




ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

A high-speed photograph of a single water droplet falling into a pool of water, creating a series of concentric ripples. The droplet is captured in mid-fall, just above the surface, and is surrounded by a thin layer of water that has just been displaced. The background is a solid, light blue color.

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

“Your partner for a healthy community”

Frank Kruppa, Public Health Director

William Klepack, M.D., Medical Director

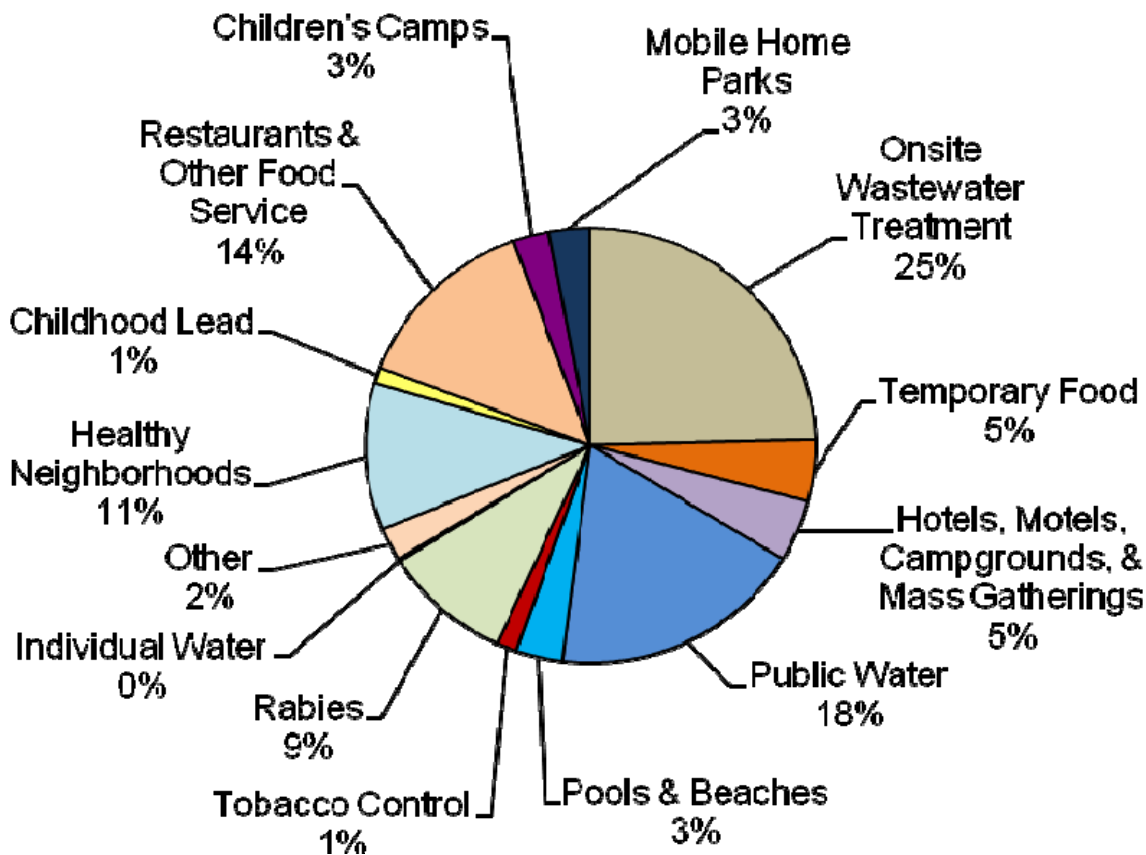
C. Elizabeth Cameron, P.E., Director of Environmental Health

Inclusion through Diversity

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIVISION OVERVIEW – SPECIAL PROJECTS AND EVENTS.....1
DIVISION PROGRAMS.....2-5
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART.....6
2014 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION DATA.....7-8
HISTORICAL SUMMARY.....9-10

