

TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT

Robert Rubbo, MPH, Director of Health

In 2015-2016, the Torrington Area Health District ("TAHD") served over 133,000 people in twenty boroughs, cities and towns covering 611 square miles.

The TAHD **Community Health Program** investigated the following communicable diseases: **26** Campylobacteriosis, and **15** Giardiasis. TAHD partnered with DPH and FoodCore to investigate **17 cases of** Salmonellosis. TAHD conducted 2 contact investigations for suspected tuberculosis disease (resulted in 1 case of tuberculosis). TAHD provided guidance to school nurses, daycares and community members on a variety of health issues. TAHD nurses administered **504** doses of flu vaccine to local residents. TAHD consulted with 42 residents regarding potential rabies exposures which resulted in TAHD submitting **35** raccoons, bats, and other animals to the State of CT Laboratory for rabies testing. Guidance on post exposure prophylaxis was provided as well. Ticks brought in by **89** residents were sent to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Lyme disease bacteria testing.

The TAHD is a member of Fit Together, a Northwest Connecticut Healthy Eating and Active Living Initiative. Fit Together continues to promote the "Let's Go -5210". In 2015, the program was introduced to daycares and pediatrician offices. Fit Together supported the KIDSMARATHON Final Mile program. Fit Together has promoted workplace wellness programs to a number of businesses in Litchfield County.

The TAHD continues to be an active member of the Litchfield County Opiate Task Force. This task force continues to work on strategies and solutions to the heroin/opiate addiction and overdose epidemic. The task force focuses on intervention, prevention, and community education.

The TAHD **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** provided case management for more than 38 children with blood lead levels ($\geq 5\mu\text{l}$) as well as provided educational information to more than 100 families. TAHD collaborated with the **Connecticut Children's Healthy Housing Program** (CCHHP formerly the LAMPP Program) to assist property owners with lead abatement of their properties. Abatement/Remediation Orders were issued for 10 properties. Of these, 3 completed abatements. 4 other properties under old outstanding orders also completed abatement. Lead Poisoning Prevention materials were distributed to daycares, health centers, etc. TAHD **Healthy Homes Program** conducted a total of **12** home inspections. TAHD ran a pilot project focused on raising awareness regarding the EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting

Program. 120 contractors and/or homeowners were notified about lead safe training required when working on homes built before 1978.

The TAHD **Immunization Action Program** (IAP) continues to work with local providers and hospitals to ensure compliance with immunization laws for the infants and young children population. The focus for this year's site visits has been on vaccine handling and storage, calibration thermometers, and proper documentation for eligibility criteria.

The TAHD **Emergency Preparedness Program** worked with community partners to develop and implement emergency protocols and plans. In April, TAHD participated in the statewide "Medical Countermeasures Exercise" by opening a regional point of dispensing clinic at the Torrington Middle School. This was a full scale exercise that allowed TAHD to test the effectiveness of the TAHD emergency response plan, including communications, resource allocation, and overall coordination, in the event of an infectious disease outbreak. TAHD together with community partners distributed "simulated antibiotic pills" to 250 clients in less than 2 hours.

The TAHD **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program** garnered a 15,000 NACCHO Capacity Award that funded a train-the-trainer for Opioid Harm Reduction. The program is titled Project Mitigate and was held June 17-19, 2016. The trainers will then be tasked with running a series of community workshops dealing with opioid harm reduction techniques in the Torrington area in the coming year.

The TAHD partners with Phoenix Labs for its **Water Testing Program**. Phoenix Labs, a full service lab located in Manchester, CT offers a wide range of testing of drinking water, wastewater, groundwater/landfills, storm water, soil and more. TAHD collects samples when requested, and offers free technical advice on water testing results.

TAHD **Environmental Health Program** resulted in the following inspections/licenses/permits: **1798** food inspections, **753** temporary food permits, **73** new septic systems, **191** repaired septic systems, **179** private well permits, **84** private pool permits, **152** beauty salons & barber shops inspections, **545** house addition permits, **258** soil tests, **22** subdivision lots, **60** public pools and beaches were inspected, and **31** daycare centers inspected. Records show that approximately **600** samples were submitted to the state lab for testing of drinking water, beach and pool water, lead in water and paint, asbestos, food, sewage and volatile organic compounds and pesticides in water. Sanitarians investigated **352** complaints of various public health concerns; **56** legal orders/voluntary compliances were issued for enforcement purposes.