

# Tioga County Public Health

2016 Annual Report

Special Edition



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



## 50th Anniversary

### 1966~2016

## Public Health in Tioga County, NY





## 50 YEARS AGO...

Public Health Nursing started in 1966 with a small staff of 10. This service came to be after several years of work and perseverance by many people.

Reports from the first nurses in the field tell of babies born on farms, the elderly without access to care, snowstorms that could not keep the nurses from seeing their patients and more. Public Health Nurses evaluated all of their patient's needs; not just medically but also the home environment.

Public Health Nursing transformed throughout the years while adding more programs such as Vital Statistics and Physically Handicapped Children Services. More staff were hired to meet the needs of the community. Eventually, an Environmental Health Division was established and was a leader in protecting water sources and air quality in the County.

Public Health today certainly looks different from the original agency 50 years ago. Programs and services continue to change with the needs of the community therefore resulting in the programs we see today.

## A WORLD WITHOUT PUBLIC HEALTH...

In the 21 century we enjoy the benefits of communities with a public health system. Although public health work is in the background and not always recognized, without it our lives would not be what they are today.

Without Public Health you would worry if your water is safe to drink and raw sewage would not be properly handled. Without Public Health you would worry about your newborn child contracting an illness and not surviving to their first birthday. Without Public Health you would worry to eat at your favorite restaurant, unsure if the food is safe. .

Luckily for all of us Public Health does exist. We can rest assured that our children will be protected from disease and that our community is a safe place to live and grow up in. We can go about our days knowing that there are people out there working to protect our health, prevent health and environmental hazards and promote the well-being of Tioga County residents.

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*“Without Public Health,  
Tioga County would look very different.”*

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## PUBLIC HEALTH HOT TOPICS

**Lead** in school water and homes

**Zika** and the Risk to Unborn Babies

**Heroin** Epidemic

**Narcan** for Opioid Overdoses



## PUBLIC HEALTH IN ACTION

**89** Adolescent Tobacco Sales Investigations

**147** Child Safety Seats Inspected/Installed

**181** Lyme Disease Cases

**204** Scales Inspected

**297** Food Service Inspections

**549** Communicable Disease Cases

**1575** Fluoride Varnish Applications



## RABIES PREVENTION

This year we held 9 Rabies Clinics from January and to November throughout the County to make them easy for the community to attend.

A total of 1132 cats and dogs were vaccinated . Staff from all divisions of Public Health help to organize and run the clinics.



2016 brought a new system of electronic registration. By allowing people to pre-register for their pet's rabies vaccination they can choose a time that works best for them as well as eliminating long wait time.

Rabies prevention through vaccinations is very important. In 2016 there were **239** animal bite investigations leading to 39 people needing the rabies shot series. If the animal that bites

a human is not vaccinated for rabies, then the person needs to complete the preventive rabies human series which can be more than 4 shots!



## HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

Many Tioga County residents have participated in the Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP). In 2016 there were 214 home visits.

The goal of the HNP is to identify health, safety, and quality-of-life issues in the home environment.

Often HNP home visits address fire hazards and check for working smoke alarms. Safety hazards are addressed through the installation of fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide detectors, and anti-slip bathmats. Also, radon levels can be detected with a radon test.

Where necessary, units also receive ventilation improvements in the form of fans in kitchens and/or bathrooms or the repair of minor plumbing leaks. In some instances, services to clients have included repair of rotting sub floors, particularly in bathrooms caused by chronic leaks. Healthy Neighborhoods representatives can also evaluate rodent issues and provide cleaning products.

Health Neighborhoods Program is NOT income dependent. All Tioga County residents are encouraged to schedule a visit today!

Comments from participants:



*"The program is very good. It's very helpful; I am very satisfied and grateful."*

*"Yes, thank you for helping our family. We can now feel safe in our home."*

*"I will recommend a HNP visit to my friends and family. Thank you so much."*

## MEDICAL MISSION

On October 22 staff from Tioga County Public Health participated in the Medical Mission at Owego Elementary School.

Many agencies came together to organize and run the Medical Mission. Participants had access to various medical services including health assessments, hearing evaluations, flu shots and mammograms.

Public Health staff provided dental services through use of the Dental Van. Dr. Aumock, a local dentist also volunteered dental services on the Dental Van. Public Health also partnered with the Sherriff's Department to hold a drug take-back. Senator Fred Akshar stopped by the event and met with volunteers.



Prevention Works

## OUR MISSION

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



## TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

### STAFF MEMBERS

Adam Ace	Barb McCormick
Peggy Ayers	Susan Medina
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Jenna Dyer	Robert Morley
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Thomas F. Nytych, DVM

William H. Standinger III

Rani Kapur-Pado, DO

Kevin Millar, CRNA

### PROGRAMS

Animal Bite Investigations

Bicycle Safety

Children with Special Health Care Needs

Child Find

Child Passenger Safety

Communicable Disease

Complaint Investigations

Drinking Water Monitoring

Early Intervention

Emergency Preparedness

Fluoride Varnish Program

Food Service Inspections

Health Education

Healthy Neighborhoods Program

Lead Poisoning Program

Maternal & Child Health

Mobile Dental Services

Special Education Pre-school Program

Rabies Clinics

Respiratory Clinic

Septic Permits

School-Base Dental Clinic

Vaccines for Children/Adults

Weights & Measures

JUST TO NAME A FEW...

Tioga County Public Health

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