

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT TO MAYOR 2013-2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. The 2013-2014 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 continues to manage preparedness-focused grants to support local public health and pandemic influenza planning and to enrich the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Milford's volunteer group. Milford was recently awarded grant money to train two additional ***Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)***. All ten (10) MHD core staff members have training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS). Past natural disaster and public health incidents, particularly related to mass care, shelter operations, and points of dispensing, have allowed for the MHD emergency management planner to adjust command and operational roles accordingly.

The MHD continues to enforce the ***anti-bligh ordinance, public health code, and housing code*** in the city of Milford and address the needs of individuals living in troubled housing conditions. After conducting a detailed investigation of a severely troubled property over many months, the MHD, in collaboration with Milford Animal Control, Milford Police Department, Milford Fire Department, and Bridges' Mobile Crisis Team, executed an administrative search warrant to gain access to this troubled property. Upon entry, inspectors found an uninhabitable house in squalor conditions filled with garbage, filth, flies and other insects. Based on severe objectionable fetid odors permeating the inside and outside of the dwelling, as well as the condition of the exterior of the yard surrounding the home, the property was deemed a public health nuisance and the MHD declared the building unfit for occupancy and the occupant was transported off the premises.

The MHD, in collaboration with the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut, implemented the ***First Visit Program*** to Milford residents. This program provides one to three home visits by a specially trained registered nurse to new mothers and fathers in Milford giving them guidance and counseling about their new baby and valuable resources in the Milford community. Referrals to this program come from a variety of sources including hospitals, doctors and even the new parents themselves. A "New Parent/Expectant Parent" event will be hosted in the coming year for Milford residents informing them of the ***First Visit Program*** along with the many other community resources available to families living in Milford.

The MHD has continued to aggressively pursue ***grant funding*** garnering over \$250,000 in new or continued funding this fiscal year. The MHD obtained a grant through the CT Office of the Healthcare Advocate and ***Access Health CT*** to assist Milford residents in understanding their health insurance options and enrolling in the health insurance program or plan that best meets their needs. Under the Affordable Care Act, residents who otherwise might be unable to afford health coverage may qualify for additional assistance in paying their health premiums or their deductibles and co-payments. Milford's Assister, hired through this grant, was responsible for enrolling uninsured and/or underinsured residents into the CT Health Insurance Exchange system. The MHD conducted outreach with approximately 25 faith-based organizations (i.e. churches, synagogue, etc.) in Milford. MHD staff also conducted outreach through the Milford Public Schools and the City of Milford to encourage individuals and families who are uninsured to sign up. The Health Department conducted weekly enrollment sessions at the library, the Health Department, and Milford Hospital.

