



QUINNIPIACK VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16



BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Email: info@qhvd.org Web site: www.qhvd.org

Telephone: 203 248-4528 Fax: 203 248-6671

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

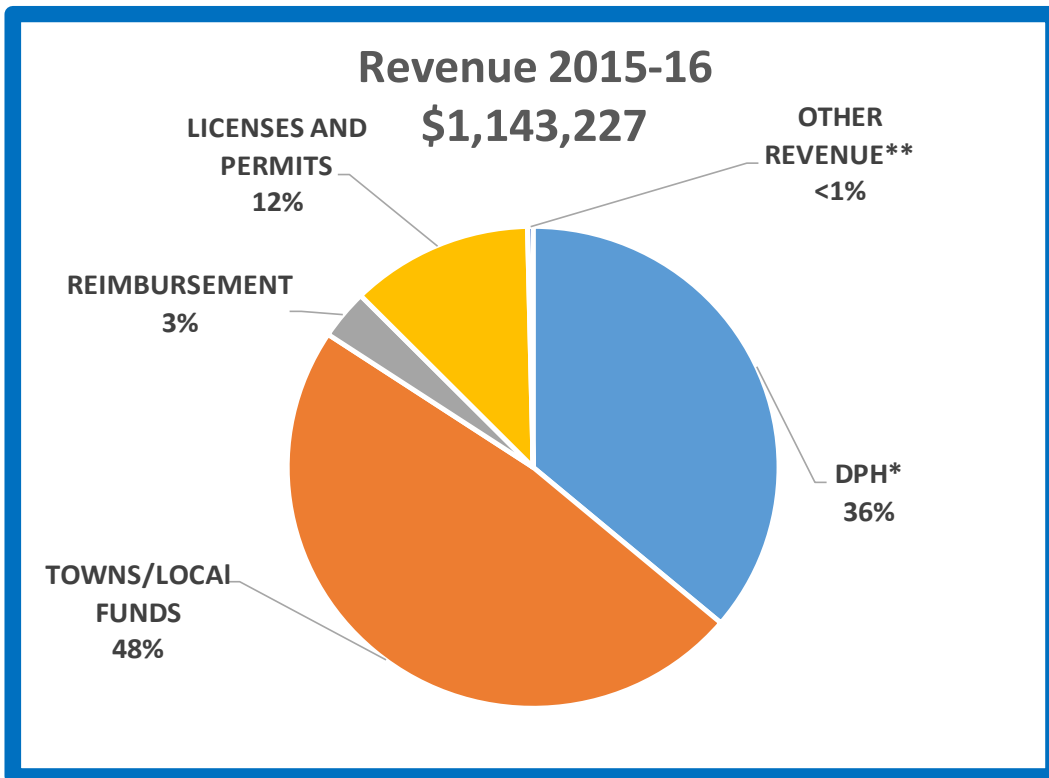
The mission of Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) is to protect the residents of Bethany, Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge, Connecticut from disease, injury and environmental hazards through prevention, education, enforcement and collaboration.

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 2015-2016

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, 2016.



*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
2015-2016**

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 |
| Ann Levison | Hamden |
| Peter Marone | Hamden |
| Alicia Hanke | Hamden¹ |
| Vincenzo Gallo | North Haven |
| Bessie Scott-Moore | North Haven |
| Robin Wilson | North Haven |
| Richard Martinello | Woodbridge² |

ALTERNATES

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Andre Sofair | Bethany |
| Brian Weeks | Hamden |
| Kyle Blake | Hamden³ |
| Jacquelyn O'Neill St. Peter | North Haven⁴ |
| Roy Ivins | Woodbridge |

1 Appointed July 2015

2 Appointed July 2015

3 Appointed January 2016

4 Appointed October 2015

**MEMBERS OF THE STAFF
2015-2016**

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, RS
Ryan Currier, RS**

Secretary I.....Jane Silvestri

Secretary I..... Miokka Cummings

Mom's Clinic Social Worker.....Eileen Robbins, LCSW¹

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

1 Hired August 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 2015-16. Table II shows the permits, licenses and certificates issued during FY 2015-16.

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 which commenced 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. As of June 30, 2016, all facilities in these classes have been rated. A placard with the rating should be posted at the establishment where it can easily be viewed by consumers. The ratings are also posted on the QVHD website, www.qvhd.org

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."

The rating system has been successful in increasing compliance with food safety rules. QVHD has received positive feedback from both consumers and facility operators.



