



# Note From Our Director

Yet another busy year..... Public Health was involved in so many activities throughout Tioga County. As careful stewards of community resources, we are able to provide services and programs essential to our population's health. Public Health is present in all aspects of our daily lives, our environment.

From animal bites and bats, to drinking water, to disease surveillance and welcoming new babies; so many roles, all of which serve to protect and promote health. We have endeavored to capture what we do and the ways in which we do it. Please read on .....

A big **thank you** to all who make it possible – the Public Health crew, the Tioga County Legislature, the Board of Health, and all of our community partners...

- Lisa McCafferty, R.S., MPH

*Public Health is the air we breathe; the water we drink; the food we eat.. and our impact on the planet and its future.*  
Prevent, Promote, Protect....

## Public Health Services

- Animal Bite Investigations
- CarFit Program for Seniors
- Children with Special Health Care 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!**



# 2019 Public Health Highlights:

- Our NEW Tioga Smiles Mobile Dental Unit is on the road!
- Served 767 children through our children's programs in 2019.
- Managed a localized pertussis outbreak.
- Recipient of a NYSACHO Innovation Award for our Adult Immunization Coalition offering a call-in webinar format.
- Vaccinated over 1,000 domestic animals at 9 of our Rabies Vaccination Clinics.
- Recipient of a New York State recognition our flyer describing the hazards of radon on pet's health.
- Assisted with vaccinating students who were impacted by the New York State school vaccination regulation changes and worked with schools to achieve compliance with New York State regulations.
- Presented our dental program to the New York State Oral Health Coalition.
- In partnership with NYS, we conducted a drinking water survey in the Richford Hamlet.
- Completed 2019-2024 Community Health Assessment and 2019-2021 Community Health Improvement Plan.

## Looking Back at 2017, 2018 & 2019

### NOTABLE NUMBERS:



Dental Screenings  
2017: 1884 2018: 2119  
2019: 1850



Disease Investigations  
2017: 903 2018: 821  
2019: 876



Animal Bite Investigations  
2017: 169 2018: 222  
2019: 197



Early Intervention Referrals  
2017: 203 2018: 209  
2019: 223



Newborn Baby Outreach  
2017: 303 2018: 397  
2019: 389



Animals Rabies Vaccinated  
2017: 904 2018: 1269  
2019: 1016



Outreach Events  
2017: 38 2018: 37  
2019: 31



Facebook Posts  
2017: 309 2018: 289  
2019: 297



Media Interviews  
2017: 11 2018: 17  
2019: 28

## WELCOME

Rachael Baker - Office Specialist III  
Laura Bennett - Public Health Educator  
Jason Davis - Confidential Assistant  
Megan Ferguson - Early Intervention Service Coordinator  
Katie Wait - Public Health Educator

## INTERNS

Margaret Carey - Ithaca College  
Catherine Colgan - Ithaca College  
Amanda Lyons - SUNY Delhi  
Irene Rojas - Binghamton University

## FAREWELLS

Jenna Dyer - Early Intervention Service Coordinator  
Amy Fancher - Public Health Educator  
Emma Renda - Seasonal Clerk  
Marilyn Wertman - Secretary to the PH Director  
Emily Warfle - Public Health Educator  
Denise Warner - Office Specialist II

## SPECIAL FAREWELL



**Melanie Miller**

Supervising Public  
Health Nurse  
20 years



**Barbara McCormick**

Confidential  
Assistant  
21 years

Congratulations **Adam Ace**, graduate of Leadership Tioga! This program is designed to educate and assist individuals who live or work in Tioga County and with a focus of learning about various services, agencies, and resources in our community. They learn how they as individuals, can use their knowledge and skills to become future leaders in the community. It's a great program that promotes personal growth, networking, and a deeper appreciation for the community as a whole.



### 2019 Employee of the First Half

Marilyn Wertman, Secretary to the Public Health Director, demonstrates the ability to add value to everything that our department does through her dedication, creativity, and resourcefulness. Thanks to her hard work, we were able to do a better job serving our customers and keeping up with their demands.

Marilyn is described by her coworkers as being "very proactive and supportive," and "generous and kind." Organization and neatness are her motto. Marilyn is a team player and is there for everybody and for whatever is needed. She is fun to work with!

Her contributions to the team are a reflection of her priorities as an individual and the importance that she places on doing a good job! Our department is grateful for everything she has done in her role.