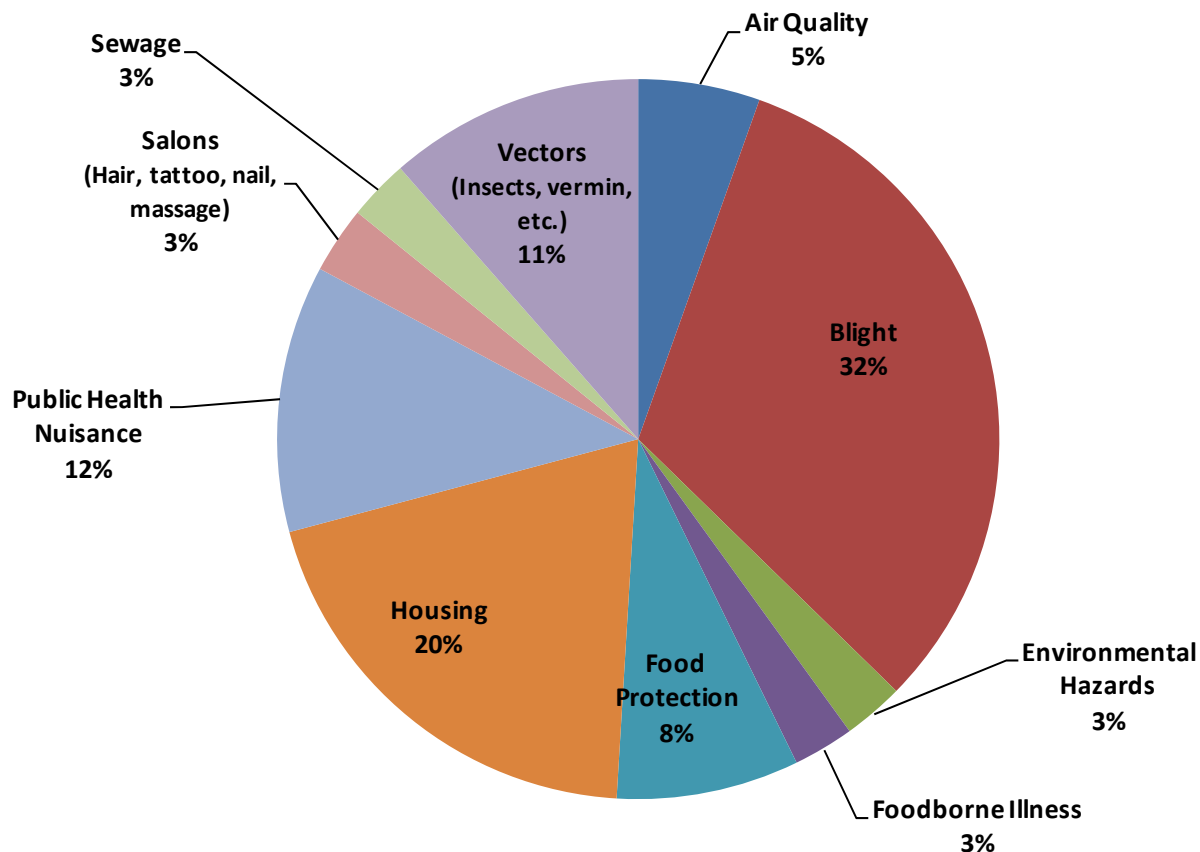
As a public health leader in the area of ***compulsive hoarding & troubled housing*** in the state of CT, the MHD, along with the West Haven Health Department, Greenwich Department of Social Services, and Bridges...A Community Support System, Inc., conducted a conference entitled "Cutting through the Clutter: Understanding Hoarding & Its Impact on Public Health and Housing". The focus of the conference was on collaborative strategies to address hoarding from enforcement, probate, and treatment perspectives. The featured speaker was Dr. David Tolin, who has authored several publications and appeared on several television shows to speak on this topic. Judith Dicine, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney for Housing Matters, and Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas, Milford-Orange Judge of Probate, participated on a panel focused on collaborative strategies to address hoarding. The conference was well attended, with approximately 175 participants.

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 and the Chief of the Environmental Health Division, 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 13/14 the Environmental Health Division received and responded to 367 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. The following pie chart illustrates the complaint investigations by type.

Environmental Health Complaint Investigations by Type
07/01/2013-06/30/2014



Permitting and Routine Inspection Activities:

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.

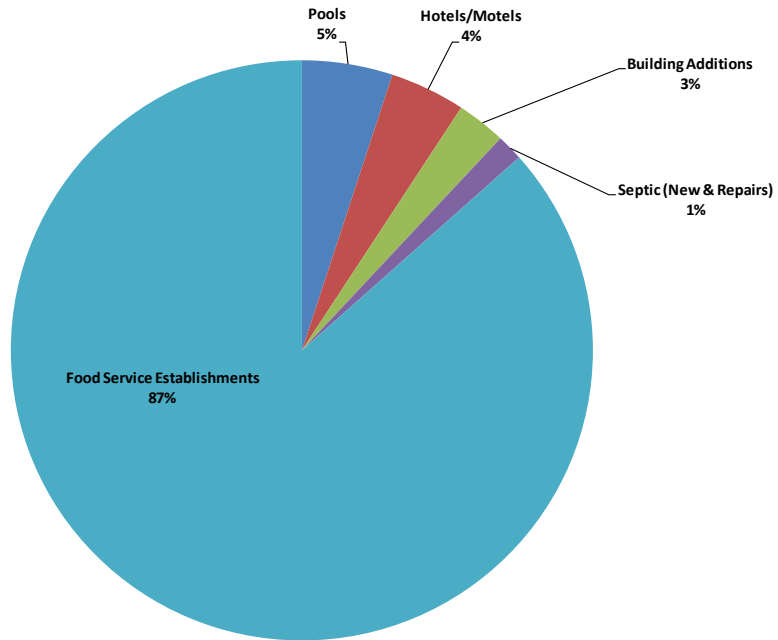
The Department licensed approximately 413 Food Service Establishments in FY 13/14. This number fluctuates throughout the year depending on the economy and the closing and opening of businesses in Milford. The Environmental Health Division offers a comprehensive food protection program designed to minimize the risk of food borne illness. 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, 2013 – June 30, 2014 there were 71 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 reviewed applications for and issued 223 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.

