex plays a key role in several other areas, including the rabies program, nuisance complaints, water testing at children's camps, and inspecting mobile home parks.

Quarter 4: Janice Heyman

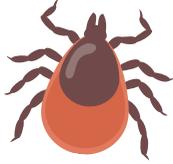


Janice serves as a part-time dental assistant on Tioga County's Mobile Dental Van and has been brightening smiles across the county since 2010. Known for her upbeat personality and ever-present smile, Janice brings positivity and professionalism to every interaction. Her passion for oral health shines through in her work—both on the dental van and during her many years in private practice. Janice is thoughtful, courteous, and deeply committed to making a difference in the community. Organized and dependable, Janice is someone you can always count on.

2025 Notable Numbers

Zoonotic Disease Reports

2023: 375
2024: 352
2025: 490



Tickborne illnesses (Anaplasmosis, Lyme, etc.)

Vaccine Preventable Reports

2023: 1,897
2024: 2,281
2025: 1,672



Vaccine preventable (COVID-19, flu, etc.)

Hepatitis Investigations

2023: 15
2024: 17
2025: 11



Cases of hepatitis A, B, and C

People Narcan Trained

2023: 145
2024: 96
2025: 72



Immunizations Administered

2023: 62
2024: 87
2025: 54



Children and adults vaccinated at TCPH

Early Intervention Referrals

2023: 206
2024: 195
2025: 138



Potential Rabies Exposures

2023: 198
2024: 238
2025: 244



Investigations for wild and domestic animals

Animals Vaccinated Against Rabies

2023: 1,098
2024: 1,377
2025: 1,139



At TCPH sponsored rabies vaccination clinics

Food Inspections

2023: 313
2024: 290
2025: 304



Temporary and permanent food establishments

New Dental Clients

2023: 311
2024: 325
2025: 383



Dental Exams

2023: 1,141
2024: 1,227
2025: 1,359



Sealants Placed

2023: 592
2024: 548
2025: 404



Weights & Measures

2023: 110
2024: 201
2025: 141



Inspection sites within Tioga County

Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels

2023: 22
2024: 10
2025: 13



Newly identified children with lead poisoning

Car Seats Checked

2023: 47
2024: 49
2025: 39



For correct use and installation

Welcome Baby Packets Mailed

2023: 77
2024: 298
2025: 433



New Facebook Followers

2023: 436
2024: 389
2025: 594



TV Media Interviews

2023: 21
2024: 9
2025: 13



Public Health Highlights

2025-2030 Community Health Assessment (CHA)

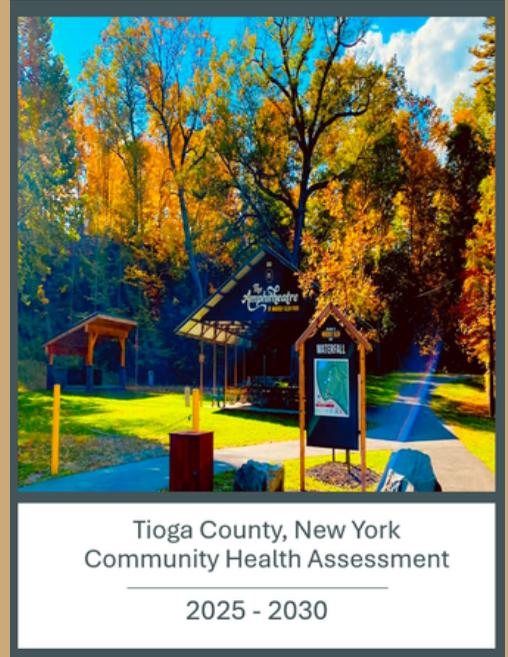
In 2025, Tioga County Public Health staff completed the 2025-2030 CHA. To assist with this time intensive project, a Seasonal Public Health Educator was hired. Our Community Health staff worked diligently to gather community input through the “My Health Story” survey and stakeholder interviews.

Using national, state, and local data on key health topics, the CHA highlights Tioga County’s strengths and areas for improvement when it comes to overall community health.

Key findings from the CHA will be used to develop the 2025-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan.



Scan to view the CHA!



CredibleMind

Tioga County Public Health, in partnership with Tioga County Mental Hygiene, gained access to an online mental health resource called CredibleMind. CredibleMind contains tools and resources to support well-being and manage emotional distress. Tioga County’s platform officially launched in May of 2025 during Mental Health Awareness Month.



