

# Environmental Health

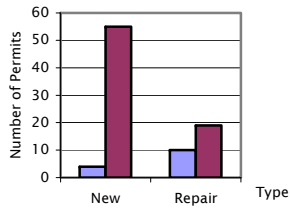
## Septic and Sewage

The environmental staff reviews septic system designs, inspects septic systems, and conducts soil testing for new and repairs of sewage disposal systems.

The State requires a property owner with an on-site septic system to obtain a permit from the health department prior to any building conversions, change in use, or building additions including, but not limited to, decks, sheds, and pools.

Plans Reviewed	80
Inspections	141
Soil testing	311
Building additions (B100 permits)	78

Septic Permits Issued FY 02-03



Legend: Bristol (Blue), Burlington (Red)

## Private Wells

The environmental staff permits and inspects construction sites of all private wells within the District. We require testing for bacteriological, chemistry and volatile organic chemicals on all new wells. The staff is available to assist in the interpretation of water results and resolutions to related well water problems.

Well Permits	82
Private well water samples	23
Day care water samples	13

## Water Quality

We inspect and test public bathing areas weekly and outdoor swimming pools regularly throughout the summer season.

Pool inspections	40
Bathing Area Inspections & Tests	118

## Housing Code Enforcement

Housing code complaints are investigated with assistance from the Bristol Building Department as needed. The District adopted a Housing Sanitary Code because there is no State of Connecticut housing code. When necessary, violators are issued an order letter and/or are litigated through the New Britain Superior Court.

Housing Complaint Inspections	201
Director of Health Orders	13
Court Litigations	11
Childhood Lead Investigations	2

## Food Protection Program

Prevention of food borne illness is the primary goal for inspecting restaurants, schools, itinerant vendors and all other food establishments. BBHD requires certification of all food handlers and provides monthly training classes for food workers.

Licensed Establishments	245
Food Service Inspections and Follow-Up	588
Food Handlers Certified	215

## Complaints

Numerous complaints are reported throughout the year. We are responsible for responding to the complaints and conducting proper follow-up.

Refuse	37
Sewage	19
Oil spills and Chemical Spills	42
Air pollution	0

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# Community Health

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

### Influenza and Pneumonia Immunizations

Early clinics were restricted to persons 65 years of age and older.

Flu Vaccines Administered	1,681
Pneumovax Vaccines Administered	85

### Reportable Diseases

Communicable diseases pose a significant public health challenge because they can be transmitted to others in a variety of ways. Reporting of these diseases by

physicians and laboratories is extremely important so that health officials can do proper follow-up, control, and surveillance.

Campylobacter	6
Salmonella	7
E.coli 0157	1
Giardia	9
Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci	2
Chlamydia	80
Gonorrhea	21
Syphilis	6
Meningococcal Meningitis	1
Haemophilus Influenza	1
Hepatitis A	1
Hepatitis B	17
Hepatitis C	117
Invasive Pneumococcal Disease	9
Invasive Staph aureus (MRSA)	18
Invasive Strep A and Strep B	8
TB Infection	27
TB Disease	3
Lyme Disease	32
Ehrlichiosis	10
Elevated Lead (venous; child < 6 y.o.)	2
Rubella	1
Carbon monoxide poisoning	5

### HIV/AIDS Counseling, Testing, Case Management and Education

BBHD is proud to have HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing as part of the available services. We have been offering confidential counseling and testing since December 1999 and case management since April 2000.

Counseling and Testing	26
Case Management Clients	13

Bristol Mayor's Task Force on HIV/AIDS conducted an educational forum for our social service providers. Twelve organizations participated.

### Rabies Activity

Potential animal carriers are sent to the State Laboratory for testing. This information is extremely important for monitoring rabies prevalence in our community, as well as for proper follow-up should there be a human or domestic animal exposure.

### Animals Tested

Bristol: 49	Positives: 1 raccoon
Burlington: 7	Positives: 1 skunk, 1 raccoon

At our annual Rabies Clinic, 120 cats and dogs were vaccinated.

### Immunization Clinic

Residents of Bristol and Burlington may come to our office during clinic hours to receive low-cost vaccinations and TB testing. The clinic is now open Mondays and Thursdays 3:00-4:30 p.m. and Tuesdays 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Vaccines administered	515
TB Screenings	201

## SCHOOL HEALTH

### School Nursing

We provide comprehensive school health services to all Bristol schools. These services include mandated screenings for scoliosis and vision.

Visits to School Health Room	85,605
Medications Administered	14,927
Vision Screenings & Rescreenings	7,386
Scoliosis Screenings	2,477

### School Dental Program

We provide dental exams, cleanings, and referrals to all Bristol elementary school students in grades K-5.

Children Screened	3,199
Dental Cleanings	1,491
Notices for Follow-Up	2,151

## SENIOR HEALTH

### Senior Programs

◆ **BBHD Dental program for the elderly**  
This program offers dental exam, cleaning and referral services to residents of Bristol, Burlington and Plymouth who are 60 years of age and older. The program receives support from the North Central Area Agency on Aging, the Teddy Bear Jamboree and the Women's Service Organization of Bristol.