### 2019 Employee of the Second Half

Lynn Bennett, is an Accounting Associate III, and this recognition is no surprise to the rest of the department. She had multiple nominations, with her coworkers describing her as "Super Gung Ho!" "Very chummy", "Cool under pressure", "Fantastic" and "great at trouble shooting".

Lynn started with Tioga County in February 2006 with the Department of Social Services, and did a short stint at Public Works. She joined the Public Health team in May 2017, having achieved the rare feat of two promotions within a year, Office Specialist I to Accounting Associate II to her current title of Account Associate III. Everyone in the department is impacted by Lynn's role as primary payroll person. She often assists everyone throughout the department and there's really no job she won't do. She is the go-to person for anything and will always try to help you or find an answer if she doesn't know it.

Lynn is devoted to her work and if there is a deadline, she won't stop or take a break until it's done. Always helping others, she is a true team player, an amazing employee and friend! Lynn is sincerely humble, and happens to be much better at her job than she thinks she is. Although she is not excited about new things, she has been tackling them head-on and doing very well.

# Tioga County All-Stars!



**That Your to All the Vets that Make Our Rabies Vaccination Clinics Possible!**

**Kim Cleveland**, Endless Mountains Veterinary Center

**Terry Hills**, Day Hollow Animal Hospital

**Virginia Hills**, Day Hollow Animal Hospital

**Maria Crispell**, Endless Mountains Veterinary Center

**Mark Roberts**, Endless Mountains Veterinary Center

**Marina Shepelev**, Endless Mountains Veterinary Center

**William Wilhelm**, Endicott Animal Hospital

**A Special Thank You to Margaret Shuler for all of her help during our Rabies Clinics!**

**Most Improved Lead Testing Medical Office:**

**Guthrie Waverly**

**Pharmacy Consultant:**

**Dr. John Gatto**, The Owego Pharmacy



## Public Health Administrative Support Staff

2019 was a year of change in Administrative Services. Some of our staff who had been here for years retired, and some new members joined the team. This team is fun, hard-working, and efficient with everything they do!

2019 was filled with a lot of training and cross-training throughout the department. The Admin Services team also continues to support more than just Public Health!

We also assist:

- Veterans Service Agency with their payroll & fiscal needs
- Mental Hygiene with AV needs and Annual Fiscal report reviews
- Department of Social Services with sharing of vehicles



Rachael Baker  
Lynn Bennett

Abby Canzler  
Jason Davis  
Denis McCann

Lisa Schumacher  
Katie Searles

Thank You to our hard-working Administrative Services Team for all you do for our department! Everything you do is extremely appreciated!

# Tioga Smiles NEW Dental Unit

2019 was a big year for the Dental Program! After several funding requests, floor plan re-designs and much anticipation, the new "Tioga Smiles" mobile dental unit hit the streets of Tioga County.

The new dental unit was made possible from a Community Development Block Grant and funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission and Floyd Hooker Foundation. The unit itself was built not far from Tioga County, in Oneonta, NY at Medical Coaches.

The new mobile unit is different from the previous dental trailer in that it is 13 feet smaller. This allows for greater mobility and more options for best sites. There are 2 dental chairs, a waiting area, and office space. The interior resembles an ocean, including a beach scene and under-the-water wall wrap complete with a shark and diver.



## 2019 Dental Program Highlights:

- 1,850 Dental Screenings
- 1,398 Prophys (Dental Cleanings)
- 1,048 Fluoride Treatments
- 1,022 Sealants
- 515 Restorations (Fillings)
- 161 Extractions



# Community Health Assessment

## Tioga County, NY 2019-2024 Community Health Assessment



2019 marked an important year with the completion of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Community partners identified health behaviors; how they relate to poor or good health outcomes.

## Tioga County, NY 2019-2021 Community Health Improvement Plan



Interviews with key community members gave a voice to the data.

The Community Health Improvement Plan focuses our efforts to impact the health and wellness of Tioga County. Together with our partners, we aim to make Tioga the healthiest county in New York State.

“Locally and state-wide, overweight and obesity are increasingly significant causes of excess morbidity and mortality. An astonishing 61% of NYS adults are overweight or obese and the incidence of childhood obesity has tripled in the past 30 years. This phenomenon is driven by unhealthy patterns of food intake and inadequate exercise.

