

Public Health

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203-946-6999

Department Head:

Dr. Mario Garcia

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203-946-6999

Additional Point Person:

Colleen O'Connor

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Positions: **GF- 57** **SF- 29**

General Fund Budget:

\$ 3,193,680

Capital Fund Budget:

\$75,000

Special fund Budget:

\$10,469,127

Legal Authority: City Charter

[Sec. 125 to Sec. 132](#) There shall be a department of public health in said city which shall consist of a board of health, director of public health, and such a number of professional and clerical assistants as said board shall prescribe.

The New Haven Health Department is governed by **both state statutes and city ordinances**. *See attached for state statutes and city ordinances which govern the Health Department's activities and authority. See below for a summary of responsibilities:

- **Enforcement of the Public Health Code**

The NHHD must enforce applicable sections of the State Public Health Code: "The local director of health or his authorized agent or the board of health shall enforce or assist in the enforcement of the Public Health Code and such regulations as may be adopted by the Commissioner of Public Health." (*CT State Statutes: Chapter 368e, Sec. 19a-207*)

- **Issuing of Ordinances**

The Board of Health has the power to enact ordinances according to the City Charter: "The Board of Health has the power to adopt rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the General Statutes or the provisions of this charter. Such rules and regulations shall be enforced in the same manner as city ordinances (*CITY ORDINANCE -Article XXV. – Department of Public Health*). However, according to CT State Statutes, the City of New Haven can only enact ordinances that are consistent with the state Public Health Code: "Towns, cities and boroughs may retain the power to adopt, by ordinance, sanitary rules and regulations, but no such rule or regulation shall be inconsistent with the Public Health Code as adopted by said commissioner." (*Chapter 368e, Sec. 19a-207*)

- **Governance (Board of Health)**

There must be a Board of Health, Per City Ordinance (Article XXV. – Department of Public Health) which must consist of, “Seven members appointed by the mayor who reside in the city, including the mayor, and at least two doctors of medicine.” Board members are appointed for five year terms.

Local Health Responsibilities (*Chapter 368e, Public Health Code, and City Ordinance*)

The Health Department is responsible for: tracking reportable diseases and laboratory findings in order to curb disease transmission and prevent potential epidemics; investigating and addressing public health nuisances; inspection and licensing of food establishments; lead inspections and abatement. The Department also has the authority to order the quarantine or isolation of individuals with infectious diseases.

Mission/Overview:

Mission Statement: “To advocate for and ensure the health and well-being of all New Haven residents.”

Vision Statement: The vision of the Health Department is Healthy People, Healthy Communities and a Prosperous City.

Overview:

The New Haven Health Department has a long tradition since 1872 of protecting the health of city residents and ensuring the conditions in which people can be healthy through provision of population-based “essential public health services.” The Department accomplishes this through disease and immunization surveillance, tracking and monitoring trends of communicable diseases, ensuring the safety of the food delivery system, educating the public on health issues and responding to disease outbreaks and emergencies. The Department provides a health safety net for some of the city’s most vulnerable residents through maternal and child health outreach programs and through its immunization and STD/HIV clinics which provide care to anyone, regardless of insurance status.

The Department is also responsible for enforcing applicable sections of the State Public Health Code, State Statutes, and Municipal Ordinances and has the legal authority to levy fines and penalties for public health code violations and to grant and rescind license permits (such as for food services establishments or septic systems). The Department is responsible for the preservation and protection of the environmental quality of the City and achieves this through investigation and resolution of public health nuisances and infractions of applicable statutes and/or ordinances; monitoring water quality of public swimming pools and beach water; inspections and licensing of restaurants and food service establishments, schools, daycare centers, senior centers and summer lunch feeding sites. The Department resolves cases of childhood lead poisoning; provides educational outreach activities on lead poisoning and assists with distribution of federal lead abatement funds to prevent lead poisoning.

The Health Department is required to “ensure the provision of” the following eight core services in order to receive State Per Capita funding: Public Health Statistics; Health Education; Nutritional Services; Maternal and Child Health; Communicable and Chronic Disease Control; Environmental Services; Community Nursing Services; Emergency Medical Services.