Staff Time in Environmental Health Programs - 2014



DIVISION OVERVIEW

The Tompkins County Environmental Health Division promotes public health by conducting environmental health inspections and related activities for settings such as restaurants and other food service establishments, children's camps, hotels, campgrounds, swimming pools, bathing beaches, drinking water, and on-site sewage treatment systems. The Division enforces the New York State (NYS) Public Health Law, NYS Sanitary Codes (NYSSC), and the TC Sanitary Code (TCSC). Staff conducts inspections, documents deficiencies and violations, recommends improvements or mandates corrections, and reviews engineering and other plans related to facility operation and design. Staff also conducts investigations of illness outbreaks and complaints, children's camp and swimming injuries, childhood lead poisoning, and we respond to public health nuisances, hazards, and emergencies.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Healthy Neighborhoods Program Renewed - In April 2014, the Tompkins County Health Department Environmental Health Division was awarded an additional five-year grant from the NYS Department of Health to continue funding of the Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP). After April, the Tompkins County HNP conducted over 300 initial home visits in 2014. For the 2014 calendar year, Tompkins County HNP has provided education and distributed safety products at over 500 homes in an effort to prevent indoor air pollution, to prevent asthma-related hospitalizations and deaths, to prevent residential injury and fire deaths, to prevent childhood lead poisoning and to reduce tobacco use.

Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival - The Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival of Music and Dance at the Trumansburg Fairground in July 2014 operated as Tompkins County's first official Mass Gathering. The festival was previously regulated under separate Environmental Health programs (campgrounds, public water supply, and temporary food service). The change in designation cascaded into formal contracts,

not previously required, for services ranging from portable toilets to traffic management, from EMS to recycling, from provision of great food to noise and light pollution control. Emergency response plans that were gathering dust were examined and updated.

But all this also meant that organizers and volunteers (and the Health Department) were able to relax more and enjoy the Festival along with the 14 thousand revelers, finding that most of the questions had already been asked and answered. The work and cost invested have resulted in a structure now in place that will facilitate the process for GrassRoots and other future events in the County.

Accela Permit Management Software Project:

We had a successful launching of the Accela software for our Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) permit program on May 19. It's been a significant and sometimes confusing change involving numerous EH staff. There were audible groans at times, but overall the system has been accepted with grace and perseverance and is generally working well.

The goals of the new system include:

- Integrating the collection, management and presentation of permit data, design/site-based plans, field inspections, and financial transactions for both the Division employees and the customers;
- A paperless system – Go Green – and solve our expanding hard copy storage issues; and
- Improving public access to information (e.g., a public web portal).

With the implementation of Accela, we can distribute our OWTS permits electronically. Since May, we emailed approximately 215 OWTS permits out of the 247 issued during the year and approximately 190 Completion Certificates (CCs) out of 227 issued – a notable savings of time and postage costs. We only mailed 32 permits and 35 CC's.

The system will be expanded to address other EH programs and development of the public portal in 2015.

Kudos to all of EH for their efforts in launching and learning this system!

Hydrilla invades Cayuga Inlet – year 4

Two herbicides, endothall and fluridone, were applied to the inlet to Cayuga Lake and portions of Fall Creek from July through October 2014, as part of the plan to eradicate hydrilla. The Environmental Health Division was involved as part of the Hydrilla Task Force and also as a regulatory agency in permit review and the development and implementation of water quality monitoring plans.

Water quality monitoring was conducted to assure the safety of the Bolton Point public water supply intake which is 2-1/2 miles from the inlet. Eradication efforts to date have been successful but will need to continue for multiple years to come. More information is available at **StopHydrilla.org**.

Public Access to Food Establishment Inspections:

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has made the results of all food inspections available on-line. The results of these inspections conducted in Tompkins County can now be viewed directly on the Environmental Health website:

<http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health/eh/food/index>

Inspections can be sorted to meet the needs of the viewer (by facility, date, etc.) by clicking on the column heading of interest. This is a valuable tool for easily providing information to the public. Thanks to Ted Schiele in Health Promotion for setting up the link.

Personnel – On January 30, Audrey Balandier, Senior Public Health Sanitarian and Supervisor of the Community Environmental Health Section of the Division, retired with 33 years of service. Audrey managed her programs as she did all her work in the Division – balancing Public Health with program needs and code

requirements, always with thoroughness and tons of energy.

Audrey and her laughter will be greatly missed by all of us in Environmental Health and throughout the Health Department.

Public Health Sanitarian Adriel Shea was promoted to Senior Public Health Sanitarian on the recommendation of the EH 2014 Sr. Sanitarian Selection team. Adriel has demonstrated leadership potential and expressed a strong vision for his role in the Division.

We welcomed Samantha Hillson as the HNP Education Coordinator on July 1. Samantha comes to us from the TCHD Health Promotion Program and brings valuable education and experience to the program.