Visit: Tioga.CredibleMind.com

Leveraging Technology to Increase Accessibility

In 2025 Tioga County Public Health officially began using the MuniPay program to accept online payments. This has made the process of paying bills and permit fees easier for clients. Donations for rabies vaccinations at our clinics can also be completed online.

Additionally, clients now have the option to electronically apply for Temporary Food Permits!

Our department continues to expand access to online services, with the goal of having all permits available online!

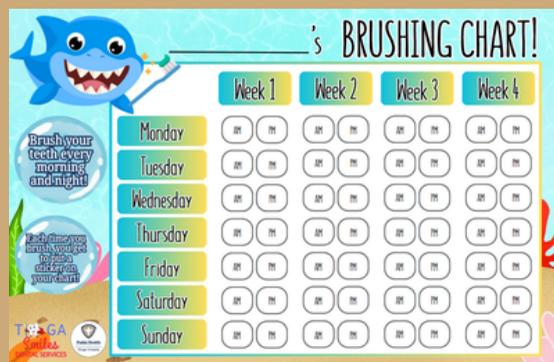


Patient Services

Promoting Positive Oral Health Habits

The need for community education targeted towards young children on good oral hygiene habits was identified by our dental team. To combat this issue, we created an educational campaign that included distributing toothbrushing charts, stickers, and toothbrushes to Tioga County families. To reach families, we tabled at local school open houses and community events. The toothbrushing charts were also advertised in a Facebook campaign where residents could request to have charts mailed to their home.

Additional education was provided through interactive toothbrushing activities at local playgroups and community events.



Toothbrushing Charts



Dental Outreach at the Cady Library

Early Intervention: Education & Outreach

With provider shortages still negatively impacting the program, our EI team has been thinking outside the box of ways to reach families.

To promote child development and the Early Intervention program, the Early Intervention team attended local playgroups and local library events, bringing along child development activities.



Lemonade Themed Sensory Bin



Fall-Themed Sensory Bin

Dental Van Security

Our team completed a security project to make the dental van safer for employees and patients! The dental van is now physically secure, meaning people cannot simply walk in. To gain admission, visitors now must use an intercom-buzzer system. New signage was created to indicate the dental van has 24hr video surveillance.

The project also involved communicating with host sites to notify dental van staff of any emergencies or incidents that they should be aware of.



Communicable Disease

Save PTO for YOU, not the FLU!

As part of Tioga County Public Health's Immunization Action Plan grant, each year a special project is developed to improve the county's rates for specific vaccinations. This year, our team chose to focus on promoting the flu vaccine. Targeted outreach was completed at nursing homes and daycare centers, in hopes to encourage the staff at these high-risk settings to get vaccinated. General community education was also completed in the form of billboards, radio ads, and social media advertisements.

The campaign was titled "Save PTO for YOU, not the FLU" to encourage residents to get vaccinated for the flu so they can use their paid time off for activities they truly enjoy, rather than needing to take time off due to illness.



Provider Outreach

Our Public Health Nurse met with local primary care provider offices to discuss services offered by Tioga County Public Health. These meetings provided the opportunity to touch base with local providers on programs that we collaborate on, such as lead testing and immunizations.

Additionally, outreach on measles, pertussis, and Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis was done at multiple Tioga County provider offices and surrounding hospital emergency departments.



Tick-borne Disease Surveillance

Throughout the year, communicable disease staff conduct tick-borne disease surveillance through weekly reports. They look at the incidence of disease and who is effected, mainly by looking at gender and age groups. This information helps to steer our outreach efforts and campaigns.

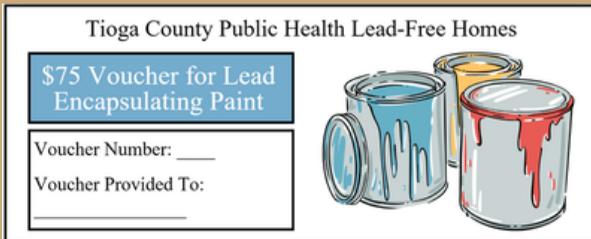


Environmental Health & Public Health Preparedness

Lead Free Homes for Children

At the end of 2024, Tioga County Public Health was awarded \$25,000 from the Floyd Hooker Foundation for a program we titled “Lead Free Homes for Children.” The project officially launched in 2025. The purpose of Lead Free Homes for Children is to help mitigate the cost of lead repairs for families of children with lead poisoning. Through this program, we supply homeowners with cleaning supplies, painting supplies, and paint vouchers for lead-encapsulating paint. A High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuum (the only type of vacuum safe for cleaning up lead dust) was also purchased and is available to families through a loaner program.