The Department strives to structure its organization and programs to address current health challenges and emerging health trends, such as health inequities, overweight and obesity and the increasing burden of chronic disease. The Department spearheads the City’s health-related policies and initiatives while engaging community members and other community partners to advocate for and implement innovative health programs and policies.

Attention Required by March 31st:

Health Department Administration

- Health Department Annual Report Due February 28, 2014

Access Health CT/Navigator Program

The New Haven Health Department is the Navigator organization for the New Haven region, responsible for coordinating and overseeing enrollment of consumers into Health Insurance Plans under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). The Open Enrollment period for health insurance coverage in the Marketplace is October 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014.

Maternal and Child Health Programs

The Maternal and Child Health Division currently has several programs that will be up for funding re-application as of June 2014. Without this funding the programs will not be able continue operations at current levels.

- Inquire with the Commissioner of the CT Department of Social Services (DSS) regarding renewed funding for the CT Healthy Start grant which is funded by CT Department of Social Services (DSS) through June 30, 2014.
- Inquire with the Commissioner of the CT Department of Social Services (DSS) regarding renewed funding for the Nurturing Families Network grant which is funded by CT DSS through June 30, 2014.

Ryan White Program

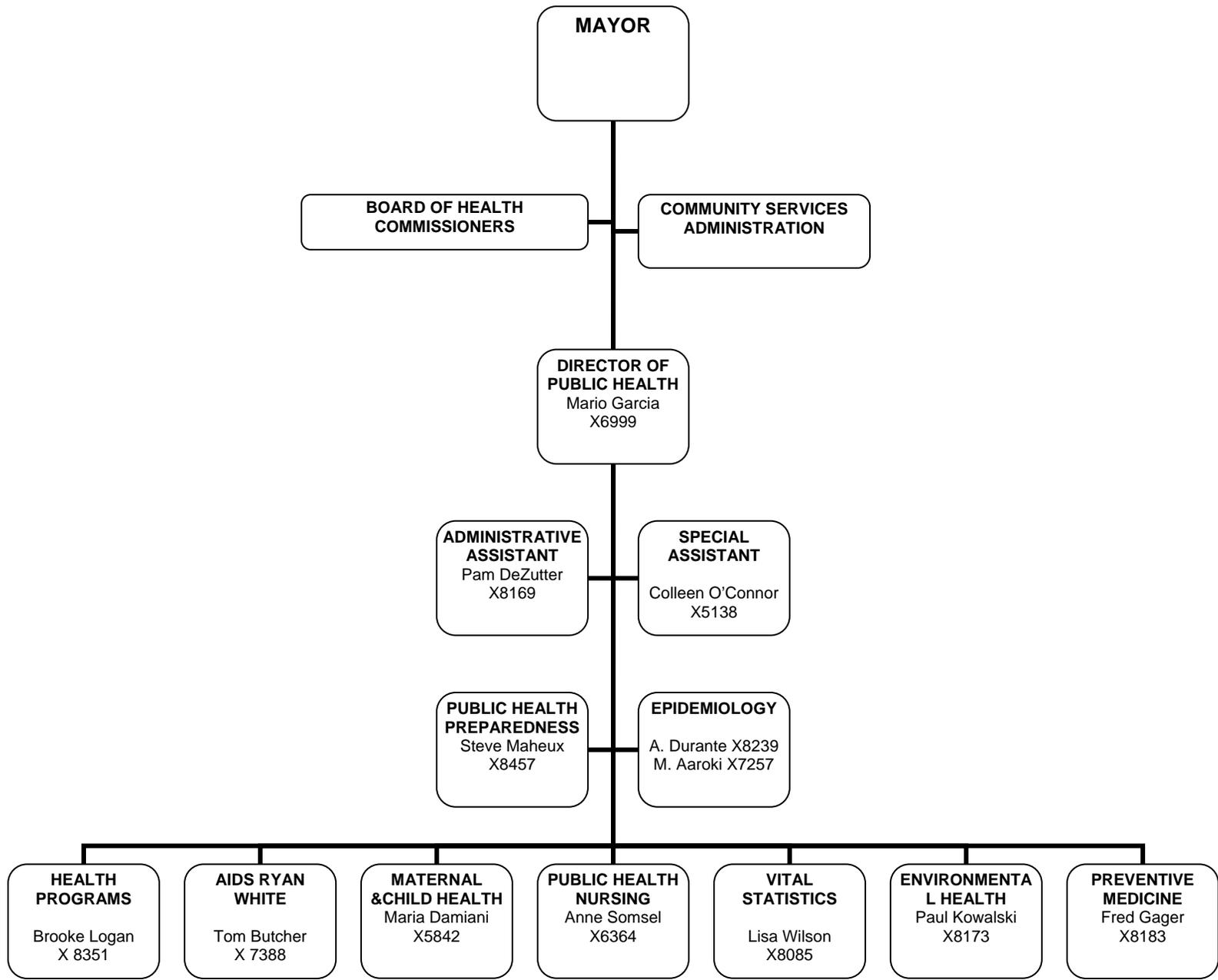
- Mayoral appointments to the Ryan White Planning Council will be needed as vacancies arise. The Council recommends candidates based on its membership nominating process.

