

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT TO MAYOR 2010-2011

The 2010-2011 year proved to be a productive year for the Milford Health Department (MHD). The MHD continues its mission to protect and promote the health of Milford residents by providing core services in the areas of school health, environmental health, community health, and public health emergency preparedness. The MHD has continued to aggressively pursue grant funding garnering over \$530,000 in funding this fiscal year.

The MHD received funding to continue serving as the ***regional lead for public health emergency preparedness***. The grant is a 3-year contract through the CT Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As lead health department in DEMHS Region 2, the MHD coordinated and participated in a region wide mass dispensing drill in April 2011. The exercise focus was mass dispensing of medications at a drive-through Point of Dispensing (POD) designated at Foran High School. The MHD will continue to adapt and plan for public health disasters through collaboration with our regional partners and local community.

The MHD offered a new immunization program this year called the ***Cocoon Program***. The program aims to protect all the adults surrounding an infant against pertussis, or “whooping cough,” thereby forming a “cocoon” of protection around the infant who is too young to be fully immunized. Tdap is a one-time immunization for adolescents and adults to protect them from contracting whooping cough. Through this program, individuals are able to obtain Tdap free of charge at the MHD.

Through collaboration with the United Way of Milford and Kids Count of Milford, the Health Department implemented the ***Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)***. PLTI enables parents to become leading advocates for children through participation in a one-day retreat, a 9-week course on parent leadership, a 9-week course on civic engagement, and a community project. Over three years, Milford has graduated 48 PLTI participants. Several PLTI alumni are now serving in various positions within the community as members of the Milford Board of Education and Boards of Directors for community based organizations in Milford including United Way, Kids Count, and Milford’s Promise.

The MHD continued ***Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) surveillance*** efforts this year to allow for early detection of illness through monitoring student/employee absenteeism. In January 2011, through ILI surveillance it was noted that the absentee rate at Foran High School spiked to 81 students & staff out sick with nausea and vomiting. MHD staff conducted on-site surveys at Foran High School as well as all other public and parochial schools and made recommendations regarding control measures to be implemented in order to minimize further transmission of illness. The MHD distributed communication messages through the Milford Public School system, as well as to the parochial schools and daycares. The gastrointestinal illness resolved with absenteeism returning to routine rates within a few days.

The MHD has hosts a ***high school intern*** each year. The purpose of this program is to assist staff with public health emergency preparedness and ancillary health related programs while providing the student with valuable health related experience. This year’s intern was from Foran High School and worked to promote the 3 Days, 3 Ways campaign at various community venues in Milford.

Working collaboratively with the VA Hospital and the CT Department of Labor, the MHD implemented a ***Veterans program*** to integrate veterans returning from Iraq & Afghanistan into the public health workforce. The overarching goal of the program is to place veterans back into a healthy and productive civilian life. The Veterans serve as part-time interns and work on emergency preparedness projects throughout the region.

Over the past few decades, ***Canada geese*** have become residents of many areas, often becoming a nuisance in recreational areas. In an effort to address this issue, particularly around the upper and lower duck ponds, the MHD hosted training for MHD staff and Milford residents interested in volunteering as part of the Geese Peace program. Geese Peace programs are structured to reduce or eliminate growing human conflicts with “resident” Canada geese. The Geese Peace program consists of three major strategies—public education, population stabilization through egg oiling, and site aversion. An education campaign focused on the importance of not feeding the Canada geese will be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year.

Environmental Health Services

The Milford Environmental Health Division works to preserve and promote the health of the public and the physical environment. Environmental Health Specialists (Sanitarians) enforce local ordinances and state laws/regulations that are in place to protect residents from environmental hazards. Staff investigates environmental health hazards and enforces regulations and laws that protect the health and safety of Milford residents. The Environmental Health Division implements programs in the following areas: food protection; coordination of food and product recalls; housing; blight; institutional environmental health; land use; recreational swimming areas and waters; public swimming pool inspection; healthy homes assessments; onsite septic systems; land division/subdivision review and approval; mosquito/vector control; public and private drinking water quality; surface water quality; groundwater protection; childhood lead poisoning prevention; childcare facility inspections; emergency preparedness and response; and hotel/motel inspections. In FY 10/11 the Environmental Health Division received and responded to 476 requests for information, assistance and complaints regarding the areas listed above. Outlined below are highlights from the last fiscal year.

