



QUINNIPIACK VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT
2014-15



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**A HEALTH DEPARTMENT SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF BETHANY, HAMDEN, NORTH HAVEN AND WOODBRIDGE
1151 Hartford Turnpike, North Haven CT 06473**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



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ABOUT QVHD

MISSION

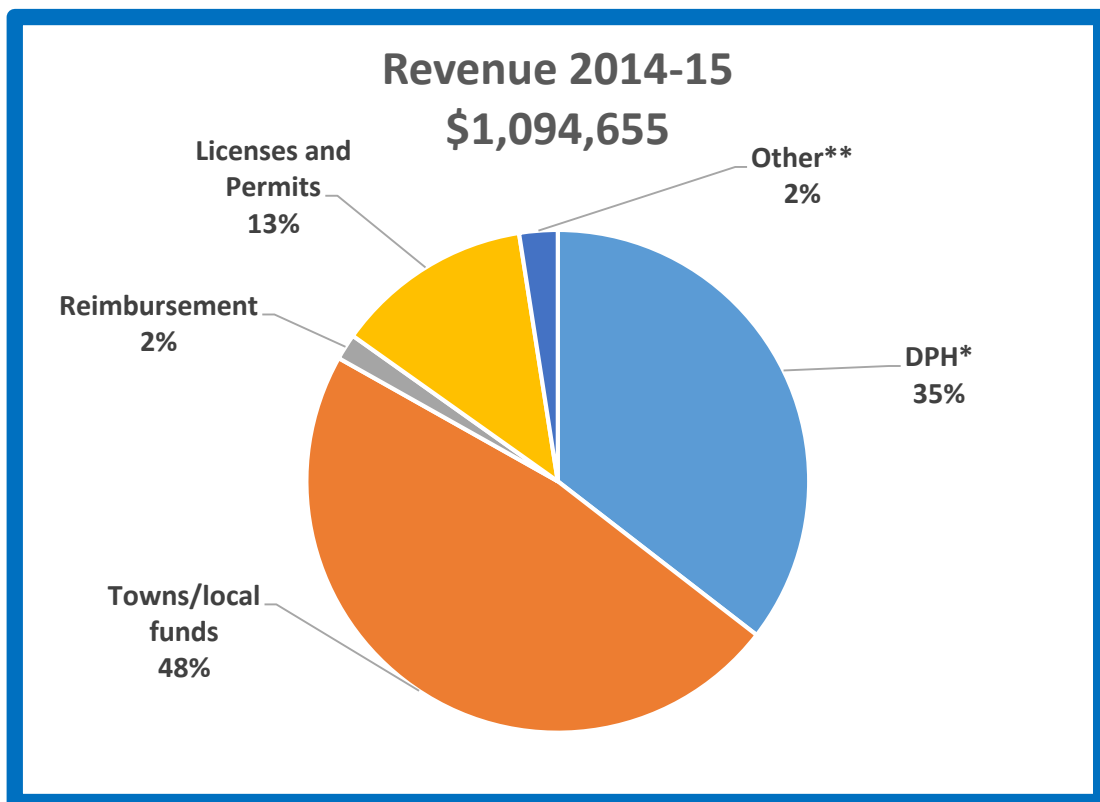
The mission of Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) is to protect the residents of Bethany, Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge, Connecticut from disease, injury and environmental hazards through prevention, education, enforcement and collaboration.

QVHD accomplishes its mission through:

- Environmental health services that insure compliance with the state and local laws, regulations and ordinances.
- Systemic identification of community health concerns and risks.
- Preventive services for the early control and identification of disease.
- Provision of current, credible information to promote healthy behavior choices.
- Local and regional emergency preparedness for response to an unexpected environmental or biological event.
- Collaboration with local and government leaders in setting health priorities.

REVENUE FOR FY 2014-2015

The Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) is funded by Town and State contributions on a per capita basis, revenue from permit fees and services, grant awards, and miscellaneous income. The chart below represents revenue for the year ending June 30, 2015.



*DPH- all sources of CT Department of Public Health including per capita funds and DPH-funded grants.

**Other Revenue-includes grants from private foundations and other non-DPH grant sources



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2014-2015**

The Board of Directors, the managing body of QVHD, is composed of Town representatives appointed for a three year term. Each member-town has one representative for each ten thousand population or part thereof, up to a maximum of 5 representatives per town.

