



ANNUAL REPORT FY 2024
Waterbury Health Department

From the Director

The past year has been one of growth and development. We have tackled several projects that had been waiting in the wings while COVID-19 finished its final scene: beginning the strategic planning process in earnest, proposing a rental licensing program to get ahead of our complaint-driven approach to housing problems, getting close to fully staffed in our nursing division and beginning to use technology in more efficient ways. We have adopted use of several applications in Microsoft 365 to improve workflow, we went through extensive training in use of the CyraCom language line for telephonic translation services, and got many staff trained in the use of Unite Us, an online referral tracking platform that was piloted during the Advancing Health Literacy grant. We have a new Mayor and have welcomed several new staff, including our Accounting Manager, who with our Executive Administrative Assistant and Accounting Assistant, have transformed how we do business.

We were successful in two critical grant applications to support our Prevention, Harm and Risk Reduction team with subcontracts with the City of New Haven and Yale School of Medicine and are anxious to hear whether we have been selected for two others to support our Overdose Response Team. The Connecticut Association of School-Based Health Centers wrote a grant to help us boost enrollment in our school-based clinics and we secured funds from the American Rescue Plan Act from the Connecticut Department of Public Health for the renovation of the clinic at Driggs Elementary.

We have a new Director of Clinical Services who rose through the ranks of school nursing into that leadership position and three School Nurse Supervisors who are former school nurses in our schools. We have engaged Dr. Kermalli as our Medical Director to guide the re-opening of our second floor immunization clinic and welcomed the Yale InMotion Mobile Pharmacy, the first of its kind in the U.S., to serve our residents with pharmacy and clinical services. Our tuberculosis program continues to be lauded by the State TB Control program.

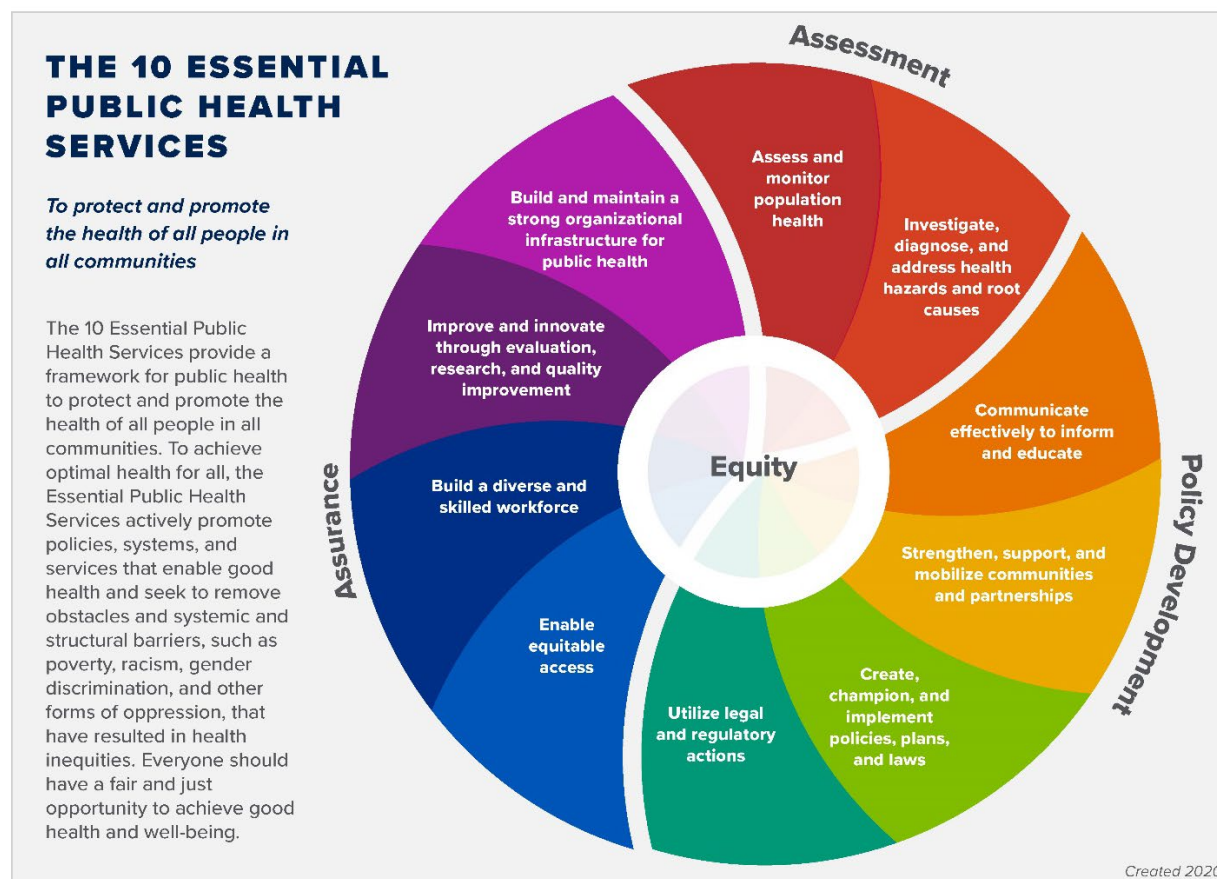
With growth comes growing pains, however. Several staff who had come to work with us as a result of the pandemic went on to the next stage in their careers and we closed out the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) that had been run by the city since 1974 as it transitioned to Optimus Health in October. We discovered how quickly we are outgrowing our existing space and built several modular offices, but it still feels crowded. We anxiously scan for new grants, but continue to see that when it rains, it pours, and we cannot write grants quickly enough.

We have an amazing team. Our greatest strength is that we are able to attract people to this job because the work we do speaks for itself and feeds something in our hearts. We are able to inspire young people who come to us to do internships - they leave feeling like they were able to contribute and see real change happen before their eyes.

Aisling McGuckin RN, MSN-MPH
Director of Health

Figure I. The Ten Essential Public Health Services

In Connecticut, the work of public health follows the ten essential services outlined below. As such, we use this model as an organizing structure for our annual report.



Dedication

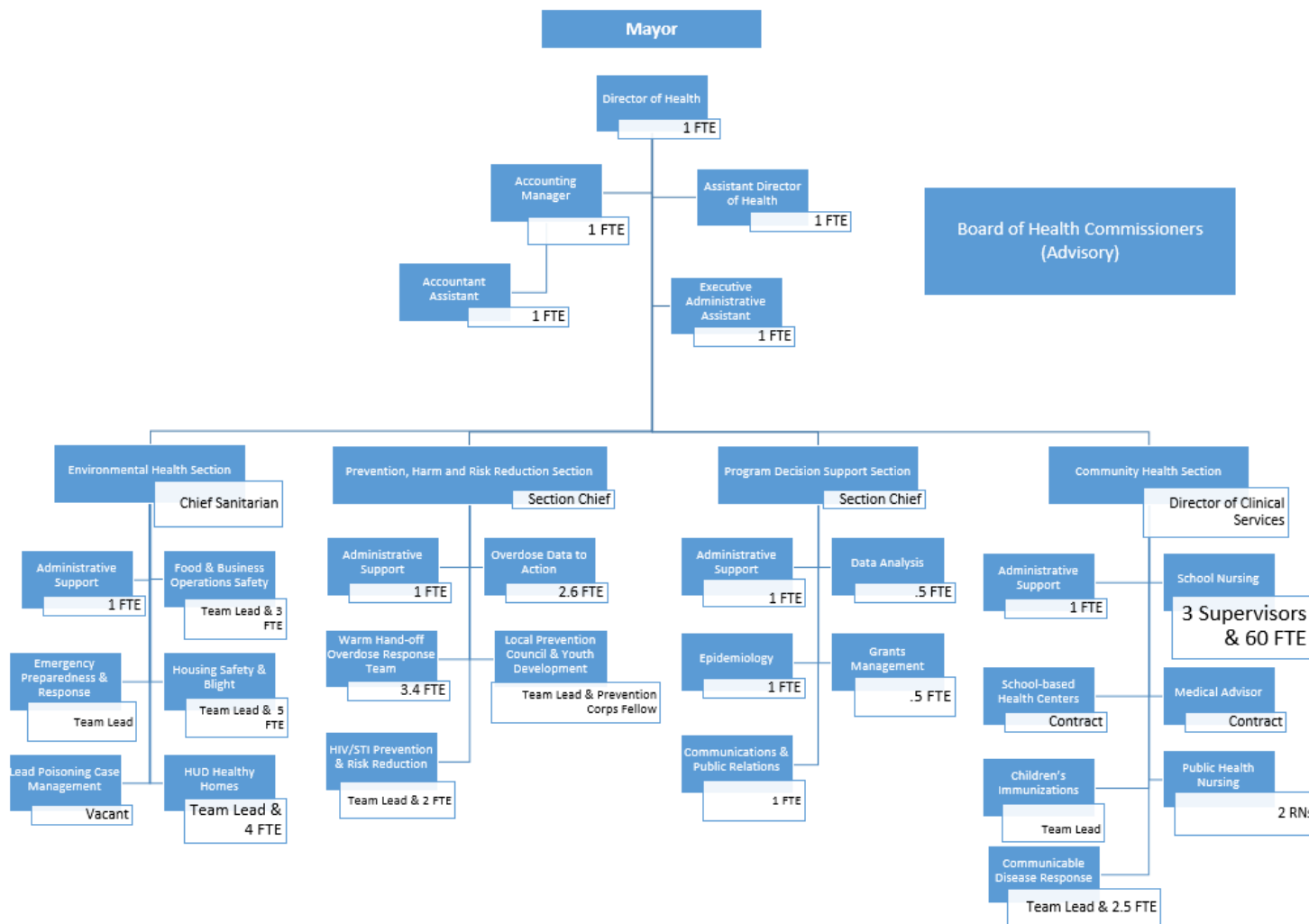
We dedicate this Annual Report to two individuals who left our Department too soon.