Environmental Health Division Response to an increase in Gastrointestinal Illness at Foran High School. During the month of January 2011, Environmental Health Division staff investigated environmental conditions at Foran High school due to a report of a spike in absentee rates. Environmental Health Sanitarians went out to Foran High School to investigate overall sanitary conditions in the building, while focusing on the food preparation areas. Food workers were interviewed in order to determine if anyone working with food was experiencing illness, and to rule out a food borne illness outbreak. Additionally, Environmental Health staff conducted surveys at all 17 public and parochial schools to interview food service workers and review food preparation procedures and equipment. During these site visits, kitchen staff received educational material regarding Norovirus and were taught basic control measures that should be implemented to prevent the spread of food-borne illnesses. Ill food worker policies were reviewed with each of the schools' Qualified Food Operators and the Director of Food Services for the Milford Public School System. Once the schools closed for the day and the children were vacated, custodians worked to disinfect surfaces using chlorine based solution for general cleaning throughout the schools and focused on table tops, door knobs, lockers and floors. In the week following, absentee rates dropped back to normal rates.

Geese Peace Program—Canada Geese Population Control. During the spring of 2011, the Milford Health Department (MHD) hosted training for Health Department staff and any Milford residents interested in volunteering as part of the Geese Peace program. Geese Peace programs are structured to reduce or eliminate growing human conflicts with "resident" Canada geese in communities, recreation areas, and business and commercial complexes in urban/suburban areas and lake communities across America. Over the past few decades, Canada geese have become residents of many areas, often becoming a nuisance in recreational parks, play areas, and community grounds. In Milford, the focus was on the upper and lower duck ponds and the properties surrounding the park. The Geese Peace program consists of three major strategies—public education, population stabilization through egg oiling, and site aversion. Health Department staff and volunteers learned the approved method to oil eggs, as well as Geese Peace policies and procedures to assure the safety of the Canada geese and the individuals conducting the oiling. Environmental Health staff, along with volunteers from Milford Animal Control, the Conservation Commission and the Garden Club got together during the spring to visit Milford property owners near the upper and lower duck ponds to discuss the program and to implement offspring control measures.

Emergency Preparedness/Response. In April 2011, Environmental Health staff participated in a full-scale exercise to test Milford's capacity to distribute medication to individuals with State-issued handicapped placards, long-term care facilities, organized neighborhood groups, and beach associations in Milford during a public health emergency. Environmental Health staff is responsible for logistical management during any type of vaccination/prophylaxis clinic. Staff works with the Director of Health and the Nursing Administrator to design, operate and manage the clinic. Activities include setting up and breaking down the clinic site, resource management and procurement, as well as many other functions.

Food Protection Program. The Environmental Health Division oversees licensing and inspections of restaurants, food stands, itinerant vendors, school kitchens, daycare kitchens, catering facilities, and churches. Through inspections and licensing, the program ensures food service establishments maintain sanitary conditions and follow

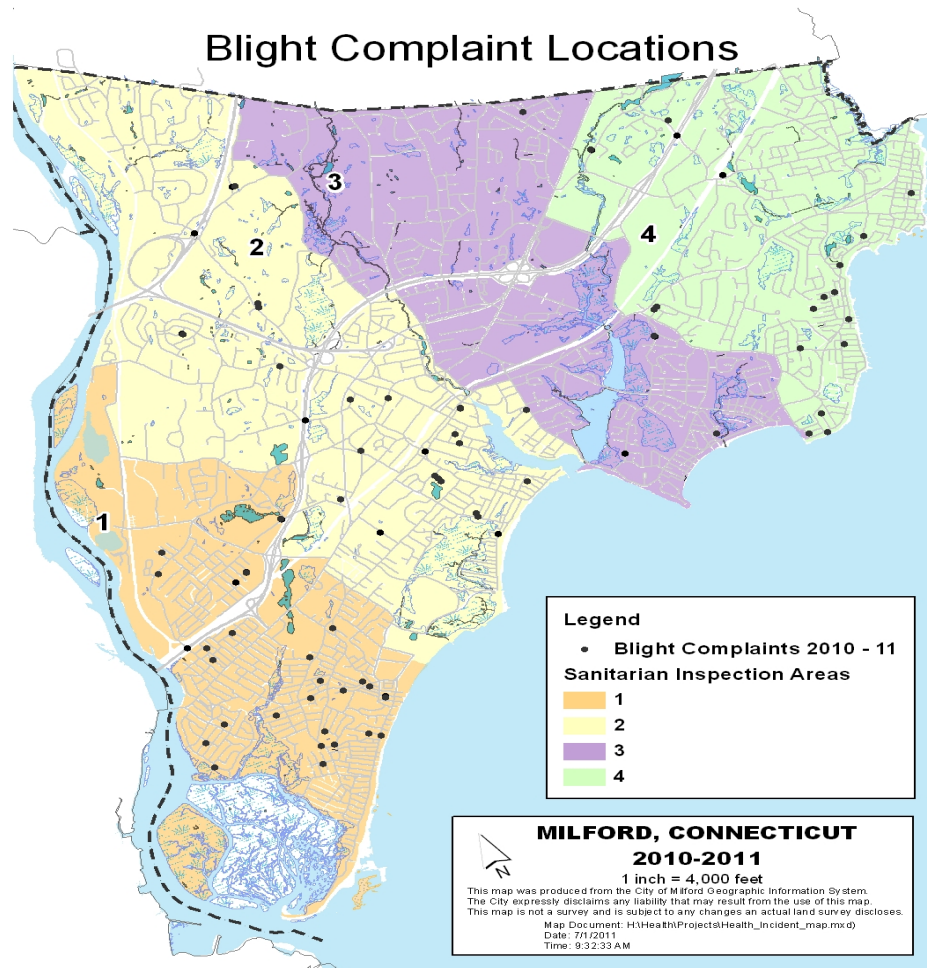
safe food handling practices. The food protection program is an inspection and monitoring program designed to minimize the risk of food borne illnesses. The table below outlines major areas within the Food Protection program.