Board of Health

- Mayoral appointments to the Board of Health Commissioners will be needed as vacancies arise.
- Two re-appointments expected as of February 1, 2014. James Hadler, MD, MPH and Reid Davis, RPh, MPH will need re-appointments.

Emergency Preparedness

- The new administration should be briefed on the use of Everbridge, the city's mass communication platform. Everbridge is funded jointly by the Emergency Operations Center, 911 and the New Haven Health Department and is used by the city to send automated messages to residents in Emergencies. This service is essential for getting public information messages out to city staff and volunteers, and the NHHD tests its capabilities quarterly. The next test is scheduled for October, 2013.
- An Emergency Preparedness Drill with the VEOCI system should be scheduled for the first quarter of 2014 to test the city's ability to respond to an emergency and so the new administration becomes familiar with the software capabilities and the city's inter-agency emergency procedures. Veoci is a platform created by Grey Wall Software to enable municipalities to coordinate city-wide emergency response activities among. The New Haven Health Department paid for development of, and continues to fund. Over the past year, the Health Department's Emergency Preparedness Division has contracted with Grey Wall Software to develop capabilities within this system for tracking resources, personnel, and logistical data. The NHHD conducts training for managerial staff once a month to maintain familiarity with the system, and based on feedback would encourage similar training simultaneously across multiple city departments.