The current medical system is poorly positioned to address this issue as it remains focused on the adverse outcomes associated with obesity such as hypertension, type II diabetes and cardiovascular disease rather than upon the lifestyle and dietary changes that are required. This multifactorial health problem remains a significant challenge and its solution will require significant changes in our food selections, activity patterns and expectations about what can and cannot be achieved through traditional medical interventions.”

Dr. Keith A. Nichols, MD

## Healthy Communities Partnership



“Many hands make light work.”

- John Heywood

The Healthy Communities Partnership is vital to the improvement of our resident's health. A BIG job with many agencies and resources working together toward a common goal.

This partnership guides and oversees the Community Health Improvement Plan. Next steps: implement and support interventions and grow the partnership. The group has identified interventions already at work in the community and developed goals and objectives.



# Tioga County Rabies Prevention

2019 proved to be another busy year for our rabies program. A total of nine animals test positive for rabies, including: one deer, four foxes, three raccoons, and a bat! Remember, if an animal is acting strange, it may be sick. Stay away and call someone from our team right away!

## 2019 Rabies Numbers:

**197** Animal Bite Investigations  
(**52** Wild Animal)  
(**145** Domestic Animal)

**43** Individuals Requiring Rabies Treatment

**48** Animals Submitted for Testing  
(**9** Positive for Rabies)  
(**39** Negative for Rabies)

**9** Rabies Vaccination Clinics  
**1,016** Animals Vaccinated

## 2020 Tioga County Rabies Vaccination Schedule

Wednesday, January 29th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Candor Fire Station

Thursday, March 26th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Waverly Village Barn

Thursday, April 30th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Newark Valley Fire Station

Saturday, May 30th (2:00 - 4:00pm) - Hickories Park in Owego

Thursday, June 25th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Apalachin Fire Station

Thursday, July 23rd (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Spencer Fire Station

Thursday, August 27th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Berkshire Fire Station

Thursday, September 24th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Nichols Fire Station

Saturday, October 17th (10:00am - 12:00pm) - Owego State Rt. 38 Fire Station\*  
*\*This is a cats only clinic\**

Campville Station #3

Thursday, November 19th (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Owego State Rt. 38 Fire Station  
Campville Station #3



Pre-Registration is Required for Clinics at  
[www.health.ny.gov/go2clinic/54](http://www.health.ny.gov/go2clinic/54)  
or Scan Here to Register!



# Thank You

to our partners that provide their space each year for our Rabies Vaccination Clinics and those that helped us vaccinate over 1,000 animals in 2019!



Margaret Shuler  
Day Hollow Animal Hospital  
Endless Mountain Veterinary Center  
Ward and Van Scoy Feed Store



Village of Waverly  
Town of Owego  
Candor Fire Station  
Newark Valley Fire Station  
Apalachin Fire Station  
Spencer Fire Station  
Berkshire Fire Station  
Nichols Fire Station  
Campville Fire Station #3

Visit Tioga County Public Health on Facebook for our 2020 Rabies Vaccination Clinic Schedule!



# Healthy Neighborhoods Program

Look At All Accomplished in 2019:



334  
Home  
Visits



63  
Lead  
Concerns



30  
Mold and Humidity  
Concerns



95  
Pest Management  
Concerns



1366  
Hazardous  
Conditions Found



260  
Referrals From Outside  
Agencies



228  
Carbon Monoxide  
Detectors Provided



235  
Smoke Detectors  
Were Replaced



45  
Homes Provided with  
Child Proofing Supplies



260  
Improved  
Hazards

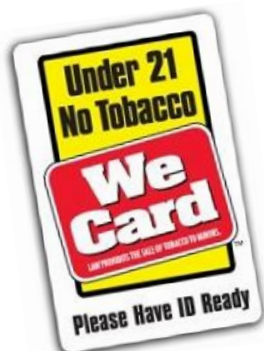
## ATUPA

### Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act

We ensure tobacco retailers are not selling tobacco products to underage individuals through compliance checks. In November 2019, the legal age to purchase tobacco products in New York State was raised to 21.

#### Tobacco Products Include:

- Cigarettes
- Chewing Tobacco
- Electronic Cigarettes & Similar Devices
- Cigars
- Smoking Paraphernalia
- Herbal Cigarettes
- Bidis
- Nicotine Water
- Shisha
- Liquid Nicotine



## Richford Water Testing

In September, Richford Town Planning Board, in partnership with Tioga County Public Health and New York State Department of Health, announced a Drinking Water survey for the Richard Hamlet. Site evaluations and water samples were analyzed from 10-15 households in the hamlet. Participation was voluntary, with no cost to residents. Data collected will be used to assist the Richford Planning Board, and the Hamlet, with future planning and ideas for addressing water supply safety.