Food Service Licenses Issued	370
Food Service Establishment Plan Reviews	53
Temporary Events	57
Temporary Food Licenses Issued	189
Food Service Complaints Investigated	46

- *Food Establishment Plan Reviews & Licenses.* The Department licensed approximately 370 Food Service Establishments in FY 10/11. This number fluctuates throughout the year depending on the economy and the closing and opening of businesses in Milford. The Environmental Health Division offers a comprehensive food protection program. All new establishments go through our plan review process. Sanitarians conduct new and renovated establishment plan reviews, construction inspections and pre-operational inspections. Additionally, all establishments are routinely inspected. Through this process, we are able to enforce the public health code and provide services that include education and identification of food borne disease risk factors.
- *Temporary Events.* Our goal at the Environmental Health Division is to keep temporary events free from the risk of food borne illness. From July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011, there were 57 temporary events in Milford. The Environmental Health Division issued 189 temporary event food licenses to individual food vendors. Each vendor is required to submit an application detailing the booth set-up and the menu. Sanitarians review each application and meet with each vendor. Once the application is approved, a license is issued and is valid only on the day of the event if the vendor passes inspection.
- *Volunteer Food Handler Training.* The Environmental Health Division offers training to volunteers in order to ensure proper food handling techniques are being implemented during temporary food events. Persons that volunteer their time at ball field concession stands and at Oyster Festival food booths are strongly encouraged to attend the Health Department basic training. The training program is specific to issues encountered during inspections of food service booths. This year 72 volunteers were trained and received training badges.

Anti-Blight Enforcement. As of September 30, 2009, the City of Milford passed the anti-blight ordinance and charged MHD with its enforcement. Anti-Blight Enforcement entails several MHD inspections/site visits to the property in question. If the property is in violation, the MHD issues a Notice of Violation (NOV) that describes the violation(s) and a time frame in which compliance must occur. It is the experience of the MHD that many conditions and situations can be remedied by an informal process that includes communication with the property owner or other responsible person and development of an abatement plan, and monitoring. During this period of compliance, the property owner may request an extension of the prescribed compliance date. Based on the merit of the request, extensions are most often granted. However, if responsible parties are not responsive or have abandoned their property, the Health Department moves forward with legal enforcement.

Total # of blight complaints FY 10/11	Repeat complaints	Notice of Violation issued	Under Investigation	Abated/remedied closed	No cause for enforcement action	FY 10/11 Referred to City Attorney for \$100/day penalty
87	17	8	25	22	8	2



Collaborative for Residential Integrity for the Disabled and Elderly (C.R.I.D.E.). C-RIDE continues to serve as an integral part of the social service network and as a model program for other communities. The Community Housing Inspector, Case Manager, and Health Department staff work as a team to conduct in-home assessments, develop remediation plans, provide support, and make referrals to effectively address the needs of elderly and disabled persons in troubled housing. Since July 1, 2010, the Housing Inspector, in conjunction with the Case Manager, has responded to 30 new requests/complaints—9 of which involved hoarding, 6 involved severe housekeeping problems, 11 involved property neglect, and 5 had other housing or social services issues. Additionally, one had an infestation of rats, and two cases involved bedbugs. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of these new cases involved elderly and/or disabled persons. As a result of the work accomplished through this program, the Community Housing Inspector and the Case Manager received the Community Impact Initiative Award from the United Way of Milford in the area of Meeting Critical Needs.

Beach monitoring program. The Environmental Health Division continues to provide weekly beach water quality data from 23 sample sites along the Milford coastline. Staff collected 217 samples of sea water that is tested for the presence of disease causing bacteria. During weekly site visits, Sanitarions also inspect the tide line to identify potential hazards such as medical waste and/or syringes. If something suspicious is identified, the Milford Police Department is promptly notified.

