



QVHD

Quinnipiack Valley Health District

Annual Report 2017 - 2018

Serving the Towns of:
Bethany, Hamden,
North Haven, and
Woodbridge,
Connecticut

Population Size:
99,442



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

ABOUT QVHD

Mission:

The Mission of the Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) is to protect the residents of Bethany, Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge, Connecticut from disease, injury, and environmental hazards through prevention, education, enforcement and collaboration.

QVHD accomplishes its mission through:

- Environmental health services that insure compliance with the state and local laws, regulations and ordinances
- Systemic identification of community health concerns and risks
- Preventive services for the early control and identification of disease
- Provision of current, credible information to promote health behavior choices
- Local and regional emergency preparedness for response to an unexpected environmental or biological event.
- Collaboration with local and government leaders in setting health priorities

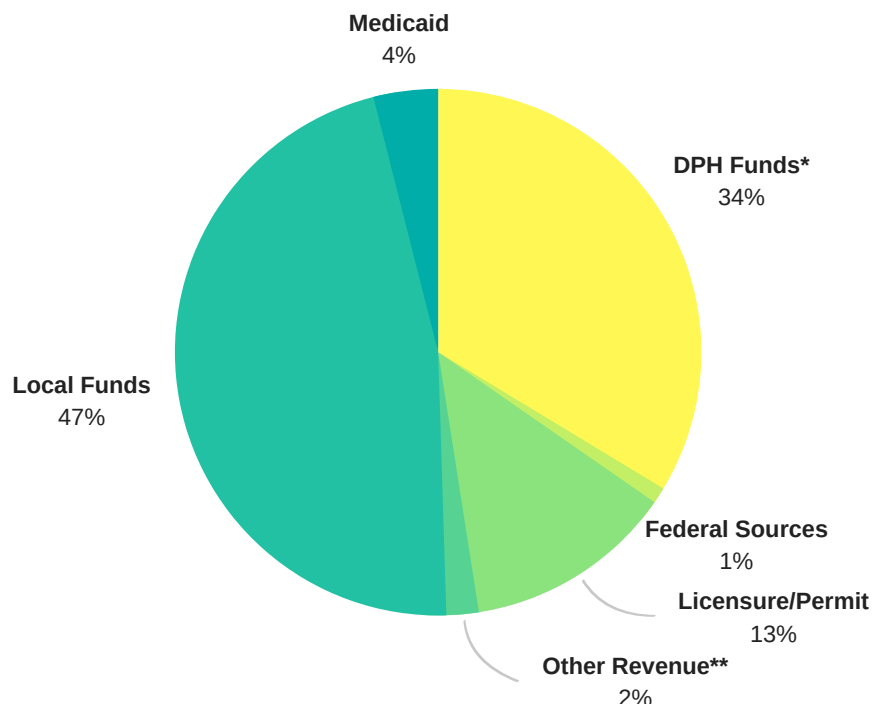
Revenue for FY 2017-2018

QVHD is funded by Town and State contributions on a per capita basis, revenue from permit fees and services, grant awards, and miscellaneous income.

The chart on the right represents revenue for the year ending June 30, 2018.

Revenue 2017-2018

\$1,227,779



*DPH: All sources of CT Department of Public Health including per capita funds and DPH funded grants

**Other Revenue- includes grants from private foundations and other non- DPH grant sources

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

The Board's Role:

The Board of Directors, the managing body of QVHD, is composed of Town representatives appointed for a three year term. Each member-town has one representative for each ten thousand population or part thereof, up to a maximum of 5 representatives per town.

OFFICERS:

President: Joy Donaldson
Vice President: Peter Marone
Secretary/Treasurer: Leslie A. Balch

DIRECTORS

Carol Goldberg
Alicia Mulvihill³
Ann Levison
Brian Weeks
Vincenzo Gallo
Jacquelyn O'Neill St. Peter
Joseph M. Solimene
Dr. Richard A. Martinello
Joseph Zelson, MD

TOWN

Bethany
Hamden
Hamden
Hamden
North Haven
North Haven
North Haven
Woodbridge
Woodbridge

1. Appointed as Alternate September 2018
2. Appointed September 2018
3. Resigned April 5, 2018
4. Resigned June 30, 2018

ALTERNATES

Andre Sofair⁴
Kyle Blake
Nancy Spector¹
Thomas Mitchell²
Roy Ivins

TOWN

Bethany
Hamden
Hamden
North Haven
Woodbridge



QVHD STAFF 2017-2018

STOP BY!
We are located at
1151 Hartford
Turnpike in North
Haven!