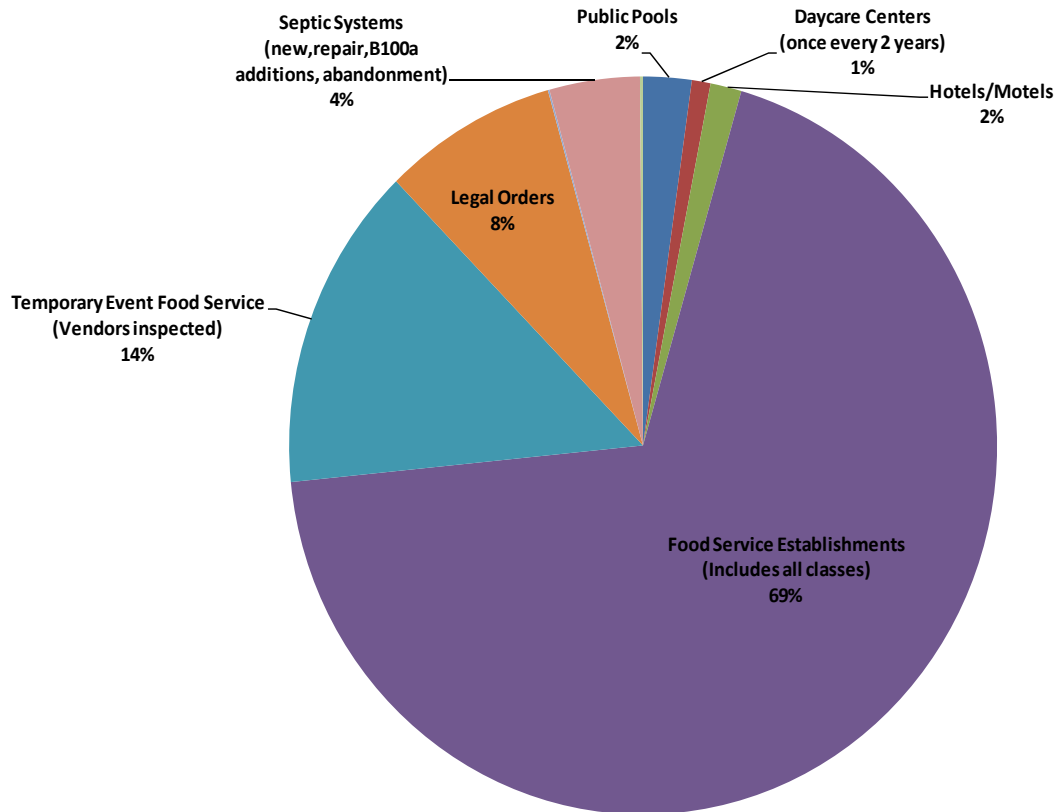
Public swimming pool operation and inspection. Environmental Health inspectors check every public pool and spa for proper water disinfection, temperature, safety barriers, and safety equipment. During the 13/14 fiscal year, Environmental Health Division staff performed inspections at the 26 registered 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.

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. Additionally, the Department issues permits, licenses and certificates to several different establishments and is charged with conducting routine inspections and providing educational information to establishment owners. The following pie charts illustrate the establishments that are licensed and inspected by this department.

**Permits, Licenses & Registrations
07/01/2013-06/30/2014**



**Inspection and Enforcement Activities
07/01/2013-06/30/2014**



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 Department 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.