EH Project Assistants – In August, two new Project Assistants joined us. Deidre DeMatteo started on August 18th and worked with current Project Assistant Caitlin Feller on the Accela historical records project.

Gibrian Hagood started on August 21st. and provided very valuable and enthusiastic outreach as support with the Healthy Neighborhood Program (HNP). Gibrian was with us through the end of the year.

DIVISION PROGRAMS

FOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM



The Food Protection Program provides education and regulates permitted food service establishments (FSE's) through training, inspection, and enforcement. These tasks enable the Division to protect, promote, and preserve public health with the goal of preventing food borne illnesses. Staff conducts pre-operational inspections following a facility plan review at new facilities and at existing facilities with major renovations. All FSE's are inspected at least once a year; high-risk

establishments are inspected twice a year. Re-inspections are performed to ensure that critical violations have been corrected.

Temporary food service permits are issued for festivals and other events. Permit applicants receive appropriate food safety education and are inspected based on risk.

MOBILE HOME PARKS



Staff permits, monitors, and inspects mobile home parks to maintain a healthy environment for its residents as defined by state and local sanitary codes. In addition, the Division responds to complaints associated with mobile home parks.

TEMPORARY RESIDENCES

Staff permits and inspects hotels, motels, and similar temporary residence operations to ensure proper sanitation and safety for the protection of the public. The inspections include review of public water supplies, restaurants, swimming pools, and bathing beaches.

CAMPGROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL FAIRGROUNDS



Staff permits and inspects campgrounds and fairgrounds to ensure proper sanitation and safety for the protection of the public. Inspections include a review of proper spacing of the campsites for fire safety and shower and sanitary facilities. The inspections include review of public water supplies, swimming pools, and bathing beaches.

CHILDREN'S CAMPS

Staff permits and inspects summer camp facilities annually to ensure that adequate



supervision and safeguards exist to provide a healthy and safe environment for children as required by the NYSSC. In addition, staff reviews and approves safety plans and camp staff certifications. Staff also investigates all injuries and illnesses that occur at children's camps.

Injuries and Illnesses at Children's Camps – Forty-six injuries and illnesses were reported from permitted children's camps during the 2014 camp season. Injuries included 26 concussions, nine fractures, five strains/sprains, one dislocation, one laceration, one knee injury, and one nose injury. Illnesses and other medical conditions included one with a gastro-intestinal virus and one with infected ingrown toenail.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHING BEACHES



Public swimming pools and bathing beaches are regulated to ensure that the facilities are constructed, maintained, and operated in a manner to prevent illnesses, injuries, and deaths. A major focus of the program is on bather supervision, lifeguard requirements, and life-saving equipment and its use. General safety provisions, chemical treatment, and the proper operation of equipment and maintenance of such facilities are also examined.

DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

The Drinking Water Program is designed to assure that the public has access to adequate quantities of safe drinking water. Staff inspects all public water systems annually and collects surveillance samples to assure that the systems provide safe, potable water. Technical assistance is provided to system



operators in preparing Annual Water Quality Reports and in complying with new or complex regulations including sampling requirements. When a public health hazard is identified at a public water supply, the Division issues a Boil Water Order (BWO), which requires the water supplier to notify its users that the water is unsafe and must be boiled before use. Staff also responds to individuals inquiring about water quality problems by offering sampling recommendations, interpretations of water laboratory analyses, and providing procedures for disinfecting their well.



Taste Test Held – The Division held the County's 20th Annual Drinking Water Taste Test at the Ithaca Farmer's Market. Over 100 participants sampled water from

seven municipal water systems in Tompkins County. The City of Ithaca Water System was voted the best tasting water and represented Tompkins County competing in a Regional State Water Taste Test.

ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM (OWTS) PROGRAM



All county residents are required to obtain a permit from the Division before installing a new on-site sewage system or repairing or replacing an existing

one. Staff reviews, designs, inspects, and permits new and replacement on-site sewage treatment systems. In addition, staff investigates and enforces code requirements when nuisance complaints are reported in regard to failing or improperly maintained sewage systems. Engineering plans of sewer extensions, pumping stations, and sewage treatment systems are reviewed to ensure compliance with standards and codes for larger public wastewater treatment systems. The goal of the program is to prevent disease caused by raw sewage contaminating the

environment we live in and the water we drink.