Public swimming pool operation and inspection. The Environmental Health Division staff performed inspections at 26 registered public swimming pools and spas which serve lodging facilities, apartment complexes, municipal facilities and condominium complexes throughout Milford. Re-inspections are performed as necessary. Samples of water are tested for proper chlorine residual and pH level to ensure water quality standards are met. Pumps and other circulation equipment, as well as maintenance equipment, are inspected to assure proper water treatment. Safety equipment and conditions are checked at each facility to ensure that each facility provides a healthy and safe

environment for bathers. The past two years have been especially challenging due to changes to federal law through the 2007 Virginia Graeme Baker Act, which affects all commercial pools/spas. This Act redefines safety standards for main drain grates and equipment functions in commercial pools to prevent limb, hair and body entrapment. Sanitarians provide education and support to the public to assist with implementation of this Act at public pools.

Lodging. Sanitarians routinely inspect public accommodations such as hotels, motels, boarding houses and bed & breakfast establishments. The inspections focus primarily on general sanitation, although most recently there has been emphasis placed on integrated pest management due to the resurgence of bed bugs in the United States. In FY 10/11, the Environmental Health Division conducted inspections at 21 different hotels/motels/bed & breakfasts in Milford.

Public Health Nursing & School Health Services

Immunization Clinics. The Milford Health Department has provided monthly Immunization Clinics for residents for many years. Routine immunizations to prevent communicable disease are available for both children and adults. For many years the majority of the clinic participants were infants and children who attended the clinic, seeking routine required childhood vaccinations. Over the past few years, the clinics have continued to provide vaccinations for children; however the demand for adult immunizations and tuberculin testing has superseded the demand for children's immunizations.

The Health Department works in collaboration with local primary care providers and the Connecticut Department of Public Health-Immunization Division to provide continuity of health care services. The Health Department also works in conjunction with the Connecticut Central Immunization Registry and Tracking System (CIRTS) to better track children's immunizations for parents and medical providers.

A new immunization program offered at the Milford Health Department this year is called the Cocoon Program and is designed to provide new parents, grandparents and other caregivers of infants, protection against pertussis, also known as "whooping cough." Through a collaborative program with Milford Hospital and other Connecticut hospitals, the Health Department and the Connecticut Department of Public Health, free immunizations with Tdap are offered. Tdap is a one-time immunization for adolescents and adults to protect them from contracting whooping cough. The Cocoon Program aims to protect all the adults surrounding an infant who is too young to be fully immunized against pertussis, thereby forming a "cocoon" of protection against pertussis. Since January 2011, over 40 individuals have received the Tdap vaccine at the Milford Health Department through this program.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program. The seasonal influenza vaccine program administered fewer vaccinations this season than in seasons past. Perhaps a reason for this is that the seasonal flu vaccine supply was plentiful and the vaccine was available early in the flu season. Additionally, the flu vaccine was offered at many sites in the community in addition to physician offices and health department clinics. Regardless, the Milford Health Department offered a variety of settings for residents to receive their annual influenza vaccination. Clinics were held at the Milford Senior Center in October, as well as general public clinics at the Health Department, the CT Post Mall and Parson's Government Center.

The Health Department provided a high dose influenza vaccine, Fluzone, which is recommended for individuals over 65 years of age. Fluzone was offered at the Senior Center clinics and at all general public community clinics. Overall, the Health Department administered approximately 1,755 doses of seasonal flu vaccine this flu season. Community education regarding the importance of receiving an annual influenza vaccine continues to be an important aspect of the Milford Health Department Influenza prevention program.

Influenza Like Illness Surveillance. Following the H1N1 pandemic of 2009-10, the Health Department has continued to monitor our school population for evidence of influenza like illness (ILI) which is described to be fever over 100° plus cough, sore throat or both in the absence of another known cause of disease. The ongoing surveillance did not indicate flu activity during the course of this school year. However, because of the invaluable information that the ILI monitoring provides, we will continue this surveillance activity.

School Health Services-Public Health Nursing. The Milford Public Health Nurses continued to provide school nursing in all of our public and private schools for over 7,800 students in grades Pre-K through grade 12. The goal of school nursing is to have children in school, in class and ready to learn; to that end, the Milford school nurses report that students return to class 92% of the time within 30 minutes of visiting the Health Office, being assessed and treated by the school nurse.

More than 25% (or one in four) of our students have a health condition that requires health management by the school nurse to ensure a safe environment for the student. Many of these children require special treatments or procedures to be done during the school day. These procedures may include gastrointestinal tube feedings for students unable to swallow, blood glucose monitoring for diabetic students, respiratory management for asthmatic students or those children unable to cough or clear respiratory secretions by themselves.

Many students visit the school nurse in the health office for complaints of illness or injury and/or to receive medications or a treatment. There were over 46,000 office visits during the 2010-11 school year with the school nurse often being the student's first link to medical assessment and care. There were approximately 6,000 special treatments that were delivered to students by the school nurses. Over 10,000 medications were administered, with 90% being prescription medications.