OFFICERS:

PresidentJoy Donaldson

Vice President.....Peter Marone

Secretary/Treasurer.....Leslie A. Balch

DIRECTORS

Carol Goldberg	Bethany
Donald Cofrancesco	Hamden
Joy Donaldson	Hamden
Levison, Ann	Hamden
Peter Marone	Hamden
Myra Rochow	Hamden¹
Gallo, Vincenzo	North Haven
Bessie Scott-Moore	North Haven
Robin Wilson	North Haven²
Louis DeNegre	Woodbridge

ALTERNATES

Andre Sofair	Bethany
Alicia Hanke	Hamden³
Brian Weeks	Hamden⁴
Roy Ivins	Woodbridge

- 1 Resigned June 30, 2015**
- 2 Moved from alternate July 1, 2014**
- 3 Appointed October 2014**
- 4 Appointed March 2015**
- 5 Appointed March 2014**

MEMBERS OF THE STAFF
2013-2014

Director of Health.....Leslie A. Balch, MPH, MS-HEd, BSN

Deputy Director

Coordinator of Health Education.....V. Deborah Culligan, MPH

Chief Environmental Services..... Lynn Fox, RS

Sanitarians..... Alexis Rinaldi, RS

John Laudano, RS

Kristen Amodio, BS

Ryan Currier, RS

Secretary I.....Jane Silvestri

Secretary I..... Miokka Cummings

Mom's Clinic Social Worker.....Silvia Sandoval LCSW¹

Mom's Clinic Secretary.....Angelina Barnett, BA

1 Resigned May 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Environmental Health Section of this Health District is comprised of a Chief of Environmental Health Services and four sanitarians.

Table I provides data on the field work activity by specific type for FY 2014-15. Table II shows the permits, licenses and certificates issued during FY 2014-15.

In FY 2014-15, the QVHD Board of Directors voted to establish a food sanitation rating system for Class III and IV food service establishments, to commence on July 1, 2015. The rating is based on sanitary conditions found at the point in time of the inspection. It is not a judgement about the cuisine. Although all food establishments are inspected, only Class III and IV will be rated. These establishments serve a variety of foods that require more complex preparation. The rating for a facility will begin when their next routine inspection is due. The first ratings will be appearing over a period of time as each facility is inspected. A placard with the rating will be posted at the establishment where it can easily be viewed by consumers. The rating will also be posted on the QVHD website, www.qvhd.org in the very near future.

The rating system will consist of an A, B or C rating; An A indicates substantial compliance with all applicable food safety rules as established by the CT Department of Public Health Code; B indicates acceptable compliance; and establishments receiving a C need improvement. L. Balch, Director of Health, notes that if the findings on an inspection demonstrate that there is an immediate threat to the public's health, a closure of the facility will be ordered. She further stated, "I believe this will be an excellent way to inform the public that Class III and IV food establishments in the district are doing their part to comply with requirements that will provide customers with food that has been prepared in a safe and sanitary manner and that the health district staff conducts routine inspections to verify compliance, answer questions and provide guidance on sanitary procedures. Working together, we can continue to improve the conditions for health."



TABLE I: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES 07/01/14-06/30/15

	BETHANY	HAMDEN	NORTH HAVEN	WOODBRIIDGE	TOTAL
SEWAGE DISPOSAL	111	65	56	98	330
WATER SUPPLY	8	0	0	3	11
FOOD SERVICE	34	592	301	50	977
INSPECTIONS (day cares, schools, motels, public pools, additions, student housing and Healthy Homes)	22	94	36	24	176
COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS	6	341	77	14	438
COSMETOLOGY	3	121	47	13	184
LEAD	2	27	3	0	32
PLANNING AND ZONING REPORTS	8	7	8	0	23
LEGAL ORDERS	1	66	8	2	77
ARREST WARRANTS	0	3	0	0	3
TOTAL ALL ACTIVITIES	195	1,316	536	204	2,251