REALTY SUBDIVISIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Division regulates permanent and temporary residential development to ensure that safe, healthful facilities are built. Critical areas the Division reviews include water systems and wastewater treatment and disposal systems. In addition, plans for construction, addition, or modification of any public water supply must be reviewed to ensure compliance.

RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM



Rabies is a preventable viral disease that attacks the central nervous system and typically leads to death. The disease can be transmitted from infected mammals to humans and

other mammals. Staff investigates all reported mammal bites and saliva exposures to prevent the spread of the disease to humans. In addition, staff prepares and ships suspected rabid specimens to the state laboratory for testing, provides outreach and education, authorizes rabies prophylaxis to local medical providers, and coordinates free rabies vaccination clinics for dogs, cats, and ferrets.

Rabies Report – During the year, rabies was confirmed in bats, raccoons, skunks and a bobcat in Tompkins County. The bobcat attacked two dogs. The bobcat was shot by a resident at close range and submitted for rabies testing. The results came back positive. Two people received post-exposure shots due to potential contact with nervous tissue from the bobcat. The dogs were current on their rabies vaccinations and received booster shots.

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION



The Division works with the Lead Poisoning Prevention Network to educate the public about lead poisoning, to reduce lead exposures by informing the public about the potential dangers of lead paint, and to increase the number of children tested for lead in their blood. Lead poisoning is a major health concern, especially among children, because it can affect their growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Staff investigates all referrals of children with blood lead levels of 10 milligrams per deciliter or greater.

ADOLESCENT TOBACCO USE PREVENTION ACT (ATUPA)



Tobacco vendors are prohibited by law from selling cigarettes and other tobacco products to minors under the age of 18. The goal of the ATUPA Program is to reduce access to tobacco and tobacco products by persons under the age of 18 by monitoring and conducting on-site compliance checks at all tobacco retailers.

CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT (CIAA) AND TOMPKINS COUNTY LOCAL LAW #3

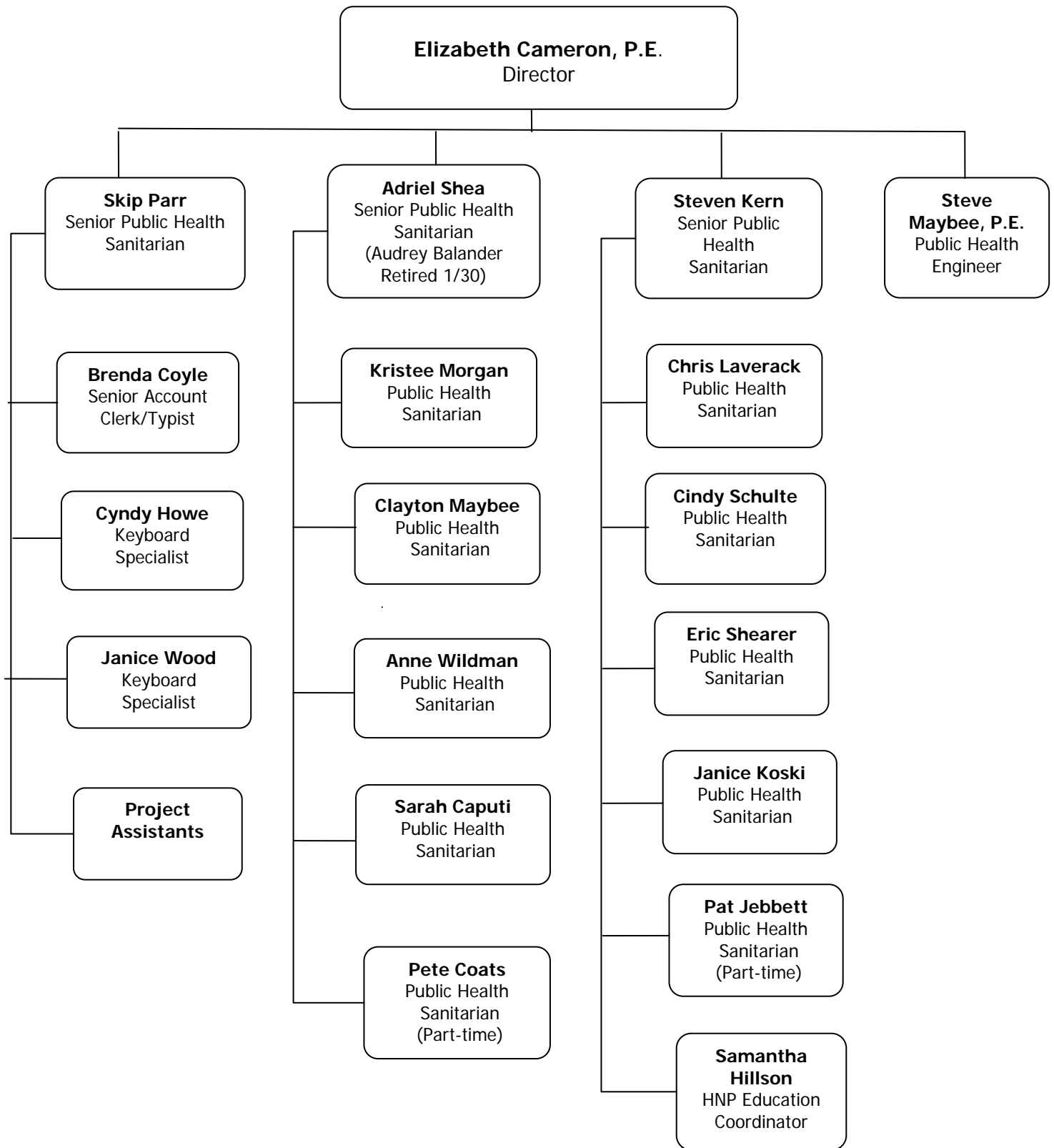
State and local laws make smoking tobacco illegal in all public indoor areas including bars and food service establishments. Staff investigates complaints and conducts field visits when necessary to enforce these laws. The Fraternal Order of Eagles is the only operation in Tompkins County that has been granted a waiver from these requirements by providing a controlled, alternative smoking area that meets specific requirements.