Photo Left to Right: Leslie Balch, Alexis Rinaldi, John Laudano, Lynn Fox, Kristen Amodio, Alicia Mulvihill, Miokka Cummings, Kara Sepulveda, Joe Soto, Jane Silvestri, Ryan Currier

Photo Credit: Tony Cipriano

NAME

TITLE

Leslie A. Balch, MPH, MS-HEd, BSN	Director of Health
Lynn Fox, BS, RS	Chief Environmental Services
Alicia Mulvihill, MPH	Public Health Promotion & Engagement Specialist
Alexis Rinaldi, BS, RS	Sanitarian
John Laudano, BS, RS	Sanitarian
Kristen Amodio, BS, RS	Sanitarian
Ryan Currier, BS, RS	Sanitarian
Kara Sepulveda, BS	Public Health Program Assistant
Jane Silvestri	Secretary
Miokka Cummings	Secretary
Stacy Wyner, APRN	School Based Health Center Nurse Practitioner
Eileen Robbins, LCSW	School Based Health Center LCSW
Angelina Barnett, BA	School Based Health Center Secretary

Community Health Division

The goal of QVHD's Community Health Division is to increase the quality, availability, and effectiveness of population-based health education, programs and services. Programs and services are based on: preventing disease and injury, improving the health of our community, enhancing quality of life, and being a credible resource for timely health information.



Community Engagement & Outreach

Throughout the year, QVHD's community health staff collaborated with local, regional and state partners on a variety of initiatives, committees and coalitions on pertinent health issues, such as the dangers of opioids and emergency preparedness. Community partnerships and collaborations are an important aspect of connecting with and knowing the needs of our population served. A few examples of partnerships and collaborations include the following: QVHD's Community Health Coalition, School Based Health Center Advisory Committee, Region 2 ESF-8 Healthcare Coalition, Hamden Youth Services Advisory Committee, North Haven Substance Abuse Action Council, BH Care, The Children's Center of Hamden, Healthier Greater New Haven Partnership, Hamden's Partnership for Young Children, and many others.

Involvement in community events, such as health fairs and community food drives is another way staff connected with our residents over the year. At such events, educational material was provided on the dangers of opioids, safe medication disposal, Naloxone (Narcan), physical activity, nutrition, personal preparedness, and other health topics. QVHD also hosted three community Walk N' Talks in Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge. Community members of all ages and fitness levels were invited to participate in the walk, which included local health care professionals.

Community health staff worked year round to provide timely information on health issues to the public. QVHD's social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) were utilized to provide up-to-date information to our residents. Up-to-date information included health alerts, seasonal health topics and health messages. QVHD's website has a "What's New" section that highlights the latest messages we would like the public to read. Our website also has a section called "It's the Season", which addresses seasonal health topics. Residents that visit our office are greeted with informational display boards that highlight a variety of public health topics right in our lobby.

Public Health Accreditation efforts are underway. In February 2017, QVHD formed a Community Health Coalition, which completed and adopted a Community Health Assessment (CHA). The coalition is now developing a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHA and the CHIP are prerequisites for applying for Public Health Accreditation.

Reportable Disease Monitoring

Connecticut reportable diseases were monitored, tracked and analyzed for the district. To prevent the spread of infectious disease, staff carried out communicable disease control, which included surveillance, investigation, counseling, referral, education and control measures when needed.

Infectious disease follow-up: 923 reportable diseases were monitored.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Emergencies that require staff to respond can happen at any time and without any notice. Therefore, staff worked throughout the year to prepare, respond and recover from public health emergencies that can or do occur in our community. QVHD has a variety of emergency plans that are updated and revised as needed to ensure our staff is adequately prepared to respond. QVHD also took a hands-on approach to preparedness and participated in local and regional exercises and drills throughout the year.

Medical Reserve Corps



QVHD has a team of both medical and non-medical volunteers called the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The mission of the MRC is to engage volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response and community resiliency. MRC volunteers are prepared, trained and credentialed to respond to emergencies in QVHD's jurisdiction. QVHD's Community Health Division and MRC are collaborating on an original program called "Preparedness Pals - Home Health Partnership". The program goal is to ensure the disabled or homebound population, who otherwise may not be known to emergency responders, are prepared and connected to the resources they need by working closely with home health agencies and their staff. A resource guide is being developed to leave with disabled or homebound clients.

Active recruitment is always taking place for MRC volunteers and anyone interested in joining can call QVHD for more information.

