

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT TO MAYOR 2014-2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. The 2014-2015 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. Despite several staffing changes, including vacancies for several months, MHD staff met the challenges of this past year successfully. With the appointing of a new Director of Health and School/Community Medical Advisor, the MHD has had the opportunity to review the structure of the department and work to enhance and streamline the services provided in order to continue to protect the health & safety of the residents of Milford.

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. The Collaborative for Residential Integrity for the Disabled and Elderly (C.R.I.D.E.) continues to serve as an integral part of the Milford social service network and as a model program for other communities. The Environmental Health Division staff, including the Case Manager and Sanitarians, 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 living in troubled housing. Since Fall 2014, the Chief of the Environmental Health Division and the Health Department Case Manager have participated in the Connecticut Hoarding Working Group. This statewide working group meets regularly and represents 70 different municipalities in an effort to explore and document the best practices for local municipal agencies in responding to cases of hoarding. As part of this effort, Milford's Director of Health spoke to Milford's success in utilizing a multidisciplinary model (i.e. C.R.I.D.E.) on a panel during the 2015 statewide hoarding conference. Additionally, the Director of Health testified in support of a state bill that would create a governor's task force on hoarding during the 2015 legislative session.

This year the Director of Health and Director of Nursing, in conjunction with the City's MIS department, assisted with implementation of a ***new electronic health record system*** for all students in Milford. SNAP - School Nurse Assistant Program - is designed specifically for school nurses and provides a comprehensive clinical picture for each student. All Milford school nurses received specialized training in the use of this new software program in August 2014. Every Milford student now has an electronic health record detailing his/her immunization history, health concerns, allergies, medication orders and health office visits for the school year. Pertinent medical documentation is inputted by the nurses as needed in order to keep the electronic medical record up to date. Additionally, conversion to the new software system has alleviated the time and staff resources allocated to technical assistance, particularly in the summer, from the MIS Department.

The MHD continues to manage preparedness-focused grants to support ***local public health preparedness planning*** and to enrich the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Milford's volunteer group. MHD staff work continuously to plan for and adapt to new and emerging threats, specifically this past year policies and procedures with regard to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) were developed. The main focus for the Health Department includes communications with state and federal leaders, developing an appropriate response plan and working with local health and medical agencies who would be involved with response. Local collaboration was coordinated through an EVD Coordinating Committee. The committee was headed up by the Milford Health Director and Milford Hospital Medical Director. The committee represents the diverse partnerships needed in preparedness planning and exemplified Milford Health Department's ability to coordinate locally on an emerging threat. The Milford Director of Health continues to serve as CT Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 2 Emergency Support Function (ESF)-8 Chair. In that capacity, Milford will serve as the fiduciary for grant funding from the CT Department of Public Health to support regional public health emergency preparedness planning efforts specific to Ebola Virus Disease and other emergency infectious diseases within Region 2.

The MHD has continued to aggressively pursue ***grant funding*** garnering over \$250,000 in new or continued funding this fiscal year. Many of the grants obtained are programmatic in nature and allow the MHD to focus on chronic diseases, environmental health in residences, and parent leadership training. As a result of the MHD successfully meeting and/or exceeding contract expectations, the MHD has been able to obtain increases in funding relative to previous years. In the coming year, staff will continue to pursue funding in additional areas to further enhance our work within the community to protect the public's health. The Director of Health also aims to have a particular focus on grant funding to assist with national public health accreditation efforts for the MHD.

Environmental Health Division

The Milford Environmental Health Division works to preserve and promote the health of the public and the physical environment. The Environmental Health Division enforces 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; housing; blight; 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.

