

YOUR CONNECTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH

2022-2023

QUINNIPIACK VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

Prevent. Promote. Protect.



QUINNIPIACK VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT (QVHD)

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



Dear Residents & Community Partners,

My name is Luis Pantoja, Director of Health | CEO at the Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD). It has been my distinct privilege and honor to have had the opportunity to lead this deep-rooted agency since appointed back in June 2023.

I've been fortunate to have experienced an untraditional path toward Public Health. Graduating from the University of Connecticut (UCONN) with a Bachelor of Science (BS), I sought a medical degree at UCONN's School of Medicine. Two years into my academic studies, I was afforded the opportunity to pursue a Master of Public Health at UCONN's Graduate School. I was enthralled by Public Health's boundless purview and most fascinated by its interdisciplinary approach to population health while enveloping aspects of the individual health care model.

Admittedly, I struggled to clearly define Public Health as I quickly learned this discipline was interdigitated in all aspects. In Public Health, we are accustomed to working behind the scenes, ensuring that community needs are met via tailored interventions. Needless to say, I was hooked and promptly pivoted career aspirations, seeking to one day lead a community as Director of Health.

While earning my MPH, I interned as Epidemiologist at the Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD). The internship led to my employment as Health Educator at CCHD wherein upon earning my MPH, I was promoted to Community Health Coordinator. Within that role, I led an agency organization restructuring to establish a newly minted Clinical Health Services division, earning the title of Clinical Operations Supervisor.

My academic & professional career has equipped me with both the experience to lead a community and the insatiable desire of evolving the field we have collectively built a career upon. As QVHD celebrates our 45th anniversary as an agency (1978 - 2023), we have an opportunity to not just build upon the legacy this agency has established but to redefine Public Health tailored toward our community needs. Through transparent communication, a multi-media production arm, and point of care clinical services in collaboration with our community partners, we will seek to place our finger on the pulse of this rich & diverse community.

As I write this letter, we are actively working on dynamic initiatives that will evolve this agency, innovating how we serve the communities of Bethany, Hamden, North Haven, & Woodbridge and ultimately catapult QVHD into the future. I thank you once again for the opportunity and encourage all of you to embark with us on this journey.

Yours in health,
Luis

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.



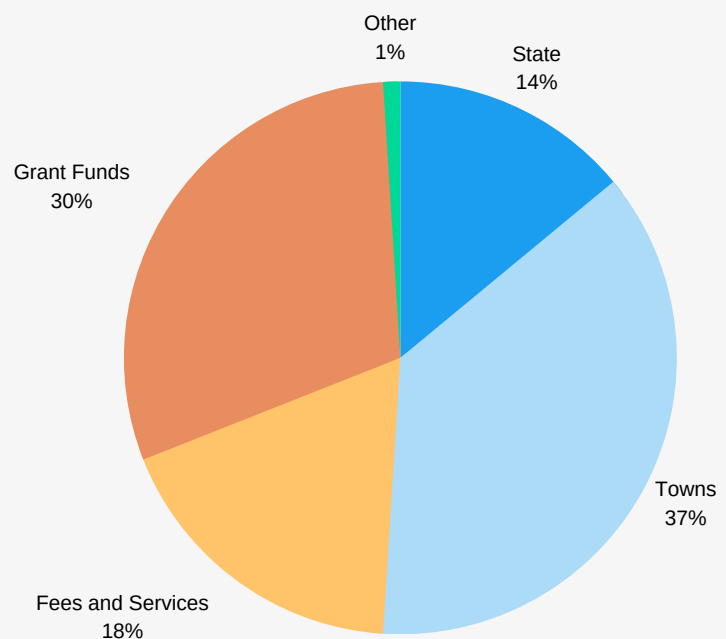
Accomplished Through:

- Collaboration with local and government leaders in setting health priorities
- 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
- Environmental health services that ensure compliance with the state and local laws, regulations, and ordinances
- Local and regional emergency preparedness for response to an unexpected environmental or biological event