In 2025, we provided cleaning and painting supplies to eight families!



HEPA Vacuum



Painting & Cleaning Supplies

Animal Bite Education

In an effort to ensure proper protocols are followed, our Director of Environmental Health presented about responding to potential rabies exposures to local organizations including the Department of Social Services and a local fire station. The presentation was also delivered at the Tioga County Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC).

Additionally, a Powerpoint presentation on Animal Bites and Potential Rabies Exposures with voiceover narration was created for law enforcement, first responders, and 911 dispatch to train them on the process for handling any potential rabies exposures in Tioga County.

Responding to a Local Public Health Emergency: Flooding

In response to the flash flooding that occurred in Newark Valley in July 2025, Tioga County Public Health activated a Point of Dispensing (POD) to provide Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccinations to those exposed to floodwaters. Floodwaters create favorable conditions for tetanus, a serious and potentially life-threatening infection, to thrive.

Cleaning supplies from our Healthy Homes Program were also distributed to flood victims.



Community Health

PROMOTING QUALITY FAMILY TIME

This summer Tioga County Public Health and the Tioga County Advocacy, Support, and Prevention (ASAP) Coalition provided Tioga County families the opportunity to beat the heat and spend quality time together by sponsoring free community movie screenings at the Tioga Theater.

A total of six community screenings were sponsored throughout the summer. These family-friendly, sober events were well attended by the community, with one screening “selling out” the theater!



Candor Parent Education Night

In October, the Tioga County ASAP Coalition partnered with the Candor School District to host a Parent Education Night at Candor High School. Kym Laube, a national speaker and Executive Director of Human Understanding Growth Services (HUGS), Inc., was the guest speaker.

Kym discussed the impacts and trends of youth mental health being seen across the country due to social media use. The education night concluded with a panel discussion with mental health experts and school staff.



Collaboration Success: Welcome Baby Program

Tioga County Public Health’s Welcome Baby Program provides outreach to the caregivers of our newest residents through mailers and phone calls. The majority of Tioga County births are reported through the New York State Perinatal System. However, for many years we have been missing a significant number of Tioga County births that occur across the border at the Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pennsylvania. In 2025, our team worked with Guthrie and HealtConnections to develop a birth report that captures the births we have been missing. We are happy to now be able to send a warm welcome to all the new Tioga County babies!

Public Health Services

Animal Bite Investigations
Child Find Program
Child Passenger Safety Program
Disease Surveillance
Drinking Water Monitoring
Early Intervention
Food Safety
Food Service Inspections
Health Education & Outreach
Illness Complaint Investigations
Lead Poisoning Prevention
Mobile Dental Services
Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

Potable Water Supply Monitoring
Public Health Preparedness
Rabies Vaccination Clinics
Residential Water Testing
Special Education Pre-School Program
Septic Permits & Design
School-Based Dental Clinic
Tickborne Illness Education
Vaccines for Children & Adults
Weights & Measures Program
Welcome Baby Outreach
Well Head Replacement Program
AND MORE!

Board of Health

Thomas Nytech, DVM, President
Jim Simmons, Vice President
Terry Hills, DVM
Rani Kapur-Pado, DO
Teresa Leary, FNP
James Raftis, Jr., DO
William Standinger III, Legislator



*Tioga County BOH members (left to right) -
Dr. James Raftis, Jr., Teresa Leary, Dr. Rani Kapur-Pado,
Dr. Thomas Nytech, Jim Simmons,
Legislator William Standinger III.
Not Pictured - Dr. Terry Hills.*

Medical Consultants

John Zevan, DO
UHS Emergency & Trauma Services

James Skiff, MD
UHS Primary Care

Zoé Moffett, PharmD, BCPS
Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist at UHS

2025 Health & Human Services Committee

William Standinger III, Chair
Andrew Aronstam
Ray Bunce
Tracy Monell
Dennis Mullen

Vision

Tioga County Public Health will serve as the Public Health leader to ensure the needs of our community are met through an integrated and coordinated network of resources that empower people to improve their quality of life.

Mission

To protect and promote the health and well-being of our community through advocacy, education, enforcement, prevention and partnerships.

Values

Collaboration. Communication. Efficiency.
Empowerment. Integrity.

Tioga County Public Health

607-687-8600

ph.tiogacountyny.gov

Facebook: Tioga County Public Health