In the spring of 2014, after conducting a detailed investigation of a severely troubled property over many months, MHD took the lead and in conjunction with Milford Animal Control executed an administrative search warrant to gain access to the interior of the home in order to conduct an inspection. Based on the odors emanating from the dwelling and the condition of the exterior of the yard surrounding the home, the property was creating a threat to the surrounding properties and considered a public health nuisance. This was an occupied dwelling and the occupant would not grant MHD inspectors access to inspect the interior in order to assess the situation. Upon inspection of the interior of the dwelling, inspectors found an uninhabitable house filled with garbage, filth, flies and other insects; squalor conditions. Severe objectionable fetid odors permeated the inside and outside the dwelling. The Milford Assistant Animal Control Officer trapped and removed 3 dogs, 26 cats and a large bird and transported them to the veterinarian. Based on the inspection, the Director of Health declared the building unfit for occupancy and the occupant was transported off the premises. The Bridges Mental Health Crisis Team was on scene to access the occupant and take charge of their care.

Emergency Preparedness/Response. The Environmental Health Division staff work through education, training, exercises and real-life scenarios to maintain cutting-edge expertise for responding to ever emerging public health issues; in most recent years this has included storm response and extended power outages, setting up and staffing cooling, warming, charging and evacuation shelters, FEMA after storm assessments, H1N1 influenza vaccination clinics and education, school health issues, hoarding and troubled housing. The Milford Community continues to recover from the super storm that wreaked havoc on the shoreline and in the community at the end of October 2012. Health Department staff meets regularly and are involved with the long term recovery committee and the hazard mitigation committee. Through these meetings time is spent collaborating with community partners and providing and receiving support for community work and projects is essential to Milford's public health.

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.

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 196 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 Health Nursing & School Health Services

Immunization Clinics. The Milford Health Department continues to provide monthly Immunization Clinics for the residents of Milford. Routine immunizations to prevent communicable disease are available for both children and adults. The Milford Health Department also works in conjunction with the Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System (CIRTS) to better track children's immunizations for parents and medical providers. CIRTS assures that children remain up to date with their immunizations and that their records are available electronically when needed.

The Health Department also participates in the Connecticut State Department of Public Health "Cocoon Program". Public health officials recommend pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination for all persons who have close contact with infants. The Tdap vaccine is available free of charge for new parents, grandparents and other caregivers of infants under one year of age. This strategy is known as "cocooning" thereby forming a "cocoon" of protection against pertussis. The Milford Health Department administered 101 doses of Tdap this year – a significant increase from last year.

Over 150 children received at least one vaccination (excluding influenza and TB testing) at the Milford Health Department this year, and 31 adults also received immunizations (excluding influenza, TB testing and Cocoon Program).

The immunization clinics at the Milford Health Department are typically held on the second Tuesday of the month from 2:30 – 4:30 pm.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program. The seasonal influenza vaccine program administered a greater number of influenza vaccinations this season than last. 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, Pumpkins on the Pier event in the fall, 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 1,230 doses of seasonal flu vaccine this flu season, including 438 doses for seniors. Flu vaccinations were also administered to 220 City employees and approximately 340 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.

Well Child Clinics. The Well Child Clinics for newborns through 18 years of age are offered free of charge to residents on select Tuesdays at the Milford Health Department. This service is in collaboration with the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut. Well children can receive physical exams, immunizations, health screenings, lead screening, developmental screening, school physicals and camp physicals. Twelve Well Child Clinics were held this year. A total of 49 patients were seen for any of the above mentioned services.

First Visit Program. The Milford Health Department and the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut provide the *First Visit Program* to Milford residents. This program provides one to three home visits by a specially trained registered nurse to new mothers and fathers giving them guidance and counseling about their new baby and valuable resources in the Milford community. Referrals to this program come from a variety of sources including hospitals, doctors and even the new parents themselves. The Milford First Visit Program held its initial advisory board meeting on November 20, 2013. A "New Parent/Expectant Parent" event will be hosted in the coming year for Milford residents informing them of the *First Visit Program* along with the many other community resources available to families living in Milford.

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 approximately 7,500 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 89% of the time within 30 minutes of visiting the Health Office, being assessed and treated by the school nurse.

More than 30% 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 1,500 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, 164 were referred to a local dentist or dental clinic for follow-up care and treatment.

