

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT TO MAYOR 2012-2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. The 2012-2013 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 was highly involved in ***Super Storm Sandy*** planning, response, and recovery efforts which continue even now. The MHD worked with fellow City agencies such as Police, Fire, Public Works, Public Schools, Animal Control, and others to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the disaster. In preparation for the storm, communications went out to all food service establishments, grocery stores, day care centers and long term care facilities with information about food safety during an extended power outage (longer than 4 hours), and after a flood. MHD staff also provided public education and information on health matters such as food safety, accident prevention, and home safety before, during, and after a flood.

The Mayor and Emergency Management Director charged the MHD to open an emergency evacuation shelter at Jonathan Law High School. MHD staff, Animal Control personnel and community volunteers worked 12-hour shifts, managing and operating the shelter for both people and pets. The shelter had 24-hour nursing coverage as MHD school/public health nurses assisted residents who had mobility challenges, chronic health conditions, medication management and other health conditions.

During power outages, MHD worked with the Fire Department to coordinate the provision of food, water and supplies to storm victims. In the aftermath of the storm, the MHD environmental staff worked with the City's Storm Recovery Coordinator to conduct individual home damage and property assessments. The MHD sanitarians and case manager conducted housing surveys and provided health assistance to storm victims. Collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other City departments (police, fire and public works) was maintained throughout the recovery effort.

In the days following the storm, MHD sanitarians made contact with all food service establishments in the city of Milford. Sanitarians conducted site visits for those establishments that were confirmed to have lost power. As resources were limited directly following the storm, additional environmental sanitarian assistance was provided from the Wallingford, West Haven, and Meriden Health Departments in order to ensure all establishments were brought online as quickly as possible.

The MHD had significant changes in ***staffing*** this year with the retirement of the Nursing Administrator and the passing of a school nurse. Though fiscally challenging, the MHD continued to provide comprehensive public health and school nursing services throughout the year despite the vacancies. The MHD hopes to fill all vacancies prior to the start of the next academic year.

The MHD has continued to aggressively pursue ***grant funding*** garnering over \$470,000 in funding this fiscal year. Grants have been secured for asthma management and education, healthy homes assessments, lead poisoning prevention, and medical reserve corps development, among others. The Milford Health Department continues to be the lead agency for the Regional Public Health Preparedness Planning Grant from the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC).

The MHD continues to enforce the ***anti-bligh ordinance*** in the city of Milford. As a result of the extreme weather this year, the MHD continues to see an increase in the number of complaints of vacant homes that are inadequately maintained. MHD staff continues to work diligently within the enforcement process in order to bring as many properties as possible into compliance. Those properties that are not in compliance within the specified time periods are referred to the City Attorney's office requesting initiation of foreclosure in order to eliminate the blight.

The MHD 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.

Environmental Health Division

The Milford Environmental Health Division works to preserve and promote the health of the public and the physical environment. Through the Director of Health, Environmental Health Specialists (Sanitarians) enforce local ordinances, state laws, regulations and codes that are in place to protect residents from environmental hazards. Throughout the fiscal year the Environmental Health Division focuses on protecting the community and enforcing laws in the areas of 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 12/13 the Environmental Health Division received and responded to 434 requests for information, assistance and complaints. Issues range from blight, housing issues, indoor and outdoor air quality, lead paint, rabies, underground storage tanks, septic systems, radon, pesticides, occupational health, pest control, tick identification and testing for the spirochetes that cause Lyme disease to a multitude of other environmental public health concerns. This great responsibility is carried out through collaborative efforts on the federal, state and local levels. Listed below are highlights of the tremendous and varied work of Environmental Health from the last fiscal year.

Emergency Preparedness/Response. The everyday role of the Environmental Health Division is to anticipate, identify and respond to environmental public health hazards within the City of Milford. As part of the Milford Health Department crisis response plan during an emergency, the Environmental Health Specialist focuses on monitoring, reporting, and providing education to residents regarding issues concerning public food, water supplies, sewage disposal and sanitation to prevent the spread of disease. The Environmental Health Division has become extensively involved in vaccination clinics and community preparedness, planning and exercises for handling disease outbreaks, natural disasters and terrorist attacks. Additionally, we are charged with the responsibility of setting up evacuation shelters and inspecting them while they are open to ensure they are clean and safe for all residents. Every year the Environmental Health Division staff continues to work with our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, local interagency and regional planning teams on the development and management of emergency response plans for a host of emergency situations i.e. potential flooding from severe weather, heat waves, extreme cold temperatures, flu epidemics and mass dispensing of medication to Milford residents, power outages, etc.

