

Stamford Department of Health & Social Services 2015-2016 Annual Report

The Department of Health and Social Services work to improve the health and safety of those who live and work in Stamford. Through various programs, we apply the basic principles of health promotion and disease prevention. This is achieved through programs such as: Public health nursing, environmental health inspections, social services, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) services, HIV prevention, laboratory services, public health education, emergency preparedness and oral health.

Environmental Health Inspection

There were 4995 inspections related to housing, lead, mold, asthma, air pollution, food, noise, day care, bedbugs, pools, weights and measures, rodent, (septic, permits and plan review), stagnant water, water pollution, noise and general complaints.

Summary Activity:

There were one hundred fifteen (**115**) food orders issued to food service establishments.

There were a total of thirty six (**36**) hearings held with owners of food establishments that failed two consecutive inspections and 83 food service workers present during the mandatory food presentation.

There were eleven (**11**) voluntary food safety presentations with 289 people in attendance.

There were a total of eleven (**11**) qualified food operator training classes with 141 people in attendance.

There were a total of four (**4**) hearings held with owners of cosmetology establishments that failed two consecutive inspections and 10 staff workers present during the mandatory cosmetology presentation.

There were one hundred twenty four (**124**) housing safety and zoning code enforcement (health inspections) and thirty six (**36**) operation safe house inspections.

Two hundred eleven (**211**) orders were issued to abate violations of code ordinances and fifty three (**53**) orders sent to vacate illegal residential units.

Eight (**8**) arrest warrant affidavits were sent to the office of the State Prosecutor in Housing Court.

There were thirteen (**13**) inspections assessing the environment of structures housing asthmatic children (Breath of fresh Air Program).

Public Health Nursing and Dental Hygiene Services

Public Health continues to lead the way in building healthy communities, achieving health equity and improving the quality of life for all in the community. Evidence and data drive the practice of public health nurses and dental hygienists who translate knowledge from individuals and population groups through direct care, health prevention programs and advocacy. This is accomplished through our programs in public health nursing, school health nursing, and school dental health.

Summary Activity:

The Breath of Fresh Air Program (Asthma Program) had 8 new clients and made 18 home visits, bringing educational materials, home cleaning products and dust prevention tools.

The monthly Blood Pressure Clinic located on the 4th floor of the Stamford Government Center took 22 blood pressures, referred 6 people to other providers, and distributed informational packets.

The IAP (Immunization Assistance Program), which tracks children's immunization compliance, had 633 children referred. 467 children had vaccine information updated. 166 children were lost to service. 35 provider sites were visited. 3,794 contacts were made.

The Cocoon Program was again funded by the State of Connecticut. 114 adults were immunized with TDAP to help prevent the spread of pertussis to infants.

The Flu program gave 1161 doses of quadravalent vaccine during the 2015-2016 campaign. Medicare or other insurances reimbursed the program for \$5,618.28.

There were 25 cases followed for communicable diseases. (4 Ebola travel monitoring.)

The Mobile Medical Van was utilized four times during the last fiscal year. There were 30 clients served, 11 glucose and cholesterol screenings performed and 8 blood pressures, 49 referrals and 140 pamphlets distributed.

The Reach Out and Read initiative distributed 58 books to children age 6 months to 5 years of age at the Well Child clinics.

There were 549 initial visits at the STD clinic with 126 follow-up visits. 534 syphilis tests were given resulting in 13 positive cases; 13 were treated. 500 HIV tests were performed resulting in one (1) positive case. Six (6) pregnancy tests were performed and zero (0) were referred to prenatal care. There were 200 vaccines given at STD clinics. The clinic was relocated in February to Henry Street, which may have impacted the number of clients seen.

Travelers' clinic served 246 clients. 348 vaccinations were given and 70 malaria prescriptions were written. A total of \$25,535 was collected in fees. The clinic moved to Henry Street.

There were seven (7) new active Tuberculosis cases. Three (3) were adult pulmonary, one (1) suspect infection; three (3) extra pulmonary cases. All were followed by D.O.T. (Direct Observation Therapy) with 1040 visits. 12 PPD/AGRA were completed; four (4) had a positive PPD.

