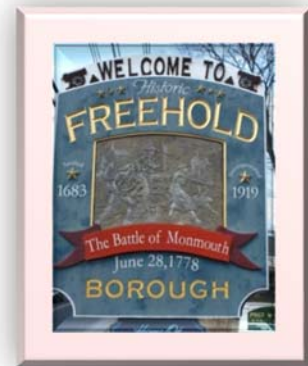


FREEHOLD AREA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Working Hard to Keep You Healthy



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

1 Municipal Plaza
Freehold, New Jersey 07728
(732) 294-2060

www.twp.freehold.nj.us/health

***FREEHOLD AREA
HEALTH DEPARTMENT***

SERVING
FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP**FREEHOLD BOROUGH
UPPER FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP

1 MUNICIPAL PLAZA
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

TELEPHONE: 732-294-2060
FAX: 732-462-2340

Dear Resident:

Welcome to the Freehold Area Health Department's Annual Report 2014! We are pleased to present a summary of our accomplishments and hope you take the time to learn what we do, as much of our work is invisible to the public. Also, we wish to thank the governing bodies, as well as the residents, for your steadfast support. Over the past five years, the Freehold Area Health Department has worked very hard to instill a culture of quality in all that we do and customer satisfaction is paramount. As you review the report, know that we strive to be one of the best performing health departments in the State of New Jersey and welcome your feedback.

Very truly yours,

Robin Lemesevski, Chairwoman
Freehold Township Board of Health

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WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?



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WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

The Freehold Area Health Department and the three Boards of Health are governed by the Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey, N.J.A.C. 8:52. Inherent duties and responsibilities are summarized in the three Core Public Health Functions and the Ten Essential Public Health Services.

CORE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS

- Assess and monitor the health of communities and at-risk populations to identify health problems and priorities.
- Formulate public policies with community and government leaders to address local and national public health problems and priorities.
- Provide all populations with access to appropriate and cost-effective care, including health promotion, disease prevention and follow-up evaluation.



GOVERNANCE



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GOVERNANCE



Freehold Township

Committee Members 2014

David M. Salkin, Mayor
Anthony Ammiano, Deputy
Thomas L. Cook
Eugene B. Golub
Barbara J. McMorrow

Board of Health Members 2014

Robin Lemesevski, Chair
Fabio Apolito, DMD, V. Chair
Gail Reilly, MD, Secretary
Eileen Allen, RN, MSN, FN-CSA
Anthony Ammiano, Liaison
Arturo Canto, MD
Michael Chudkowski
Alene Opatut, DVM
Michele Weissman, RN-BC



Borough of Freehold

Council Members 2014

Nolan Higgins, Mayor
Sharon Shutzer, President
Michael DiBenedetto
Ron Griffiths
Kevin Kane
George Schnurr
Jaye Sims

Board of Health Members 2014

Gregory Jewel, DVM, Chair
Vicki Warnock, MSN, V. Chair
Philip W. DeAngelis
Ellen Kane, RN, BNS, CPAN
Kevin Kane, Liaison
William M. Madden



Upper Freehold Township

Committee Members 2014

LoriSue Mount, Mayor
Robert Frascella, DDS, Deputy
Stephen Alexander
Robert Faber
Stanley Moslowski, Jr.

Board of Health Members 2014

Kathleen Stryeski, DVM, Chair
Nancy Amontis, RN, Vice Chair
Curtis Byrnes, MD
John Grun
George King
Ruby Klink, Ex Officio
LoriSue Mount, Liaison
James Rosenbauer

ADMINISTRATION



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DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Board of Health's primary responsibility is to protect the health of the citizens and to guard against the spread of contagious diseases. Other than the Township Committee, the Board of Health is the only other governing body that has the authority to adopt policy and pass ordinances relating to its specific activities. The Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health, N.J.A.C. 8:52, adopted in February 2003, designate specific activities to be performed by all Boards of Health. The 16 subchapters address Essential Public Health Services, public health practice, administration, staff competencies, nursing, health education and performance evaluation.

The Boards of Health oversee the Freehold Area Health Department which enforces policies and provides services as deemed necessary by the Boards.