School Based Health Center at Hamden High School

The School Based Health Center (SBHC) at Hamden High School (previously known as Mom's Clinic) is a licensed outpatient clinic located in Hamden High School. Enrolled students have access to convenient, confidential medical and behavioral services. During the school year 2017-2018, 413 students were enrolled; the number of students enrolled that used the SBHC was 243.

For more information on any of the above programs/services, residents can call (203) 248-4528 or visit our website, www.qvhd.org. For suggestions on meetings, events, and/or opportunities for QVHD to participate in, please contact: Ali Mulvihill at (203) 248-4528.

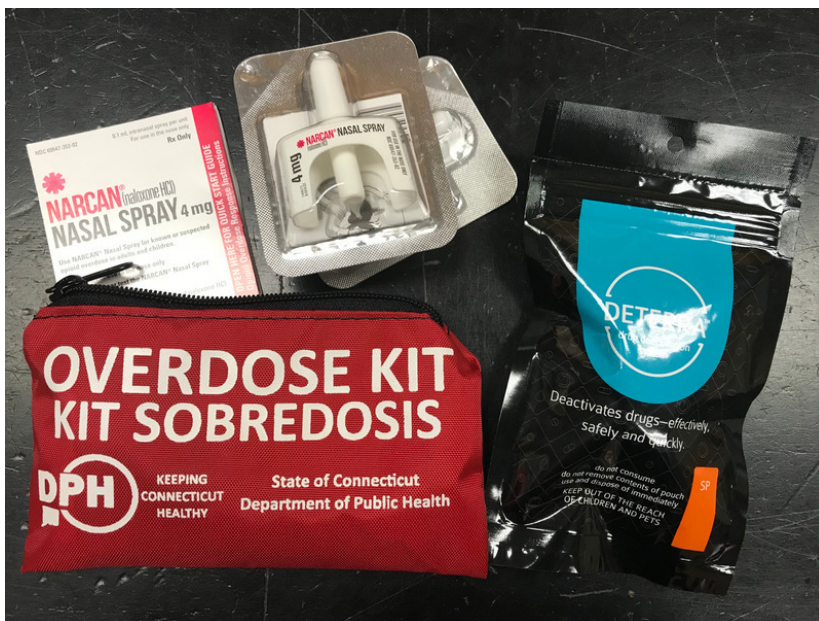


Public Health in Action



Leslie Balch, Director of Health, among other experts at an Opioid Addiction Awareness Forum that took place in Hamden on March 1, 2018.

Pictured right is North Haven First Selectman, Michael J. Freda with North Haven Trail Association members at QVHD's Healthy Walk N' Talk at the Quinnipiac River State Park in North Haven (2017)



QVHD held five "Narcan Trainings" where over 120 residents learned how to prevent, identify and respond to an opioid overdose. Narcan (also known as Naloxone) is an overdose antidote administered through a nasal spray.

Over 550 Biodegradable Medication Disposal Pouches were distributed to residents to help them safely dispose of leftover medications in the privacy of their home.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The goal of the Environmental Health Program is to protect the residents from environmental factors that may impact health and the quality of life. Some of the factors include, but are not limited to air, food and water contaminants, sewage, bugs, animals and hazards in the home. The staff consists of a Chief of Environmental Services and four Registered Sanitarians.

Food Safety

QVHD is responsible to reduce the risk of foodborne disease by ensuring reasonable protection from contaminated food and improving the sanitary condition of food establishments (restaurants, caterers, food stores, etc.), including temporary food events. This is accomplished by the inspection of food service establishments, enforcement of regulations, education and special investigations.

Sewage Disposal & Septic Systems

QVHD regulates the installation of subsurface sewage disposal systems. This includes site inspections, plan review, the issuing of permits and inspections of all new, repair and replacement systems. We offer homeowner guidance and recommendations on the care and maintenance of septic systems to aid in extending the life of the system and to avoid costly repairs.

Private Wells

Wells provide the drinking water for significant areas within QVHD's jurisdiction. QVHD issues permits for private well construction. The well drilling and septic system regulations we enforce are intended to protect the quality and safety of the community's ground and drinking water.

Cosmetology

Preventing infection is the number one concern when visiting a salon/spa. Nail fungus and other types of infections are common. QVHD conducts annual inspections of salons for the safety and protection of both consumers and practitioners.

Housing

QVHD responds to housing complaints filed by residents, including but not limited to mold, radon, asbestos, bedbugs, and general maintenance issues. Investigations may result in the issuance of violation orders and/or litigation.

Student Housing

Housing must be in compliance with the Hamden Housing Code in order to obtain a Student Housing Permit from the Town of Hamden. At the time of initial application to the town, QVHD inspects housing for compliance with the Hamden Housing Code. Any violations found at time of inspection must be corrected.