Well Child Clinic served 376 children. There were 669 appointments: 178 physicals were completed; 1,297 vaccinations were given; 985 screening tests were performed; and 149 referrals were made to other health care providers. The clinic moved to Henry Street.

School Dental Program

There were 8,235 dental screenings provided. 657 required some dental care; 462 sealants were provided for second-graders; 377 students received preventative dental services including fluoride; 87 students received dental treatments; and six (6) students were referred for oral surgery or other extreme dental care.

School Nursing Services

One (1) school nurse served 35 licensed nurseries and daycares. 154 vision screenings and 154 hearing screenings were completed.

We provided nursing coverage for 21 public schools and 19 private schools.

The combined public and private schools had 64,054 sick visits reported to the nurse's office; 30711 injury visits; and 19,681 other concerns visits.

For both the Stamford Public Schools and the Private Schools, there were 669 accident reports completed by the school nurses; 69 calls were made to 911.

There were 2,750 medication orders and 151 orders for skilled nursing treatments in the district.

Special skilled nursing interventions totaled 14,040. These included all treatments such as: catheterization, glucometer, colostomy care, urinalysis, suctioning, G-tube feeding, insulin pump management, oxygen, medications given, and screenings.

Screenings:	
8,257	Vision screenings
8,413	Hearing screenings
3,829	Scoliosis screenings
1,626	Lice checks performed
3,313	Height and weights recorded
2,021	Sports physicals recorded
3,596	Physicals recorded
31,055	Total

HIV Prevention

Due to the President's National HIV/AIDS Strategy, the HIV Prevention's grant funding from the State of CT DPH changed as of January 1, 2013. Now in line with National Prevention efforts, our mandate is to offer HIV testing (without counseling) to as many individuals as possible to help identify the approximately 200,000 Americans living with HIV who are undiagnosed. Therefore, we are no longer providing multi-session group sessions but instead are focusing on Outreach through our Mobile Van and through single session groups and Testing and Linkage to services. The number of clients served in groups will be lower and the number of clients seen for outreach will be higher.

In January 2016, the HIV Prevention Program moved from providing HIV Oral Rapid Testing to Alere Determine 4th Generation HIV Testing (finger stick). The HIV Alere test is a HIV-1/2 Ag/Ab Combo antibody component which works to determine an individual's HIV status within 14 days. The HIV Oral Rapid Test took up to 3 to 6 months to determine an individual's HIV status. In addition to the HIV Alere test, once an individual test positive for HIV a blood drawn HIV confirmatory test is performed.

Summary of Activity:

The HIV Prevention Program provided 589 HIV tests. Out of the 589 tests performed during this period, 1 individual was confirmed positive. HIV testing was provided at 18 different sites throughout the community including on the Mobile Van, Health Fairs, Liberation Programs, Inspirica Programs, Shelter for the Homeless, New Covenant House Soup Kitchen, TB Clinic, Cornerstone Pharmacy, Domestic Violence Shelter, Neighbor's Link Stamford, AmeriCares, Durango Insurance, Community Barbershops, CT Transit, Under the Bridge, Faith Tabernacle Church Food Pantry, UCONN, FIRP, and CT Renaissance.

Two Hundred & Forty Seven (247) HIV positive individuals or individuals practicing high risk behaviors received Prevention Counseling services and CLEAR services, (Choosing Life Empowerment Action & Results). Additionally, there were 455 individuals who attended 53 HIV risk reduction single-session groups.

HIV Prevention Program Staff made 6,095 outreach contacts during this period to individuals throughout the neighborhoods of Stamford, the Mobile Van and through single session groups at community agencies. Linkage to community services was also provided.

Laboratory Division

The Stamford Health Department Laboratory provides supportive lab services to the function of the health department along with direct public accessibility to its analytical services and public health information to the citizens of Stamford.

Summary of Activity:

This past year, 242 ticks were submitted for Lyme testing with 15% of those submitted testing positive.