TABLE I: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES 07/01/15-06/30/16

| | BETHANY | HAMDEN | NORTH HAVEN | WOODBIDGE | TOTAL |
|--|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| SEWAGE DISPOSAL | 96 | 30 | 66 | 108 | 300 |
| WATER SUPPLY | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| FOOD SERVICE | 31 | 518 | 280 | 87 | 916 |
| INSPECTIONS (day cares, schools, motels, public pools, additions, student housing and Healthy Homes) | 17 | 65 | 20 | 15 | 117 |
| COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS | 4 | 269 | 85 | 8 | 366 |
| COSMETOLOGY | 2 | 74 | 50 | 10 | 136 |
| LEAD | 0 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| PLANNING AND ZONING REPORTS | 4 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 17 |
| LEGAL ORDERS (Notice of Violation) | 2 | 82 | 21 | 0 | 105 |
| ARREST WARRANTS | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| TOTAL ALL ACTIVITIES | 159 | 1,055 | 529 | 229 | 1,972 |

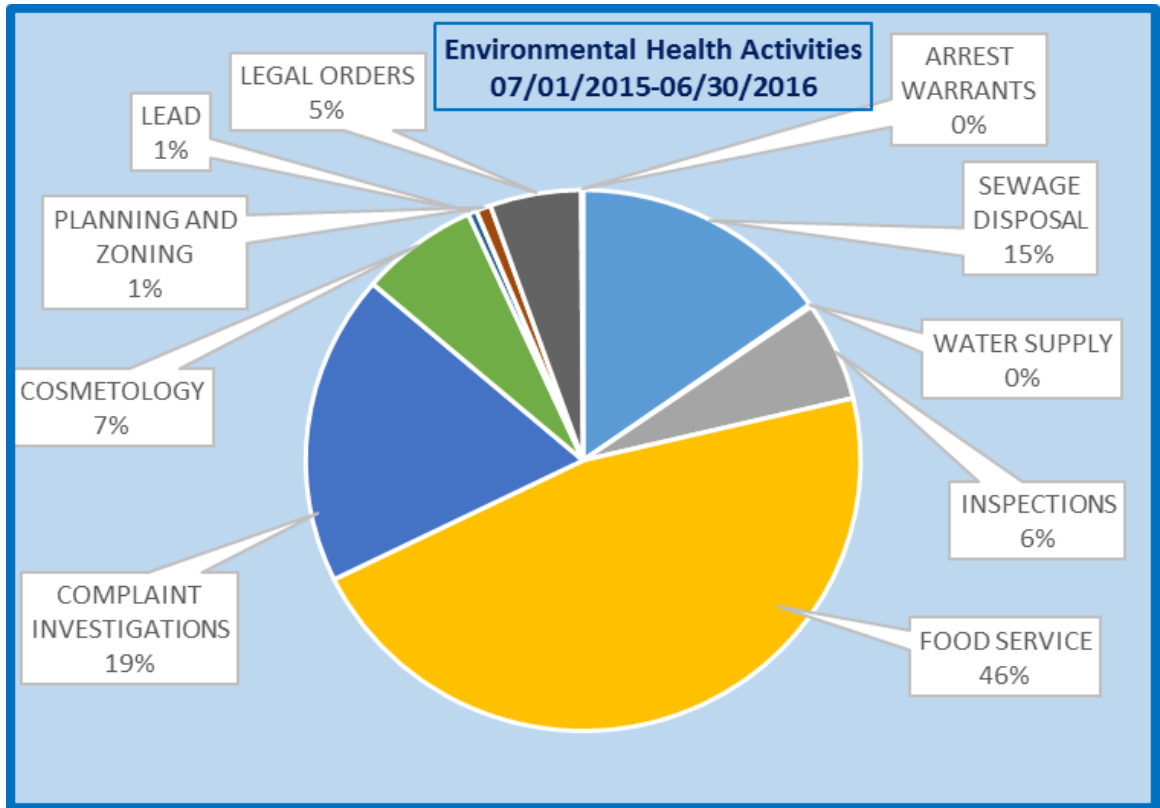
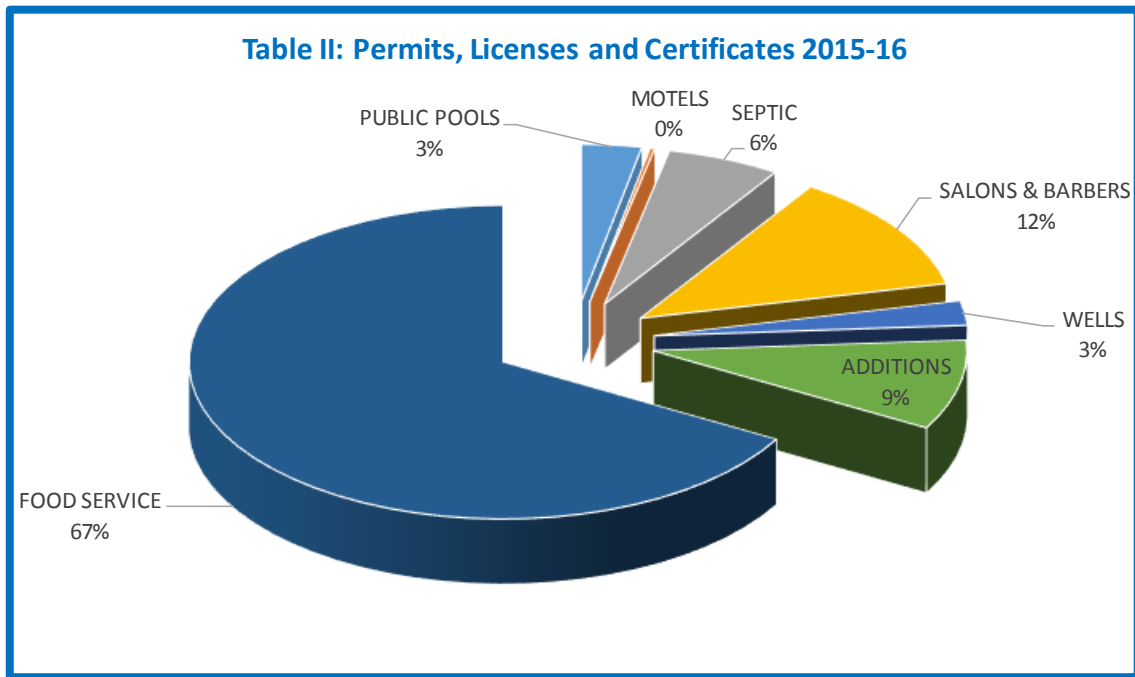