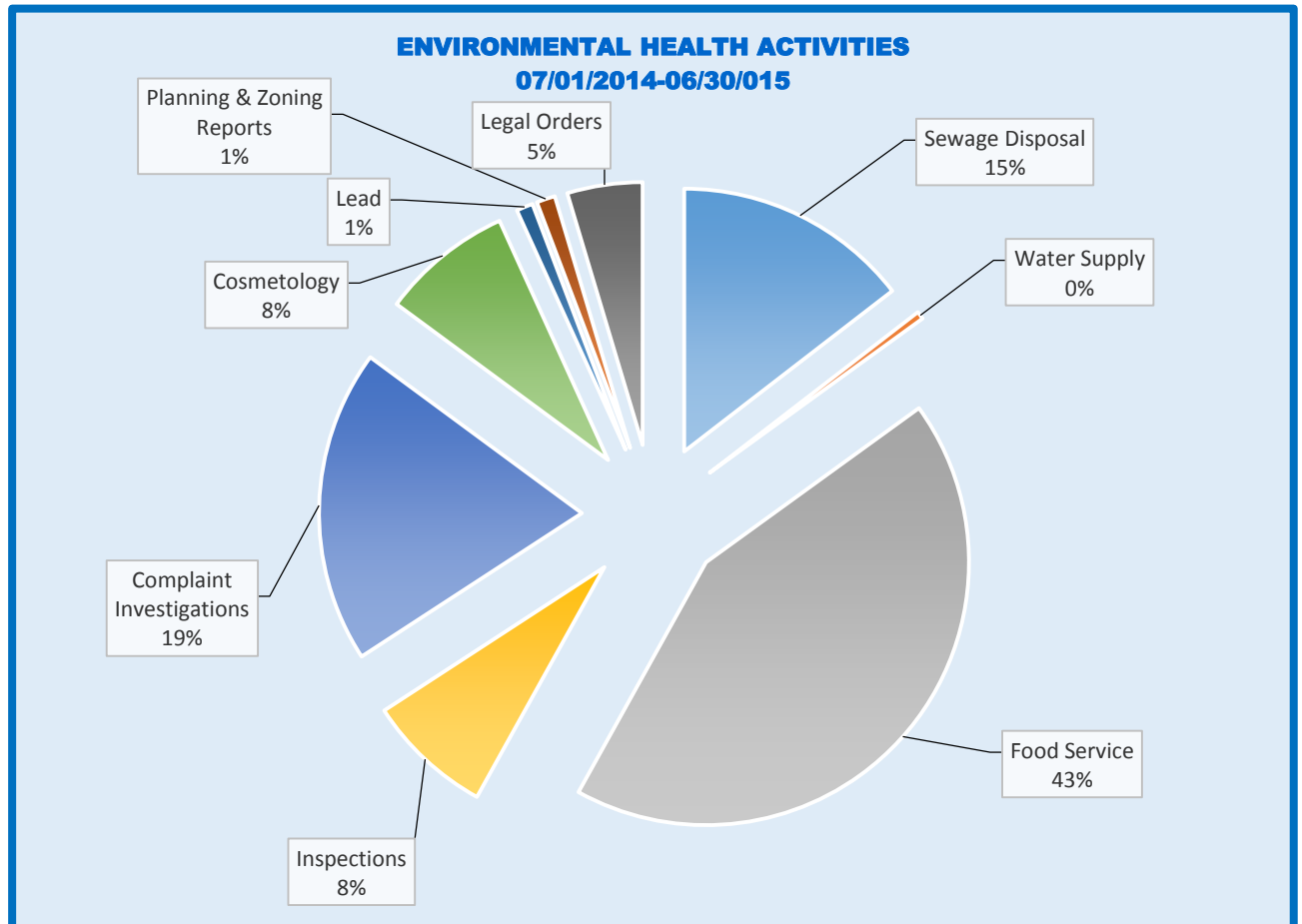
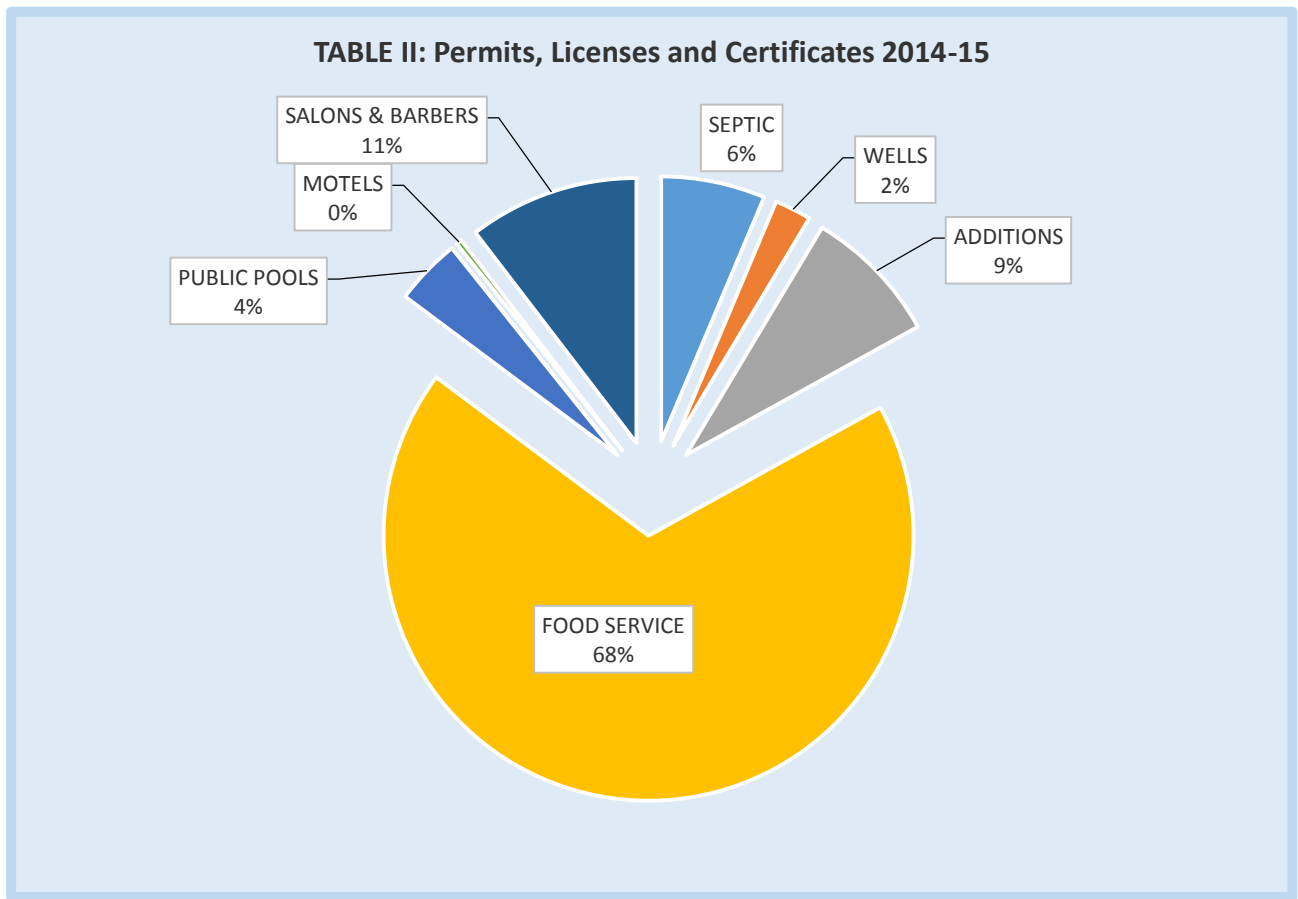


