

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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Tompkins County Health Department, 55 Brown Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

WELCOME

From the Public Health Director — Frank Kruppa, M.P.A.

Thank you for taking a moment to review the Tompkins County Health Department's 2017 Annual Report. A lot happened over the course of the year, including the passage of our T21 local law prohibiting the sale of tobacco to anyone under 21, the selection of new electronic health records for both Community Health Services and Children with Special Care Needs, an increased collaboration between the Mental Health and Public Health Departments, and important discussions addressing the opioid epidemic with both the Board of Health and the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature.

It is an honor to serve with the dedicated professionals at the Health Department who strive each day to make our community safer and healthier. Please enjoy this review of our accomplishments.



From the Medical Director — William Klepack, M.D.

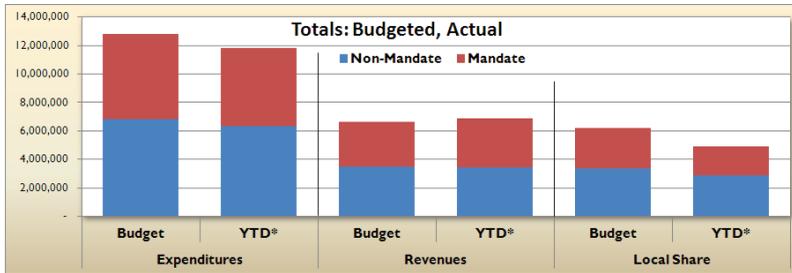
The close collaboration between Frank Kruppa and me has never been more evident than these past few years as the Department has carefully considered a public health response to the growing opioid epidemic.

I researched supervised injection facilities (SIFs) and, after consultation with Mr. Kruppa, we have shared those facts with our community partners, boards, and the public to foster a community dialogue. My findings show SIFs are a rational strategy to reduce harm. We have sought to help the community balance priorities among all the modalities that are needed.

MISSION STATEMENT

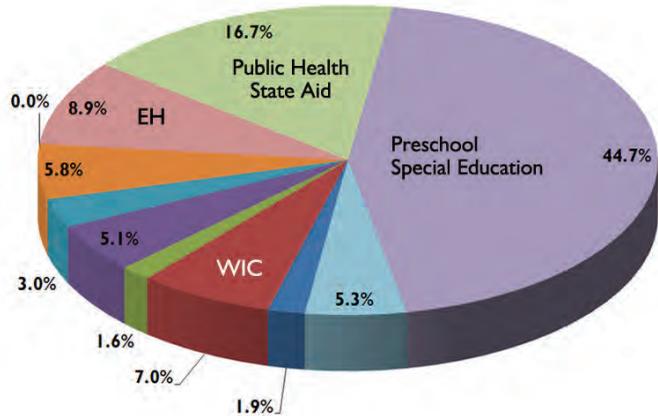
“To strive to achieve a healthy community by protecting and promoting public health through education, training, advocacy, and the provision of services.”

FINANCIAL REPORTS

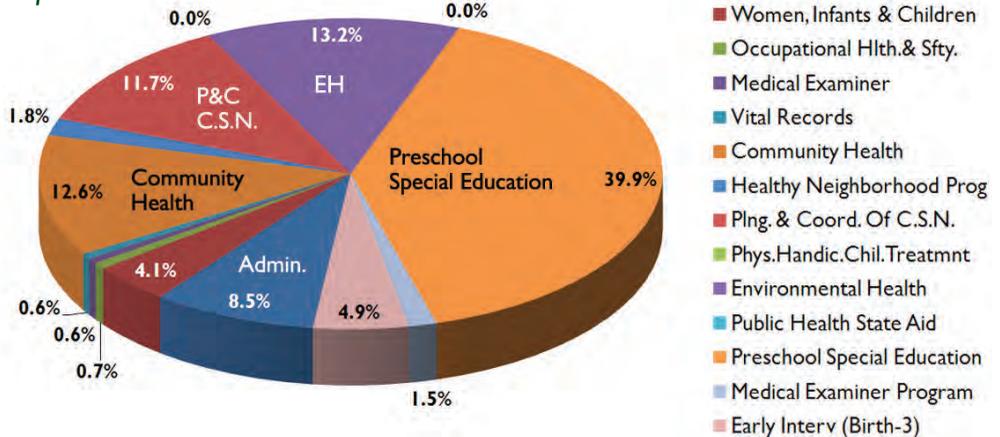


Revenues

- PH Administration
- Women, Infants & Children
- Vital Records
- Community Health
- Healthy Neighborhood Prog
- Plng. & Coord. Of C.S.N.
- Phys.Handic.Chil.Treatmnt
- Environmental Health
- Public Health State Aid
- Preschool Special Education
- Early Interv (Birth-3)



Expenditures



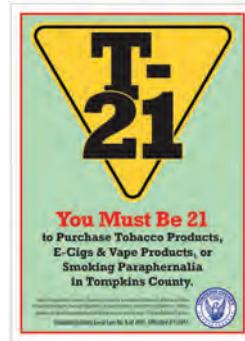
HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAM (HPP)

The Health Promotion Program works across the Department and throughout the community to provide education and encourage well-being among residents.