Extreme Weather.

- Heat Waves - During the early part of summer 2012 Milford experienced its' first heat wave. The Chief of the Environmental Health Division in coordination with the Nurse Administrator conducted an in-depth training session on heat related illness for all the playground program counselors working for the Recreation Department. Since the playground program is conducted outdoors during the hot summer months it is important for all the counselors to understand what constitutes a heat wave, what the heat index is and why a high heat index is a problem, especially for children. It is also important that all counselors understand how to recognize symptoms of heat related illness and know how to prevent it. We recommended that the counselors encourage children to bring a quart of non-carbonated, caffeine free beverage, like water or unsweetened juice to the playground every day, that they schedule frequent bathroom/drink breaks for the children throughout the day and that they not allow children to participate in excessive play during the mid-day period (11:30-2pm) during the hot weather. Where available, it was also recommended that they schedule small groups of children (20-25) to rotate into an air conditioned room in the school for 20-30 minutes during the mid-day period. The rotation should coincide with a bathroom/drink break. The Milford Health Department continued to communicate with the Milford Recreation Department regarding potential playground program closures in the presence of a heat wave throughout the summer months. As the heat wave progressed, environmental health staff distributed flyers to high risk housing populations and performed wellness checks on single family dwellings through individual visits and phone calls. The Community Health Coordinator provided additional information to "211" to direct in-need residents. Milford Fire Dispatch was instrumental in fielding nonmedical

emergency calls related to heat. Milford Senior center operated additional Saturday hours as requested by the Executive Director. Overall, the city was successful in the community mitigation of excessive heat effects.

Super Storm Sandy, Response and Recovery - The environmental health response to Super Storm Sandy at the end of October was a massive undertaking for the Health Department Environmental Division and recovery from the storm continues. In preparation for the storm, communications went out to all food service establishments, Daycare Centers, Healthcare centers and homeowners with information about food safety during an extended power outage (longer than 4 hours), and clean-up instructions for after a flood. Many food service establishments lost power and/or received flood/storm damage. The environmental sanitarians worked to get out to or make contact with every food service establishment to assess power outage locations and to make assessments in order to protect public health. The Wallingford, West Haven and Meriden Health Departments provided MHD with Sanitarians to assist with opening inspections of food service establishments that were closed after the storm due to power outages or flooding. Sanitarians, the Housing Inspector and the Case Manager conducted inspections and surveys of areas in Milford that are prone to flooding and power outages. MHD Environmental staff conducted health & safety checks for known vulnerable individuals and contacted Public Housing officials to determine health & safety of those buildings. Environmental Health Sanitarians worked with the City's Storm Recovery Coordinator to conduct home to home damage assessments of properties. They provided FEMA registration information and documented property damage. The information was provided to FEMA for follow-up.

Food Protection Program. The Environmental Health Division oversees licensing and inspections of restaurants, food stands, itinerant vendors, school kitchens, daycare center 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 Department licensed approximately 408 Food Service Establishments in FY 12/13. 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. This helps prevent illness and improves the service practices of the food handlers working with the food that is served to the public.

- *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, 2012 – June 30, 2013 there were 75 temporary events in Milford. Each event had multiple vendors that required licensing and inspections by this office. During the fiscal year, the Environmental Health Division inspected and issued 222 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.