School Health Services – Oral Health Program. Over 1,500 students in grades kindergarten through five received oral health services at school this school year with parental permission. Services were provided by dental hygienists who work under the direction of the Health Director and in consultation with a local dentist. These services are designed to augment, not replace, the children's routine dental health care. Students received oral exams, prophylaxis and sealants as needed. Of the children examined, more than 200 were referred to a local dentist or dental clinic for follow-up care and treatment.

**Public Health Nursing & School Health Services
July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011**

July 2010 - June 30, 2011	Current Year	Previous Year
Dental Hygienists (2)		
Permission Slips sent out	3543	3661
#Oral Screenings Kindergarten	242	316
#Oral exams, cleanings	1542	1674
#Students receiving sealants	657	459
#Sealants applied	1376	1405
#Students w/primary decay	137	183
#Students w/permanent decay	28	45
#Students w/ fistulas	14	16
#Referrals made	209	271
Dental Education in Class	88	102
Pre-Employment Physicals		
Immunizations Clinics	44	37
DTaP	24	30
Hepatitis A	10	8
Hepatitis B	74	108
HIB	5	4
HPV	7	15
H1N1 (IMMUNIZATION)		3628
Influenza (IMMUNIZATION)	1755	2671
Mantoux (PPD) Tuberculin Test	240	233
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	29	55
Meningococcal	31	6
Pediarix (Hep.B,DTaP& IPV)	2	4
Pneumonia Vaccine	2	9
Polio (IPV)	26	35
Rabies	2	1
Rotavirus	1	
TD	7	13
Tdap	43	23
Tdap (Cocoon Program)	40	
Varicella Vaccine	55	47
Visiting Nurse Association		
Well Child Clinic	20	12
Patients	87	96
Physicals Completed	80	90
Immunizations	102	74

Community Health Services

Disease Surveillance. From July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, there were 265 cases of disease reported to the Milford Health Department. Influenza was the most reported disease, with twenty-seven percent (27%) of all cases reported this year. The attached table lists the top ten reported diseases during the 2010-2011 year (see Table 1), along with the number of cases reported by month with March having the highest number of cases reported for the year. There was a decrease in reportable diseases compared to last fiscal year due to fewer influenza cases, as well as a smaller amount of reports received from a major laboratory provider.

The Community Health Coordinator and Nurse Administrator continued Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) surveillance efforts this year to allow for early detection of illness through monitoring student/employee absenteeism. In January 2011, through ILI surveillance it was noted that the absentee rate at Foran High School spiked to 81 students and staff out sick with nausea and vomiting. The Community Health Coordinator drafted communication messages that were distributed through the Milford Public School system, as well as to the parochial schools and daycares. A letter was sent to all parents notifying them of the illness and the measures taken to address the issue. The Milford Health Department, in collaboration with the CT Department of Public Health and Milford Public Schools provided recommendations to parents and staff as to appropriate preventive measures to address the issue. The gastrointestinal illness resolved with absenteeism return to routine rates within a few days.

In order to prevent the spread of tuberculosis within Milford, the Community Health Coordinator tracks and monitors tuberculosis cases by conducting case/contact investigation and direct observed therapy (DOT). DOT involves, at a minimum, monthly monitoring and visits with patients to provide medications and discuss progress. Direct observed therapy was provided to two patients residing in Milford this fiscal year. For some cases, however, patients require closer monitoring due to various barriers (i.e. language, transportation) that may act as a hindrance in adherence to treatment. For example, one case this year involved a patient who recently moved to Connecticut and whose was limited in the ability to speak English. The patient moved to Milford to live with friends and was not connected to medical care. In addition, the patient was uninsured. The Community Health Coordinator and Community Health Nurse worked closely with the patient, the CT Department of Public Health, and the Winchester Clinic at Yale New Haven Hospital to ensure positive outcomes through consistent medical care and education regarding the importance of treatment adherence. The patient has been compliant and will complete treatment in the upcoming fiscal year.

Increased monitoring of food borne illnesses and follow up investigation/education continues to be a core function of the Health Department. There were 15 cases of foodborne illness reported this year, with reports of salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis, and giardiasis being the most prevalent (See attached chart). Additionally, the Community Health Coordinator conducted follow-up investigation and education in conjunction with the Environmental Health Division at long term care facilities that experienced outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness during the year. For cases of food borne illness involving a food establishment worker, day care attendee, and/or health care worker, the Community Health Coordinator conducted epidemiological investigations and worked with the Environmental Health Division to ensure appropriate control measures were implemented to successfully prevent an outbreak. Safe food handling measures and proper hand washing techniques were stressed with these individuals as well.