MAYOR

**BOARD OF HEALTH
COMMISSIONERS**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION**

**DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**
Mario Garcia
X6999

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
Pam DeZutter
X8169

**SPECIAL
ASSISTANT**
Colleen O'Connor
X5138

**PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPAREDNESS**
Steve Maheux
X8457

EPIDEMIOLOGY
A. Durante X8239
M. Aaroki X7257

**HEALTH
PROGRAMS**
Brooke Logan
X 8351

**AIDS RYAN
WHITE**
Tom Butcher
X 7388

**MATERNAL
&CHILD HEALTH**
Maria Damiani
X5842

**PUBLIC HEALTH
NURSING**
Anne Somsel
X6364

**VITAL
STATISTICS**
Lisa Wilson
X8085

**ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH**
Paul Kowalski
X8173

**PREVENTIVE
MEDICINE**
Fred Gager
X8183

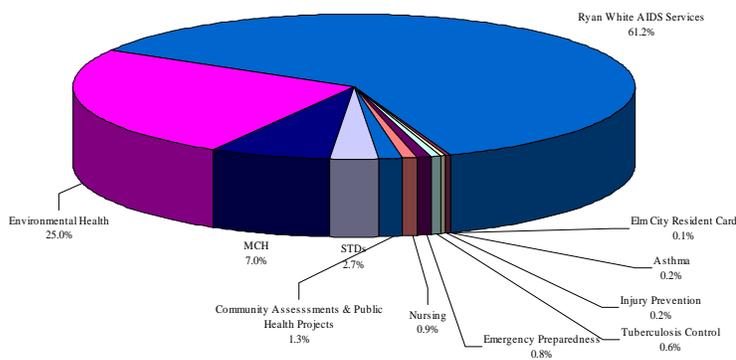
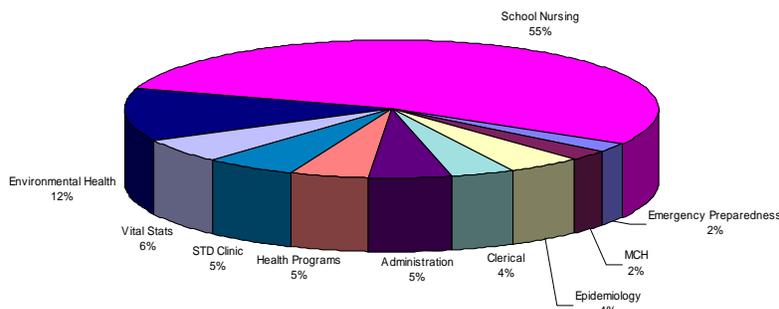
Budget Summary:

New Haven Health Department by Numbers, 2012

Personnel	Number
General Fund	57
Special Fund	31
Total	88
Budget	Dollars
General Fund	\$3,104,445
Special Fund	\$11,437,028
Fees Revenue	\$900,000
Special Fund Source	Dollars
Federal	\$9,693,179
State	\$1,585,595
Other	\$158,254
Total	\$11,437,028

Note: General funds are City funds from local tax dollars and other local revenue; Special funds are secured by the Federal, state and foundation grants; Fees revenue is generated from various fees charged and reimbursement for services rendered and permits issued by the Department.

General Fund Budget, FY2012



Summary of Open Items:

Access Health CT Navigator Program

The Department will be contracting with an independent contractor to coordinate the Navigator Program. The contractor will lead outreach, coordination and implementation of the program and will provide high-level technical assistance to ensure enrollment targets for the health insurance Marketplace are met. The contract is funded from October 2013 through June 14th, 2013.

Strategic Plan

The Health Dept. is currently engaged in a Strategic Planning Process to meet the pre-requisite requirements for Local Health Department Accreditation through the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This Strategic Plan will outline a concrete vision to achieve sustained and measurable improvements in population health in the City of New Haven over the next three to five years. The Dept. has contracted with the Workforce, Inc. to complete the Strategic Plan.

Community Health Needs Assessment/ Community Health Improvement Plan

The NHHD has engaged in a collaborative effort with local partners in the public health system to carry out a Community Health Assessment (CHA). CHAs are requirements of the National Public Health Accreditation Board and the CT Department of Public Health (DPH). The intent of the New Haven CHA is to characterize priority community health and quality of life issues. The CHA describes the health status of the community, its strengths and assets, and the context or forces of change. This will be followed by a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which will develop strategies to guide the investment and allocation of resources by public and private agencies in the public health system. The CHIP will not only rationalize public health programming but also will inform policy and promote changes to improve the health of the community. Both the CHA and the CHIP are part of a long-term strategy to address health needs and to implement recommended priorities. The New Haven CHA will be complete by October 1 and the planning process for the CHIP will occur over the next 3 years. The assessment process will be repeated every three years to re-assess the community's progress.

Medical Reserve Corps:

The Health Dept. is in the process of establishing and maintaining an active Medical Reserve Corps Unit. Currently, we are in the process of recruiting additional volunteers, contracting with a volunteer coordinator and planning trainings. This unit will train volunteers to support public health education and prevention efforts as well as to better prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. The Medical Reserve Corps Units will primarily be trained to operate sheltering operations in emergency situations in New Haven. The MRC will strengthen public health, emergency response and community resiliency through collaboration with first responders, municipalities and community and local groups.

Billing for Medical Services:

The Health Dept. is currently in the process of modernizing the billing system for the Preventive Medicine/STD Clinic and the School Based Health Center. Implementing a billing system and new financial structure will allow the Department to increase revenue for billable services performed in the short-term and will allow the Clinics to continue to function in the long-term as revenue streams change from government grants to revenue from billable preventive services, which are required to be paid by insurance policies under the Affordable Care Act.

