

Message from the Director of Health

As we reflect on the past year, we see many public health challenges, but also opportunity and promise. In responding to these challenges, BBHD has done what it has always done – create and promote programs and services that strengthen the health of our communities and the residents it serves.

The accomplishments detailed in this report are a credit to our staff, our Board of Health and our many volunteers. It reflects a shared commitment to our main goal - healthy people, healthy communities. From the promotion of oral health care to the prevention of communicable diseases, from assuring a safe and clean environment to preparing for emergencies, from taking care of our children to the needs of older adults, we improve lives.

As we look ahead to next year, we will continue to develop programs and activities that contribute to a shared future of good health and well-being.

Lynn Abramson, Director of Health

Environmental Health

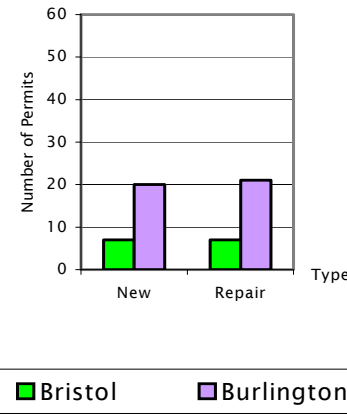
The Environmental Health Program enforces state and local codes related to providing a safe and healthy environment.

Septic System and Sewage Disposal

The environmental staff is responsible for the issuance of permits for onsite sewage disposal facilities. The location and method of installation are governed by the Public Health Code and are enforced by the Health District. Property owners with an on-site septic system must obtain a permit prior to any building conversions, change in use or building additions including, but not limited to decks, sheds, and pools.

Plans Reviewed	78
Inspections	112
Soil testing	364
Building additions (B100 permits)	50

Septic Permits Issued FY 05-06



Private Wells

The environmental staff is responsible for well water testing. They issue permits and inspect construction sites of all private wells within the district. BBHD staff is also available to assist in the interpretation of water results and resolutions to related well water problems.

Well Permits	37
Private well water samples	18
Day care water samples	11

Water Quality

The environmental health staff inspects and tests public bathing areas and outdoor swimming pools on a routine basis throughout the summer season.

Pool inspections	41
Bathing Area Inspections & Tests	143

Housing Code Enforcement

In October 2005, the City of Bristol adopted the Housing and Property Maintenance Code. The Health District coordinates with the Bristol Building, Police and Fire Departments to enforce this local ordinance. The code applies to both rental and owner occupied properties in Bristol.

Housing complaints can be made by contacting the Health District. Complaints are investigated to determine if a violation exists.

Housing Complaints Received	158
Warning Notices issued	54
Orders Violation Notices issued	39
Citations issued (per property)	15

Lead

Lead poisoning is one of the most common, yet preventable, diseases in children. Even relatively low levels of lead may lead to changes to the nervous system and brain, interfere with growth and contribute to learning difficulties.

BBHD staff provides comprehensive lead investigations as required by the CT Department of Public Health. The comprehensive lead investigation includes a questionnaire about possible lead exposure, lead dust hazard analysis, water testing, soil testing and testing of all interior and exterior painted surfaces.

Food Protection Program

Prevention of food borne illness is the primary goal for inspecting restaurants, schools, temporary vendors and all other food establishments. It is our objective to minimize the risk of food borne disease through education and enforcement. Outbreaks of food borne illness are investigated by the health department.

Licensed Establishments	257
Food Service Inspections and Follow-Up	469

Other Complaints

Numerous complaints are reported throughout the year. The health department is responsible for responding to the complaints and conducting proper follow-up.

Food Service	33
Oil spills and Chemical Spills	47
Refuse	18
Sewage	11

Community Health

The Community Health Section coordinates programs and services geared toward the prevention of diseases and the promotion of healthy behaviors.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Influenza Vaccinations

Flu vaccine was given to residents of Bristol and Burlington who are 18 years and older.

Reportable Diseases

Health District staff provides monitoring, control and follow-up of communicable diseases including tuberculosis, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, foodborne illness and other reportable diseases as required by the State Public Health Code.