Grants Management. The Community Health Coordinator applies for grants for funding for several projects throughout the year by submitting written applications to various national, state, and local organizations. In addition, the Community Health Coordinator is responsible for the management of all grants received by the Health Department, totaling over \$530,000 this fiscal year. The Community Health Coordinator has written and submitted approximately several grant applications over the past year in addition to applications for funding or continued funding for the grants listed below. The following is a list of the grants that the Health Department has received during this fiscal year:

- Asthma Initiatives (\$23,750)
- Lead Poisoning & Prevention (\$12,969)
- CT DPH Medical Reserve Corps Grant (\$10,000)
- Pandemic Influenza/H1N1 Planning (\$86,242)

- Local Public Health Preparedness Planning (\$80,446)
- National Association of City & County Health Officials Medical Reserve Corps Grant (\$5,000)
- Per Capita Grant (\$63,880.48)
- Preventive Health/Healthy Homes Initiative (\$7,174)
- Regional Public Health Preparedness Planning (\$235,000)
- United Way Parent Leadership Training Institute Grant (\$10,000)
- SEALS Oral Health Grant (\$2,900)

Community Health Programs & Projects. This year, the Community Health Coordinator implemented the following health initiatives.

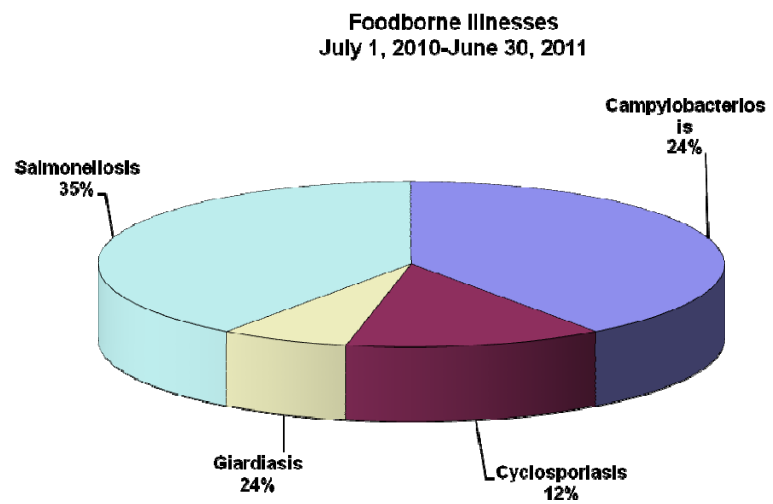
- *3rd Milford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI).* Through collaboration with the United Way of Milford and Kids Count of Milford, the Health Department implemented the 3rd Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) in Milford. PLTI enables parents to become leading advocates for children in their community through participation in four phases of training—a one-day retreat, a 9-week course on parent leadership, a 9-week course on civic engagement, and a community project to practice what participants have learned within a community context. Milford's 3rd PLTI kicked-off in January with classes held weekly at First United Church of Christ, Congregational in Milford. A local graduation ceremony was held at City Hall in June 2011 during which eleven (11) Milford parents graduated. The graduates also attended a statewide graduation ceremony at the Capitol building in Hartford at the end of June. Over three years, Milford has graduated 48 PLTI participants. Several PLTI alumni are serving in various positions within the community, including as members of the Milford Board of Education and Boards of Directors for community based organizations in Milford including United Way, Kids Count, and Milford's Promise. The Milford Health Department will apply for funding from the State Education Resource Center and the CT Parent Information and Resource Center (SERC/CTPIRC) to support the program for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.
- *Putting on AIRS.* This regional home environmental risk assessment program is designed to improve environmental conditions for asthmatic children in order to decrease asthma-related adverse events. This program is funded by a grant through the CT Department of Public Health, with the Milford Health Department as the lead agency for Asthma Region 6. Participating towns within the region include Branford, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Woodbridge, Wallingford, and West Haven. The program has received one hundred (100) referrals this contract year, which represents approximately a 10% increase in referrals over the past year. Our relationship with pediatric providers in our region continues to be strengthened, as our Program Coordinator has been able to convey the value of this program to providers by working so closely with them. Ten Pediatric residents working at Yale Primary Care Center have completed their Community Rotation with the program. As part of this program, residents have spent a half-day with the Putting on AIRS program learning about the value of working with public health officials to manage asthma within the community. As a result, the program was featured for the June Grand Rounds presentation at the Hospital of St. Raphael. Yet another accomplishment for the program is that Milford's public health nurse who serves on the asthma team passed the national Asthma Educator certification exam. This certification serves as an asset to the Putting on AIRS program, particularly if asthma education visits are reimbursable in the future.
- *Healthy Homes Program.* The Milford Health Department received funding through the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) to implement a Healthy Homes assessment program. The Healthy Homes Program takes a comprehensive approach by focusing on housing-related hazards in a coordinated fashion, rather than addressing a single hazard at a time. The programs looks at a variety of environmental health and safety concerns including mold, lead, allergens, asthma, carbon monoxide, home safety, pesticides, and radon. As this program is a new initiative at the State level, the Milford Health Department is one of only two health departments in the state that is implementing the program.