TABLE II: PERMITS, LICENSES and CERTIFICATES 07/01/14-06/30/15

	BETHANY	HAMDEN	NORTH HAVEN	WOODBRIIDGE	TOTAL
SEPTIC (new and repair)	21	19	15	36	91
WELLS	8	5	5	14	32
ADDITIONS	49	16	23	32	120
PUBLIC POOLS	0	34	15	9	58
FOOD SERVICE (includes temporary events)	66	439	404	69	978
HOTELS/MOTELS	0	3	2	0	5
SALONS/BARBERS	3	88	42	13	146
TOTAL	147	604	506	173	1,430



HEALTH EDUCATION and HEALTH PROMOTION

THE HEALTH DISTRICT SERVES AS A RESOURCE FOR HEALTHY LIFESTYLES INFORMATION AND AS A PROVIDER OF HEALTH PROMOTION.

PROGRAMS/SERVICES ARE BASED UPON FOUR MAJOR CONCEPTS:

- PROMOTE PREVENTION
- THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNICABLE AND CHRONIC DISEASE THROUGH RISK REDUCTION
- ACCESS BY DISTRICT RESIDENTS TO SCIENCE-BASED HEALTH INFORMATION
- HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Find out how Quinnipiac Valley Health District helps you

LIVE HEALTHY

You're invited to an Open House on Public Health and Your Community

When and Where:

QVHD
1151 Hartford Turnpike North Haven, CT 06473

Tuesday, July 22, 2014
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Refreshments and door prizes!