Sharon Ritucci, our Lead Food Inspector, retired late this year. Sharon was a former restaurateur and a stickler for details. Sharon has the ability to teach people the right way to do things so that they don't even realize she's telling them they've been doing it wrong. She does this with a twinkle in her eye and a laugh in her voice. She is irreplaceable. We are lucky she was such a great teacher and led the team through the adoption of the FDA Food Code changes. In fact, she trained our other food inspectors so well that they have in turn trained the new staff who have joined the team with ease and confidence. She will be missed in our office as much for her expertise as for being the mother hen in our office, cracking jokes with the rest of the team.

John Eddy worked with the Department in several roles, captaining the RV for the Prevention team and most recently serving the WIC program as our security guard at the front entrance. John never met a stranger and we all loved to stop by his desk to hear about his latest adventure on a family trip, camping or canoeing or catching up on how his family was doing. He made visitors feel welcome, informed and made us all feel safe and secure. Most people call him Mr. Eddy, as he is Chris Eddy, our Lead Sanitarian's dad. He will be missed by all of us who had the good fortune to hear him spin a tale or share an interesting piece from the paper. Our hearts go out to the Eddy family in their time of loss and we thank them for sharing their dad, husband and brother with us.

I. Organizational Chart

The structure of the Health Department has continued to evolve over the past three years to introduce career ladders and opportunities for leadership.

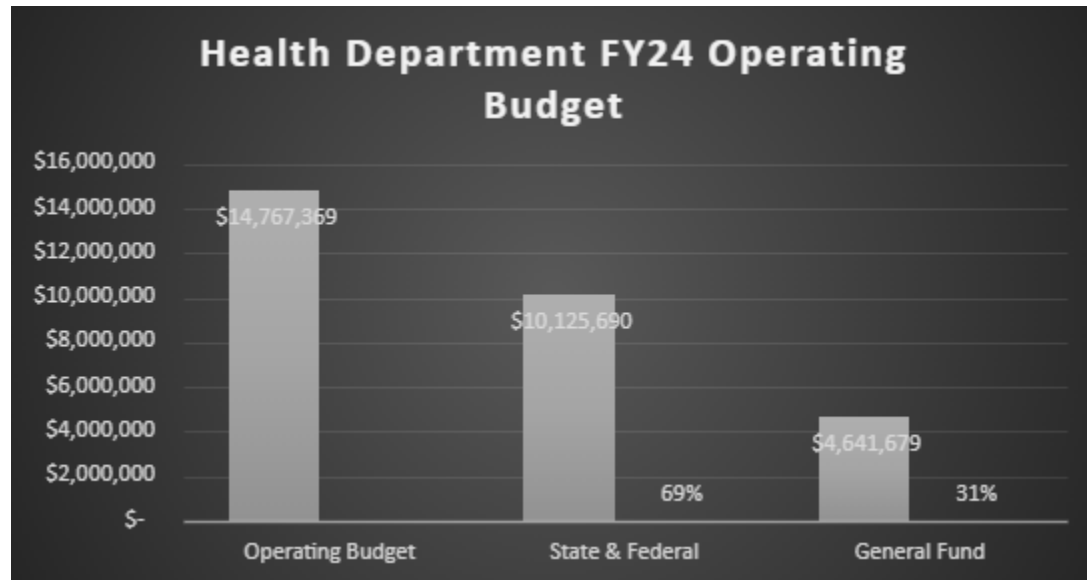


II. Budget

The City's general Fund accounted for 31% of the WHD operating budget in FY 24. The balance was made up of competitive state and federal grants.

Figure IV. WHD FY 2023 Operating Budget

| FY24 Operating Budget | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Fund | Funding Period | Activity | Amount | Type | Expense Allocation | |
| | | | | | Personnel | Capital |
| General Fund | 7/01/23 - 6/30/24 | | \$ 4,641,679 | | \$ 4,469,101 | \$ 172,578 |
| COSSAP | 10/1/21-9/30/24 | 452916011 | \$ 900,000 | Federal grant other | \$ 547,497 | \$ 352,503 |
| ELC2 | 02/01/23-05/31/24 | 452746012 | \$ 1,019,513 | Federal pass through | \$ 668,317 | \$ 351,196 |
| WLHH | 01/2021 / 12/2024 | 1 | \$ 5,700,000 | Federal grant other | \$ 1,467,755 | \$ 4,232,245 |
| Immunization | 7/01/23- 6/30/24 | 453516012 | \$ 110,987 | Federal pass through | \$ 70,930 | \$ 40,057 |
| Local Prevention Council | 11/1/23-6/30/24 | 453006065 | \$ 13,044 | Private | \$ - | \$ 13,044 |
| OD2A | 09/01/23- 08/31/24 | 451886012 | \$ 295,022 | Federal pass through | \$ 267,100 | \$ 27,922 |
| PCC-B | 7/01/23- 6/30/24 | 452936013 | \$ 208,790 | State | \$ 88,570 | \$ 120,220 |
| Per Capita | 7/01/23- 6/30/24 | 453616013 | \$ 226,889 | State | \$ 135,271 | \$ 91,619 |
| PHEP | 7/01/23- 6/30/24 | 452706012 | \$ 61,639 | Federal pass through | \$ 61,220 | \$ 419 |
| Prevention | 02/01/24 - 12/31/24 | 452836016 | \$ 214,398 | Federal pass through | \$ 214,398 | \$ - |
| School Based Health Clinics- Oversight | 07/01/23 - 06/30/24 | 452676023 | \$ 32,855 | Federal pass through | \$ 32,855.00 | \$ - |
| School Based Health Clinics | 07/01/23 - 06/30/24 | 452676013 | \$ 250,000 | Federal pass through | \$ - | \$250,000.00 |
| Workforce Development | 11/01/23- 11/30/27 | 453206012 | \$ 617,513 | Federal pass through | \$104,000.00 | \$513,513.00 |
| Immunization and Vaccines | 09/01/23 - 06/30/25 | 453216012 | \$ 371,040 | Federal pass through | \$ - | \$ 371,040 |
| Lead Clearance/ Apple Sauce | | 450656025 | \$ 104,000 | Federal pass through | | |
| | | | \$14,767,369 | | | |
| Operating Budget | | | \$14,767,369 | | | |
| State & Federal | | | \$10,125,690 | 69% | | |
| General Fund | | | \$ 4,641,679 | 31% | | |



III. The Ten Essential Services of Public Health

Waterbury Health Department continues to operate all essential services required of Public Health Departments by Connecticut law. The following sections elucidate some of the strategies staff implemented to respond to the ten essential services over the past year.