## 2019 Food Safety Numbers



203 Food Inspections



68 Temporary Food Inspections

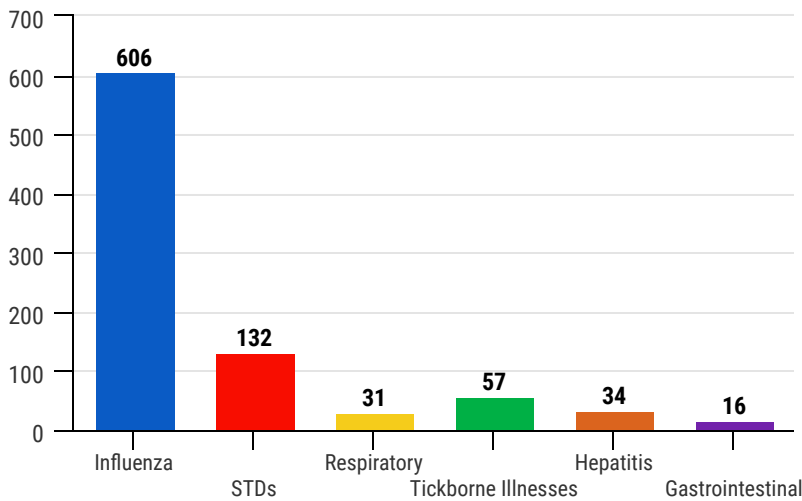
35 Establishments with Violations

# Public Health Nursing

## Look At What We Did in 2019!

**389** Newborn Packets Sent Out  
**43** Children Received VFC Vaccines  
**38** PPD Tests  
**74** Flu Shots Administered  
**22** Lead Outreach Activities  
**And so much more!**

## Communicable Diseases Reported in 2019



## New York State Law Changes

2019 saw changes that effected many of our residents. In June, New York State Legislature voted to repeal religious exemptions from school vaccinations. This led to our nursing team working hard to help students catch up on their vaccinations prior to the start of the school year. There were endless phone calls with parents, school officials, and provider's offices, all working to keep students in school and ensure that each of the school districts were in compliance.

On October 1, 2019, New York State Department of Health changed the definition of elevated blood lead levels to 5 micrograms per deciliter. By lowering this level, more children will be identified as being lead poisoned. Goal is to target education and outreach for families, which should help limit the impact of lead poisoning on a child.



## 2019 Pertussis Outbreak in Tioga County

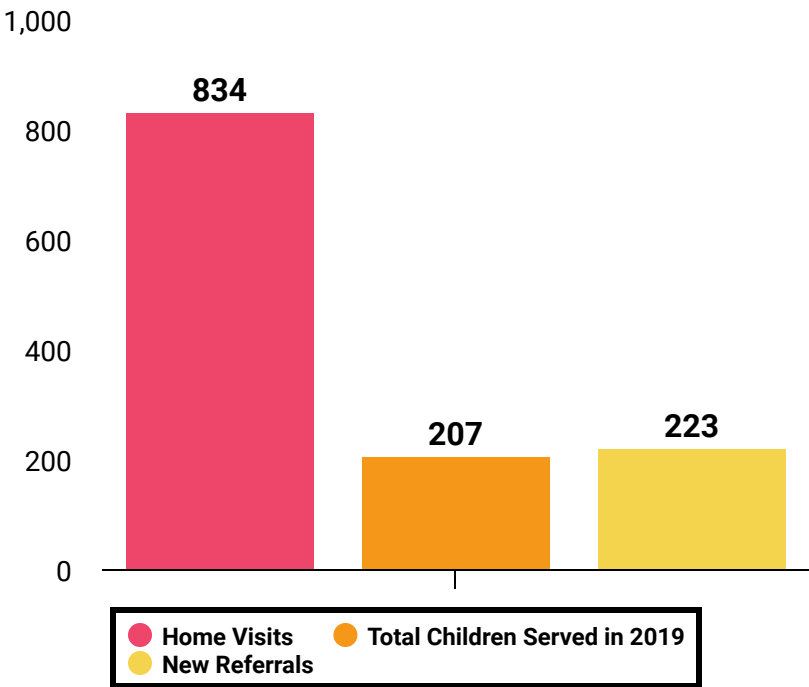
2019 began with our team tackling a localized pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak, mainly effecting students. From January through late March, 25 total cases were documented. Our nursing team conducted numerous case contact investigations and collaborated with local doctor's offices to ensure proper treatment of cases and contacts. We worked closely with school nurses and administrators to identify and contain possible cases.