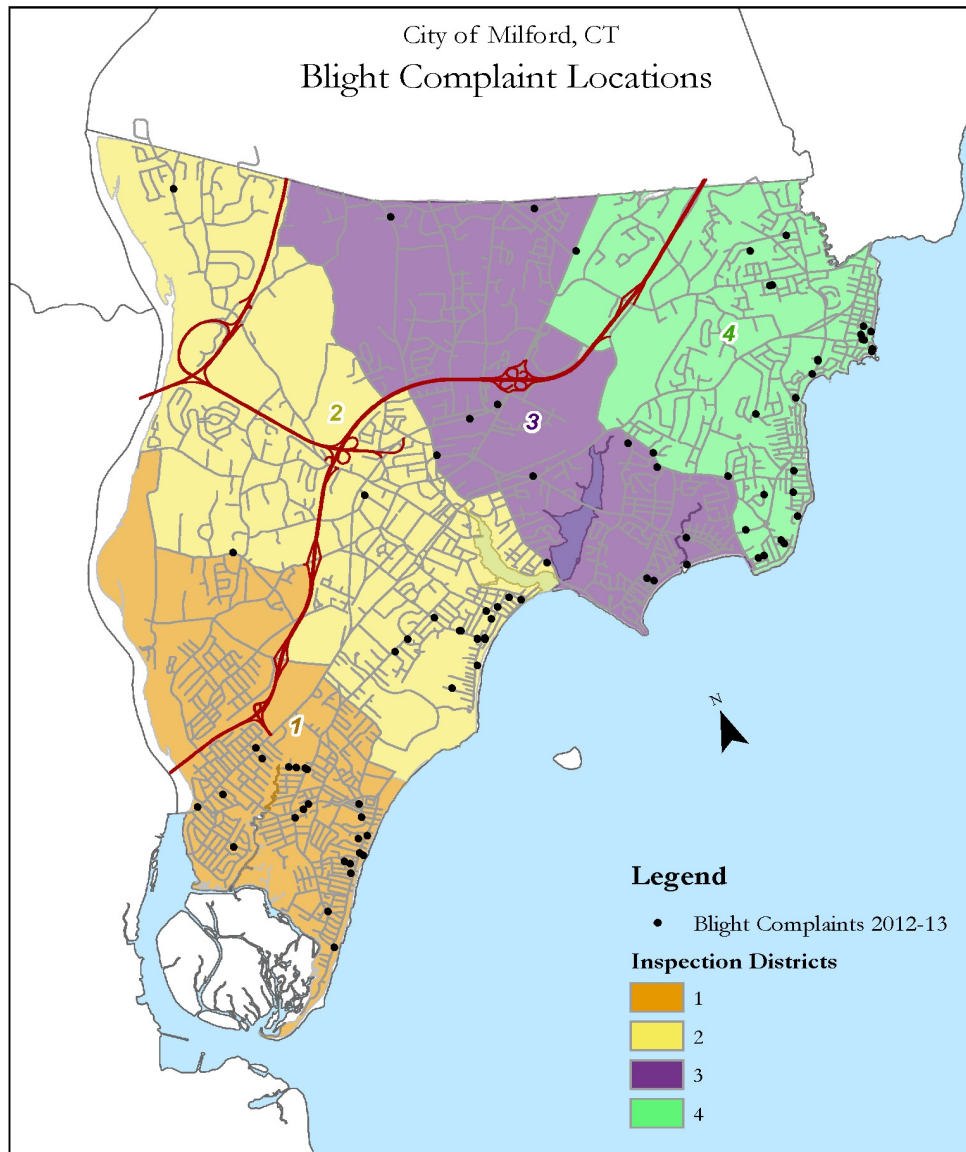
Volunteer Food Handler Training. The Environmental Health Division offers training to volunteers in order to ensure proper food handling techniques are being implemented during temporary food events. Persons that volunteer their time at ball field concession stands and at Oyster Festival food booths are strongly encouraged to attend the Health Department basic training. The training program is specific to issues encountered during our inspections of food service booths. This year 78 volunteers were trained and received training badges.

Food Service Licenses Issued	408
Food Service Establishment Plan Reviews	52
Temporary Events	75
Temporary Food Licenses Issued	222
Food Service Complaints Investigated	47

Mosquito Surveillance and Monitoring. The mosquito control program typically begins each year in April when All Habitat Services, the mosquito control consultant for the city of Milford, starts monitoring the wetlands habitats in Milford and treating the marshy areas throughout the City. The primary focus of the mosquito management program is on preventive efforts through mosquito breeding site reduction, especially in densely populated areas, and education about personal protection. Throughout the summer months staff from the health department attend various fairs and events including the Oyster Festival to hand out samples of insect repellent wipes and information on how to protect oneself from mosquitoes and West Nile Virus and how to prevent mosquitoes from breeding around the home. The health department website is updated with the latest information on West Nile Virus and tips on how to protect yourself and your home from mosquitoes. All Habitat Services applies a biological larvicide strategically throughout the City in order to control mosquito larvae. Areas that are monitored and treated include all catch basins throughout the City, 90 plus known mosquito breeding sites and any other area that is prone to ponding water. On July 26, 2012, the State Mosquito Management Program collected mosquitoes in Milford that tested positive for West Nile virus.