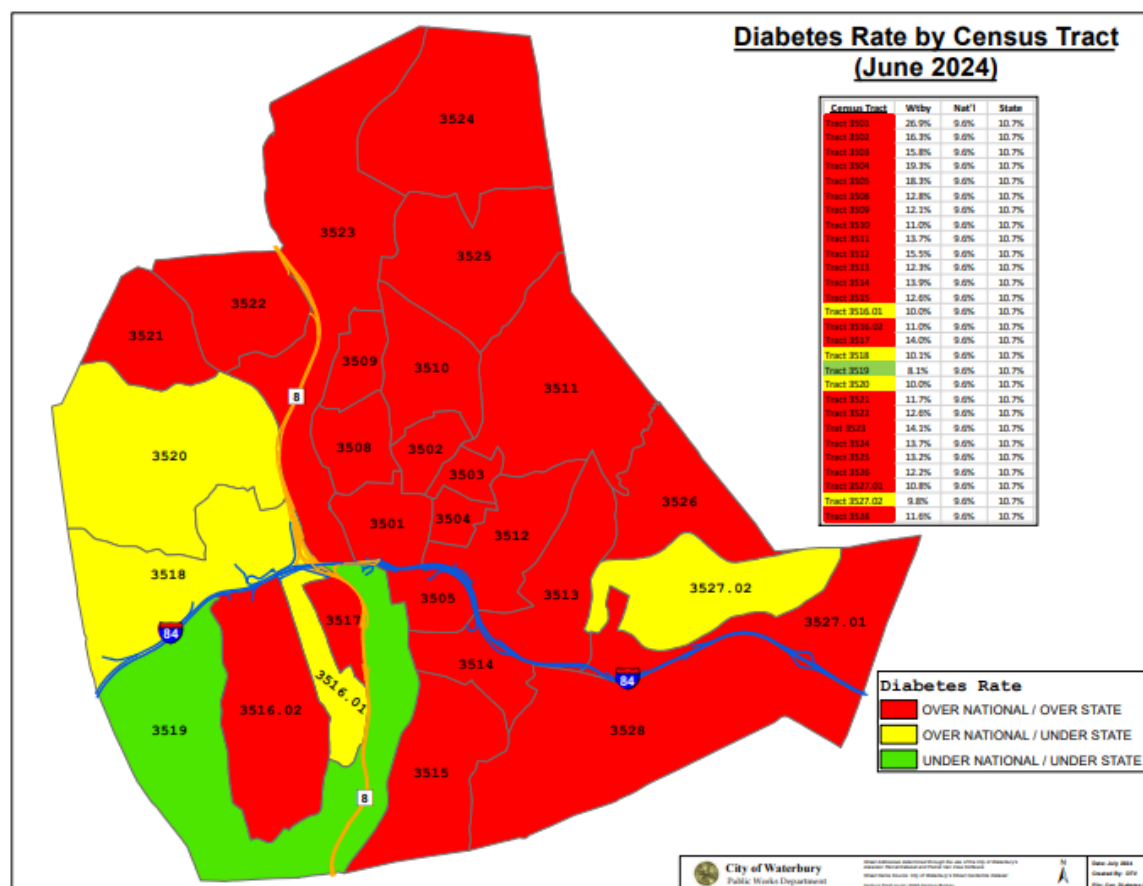
Assessment

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets

The Program Decision Support Section includes epidemiology, which centers the importance of data as the foundation for Departmental operations, evaluation and future aspirations. The Department used census-block level data in the 2021 application for Advancing Health Literacy grant funded by the US Department of Health & Human Services – Office of Minority Health. The data presented in that application demonstrated the varying levels of need of the local residents living in different areas of the city. The

data was mapped by the City of Waterbury Public Works Department – GIS Division, and presents a detailed, visual demonstration of the needs of the community the Department serves. Since that time, the Program Decision Support Section has expanded its available inventory of census-tract level information, including mapped data. This data inventory will continue to be of great value to more accurately describe the community residents and their varying needs, neighborhood by neighborhood. This clearer view of local need will provide a more accurate understanding of the needed services, highest need neighborhoods, etc. This will ensure that Department planning and programming addresses community needs. Additionally, the profile per census tract includes a data collection cell in which to record assets present within the census tract. Potentially, these assets may include schools, parks, faith-based organizations or other community organizations that may be influential in reaching the community as well as informing the

Department further about the needs of the community.



2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

The Environmental Health Section responds to housing complaints at rental units and blight throughout the city. Types of housing complaints received include the following: insufficient hot water, insufficient heat, insect/rodent infestations, water leaks, sewage outbreaks, defective electrical outlets, defective faucets, litter garbage/rubbish throughout the yard, etc. Each complaint is investigated and if inspectors identify violations, Notices of Violation will be

issued to the property owners to require the property owner to correct the violations within a reasonable time frame. For property owners who fail to or refuse to correct the violations, affidavits will be prepared and cases will be forwarded to Housing Court for enforcement. During this reporting period, there were 1,041 housing complaints, 296 blight complaints, and 31 sewage outbreaks received.

Epidemiological Investigation of Elevated Lead Levels in Cinnamon Applesauce Pouches

In November 2023, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recalled the following three brands cinnamon apple puree and applesauce products for elevated lead levels: (1) WanaBana apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches – including three packs, (2) Schnucks-brand cinnamon-flavored applesauce pouches and variety pack, and (3) Weis-brand cinnamon applesauce pouches. Waterbury Department of Public Health received a list of children (67) with venous blood-lead levels between 5 µg/dL and 14.9 µg/dL from the State Department of Public Health to conduct epidemiological investigation to identify potential exposure to lead through ingestion of contaminated applesauce. The interview process began in the beginning of November and was completed by January 31st, 2024. There were 23 cases completed the epidemiological investigation and none of these 23 cases consumed the recalled products.

Policy Development

3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it

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Program Decision Support Section staff were key parts of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) COVID-19 ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion grant which originally dated back to 2020 and then provided support for COVID-19 contact tracing services. The ELC2 grant ended on May 31, 2024 and accomplished much in the community in its final form, including:

- Development and launch of a consumer-facing website and public service announcement developed to communicate infectious disease prevention and related services:
<https://www.takecarewaterbury.com/>
- Development of a robust community resource directory cataloguing multi-agency services available to address a wide array of community needs:

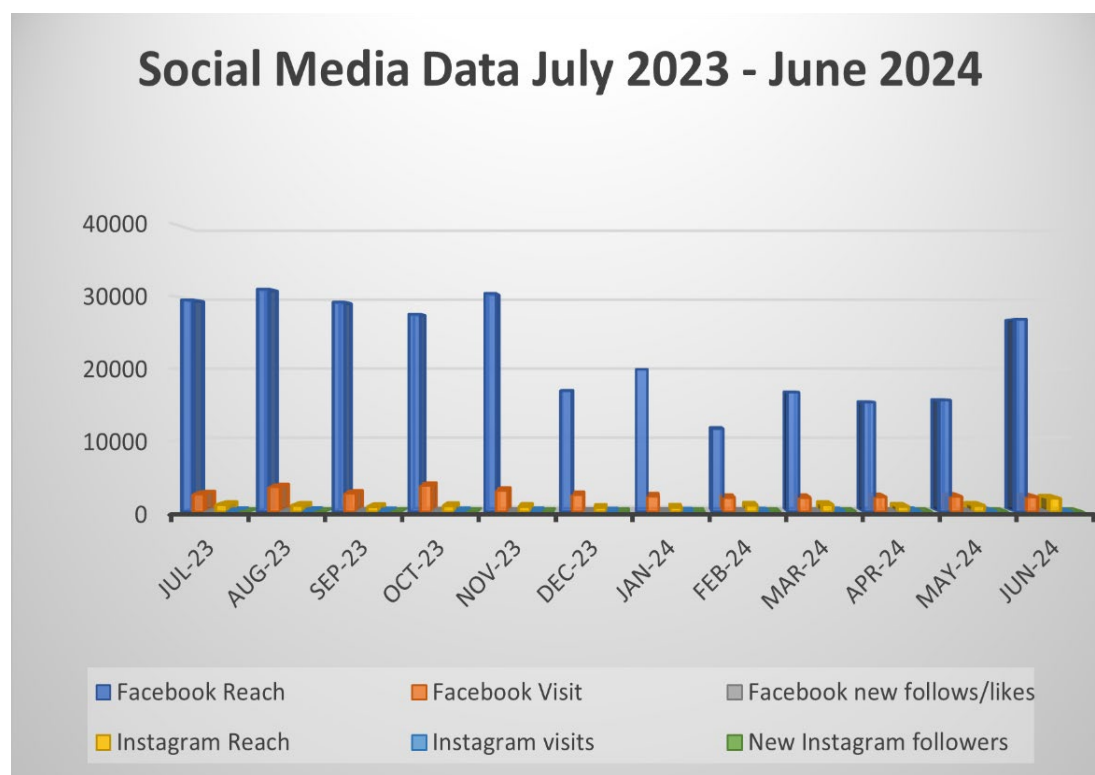
<https://www.takecarewaterbury.com/services-directory>

- Completion of a Rapid Community Assessment by the Yale School of Public Health-Griffin Hospital Prevention Research Center regarding *“Immunizations for Children and Adolescents in Waterbury: Routine Childhood, COVID-19, Flu, and HPV Vaccines.”* It is important to note that this Assessment, plus the return to vaccination plan developed in August 2023 in collaboration with all Section Chiefs, will be useful as the Department reinvigorates its clinical services including vaccination services for children.

The Program Decision Support Section provides communications support to the Department's wide array of programs and services. This includes brochure development and design, development of billboard advertisements and bus campaigns, social media promotion, video production for social media, maintenance of the Department's catalogue of services on the City of Waterbury website located at <https://waterburyct.org/services/health> and maintenance of the new consumer-facing website

<https://www.takecarewaterbury.com/> These communications are comprehensive and expand beyond Department services to include other key public health and health care messaging. It is also important to note that these communications also include information that is responsive to calls to the Department. For example, when there is an uptick in inbound calls asking about where to obtain back to school vaccinations or physicals, or when the season turns towards winter and no heat complaints, then the communications respond to those calls to provide guidance to the community in general.