Every year the Tioga County Adult Immunization Coalition is tasked with working on an intervention plan. This year, the coalition chose to focus efforts toward increasing the amount of adults that have received their Tdap (booster shot for whooping cough).

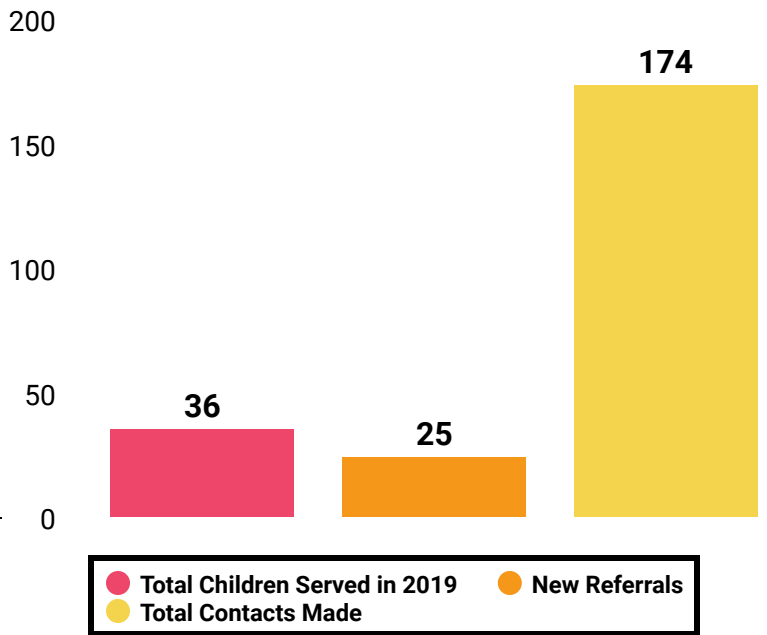


# 2019 Children's Services

## Early Intervention Numbers



## Children with Special Health Care Needs Numbers



## Child Find

Child Find screens children, birth through age three, who are suspected or at risk for a developmental delay or disability. A developmental screening tool is sent to the parent/guardian every two months to monitor the child's growth and development. If the child starts falling behind in any one area, the child is referred to our Early Intervention Program for evaluation. This screening tool is also utilized by doctors. Over the past ten years, we have screened hundreds of children through this program. In 2020, we hope to go digital and make it easier for families to complete the screening!



## Tioga County Resource Guide

The Tioga County Resource Guide is a comprehensive document for families in Tioga County. It includes health information for children with disabilities, camps, schools, family activities, benefit programs, legal aid, food pantries, places of worship, and so much more!

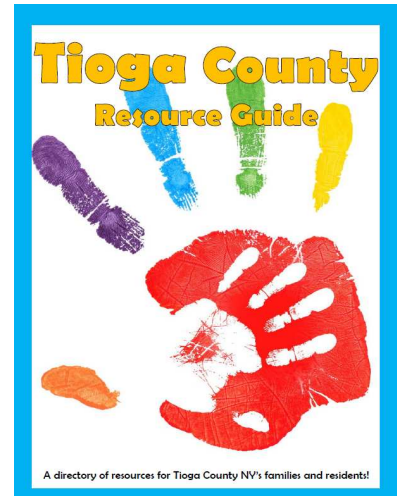


Scan Here to Open The Resource Guide!



Not sure how to scan this? Open the camera on your cell phone, hold it steady over the QR code, and click on the notification to open the web address!

You can also find this guide on our website  
[www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/public-health/](http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/public-health/)



# Cancer Prevention in Action Grant

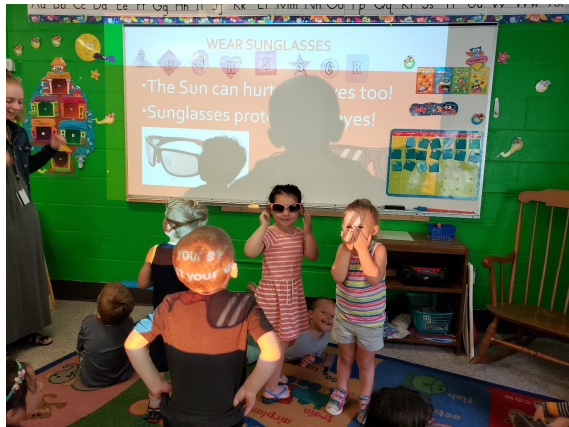
2019 kicked off the first of five years for the Cancer Prevention in Action Grant (CPiA). We teamed up with the Broome County Health Department to bring cancer prevention efforts into our county.