Exams and Cleanings	344
Referrals	79

◆ **Komanestsky Estates Congregate Housing**  
BBHD provides basic health screenings and education at monthly clinics.

Number of people served	87
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◆ **Burlington Senior Center**

Monthly health screenings are held at the center.

Number of people served	82
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## ※ Highlights ※

### Bioterrorism Preparedness



BBHD completed an assessment of our community readiness for bioterrorism. We are one of the 42 local public health regions in Connecticut that has developed a plan to provide mass vaccination clinics for our community in the event that smallpox ever occurred. As part of the smallpox clinic planning we recruited key coordinators, doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who have volunteered to staff such a clinic. About 20 volunteers received smallpox vaccination as part of this pre-event planning.

### The Connecticut Immunization Action Plan (IAP)



As a participant of the state's immunization initiative to increase immunization rates among pre-school children, BBHD has been tracking the immunization status of approximately 1800 children ages 0-2. As a multifaceted approach to improving rates, we distributed vaccination booklets to all women giving birth at Bristol Hospital, created and distributed vaccination handbooks to area providers and disseminated information on immunizations at community events including the Bristol Home Show. In an effort to highlight Immunization Week, a large banner was placed across the Boulevard. In addition, a series of workshops on parental bonding sponsored in part by BBHD provided another opportunity to reach the target population.

### Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)



During November 2002 a new disease originated in Beijing, China. Worldwide, 8,098 people became sick with SARS and 774 died. SARS is caused by a previously unrecognized corona virus, called SARS-associated corona virus (SARS-CoV). In the United States only 8 persons had laboratory evidence of SARS. There were no deaths. All confirmed cases had traveled to areas where SARS was occurring. There were no confirmed cases of Connecticut.

## ※ Highlights ※

### Smoking Cessation Program



BBHD offered three smoking cessation programs, in January and April of 2003, using American Lung Association's Freedom From Smoking Plus® Program. In conjunction with the behavior modification program, participants were provided either the nicotine patch or Zyban. If both were used, Zyban was provided free of cost and the nicotine patch was purchased by the participant. Follow-up is conducted at 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year.

### Oral Health Program



With funding support from the CT Department of Public Health, BBHD conducted a community-wide assessment of oral health needs in our community. All area dentists, pediatricians, and human service providers were surveyed. A sample of parents of pre-school and K-5 children also completed surveys. BBHD dental hygienists also reviewed records of K-5 children participating in the Bristol School Oral Health Program. These data highlighted the need for oral health services for children and adults. Based on the results, the Oral Health Advisory Committee is developing a strategic plan for oral health, focusing initially on the needs of elementary school aged children.

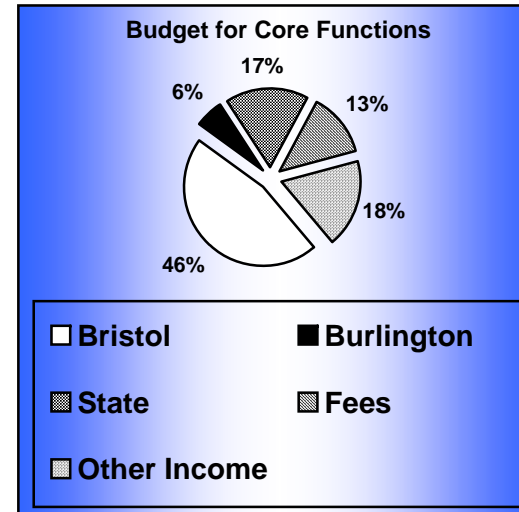
### Upcoming Projects



#### Shape Up Bristol 1-2-3

The Bristol Community Wellness Coalition launched a two-year initiative to reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity in our community and prevent the lifelong chronic diseases associated with being obese. The themes Eat Smart, Be Fit and Enjoy Life reflect the emphasis on good nutrition, physical activity and stress reduction as ways to change our behavior and life styles to become healthier. Throughout the initiative there will be opportunities to participate in the programs and activities at little or no cost. BBHD will be sponsoring a free 32-week exercise program starting in September and running through April.

## Funding Information



BBHD is funded on a per capita formula based on Connecticut General Statutes. During fiscal year 2002-03 the District received \$5.32 per capita from the participating towns and \$1.68 per capita from the State. This represents a 15.6% reduction in state funding. Additional fees are generated through the issuance of permits and licenses. District Core Function expenditures were \$690,532. In addition, the City of Bristol funds the School Health Program (\$760,460) and the School Dental Health Program (\$166,579) for a total operating budget of \$1,617,571.

### Board of Directors

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### Director of Community Health

Lynn Abrahamson, MPH, RN

### Chief Sanitarian

Phyllis Amodio, RS

### Administrative Staff

Jill Roy  
Elsie Caban  
Kathleen Beaman



# Annual Report 2002-2003

## Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Phone: (860) 584-7682

Fax: (860) 584-3814

240 Stafford Avenue

Bristol, CT 06010

## 24-hour Emergency Number

**(860) 209-0458**

*Serving the communities of Bristol and  
Burlington since 1979.*