The goal of WHD communications is to educate and inform the community and in turn increase recognition of the Department as a trusted source of relevant information for the community. Growth and engagement on WHD social media demonstrate the Department's success in achieving this important community role and positioning.



Social Media Growth and Engagement

Facebook Performance:

- Impressions: 1.3 million
- Reach: 135,000
- Content Interactions: 18,800
- Link Clicks: 1,800
- Facebook followers 7651

Instagram Performance:

- Followers: 1,200
- Reach: 6,200
- Content Interactions: 1,200

LinkedIn Performance:

- Impressions: 5783
- Reactions: 191
- Comments 19

- Reports 11

4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health

The Environmental Health Section is a critical component of the Nuisance Enforcement Team. Nuisance Enforcement Team encompasses key staff from various city departments who have enforcement authorities to contain and abate blight, and other housing violations. The team meets weekly to discuss various blight, housing, zoning, building, fire, and refuse issues and works collaboratively to address the identified problems.

School Based Health Centers 2023-2024

WHD was awarded \$1,341,690 from the Department of Public Health, School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) Program for a four-year contract beginning July 1, 2022. The selected vendor, Community Health Center, Inc., (CHC), is subcontracted by the WHD to provide clinical services from through August 2026 (4 year subcontract). The subcontracted vendor provides coordinated, culturally sensitive, developmentally appropriate SBHC services that include: community outreach, primary care, mental/behavioral health care, dental health care, and system wide health promotion and education to students. The three established SBHC sites, Wilby High School/ North End Middle School complex, Crosby High School/ Wallace Middle School complex, and Driggs Elementary School, are staffed by APRNs, Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, and Medical Assistants to provide to work in conjunction with the student's primary care provider, school nurses, school counselors, psychologists, and social workers to provide comprehensive treatment of health issues. WHD ensures quality assurance through systematic reporting from the vendor. During the reporting period only mobile dental services were offered at the Driggs Elementary School site. The planned upcoming expansion and retrofitting of the of Driggs Elementary SBHC to provide the full complement of services – medical, dental, and behavioral health – is targeted to begin Fall 2024. Additional ARPA funding of \$34,550 was awarded to the Waterbury Health Department in February 2024 to partially fund the site expansion.

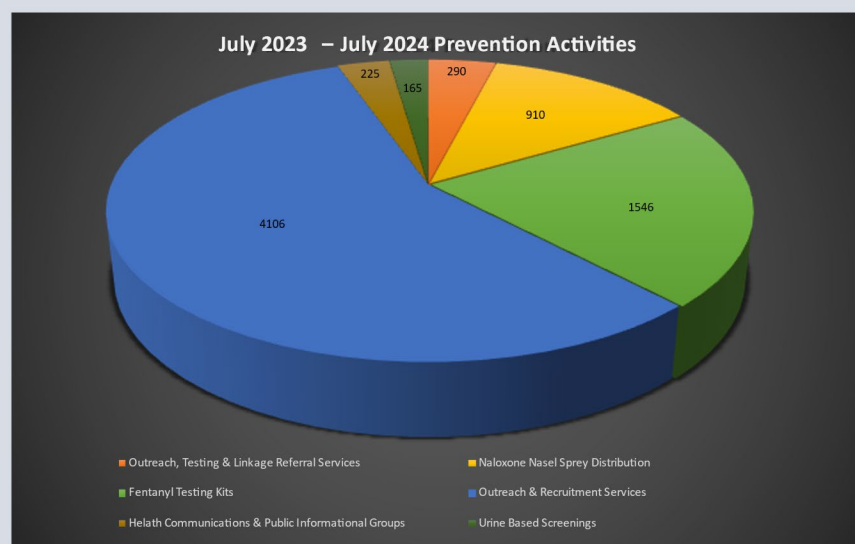
SBHC enrollment and utilization remains challenging. Aggressive outreach efforts to bolster enrollment include: CHCs SBHC community health worker's participation and visibility at community events, school events, and utilization of Waterbury Public Schools (WPS) communications team to send SBHC enrollment methods district-wide. Clarification of messaging to the public has been paramount in overcoming utilization misconceptions. With the challenges, WHD has encountered many successes with social media posts throughout accounts, collaboration with the CT Association of SBHCs, ensuring services are interwoven with school

nursing and area providers, collaboration with various WPS divisions, and creating a direct link to services from WPS Welcome Center to SBHCs.

Prevention, Harm and Risk Reduction

Waterbury Department of Public Health Prevention Team introduced Yale New Haven Mobile Pharmacy/Clinic Staff to vulnerable populations and communities as they sought to expand services in Waterbury CT. After the staff were familiar with the hotspots where they were likely to have the greatest uptake of services, WHD staff continued to work alongside them to promote trust and validate the credibility of the service.

Trinity Health of New England donated a decommissioned ambulance to WHD in January to be retrofitted and branded for use as a syringe services program (SSP) vehicle. Staff went through training to learn how to safely and effectively administer the program throughout the spring as the vehicle was being renovated. WHD also continues to conduct community outreach activities to high priority hotspots in Meriden, Wolcott, Watertown and Naugatuck as part of the Overdose Data to Action Grant (OD2A) with New Haven Health Department. The OD2A team conducted training to all teachers within the 34 Waterbury Public School System on how to recognize an overdose and administer naloxone. WHD continues to partner and collaborate with the Waterbury Police Department in conducting community outreach to high priority communities that are frequented with transactional sex workers,



opioid/substance misuse, unsheltered/unhoused encampments narcotic sales and crime. The Waterbury Department of Public Health Prevention Unit offers free and confidential HIV/STI screening to the student body of the Waterbury UCONN Campus and Post University during the Spring and Fall semester.

Emergency Preparedness and Response



Our mission remains steadfast: to build a more resilient community prepared to deal with, promptly respond to, and recover from any major emergencies arising from natural disasters or man-made causes. The core focus of our efforts continues to be the coordination of continual surveillance and preparation for various public health emergencies that may threaten the well-being of our citizens. This report outlines the key activities, accomplishments, and ongoing initiatives undertaken to achieve the department's goals.

Surveillance and Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies

1. **Collaborative Planning and Review:** The Emergency Preparedness Division has actively collaborated with the Region 5 Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 8 group to review and update the plans designed to respond to public health emergencies. Through a cooperative effort, we have ensured that these plans are comprehensive, adaptable, and aligned with the latest guidelines issued by relevant authorities.
2. **Real-Life Simulations:** To validate the effectiveness of our response plans, we conducted various simulations and exercises. These included call-down drills, the Region 5 Pandemic Flu Tabletop, and the Connecticut Health Care Coalition Medical Response and Surge Exercise Tabletop. These exercises replicated real-life scenarios as closely as possible, enabling us to assess our preparedness, identify potential weaknesses, and

fine-tune our strategies accordingly. These exercises are crucial for maintaining and improving our response capabilities.

3. **National Preparedness month:** September is designated National Preparedness Month. In 2023, the theme was "Take Control in 1, 2, 3." Our focus was on preparing at-risk and vulnerable populations, particularly older adults. Our initiatives included:

- **Social Media Campaign:** We launched a month-long social media campaign to raise awareness about emergency preparedness, with a particular emphasis on older adults. This campaign engaged residents and provided essential information on disaster preparedness.
- **Community Outreach and Education:** In collaboration with several non-profit and faith-based organizations, we delivered Emergency Preparedness Presentations tailored to older adults. This outreach aimed to empower individuals to proactively manage their safety and well-being during emergencies.