Complaint Investigations

QVHD responds to complaints including but not limited to garbage, sewage, vacant properties, stagnant water, mosquitoes, abandon vehicles, and rodents. Investigations may result issuance of violation orders and/or litigation.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

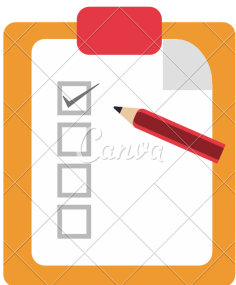
QVHD conducts environmental investigations of premises where children with an elevated blood lead level have been found. Paint, dust, soil, and water samples are sent to the state laboratory for analysis. The property owner is required by law to abate lead from premises with toxic levels. In addition QVHD can identify lead hazards of all premises and ensure remediation is done using lead safe work practices.

Schools and Daycares

QVHD conducts yearly inspections of schools and bi-annually inspections of daycares to ensure required standards established by state statutes and regulations are met.

Public Pools and Beaches

QVHD permits and inspects public swimming pools in the District. Examples of public pools are swimming facilities located at country clubs, hotels, schools, town recreational areas, camps and condominiums. Water samples are routinely collected from the public bathing area in the Town of Bethany to assess sanitary water quality. Sampling usually begins after Memorial Day and continues until Labor Day.



For more information on any of the above programs you can call (203)248-4528 or visit our website at www.qvhd.org where you can also find most commonly used forms and applications.

Environmental Health Services

Environmental Activity	Bethany	Hamden	No. Haven	Woodbridge	TOTAL
P&Z reports	6	7	6	0	19
Food Service Inspections	34	333	159	44	570
New/opening Food Service	0	17	12	3	32
Itinerant licenses	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	96
Temporary licenses	22	129	132	13	296
Student Housing Inspections	0	45	0	0	45
Cosmetology Inspections	0	82	60	15	157
New/opening Cosmetology	0	8	2	2	12
Certificate of Compliance	3	82	60	15	160
Tattoo Inspections/Licenses	0	2	2	0	4
Public Pool Inspections	0	40	15	7	62
Licenses	0	35	14	5	54
Hotel/Motel	0	3	2	0	5
Day Care Inspections	2	8	3	3	16
Elevated Blood Lead/Inspections	0	1	1	0	2
	B	H	N	W	TOTAL
Complaints	14	293	86	9	402
TYPE					
Abandoned Property	0	3	0	0	3
Animal/animal waste	2	7	2	0	11
Asbestos	1	0	0	0	1
Bed Bugs	0	9	2	0	11
Cosmetology	0	5	2	0	7
Day care	0	1	0	0	1
DEP related	1	2	1	0	4
Drainage/flooding	2	1	1	0	4
Drinking water	0	1	0	1	2
Food Service	1	36	13	1	51
Garbage/refuse	0	29	20	0	49
Heat	0	15	1	0	16
Hoarding	0	10	5	0	15
Hotel/Motel	0	2	1	0	3
Housing	1	90	6	2	99
Indoor air quality	0	0	1	0	1
Institutional	0	2	0	2	4
Junk vehicles/appliance	0	24	0	0	24
Lead	0	2	0	0	2
MOLD	2	35	7	1	45
Mosquito/stagnant water	0	0	7	0	7
Other	0	7	0	0	7
Outdoor air quality	0	1	2	0	3
Sewage	2	6	4	0	12
Public pool	0	4	5	0	9
Rodents/insects	1	0	6	0	7
School	1	0	0	2	3
Tattoo	0	1	0	0	1
Utility shut off	0	0	0	0	0