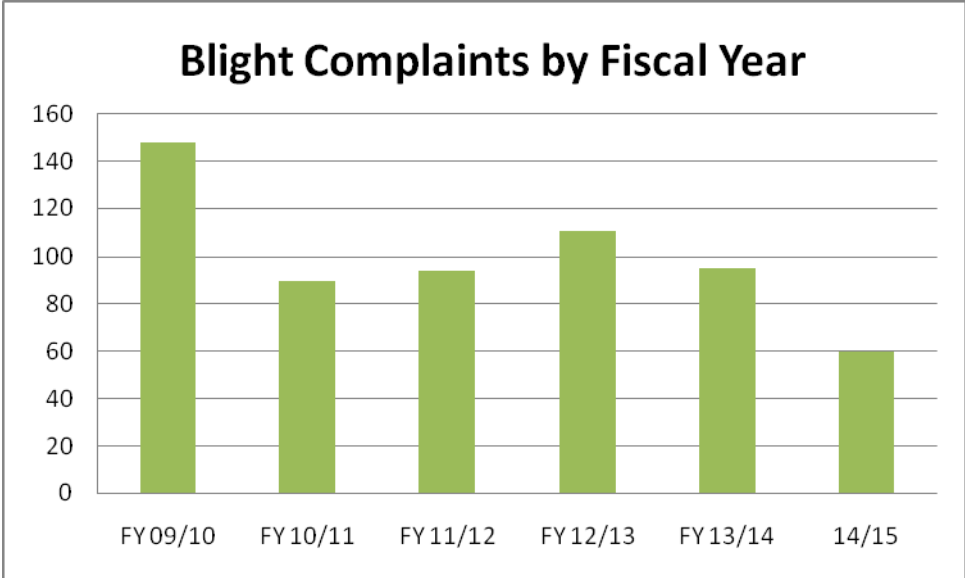
Hoarding & Troubled Housing. The Collaborative for Residential Integrity for the Disabled and Elderly (C.R.I.D.E.) continues to serve as an integral part of the Milford social service network and as a model program for other communities. The Environmental Health Division staff, including the Case Manager and Sanitarians, 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 living in troubled housing. Recently during the fall of 2014 the Chief of the Environmental Health Division and the Health Department Case Manager started participation in the Connecticut Hoarding Working Group. This statewide working group meets regularly and represents 70 different municipalities with the goal to explore and document the best practices for local municipal agencies in responding to cases of hoarding. During the 2015 legislative session, the Director of Health testified in support of a state bill that would create a governor's task force on hoarding. The Health Department will continue to participate in statewide efforts regarding this issue, as well as ensuring our local collaborative remains active.

Beach Monitoring Program. The Beach Monitoring Program continues to provide weekly beach water quality data from 23 sample sites along the Milford coastline. Environmental Health Division Sanitarians collected 212 water samples that were sent to the CT State laboratory and 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. Last summer, there were two instances in which certain sections of the Milford coastline had to be closed to swimming due to high bacteria levels; the closure lasted two days. The pollution that causes beach closures and illness in humans comes from many different places on land, but ultimately gets into the water through fast heavy rains over two inches and discharges from storm water drains.

Healthy Homes Program. Many factors influence health and safety in homes, including the structural and safety aspects of the home; quality of indoor air; water quality; chemicals; resident behavior; and the house's immediate surroundings. Such factors support or detract from the health of those who live there. The Milford Health Department has received funding through the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) to implement a Healthy Homes assessment program for a fourth year. Instead of taking a single issue approach to assessing health and safety hazards in the home, a Healthy Homes assessment uses a comprehensive approach by focusing on housing-related hazards in a coordinated fashion, looking at the dwelling as a whole system rather than addressing a single hazard at a time. The Milford Health Department is one of only two health departments in the state that is implementing the program. The Health Department completed 18 assessments during the 14/15 fiscal year and will continue to respond to resident inquiries about the health of their home environment and provide education and guidance to remedy potentially unhealthy living conditions.

Anti-Blight Enforcement. The City Anti-blight ordinance was established in 2009 "for the betterment of the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Citizens of Milford." Since September 2009 the health department has been charged with enforcement of the City's anti-blight ordinance. Over the last six years it has been the experience of this office that many conditions and situations can be remedied by an informal process that includes communication with the property owner or other responsible parties and development of an abatement plan, and continued monitoring. However, if responsible parties are not responsive or have abandoned their property, the Health Department will move forward with a legal enforcement process. This process is initiated by the issuance of a Notice of Violation (NOV) to all property owners as well as all lien holders listed on the City Clerk records. The NOV describes the violations and a time frame in which compliance must occur. 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. If the property owner does not comply with the NOV within the period of compliance and has not made any contact with this office, a blight lien is placed on the property record for the penalty fine of \$100 for each