Bloodborne Pathogen Training. The Deputy Director of Health and the Director of Nursing provided Bloodborne Pathogen Training to City of Milford employees as requested by department heads throughout the year. The training involved reviewing important aspects of the Milford Bloodborne Pathogen Policy including the guidelines for exposure control measures and post exposure protocol. This training is provided to eliminate or minimize occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standards and must be done upon hiring and on an annual basis.

**Public Health Nursing & School Health Services
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014**

	Current Year	Previous Year
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014		
	7/2013-6/2014	7/2012-6/2013
Dental Hygenists (2)		
Permission Slips sent out	3459	2435
#Oral Screenings Kindergarten	258	227
#Oral exams, cleanings	1372	1294
#Students receiving sealants	467	397
#Sealants applied	1341	1142
#Students w/primary decay	123	101
#Students w/permanent decay	30	20
#Students w/ fistulas	9	9
#Referrals made	171	133
Dental Education in Class	88	87
Pre-Employment Physicals		
Immunizations Clinics	43	38
DTaP	11	9
Hepatitis A	22	20
Hepatitis B	14	49
HIB	2	1
HPV	3	6
Influenza (IMMUNIZATION)	1231	1212
Mantoux (PPD) Tuberculin Test	264	256
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	18	32
Meningococcal	26	35
Pediarix (Hep.B,DTaP& IPV)	0	0
Pneumonia Vaccine	2	4
Polio (IPV)	17	28
Rabies	0	3
TD	3	9
Tdap	27	34
Tdap (Cocoon Program)	101	72
Varicella Vaccine	39	47
Visiting Nurse Association		
Well Child Clinic	12	15
Patients	49	65
Physicals Completed	48	62
Immunizations	28	63

Community Health Division

Disease Surveillance. From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, there were 516 cases of disease reported to the Milford Health Department, which represented a 12% increase in reported disease from the previous fiscal year. Influenza was the most reported disease, with fifty-two percent (52%) of all cases reported this year. The attached table lists the top ten reported diseases during the 2013-2014 year (see Table 1), along with the number of cases reported by month (see Table 3) with April 2014 having the highest number of cases reported for the year.

The Deputy Director of Health 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 Deputy Director of Health and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator continue to follow the evolving news about emerging infections including MERS-CoV (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and Chikungunya virus. The Milford Health Department continues to stay updated on these emerging viruses and will provide any necessary guidance and recommendations to the community as necessary.

In order to prevent the spread of tuberculosis within Milford, the Deputy Director of Health and Community Health Nurse track and monitor 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. The Deputy Director of Health 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 treatment, with care for one patient coordinated between the state of Connecticut and infectious disease providers in the patient's country of origin.

Increased monitoring of food borne illnesses and follow up investigation/education continues to be a core function of the Health Department. There were 33 cases of foodborne illness reported this year, with reports of salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis being the most prevalent (See Table 2). Additionally, the Deputy Director of Health 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 Deputy Director of Health 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 Deputy Director of Health 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 Deputy Director is responsible for the management of all grants received by the Health Department, totaling almost \$240,000. The Deputy Director has written and submitted 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:

- Access Health CT (\$12,000)
- Asthma Initiatives (\$13,561)
- Citizen Corps CERT Simple D (\$1,327.52)
- Lead Poisoning & Prevention (\$6,409)
- CT DPH Medical Reserve Corps Grant (\$5,000)
- Local Public Health Preparedness Planning (\$89,041)
- National Association of City & County Health Officials Medical Reserve Corps Grant (\$4,000)
- Parent Leadership Training Institute (\$34,067)
- Per Capita Grant (\$60,403.02)
- Preventive Health/Healthy Homes Initiative (\$8,898)

Community Health Programs & Projects. This year, the Deputy Director of Health implemented the following health initiatives.

- *Access Health Connecticut Grant.* The Milford Health Department obtained a grant in the amount of \$12,000 through the CT Office of the Healthcare Advocate and Access Health CT to assist Milford residents in understanding their health insurance options and enrolling in the health insurance program or plan that best meets their needs. Under the Affordable Care Act, residents who otherwise might be unable to afford health coverage may qualify for additional assistance in paying their health premiums or their deductibles and co-payments. The enrollment period began on October 1st and concluded on March 31, 2014. Milford's Assister, hired through this grant, was responsible for enrolling uninsured and/or underinsured residents into the CT Health Insurance Exchange system.