In March, HPP launched a Department-wide **Facebook** page as part of a social media plan. The platform allows information to be posted from all Health Department divisions and promotes activities and events occurring in the community.



Tobacco 21 (T-21) was passed by the Tompkins County Legislature, raising the legal age for sales of tobacco and vaping products, and smoking paraphernalia from 18 to 21 years effective July 1. HPP visited all licensed retailers to provide new signs and answer any questions. A paid media campaign was launched to educate the public. Tompkins was the sixth upstate county to pass T-21.



The **Healthy Neighborhoods Program** (HNP), which offers free home safety visits, is in its fourth year of a 5-year grant. The program moved from Environmental Health to the Health Promotion Program. HNP completed 438 initial visits in 2017, up from 409 in 2016.



HPP created a pilot program, **Harmonicas for Health**, which teaches individuals with COPD and other respiratory disease to play the harmonica as a tool to exercise their breathing muscles. The program is a great success and offered two 6-week sessions in Fall 2017.



In the News: Public Information Highlights

- March: NYS announces Free Lead Testing Program for residential drinking water
- July: TCHD gets a pilot TCAT bus stop
- July: Harmful Algal Blooms identified in the southern end of Cayuga Lake.
- December: Increase in Pertussis cases



Boards and Committees with TCHD representation

- Cayuga Lake HAB Steering Committee
- Children's Reading Connection
- Coalition of Families
- Collaborative Solutions Network
- Collective Impact Childhood Nutrition Collaborative
- Community and School Health Advisory Committee
- Community Coalition for Healthy Youth
- Community Health Quality Improvement Committee
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrition Program Committee
- County Office for the Aging Board
- Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium, Owning Your Own Health Committee
- HeadStart Advisory Board
- Health Planning Council
- Healthy Lungs for Tompkins County
- Hydrilla Local Task Force
- Immunization Coalition of Tompkins County
- Ithaca Breastfeeding Coalition
- Lead Poisoning Prevention Network
- NYS Association of County Health Officials
- NYS Conference of Environmental Health Directors
- Owasco Lake HAB Steering Committee
- Partners in Healthcare Emergency Preparedness
- Tompkins Community Action Advisory Committee
- Tompkins County Worksite Wellness Coalition
- Visiting Nurse Service Professional Advisory Committee
- Water Resources Council

DIVISION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Division of Community Health reaches across the Health Department and community, providing immunizations for a range of diseases, supporting pregnant mothers and families with young children, and investigating communicable diseases to ensure there is not an outbreak.

During 2017, DCH received SafeCare Agency Accreditation.

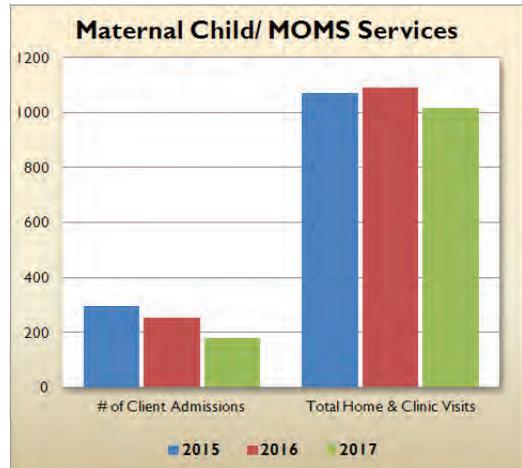
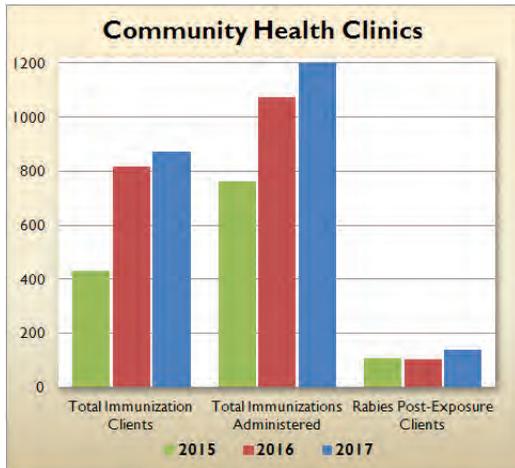


SafeCare is an evidence-based home visiting intervention to families with children ages

0-5 years who are at risk for child abuse or neglect. CHS has four Community Health Nurses certified in SafeCare.