School Health

The Health Department is has invited the Board of Education to re-convene the School Health Advisory Board, which was established late 2012 and was co-chaired by the Health Director and the Superintendent of Schools. The Board was instrumental in identifying “Seven Critical Gaps” in School Health Services in the NHPS as well as in identifying concrete steps to address them. A coordinated effort between the NHPS and the Health Department is necessary to adequately address health issues for students and should be an integral element of school reform. See chart, “School Health Services: How to Consolidate Existing Gaps” for specific details on open School Health items. Mayoral support for this effort is essential.

Electronic Health Records for STD Clinic and School Based Health Centers:

The Department is in the process of exploring the implementation of electronic health records (EHR), as a tool to improve efficiency, decrease duplication, and improve services. A comprehensive EHR would increase efficiency of school record keeping and allow for real-time information about the health status of the student population to assist with health services program planning, data analysis and disease surveillance, and will enable a more effective billing system.

Maternal and Child Health Programs

The Maternal and Child Health Division currently has several programs that will be up for funding re-application as of June 2014. Without this funding the programs will not be able continue operations at current levels. Federal Healthy Start is funded by HRSA through May 31, 2014. This program is administered through Community Foundation for Greater New Haven’s Federal Healthy Start Initiative.

Modernization of Key Systems and Operations

The Department is exploring opportunities to modernize key Health Department systems by implementing: online Food License applications and renewals; electronic entry of School Health and Immunization records for students; implementation of Electronic Health Records and Billing Systems in the STD/Immunization Clinic and the School Based Health Clinic; and upgrading the Telephone system. The Department aims to implement electronic systems where possible and move away from purely paper based systems.

Smoke Free Rental Housing Initiative

The Health Department is in the planning stages of a Smoke Free Rental Housing Initiative which would encourage public housing, private rental property management

companies and small landlords to implement a policy that limits or prohibits the smoking of tobacco products inside their rental units and on the property. Smoke-free Rental Policy Initiatives have been highly successful in other states and cities around the country and aim to reduce serious health issues as a result of secondhand smoke exposure, which is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States. The benefits for property managers to adopt smoke-free policies in multi-unit housing include a reduction in maintenance cost (including maintenance time), decreased risk of accidental fires, and a healthier environment for all tenants.

Major Functions/Projects: [Status Updates]

AccessHealth/Navigator Program

The Navigator program is one of several requirements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to help consumers access the health insurance marketplace (The Exchange). The New Haven Health Department was selected to be the Navigator for the New Haven region and is one of six Navigator organizations in CT. Open Enrollment for Health Insurance Exchange Plans under the Affordable Care Act is October 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014. The Navigator Program will coordinate and oversee approximately 80 In-Person Assistants in the New Haven Region to enroll individuals into Health Insurance.

State and Federal Healthy Start

The Healthy Start programs are intensive case-management and home visiting programs for pregnant women who are identified as being at risk for poor birth outcomes. The program works to ensure efforts to improve pregnancy outcomes, reduce the infant mortality rate and promote family health and well-being in the City of New Haven. As part of the state Healthy Start program, the Health Department serves as the Regional Administrator for the state Medicaid (HUSKY) Program, providing application assistance for pregnant women and their families applying for health insurance. The program also provides short-term, limited care coordination, a comprehensive risk assessment, and referrals to needed services with the aim of improving poor birth outcomes. The MCH Division receives funding from the CT Department of Public Health and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven for both the state and federal Healthy Start programs.

Nurturing Families Network (NFN)

The Nurturing Families Network (NFN) is a home visitation program that helps new, first-time parents at risk for abuse and/or neglect learn how to care for their baby and adjust to the many demands of becoming a parent. The program works to ensure children are born as healthy as possible and parents are equipped with the necessary skills to raise their children in a supportive, nurturing, and safe environment. The NFN is a no-cost, voluntary program that provides information, guidance and assistance for first-time parents and is available through 52 community agencies and birthing hospitals throughout Connecticut. This program is funded through June 30, 2014.