Key Activities and Accomplishments

Collaborative Events and Community Engagement

1. **Sound-the-Alarm Event (April 20, 2024):** Partnering with the American Red Cross, we participated in the Sound-the-Alarm event, providing free smoke detectors to Waterbury residents. This initiative enhanced household safety and emphasized our commitment to proactive emergency preparedness.
2. **Blood Drive (August 9, 2023):** In partnership with the Red Cross, we organized a successful blood drive, collecting 34 pints of viable blood. This effort was vital in supporting the local blood bank and highlighted our role in community health support.
3. **Training and Development:** Fiscal Year 2023 marked a significant advancement in our disaster management strategies through the completion of specialized training sessions, including:
 - Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents
 - Disaster Management for Public Services
 - Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents
 - Mass Fatalities Planning and Response for Rural Communities Training
 - Disaster Preparedness for Healthcare Organizations within the Community Infrastructure Certification
 - Disaster Management for Electric Power Systems
 - Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Training
 - Infrastructure Disaster Management Certification
 - Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Cooling and Warming Center Best Practices Training
 - MEMA Mass Care Sheltering Identification and Surveying Certification



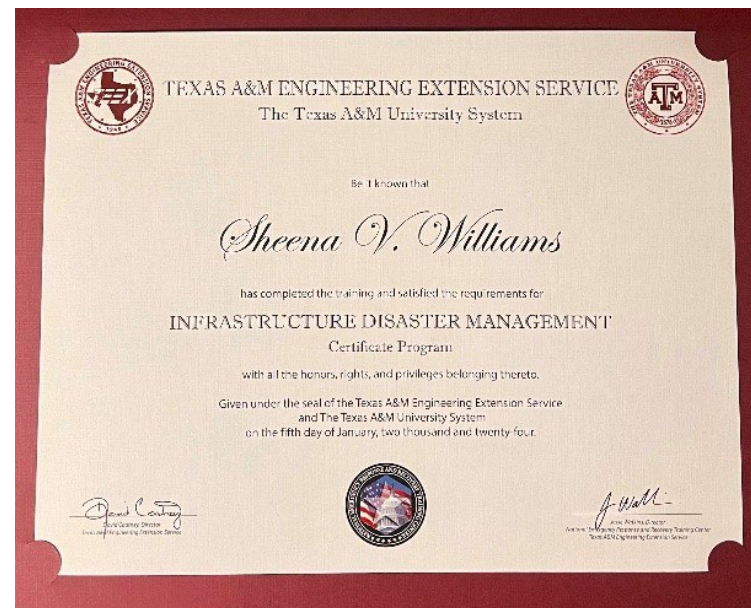
These certification courses have enhanced our team's capabilities and readiness for diverse emergencies.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, our commitment to emergency preparedness will guide us in several key areas:

1. We will remain dedicated to continual improvement, innovation, and collaboration, leveraging lessons learned from recent activities to enhance our preparedness and response capabilities.
2. We will embrace a proactive approach to preparedness, focusing on refining our strategies to respond effectively to future emergencies.

The City of Waterbury will continue to be a beacon of resilience and preparedness, standing firm in the face of adversity. Through strategic partnerships, targeted training, and comprehensive community outreach, we will ensure that Waterbury remains a resilient and well-prepared community.



Lead Safe and Healthy Homes



The Lead Safe Program received a \$5,000,000 grant for Lead from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and \$700,000 for Healthy Homes. The grant commenced on Oct, 2020 with a completion date of December 2024 with an allocation of \$15,000 per unit. Total number of Units to be completed with this grant is 234.

As of July 2024, 200 Units are complete. There are currently 37 Units in process. 239 LIRA (lead-hazard risk assessment) reports have been completed and 250 HHRS (healthy home rating system) reports have been completed. 50 of the 50 Community Outreach events have been completed, reaching 64,750 city residents and 25 of the 25 skills training workshops for local contractors have been completed, providing 300 jobs. To date there are 696 Homes in Waterbury on the Lead Safe Registry. Below is a property that participated in the program before and after renovation.



5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health

The Opioid Taskforce Coordinator sits within the Prevention, Harm and Risk Reduction section and provides guidance and planning for the City's continued efforts to address the opioid crisis in Waterbury. The Task Force coordinator assists the co-chair of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee with administrative duties and is responsible for following the state's process of allocating

the settlement money through the Settlement Committee. The position is a direct report to the Mayor's Office but by sitting within the Health Department reporting structure has the ability to elevate issues to the attention of City Administration as needed. In the Fall of 2023 the Opioid Taskforce Coordinator facilitated meetings between opioid and mental health service providers in the area and the city officials to gain an understanding of the existing efforts and initiatives occurring in the city of Waterbury, as well as identify gaps and barriers to services and promote evidence-based strategies to combat the opioid crises. This included a meeting between service providers and legislators to express concerns regarding the barriers to reimbursement providers encounter when working with individuals with substance use disorder.

The Opioid Taskforce Coordinator worked to map the overdose hot spots in Waterbury to identify business to partner with in placement of Naloxone emergency response kits and began communication with these businesses to secure their participation in the program.

The WHD Prevention Unit's primary focus is the three levels of prevention: primary, secondary, and tertiary. The Prevention Unit continues to build collaborations with CBOs and rapport with Waterbury's diverse individuals and communities.

By addressing the three levels of prevention, with in the WHD-Prevention Unit it has enabled the Staff in building and continue building rapport with Waterbury populations facing social, socioeconomic, disability status, and generational disparities. With education and trainings, the Prevention Unit empowers community members and assist them with identifying and gaining access to local resources. The WHD-Prevention Unit Design, approach to prevention and reputation with building rapport with populations throughout the city; increased the number of organizations in and outside the city reaching out for assistance. The Prevention Unit assists these agencies with ideas and different approaches to engaging their target populations. The following are the programs and level of prevention run by the Prevention Unit.

Local Prevention Council (LPC)

The Local Prevention Council (LPC) focuses on the City's youth, and collaborates on substance use prevention and mental health awareness and promotion. The LPC collaborates with local youth-serving organizations that conduct youth events, educational presentations on mental health, substance use disorder, and vaping. Waterbury's Local Prevention Council focuses on deferring youth ages 12-17 from substance misuse, with a primary focus on vaping. The priority risk factors the council addresses are retail access and peer norms. The program continuously engages in community outreach by sponsoring multiple events and partnering with various local agencies. LPC has served over 500 individuals, providing critical information on the health impacts of vaping and substance use, along with available resources. We have delivered vaping presentations to students, teachers, Waterbury school nurses, and community members. We have finalized our social marketing campaign, which focuses on reminding vaping retailers of the legal age requirement of 21 and discouraging youth from vaping. Additionally, we are currently preparing to conduct

environmental scans at vaping retailers in Waterbury, receiving guidance from TTASC, DMHAS, WCTC, and TPEP. The Waterbury LPC holds monthly meetings to further our mission. We are deeply grateful for the community's continued support in this significant endeavor.

Prevention and Harm and Risk Reduction (Primary and Secondary)

Staff provide confidential Testing for HIV and STIs for individuals at the health department and on the spot testing while conducting outreach and community events. Staff conduct counseling, to ensure connections to treatment and resources are provided.

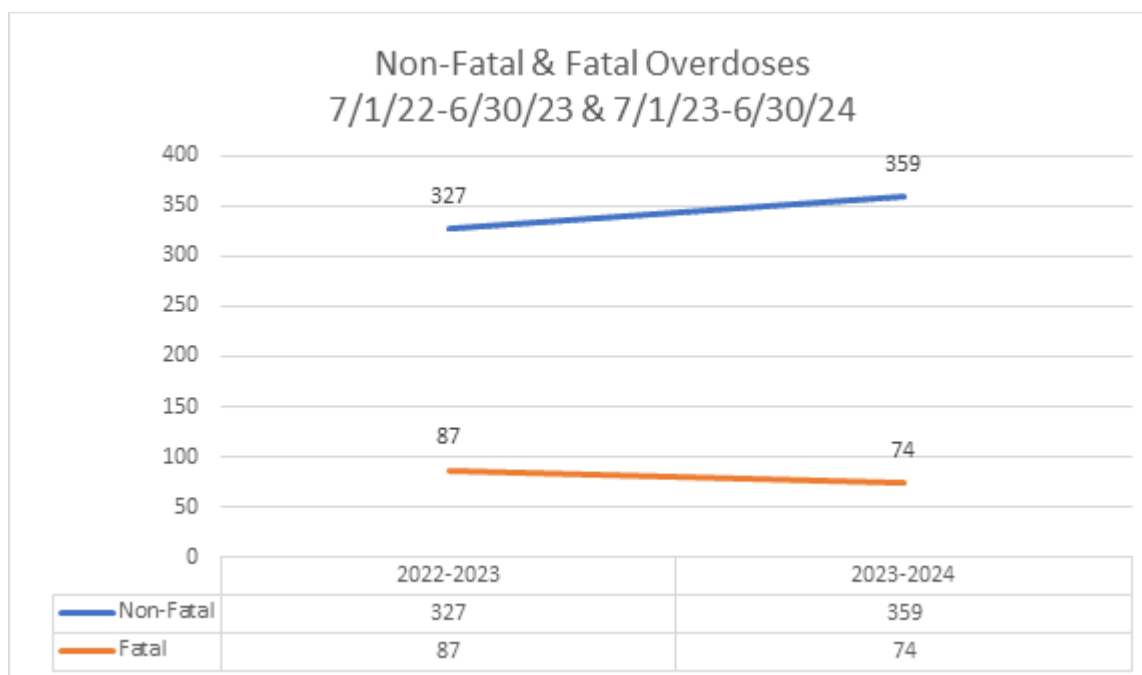
Overdose Data to Action (Secondary and Tertiary)

Staff conduct outreach in identified "Hot Spots" and distribute harm reduction supplies, such as Naloxone and fentanyl testing strips, to people with substance use disorder, families and community members. Staff conduct community education on how to identifying, responding to an overdose and when to administer Naloxone.