DCH received a Performance Improvement Award of \$19,000 from NYSDOH based on our ability to maintain high standards of communicable disease reporting measures.

DCH developed Zika Virus educational packets for pregnant women and travelers. The kits were distributed to Obstetrical (OB) providers, Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport and other community health and human service partners.



Communicable Disease Cases

Arthropod	2017	2016	2015	2014
ANAPLASMOSIS**	4	1	3	2
BABESIOSIS**	4	1	1	1
CHIKUNGUNYA**	0	0	0	2
DENGUE FEVER**	1	0	0	0
EHRlichiosis (CHAFEENSIS)**	1	0	1	1
EHRlichiosis (UNDET.)**	2	0	1	0
LYME DISEASE** ****	71	39	37	29
MALARIA	1	1	1	1
ROCKY MTN SPOT FEVER**	1	2	0	0
WESTNILE VIRUS**	0	0	0	1
ZIKA VIRUS (SYMPTOMATIC)**	3	3	0	0

Bloodborne	2017	2016	2015	2014
HEPATITIS B, ACUTE	0	0	0	2
HEPATITIS B, CHRONIC	7	8	5	7
HEPATITIS C, ACUTE	4	6	3	5
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC	58	52	101	102

*Based on month case created, or December for cases created in Jan/ Feb of following year. | **Confirmed and Probable cases counted; Campylobacter confirmed and suspect. | ***Not official number. | **** In 2014, 18 counties investigated a sample of positive laboratory results; 2015-2016, 25 counties, and in 2017, 27 counties sampled.

Central Nervous System	2017	2016	2015	2014
ENCEPHALITIS	4	2	0	0
MENINGOCOCCAL**	3	2	1	0

Gastrointestinal	2017	2016	2015	2014
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS**	23	20	30	22
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS**	18	9	7	12
GIARDIASIS	11	15	16	25
SALMONELLOSIS	8	18	10	8

Mycobacterium	2017	2016	2015	2014
TUBERCULOSIS***	3	3	2	4

Sexually Trans'd Infect.	2017	2016	2015	2014
GONORRHEA TOTAL.....	85	81	55	64
CHLAMYDIA	418	374	342	357
SYPHILIS TOTAL.....	14	15	5	12

Vaccine Preventable	2017	2016	2015	2014
PERTUSSIS**	21	4	4	14
INFLUENZA, LAB CONFIRMED	658	428	368	267

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

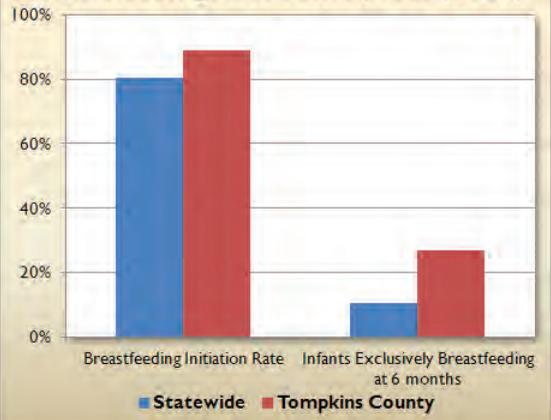
WIC contracted with a web based texting application that allows two-way text communication between staff and participants.

TC WIC was selected as one of 12 NYS WIC Programs to participate in the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI)



Learning Community to address improving caseload retention and improving check redemption rates.

Breastfeeding: WIC Participants (2017)



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION (EH)

The Environmental Health Division (EH) is an educational and regulatory agency dedicated to protect, preserve, and promote the health of the residents of Tompkins County through the natural and man-made environments. EH had an exciting year with everything from harmful algal blooms to unusual sources of lead.

HABs

EH staff entered murky waters (figuratively speaking, of course) dealing with potentially Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). HABs had previously been detected in the north end of Cayuga Lake, but had not been sighted in Tompkins County. However, in late July 2017, multiple sightings were reported in the southern end of the Lake. The Health Department conducted multiple levels of outreach to inform concerned individuals. HABs are typically blue-green algae blooms, which may be small in size and are more prevalent along the shoreline



and in bays. They may produce toxins that are harmful to people and animals. More information may be found on our website.