Mental health Outreach for MotherS (MOMS) Project

The MCH Division collaborates with the Yale School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry on the MOMS Project, a program that addresses perinatal depression and trauma in low-income, racially and ethnically diverse, pregnant and parenting women who live in New Haven. **MOMS** Partnership develops public health approaches to ensure pregnant and parenting women achieve the highest possible standards of mental health and well-being throughout their lives.

Ryan White Part A Program

The New Haven Health Department serves as the administrator of the New Haven-Fairfield Counties EMA Ryan White Part A Grant. The Department has received Ryan White funding from the federal government since 1993. In 2012, the Health Department

received nearly \$7 million for the Ryan White Part A program to provide core medical and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). All contractors collect and analyze service utilization and health outcomes data. Lead agencies report quarterly to the Health Department's Ryan White office on their successes and barriers to care and are required to discuss and address service gaps and barriers to access by special population groups deemed disproportionately impacted by the epidemic.

HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Prevention

The Health Department provides confidential, rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing, HIV/AIDS education for youth and adult groups, and Safety Counts, a group educational program designed to reduce the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C transmission among injection and non-injection drug users. These programs reach approximately 5000 people per year. Safety Counts is funded by the CT DPH.

Syringe Exchange Program

The Syringe Exchange Program, which is part of the Health Programs Division, provides clean needles to intravenous drug users in exchange for used ones to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other blood borne diseases. The program is offered on the Department's mobile outreach unit at sites throughout the City. In addition to syringe exchange services, the program provides HIV/AIDS education, counseling about drug treatment, and drug treatment referrals. This program has been instrumental in reducing the number of new HIV cases associated with injection drug use risk in New Haven—In 2002, 48.1% of newly diagnosed HIV cases were associated with injection drug use and by 2011 this number had fallen to 20.0%. This program is funded by CT DPH.

Injury Prevention/ Safe Kids Greater New Haven

Safe Kids Greater New Haven, is a partnership between the Health Department and the Occupational Therapy Department at the Quinnipiac University. The program aims to reduce Unintentional Injury among children under the age of 15, which is a leading cause of death and disability in this age group. The program provides education to city residents about child safety on topics such as: child passenger safety, pedestrian safety, bike safety, Halloween safety, and others. This program is funded by Safe Kids CT along with the CT DPH Preventive Health Block Grant.

Diabetes Prevention Program

The New Haven Health Department will begin offering New Haven's adult residents the opportunity to participate in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Diabetes Prevention Program. This free program is designed for individuals who are at risk for developing diabetes. During the year-long program, participants meet as a group once a week for 16 weeks and then once a month for the remainder of the year. Session topics include achieving and maintain a healthy diet and ways to increase one's amount of daily physical activity.

Lead Prevention and Abatement

Staff resolve cases of childhood lead poisoning; provide educational outreach activities and assist with distribution of federal lead abatement funds to prevent lead poisoning. The program administers provision of deferred forgivable loans (federally funded) to

assist owners of occupied units requiring full lead abatement due to the presence of a child with elevated blood lead levels. Additional funds are used for deferred forgivable loans to assist in the creation of lead-safe housing through rehabilitation of vacant buildings needing lead hazard reduction prior to occupancy by non-profit and/or faith-based housing developers creating affordable units. Staff provide extensive educational outreach efforts in the community and in schools on an ongoing basis on the prevention of lead poisoning. Individual consultations are also provided to homeowners, tenants and landlords of affected properties during epidemiological investigations of lead poisoned children. As part of this program, the Department identifies and provides advice on addressing housing-related health hazards. Individuals and families with children under the age of 6 are provided with Healthy Home inspections. These inspections provide clients with information regarding asthma triggers and possible safety hazards including fall hazards, smoke and carbon monoxide detector safety, fire hazards, air quality issues, mold, radon, and asbestos.

