



Northeast District Department of Health



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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023 NDDH Celebrates 50 Years of Providing Public Health Services to Northeast CT



(NDDH staff and CT State Senator Mae Flexer with an official citation from the CT General Assembly in recognition of the agency's 50 years of preventing illness, promoting wellness, and protecting public health.)

Over the past fiscal year, NDDH—your local health department—remained busy delivering and improving services and programs. Despite being understaffed, we were able to complete 100% of campgrounds, daycare, hair salons/barbershops, hotel/motels, medical services, nail salons, and swimming pool inspections. Our food inspection completion rate increased from 13% in FY 2022 to 19% in 2023. This rate is too low; we simply did not have staff that were approved by the State Department of Public Health (DPH) to do the inspections. We brought light to this issue by conducting and sharing research on the nature, extent, and impact of the shortage and presented it to DPH through the CT Association of Directors of Health. The report included suggestions to address the shortage and one was voted into law this year. We are grateful to Chatham, Eastern Highlands, Ledge Light, and Uncas health districts for helping us prepare new staff for the certification from CT DPH that is required before they can conduct restaurant inspections.

The environmental health team and public health nurse conduct investigations of public health nuisances and infectious diseases. They worked collaboratively with the community health team to prevent lead poisoning. We also worked in partnership with healthcare, social services, elected officials, and others. This year we completed a community health needs assessment. We hosted school nurses from member towns to discuss the vaping epidemic and to provide QPR training—a suicide prevention program with the message that asking **Q**uestions, **P**ersuading people to get help, and **R**eferring people to services can save lives. We continued to offer COVID vaccinations, flu shots, health screening, and health promotion messages at a variety of events and fairs.

On June 30, 2023, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary by inviting board members, town and school officials, legislators, area agencies, and residents to an open house reception to meet the small but dedicated staff who are working so hard to promote health and well-being in northeast CT. We are proud of the work we do to overcome obstacles and deliver public health services to you!



NORTHEAST DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Public Health Activities for the Town of Sterling, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



Environmental Services	
Subsurface Sewage Disposal	
As-Built	8
B100	16
Plan Review, Commercial	1
Plan Review, New	6
Plan Review, Repair	2
Plan Review, Revised	7
Plan Review, Subdivision	1
Permit to Construct, Commercial	1
Permit to Construct, New	8
Permit to Construct, Repair	3
Property Document Search	37
Soil Test, Additional	1
Soil Test, New	3
Soil Test, Repair	2
Tank or Sewer Line	0
Water Treatment Permit	1
Potable Water	
Well Permit	10
Food Service Sanitation	
Restaurant Inspection – 22%	6/27
Restaurant Re-inspection – 100%	1/1
Restaurant Plan Review	0
Temporary Food Event – 83%	10/12
Health Inspections	
Campground – 100%	4/4
Daycare – 100%	1/1
Group Home – n/a	0/0
Hair Salon – n/a	0/0
Hotel/Motel – n/a	0/0
Medical – n/a	0/0
Nail Salon – n/a	0/0
Pool Inspection – 100%	2/2
Complaints	
Animal or Animal Waste	0
Bed Bugs	1
Food Service	2
Garbage	2
Heat/Water	0
Housing	2
Insects, Vermin (excluding Bed Bugs)	2
Lead Complaint	0
Manure/Flies	0
Mold	1
Odor	2
Outdoor Wood Furnace/Smoke	0
Septic	0
Other / COVID-19 Related	0
Health Services	
Ongoing Lead Case Management	3
Rabies Prevention	0
Number of Animals Tested Positive for Rabies	0
Total Environmental Services	146

Reportable Communicable Disease (Calendar Year 2022)	
Babesiosis	1
Giardiasis	0
Chlamydia	n/a
Gonorrhea	n/a
Group B Streptococcus	0
Hepatitis B	0
Hepatitis C	0
Influenza	33
Legionellosis	0
Listeriosis	0
Lyme Disease	0
Rotavirus	0
Salmonellosis	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae	0
Total Reportable Communicable Disease	34
NDDH Oral Health Screening & Education Program	
Total Seen: Sterling did not participate	n/a
• Number with Caries	n/a
• Number with Other Dental Care Needs	n/a
NDDH District-Wide Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response • Community Health Education covering a broad range of topics to prevent illness, promote wellness and protect health • Radon Awareness and Test Kits-for free home testing for radon, a leading cause of lung cancer • Flu Immunizations 	
Grants (Federal, State & Private Funds)	
<p>Grants CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) Per-Capita Allocation for support of municipal and district departments of health</p> <p>CT DPH and US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)</p> <p>Chronic Disease Prevention (BLOCK) using environmental and policy strategies increase opportunities for physical activity</p> <p>CT DPH/CDC (PHEP) for Public Health Emergency Preparedness efforts</p> <p>CT DPH/CDC – Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity 2 (ELC2) for detection, response, surveillance, and prevention of COVID-19</p> <p>United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut (United Way) to mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity related to COVID-19 health disparities among underserved populations at higher risk</p> <p>Contracts American Cancer Society and the CT Cancer Partnership (CT Cancer) for promotion of low dose CT scan (LDCT) lung cancer screening health education campaign.</p>	