Warm Handoff Program (Tertiary Prevention)

Staff respond to Waterbury Police Department (WPD) dispatched calls as needed, to assist with connection to care and harm reduction resources. Staff conducts outreach to connect with individuals who have experienced an overdose and provides needed resources and connection to treatment options. 100 individuals (cases) reported and entered into program, 23 individuals (cases) successfully connected to care.

| Year | Non-Fatal | Fatal |
|--------------------|-----------|-------|
| 7/1/2022-7/2/2023 | 327 | 87 |
| 7/3/2023-6/30/2024 | 359 | 74 |
| | 9.8%↑ | 15%↓ |



Prevention Unit Staff (Primary and Secondary Prevention)

Prevention Staff maintain various certifications including Community Health Worker, Recovery Coach, Train the Trainer (TOT) and Certified Prevention Specialist. They work to address substance use disorder awareness and stigma, how to identify and respond to an overdose, and the administration of Naloxone, mental health promotion and awareness, suicide prevention and HIV/AIDS and STI prevention education and testing. All staff work WHD Prevention Unit events promoting programs, services and provide resources and education. Staff continue to build community collaborations with community-based organizations (CBOs), faith-based organizations and other local agencies.

6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) provides lead poisoning prevention education and case management services to reduce the risk and prevent lead poisoning for children between the age of 6 months through 6 years of age who reside in the City of Waterbury. Overall program services include: case management services, visual risk assessments, epidemiological investigations and full lead-based paint inspections. CLPPP works closely with US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-funded Waterbury Lead and Healthy Homes Program in providing funding assistance to eligible property owners for lead abatement and remediation of housing related health hazards.

Effective January 1, 2024, when a child has one confirmed venous blood test $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$, a full comprehensive inspection is required. A full comprehensive inspection includes an epidemiological investigation, lead-based paint inspection, and soil and water testing at the dwelling unit. If lead-based paint and other lead hazard sources are identified, a lead abatement order will be issued and a full lead abatement plan is required to be completed within a specific time frame. For property owners who do not have financial resources to conduct lead abatement, the Case Manager/Lead Inspector will refer the property owner to the Waterbury Lead and Healthy Homes Program for funding assistance to address the lead-based paint issue. For children with Blood Lead Level (BLL) between $5\mu\text{g/dL}$ up to $10 \mu\text{g/dL}$, the Case Manager/Lead Inspector conducts on-site inspections, which include visual assessments, provides suggestions for interim control measures and proper cleaning techniques, and provides educational information to parents/guardians. During this reporting period, 13 full comprehensive inspections, six risk assessments, seven lead clearance inspections, and 17 on-site inspections were conducted.

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Regulation

FOG refers collectively to the fats, oils, and grease generated from commercial food establishments. Installation and proper maintenance of FOG systems will prevent sewage blockage by the accumulation of fat, oil and grease in the sewer pipes. The Environmental Health Section works collaboratively with Jacobs Water Pollution Control as the city's water pollution control authority for the enforcement of FOG systems in Class III and IV food establishments. During this reporting period, there were 51 FOG system reviews conducted by Jacobs and all Class III and IV food establishments were inspected at least once by WHD during the reporting period.

Food Establishment Inspections

Food inspectors conduct routine inspections at food establishments to ensure food safety for public consumption and establishments are operated in compliance with the Connecticut General Statutes, Public Health Code and the Federal FDA Food Code. Types of inspections conducted by food inspectors are:

1. Pre-operational inspections for new establishments
2. Routine inspections for Class I, II, III and IV establishments

3. Temporary events
4. Investigations of complaints pertaining to food establishments
5. Investigations for foodborne illness outbreaks
6. Responding to food recall notifications to ensure that recalled products are removed from the retail stores

During this reporting period, 127 pre-operational inspections, 51 temporary events and 774 routine inspections were conducted.

Assurance:

7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy

Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Continuation Grant

Waterbury Health Department was awarded \$1,019,512.68 in grant funding by the Connecticut Department of Public Health in February 2023 for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity continuation grant (ELC2). ELC2 grant activities commenced July 2023 with the creation of a deliverables-based work plan and creation of a tracking template to monitor progress. The scope of the grant focused on enhancing laboratory detection, surveillance, response, informatics, and workforce capacity in response to COVID-19. This included coordination with community partners around COVID-19: prevent and minimize transmission through health promotion activities related to prevention of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

ELC2 grant deliverables and program activities concluded in May 2024. Activities included responding to, and investigation of COVID-19 related outbreaks within our region, monthly surveillance reports of current disease rates for COVID-19, and posting of COVID-19 and other respiratory infection rates on department website and social media. The team also created an infectious disease committee, and initiated a learning series for providers and other stakeholders to share best practices on mitigation of COVID-19 and other conditions of public health significance. Five meetings attended by 313 individuals were held during the project period. The team also identified high-need communities with special accessibility needs and created materials specific to them translated into multiple languages. WHD also purchased a subscription to the Unite Us referral platform to support community resource referrals. WHD began using the Unite Us platform previously as part of the HHS-Office of Minority Health grant for Advancing Health Literacy. Additionally, data from Unite Us utilization has been used to develop content for community outreach and communications. For example, Unite Us data have demonstrated that an ongoing, leading service needed in the local community is supplemental food supplies. Therefore, the availability of food bank and other supplemental food supplies is an important part of WHD social media communications, and is among the most shared information provided in WHD communications channels.

Of significance, a subcontract with a media agency, the WORX, for \$32,216.89 was executed in December 2023 to create social media posts, public service announcements, press releases, and an ATM banking machine advertisement. The culmination of the partnership was the creation of a microsite, TakeCareWaterbury.com, which went live May 2024. Current infectious disease prevention information specific to COVID-19, RSV, and Flu are featured. The Waterbury-centric site features a comprehensive, up-to-date community resource directory. Residents can connect to several hundred city-based programs, services, and providers through the directory. Weekly social media posts on infectious disease prevention and other health messaging have continued beyond the grant funding period to drive residents to the microsite. The Waterbury Health Department team was trained to edit and adding content to the microsite to expand messaging and maintain relevance.

8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

Medical Director



In April 2024 the WHD secured the services of Dr. Husnain Kermalli to as Medical Director of Waterbury Health Department. This position is funded through the DPH Public Health Infrastructure Grant Program. Dr. Kermalli oversees the clinical aspects of public health programs and services and provides medical expertise through consultation and guidance on patient care across the Department. Dr. Kermalli's role is crucial for maintaining the health and well-being of the Waterbury community through effective public health strategies and interventions.

Waterbury Health Department has begun the process of re-establishing clinical services offered to the community including immunizations, STI and HIV testing, and TB case management services. Dr. Kermalli is an integral team member involved in the key steps of identifying gaps in services in the Waterbury community, and assisting in planning, resource allocation, policy and procedure development, and quality assurance. In collaboration with the Medical Director, the Department will ensure that clinical services are re-established safely, effectively and sustainably, meeting the community's health needs.

During FY 2024, the Program Decision Support Section worked with talented, new graduate-level interns prospectively interested in pursuing careers in public health. These interns included:

- An MPH candidate at the University of New Haven who contributed input for the Department's planning to reenter clinical services. As an international student, this candidate was able to contribute his unique perspective and studied the U.S. health care system and the opportunities available to local health departments with enthusiasm.
- An MPH candidate from the University of New England who completed a feasibility study regarding the development of a community urgent care center as well as an evaluation of WHD's harm reduction services. As an international student who was a primary care physician in her country of origin, this candidate was well equipped to provide the Department with valuable input from clinical and public health viewpoints.

Program Decision Support staff routinely participate in the WHD Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee and its follow-on tasks and activities as the DEI Committee seeks to make WHD services more accessible for residents who speak other languages or who are prevented by other SDOH factors from taking full advantage of WHD services. During the FY 2024 reporting period, the DEI committee achieved the following:

DEI Committee Activities

- Revision of Exterior and Interior Signage for the WHD
- Posting of Language I.D. Posters throughout WHD
- Development of WHD Services Brochure (available in English and the top 5 languages spoken in the city of Waterbury which include Spanish, Albanian, Haitian, Portuguese and Ukrainian)
- *I Speak* Cards available in main entrance of WHD for top 5 languages spoken in the city of Waterbury
- Development of the Use of the Language Assistance Line Standard Operating Guide
- Purchase of WHD tents, feather flags and T-shirts to promote WHD at community events

LANGUAGE SERVICES

French/Français

Mandarin/普通话" (Pǔtōnghuà)

Portuguese/ Português

Spanish/ Español

Albanian/ Shqip

Susu/ Soussou

Maninka-Mandinka /"Mandinkala" or "Mandinka"

American Sign Language



- Basic Health Equity Training sessions for WHD employees (2 sessions) facilitated by Dr. Lara White, Director of Equity and Inclusion, Waterbury Public School System
- Revision of DEI Committee Mission Statement
- Development of DEI Committee Vision Statement
- Sign language service availability video
- Census Tract Profiling for the city of Waterbury covering SVI Factors and Health Measures

ESTABLECE CONEXIÓN CON NOSOTROS.