Food Safety Program

Staff ensure the safety of the New Haven food system to prevent foodborne illness through licensing and inspecting food service establishments. This is accomplished through comprehensive inspections of over 1,000 food-service establishments operating in the City. Additionally, the Bureau provides licenses for food establishments, including restaurants, food trucks/carts, and itinerant vendors.

Investigation of Nuisances and Enforcement of the Public Health Code

The Health Department is required to enforce applicable sections of the State Public Health Code, State Statutes, and Municipal Ordinances. Major Functions include: 1) Investigation of public health nuisance complaints and to ensure resolution of infractions of applicable codes, statutes and ordinances; 2) Routine Inspection of schools, daycare centers, senior centers and summer lunch feeding sites to ensure the health and safety of vulnerable residents and compliance with applicable codes, ordinances and statutes. 3) Staff monitor recreational water quality of public swimming pools and beach water to prevent waterborne illness. 4) In concert with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and DPW, staff works in the prevention of Human cases of West Nile Virus in the City through education and outreach, reduction of mosquito breeding sites and strategic placement of mosquito larvicides.

The **Office of Vital Statistics** *secures citizenship rights* by issuing certificates for birth, death, marriages and civil unions that occurred in the City of New Haven. Adoptions, legal changes of name, and amendments are also recorded. Original records dating from 1649 are stored and maintained in the Office's vault. It also issues the **Elm City Resident ID Card** to all New Haven residents.

The **Epidemiology Program** monitors death certificates, reportable diseases and laboratory significant findings to identify potential disease outbreaks and individual cases of disease that require local public health action. The epidemiologists interview individuals diagnosed with certain communicable/infectious diseases to identify potential outbreaks and to identify those at high risk transmission settings such as food service establishments, health care organizations, and day care centers. The epidemiologists lead contact investigations to limit the spread of infections such as hepatitis A,

Chlamydia and gonorrhea, and tuberculosis. The epidemiologists also conduct data analysis to track health trends in the city and to inform potential interventions. Recent/Current projects include: a perinatal risk analysis to identify potential ways to reduce fetoinfant mortality in New Haven as part of the CityMatCH Action Learning Collaborative; an evaluation project for the New Haven Healthy Start Program to compare the pregnancy and birth outcomes of New Haven mothers enrolled and not enrolled in Healthy Start; the Community Health Needs Assessment; and a school health project to develop systems and processes to collect and analyze health data and school nurse utilization to better inform school health programs.

The School Nursing Program

This program provides school health nursing services for more than 22,000 pre-kindergarten through twelfth graders at 53 public and non-public school sites in New Haven. Public Health Nurses ensure that health-related barriers to learning are addressed as well as that state mandated immunizations, physical exams and vision, hearing and scoliosis screenings are conducted. Nurses provide first aid for trauma, allergies, treatment of illness and injuries; medication dispensing; and individualized health care plan development for children with special healthcare needs.

Seasonal Flu Immunization Clinics

The Department provides seasonal flu clinics by coordinating with local agencies, the city's occupational health department, community health centers and senior centers.

Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program

The Nursing Bureau is responsible for ensuring that individuals identified with active infectious tuberculosis (TB) are compliant with treatment [Directly Observed Therapy (DOT)] in order to prevent spread of disease. The Department has the authority to order any person isolated or quarantined whom such director has reasonable grounds to believe to be infected with a communicable disease or to be contaminated, if person poses a substantial threat to the public health and isolation or quarantine is necessary to protect or preserve the public health.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness: The Office of Emergency Preparedness works across all divisions of the Health Department and in close cooperation with the New Haven Emergency Operations Center to ensure the City of New Haven responds effectively to natural disasters, acts of bio-terrorism, and other emergencies that could affect the public's health. The primary function of this Office is to provide planning, training, education, and collaboration with local, regional, state, and community stakeholders to prepare for emergency situations. In October 2013, the Office assisted with the City's preparation for and response to SuperStorm Sandy. The Department's Public Health Nurses provided medical triage and first aid services at the emergency shelter established for residents. Additionally, the Department's sanitarians inspected food establishments impacted by power outages during the storm to ensure food safety.