## Goals of the CPiA Grant:

- Prevent skin cancer through the promotion of sun safety
- Promote the HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer
- Promote cancer screenings through promotion of paid-time off policies for employees

## 2019 Program Highlights:

- Sun safety education at Abide in the Vine Childcare Center and Family Enrichment Network
- Sun safety policies were signed by Abide in the Vine Childcare Center and Tioga County Public Health
- Received a 13x26 tent, an inflatable tent, two sunscreen dispensers, and a shade structure for local organizations

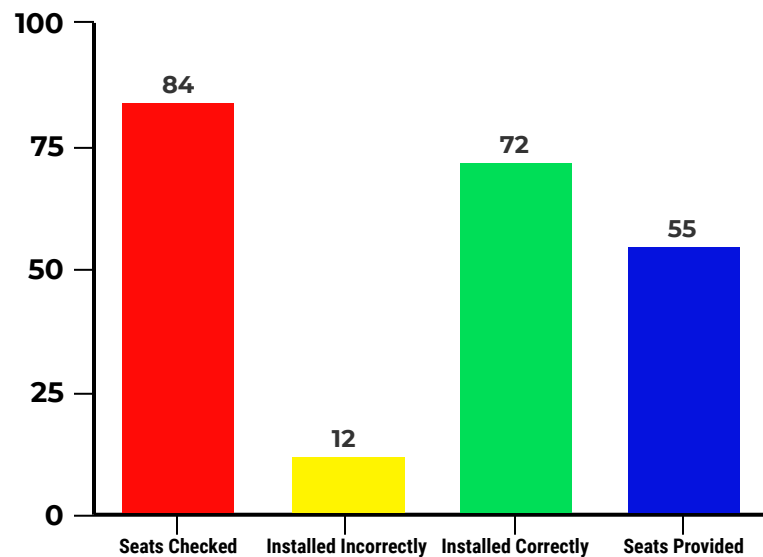


## Child Passenger Safety

2019 was another successful year for our Child Passenger Safety Program. This year, we held events in Waverly, Newark Valley, and Apalachin! We were able to purchase additional seats this year thanks to our granters, **Floyd Hooker Foundation** and **Visions Federal Credit Union**.



## 2019 Tioga County Child Passenger Safety Statistics



Includes data from Tioga County Public Health, Tioga County Sheriff's Office, and Waverly Police Department

# Public Health Preparedness



## Education and Outreach

Presentation to the Council of Governments on Public Health Emergency Preparedness 101

Psychological First Aid presentations for:

- Tioga County Public Health supervisors
- Tioga Opportunities staff and community members

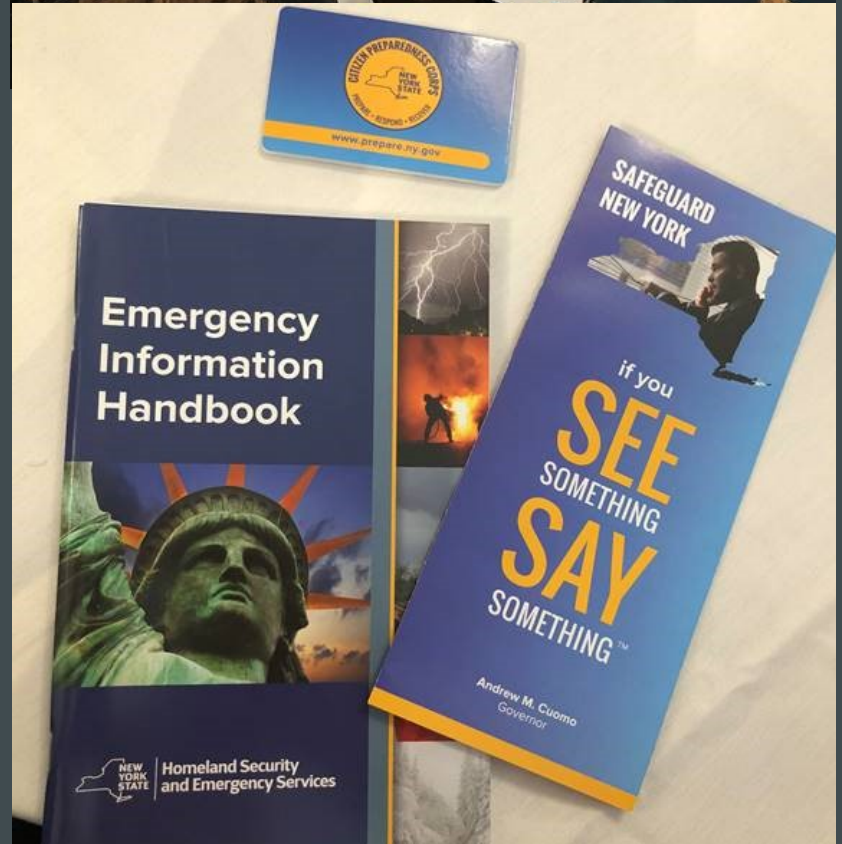
Emergency Preparedness Tips & Severe Weather Outlooks to All County Employees