Bedbugs are an increasing problem in Stamford. Last year there were 53 submissions for bedbug identification. Once identified as bedbugs, Environmental Health Inspectors will perform a home inspection on rental properties and issue orders to the landlords for extermination.

The laboratory along with Animal Control insures that animals that need rabies testing are transported to the state for testing. This past year 9 submissions were made to the State Public Health Laboratory, 1 (fox) tested positive for rabies.

A laboratory technician is present at all Well Child Clinics to perform testing (hemoglobin determinations and lead screenings). The technician is also available for hemoglobin determinations and lead screenings for the WIC program and private physicians when necessary. This past year, 221 children were tested.

Eight hundred and twenty-two (822) STD (Sexually transmitted disease) tests were performed for the departments STD clinics. Patients are routinely tested for Chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. A laboratory technician is present at the clinics to perform laboratory testing (wet preps and gram stains) and process samples to be sent to the State Public Health Laboratory.

The significant illness database continues to be updated with newly diagnosed diseases/illness of Stamford residents reported to the health department. A total of 763 submissions were entered into the database last year. The submissions are tracked for trends and clusters so that adequate follow-up can be performed.

There were 765 water samples (beaches, well water, public water) tested by the laboratory for bacteria and minerals, metals. Of these samples 2,656 individual tests were performed.

In January of 2012, a well water ordinance went into effect. North Stamford residents with wells were tested for pesticides namely dieldrin and chlordane and also for Arsenic and Uranium. Last year 499 well water samples were collected and tested between July 2015 and June 2016.

WIC Program

The federally funded WIC (Womens, Infants and Children) program serves low-income pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, and infants and children up to age five who are at nutrition risk. WIC provides nutritious food supplementation containing those essential nutrients often lacking in the diets of populations at nutritional risk, breastfeeding promotion, infant formula and nutrition education. Through close ties with other community and departmental services, the WIC Program is able to assist participants in attaining other health services.

Summary of Activity:

The New Connecticut WIC- eWIC Computer System Implementation was initiated on May 23, 2016 at the Stamford and Norwalk permanent and satellite sites and is in progress. All participants in the caseload are in the process of being transitioned to the new system.

Currently, Stamford WIC has 3,330 participants primarily from Stamford, with a small population from Greenwich, Darien and New Canaan and additionally, 1,728 participants receiving services at the Norwalk WIC, located at the Norwalk Health Department, primarily from Norwalk, with a small population from Westport, Weston and Wilton. In addition, there is a satellite location at the Greenwich Town Hall.

For the 2016 season, 2,580 eligible Stamford WIC participants and 1,394 eligible Norwalk WIC participants will be receiving Farmer's Market Coupons through the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmer's Market program.

Social Services Division

The Stamford Division of Social Services is comprised of the Director of Mandated Services, grant funded Outreach Coordinator (Municipal Agent on Aging) and a Bilingual Outreach Coordinator. The Division administers several state mandated programs and provides case management, referral and advocacy services to Stamford residents in need. Services provided by the division include but are not limited to one

on one application assistance, translation, educational outreach, guidance and information with landlord/tenant issues, food, clothing, and shelter referrals, home visits, notary.

Summary of Activity:

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Social Services Division assisted 5,052 people. The division was granted funding for a Senior Health Program to provide health education and screening for adults age 60 and over. During the holidays 140 children received donated gifts, 349 pounds of food collected during the annual food drive to support the Lower Fairfield County food bank, and over 77 coats were collected to support the Backyard Humanitarians coat drive which cleaned and distributed coats to those in need.

Access Health CT-HUSKY A, B, D Insurance Enrollment

Last year, 777 individuals received health insurance enrollment assistance (88 Access Healthcare CT, 528 Husky, 161 Presumptive eligibility). Families with children and single individuals under 65 years of age needing health insurance were provided one on one enrollment assistance. Applicants also receive assistance and advocacy with re-determinations, unpaid medical bills, fair hearings, and spend-downs.