day the violation continues to exist. After 6 months of fine accrual, the City Attorney's office will commence foreclosure action on the property. At the close of this fiscal year, fourteen (14) properties are currently undergoing enforcement action. The City has completed foreclosure on two (2) properties, commencing foreclosure on seven (7) and five (5) are in the penalty phase. The following bar graph illustrates the number of blight complaints MHD received over the last six years. Based on the numbers, the amount of blight in Milford has decreased. We experienced a spike in the number of complaints in fiscal year 12/13 that can be attributed to the damage left behind after Super Storm Sandy in September of 2012.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES	FY 14/15 TOTALS
Food Protection Program:	
Annual Licenses Issued	416
Routine Inspections	1090
Plan Review for new or remodeled establishments	53
Temporary Event Licenses Issued	338
Temporary Event Inspections	307
Legal Orders/Notice of Violation issued	35
Environmental Health Complaint Investigations:	326
Air Quality	22
Blight	60
Environmental Hazards	9
Day Care Centers	1
Food-borne Illness	8
Food Protection	28
Housing	76
Lead	2
Public Health Nuisance/General	74
Salons (Hair, tattoo, nail, massage)	1
Sewage	11
Vectors (Mosquitoes, bed bugs, rabies, vermin, etc.)	34
Legal Orders/Notice of Violation issued	37
Land Use:	
Planning & Zoning project reviews	5
Subsurface sewage disposal (soil testing/ new and repair permits)	7
Building addition reviews/approvals for homes served by septic systems	7
Building additions/pool reviews for homes served by sanitary sewers	8
Septic system abandonment inspections	36
Beach Monitoring:	
Samples collected	212
Complaint investigations/Sanitary survey	15
Public Swimming Pool Operation and Inspection:	
Inspections	35
Plan reviews	2
Lodging (Hotels/Motels):	
Annual permits issued	20
Routine Inspections	20
Complaint investigations	7
Schools & Daycare Centers:	
Daycare Center Inspections	24
Private School Inspections	3
In home Environmental Assessments:	
Lead poisoning prevention inspections	3
Healthy Homes Assessment	18
Putting on Airs asthma visits	4
Collaborative for Residential Integrity for the Disabled and Elderly. (C.R.I.D.E.)	
New troubled housing cases	11
On-going cases	9
Closed cases	5
Other Activities:	
Tick specimen delivery to CT Agricultural Experiment Station and resident follow-up	75
Public Education Presentations	5
Assistance to Fire, Police & State Agencies	21
Freedom of Information Requests (property & establishment record reviews)	210

Public Health Nursing & School Health Services

Immunization Clinics. The Milford Health Department continues to provide monthly Immunization Clinics for the residents of Milford. The immunization clinics at the Milford Health Department are typically held on the second Tuesday of the month from 2:30 – 4:30 pm. Routine immunizations to prevent communicable disease are available for both children and adults. The Milford Health Department utilizes the Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System (CIRTS) to review the previous vaccination data on children as a method ensure that each child is getting the required and necessary vaccinations. Immunizations given at the Milford Health Department are then entered in the CIRTS database which will allow other medical providers to see the most up to date information on the vaccination status of their clients.

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 91 doses of Tdap this year.

Over 115 children received at least one vaccination (excluding influenza and TB testing) at the Milford Health Department this year, and 35 adults also received immunizations (excluding influenza, TB testing and Cocoon Program). We saw an increase in prophylactic rabies vaccination this year as local veterinary providers referred their new employees to the Milford Health Department for this vaccine.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program. The seasonal influenza vaccine program was a successful implemented, with 1187 doses of the influenza vaccine administered to residents and employees in Milford. The Milford Health Department offered a variety of settings for residents and employees of the city to receive their annual influenza vaccination. Clinics were held at the Milford Senior Center, the City of Milford Health & Wellness Fair, the Milford Fire Department, the Milford Police Department, Parson’s Building, as well as a general public clinic at the Health Department. All clinics were held during the month of October.

The Health Department continues to provide 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 community clinics. The Health Department administered 393 doses of high dose flu vaccine this season. Regular flu vaccinations were also administered to approximately 220 City employees and approximately 325 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. Fortunately, ILI trends this fiscal year were not consistently appreciative of demonstrating the kind of influenza activity reported statewide and nationally. Due to the invaluable information that the ILI monitoring provides, we will continue this surveillance activity in the year ahead.

