



**FARMINGTON VALLEY
HEALTH DISTRICT**

2022-2023

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



FROM THE HEALTH DIRECTOR

Recover. Refocus. Recharge.

These are words that best describe this past year as the FVHD team, along with our communities, transitioned to a “new normal” as the pandemic waned. This historic event left much to reflect upon, including not only sacrifices and losses, but experiences and lessons to carry forward. As I write this message, I am filled with gratitude for the FVHD team. Throughout the pandemic they were steadfast in their commitment, working long hours and weekends, taking on new challenges and supporting members of the community during the darkest of days.

Recovery has meant taking time to celebrate the many accomplishments of the past two and a half years - weekly surveillance reports, regular updates to town leadership and partners, vaccination clinics, contact tracing, volunteer coordination, investigating clusters and more. While these successes brought a sense of pride and accomplishment, they did not come without cost to our physical and mental health. While mental health has long been our priority, we are now seeing how the isolation, uncertainty and fear brought on by the pandemic exacerbated mental health challenges at all levels of our communities. As a public health agency, our focus will be on how best to create environments that support good mental health while simultaneously breaking down the stigma that inhibits early treatment.

Refocusing allows us to reapply our skills, knowledge and passion to the broader work of public health. In September, FVHD completed a community health assessment that will provide the blueprint for our disease prevention and health promotion work. We have begun to engage community partners as we develop a community health improvement plan to address the health issues that are presenting the most significant impacts on our communities. Mental health, substance use, and healthy eating/active living are among those priorities. By engaging subject matter experts and community members, we will lay out strategies with a goal of reversing these negative public health trends over time.

If there is one thing that stands out most from our pandemic response, it is the partnerships that were established and strengthened during some of the most challenging times. These partnerships are recharging us as we contemplate the incredible progress we can make in improving the health of our communities. As we advance our community health improvement plan, we hope to hear from many of these community partners who share our vision for healthy communities.

Yours in Health,



Jennifer C. Kertanis, MPH
Director

THE FVHD TEAM

ADMINISTRATION

Jennifer C. Kertanis, MPH
Director of Health

Stephanie Johnson, MT
(ASCP), MPH
Assistant Director

Samantha Carter
Office Manager

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Dianne Harding, RS
Chief Sanitarian

Patricia Gigliotti, RS
Senior Sanitarian

Kristin Kula, RS
Registered Sanitarian

FOOD PROTECTION

Jason Brown, RS
Food Program Coordinator

Kristin Olsson, RS
Registered Sanitarian

Miranda Arnold, BS
Sanitarian

Deidra James, BS
Sanitarian

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Melissa Marquis, MS, RN
Public Health Emergency Response Specialist

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Justine Ginsberg, BSN, RN
Community Health Coordinator

Kate Glendon, MPH, CHES, CPS
Community Health Coordinator

Amanda Hubbard, MSN, RN
Public Health Nurse

Kirsten Carew, MPH
Epidemiologist

Anna Larson, MPH
Community Health Program Associate

Olivia Morris, BS
Community Health Program Associate



PREVENTING

Disease outbreaks and conditions that give rise to poor health outcomes.

The Farmington Valley Health District is responsible for inspecting restaurants, salons, bathing areas, and childcare centers in our towns to ensure the health and safety of the public. We also inspect and permit work done on wells and septic systems to protect the public water supply.

170

Salons Inspected



1,563

Restaurant Inspections Conducted

160

Temporary Food Permits Issued

379

Public Swimming Pool Inspections

30

Town-Owned Natural Swimming Areas Tested

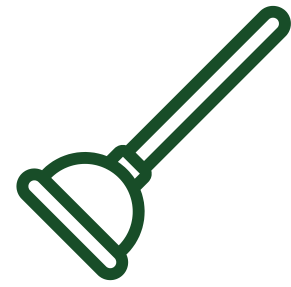


280

Vaccines Administered

248

New Construction
Septic System
Inspections
Conducted



122

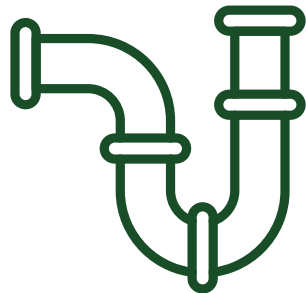
New Construction
Septic System Plans
Reviewed

69

New Construction
Lots Tested

19

New Construction
Septic System
Permits Issued



578

Septic System
Repair
Inspections
Conducted

379

Septic System
Repair Sites
Evaluated

265

Septic System
Repair Permits
Issued

119

New Well Permits
Issued

499

Building Additions
Reviewed





PROMOTING

Health programs & policies that support good health.