The Health Department conducted outreach with approximately 25 faith-based organizations (i.e. churches, synagogue, etc.) in Milford. Many of these organizations placed announcements in their bulletins regarding assistance being available through the Health Department. Additionally, the Health Department partnered with the First Baptist Church of Milford to conduct an enrollment day for their church on-site. Health Department staff also conducted outreach through the Milford Public Schools and the City of Milford to encourage individuals and families who are uninsured to sign up.

The Health Department conducted weekly enrollment sessions at the library, the Health Department, and Milford Hospital.

Despite unexpected changes in program staffing after the start of the contract, the Milford Health Department enrolled 62 individuals into health insurance. Additionally, the Health Department conducted outreach to over 8,000 individuals and/or families within the city of Milford.

- *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.

The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 109 total referrals for this contract year, with approximately 50% of referrals accepting home visits. Local pediatric providers have increased their referrals into the program, with 82% of all referrals coming from the pediatric provider or on hospital/emergency department discharge. Additionally, school nurses have continued to refer students into the program. Program staff continues to meet and discuss funding for asthma in the upcoming year with DPH. The Putting on AIRS program in our region has had much success and may be used to pilot future program enhancements specific to home-based asthma interventions and decreasing Emergency Department utilization and hospital admissions.

Our program has been contacted by a group of undergraduate public health students from Yale University, as their group would like to research the effectiveness of Putting on AIRS as an intervention for patients who report multiple emergency department visits and/or hospital admissions due to uncontrolled asthma. The group is hopeful that the results of their research may be used as a tool to obtain additional funding to support the program, perhaps through the Yale New Haven Health system.

As the lead health department in Asthma Region 6, the Milford Health Department chairs the Region 6 Greater New Haven Area Asthma Coalition. This coalition has been invited to take part in the development of strategies to address Greater New Haven Community Health Improvement plan (CHIP), specific to Focus Area #4—Asthma. This effort is being led by Yale New Haven Hospital and the

Partnership for a Healthier New Haven in an effort to address the needs of residents in Yale New Haven Hospital's catchment area.

- *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 16 assessments, five (5) with no code violations, and eight (8) reassessments.
- *Parent Trust Fund Grant.* The Milford Health Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$34,067 to implement the 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 10-week course on parent leadership, a 10-week course on civic engagement, and a community project to practice what participants have learned within a community context. PLTI kicked-off with 21 participants who attended a one-day retreat on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at the First United Church, Congregational in Milford. Several guests of honor welcomed the class at the retreat including Mayor Blake, Representative James Maroney, Representative Paul Davis, Dr. McBride, Dr. Feser, and others. Fourteen (14) individuals graduated from the program on Monday, June 9, 2014 at City Hall. Several honored guests spoke at the local graduation ceremony including Dr. McBride, Mayor Blake, Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Feser, along with our State Representatives—Representative Davis, Representative Maroney, Representative Rose.

The funding announcement for the 2014-2015 grant cycle has been released by the State Education Resource Center (SERC). The Milford Health Department submitted an application and award announcements will be made in August 2014.

- *Compulsive Hoarding & Troubled Housing Conference.* The Milford Health Department, along with the West Haven Health Department, Greenwich Department of Social Services, and Bridges...A Community Support System, Inc., conducted a conference entitled “Cutting through the Clutter: Understanding Hoarding & Its Impact on Public Health and Housing”. The conference was held on November 19, 2013 at Fairfield University. The focus of the conference was on collaborative strategies to address hoarding from enforcement, probate, and treatment perspectives. The featured speaker for the conference was Dr. David Tolin, who has authored several publications and appeared on several television shows to speak on this topic. Judith Dicine, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney for Housing Matters, and Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas, Milford-Orange Judge of Probate, participated on a panel focused on collaborative strategies to address hoarding. The conference was well attended, with approximately 175 participants.
- *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, seasonal influenza, emergency preparedness, asthma, global warming, and physical activity.