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM (HNP)



The HNP promotes healthy homes in specific target areas of Tompkins County by pursuing the following goals: prevention of indoor air pollution, prevention of asthma hospitalizations, prevention of residential fire deaths, prevention of lead poisoning, and reduction of indoor tobacco use. Staff assesses homes through on-site visits and provides products to help make the home safer and healthier.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION 2014 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2014 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION DATA

FOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM							
<i>Restaurants & Other Food Service</i>	<i>Permitted Operations</i>	<i>Site Visits</i>	<i>Critical Violations</i>	<i>Other Violations</i>	<i>Plan Reviews</i>	<i>Complaint Investigations</i>	<i>Enforcement Actions</i>
High Risk	194	487	171	235	17	58	9
Medium Risk	272	309					
Low Risk	84	92					
Total	550	888	171	235	17	58	9
Temporary FSE	386	133	14	12	0	0	1
MOBILE HOME PARKS							
<i>Permitted Operations</i>	<i>Lots</i>	<i>Site Visits</i>	<i>Critical Violations</i>	<i>Other Violations</i>		<i>Complaint Investigations</i>	<i>Enforcement Actions</i>
39	2,005	47	1	10		3	4
TEMPORARY RESIDENCES							
	<i>Permitted Operations</i>	<i>Rooms</i>	<i>Site Visits</i>	<i>Critical Violations</i>	<i>Other Violations</i>	<i>Complaint Investigations</i>	<i>Enforcement Actions</i>
Hotels & Motels	31	1,878	35	0	8	0	7
CAMPGROUNDS & AGRICULTURAL FAIRGROUNDS							
	<i>Permitted Operations</i>	<i>Sites</i>	<i>Site Visits</i>	<i>Critical Violations</i>	<i>Other Violations</i>	<i>Complaint Investigations</i>	<i>Enforcement Actions</i>
Campgrounds	4	424	11	0	0	0	0
Agricultural Fairgrounds	1	1	3	0	1	0	0
Mass Gathering	1	1	8	0	0	0	0
CHILDREN'S CAMPS							
<i>Permitted Operations</i>	<i>Campers</i>	<i>Site Visits</i>	<i>Critical Violations</i>	<i>Other Violations</i>	<i>Injury/Illness Investigations</i>	<i>Complaint Investigations</i>	<i>Enforcement Actions</i>
35	n/a	85	0	4	46	0	0
SWIMMING POOLS & BATHING BEACHES							
	<i>Permitted Operations</i>	<i>Site Visits</i>	<i>Critical Violations</i>	<i>Other Violations</i>	<i>Injury/Illness Investigations</i>	<i>Complaint Investigations</i>	<i>Enforcement Actions</i>
Pools	52	96	5	0	2	0	1
Beaches	6	18	0	43	0	0	0
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS (PWS)							
Community PWS			94	Boil Water Orders Issued			15
Other PWS			52	Disinfection Waivers			25
Complaint Investigations			n/a	Enforcement Actions			7
ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS (OWTS)							
<i>Permits Issued</i>		<i>Completion Certificates Issued</i>				<i>Enforcement Actions</i>	
New Construction/Conversions		125	New Construction/Conversions		105		
Replacements		122	Replacements		122	2	
Total # of Permits Issued		247	Total # of Permits Issued		227		