The Farmington Valley Health District runs various community health programs aimed at promoting the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of our community in all walks of life.



QPR & Mental Health First Aid

Teaching community members to recognize signs of a mental health crisis.

9

QPR Classes Taught

16

Mental Health First Aid Classes Taught

339

Participants Reached

Year of Resilience

Building a foundation for lifelong mental wellness for children and teens.

3

School Districts Participating

2000+

Students Participating



No Wrong Doors

An annual event held in collaboration with Tunxis Community College to support veteran mental health.

70

Attendees

Prevent T2

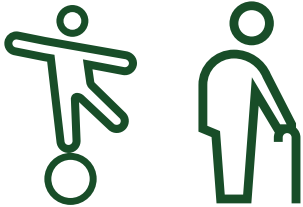
Delaying or preventing the onset of Type 2 Diabetes for individuals at risk.

20

Participants Reached

36.2

Total Pounds Lost



A Matter of Balance

Helping seniors build strength and confidence to prevent falls.

6

Courses Taught

115

Participants Reached

Communications

4

Health Matters Newsletters Released

32

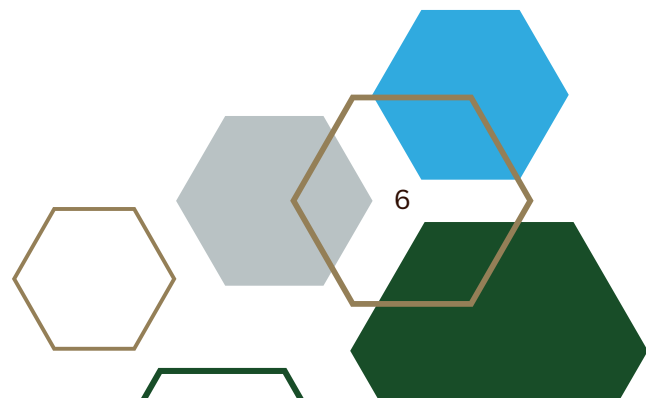
Newsletter Articles Published

334

Social Media Posts Made

170

New Facebook & Instagram Followers



PROTECTING

Members of our community from health threats—the everyday and the exceptional.

The Farmington Valley Health District is charged with monitoring and investigating disease outbreaks and environmental hazards that may threaten the health of our community. This includes routine monitoring of health data and responding to reports of new outbreaks.



13

Foodborne Illness Investigations Conducted

4

Infectious Disease Investigations Conducted

6

Exposed Traveler Interviews Conducted

51

Surveillance Data Reports Generated

1000+

COVID Test Kits Distributed



75

Radon Test Kits Distributed

140

Housing Complaints Investigated



NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

COMPLETED A COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

This collaborative, systematic, data-driven report helped us better understand the health gaps in our community.