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 33 patients were seen for any of the above mentioned services.

School Health Services-Public Health Nursing. The Milford Public Health Nurses continued to provide school nursing services in all of our public and private schools for approximately 7,500 students in grades Pre-K through grade 12 and post graduate programs. Dr. Andrew Carlson became the new school/community medical advisor in January 2015.

This year, the Milford school nurses implemented a new electronic health record for all students in Milford. SNAP - School Nurse Assistant Program - is designed specifically for school nurses and provides a comprehensive clinical picture for each student. All Milford school nurses received specialized training in the use of this new software

program in August 2014. Every Milford student now has an electronic health record detailing his/her immunization history, health concerns, allergies, medication orders and health office visits for the school year. Pertinent medical documentation is inputted by the nurses as needed in order to keep the electronic medical record up to date.

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 90% of the time within 30 minutes of visiting the Health Office, being assessed and treated by the school nurse. The school nurses had approximately 50,000 health office visits by the students in Milford this year for illness, injury or other health management issues.

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. During the course of this past year, the Milford school nurses administered a medication, procedure or treatment to over 16,000 students.

School Health Services – Oral Health Program. Over 1,350 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 Director of Nursing 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, 125 were referred to a local dentist or dental clinic for follow-up care and treatment.

Bloodborne Pathogen Training. 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, 2014-June 30, 2015**

	Current Year	Previous Year
July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015		
	7/2014-6/2015	7/2013-6/2014
Dental Hygienists (2)		
Permission Slips sent out	2905	3459
#Oral Screenings Kindergarten	167	258
#Oral exams, cleanings	1192	1372
#Students receiving sealants	418	467
#Sealants applied	1336	1341
#Students w/primary decay	91	123
#Students w/permanent decay	21	30
#Students w/ fistulas	8	9
#Referrals made	125	171
Dental Education in Class	96	88
Immunizations Clinics	41	43
DTaP	8	11
Hepatitis A	12	22
Hepatitis B	25	14
HIB	2	2
HPV	2	3
Influenza (IMMUNIZATION)	1187	1231
Mantoux (PPD) Tuberculin Test	221	264
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	14	18
Meningococcal	14	26
Pneumonia Vaccine	3	2
Polio (IPV)	15	17
Rabies	9	0
TD	5	3
Tdap	18	27
Tdap (Cocoon Program)	91	101
Varicella Vaccine	26	39
Visiting Nurse Association		
Well Child Clinic	12	12
Patients	33	49
Physicals Completed	33	48
Immunizations	22	28

Community Health Division

Disease Surveillance. From July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, there were 595 cases of disease reported to the Milford Health Department, which represented a 15% 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 2014-2015 year (see Table 1), along with the number of cases reported by month (see Table 3) with January 2015 having the highest number of cases reported for the year.

In order to prevent the spread of tuberculosis within Milford, the former 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. This fiscal year the MHD coordinated and monitored tuberculosis care for two cases of active tuberculosis. Both cases involved complex situations and required extensive coordination with hospitals, infectious disease physicians, family members, and the CT Department of Public Health. In addition, the MHD conducted and assisted with an extensive investigation of community contacts. The MHD continues to work closely with patients, the CT Department of Public Health, and providers to ensure positive outcomes through consistent medical care and education regarding the importance of treatment adherence.

Increased monitoring of food borne illnesses and follow up investigation/education continues to be a core function of the Health Department. There were 26 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. The MHD was involved in an extensive foodborne illness outbreak investigation this year that involved multiple food service establishments. The investigation includes epidemiological surveys, collection of stool specimens, coordination with the CT Department of Public Health, as well as neighboring local health departments. For all cases of food borne illness involving a food establishment worker, day care attendee, and/or health care worker, the Deputy Director of Health 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 former 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 over \$250,000. 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:

- Asthma Initiatives (\$51,795)
- CT Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Grants (\$1,600)
- Lead Poisoning & Prevention (\$5,251)
- CT DPH Medical Reserve Corps Grant (\$3,000)
- Local Public Health Preparedness Planning (\$89,041)
- National Association of City & County Health Officials Medical Reserve Corps Grant (\$3,500)
- Parent Leadership Training Institute (\$26,685)
- Per Capita Grant (\$60,755.84)
- Preventive Health/Healthy Homes Initiative (\$8,868)

Community Health Programs & Projects. This year, the Deputy Director of Health 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. The Putting on AIRS asthma program received 91 total referrals for this contract year, with 52 home visits completed. The majority of referrals are received on hospital/emergency department discharge for asthma-related events. 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 is currently being used to pilot future program enhancements specific to home-based asthma interventions and decreasing Emergency Department utilization and hospital admissions.