2014 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION DATA

ENGINEERING PLAN REVIEWS			
ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS		PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS (PWS)	
0 - 499 gpd	10	Public Water Systems	0
500 - 999 gpd	3	Distribution Water Main Extensions	2
1,000 - 1,999 gpd	1	Cross-Connection Control Devices	6
> 2,000 gpd	0	Other Water System Modification	3
REALTY SUBDIVISIONS		COLLECTOR SEWER	
Projects	1	< 5,000'	0
Lots	2	>5,000'	0
			OTHER ENGINEERING REVIEWS
			1
RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM			
<i>Potential Human Exposures to Rabies / Lab Submissions / Rabies Clinics</i>			
Potential Human Exposure Investigations	253	Rabies Clinics Offered	11
Human Post-Exposure Treatments	103	Dogs Vaccinated	672
Animal Specimens Tested	190	Cats Vaccinated	418
Animals Testing Positive	12	Ferrets Vaccinated	6
Enforcement Actions	0	Pet Quarantined for 6-Months	0
CHILDHOOD LEAD PROGRAM			
Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels	5		
Sites Inspected	11	Enforcement Actions	0
Abatements Completed	0		
Lead Assessments Sent	5		
HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM			
Home Visits	426	Asthma Homes	67
Re-Visits	98	Homes Approached	2,034
ADOLESCENT TOBACCO USE PREVENTION ACT (ATUPA)			
Active Operations	68	Violations	1
ATUPA Compliance Checks	135	Enforcement Actions	1
COMPLAINTS			
General/Nuisance Complaints	97	Enforcement Actions	0
STAFF DAYS (Excluding Leave Time)			
Public Water Supply	613.2		
Environmental Radiation	0.0		
Community Sanitation and Food Protection	1941.8		
Environmental/Occupational Health	6.0		
Miscellaneous	311.6		
Other Environmental Services	480.5		
Total Staff Days / Full Time Employees	3353.1		
REVENUE			
Facility Permit Fees	\$211,002.24		
On-Site Wastewater System Fees	\$94,925.00		
Water System Operating Fees	\$26,430.00		
Plan Review Fees	\$13,722.50		
Board of Health Penalties	\$13,800.00		
Other Fees	\$4,431.36		
Total Revenue	\$364,311.10		
NYSDOH GRANTS			
Healthy Neighborhoods Program	\$189,000		
Drinking Water Enhancement Program	\$135,820		
Tobacco Enforcement Program	\$32,395		

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION'S HISTORY OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES BY YEAR

FOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM - Restaurants & Other Food Service					
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Permitted Operations	550	530	519	496	523
Site Visits (Includes Inspections)	888	883	774	750	838
Critical Violations	171	172	131	187	207
Other Violations	235	261	209	302	1
Plan Reviews	17	16	11	13	26
Temporary FSE					
Permitted Operations	386	353	303	297	325
Site Visits (Includes Inspections)	133	136	110	134	215
Critical Violations	14	27	11	16	34
Other Violations	12	7	0	5	1
MOBILE HOME PARKS					
Permitted Operations	39	39	40	42	42
Lots	2,005	2,004	2,011	2,022	2,022
Site Visits (Includes Inspections)	47	42	110	76	41
Critical Violations	1	4	5	7	8
Other Violations	10	64	60	74	56
TEMPORARY RESIDENCES - Hotels & Motels					
Permitted Operations	31	31	29	29	30
Rooms	1,878	1,879	1,761	1,756	1,760
Site Visits (Includes Inspections)	35	52	52	42	47
Critical Violations	0	2	1	1	6
Other Violations	8	24	15	5	7
MASS GATHERING⁶, CAMPGROUNDS & AGRICULTURAL FAIRGROUNDS					
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Permitted Operations	6	8	9	10	8
Sites	426	2,016	2,065	2,103	2,043
Site Visits (Includes Inspections)	22	31	38	29	11
Critical Violations	0	1	2	3	0
Other Violations	1	5	6	4	0
CHILDREN'S CAMPS					
Permitted Operations	35	30	28	24	27
Site Visits (Includes Inspections)	85	78	73	59	64
Critical Violations	0	0	0	0	1
Other Violations	4	6	7	11	15
Injury/Illness Investigations	46	31	45	28	77
SWIMMING POOLS & BATHING BEACHES - Indoor/Spa, Outdoor & Bathing Beaches					
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Permitted Operations	58	58	59	61	59
Site Visits (Includes Inspections)	114	119	118	171	152
Critical Violations	5	6	10	13	7
Other Violations	43	133	91	43	44
Injury/Illness Investigations	2	1	2	0	2
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS (PWS)					
Community PWS	94	94	93	93	92
Other PWS	52	52	57	56	53
Boil Water Orders Issued	15	15	14	19	12
Disinfection Waivers	25	25	28	35	38

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION'S HISTORY OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES BY YEAR

ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
<i>Permits Issued</i>					
New Construction/Conversions	125	121	134	134	116
Replacements	122	121	101	115	127
<i>Completion Certificates Issues</i>					
New Construction/Conversions	105	84	95	94	90
Replacements	122	104	102	96	117
ENGINEERING PLAN REVIEWS					
Realty Subdivisions	1	0	0	4	2
On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems	14	31	21	23	20
Collector Sewer	0	1	0	1	1
Public Water Systems	0	6	1	2	3
Distribution Water Main Extension	2	4	8	4	1
Cross-Connection Control Devices	6	21	9	9	6
Other Water System Modification	3	5	11	7	7
Other Engineering Reviews ²	1	1	2	0	4
RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM					
Potential Human Exposure Investigations	253	300	373	353	463
Human Post-Exposure Treatments	103	88	118	98	114
Animal Specimens Tested	190	203	187	148	161
Animals Testing Positive	12	8	13	8	15
Rabies Clinics Pet Vaccinations	1,096	1,243	1,375	1,316	1,354
CHILDHOOD LEAD PROGRAM					
Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels	5	7	0	0	3
Sites Inspected	11	11	6	6	3
Abatement Completed	0	0	0	0	0
Lead Assessments Sent	5	7	6	4	3
HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM					
Home Visits	426	398	458	426	88
Re-visits	98	80	195	181	1
Asthma Homes	67	52	44	31	7
Homes Approached	2,034	641	1,307	763	1
ADOLESCENT TOBACCO USE PREVENTION ACT					
Active Operations	68	66	66	66	66
ATUPA Compliance Checks	135	153	129	133	148
Violations	1	6	3	1	5
COMPLAINTS - Facility & General/Nuisance					
Complaint Investigations	97	119	149	172	182
ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS					
Total Cases	29	32	31	29	44
BOH Penalties Assessed	\$24,300	\$10,200	\$11,200	\$10,200	\$18,600
BOH Penalties Collected ³	\$13,800	\$8,320	\$7,680	\$6,200	\$8,600
TIME BREAKDOWN					
Staff Days Excluding Leave	3353.1	3400.3	3416.0	3344.0	3308.0
REVENUE					
Total Collected	\$364,311	\$359,193	\$324,796	\$280,858	\$262,917
NYSDOH GRANTS					
Healthy Neighborhoods Program (10/1 – 9/30)	\$189,000	\$83,482 ⁵	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$185,000
Drinking Water Enhancement Program (4/1 – 3/31)	\$135,820	\$135,820	\$143,855	\$143,855	\$143,885
Tobacco Enforcement Program (4/1 – 3/31)	\$32,395	\$34,059	\$35,004	\$16,421 ⁴	\$34,004

¹Data not collected

²Includes MHP's, Campgrounds, and Swimming Pools

³Penalties collected may include penalties assessed in previous years

⁴ATUPA Grant 6 Month Extension 10/1/11-3/31/12

⁵HNP Grant 6 Month Extension 10/1/13-3/31/14

⁶GrassRoots established as a Mass Gathering in 2014