

TIOGA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT



2023

RESET - RENEW - REIMAGINE

Public Health Director's Note

2023 was a year of resetting, renewal, and growth for Public Health and our team. Driven by the theme of Reset, Renew, Reimagine, the goal was to build a better Public Health for our community. Beginning the year with a transition in new administration, we were also successful in building back our workforce and reestablishing mandated programs that are essential for the public, such as immunizations.

We re-enacted a quality improvement program which resulted in streamlining many of our processes/procedures, and re-allocated staffing resources into new areas for staff to grow and excel while improving the program areas. We renewed our partnerships with organizations throughout the County, surrounding Counties, and New York State that we had historically collaborated with, and needed new embracing. We accomplished all the goals we set for 2023 and more!

By the end of the year, we had developed our own Strategic Plan that will guide our work in the coming years, where all staff will play a vital role, contributing to the success of our agency.

Our culture has changed for the better, we are on a united front; with a focus on quality improvement in what we do and how we do it. As we look to the future our focus is on how we will Reimagine Tioga County Public Health into a more efficient, better serving organization for our community. I believe we have the team in place to accomplish great things!

-Heather Vroman, MSED.
Public Health Director



Tioga County Public Health

RESET - RENEW - REIMAGINE

As a Department.

Our Partnerships.

Public Health in Tioga County!

Tioga County Public Health Staff



Rachael Baker
Laura Bennett
Sarah Centerwall
Nicholas Conklin
Jason Davis
Louise Dorsey
Mark Griep

Janice Heyman
Kylie Holochak
Tamie Jacobs
Albert Knapp
Todd Kopalek
Jordan Marsh
Stephen Mastro

Denis McCann
Susan Medina
Melanie Miller
Abigail Reigelman
Eric Sarnicola
Dan Scherrer
Lisa Schumacher

Katie Searles
Kim Thomas
Heather Vroman
Katie Wait
Nicole Whitmore
Erin Youells

Welcome New Staff

Louise Dorsey - Public Health Nurse
Susan Medina - Deputy Public Health Director
Melanie Miller - Director of Patient Services
Erin Youells - Office Specialist III

Staff Farewells

Adam Ace - Public Health Sanitarian
Meagan Mertson - EI Service Coordinator

Special Recognition

Denis McCann - 20 years of service
Adam Ace - 10 years of service

Public Health Fellows

Nicholas Conklin
Stephen Mastro

Public Health Intern

Shane Healy

2023 Employees of the Quarter

Quarter 1: Stephen Mastro



Stephen has worked for the Public Health department since 2021 as a Health Educator. Stephen has been, and continues to be, the point person for anything Covid. He answers questions regarding the ever-changing COVID-19 guidelines and monitors for local trends. His role as the COVID-19 point person has involved dealing with a weary and frustrated public, yet Stephen always comes to work with a positive attitude and never complains. When no Covid-related activities are needed, Stephen is always happy to help assist in other areas of the department. He regularly helps on the dental van where he answers the phone, makes appointments, brings students to and from the van, and more. The children love "Mr. Stephen," and he has been a tremendous help to our busy dental team.

Quarter 2: Rachael Baker



Rachael began working at the health department in October of 2019 as an Office Specialist III. Rachael has a very important job, as she is the first face people see when they come to our department. Whether it's restaurant owners turning in paperwork, children coming in for vaccines, or someone with a health-related question, Rachael knows what to do or who to call. Rachael is also an asset to our Nursing and Early Intervention teams. We have recently seen increased activity in these programs, and Rachael has stepped up to the task with a positive attitude. She schedules appointments, helps with inventory, and has played a crucial role in our Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. For Early Intervention, she is the go-to for all administrative needs, processing all paperwork, inputting children's data, assisting with bill payments for providers, and more.

Quarter 3: Tamie Jacobs



Tamie has worked for the Public Health Department since August 2022 as an Accounting Associate III. Quickly, Tamie became an asset to our fiscal team. Her typical duties include answering calls, placing orders for the department, paying bills, and recording revenues. Tamie continuously goes above and beyond and is eager to learn and train in other areas. She is always keen to lend a hand, whether it's carrying and putting away orders or answering questions. Tamie regularly volunteers for rabies clinics and community outreach events.

Quarter 4: Sue Medina



Sue rejoined our department in May of 2023 as Deputy Public Health Director. She hit the ground running and played a vital role in our department's goal of revamping existing programs and policies, as well as reintroducing services, such as Welcome Baby Outreach, that we haven't offered since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Sue has helped streamline and improve how we do many different things, making us all more efficient. Sue oversees and offers support on a wide variety of programs from health education to lead poisoning prevention and emergency preparedness. Despite her busy schedule, Sue is always available to meet with her staff and provide support on all our different projects. Sue uplifts others by highlighting our accomplishments in weekly "Water Cooler" emails. On top of everything else that she does, Sue recently completed her master's in public health. She is a great role model, and even better coworker!