Anti-Blight Enforcement. Since 2009 health department has been charged with enforcement of the City's anti-blight ordinance. Anti-Blight enforcement entails several MHD inspections/site visits to the property in question. The MHD Notice of Violation (NOV) describes the violations 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 will move forward with legal enforcement. Since the beginning of the fiscal year, this office received 109 complaints of blight. 2012 was a harsh year weather wise and as a result, we are seeing a rise in the number of complaints about vacant homes that are not being maintained, i.e. peeling paint, vegetation not cut back, fallen trees not removed. MHD is working hard to track down the responsible parties and get them to clean up the property. Unfortunately, the enforcement process takes time and getting the banks, mortgage and management companies to take care of the issues is proving to be arduous.

By the close of this fiscal year, seven properties failed to comply with the orders defined in the Notice of Violation. Liens have been placed on the corresponding land records and these properties are actively accruing \$100 dollars/day for non-compliance with the anti-blight ordinance. MHD referred the addresses to the City Attorney's office requesting that they initiate foreclosure in order to eliminate the blight.



This map was produced from the City of Milford Geographic Information System. The City expressly disclaims any liability that may result from the use of this map. This map is not a survey and is subject to any changes an actual land survey discloses.

1 inch = 5,000 feet

Date: 6/27/2013
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Total # of blight complaints since ordinance implementation	FY 2011/2012	Currently under orders - NOV <u>OPEN</u>	Referred to City Attorney <u>OPEN</u>
443	109	9	7

Collaborative for Residential Integrity for the Disabled and Elderly (C.R.I.D.E.). The collaborative for Residential Integrity of the Disabled and Elderly continues to serve as an integral part of the social service network and as a model program for other communities. The Community Housing Inspector, and 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. The Milford Health Department is now looked to as exemplifying best practices in its approach to hoarding. In 2012, Dr. McBride and CRIDE were filmed for a segment on the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) television program Inside E Street entitled "Hoarding: A Growing Disorder." The Health Department has collaborated in sponsoring three regional symposiums on hoarding, primarily for professionals in the field. The department plans a fourth for the fall of 2013. It has also sponsored two seminars for the community at large. Members of the health department hoarding team have participated as speakers and panelists at several meetings and conferences, and as consultants to several towns interested in a similar venture.

Beach monitoring program. Swimming Beach waters are monitored for bacteria levels at all Milford beaches. The Beach Monitoring Program continues to provide weekly beach water quality data from 23 sample sites along the Milford coastline. Environmental Division staff collected at least 199 samples of sea water that is tested for the presence of disease causing bacteria. When collecting sea water samples, Sanitarians also inspect the tide line to identify potential hazards such as medical waste and/or syringes. If there is something suspicious, the Police Department is promptly notified.

Public swimming pool operation and inspection. Environmental Health inspectors check every public pool and spa for proper water disinfection, temperature, safety barriers, and safety equipment. During the 12/13 fiscal year, Environmental Health Division staff performed inspections at the 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 safety conditions are checked at each facility to provide assurance that each swimming facility provides a healthy and safe environment for the bathers. Environmental health Sanitarians continue to support and educate the public regarding the 2007 Virginia Graeme Baker Act, which affects all commercial pools/spas. This Act redefined safety standards for main drain grates and equipment functions in commercial pools to prevent limb, hair and body entrapment.

Lodging. Registered Sanitarians from the Environmental Health Division 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 12/13, the Environmental Health Division conducted inspections at 20 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.

There were relatively few changes to the immunization requirements for students this school year; both 7th and 8th grade students are now required to have one dose of Tdap vaccine, one dose of meningococcal vaccine and two doses of varicella vaccine prior to entry. Additionally, kindergarten students are required to have two doses of Hepatitis A.