- *Community Health Fairs.* The Health Department participated in several community fairs over the past year at venues including the Oyster Festival, Milford Senior Center, Milford Hospital, and Milford's 1st Annual Health, Wellness, and Green Fair. During these events, staff distributed information regarding West Nile Virus, sun safety, emergency preparedness, asthma, global warming, physical activity, and new school immunization requirements for the 2011-2012 academic year.

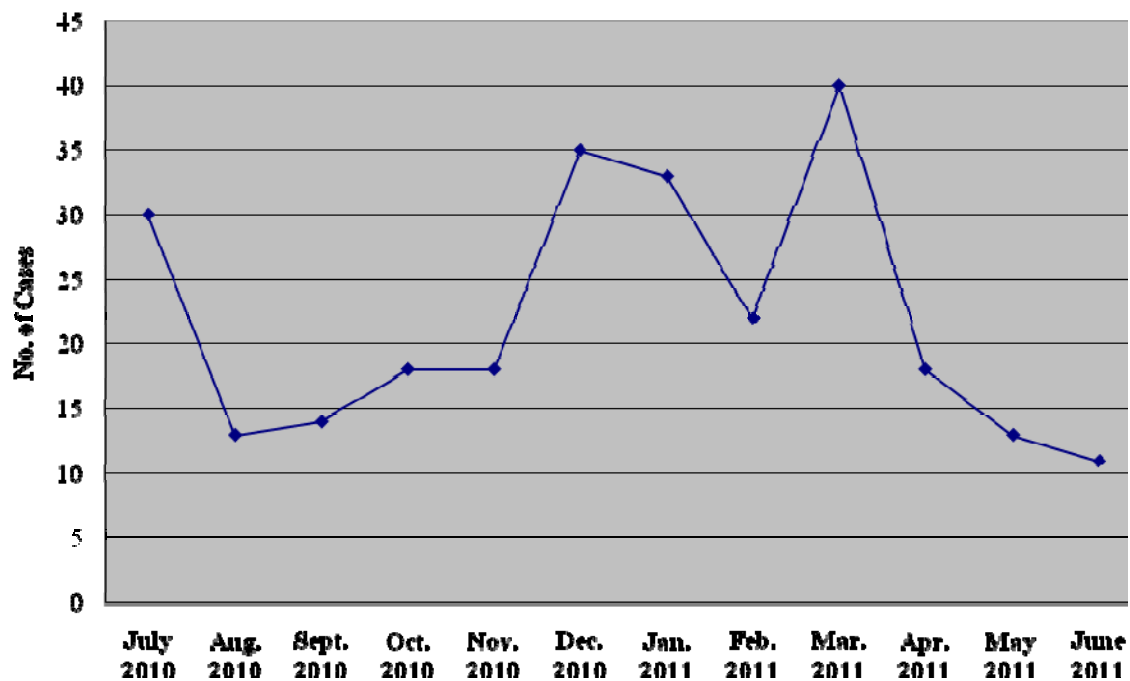
**Community Health Services
July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011**

Table 1. Top Ten Reportable Communicable Diseases

Disease	%
Influenza	27%
Chlamydia	23%
Hepatitis C	9%
Other	9%
Staphylococcus aureus disease, invasive methicillin-resistant (MRSA)	5%
Gonorrhea	4%
Lyme Disease	4%
Tuberculosis (+ppd)	3%
Campylobacteriosis	2%
Salmonellosis	2%



**Number of Cases by Month
July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011**



Emergency Preparedness

The Milford Health Department continues to manage preparedness-focused grants: a regionally based grant from the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) & and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to continue our efforts in planning for the Strategic National Stockpile and the Cities Readiness Initiative; a local grant from DPH and CDC supporting local public health and pandemic influenza planning; and three grants from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) to enrich the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), under the umbrella of the Milford Coalition for Community Preparedness. The Health Department has taken an active leadership role in preparedness education and awareness.

Local Exercises/ Training. Milford Health Department staff and volunteers participated in a regional full scale exercise in April. The exercise focus was mass dispensing of medications at a drive-through Point of Dispensing (POD) designated at Foran High School. Volunteers and staff participated in the execution of this exercise. The planning for this exercise began in September 2010 with core Milford Health Department staff rotating to attend required bi-weekly meetings. All the planning, logistics, finance matters, communications, etc was carried out by the Milford Health Department Nurse Administrator, Community Health Coordinator, Environmental Health Chief, four Sanitarians and the Administrative Assistant. Overall the exercise was a success. Key findings for future planning included but are not limited to the need for additional staff/volunteers at this one POD and additional security. Milford Health Department will continue to adapt and plan for public health disasters through collaboration with our regional partners and local community.