The Milford Health Department serves as the Chair of the Greater New Haven Area Asthma Coalition and remains active in several partnerships throughout the greater New Haven area. These partnerships afford the opportunity to provide clients with additional resources and benefits that maximize positive health impacts while minimizing financial impact to the department. One of the most notable partnerships that have been forged is with the Yale New Haven Hospital's Resident Education in Advocacy and Community Health (REACH) Program. This program is designed to provide the pediatric chief resident with opportunities to understand and experience how community circumstances influence the health and well-being of children in the greater New Haven area. During their rotation with Putting on AIRS, residents typically join staff on a home visit. Although there are no direct services provided, the physicians are provided a firsthand look at what is covered during the home visit. In turn, the resident is able to better describe the program to their patients, fostering trust between a family and their medical provider, which then translates into more referrals accepting the program's services.

- *Parent Trust Fund Grant.* The Milford Health Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$26,685 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 15 participants who attended a one day retreat on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the First United Church of Christ, Congregational in Milford. Several guests of honor welcomed the class at the retreat including Mayor Blake, Representative Pam Staneski, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Elizabeth Feser, and Health Director Deepa Joseph. Thirteen (13) individuals graduated from the program on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at City Hall. Several honored guests spoke at the local graduation ceremony including Mayor Blake, Deepa Joseph, and Mary Kate Lowndes from the Connecticut Commission on Children. The funding announcement for the 2015-2015 grant cycle has been released by the State Education Resource Center (SERC). The Milford Health Department will submit an application in the hopes of beginning recruitment for our 7th PLTI class.
- *Have a Heart—Give Smart.* Mayor Blake convened a task force in August 2014 to address the concerns regarding panhandling in Milford. The Mayor appointed Deepa Joseph and Lesley Darling of the Health Department to chair the task force. The task force was comprised of representatives from municipal agencies, businesses, and nonprofit organizations in Milford that are impacted by or provide services for this population. After much research, the task force recommended the launch of an awareness campaign called "Have a Heart, Give Smart," an effort to address what it found are often the root causes of panhandling. The focus of the campaign is to educate and encourage members of the public to find alternative ways of giving by making donations to local human service agencies that provide help for those in need, rather than giving money directly to panhandlers. The Have a Heart, Give Smart campaign launched in early November 2014 with the release of a billboard in downtown Milford near Daniel Street encouraging residents and visitors to say "No" to panhandling and "Yes" to giving. Additionally, the task force provided educational materials throughout the community regarding panhandling and the importance of giving to local agencies that can provide lasting assistance to individuals in need. Finally, as part of the campaign, staff members from the Beth El Shelter in Milford conducted outreach and provided information to panhandlers in Milford regarding local services available to assist them. Feedback regarding the campaign has been positive, with some of the panhandlers seeking social support services as a result of the campaign. Research is currently being done to explore the potential of putting up another billboard and distributing more material throughout the summer and fall months.

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

Table 1. Top Ten Reportable Communicable Diseases

Disease	Total	%
Influenza	308	52%
Chlamydia	103	17%
Lyme Disease	45	8%
Hepatitis C	34	6%
Campylobacteriosis	17	3%
Other	16	3%
Gonorrhea	8	1%
Syphilis	8	1%
Babesiosis	7	1%
Group B Streptococcal disease, invasive	7	1%