(203) 574-6780

CuidateWaterbury.com
Waterburyct.org/services/health

TakeCareWaterbury@waterburyct.org

(203) 597-3481

185 South Main St., (Jefferson Square) Waterbury, CT 06706

De lunes a viernes.
8:30 a. m. - 4:30 p. m.

DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD PÚBLICA DE WATERBURY

Cuidación en su comunidad.

takecarewaterbury.com
Waterburyct.org/services/health

SERVICIOS DE SALUD EN LA COMUNIDAD

Servicios de enfermería escolar.
Servicios completos de salud escolar para los 23,000 estudiantes de la ciudad, desde preescolar hasta secundaria. Teléfono: (203) 574-6888.

Programa de inmunización infantil
Mejorar la cobertura de vacunación para los niños de Waterbury. Teléfono: (203) 348-3907

Enfermería en salud pública.
Vigilancia, educación, prevención y tratamiento de enfermedades infecciosas para la tuberculosis y otras enfermedades infecciosas. Teléfono: (203) 574-6780

Bienestar escolar
Los centros de salud escolares (SHC) en Crosby HS - Wallace MS y Wilby HS - North End MS brindan la oportunidad a los estudiantes de consultar a un proveedor de atención médica en la escuela. Teléfono: (475) 231-6878.

SALUBRIDAD AMBIENTAL

Inspecciones de restaurantes y otros establecimientos de alimentos, inspecciones de Salones de Belleza y Barberías, Piscinas, Personas y Guarderías, inspecciones y manejo de quejas sobre vivienda y detección. Teléfono: (203) 348-3903.

Mitigación del riesgo de plomo en hogares saludables.

- Programa para controlar y reducir los riesgos del plomo
- Programa de prevención de intoxicación por plomo en niños.
- Programa de Viviendas Saludables

Teléfono: (203) 574-6788

Preparación ante emergencias
Vigilancia y Preparación para Emergencias de Salud Pública Causadas por Eventos Naturales o Provocados por el Hombre. Teléfono: (203) 348-3906.

PREVENCIÓN Y MITIGACIÓN DE DAÑOS Y RIESGOS

- Servicios de prevención del VIH/SDA e ITS.
- Prevención del uso de sustancias.
- Equipo de respuesta ante sobredosis
- Prevención de daños y riesgos

Teléfono: (203) 574-6883

Medical Care: Diagnosis and Treatment, Physical Exams including: Sex Screen, Chronic Disease Management, Immunizations, Preventive Care, Health Education, Referrals, Lab.

Mental Health: Screenings, Exams, Counseling, X-Ray, Social Work, Oral Health Education, Behavioral Care, Referrals, Lab.

Behavioral Health: Crisis Intervention, Individual Counseling, Group Counseling, Family Counseling, Referrals.

Crucial High School/Wallace Middle School
Wilby High School/North End Middle School
Piquet Elementary School/Robert Hood Middle School

To enroll your child in services
https://www.sbhct.org/ or call (203) 574-6788

KONEKTE AVÈK NOU

(203) 574-6780

TakeCareWaterbury.com
Waterburyct.org/services/health

TakeCareWaterbury@waterburyct.org

(203) 597-3481

185 South Main St., (Jefferson Square) Waterbury, CT 06706

Lendi-Vandredi
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

DEPATMAN SANTE PIBLIK WATERBURY

Sweon non kominote a la

TakeCareWaterbury.com
Waterburyct.org/services/health

SÈVIS SANTE KOMINOTÈ

Enfimyè Lekòl
Sèvis sante lekòl konplè pou 23,000 èlèv vi la, lekòl matenèl jiska lekòl segondè. Teléfono: (203) 574-6888

Program Aktyon Pou Vaksinasyon Timoun yo
Anviwon pou santaj pwoteksyon vaksinasyon pou timoun Waterbury yo. Teléfono: (203) 348-3907

Enfimyè Sante Piblik
Siveyans maladi enfeksyon, edikasyon, prevansyon ak tretman pou sòkòlòz ak lòt maladi enfeksyon. Teléfono: (203) 574-6780

Sante ki baze nan lekòl
Sant sante nan lekòl yo (SBHC) nan Crosby HS - Wallace MS ak Wilby HS - North End MS pèmèt timoun yo konsilte yon founisè swen sante nan lekòl la. Teléfono: (475) 231-6878

SANTE ANVIWÒNMAN

Enpèkasyon nan restorasyon ak lòt enblyonman manje. Enpèkasyon nan estidyo bote ak kwele, pripi, kay yo lwe pa charm ak gadri. Enpèkasyon ak repòs ak plant konstanman ogmante ak maladi. Teléfono: (203) 348-3903

Diminisman Danje Plon ak Kay ki an sante

- Program Redikasyon Danje ak Kontrè Plon
- Program Prevansyon Anpeyosman Plon Lakay Timoun
- Program Kay ki an sante

Teléfono: (203) 574-6788

Preparasyon pou gans
Siveyans ak Preparasyon pou gans Sante Piblik ki te fèt akòz Evènman Natirèl oswa Luzòfem. Teléfono: (203) 348-3906

Medical Care: Diagnosis and Treatment, Physical Exams including: Sex Screen, Chronic Disease Management, Immunizations, Preventive Care, Health Education, Referrals, Lab.

Mental Health: Screenings, Exams, Counseling, X-Ray, Social Work, Oral Health Education, Behavioral Care, Referrals, Lab.

Behavioral Health: Crisis Intervention, Individual Counseling, Group Counseling, Family Counseling, Referrals.

Crucial High School/Wallace Middle School
Wilby High School/North End Middle School
Piquet Elementary School/Robert Hood Middle School

To enroll your child in services
https://www.sbhct.org/ or call (203) 574-6788

PREVANSYON, REDIKSYON DEGA & RISK

- Sèvis Program Prevansyon VIH/SDA ak ITS
- Prevansyon kont maladi ki lye ak itilizasyon sibstans
- Ekip enfeksyon pou enfeksyon
- Rediksyon dega ak risk

Teléfono: (203) 574-6883

This past year we staffed up our nursing division and converted one of the School Nurse III 12-month nurse positions into a full-time Public Health Nurse. We also hired an agency nurse through our Workforce Development grant from DPH to lead the transformation of our second floor clinic into a multi-service clinic. Our Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator began her journey

toward certification as an Emergency Management Director, enhancing our department's potential value when the next crisis hits our city.

9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement

Rental Licensing Program Development

A highlight of key accomplishments during this reporting period is the development of the Rental Licensing Program. As American industrialization declined and manufacturing factories closed, the City of Waterbury faced social and economic distress, urban blight with abandoned residential and business properties. Waterbury has an insufficient stock of safe, well-operated and well-maintained rental housing. Substandard housing conditions disproportionately impact low-income and minority residents. To protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents from substandard housing conditions, the Waterbury Health Department – Environmental Health Section proposes to implement a Rental Licensing Program as a proactive approach to improve rental housing standards.

Strategic Planning

In January 2024, the Department began the WHD's Strategic Planning Process. This is a year-long effort involving all WHD staff, under the overall direction of the WHD Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). The Program Decision Support Section is staffing this initiative. WHD staff have expressed keen interest in the process and there has been consistently robust participation in examining local community health indicators and the WHD environment for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Significant new programs have already emerged during this important project, including the new proposal for the development of a Rental Licensing Program with related expansion of WHD's housing inspection division. It is important to note that strategic planning is an important project not only for successful organizational function, but a required element for the Department's longer-term aspiration of preparing and applying for accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Additionally, during FY 2024 the Program Decision Support Section made contributions for consideration in the Charter Revision process. Although the charter is reviewed every ten years, the section regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Waterbury Health Department and the Commissioners of the Board of Health includes dated information in need of review and revision.

10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health



Immunization Action Program (IAP)

The mission of WHD's Immunization Action Program (IAP) is to prevent illness and death from vaccine-preventable diseases. Through surveillance, monitoring of immunization levels, provision of vaccine, and professional and public education WHD staff assure the quality of immunization programs across the City. Staff monitor areas at greatest risk of low immunization rates and focus on pre-school children who may not have received the vaccinations required to start school. Staff collaborate closely with public and private immunization providers, hospitals, WIC offices, Head Start programs, schools and other maternal and child health organizations that serve young children. They assess the needs of the community, make and receive referrals for at-risk children, and share the latest immunization advice with parents and guardians to increase immunization rates in the City of Waterbury. The below bus ad was placed on six city buses around Waterbury during the months of April, May, and June.