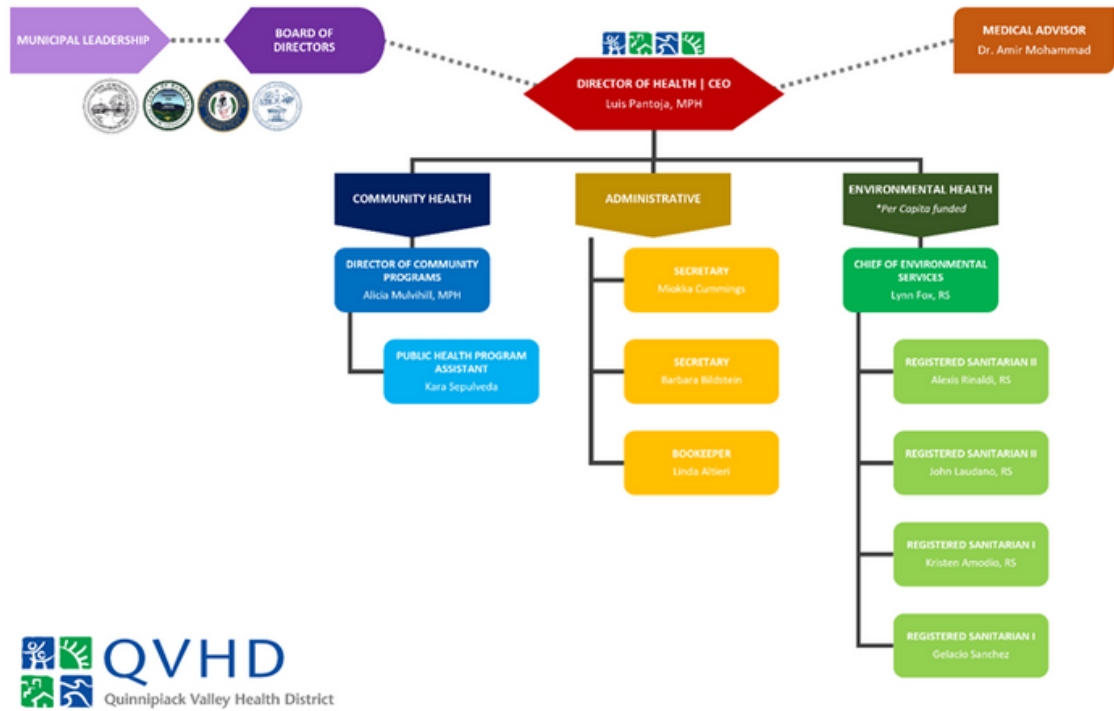
2022-2023 Revenue

QVHD is funded by: town and state contributions on a per capita basis, revenue from permit and services, grant awards, and miscellaneous income.

**The 2022-2023 Revenue is:
\$1,848,940**



STAFF



DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	
Luis Pantoja, MPH	Director of Health CEO Appointed 6/2023
Karen Ann Wolujewicz, MPH	Former Director of Health Resigned 2/2023
Richard Matheny, MPH	Interim Director of Health Resigned 4/2023
Roslyn Hamilton, MPH	Interim Director of Health Appointed 8/22 - 10/22 & 4/25/23 - 6/23
COMMUNITY HEALTH	
Alicia Mulvihill, MPH	Director of Community Programs
Kara Sepulveda, BS	Public Health Program Assistant
Elisabeth Matuska, MPH	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator In partnership w/ ESDHD
Marissa Mocarski, BS	Lead Contact Tracer Resigned 5/2023
Jennifer Bobok, RN	Public Health Nurse Resigned 12/2022
Elise Miller, RN	Public Health Nurse Resigned 11/2022

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	
Lynn Fox, BS, RS	Chief of Environmental Services
Alexis Rinaldi, BS, RS	Registered Sanitarian
John Laudano, BS, RS	Registered Sanitarian
Kristen Amodio, BS, RS	Registered Sanitarian
Ryan Currier, BS, RS	Registered Sanitarian Resigned 6/2023
Gelacio Sanchez, BS	Health Inspector
ADMINISTRATIVE	
Miokka Cummings	Secretary
Barbara Bildstein, BS	Secretary
Linda Altieri	Bookkeeper

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022-2023



The Board of Directors is the managing body of QVHD and 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.