Table 2. Foodborne Illness Reports

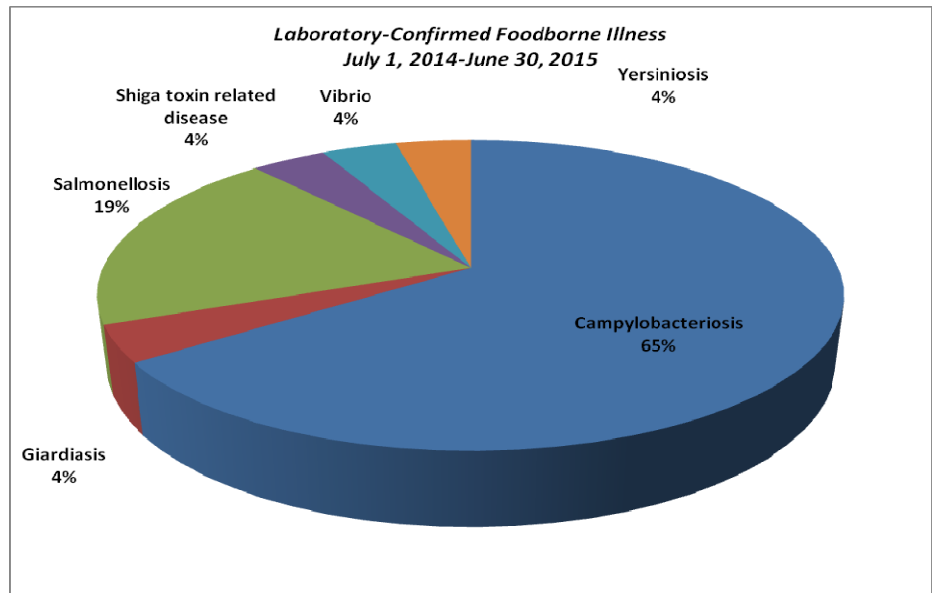
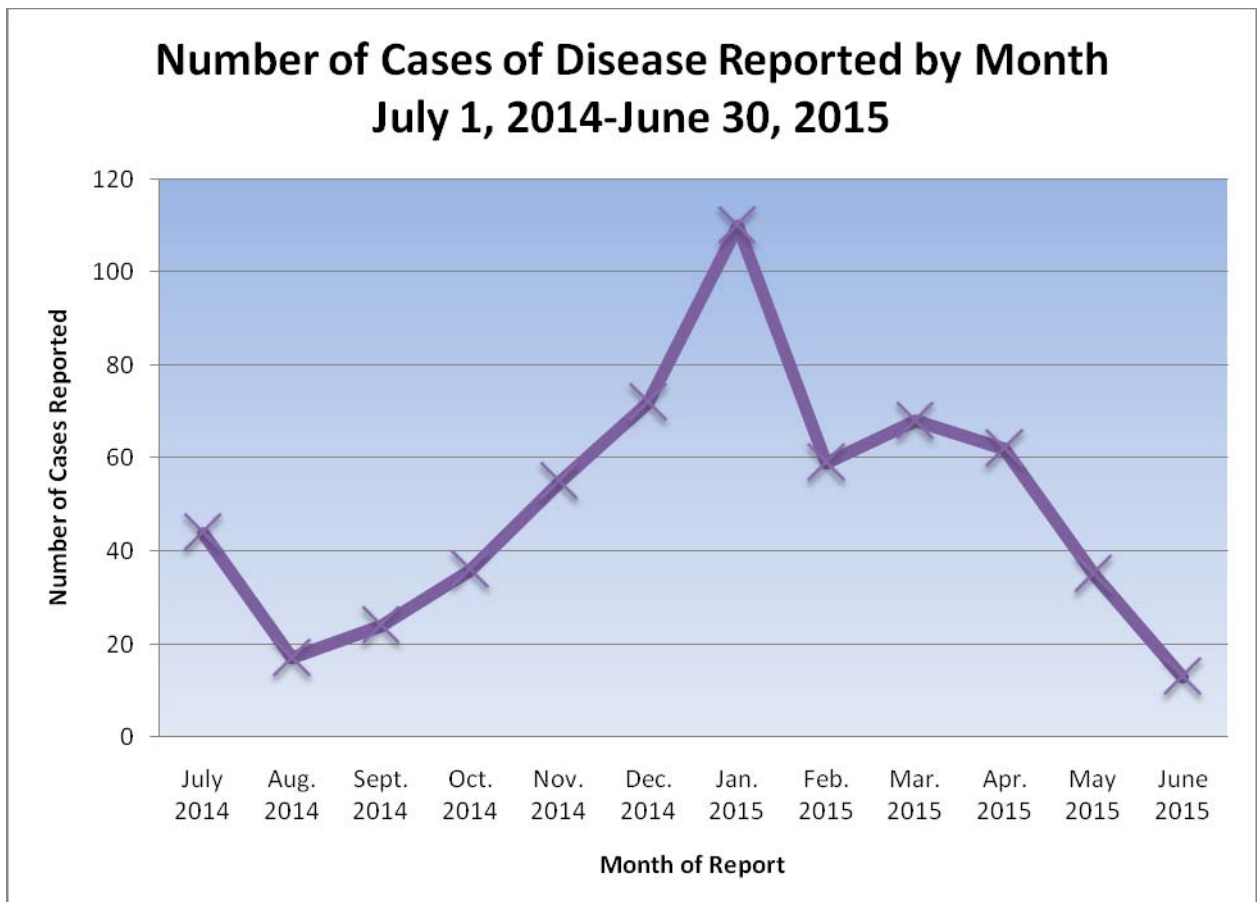