TABLE II: PERMITS, LICENSES and CERTIFICATES 07/01/15-06/30/16

| | BETHANY | HAMDEN | NORTH HAVEN | WOODBIDGE | TOTAL |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| SEPTIC (new and repair) | 23 | 21 | 15 | 41 | 100 |
| WELLS | 12 | 7 | 6 | 18 | 43 |
| ADDITIONS | 57 | 8 | 42 | 52 | 159 |
| PUBLIC POOLS | 0 | 31 | 13 | 9 | 53 |
| FOOD SERVICE (includes temporary events) | 62 | 502 | 513 | 70 | 1,147 |
| HOTELS/MOTELS | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| SALONS/BARBERS | 0 | 116 | 78 | 17 | 211 |
| TOTAL | 154 | 687 | 669 | 207 | 1,717 |

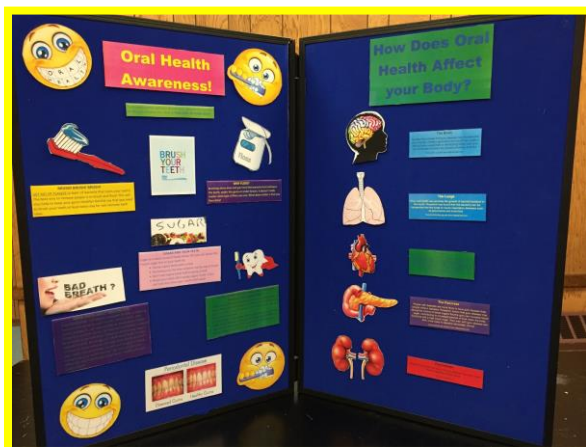


HEALTH EDUCATION and HEALTH PROMOTION

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



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. QVHD also 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. 17 adults contacts were immunized.

HEALTH INFORMATION

- **An Ounce of Prevention:** Health columns on various topics developed for 2 local newspapers. Follow-up materials are distributed upon request. (48 columns produced.)
- **Presentations** are made for community groups upon request. Example: Bloodborne pathogen updates, fall prevention.
- **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.
- Information on preventing exposure to lead was distributed to area pediatricians.
- Participation with an educational display at area Farmer's Markets

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, Hamden-North Haven mental health coalition and the Medical Reserve Corps Coordinators.