Notable Numbers:

Zoonotic Diseases

2021: 105
2022: 220
2023: 375



Tickborne illnesses (Anaplasmosis, Lyme, etc.)

Vaccine Preventable

2021: 6,525
2022: 8,285
2023: 1,897



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

Hepatitis

2021: 53
2022: 89
2023: 15



People Narcan Trained

2021: 2
2022: 1
2023: 145



Immunizations

2021: 0
2022: 35
2023: 62



for children & adults vaccinated at TCPH

Early Intervention

2021: 138
2022: 148
2023: 206



Children referred to the EI program

Animal Bites

2021: 150
2022: 153
2023: 198



Investigations for wild and domestic animals

Animals Vaccinated

2021: 1,098
2022: 1,012
2023: 1,271



At TCPH sponsored rabies vaccination clinic

Food Inspections

2021: 190
2022: 208
2023: 313



Temporary and permanent food establishments

New Dental Clients

2021: 154
2022: 340
2023: 311



Dental Exams

2021: 782
2022: 1,120
2023: 1,141



Clients with Tooth Decay

2021: 438
2022: 843
2023: 763



Weights & Measures

2021: 129
2022: 123
2023: 110



Inspection sites within Tioga County

Devices Inspected

2021: 499
2022: 475
2023: 604



in the Weights & Measures program

Car Seats Inspected

2021: 20
2022: 40
2023: 47



for correct use and installation

Facebook Likes

2021: 329
2022: 257
2023: 436



Facebook Posts

2021: 270
2022: 240
2023: 303



Media Interviews

2021: 18
2022: 14
2023: 21



Television, radio, and newspaper interviews

2023 Program Highlights

Back to School Immunization Campaign

Over the summer, our department did a targeted campaign to remind parents and guardians to make sure their children were up to date on their immunizations before the 2023 - 2024 school year began. Through this campaign we ran a television commercial, had lawn signs up at all six school districts, and ran newspaper and social media ads.

Every year, students are excluded from school because they are missing one or more doses of vaccinations that are required for school attendance. Our nurses and staff work with parents to promptly get needed vaccines either administered at our clinic or at available providers. This timeliness assures that the number of children excluded is minimal.



Creating Healthy Schools & Communities Grant

Through this grant, we work with municipalities, school districts, and food service locations to help establish and support healthy communities where it is easier to practice healthy behaviors.

Year 2 Showcase Project - Nichols Park

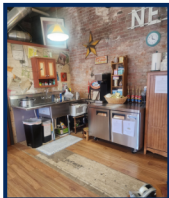
Village of Spencer

Our biggest project from Year 2 of the Creating Healthy Schools & Communities Grant was done in collaboration with the Village of Spencer. This project was completed with additional funding sources that the Village sought out to redo the walking trail around Nichols Park to ensure that the trail was ADA compliant. Our staff communicated frequently with those involved with the project, including the main contractor completing the work, to ensure that all purchases were grant approved. This project was a great representation of how these funds can help a municipality increase safe and accessible physical activity.



Year 2 Projects

- Village of Candor
 - Portable speed radar signs
 - Park benches
 - Pet waste disposal station
- Candor School District
 - Bottle filling stations
 - Physical education equipment
 - Walking trail signs
- The Red Door
 - Food pantry refrigerator
 - Industrial sink
- Spencer Food Cupboard
 - Shelving units
 - Electric cooktop



2023 Program Highlights

Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

Save A Life - Free Narcan Day

Tioga County Public Health in partnership with Tioga County Mental Hygiene, CASA-Trinity, and the Tioga ASAP Coalition partnered for the first Save A Life - Free Narcan Day in Tioga County!

Over a two day span, six Narcan distribution and training sites were set up at [Tioga Downs Casino Resort](#), [Resource Center of Candor Bread of Life Food Pantry](#), [Spencer - Van Etten Food Cupboard](#), [The Red Door](#), [Tioga County ASAP](#), and [Village of Newark Valley](#). In total, 84 Narcan Kits were distributed across Tioga County!

SAVE A LIFE FREE NARCAN DAY
IN TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK
Opioid Overdose Prevention Trainings, and Free Narcan Kits Available & Accessible Across Tioga County!

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
8:00am - 10:00am
Tioga Downs Casino & Resort
2300 Sun St, Sayre, NY
9:00am - 10:00am
Bread of Life Food Pantry
1000 N. Candor St
9:00am - 10:00am
Spencer - Van Etten Food Cupboard
1000 N. Van Etten St
9:00am - 10:00am
The Red Door
200 Broad St, Newark, NY
9:00am - 10:00am
CASA-Trinity
22 North Ave, Sayre, NY
10:00am - 11:00am
Newark Valley Village Center
15 N. Main St, Newark Valley, NY
10:00am - 11:00am

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023
8:00am - 10:00am
Save A Life Day
Opioid Overdose Prevention Trainings, and Free Narcan Kits Available & Accessible Across Tioga County!