Environmental Health Services

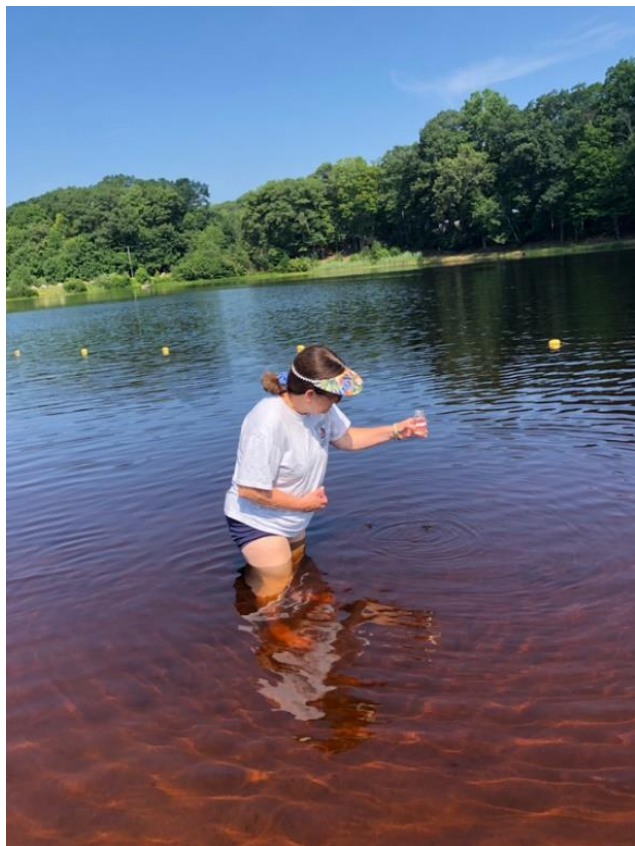
	B	H	N	W	TOTAL
Notice of Violations	0	118	10	1	129
	B	H	N	W	TOTAL
Arrest Warrant Applications	0	3	0	0	3
SEWAGE ACTIVITY	B	H	N	W	TOTAL
SOIL TEST	15	17	11	24	67
NEW	1	3	4	6	14
REPAIR	20	22	18	49	109
B100a/ADDITION	34	24	38	54	150
WELL PERMITS	10	3	12	14	39

Key:

- B= Bethany
- H= Hamden

- N= North Haven
- W= Woodbridge

Protecting Our Residents



QVHD's Registered Sanitarian, Alexis Rinaldi testing the water at Hockanum Lake in Bethany

QVHD's Registered Sanitarian, Ryan Currier doing a routine inspection at a food establishment



Community Health

Reportable Disease Surveillance

DISEASE NAME	2016-2017 TOTAL	2017-2018 TOTAL	JULY 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2018 BY TOWN			
			BETHANY	HAMDEN	NORTH HAVEN	WOOD- BRIDGE
Campylobacteriosis	20	19	1	8	6	4
Chlamydia	354	354	8	296	38	12
CO2 Poisoning/Mercury Poisoning	6/0	2/0	0/0	2/0	0/0	0/0
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dengue Fever/Q Fever	n/a	1/0	0/0	1/0	0/0	0/0
Elevated Blood Lead Levels ¹	35	21	0	15	3	3
Giardiasis	7	10	1	7	1	1
Gonorrhea	49	75	3	60	9	3
Haemophilus Influenzae (Hib)	1	1	0	1	0	0
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B	0	2	0	1	1	0
Hepatitis C	21	29	2	19	6	2
Influenza ²	206	319	13	209	68	29
Invasive Strep A/Strep B	1/9	2/10	0/2	1/6	0/1	1/1
Legionellosis	1	1	0	1	0	0
Listeriosis/Yersinosis	0/3	0/2	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/1
Lyme Disease ³ /Ehrlichiosis/Babesiosis	24/0/3	18/0/5	1/0/0	6/0/3	5/0/0	6/0/2
Malaria	0	1	0	1	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norovirus/Rotavirus	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Outbreaks ⁴	4	2	0	2	0	0
Pneumococcal disease	5	4	0	3	0	1
Salmonellosis	19	12	1	6	4	1
Shiga-toxin producing organism	2	5	0	3	2	0
Shigellosis/ Cryptosporidiosis	0/0	2/0	0/0	1/0	1/0	0/0
Staph aureus (MRSA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilis	25	20	1	14	4	1
Tuberculosis ⁵	3	2	0	0	2	0
Varicella/ Pertussis/Meningitis/Mumps	2/0/0/0	2/0/0/1	0/0/0/0	1/0/0/0	1/0/0/0	0/0/0/1
Vibrio species	0	1	0	1	0	0
West Nile	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zika Virus Infection	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	806	923	33	669	152	69

COMMENTS:

- (1) Venous test results among children equal to or greater than 5µg/dL.
- (2) Influenza (flu) includes only cases hospitalized and/or death and may underrepresent actual influenza in the community.
- (3) Lyme Disease is reportable only by physician and by labs with automated electronic reporting to DPH surveillance, therefore it may be underreported. The numbers reported above are positive by lab or MD report.
- (4) Outbreaks tracked here refer to illness in two or more persons.
- (5) Represents active cases of Tuberculosis.

Stay up to date!



@QVHD



**@Quinnipiack Valley
Health District**



**Not on social media?
Visit our website at
www.qvhd.org**



QVHD

Quinnipiack Valley Health District



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