The IAP Coordinator runs monthly CT WIZ outreach reports to engage the parents and guardians of under-immunized children. This process links at-risk children to a medical home so they receive vaccinations on time. She works with both birthing hospitals, St. Mary's and Waterbury Hospital, to insure that CTWIZ and Hepatitis B birth dose rates are being administered and documented properly. This relationship allows the IAP to offer any training or assistance needed and offer educational materials to the parents. She also attends community events to hand out educational material on the importance of up-to-date and recommended vaccinations.



(Pictured above is Victoria Caisse and CT Senator Joan Hartley at the EmpowHer event on April 27, 2024)

Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) promotes and supports implementation of provider-level strategies to help increase on-time vaccination of children and adolescents. IQIP is a 12-month process where the IAP Coordinator and Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers collaborate to identify quality improvement strategies to increase vaccine uptake by improving immunization workflow. VFC compliance visits are held at the clinic between IAP and clinic staff. The site visits consist of the administration and completion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC's) most current VFC Compliance Reviewer's Guide and an educational intervention. VFC providers may be selected to receive an Unannounced Storage and Handling (USH) visit on the years they do not receive a full compliance visit. The USH visits serve a similar purpose to the VFC compliance visit but place an emphasis on vaccine storage. Information gathered during the site visit is used to identify compliance issues and educational needs at the individual provider level. Immunizations and Community Health Advisory Meetings have a focus on increasing immunization rates in Waterbury, immunizations update, upcoming events, and community health concerns.



Public Health Nursing / Tuberculosis Control Program 2023-2024

In association with Trinity Health of New England St. Mary's Hospital Pulmonary Department, the Tuberculosis (TB) Management and Control Program at WHD continues to provide medical services and case management to the greater Waterbury community. Initial consultation is provided for latent TB infection (LTBI) and long-term medical management provided for persons with active TB infections residing in Waterbury. The St. Mary's Hospital Chest Clinic takes place twice a month in collaboration with Waterbury Health Department Public Health Nursing team. Services include medical consultation, nursing services, laboratory, radiology, pharmacological and health education regarding TB and LTBI diagnosis. When required, patients are closely monitored until the completion of therapy, up to twelve months.

The Public Health Nursing team is guided by the Connecticut TB Standards of Care, with recent updates to community-based isolation practices developed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health's (DPH) TB Control Program, which is responsible for TB control efforts in Connecticut. TB Standards of Care dictates case management by the Public Health Nursing team to include daily direct observation therapy (DOT) of ingestion of required medications, assuring completion of treatment of disease, monitoring for

new cases, investigating and ensuring treatment of contacts that have been recently exposed, and promoting screening for infection and management of co-morbid conditions in a variety of settings.

The Waterbury Health Department TB Program continues to see an influx of referrals from the DPH Refugee and Immigrant Health Program (RIHP), the public health component of Connecticut's Refugee Assistance Program. Immigrants and refugees originating from countries characterized by a high burden of TB relocating to the Waterbury community are screened and referred for follow up care. The case management of newly relocated Waterbury residents with TB disease can be complex and often incorporates addressing the socio-economic challenges complicating access to care and completion of the course of treatment. The Public Health Nursing team within the Waterbury Health Department remains committed to assisting the Waterbury residents with access to care and community resources, providing culturally sensitive health education, and promoting awareness of TB prevention and management.

| Waterbury Health Department TB Program 2023-2024 Highlights | Totals |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Latent TB infection (LTBI) evaluation and follow up | Individual cases 135 |
| TB disease evaluation, treatment, case management, home visits, DOT and follow up | Individual cases 5 |
| Monthly Chest Clinic visits (twice per month) | Individual patient encounters 52 |

School Nursing Division 2023-2024

The Nursing Division of the Waterbury Public Health Department provides nursing services to approximately 22,000 school aged children across 32 Waterbury Public Schools and 6 Waterbury private/parochial schools. School nursing services improve student health and safety enhancing their readiness to learn. With the daily staffing goal of a professional nurse available at every school, all students have the ability to receive education in the least restrictive environment.

The School Nursing Supervision team experienced personnel change during the reporting period with the internal promotions of two Waterbury School Nurses, Hope Fenn RN and Taris Velez RN, to the vacant positions of School Nurse Supervisors, joining Meghan Griffin RN. The School Nursing Supervision team is a complimentary management team composed of an abundance of nursing experience and expertise, incorporating innovative approaches to contemporary school nursing practice, and offering daily expert guidance and support to the school nursing staff.

Although staffing remains a challenge as in years past, enhanced recruitment and retention efforts have proven successful. During August 2023, 30 of the 38 school sites were staff with Waterbury Health Department school nurses. In comparison to June 2024, 33 of the 38 school sites were staffed with Waterbury school nurses. With the consideration of the two recent internal promotions of actively employed school nurses, the staffing projections are favorable. The long term and as needed staffing gaps continue to be filled using nursing agency services.

School Nursing Practice Framework™ *Supporting Students to be Healthy, Safe and Ready to Learn*



© National Association of School Nurses, 2014

BETTER HEALTH. BETTER LEARNING.™



Waterbury School Nurses were provided with multiple professional development opportunities during the reporting period, many led by community partners and external topic experts. Topics included: the introduction of the Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice (National Association of School Nursing, 2024) as the divisions guiding framework, professional communication, Health Department's Prevention and Risk Reduction team's presentation on naloxone administration, and in-person workshops addressing field trip, field day, and school end of year close out procedures. The health office emergency bag contents were updated and replaced and Stop the Bleed kits were distributed. Monthly virtual staff meetings were introduced and conducted with positive feedback from staff specific to enhanced communication and connectedness of group.



The Nursing Supervision team continues to consult with School Medical Advisor, Melissa Amicone, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC through Community Health Center, Inc. on a bi-weekly and as needed basis to ensure the nursing staff is utilizing current, best practices. Nursing Supervision under the guidance of the School Medical Advisor updated many policies and procedures, distributed a reminder letter to area pediatric providers of state lead surveillance mandates, and ensured communication and distribution of updated medication administration policies including proper completion of medication authorization forms and asthma action plans.

The annual School Nurse Day luncheon celebration was held at City Hall on May 1, 2024. Health Director, Aisling McGuckin RN, MSN-MPH and Mayor Paul Pernerewski recognized the accomplishments and dedication of the Waterbury School Nurses and their efforts in meeting the needs of the City's youngest residents throughout the year. Rachel Sewitsky, RN was awarded the Mary Monagan Award, established in 2017 to annually recognize a city school nurse who demonstrates dedication to school nursing and excellence in delivering high quality nursing care in all aspects of work.

Program Decision Support staff are continually seeking additional opportunities for the Department to grow, including by means of private, local, state and federal funding. During the FY 2024 reporting period, the new awards and/or new proposals were made, including the following:

- CDC Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant – The Department is a key partner in the \$2.1 million New Haven County-wide application submitted to the CDC in FY 2023 by the New Haven Health Department, and selected for funding in FY 2024, in

August 2023. The Program Decision Support Section assisted in the development of this application alongside the New Haven Health Department, its grant writing firm, and other local health department partners.

- Environmental Protection Agency – The Department’s proposal submitted in FY 2023 came to fruition in FY 2024, with the news received in October 2023 that the WHD application was awarded a \$1 million grant by the Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program. The Program Decision Support Section assisted in the development of this application alongside the Director of Community Strategy and the Department of Public Works, Recycling Program. Notably, this award will also fund a subrecipient contract with the Waterbury Bridge to Success, further enhancing public health collaboration.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance – In April 2024, the Department submitted a proposal requesting \$3.2 million in funding from the First Responders – Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. This proposal was developed in close collaboration with the Prevention, Harm & Risk Reduction Section and if funded will continue the vital services of the Overdose Response Team (awaiting outcome)
- HHS Office of Minority Health – In May 2024, the Department submitted a proposal requesting \$2.4 million in funding for Community Level Innovations for Improving Health Outcomes. This proposal was developed in close collaboration with the Prevention, Harm & Risk Reduction Section and if funded will continue and enhance the life-saving services of the Overdose Response Team (awaiting outcome)
- HUD Lead Control and Healthy Homes – In anticipation of the FY 2025 notice of funding opportunity, the Program Decision Support Section has assisted the Environmental Section in readiness preparations. These readiness preparations have included the development of an RFP that secured a new grant writing firm and development of census-tract level data relevant for the grant application. The notice of funding opportunity was announced in July 2024 and the Department’s proposal will request \$ million for lead hazard control and healthy homes improvements for local, income qualified housing units.

Additionally, the Program Decision Support Section has improved WHD internal and interdepartmental processes by means of the addition of the Grants Coordinator responsible for key grants and contracts activities including:

- Standardization of processes surrounding grants, contracts, MOU’s, etc. as it applies to legal counsel review and submission to Board of Aldermen for approval
- Standardization of processes surrounding Requests for Proposals as it applies to Purchasing Department review, legal counsel and risk management review