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023
8:00am - 10:00am
The Red Door
200 Broad St, Newark, NY
9:00am - 10:00am
CASA-Trinity
22 North Ave, Sayre, NY
10:00am - 11:00am
Newark Valley Village Center
15 N. Main St, Newark Valley, NY
10:00am - 11:00am

NARCAN SAVES LIVES!

Logos for: Public Health Tioga County, CASA TRINITY, and other partners.



Public Access Narcan (PAN) Boxes

The Tioga County ASAP Coalition worked hard to expand the Public Access Narcan Box program in 2023. Twenty-six new boxes were installed in various locations around the county including local libraries, non-profit agencies, motels, and more, increasing the total number of PAN Boxes in Tioga County to 31! PAN boxes help make Narcan publicly accessible for anyone who may need it for themselves or someone else in their lives.

Through this program, we have also been able to offer opioid overdose prevention trainings. Community members learn how to use Narcan to respond to an overdose and are aware of the purpose of the PAN boxes, so that they may encourage others to utilize them as needed!



Welcome Baby Outreach

This year, our team reintroduced our Welcome Baby Outreach, a program that has been on pause since the pandemic began. Each week, one of our health educators reviews a list of births for Tioga County so that a warm welcome packet can be sent to our newest residents. Baby books, growth charts, and more are mailed directly to one's home.

Mothers who are listed as high-risk due to pregnancy complications, teenage mothers, and other circumstances, may receive a phone call to inform them of additional resources available to support their family.

Unfortunately, any births that occur outside of New York State (most frequently at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre) are not reported to our department in the same way, making it more challenging to reach our high-risk families. We hope to have a solution to this in 2024!



Public Health Open House

On April 20, 2023 our department came together to hold an Open House. All of Tioga County, including county departments, partner agencies, New York State affiliates, and community members were invited. Around one-hundred guests attended the event!

We were able to give tours of our on-site therapy room, Mobile Dental Van, showcase the programs we offer, and all of the work we do in Tioga County.

The theme of our Open House was:

- Reset as a department
- Renew our partnerships
- Reimagine public health in Tioga County

Coming out on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic, this event was a great opportunity for us to share the amazing work that our department does for our community!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by at our Open House to meet our team and see what public health is all about!



Public Health Open House



2023 Success Stories

On-Site Therapy Room for Children

Children's Services has continued to navigate the shortage of providers available to children who are enrolled in Early Intervention. The on-site therapy room, which was created in 2022, has been well utilized. The room provides a solution to transportation barriers and scheduling conflicts. When a therapist utilizes this space, it allows them to see more children by removing the time it typically takes to travel from location to location to meet with families.



In 2024, the team is hopeful to announce additional solutions to ensure that those who need Early Intervention are able to receive these services.

Well Head Replacement Grant

Tioga County Public Health has served as a pilot project for New York State with our Well Head Replacement Program. The objective of this project is to address the issue of individual water wellheads that are at risk of contamination and subsequent health problems. The program goes beyond water sampling and addresses barriers to replacing wellheads. In 2023, this grant was able to assist with replacing or repairing 18 well heads for Tioga County homes!

Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water for most Tioga County residents. Due to the importance of the work, the project will be expanding in 2024. This program has become an essential component of the county's public health initiative. The pilot project has received additional funds to include ultraviolet and chlorination disinfection systems, and funding for excavation projects.



FREE WELL HEAD EXTENSION & REPLACEMENT

Tioga County Public Health has a limited amount of funding available to help homeowners extend and/or replace their well head.

Call us today to find out if you are eligible!

Stephen Mastro, Public Health Fellow
607-687-8627



Dental Services



In October 2023, the Tioga Smiles Dental Program celebrated 20 years of serving Tioga County!

It was another busy and successful year serving all 6 school districts and the Tioga County community!

Dental Health Fair

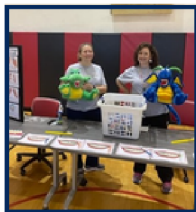
In May 2023, the Tioga Smiles Dental team, Tioga County Public Health and partner agencies, CASA-Trinity and Cornell Cooperative Extension, all participated in a Dental Health Fair Day at Van Etten Elementary School.

Stations were set up for students to learn about:

- *Proper brushing and flossing tips*
- *What you eat impacts your teeth*
- *How much sugar is really in your drink*
- *Habits and the impact on oral health*

Tours were also given to each class on the Mobile Dental Van with the hope that a glimpse of the van would alleviate any future fear of going to the dentist!