**Community Health Services
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014**

Table 1. Top Ten Reportable Communicable Diseases

Disease	%
Influenza	52%
Chlamydia	14%
Hepatitis C	7%
Babesiosis	3%
Campylobacteriosis	3%
Other-Not Clearly reported	2%
Salmonellosis	2%
Ehrlichiosis	2%
Gonorrhea	2%
Staphylococcus aureus disease, invasive methicillin-resistant	2%

Table 2. Foodborne Illness Reports

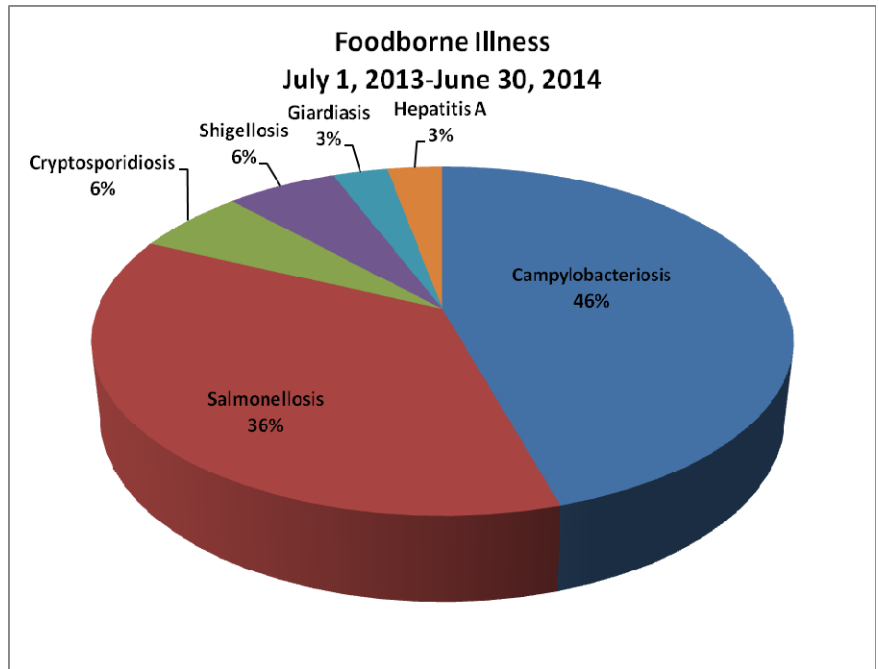
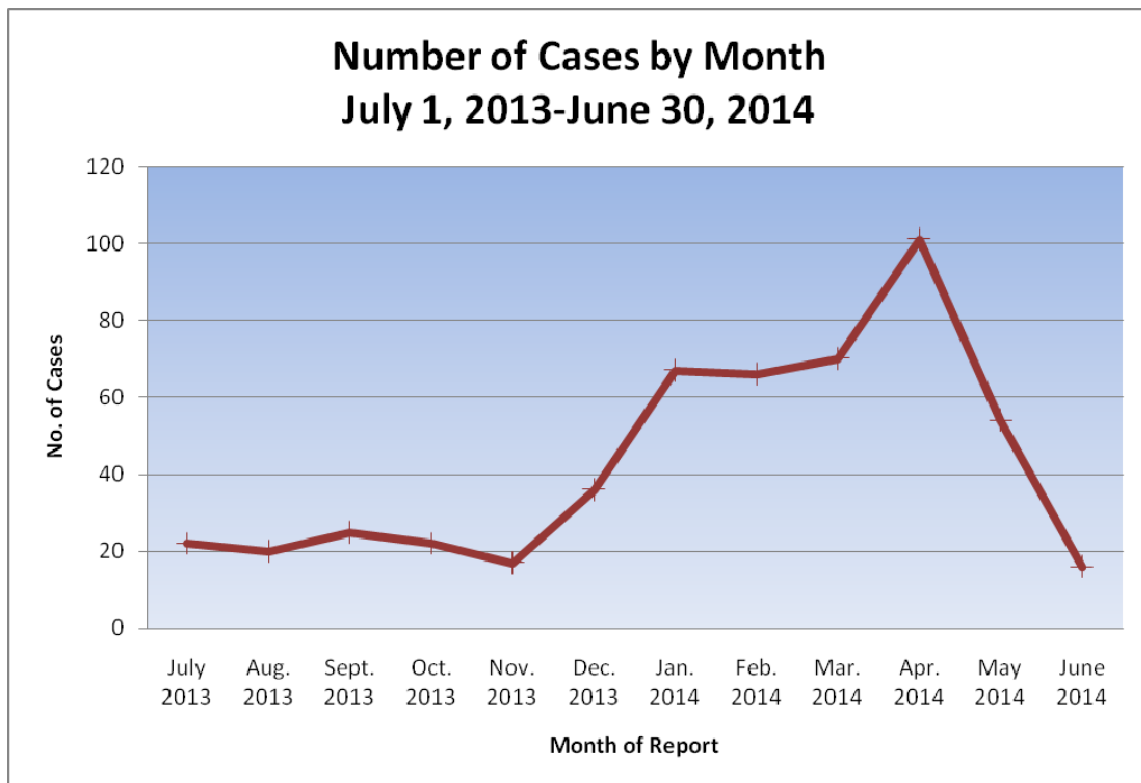