Prevent rabies, a deadly virus that threatens the health of people and their pets. It is transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal.

Stay away from wild and stray animals. Never feed them or bring them into your home.

If you find a bat in your home, calmly distance yourself and call your animal control officer by calling the police department or 911.

Don't feed your pets outside.

Love Your Own. Leave Others Alone.

Do not ignore an animal bite, scratch or saliva contact from a wild animal or an animal unknown to you, especially if it seems sick.

Vaccination against rabies for your cats and dogs is required by law.

Use gloves if examining your pet for wounds or transporting a severely injured pet to the vet. Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water after any contact, even if you have worn gloves. Discard the gloves after use.

If you are bitten by a wild or stray animal, immediately wash the area with soap and water and promptly seek medical attention.

PREVENT RABIES!

QVHD, Valley Health District 2014

PROMOTION PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION AND



COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION PROGRAMS

GOAL: To promote and preserve the health of district residents and to prevent disease and premature death.

SOCIAL MEDIA QVHD maintains a website (www.qvhd.org) with current health information for the community and links to reliable health information websites. New this year, QVHD has a Facebook page and is on Twitter

IMMUNIZATIONS

- Immunizations are given to high school students through QVHD's school based health center at Hamden High.
- QVHD staff monitors vaccine-preventable diseases for occurrence and vaccination needs, such as influenza. QVHD is prepared to initiate vaccine administration when indicated.

The Cocoon Strategy Initiative This program immunizes close contacts (parents, grandparents, siblings older than 18 years and caretakers) of infants less than one year old to prevent the development of the disease, pertussis. 29 adults contacts were immunized.

HEALTH INFORMATION

- **Electronic distribution of Qvhd-Tips, a Family Health Letter**, focusing on a variety of current health and safety issues.
- **An Ounce of Prevention:** Health columns on various topics developed for local, weekly newspapers. Follow-up materials are distributed upon request. (48 columns produced.)
- **Presentations** are made for community groups upon request. Example: Bloodborne pathogen updates
- **Distribution of printed material**
 - Various source materials reviewed and prepared for distribution within District.
 - Development of flyers, brochure, fact sheets and guidance materials on pertinent topics.
 - Information provided in response to specific concerns and questions on a wide variety of health behavior, prevention and environmental topics in response to telephone inquiries and at community presentations.

HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMS

- **Radon Kit Distribution:** Free radon test kits were distributed to District residents.
- **Healthy Homes Assessment:** Free home environmental assessments were offered to District residents and referrals facilitated to the "Putting on Airs" Asthma Assessment program.
- **Farmer's Market participation:** QVHD attended several markets in district towns focusing on increasing fruit and vegetable consumption
- **Rabies Prevention** A mass campaign throughout the district due to the large number of rabid animals this year.

PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY EVENTS and ON COMMITTEES/WORK GROUPS

QVHD staff participates in various community events, such as Earth Day, health fairs, workshops and seminars in order to promote healthy actions. Examples: Earth Day, Fall Prevention, Senior Health fairs, Let's Move into Wellness health fair.

QVHD staff participates with local, regional and statewide committees and organizations to promote health. Examples include: Regional Asthma Coalition, Hamden Partners for Young Children, Hamden Youth Services Advisory Committee.

COMMUNITY HEALTH STATUS

QVHD monitors data and information on chronic diseases, such as heart and lung disease, cancer and diabetes, for prevalence and geographical trends. Current developments and/or initiatives are noted and shared via communications with the public, town governments and medical practitioners.

QVHD staff track and analyze data for all CT reportable diseases. In addition, staff provides follow-up interventions and educate community members as indicated. These actions, known as reportable disease surveillance and intervention, are used for control of transmission, to minimize severity, to detect epidemics and for program planning. 855 diseases/outbreaks were monitored this year. 7 travelers to countries affected by Ebola were monitored by QVHD staff for 21 days.

ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE QVHD received a grant from the Community Health Foundation to develop advocates for oral health as part of overall health. 80 district residents signed on as oral health advocates.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

QVHD staff continues to refine and implement plans for an emergency response. Community and partner education and preparedness activities were conducted over the course of the year. QVHD staff participated in exercises and drills in order to be better prepared for an emergency event. A Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) met one time and is kept informed by electronic communication.