Hydrilla invades Cayuga Inlet, Yr. 7

EH continued its involvement in the hydrilla eradication effort, participating in the Local and State Hydrilla Task Forces and developing

and overseeing the water quality monitoring program used when aquatic herbicides are applied. Eradication efforts to date have been successful but will need to continue for mul-

multiple years to come. The Cayuga Inlet, site of the first observation of hydrilla in 2011, appears to be free of hydrilla and herbicide treatment has been discontinued there. More information is available at StopHydrilla.org.

Food Service Signage

EH has created food safety signs in Spanish for restaurants with kitchen staff who speak the Spanish language. The signs cover appropriate cooking temperatures, hot holding, cold holding and general sanitation (hand washing, smoking and eating).

EH Online

Pre-registration for rabies clinics is online

551 electronic permit applications filed online

318 electronic payments made online totalling \$59,069

EH is looking into options for developing similar signs in different languages.

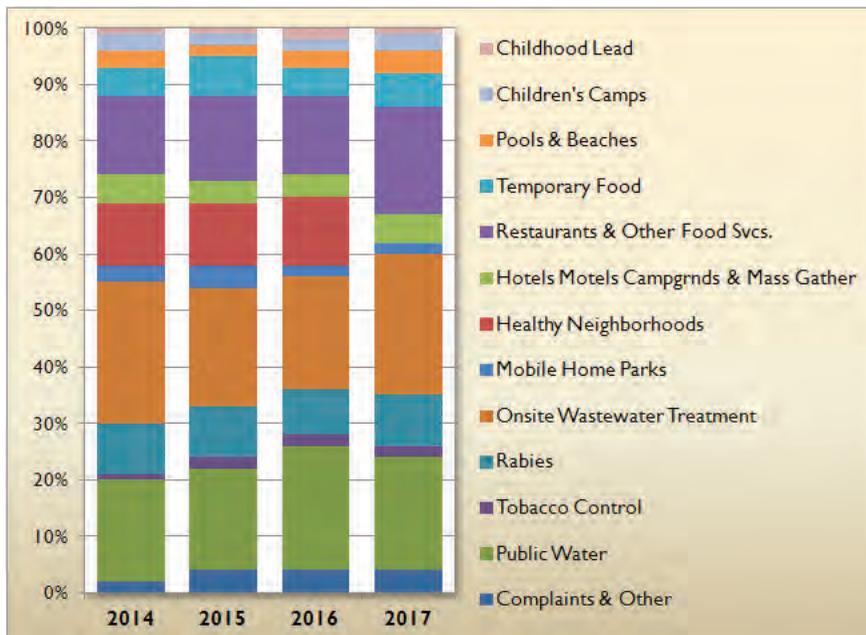
Public Health in Action: Elevated Blood Lead Level Case

EH staff investigated and uncovered an unusual source related to a child's elevated blood lead level. During the investigation of the family's home, spices and a commercial infant digestive aid obtained from India were found as potential sources of lead exposure. These items were sent to a lab for lead analysis. Both the digestive aid (lead level result: 650 ppb) and the Turmeric spice (lead level result: 2850 ppb) used by the family

had high lead concentration levels (FDA lead level acceptable limit=100 ppb or less). Further research showed that lead powder is occasionally added to spices to increase the weight of the product. This family is no longer using these products and has shared this information with family members. The findings of the investigation were forwarded to the NYS Health Department.

New Staff

- Public Health Sanitarians, Becky Sims and Mik Kern.
- Public Health Engineer, Scott Freyburger.



CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL CARE NEEDS (CSCN)

The Children with Special Care Needs (CSCN) Division had a busy year. Professional development topics included autism, hearing loss, and health homes. The Division hosted trainings for community agencies, and worked in collaboration with other organizations to support families with children who have special care needs. An exploration of software for electronic health records continued during the year.

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN):

The Director of CSCN and the CSHCN family outreach worker expanded activities and outreach by participating in a variety of community committees including Cradle to Career, Collaborative Solutions Network, and the Cleft Palate Clinic. CSHCN works with young people up to 21 years of age.