## National Guard Training

On November 14th, over 70 Tioga County employees and residents attended the Citizen Preparedness Training. This training was made possible through the partnership of Tioga County Public Health, Tioga County Emergency Management, Tioga Opportunities, Inc., Southern Tier Independence Center, and Tioga Downs.

The Citizen Preparedness Corps gives residents the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions. Trainings are led by the New York National Guard, working with experts from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Office of Emergency Management and Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The training provided an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants were advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. A key component of this training is distribution of free NYS Disaster Preparedness Kits to all participants containing key items to assist individuals in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. The state training and kits help New Yorkers be the most-trained and best-prepared citizens in the country.



# Tioga County Working Together!

While the work we do at Tioga County Public Health has a huge impact on our community, we also owe a lot of credit to the various coalitions, councils, and groups that work together to continuously improve the lives of those that live in Tioga County!

## Tioga County Healthy Communities Partnership



Tobacco Free Broome & Tioga



Tioga County Adult Immunization Coalition

Professional Elder Network

Tioga County Anti-Hunger Task Force

Tioga County Allies in Substance Abuse Prevention

Tioga County Suicide Prevention Coalition

Tioga County Non-Profit Network



Tioga County Strong Families Coalition

Safe Harbor

Tioga County Long Term Care Council

Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council



## Child Fatality Review Board

The Broome-Tioga Child Fatality Review Board plays a role in preventing child deaths by reviewing preventable deaths involving children 18 and younger.

In 2019, five Tioga County cases were presented with a close examination of if, how, these deaths could have been avoided.

The majority of the infant cases presented were related to unsafe sleep practices. This indicates more education and outreach is needed to ensure babies are sleeping alone, on their backs, in an area with no blankets or toys.



# Board of Health

Joseph Picco, DDS, President

Erica Haray-Butcher

Maureen Hawley, BSN

Terry Hills, DVM

Rani Kapur-Pado, DO

Kevin Millar, CRNA

Thomas F. Nytch, DVM

James Raftis, Jr., DO

William H. Standinger III, Legislator



## Health & Human Services Committee

William Standinger III, Chair

Tracy Monell

Dennis Mullen

Loretta Sullivan

**Thank you to everyone who helped make 2019 a successful year for Tioga County Public Health!**

## Tioga County Public Health Staff



Adam Ace  
Rachael Baker  
Laura Bennett  
Lynn Bennett  
Barbara Bilbrey

Abigail Canzler  
Ashley Coney  
Jason Davis  
Meagan Ferguson  
Mark Griep


Kylie Holochak  
Rani Kapur-Pado  
Al Knapp  
Todd Kopalek  
Jessica Lovell

Jordan Marsh  
Lisa McCafferty  
Denis McCann  
Susan Medina  
Eric Sarnicola

Dan Scherrer  
Lisa Schumacher  
Katie Searles  
Heather Vroman  
Katie Wait

**Stay tuned for more great things to come from TCPH in 2020!**

**Want To Know More? Here's how you can get in touch!**

 607-687-8600

 Tioga County Health Department

 [www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/public-health/](http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/public-health/)



# Tioga County Public Health 2019 Annual Report



Tioga County Public Health  
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