BETHANY	
Carol Goldberg	President
Elizabeth Thornquist	Alternate
HAMDEN	
Peter Marone	Vice President
Joy Donaldson	
Ann Levison	
Chante-Colleen Lewis	
Kyle Blake	Alternate

Ex Officio
 Luis Pantoja, appointed 6/2023
 Karen Ann. Wolujewicz, resigned 2/2023

NORTH HAVEN	
Jacquelyn O'Neil St. Peter	
Peter S. Sandor	
Stacey Yarbrough	
Julie Cruz Nuzzolillo	Alternate
WOODBIDGE	
Dr. Richard A. Martinello	
Roy Ivins	Alternate

TEN ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

QVHD's services, responsibilities and programs are guided by the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The 10 Essential Public Health Services were developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee and provide the framework for public health activities that all communities should undertake (CDC, 2021).

Three core functions guide the 10 Essential Public Health Services: assessment, policy development, and assurance.



The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities (CDC, 2021).

COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION



Community Health staff members, Alicia Mulvihill (left) & Kara Sepulveda (right) are pictured at a community event. They shared health education & fostered conversation with community members on a range of topics; including overdose prevention, mental health promotion, the school-based health centers, & COVID-19.

The ultimate **goal** of QVHD's Community Health Division is to increase the quality, availability, and effectiveness of population-based health education, programs and services.

*Community health staff are constantly pivoting their day-to-day work to address **emerging health trends** impacting population-health.*

Alicia Mulvihill oversees and coordinates community health grants, programs, and outreach events for the district, while simultaneously managing internal staff & essential services.

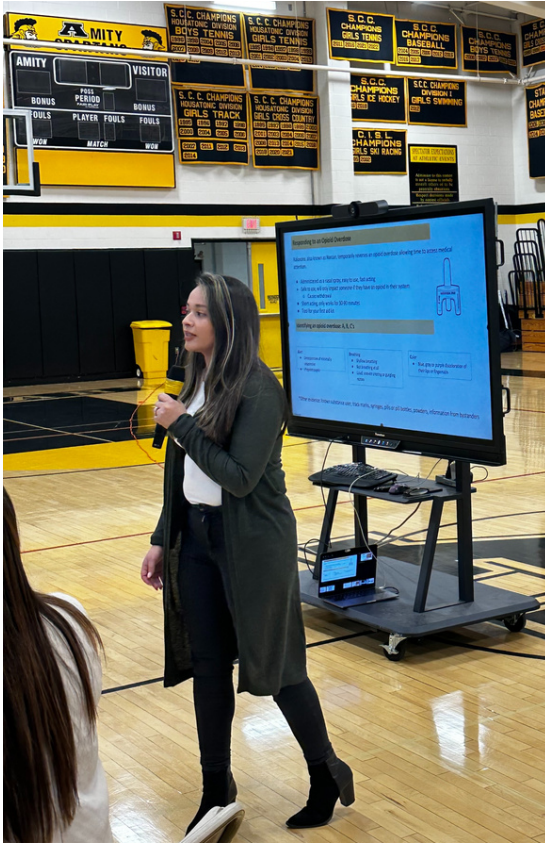
The community health division actively monitors reportable diseases and investigates emerging health conditions, including COVID-19, influenza, STI's, foodborne illnesses & tuberculosis. By attending community meetings on a range of topics, staff are constantly seeking ways to collaborate with local agencies whose mission aligns & compliments our own. Alicia partners regularly with staff member, Kara to offer community programming on topics related to overdose & suicide prevention, chronic disease management, emergency preparedness, among other topics aimed to address social determinants of health.

For more information on local disease surveillance visit:
www.cdc.gov/nndss/data-statistics/index.html

QVHD operates two Hamden School Based Health Centers (SBHC's), subcontracting with Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center (CSHHC). The centers at Hamden High School & Church Street Elementary work to ensure students have year-round, barrier free access to care to support their physical and mental health needs.

To learn more about the SBHC's visit: www.qvhd.org/sbhc

COMMUNITY HEALTH



Kara Sepulveda speaking to students & faculty about fentanyl & fake pills at Amity Regional High School in partnership with nonprofit For Cameron.