The Milford Health Department continues to participate in the CT Department of Health (CT DPH) *Cocoon Program*, which is designed to provide new parents, grandparents and other caregivers of infants,

protection against pertussis, also known as “whooping cough.” 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. In light of this year’s spike in the number of cases of whooping cough throughout the country, the CT DPH has encouraged providers of the Cocoon Program to offer Tdap vaccinations to individuals who are not residents of Milford. The Milford Health Department has already been offering vaccination to anyone who is caring for infants in order to protect the infant from contracting pertussis. Over 70 individuals have received the Tdap vaccine at the Milford Health Department through this program this fiscal year.

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 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 1,220 doses of seasonal flu vaccine this flu season, including 462 doses for seniors. Flu vaccinations were also administered to almost 200 City employees and approximately 350 Board of Education employees. 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. ILI trends this fiscal year mirrored influenza activity statewide and nationally. Due to the invaluable information that the ILI monitoring provides, we will continue this surveillance activity in the year ahead.

Emergency Preparedness. Hurricane Sandy and the snowstorm that occurred the following week provided unique opportunities for the public health nurses to contribute to the response and recovery efforts in our community. The nurses, along with all Milford Health Department employees, worked to staff the emergency evacuation shelter at Jonathan Law High School. The nurses worked 12-hour shifts around the clock and provided the initial health assessment at registration, offered assistance with medication management and helped individuals with mobility issues and/or special needs. Additionally, they assisted with general shelter work including set up and break down of the shelter, serving meals and cleaning equipment. Many of the shelter residents had health conditions that warranted medical/clinical assistance that they may have had provided at home from visiting nurses and/or family members. The nurses also worked at the warming center that was held at the Milford Senior Center the following week. A nurse was assigned to the registration desk to triage any individuals with acute or chronic health conditions. Under the direction of the Health Director, if a health condition was identified, the individual was referred to Milford Hospital for evaluation.

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 7,600 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.

School Health Services – Oral Health Program. Over 1,200 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, 133 were referred to a local dentist or dental clinic for follow-up care and treatment.

Public Health Nursing & School Health Services
July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013	Current Year	Previous Year
Dental Hygienists (2)		
Permission Slips sent out	2435	3239
#Oral Screenings Kindergarten	227	235
#Oral exams, cleanings	1294	1519
#Students receiving sealants	397	512
#Sealants applied	1142	1336
#Students w/primary decay	101	135
#Students w/permanent decay	20	51
#Students w/ fistulas	9	13
#Referrals made	133	219
Dental Education in Class	87	86
Pre-Employment Physicals		
Immunizations Clinics	38	33
DTaP	9	6
Hepatitis A	20	16
Hepatitis B	49	44
HIB	1	3
HPV	6	4
Influenza (IMMUNIZATION)	1212	1389
Mantoux (PPD) Tuberculin Test	256	238
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	32	16
Meningococcal	35	34
Pediarix (Hep.B,DTaP& IPV)	0	0
Pneumonia Vaccine	4	4
Polio (IPV)	28	11
Rabies	3	3
Rotavirus	0	0
TD	9	2
Tdap	34	31
Tdap (Cocoon Program)	72	78
Varicella Vaccine	47	53
Visiting Nurse Association		
Well Child Clinic	15	23
Patients	65	72
Physicals Completed	62	64
Immunizations	63	75

Community Health Division

Disease Surveillance. From July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, there were 462 cases of disease reported to the Milford Health Department, which represented a 43% increase in reported disease from the previous fiscal year. Influenza was the most reported disease, with forty-four percent (44%) of all cases reported this year. The attached table lists the top ten reported diseases during the 2012-2013 year (see Table 1), along with the number of cases reported by month (see Table 3) with January 2013 having the highest number of cases reported for the year.

The Community Health Coordinator continued Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) surveillance efforts this year to allow for early detection of illness through monitoring student/employee absenteeism. The ILI program is particularly valuable as the Community Health Coordinator and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator continue to follow the evolving news about the H7N9 influenza in China. Thus far, H7N9 influenza has been contained to China; however, evidence is clear that this virus can spread easily. Though this virus may be mild for some, it has been more severe for people with underlying medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, and other conditions. The Milford Health Department continues to monitor the situation closely and will provide any necessary guidance and recommendations to the community as necessary.