Preventive Medicine: The goal of the Preventive Medicine Division is to provide primary care clinical services to underserved residents who seek confidential care for sexually transmitted diseases and other infectious diseases. Prevention and control of infectious diseases is a priority of the Health Department for the protection of the

public's health. Services are focused on the provision of immunizations and preventing transmission of STD's, HIV, Tuberculosis and seasonal Influenza. The Health Department offers clinics to provide information, prophylaxis and treatment related to flu protection, tuberculosis testing, STD screening, HIV counseling/testing and adult immunizations.

Key Systems/Processes:

Board of Alderman Submission Process

Complete process on file in the office.

Currently, the Board of Alderman must approve all grants the Department wishes to apply for prior to the grant application submission to the funder. This process is not realistic due to funding timelines and the lengthy Board of Alderman submission process. In practice, grants are submitted to the Board of Alderman for approval after the application is already submitted to the funder. A review of this process is warranted.

System Deficiencies/Attention Required:

Modernization of Telephone System

The NHHD proposed an upgrade to the Health Department's Telephone system in 2012 as it currently does not perform adequately for the Department's needs. The Health Department is currently unable to provide an acceptable level of customer service to the general public because of our antiquated phone system. An upgraded phone system is necessary for the Department to perform regular operations adequately; to maintain contact with a large proportion of staff assigned to field work; and to meet mandates for Public Health Emergency response, which currently is constrained due to the lack of connectivity with the Emergency Operations Center. **On file in the Health Department.**

Electronic Health Records Implementation (Clinic and School Based Health Center)

Electronic Health Records (EHR) are needed for the Department's STD Clinic and for the School Based Health Center administered by the Health Department. EHR's are necessary to improve efficiency, decrease duplication, and improve services provided and will be essential in allowing the Department to adequately track and bill for health services provided.

Computerized/Online License Renewals and Fee Payments

Currently, all restaurant license renewals and fee payments can only be made in person at the Health Department. Moving to an online renewal and fee payment system would modernize current operations, free up staff to perform additional required duties and provide additional convenience for the public. Currently, parking tickets can be paid to the city online similar capacity should be explored for Health department functions.

Aging Vehicle Fleet

The NHHD has an aging fleet of 18 vehicles in need of heavy repairs. Currently, the Department has 16 vehicles which are Model years 1994-1999 and two of which are model year 2000. We are currently in the process of replacing some vehicles; however, the remaining vehicles require constant, expensive repairs and need to be replaced in FY 2014-2015. Sanitarians, Lead Inspectors and Maternal and Child Health outreach staff perform fieldwork, and their work requires navigating city, even in extreme conditions. Sanitarians and other Health department staff are required to report to work and navigate the city during emergencies and storms. Safe, reliable vehicles are a necessity for the Health Department to perform mandated work functions.

Shortage of School Nurses

The Department's Public Health Nurses provide school nursing services, nursing coverage in the Department's Preventive Medicine Clinic, and nursing coverage in shelters during the city's response to emergencies. Currently, the Department has 31 public health nurse positions to cover 53 school sites. All current positions are filled; however, the Department is still in need of an additional **8-10 school nursing positions** to provide adequate nursing coverage in the schools. Nursing coverage is needed in all schools to ensure that nurses are available to: provide triage and skilled nursing for acute illnesses such as colds, injuries, allergic reactions and diabetic crises;

provide monitoring for children with chronic diseases like asthma and juvenile diabetes; provide skilled nursing care for students with special healthcare needs (e.g. those with ventilators, feeding tubes, etc.); to provide state mandated hearing, vision, and scoliosis screenings and to ensure students have received state mandated immunizations and physicals; to provide health education to teachers, administrators and students on various topics as requested.

Shortage of Sanitarians

The Department currently has three sanitarians to inspect and license over one thousand food establishments in the city and events where food is served. Sanitarians also perform additional duties such as, inspecting septic systems, public swimming pools and the City's beach at Lighthouse Point as well as to respond to public nuisances and inspect daycare centers and other facilities. The Department needs at least three additional sanitarians to perform all of its functions adequately.