Table 3. Number of Reportable Diseases by Month



Emergency Preparedness

Grants. The Milford Health Department continues to manage preparedness-focused grants: a grant from the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to sustain preparedness initiatives, continue our efforts in planning on a regional level and support local public health operations; and grants from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) to enhance the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Milford's volunteer group. Additionally, this past fiscal year Milford trained two new Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). A reimbursement grant is used to fund CERT training programs through the CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS).

Training/Events/Planning. Milford Health Department staff work continuously to plan for and adapt to new and emerging threats, specifically this past year policies and procedures with regard to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) were developed. The main focus for the Health Department includes communications with state and federal leaders, developing an appropriate response plan and working with local health and medical agencies who would be involved with response. Local collaboration was coordinated through an EVD Coordinating Committee. The committee was headed up by the Milford Health Director and Milford Hospital Medical Director. The committee represents the diverse partnerships needed in preparedness planning and exemplified Milford Health Department's ability to coordinate locally on an emerging threat.

All health department core staff has training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS). Past natural disasters and public health incidents have allowed for the health department emergency planner to adjust command and operational roles accordingly. Health Department registered sanitarians continue to be responsible for logistics of health department emergency management with the Chief Sanitarian as the lead for logistics for all natural and public health disaster events. School registered nurses continue to be operational staff with the Director of Nursing as operations Chief. Emergency Operations Plans are maintained and reviewed at least annually as these documents are constantly evolving. The health department maintains the *All-Hazards Public Health Emergency Response Plan* 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 emergency plans are evaluated annual by the local emergency preparedness coordinator and Director of Health. Additionally the CT Department of Public Health conducts a review of local health plans regarding mass distribution events. The Medical Countermeasure Operational Readiness Review (MCM ORR) is a tool created by the CDC. The state health department uses the MCM ORR as a "report card" for the health department's emergency operation plan. All public health emergency preparedness plans are subject to review for compliance and completeness to fulfill grant requirements each year. The reviews, beginning in 2008, evaluate local mass dispensing plans, determine strengths and gaps, and outline areas for improvement as they relate to Points of Dispensing (POD) set-up, security, resources, etc. In addition to local plan sustainability, regional partnerships continue to develop with an effort to solidify mutual aid among health jurisdictions and operationalize regional plans. Regional collaboration is achieved through exercise participation and coordinating committees. DEMHS Region 2, of which Milford Health is the lead, meets quarterly to address gaps in operational planning. These discussions are 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. The Milford Health Volunteer Coordinator organized the training of two new CERT groups, bringing Milford's volunteer base up to approximately 280 individuals. Milford continues to participate in call down drills conducted by both the state health department and the regional MRC office. Upcoming opportunities for volunteers may include Milford's participation in the Governor's Statewide Exercise to be held in October 2015, participation in a statewide dispensing drill and attending training events such as psychological first aid training, shelter operations training, CPR/AED training, etc. In years past, storms and natural disasters have severely impacted Milford residents. The Milford Health Department is consistently looking to keep volunteers engaged and promote in the community a level of personal preparedness.