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. The Community Health Coordinator and Community Health Nurse work closely with patients, 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. All patients have been compliant with one completing treatment this fiscal year and the other scheduled to 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 21 cases of foodborne illness reported this year, with reports of salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis, and giardiasis being the most prevalent (See Table 2). 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.

Hurricane Sandy Planning, Response, & Recovery. In preparation for Hurricane Sandy, the Community Health Coordinator developed and updated communication messages regarding hurricane & flood preparedness via the health department website and phone messages. Website materials include information regarding food safety, power outages, mold & mildew in flooded homes, and other items specific to Sandy recovery. The Community Health Coordinator created Everbridge messages for volunteers who were asked to assist with shelter staffing. The Community Health Coordinator also assisted with shelter operations and staffing. Finally, as recovery efforts continue, the Community Health Coordinator was tasked with tracking all Hurricane Sandy-related response & recovery expenses that were included with the City's request to FEMA for reimbursement.

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 \$470,000. 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 new or renewed grants that the Health Department has received during this fiscal year:

- Asthma Initiatives (\$13,561)

- Lead Poisoning & Prevention (\$3,500)
- CT DPH Medical Reserve Corps Grant (\$10,000)
- Local Public Health Preparedness Planning (\$89,041)
- National Association of City & County Health Officials Medical Reserve Corps Grant (\$2,700)
- Per Capita Grant (\$60,499.78)
- Preventive Health/Healthy Homes Initiative (\$6,612)
- Regional Public Health Preparedness Planning (\$211,500)

Staffing Transitions & Coverage. The Milford Health Department had some staffing changes during the fiscal year, including the retirement of the Nursing Administrator, passing of one school nurse, and vacancy in the area of Regional Public Health Emergency Preparedness. The Community Health Coordinator has been assisting with staffing coverage and transitions associated with each of these vacancies to ensure a seamless transition through the end of the school and fiscal years. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, working with the Lead Nurse regarding coverage issues, supply ordering for remainder of school year and transition in to summer and next academic year, monitoring of the budget to ensure sufficient funds for adequate substitute nursing coverage for remainder of school year, hiring of substitute school nurses, and responding to calls for administrative-related items for the school nurses and dental hygienists. The Community Health Coordinator has also been working with Quiana Lewis, the interim Regional Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, to ensure all grant deliverables are completed and submitted as required by the contract.

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

- *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's goal is to improve an individual's asthma control thus decreasing asthma-related adverse events through home-based education regarding environmental triggers, understanding asthma pathophysiology, medications and tools (i.e. Asthma Action Plans). Education is provided in either the home or classroom setting by a public health nurse or asthma educator and a sanitarian.

Our relationship with medical providers in the region continues to strengthen. A majority of the referrals continue to come from pediatric and adult medical providers in the fields of primary care, pulmonology, allergy & immunology, as well as upon emergency department discharge. The program has received one hundred nineteen (119) referrals this contract year, with 71% of the referrals from the client's medical home and 14% upon hospital discharge.

The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) did not receive funding from the EPA to support this program this year. As such, the grant we received through DPH decreased. In an effort to streamline costs related to the home visit, the Program Coordinator is working to provide basic asthma education in a group setting. This method allows for the education that takes place at the home visit to be more specific to just medication education thereby streamlining visit time.

Participants were encouraged to bring their asthma medications with them to the class and the nurse was able to review proper technique for medication administration. Participants in the program who are insured through HUSKY are eligible to receive asthma supplies free of charge. The Program Coordinator works with HUSKY on ensuring appropriate paperwork is completed and participants obtain necessary supplies.

The CT Department of Public Health Asthma Program notified all funded regions that the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention has significantly reduced grant funding for the upcoming contract year. As such, in collaboration with the State and the 5 other funded asthma regions, the Milford Health Department will be applying for funding through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Health Care Innovation Awards Round 2. If awarded, funding would begin in April 2014.