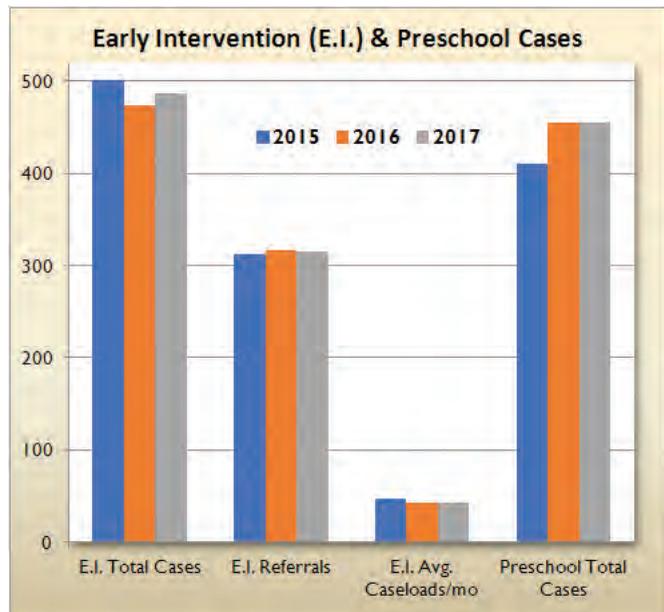
Preschool Services:

CSCN staff attended preschool eligibility meetings at 13 schools for children residing in Tompkins County and in need of special education services. Approximately 320 children per month received special education preschool services.

Early Intervention Program (EI):

Staff provided services for approximately 250 children each month and received an average of 26 referrals per month. The EI program offered 2 new parent-child groups this year for EI families. Providers were trained in Pediatric Feeding Disorders and Reflux, and offered feeding clinics in collaboration with Franziska Racker Centers.

The EI program staff participated in an initiative called “Talk It Up!” — a community-wide read of *30 Million Words* by Dana Suskind, M.D. The initiative teaches families to use loving words as a way to help promote healthy child development.



VITAL RECORDS

Vital Records serves as a local resource to obtain birth and death certificates. The office registers all births and deaths which take place in Tompkins County, and issues copies and corrections. Genealogy searches are also available upon request.

Visit the Vital Records page of the TCHD website for details about how to obtain certified copies of birth certificates, death certificates, and genealogy records.

Total All Births, 2017	881
Non-Resident	217
Resident	663
Add'l Stats, Resident Births Only	
Premies	26
Teen Births	3
Home Births	28

Total All Deaths, 2017	724
Medical Examiner Cases	
Natural Deaths	117
Suicide	12
Homicide	2
Undetermined	9
Accident	34

Total Births by Residence, 2017	
CAROLINE	30
CAYUGA HEIGHTS	11
CORTLAND	1
DANBY	16
DRYDEN	117
ENFIELD	25
FREEVILLE	4
GROTON	30
ITHACA	247
LANSING	106
NEWFIELD	47
TRUMANBURG	8
ULYSSES	18

WEBSITE TRAFFIC — WWW.TOMPKINSCOUNTYNY.GOV/HEALTH



	Page Views	Unique Pg. Views
TCHD Site Total	56,783	43,129
Highlights		
Environ. Health	22,964	16,298
Vitals	8,081	5,824
WIC	1,572	1,269
Board of Health	2,463	1,863
A-Z Index	1,312	1,046

	Page Views	Unique Pg. Views
STD pages	1,351	1,078
Seasonal Flu	730	623
Lead Prevention	700	603
Factsheets home	370	330
Tobacco 21	326	308
Press Index	258	209

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health (BOH) meets monthly to discuss regulatory decisions, rule on violations, review policies, and provide support and guidance to the Health Department. The members of the BOH are appointed by the County Legislature to serve 6 year terms.

In 2017, the opioid epidemic was a specific area of concern for the BOH. Dr. Klepack presented his review of supervised injection facilities (SIFs) to the Board and Legislature as they consider this complicated issue. A County Opioid webpage was launched that provides local data and information, as well as links to local resources:

TompkinsCountyNY.gov/health/opioid

Members

Will Burbank (Legislature)

David Evelyn, MD, MPH

Brooke Greenhouse

Edward Koppel, MD

James Macmillan, MD

Michael McLaughlin, Jr.

Susan Merkel

Janet Morgan, PhD

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)

In 2017, the 2016-2018 CHIP was updated based on feedback from the NYS Department of Health, Office of Public Health Practice. The CHIP is built on the 2013-2017 Prevention Agenda for NYS. Priorities selected by Tompkins County are (1) Prevent Chronic Disease, and (2) Promote Mental Health and Prevent Substance Abuse. The CHIP was developed in collaboration with Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca.

The NYS Prevention Agenda 2019-2024 reflects an increased focus on the social determinants of health, healthy aging across the lifecycle, and strengthening collaborations across agencies.

CHIP documents may be downloaded from the Community Health Reports page of the TCHD website:

TompkinsCountyNY.gov/health/pnc/cha