RECOGNIZED AS SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTS

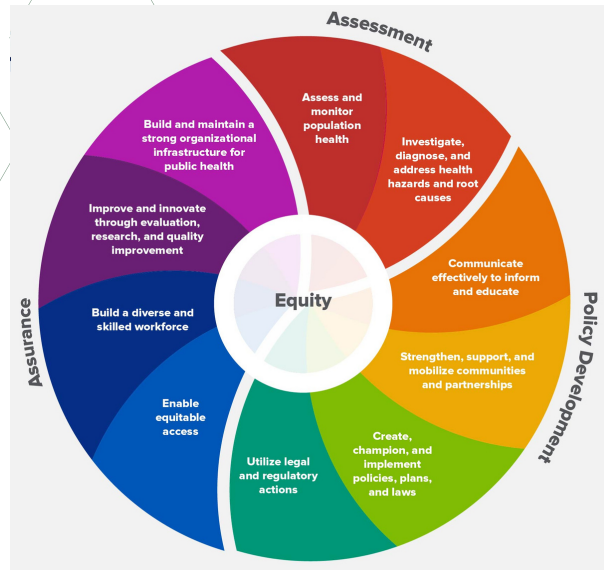
From advising our towns on allocation of opioid settlement dollars to our staff being invited as keynote speaker at a national conference, the FVHD continues to be your resource for public health expertise.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS ARE ONLINE AND EASIER THAN EVER

We have continued to expand what permits can be applied for and renewed on our online OpenGov portal to include food, temporary events, salons, pools, and more.

10 ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Farmington Valley Health District is responsible for delivering the 10 Essential Services of Public Health. The Essential Services outline the functions that should be expected of a local health department to improve and protect the health of the public.



MISSION

PREVENT disease outbreaks and conditions that give rise to poor health outcomes,
PROMOTE health programs and policies that support good health, and
PROTECT community members from health threats.

VISION

Exceptional health and well-being for all people who work, live, learn, and play in the Farmington Valley.

VALUES

Equity
 Excellence
 Data-Driven
 Professionalism
 Collaboration
 Integrity

BOARD MEMBERS

AVON

Brandon Robertson, Chair
Maura Shea

BARKHAMSTED

Debra Brydon

CANTON

Warren Humphrey
Tim Murphy

COLEBROOK

Christopher Johnstone

EAST GRANBY

Angela Ciottone

FARMINGTON

Kathleen A. Blonski
Jadwiga Gocłowski
Mary Jane Parlow

GRANBY

Erica Robertson
Jean Donihee-Perron

HARTLAND

VACANT

NEW HARTFORD

Daniel V. Jerram

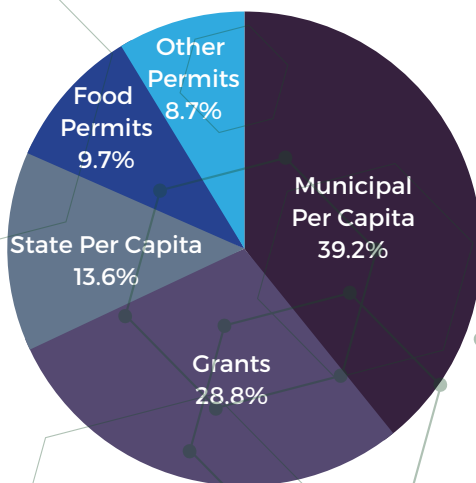
SIMSBURY

Susan Beardsley
Maria Capriola
Tom Fitzgerald
Melissa Appleby

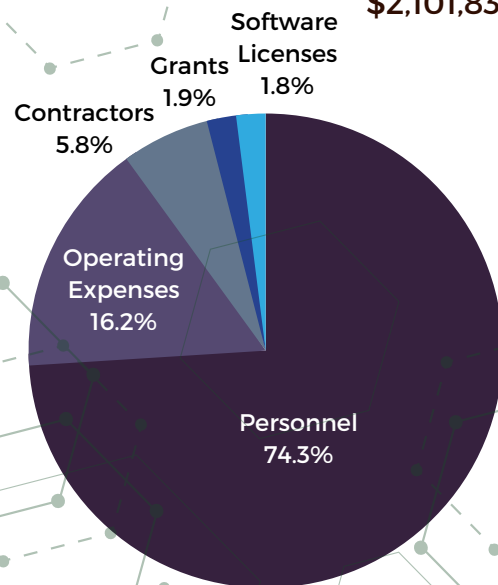
BUDGET

FISCAL YEAR '22-'23

REVENUE
\$2,101,831



EXPENDITURES
\$2,101,839





Farmington Valley Health District
95 River Road, Canton CT 06019
(860) 352-2333



FVHD.ORG



FarmingtonValleyHealthDistrict



FarmValleyHD