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. 695 diseases/outbreaks were monitored this year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION (PHAB)

QVHD formed a Community Health Coalition which initiated a Community Health Assessment (CHA) survey in May of 2016. The information from the CHA will lead to a Community Health Improvement Plan.

ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE QVHD received a grant from the Community Health Foundation to develop advocates for oral health as part of overall health. Several presentations about oral health as part of overall health were made to district residents. A community awareness day about Oral health was held in North Haven, Bethany and North Haven.

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) and a team of volunteers 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 2015-16, 334 students were enrolled; 176 users of services made 1,097 visits. More information on Mom's Clinic is available upon request.

TABLE III: REPORTABLE DISEASE SUMMARY JULY 1, 2015-JUNE 30, 2016

| DISEASE NAME | 2014-15 TOTALS | 2015-16 TOTALS | 2015-16 BY TOWN | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | | | BETHANY | HAMDEN | NO. HAVEN | WOOD- BRIDGE |
| E. Coli | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Giardiasis | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Salmonellosis | 23 | 14 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| Campylobacteriosis | 23 | 26 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 3 |
| Shigellosis/Cryptosporidiosis | 1/1 | 1 /2 | 0/0 | 1/1 | 0/0 | 0/1 |
| Shiga-toxin producing organism | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Cyclorospodiosis | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Listeriosis/Yersinosis | 2/0 | 2/1 | 0/0 | 0/1 | 0/0 | 2/0 |
| Norovirus/Rotavirus | 0/1 | 0/2 | 0/0 | 0/1 | 0/1 | 0/0 |
| Vibrio species | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Hepatitis | | | | | | |
| Hepatitis A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hepatitis B | 19 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hepatitis C | 116 | 33 | 2 | 19 | 8 | 4 |
| Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Chlamydia, HIV | | | | | | |
| Gonorrhea | 37 | 48 | 2 | 35 | 9 | 2 |
| Syphilis | 29 | 28 | 0 | 22 | 5 | 1 |
| Chlamydia | 268 | 259 | 7 | 191 | 48 | 13 |
| HIV ¹ (new cases 2014/total since 1981/# living with HIV) | 4/335/200 | 8/341/201 | 0/12/3 | 8/276/171 | 0/36/21 | 0/17/6 |
| Lead Poisoning, Rabies, Lyme Disease, Tuberculosis, Invasive Strep, Legionellosis, Pneumococcal disease, Staph aureus, Influenza, Haemophilus, Varicella, Measles, CO2 Poisoning, West Nile, Malaria, Outbreaks | | | | | | |
| Lead Poisoning ² | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rabies ³ | 12 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Lyme Disease ⁴ /Ehrlichiosis/Babesiosis | 35/2/2 | 37/0/3 | 9/0/0 | 11/0/2 | 8/0/0 | 9/0/1 |
| Tuberculosis ⁵ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Invasive Strep A/Strep B | 2/12 | 2/10 | 0/2 | 1/7 | 1/1 | 0/0 |
| Legionellosis | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Pneumococcal disease | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Staph aureus(MRSA) | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Influenza ⁶ | 206 | 190 | 6 | 109 | 50 | 25 |
| Haemophilus Influenzae (Hib) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Varicella/ Pertussis/Meningitis/Mumps | 0/5/0/0 | 0/3/0/1 | 0/0/0/0 | 0/2/0/1 | 0/0/0/0 | 0/1/0/0 |
| Measles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CO2 Poisoning/Mercury Poisoning | 0/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 |
| West Nile | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Malaria | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outbreaks ⁷ | 7 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 856 | 695 | 31 | 448 | 148 | 68 |

COMMENTS:

- (1) The most current data for HIV is for 2014. Numbers reflect new cases 2014; total cases since 1981; persons living with HIV.
- (2) This data reflects child cases only who were poisoned. 66 non-poisoned children were followed for lead elevations. (Bethany-2, Hamden-51, North Haven-8, Woodbridge-5.)
- (3) The five positive animals were: 2 raccoons, 1 cat and 1 bat in Hamden, and 1 bat in North Haven. District staff assist in transportation and provides consultation for potential human exposure.
- (4) The numbers reported this year for tick-borne illness, including Lyme Disease, Ehrlichiosis and Babesiosis are from the CT DPH Maven system which includes only confirmed or presumptive cases. Lab diagnosis is often difficult to interpret.
- (5) While there was only one case of active Tuberculosis, surveillance for this district included 2 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) Outbreaks tracked here refer to illness in two or more persons residing in nursing homes. They may be intestinal or respiratory in nature.