Kara Sepulveda is the public health program assistant who serves as the project coordinator of the Overdose Data to Action Grant (OD2A). The OD2A grant, funded by the CDC, works to raise awareness about the devastating overdose crisis which has claimed 212 lives in the Quinnipiac Valley between 2015-2022. QVHD works to educate on current drug trends, reduce stigma and misconceptions surrounding substance use, and ensure community members have access to the knowledge and resources that can help keep them and their loved ones safe. Kara also co-chairs the New Haven County Walk to Fight Suicide which takes place each October as she recognizes the importance of addressing the intersection of mental health and substance use.

Kara works closely alongside Ali & in partnership with our subcontractors at the New Haven Health Department to identify innovative ways to address substance use at various levels of our community. Through partnerships with schools, town departments, & other local organizations, QVHD is dedicated to ensuring our work is not conducted in silos.

To request a training, access resources, or to learn more about your role in combatting the overdose crisis, visit www.connectgnh.org

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

QVHD continues to prepare, year-round, for public health emergencies that can happen at any time, without notice. QVHD works closely with our emergency preparedness coordinator, Elisabeth Matuska, who works to establish & update response plans and train/mobilize medical & non-medical volunteers from our Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Unit to respond to emergencies of significance.

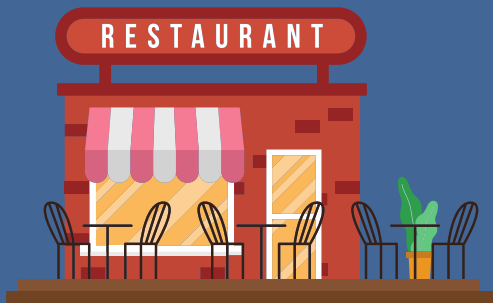
Preparedness is a core component of every household, download your guide for personal preparedness by visiting www.qvhd.org/prepare or pick up a copy from our office.

To learn more or to register for QVHD's MRC volunteer unit, visit www.ctresponds.gov



2023 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SNAPSHOT

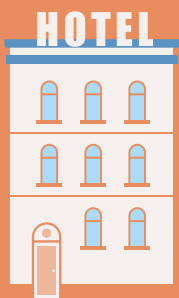
THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION CONDUCTS INSPECTIONS OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS, HAIR AND NAIL SALONS, SUBSURFACE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS, DAYCARE CENTERS, AND PUBLIC POOLS.



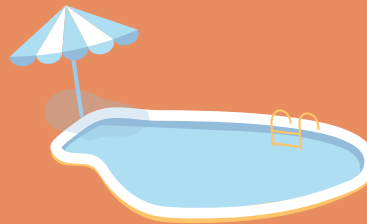
469 FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS INCLUDING THE OPENING OF 41 NEW ESTABLISHMENTS



229 HAIR & NAIL SALONS INCLUDING THE OPENING OF 17 NEW ESTABLISHMENTS



6 HOTELS/MOTELS



51 PUBLIC POOLS

• 183 SITE VISIT SITE VISITS RELATED TO SUB-SURFACE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS (SOIL TESTS AND INSPECTIONS)

• 96 PLAN REVIEWS FOR ADDITIONS

• 461 PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED,

• 20 SCHOOLS INSPECTED, 17 CHILDCARE FACILITIES INSPECTED



Environmental Health Division



QVHD's Environmental Health Section identifies and evaluates environmental health factors to protect and improve public health. Activities include inspection, information, referral, and the enforcement of laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

The Environmental Health Section conducts inspections of food establishments, hair/nail salons, subsurface sewage disposal systems, daycare centers, and public pools.

The Environmental Health Staff regulates and oversees the installation of subsurface sewage disposal systems. They offer homeowner guidance and recommendations on the care and maintenance of septic systems to aid in extending the life of the system and avoid costly repairs. They are responsible for ensuring that water drinking wells are installed and maintained in a sanitary manner. They receive and interpret well water analysis reports and notify and provide owners information when parameters exceed recommended limits for contaminants such as bacteria, iron, manganese, and lead.

All Environmental Health Staff are certified lead inspectors/risk assessors. They conduct environmental investigations of dwellings where children with an elevated blood lead level reside and when lead hazards are identified, they oversee the required lead abatement work to ensure all work is done according to code. In addition, they identify lead hazards where children with non-elevated blood lead levels reside and ensure remediation is done using lead-safe work practices.