Eviction

The Division is responsible for coordinating the storage, retrieval, auctioning and disposal of evictees' belongings. Between July 2015 and June 2016 there were 178 evictions in the City of Stamford. On average 14 evictions occur a month with March and April being the busiest months with 20 plus evictions each. During the week of Christmas the division requests a moratorium on all evictions. Often evictees are assisted with obtaining shelter, food and clothing after they have been evicted. The division is also in charge of code enforcement relocations.

Relocation

There were 19 household or 68 individuals that received relocation assistance during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Tenants displaced by code enforcement receive assistance with finding a new apartment, relocation costs and emergency housing as mandated by the Uniform Relocation Assistance Act. Relocation cases require a great deal of mediation between landlord and tenants and coordination with multiple departments and agencies to get the tenant rehoused.

Renter's Rebate

The Connecticut renter's rebate program is a State of Connecticut tax relief program for renters who are elderly and/or disabled. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year 1,625 applicants applied for renters rebate program. Applications are accepted on designated days in the community and at the Stamford Government Center.

Senior Health Program

The Stamford Senior Health Program provides low-income and minority older adults with health assessments, screening, education, counseling and referrals. The program goals are to increase healthy outcomes for seniors through prevention education and access to health care services. From July 2015 to June 30, 2016 the Senior Health Program provided 1419 units of services for Health Education and 970 units of Health Screening at over 13 different locations throughout the community including senior residences, health fairs and the Stamford Senior Center The Program nurse saw 307 were new clients.

Senior Transportation

The Social Services Division continues to oversee the city's successful Share the Fare program that provides subsidized, half-price taxicab rides for Stamford senior citizens and disabled individuals. Under contract, via services provided by Norwalk Transit, Stamford enables reduced fare, door-to-door transportation services for senior citizens who are in need of affordable transportation to senior nutrition appointments, medical appointments and shopping sites.

Social Services	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
- Persons assisted with referral to housing, legal, health services	4818	5460	5052
- Families/individuals assisted with relocation services	33	53	53
- Rent rebate applications processed for seniors	1,282	1625	
- Access Health Insurance/HUSKY enrollments	2,099	1125	1125

Public Health Education

Health Education & Outreach

The Department engages in health education activities across divisions by aligning expertise with to an effort to increase efficiencies. Areas of focus include asthma, lead poisoning prevention, blood pressure, antismoking messaging, sun safety, nutrition, stress management, hands-only CPR technique, and cancer prevention. By aligning with community partners such as not-for-profits and health providers, the Department strives to maximize impact and broaden its reach while reducing duplication. Key relationships/initiatives over the last year have included Cradle to Career and the Vita Collaborative.

Emergency Preparedness

The Department participates in activities that establish a state of readiness to respond to events before, during, and after an emergency or disaster that could affect the community at large. Emergency preparedness involves mitigating, preparing, responding, and recovering from emergencies and disasters in order to lessen the impact. We establish an all-hazards approach to build community resiliency. Emergency Preparedness is achieved by planning, training, equipping, and exercising the emergency response plans.

In the past fiscal year, we have participated in the following events:

- Attended hurricane tabletop exercise
- Attended health care coalition meetings hosted by DPH
- Attended monthly regional MRC leadership meetings
- Conducted emergency preparedness presentation to the seniors at the
 - Senior center
- Conducted emergency preparedness presentation to the Hispanic seniors
- Actively involved in the ESF 8 exercise/drills planning committee
 - Ebola tabletop exercise planning
 - Family assistance center planning committee
- Participated in the development of the family assistance center plan
- Participated in the Ebola table top exercise
- Participated in the FEMA virtual tabletop exercise event
- Participated in developing and execution of Lean Six Sigma training
- Attended project management training session
- Attended and hosted several lean six sigma

- Attended ESF 8 meetings
- Attending ESF 6- mass care committee meeting
- Attended Regional Emergency planning team meetings
- Conducted staff training for upcoming medical countermeasures full scale statewide exercise
- Conducted Zika public education activities
- Developed all-hazards based emergency response plans