Rabies Activity

The health district works with the animal control officers in Bristol and Burlington to monitor the rabies activity in our communities. BBHD staff also provides follow-up when there is a human or domestic animal exposure. Potential animal carriers are sent to the State Laboratory for testing. The Health District also offers a Rabies Clinic to provide vaccinations for cats and dogs.

At our annual Rabies Clinic, 136 cats and dogs were vaccinated.

Immunization Clinic

Children under 18 years of age who reside in Bristol or Burlington are able to receive free vaccinations at the Health District office. Tuberculosis screening is available for Bristol and Burlington residents for a small fee.

The Health District Immunization Clinic is currently open every Monday from 2:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. and by special appointments.

SCHOOL HEALTH

School Health Services

Health District staff provides comprehensive health services to all of the public and parochial schools in the City of Bristol. Services include mandated screenings for vision and scoliosis, emergency care and first aid, evaluation of illness and care as appropriate, medication administration during school hours, and communicable disease education and prevention.

School Dental Program

The Health District registered dental hygienists provide a school-based dental program for students in grades K-5 in all Bristol schools. Children receive a visual oral screening, cleanings and dental referrals as appropriate.

SENIOR HEALTH

BBHD Dental Program for the Elderly

This Health District 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.

BBHD also provides blood pressure monitoring and education free of charge to residents of Bristol and Burlington.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health District is responsible for promoting good health through education and training programs. These programs are designed to reduce the risk for certain diseases and promote the health and safety of its residents. BBHD applies for available funding to address specific concerns. In addition, the Health District evaluates existing and emerging trends and regularly seeks funding for identified issues. These programs are provided to Bristol and Burlington residents at low or no cost. Current projects address

issues related to cancer prevention and control, public health emergency preparedness and smoking cessation.

Skin Cancer Screening Day

As a part of the FY 2007-2008 Comprehensive Cancer Planning Federal Block Grant, the Bristol-Burlington Health District was successful in reaching out to the community at large by offering a free Skin Cancer Screening in collaboration with the Bristol Senior Wellness Center. Screening was targeted towards Bristol and Burlington adults 55 years and older. Healthy snacks were provided, sun safety kits were given out and informational brochures on healthy living were made available. Twenty five adults were screened.

Smoking Cessation Program



BBHD offered two smoking cessation programs in January and May of 2008, using the American Lung Association's Freedom From Smoking Plus® Program.

Follow-up is conducted at three, six and twelve months.

HIV/AIDS Education



The Bristol Mayor's Task Force on HIV/AIDS, which is co-chaired by Health District staff, coordinated an

educational forum for health care providers and prevention specialists in April 2008.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

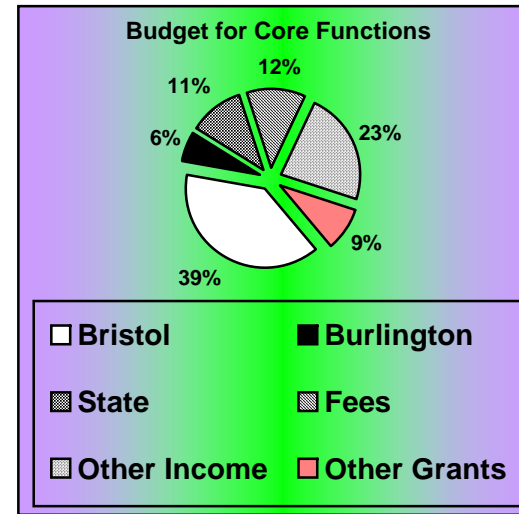


The Health District is actively involved in planning for public health emergencies at the local, regional and

state levels. Staff has also provided educational forums on preparing for a pandemic influenza.

For more information on how you can get involved, contact the Health District office.

Funding Information



BBHD is funded on a per capita formula based on CT General Statutes. During fiscal year 2007-08 the District received \$6.62 per capita from the participating towns and \$1.66 per capita from the State. Additional fees are generated through the issuance of permits and licenses. District Core Function expenditures were \$1,047,352. The City of Bristol funds the School Health Program (\$1,610,582) the School Dental Health Program (\$189,067) and the housing program (\$134,856) for a total operating budget of \$2,981,857.

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Annual Report 2007-2008

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Serving the communities of Bristol and Burlington since 1979.