The Environmental Health Staff responds to complaints including but not limited to garbage, sewage, odors, vacant / abandoned properties, stagnant water, mosquitoes, abandon vehicles, and rodents. They also respond to housing complaints. They identify and address indoor air quality issues including but not limited to mold, radon, asbestos, bedbugs, and general maintenance and safety issues in homes, schools, and businesses.

Additional activities include the inspection of school, childcare centers, public swimming pools and weekly sampling of a swimming lake in Bethany. A Swim advisory is posted when bacteria levels exceed acceptable limits.

Environmental Health

Activities conducted by type & year

Environmental Activity	2021-2022	2022-2023
Planning & Zoning reports	11	4
Food Establishment Licenses	477	469
Food Establishments Inspections	492	431
Itinerant licenses	74	75
Temporary licenses	116	184
Cosmetology Inspections	209	118
New/opening Cosmetology	21	21
Certificate of Compliances	230	229
Tattoo Inspections/Licenses	5	5
Public Pool Licenses/Inspections	52	51
Hotel/Motel Inspections/Licenses	5	6
Child Care Facility Inspections	41	17
School Inspections	23	20
Elevated Blood Lead/Inspections	2	1
Lead Risk Assessments/Inspections	1	8
Lead-Case Management	33	35
Beach Water Sampling	19	17
Swim Advisory Issued	2	0
SEWAGE ACTIVITY		
SOIL TEST		
NEW	43	10
REPAIR	75	48
B100a/ADDITION	73	68
TOTAL SOIL TESTS	191	126
TANK REPLACEMENT/dbox/pipe	70	57
B100a PLAN REVIEW	101	96
PERMIT TO DISCHARGE	145	121
WATER TREATMENT WASTEWATER DISPOSAL	25	12
WELLS		
WELL PERMITS (Drinking)	16	36
WELL PERMITS (Geothermal)	5	5
TOTAL WELL PERMITS	21	41

	2021-2022	2022-2023
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	482	461
Abandoned Property	6	3
Animal/animal waste	15	13
Bed Bugs	8	5
Cosmetology	9	8
COVID related	55	0
Day Care	2	3
DEEP Related	4	4
Drainage/Flooding	3	2
Drinking Water	4	2
Food Service	45	57
Food Illness	11	5
Garbage/Refuse	20	24
Heat	23	25
Hoarding	10	17
Hotel/Motel	3	1
Housing	91	117
Indoor Air Quality	3	7
Junk Vehicles	8	10
Lead	0	3
Long Term Care Facility	2	0
Mold	57	49
Mosquito/stagnant water	11	8
Other	9	3
Outdoor air quality	4	4
Public Pools	1	1
Public Toilets	7	2
Rodents/Insects	43	63
Rodent survey	2	0
School	1	0
Tattoo	0	2
Sewage	21	16
Utility Shut Off	4	6
wells	0	1
NOVs	87	125



www.qvhd.org/search

Did you know you can now visit our website to review property / establishment files online for:

- Bethany/Woodbridge Septic & Well
- Most Bethany, Hamden, North Haven & Woodbridge restaurant & cosmetology shops

Stay tuned for more as we continue our scanning project into the new year!



QVHD's director of health, secretaries, and environmental staff with the district's sign outside our office.

Sanitarian, Alexis Rinaldi, conducting inspections at a town event.



Community Health team, Alicia & Kara, tabling at a community event.





SERVING THE TOWNS OF BETHANY, HAMDEN, NORTH HAVEN & WOODBRIDGE



@QVHD



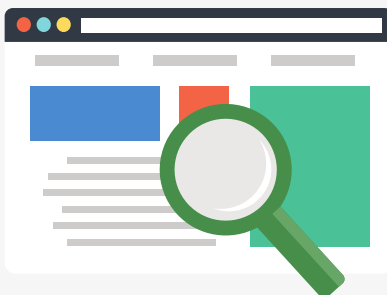
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@QVHDHEALTH



www.qvhd.org



WWW.CONNECTGNH.ORG
For information, resources & supports specific to the overdose crisis.