- *Healthy Homes Program.* The Milford Health Department has received funding through the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) to implement a Healthy Homes assessment program for a third year. 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 program looks at a variety of environmental health and safety concerns including mold, lead, allergens, asthma, carbon monoxide, home safety, pesticides, and radon. The Milford Health Department is one of only two health departments in the state that is implementing the program. The Health Department completed 8 assessments, three (3) with no code violations, two (2) reassessments, and two (2) reassessments.
- *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 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 2012-2013 academic year.

Community Health Services
July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013

Table 1. Top Ten Reportable Communicable Diseases

Disease	%
Influenza	44%
Shiga toxin related disease	16%
Chlamydia	9%
Hepatitis C	13%
Other-Not reported	4%
Gonorrhea	3%
Syphilis	3%
Staphylococcus aureus disease, methicillin-resistant	2%
Lyme Disease	2%
Campylobacteriosis	2%
Group B Streptococcal disease, invasive	1%

Table 2. Foodborne Illness Reports

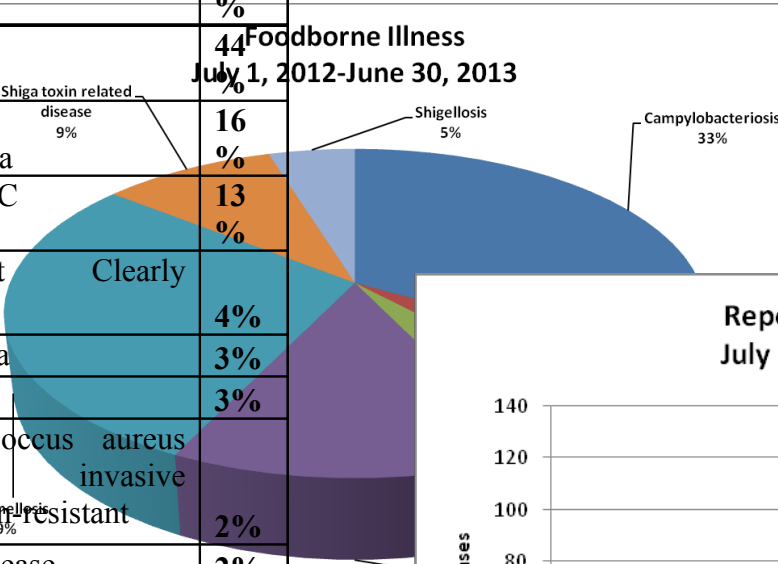
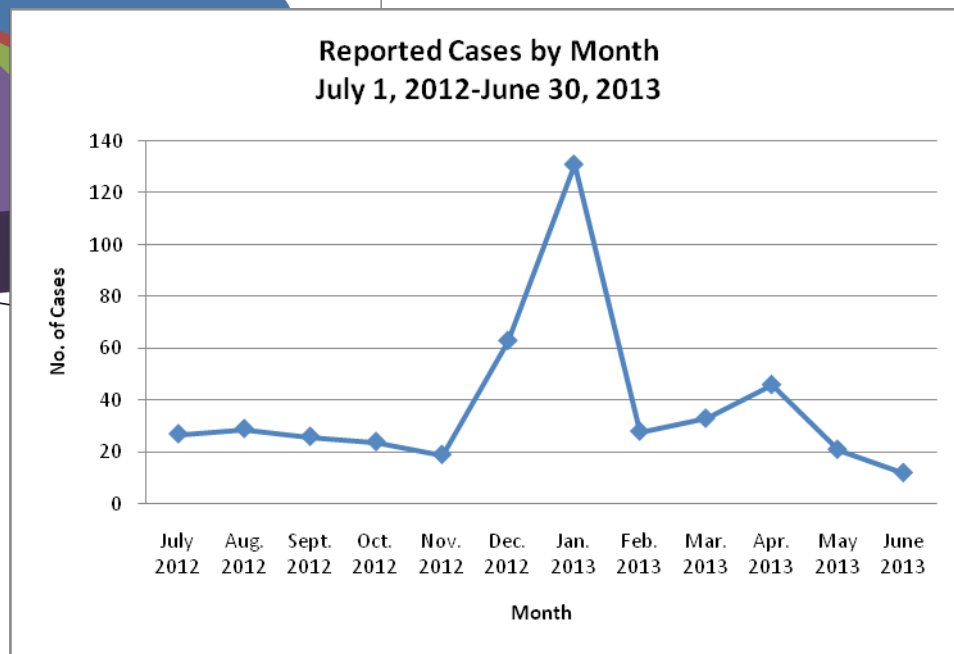


Table 3. Number of Reportable Diseases by Month



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 preparedness planning; and three grants from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) to enrich the Milford Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The Health Department has taken an active leadership role in preparedness education and awareness.