Overall, it was a very successful day! Students left with new toothbrushes and a water bottle with messaging reminding them to choose plain water over sugar sweetened beverages.



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

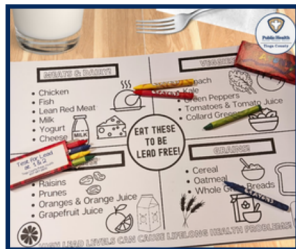
Patient Services

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Our Lead Poisoning Prevention Program has been hard at work, revamping and improving how the program operates. Lead is a collaborative program, bringing together our health educators, public health nurses, and public health sanitarians, to investigate cases of lead poisoning in children.

Children should have their blood tested at ages 1 and 2 to determine if they have elevated levels of lead in their blood. Due to the old housing stock in Tioga County, which includes many houses that still have lingering lead paint, as well as other factors such as polluted soil, we do see children with elevated lead levels. As of December 2023, 31 children with elevated lead levels were being followed by our team for care coordination and environmental health services.

This year, we partnered with 12 restaurants around the county to deliver crayons and coloring placemats with lead poisoning prevention education. Education was also done through social media and billboard messaging.



Immunization Program

TIOGA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Not sure if you're eligible?
Not sure if your family is up-to-date?
Have questions about vaccines?

We ensure everyone has access to vaccines!

We participate in both Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adults (VFA), that provide vaccines at no cost to eligible groups.

CALL US!
Tioga County Public Health
607-687-8600

After almost two years without a nurse on our staff, one of our most exciting updates from 2023 is that we were able to recruit two nurses to join the team as a Public Health Nurse and Director of Patient Services. Adding nurses back on to our staff has allowed us to get back to one of the most important aspects of public health - immunizations!

Our clinic staff is now able to assist with:

- Vaccinating children and adults who are uninsured, underinsured, or have Medicaid for insurance
- Looking up vaccination history (if requested by the individual)
- Answering general questions about immunizations
- Recommending vaccines for specific life stages to offer maximum benefit (children, pregnancy, older adults, etc.)
- Planning for future/upcoming vaccinations
- Ensuring school-aged children have all recommended vaccines to attend school or daycare

Environmental Health

ATUPA Program

(Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act)

Did you know that in May 2020, a ban was put into place in New York State on the sale of flavored vapor products that do not have an FDA marketing order? This includes menthol and fruity flavored products. Flavors, like fruit, candy, and chocolate are largely responsible for the dramatic increase in use of e-cigarettes by youth and are a principal reason that youth initiate and maintain e-cigarette use.

In October 2023 a retailer within Tioga County was caught illegally selling flavored vaping product. This type of violation comes with a mandatory fine. The illegal sale of tobacco products, such as flavored vaping products or the sale of any tobacco products to those under 21, may be reported directly to our department by calling 607-687-8565 or email environmental.health@tiogacountyny.gov.

FLAVORED VAPES, VAPE PRODUCTS, AND THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 21 ARE ILLEGAL IN NY!



You Can Report the Illegal Sale of:

- Flavored disposable vapes
- Flavored vape juice
- Tobacco products to minors

Email Tioga County's ATUPA Program
(Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act)
EnvironmentalHealth@tiogacountyny.gov



This year we launched a new online fillable form for individuals to report bites and scratches from both wild and domestic animals. Regardless of the animal's vaccination status, an animal bite should be reported as soon as possible so that our team can investigate the incident's circumstances to determine if Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis treatment is necessary.

Rabies Prevention

2023 Rabies Program Data

198	<u>Animal Bite Investigations</u>
61	Wild Animal
137	Domestic Animal
62	<u>Animals Submitted for Testing</u>
3	Tested Positive for Rabies
9	<u>Rabies Vaccination Clinics</u>
1,271	Animals Vaccinated

Through partnership with Stray Haven we were able to hold 9 rabies clinics in 2023!

Our most popular pet names at our clinics this year were:



Charlie
Bella
Sadie
Bear
Lucy



Visit ph.tiogacountyny.gov or our Facebook page for our 2024 Rabies Vaccination Schedule!

Public Health in Action



Tioga County Public Health Services

Animal Bite Investigations
CarFit Program for Seniors
Child Find Program
Child Passenger Safety Program
Disease Surveillance
Drinking Water Monitoring
Early Intervention
Food Safety
Food Service Inspection
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 Testing
Welcome Baby Outreach
AND MORE!

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William Standinger III, Chair
Jake Brown
Tracy Monell
Dennis Mullen



*Thank you to everyone who
helped make 2023 another
successful year for
Tioga County Public Health!*



Tioga County Public Health

607-687-8600

ph.tiogacountyny.gov

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