MOM'S CLINIC, A SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTER AT HAMDEN HIGH

Mom's Clinic is a licensed outpatient clinic located in Hamden High School. Confidential medical and behavioral health services are provided to enrolled students. During school year 2014-15, 312 students were enrolled; 101 users of services made 563 visits. More information on Mom's Clinic is available upon request.

TABLE III: REPORTABLE DISEASE SUMMARY JULY 1, 2014-JUNE 30, 2015

DISEASE NAME	2013-14 TOTALS	2014-15 TOTALS	2014-15 BY TOWN			
			BETHANY	HAMDEN	NO. HAVEN	WOOD- BRIDGE
E. Coli	0	1	0	1	0	0
Giardiasis	6	5	0	1	3	1
Salmonellosis	17	23	1	15	4	3
Campylobacter	21	23	2	13	5	3
Shigellosis/Cryptosporidiosis	6/0	1/1	0/0	0/1	0/0	1/0
Cyclorospidiosis	0	1	0	0	1	0
Listeriosis/Yersinosis	3/1	2/0	0/0	1/0	1/0	0/0
Norovirus/Rotavirus	0/5	0/1	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0
Hepatitis						
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B	17	19	0	14	2	3
Hepatitis C	95	116	2	87	24	3
Gonorrhea/Syphilis/Chlamydia						
Gonorrhea	45	37	0	33	1	3
Syphilis	39	29	0	24	4	1
Chlamydia	292	268	7	218	39	4
HIV ¹ (new cases 2013/total since 1981/# living with HIV)	7/328/198	4/335/200	0/12/3	4/271/170	0/35/21	0/17/6
Lead Poisoning/Rabies						
Lead Poisoning ²	1	2	0	2	0	0
Rabies ³	5	12	0	6	4	2
Lyme Disease ⁴ /Ehrlichiosis/Babesiosis	55/5/7	35/2/2	6/2/0	14/0/0	10/0/1	5/0/1
Tuberculosis ⁵	1	1	0	1	0	0
Enterococcal infection(VRE)	7	7	1	5	1	0
Invasive Strep A/Strep B	6/9	2/12	0/0	1/8	1/3	0/1
Legionellosis	1	1	0	1	0	0
Pneumococcal disease	9	8	2	3	3	0
Staph aureus(MRSA)	28	18	0	10	5	3
Influenza ⁶ , Parainfluenza	64/3	206/0	6	122	58	20
Haemophilus Influenzae (Hib)	4	0	0	0	0	0
Varicella/ Pertussis/Meningitis/Mumps	4/0/1/0	0/5/0/0	0/0/0/0	0/0/0/0	0/5/0/0	0/0/0/0
Dengue Fever/Q Fever	2/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Measles	2	0	0	0	0	0
CO2 Poisoning/Mercury Poisoning	4/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
West Nile	1	0	0	0	0	0
Enterobacter Cloacae Complex ⁷	4	4	0	1	1	2
Malaria	0	1	0	1	0	0
Outbreaks ⁸	6	7	0	4	0	3
TOTALS	787	856	29	592	176	59

COMMENTS:

- (1) The most current data for HIV is for 2013. Numbers reflect new cases 2013; total cases since 1981; persons living with HIV.
- (2) This data reflects child cases only who were poisoned. 61 non-poisoned children were followed for lead elevations.
- (3) The twelve positive animals were: 4 raccoons and 2 bats in Hamden, 3 raccoons and 1 bat in North Haven and 2 bats in Woodbridge. Overall, there were 30 consults with people who had a potential exposure. .
- (4) Lyme Disease is reportable only by physician and by labs with automated electronic reporting to DPH surveillance, therefore it may be underreported. Lab diagnosis is often difficult to interpret. The numbers reported above are positive by lab or MD report.
- (5) While there was only one case of active Tuberculosis, surveillance for this district included 3 Class A/B contact investigations.
- (6) These numbers reflect only those cases for which a positive or presumptive lab test was received and may underrepresent actual influenza in the community. These numbers were obtained from the CT DPH Maven system.
- (7) Sometimes referred to as CRE (carbapenem-resistant enterobacter.) Most often associated with a hospital stay.
- (8) Outbreaks tracked here refer to illness in two or more persons residing in nursing homes. They may be intestinal or respiratory in nature.