The Milford Health Department was chosen as one of three Mass Dispensing areas to be evaluated by the CDC in the annual Technical Assessment Review (TAR). The TAR is a “report card” for the health department emergency operation plan regarding mass distribution events. Public health emergency preparedness plans are under review for compliance and completeness to fulfill grant requirements each year.

Local Exercises/ Events. Milford Health Department staff and volunteers participated in a real event response to Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. The Milford Health Department was tasked by the Mayor and Emergency Management Director to open, manage and operate an emergency evacuation shelter for Milford residents. The shelter opened at Jonathan Law High School on Sunday, October 28th, at 3 PM and was open for evacuees until

Wednesday, October 31st at 10 AM. Milford Health Department staff set up the shelter on Sunday morning when notification was received at approximately 10 AM. The Milford Health Department Nurse Administrator, Community Health Coordinator, Environmental Health Chief, four Sanitarians and MRC/CERT volunteer coordinator worked through Sunday afternoon to coordinate logistical needs and set up the shelter. Health department staff, with the assistance of Milford Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers, managed and operated the shelter for four days. Overall, 30 MHD staff members and 12 volunteers rotated to a 12 hour operational period shift to ensure adequate staffing at the shelter. Milford Board of Education janitorial and cafeteria staff provided exceptional support for shelter logistics and a Milford Police Officer was on hand for security. The shelter serviced 121 individuals throughout the 4-day operational period. Milford Health Department will continue to adapt and plan for public health disasters through collaboration with our local community and regional partners.

Milford Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Volunteers in the MRC and members of the CERT had opportunities to participate in specialized training this year, specifically Hurricane Sandy shelter operations. In addition to working in the shelter, MRC and CERT volunteers staffed a Warming Center post Hurricane Sandy at the Milford Senior Center, attended CPR/AED recertification classes, assisted with staffing a flu clinic, attended psychological first aid training, assisted the Regional Water Authority in HazWaste Central, a hazardous materials collection day and provided presentations on emergency preparedness to several groups including the local middle and high school health/science classes, Milford Rape Crisis Center volunteers, Milford Police Citizen Academy Alumni and local Cub Scout Troops. Attempts at recruitment for the Milford MRC include 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. The following regional activities took place this fiscal year:

- *Regionalized Technical Assistance Review:* The Milford Health Department spearheaded and coordinated the development of the first standardized mass dispensing plan for Region 2 in order to complete a single regional Technical Assistance Review (TAR). Previously, nine (9) reviews were conducted for each of the mass dispensing areas within the region. This streamlined approach minimized redundancy in plans and allowed mass dispensing areas (MDAs) to focus on high need sections. The standardized mass dispensing plan is separated into two (2) components. The first is regional; the second is local. The regional portion of the plan covers all items that are standardized either by state or federal policies and regulations. This part of the plan applies to all MDAs and provides an outline of mass dispensing procedures. The local annexes describe details specific to each MDA. This allows Region 2 to achieve a standardization of plans while still maintaining local information crucial to mass dispensing operations. The Centers for Disease Control applauded the successful development of a regional framework and awarded the region a final score of 0.89 out of 1.0.
- *Hurricane Conference.* On July 30th 2013, Region 2 Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, in collaboration with CT-RI Public Health Training Center at the Yale School of Public Health and Columbia University National Center for Disaster Preparedness will host the 2013 *Hurricane Sandy Revisited* conference at Yale West Campus in Orange, CT. Four of the towns affected by the storm will participate in a panel discussion to share experiences, challenges and lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy. The City of Milford will be represented on the panel by Mayor Benjamin G. Blake, Dr. A. Dennis McBride and Interim Fire Chief Robert Healy.
- *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 was submitted to NACCHO on March 22, 2013 for review in order to receive federal

recognition and accreditation that CT Region 2 is prepared for public health emergencies. The final accreditation decision will be announced in July.