Table 3. Number of Reportable Diseases by Month



Emergency Preparedness

Grants. The Milford Health Department continues to manage preparedness-focused grants: a locally based grant from the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to continue our efforts in planning for the Strategic National Stockpile/Cities Readiness Initiative and support local public health and pandemic influenza planning; and two grants from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) to enrich the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Milford's volunteer group. Milford was recently awarded grant money to train two new Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Milford currently has CERT trained individuals in our volunteer corps.

Training/Events/Exercises. Milford Health Department Registered Sanitarians continue to be responsible for the planning, operations and logistics of health department emergency management with the Chief Sanitarian as the lead for logistics for all natural and public health disaster events. All ten (10) health department core staff members have training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS). Past natural disaster and public health incidents have allowed for the health department emergency management planner to adjust command and operational roles accordingly.

Health Department Registered Sanitarians continue to train for disaster preparedness. The Chief Sanitarian and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator/Registered Sanitarian attended training through the FDA on disaster food management (i.e. floods, power outages). This training will aid to better serve our food service establishment owners and help keep business open in the event of a disaster.

Health department emergency management planning continues with annual plan updates. The health department maintains the following emergency plans as part of the City's Local Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) under Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8: Public Health & Medical Services, ESF 6: Mass Care & Sheltering and ESF 11: Agriculture & Natural Resources:

❖ All-Hazards Public Health Emergency Response Plan (Annex G to City of Milford EOP)

Annexes:

- Environmental Emergency Response (including emergency evacuation shelter, extreme weather, flooding, etc)
- Mass Dispensing (Include POD activations (2)/1st Meds)
- Pandemic Influenza (Including Respiratory Protection, H1N1 Annex & site specific clinic activations)
- Risk Communication/Everbridge data management
- Milford Health Department Continuity of Operations (COOP)

Milford Health Department continues to participate in regional emergency preparedness through the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 2. In April 2014, staff and volunteers participated in a regional full scale exercise. The exercise focus was mass dispensing of medications at a Point of Dispensing (POD) located in Deep River, CT. Planning began in November 2013 with core Milford Health Department staff rotating to attend required monthly meetings for planning, development and execution of this exercise. Key findings for future planning included but are not limited to the need for additional staff/volunteers and additional security. Regional collaboration through exercise participation is crucial for consistency among local health departments. 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) & Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). 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 reaching out to local physicians and nurses, regional marketing events and attendance at local events such as wellness fairs and the Milford Oyster Festival. In addition to MRC and CERT volunteer meetings, volunteers attended CPR/AED recertification classes, assisted with staffing a flu clinic, assisted the Regional Water Authority in Hazardous Waste (HazWaste) Central, a hazardous materials collection day and provided presentations on emergency preparedness to several groups including the local middle & high

school classes at an after-school preparedness presentation, Milford Kiwanis and local Cub Scout Troop presentations. Milford Health Volunteer Coordinator is developing a curriculum to train the new CERT members. Emergency preparedness coordinators continue to update the Milford MRC website on the National MRC page and maintain communications with our federal liaison. Routine no-notification call-down drills are conducted on the state and federal level year round. Milford has positively responded to all call back drills conducted in fiscal year 2013-2014.