Milford Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Volunteers in the MRC and members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) have had opportunities to participate in exercises and specialized training this year and continue to be an asset to the Health Department. Attempts at recruitment for the Milford MRC included an advertisement in the Chamber of Commerce Directory for 2010-2011 and attendance at local events such as wellness fairs and the Milford Oyster Festival.

Regional Preparedness. The Milford Health Department continues as the lead local Health Department for Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning. The regional preparedness grant is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the CT Department of Public health. This past year marks the first of a three (3) year funding cycle.

Regional/Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Exercises. The Milford Health Department coordinated and/or participated in the following preparedness exercises throughout the fiscal year.

- *Region 2 Hospital Full-scale Exercise:* The Milford Hospital took the lead to coordinate a regional exercise in October 2010. The idea was to test the Emergency Operations Plans of the six [6] acute care hospitals in region 2. Region 2 Health Departments and Districts participated in the exercise by testing redundant communications systems such as health director's radios and internet based communications including Web EOC.
- *Regional Tabletop Exercise:* The Milford Health Department coordinated a tabletop exercise in March 2011 at the Wallingford Library. This exercise allowed the ten (10) mass dispensing areas (MDAs) in region 2 to review and test their mass dispensing plans specific to alternative methods of dispensing. The MDAs were able to update their mass dispensing plans in preparation for the full-scale exercise scheduled for April 2011.
- *Regional Alternative Dispensing Exercise (RAD-Ex):* A regional planning team comprised of local and state public health representatives attended bi-monthly planning meetings to coordinate a full-scale exercise specific to alternative methods of dispensing. Each MDA chose a different modality to test. These methods included drive-through points of dispensing (PODs), mobile dispensing units, and organizations such as long term care facilities, community groups, Universities, and other neighborhood associations standing as closed-PODs. The exercise scenario was based on an anthrax attack in which medications must be distributed to the total population within a 48 hour timeframe. The exercise was a success with over 35,000 doses of medications distributed throughout the Region. The After Action Report/Improvement plan will be posted on the Department of Homeland Security Lessons Learned and Information Sharing (LLIS) website.

Regional/CRI Activities. The Milford Health Department conducted the following activities related to regional public health emergency preparedness as the lead health department for Region 2.

- *Hurricane Workshop.* The Milford Health Department partnered with Columbia University to coordinate a workshop specific to hurricane preparedness. The focus of the workshop was to discuss and define the needs of local and regional public health response 72 hours post-landfall of a category 3 hurricane. The day consisted of various speakers presenting on the science of hurricanes, flooding post disaster, vulnerable populations and other public health impacts; a panel discussion; and a key note speaker outlining the role of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.
- *Technical Assistance Reviews:* Technical assistance reviews (TARs) began in 2008 as a way to evaluate local mass dispensing plans, determine strengths and gaps, and outline areas for improvement as they relate to Points of Dispensing (PODs). Nine (9) reviews were conducted in Region 2 to outline the overall readiness of the region to respond to emergencies. TAR scores have progressively improved since the start in 2008.
- *Best Practices Training.* The CRI Region in Portland, Oregon conducted a full-scale mass dispensing exercise. A team from Connecticut was invited to observe and evaluate the exercise, including members of the Milford Health Department. The exercise was a 2 day event to test the dispensing of medications to critical staff within seven (7) counties in the Portland area. Day one of the exercise was focused on the role of the federal government managing their cache of medications and shipping the appropriate amounts to the state level for processing. Day 2 was focused on local response in which the medications were dispensed to all pre-determined critical staff. Six (6) representatives from Region 2 attended the event and acted as evaluators during the exercise.
- *Regional Equipment.* Funds were allocated through the Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) to purchase Salamander credentialing equipment. The Salamander software is used throughout the State of Connecticut in order to maintain uniformity in how the state credentials workers and volunteers across all emergency support functions. The system creates name badges that can be scanned to outline the individual's title, any licenses and certifications, and medical history. Over the next year, the Milford Health Department will coordinate with all Region 2 public health departments to credential employees and volunteers.
- *Training.* To maintain a strong public health workforce, Region 2 continues to host numerous trainings and workshops, in addition to developing training materials. Trainings covered topics including mass dispensing evaluation, Web-EOC, Strategic National Stockpile Prep Course hosted by the CDC, Radiation Preparedness summit through NACCHO, New England Regional collaboration meetings in Rhode Island and Massachusetts; Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program and Incident Command courses; and Regional Incident Management Team (IMT) training.
- *Project Public Health Ready.* Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a competency-based training and recognition program that assesses preparedness planning and response efforts throughout Region 2. The assessment consists of the evaluation of all-hazards preparedness plans, exercising the plans, and development of a strong workforce through training. A regional application will be submitted to NACCHO in 2012 for review in order to receive federal recognition and accreditation that CT Region 2 is prepared for public health emergencies.