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

What Does Your Health Department Do?

- ✓ **Protects you from health threats.** We work hard to prevent disease outbreaks and make sure the food you eat, the water you drink, and the air you breathe are all safe. We are also ready to respond to any health emergency – be it bioterrorism, a natural disaster or a new infectious disease.
- ✓ **Educates you and your neighbors about health issues.** We provide you with information that helps you make healthy decisions, like exercising more, eating right, quitting smoking, and washing your hands to protect yourself from communicable diseases. During a public health emergency, we also provide important alerts and warnings to protect you and your family.
- ✓ **Provides healthy solutions.** Your health department assures that you have access to preventive care to avoid disease and maintain your health.
- ✓ **Advances community health.** We advocate and develop new policies and standards that address existing and emerging challenges to your community's health while enforcing a wide range of laws to keep you safe. We support research and staff training to maintain expertise and assure the delivery of up-to-date, cutting-edge public health programs.



MISSION & VALUES



MISSION

The mission of the Freehold Area Health Department is to assure the provision of an array of public health services to the residents of Freehold Township, Freehold Borough and Upper Freehold Township, thereby, protecting and promoting the physical and mental health of citizens and preventing disease and injury.

VISION

The Freehold Area Health Department promotes health, prevents disease and protects the residents that we serve, and we believe that a healthy community is a valuable and desirable community. By continually assessing and responding proactively to the needs of the communities, the citizens we serve will value our role in helping them to achieve optimum health, thrive in the community and be empowered to make appropriate choices that will result in healthier generations to come.

VALUES

- ✓ We strive to bring honesty, commitment and consistency to the work that we perform.
- ✓ We want fairness, compassion and patience to be the hallmark of our services.
- ✓ We want our “customers” to see us as knowledgeable, compassionate, courteous, accommodating and efficient.
- ✓ Organizationally, we find value in resolving problems, helping people, and seeing a return on our investment of time and effort.
- ✓ In management, we look for fairness, loyalty, connectedness, consistency and approachability.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

STAFF



Margaret Jahn, MS, MPH..... Director

Licensed Health Officer, A-544

Licensed Registered Environmental Health Specialist, B-1647

Jeffrey Palatini..... Principal REHS

Licensed Registered Environmental Health Specialist, B-1434

Julie Kramer, MPH..... REHS

Licensed Health Officer, A-491

Licensed Registered Environmental Health Specialist, B-1357

Ken Walls.. Senior REHS (P/T)

Licensed Registered Environmental Health Specialist, B-1439

Lee Westcott..... Senior REHS (P/T)

Licensed Registered Environmental Health Specialist, B-1758

Margaret Karl REHS

Licensed Registered Environmental Health Specialist, B-2042

Lauren Mann..... Alliance Coordinator

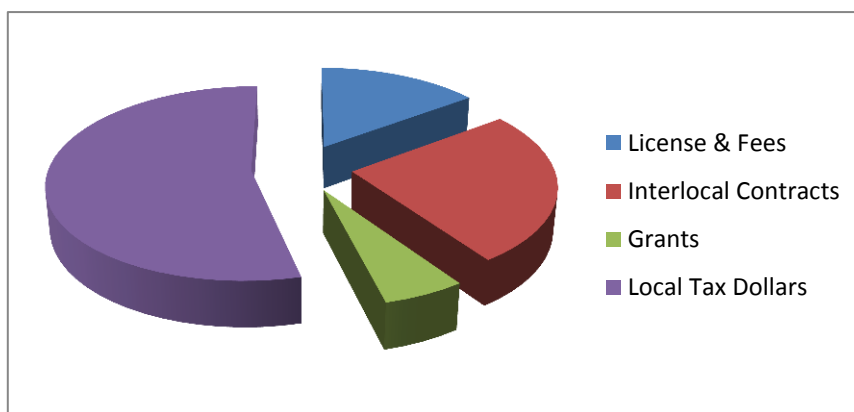
Andrea Trozzi Admin Assistant/REHS Trainee

Certified Municipal Registrar, CMR2689

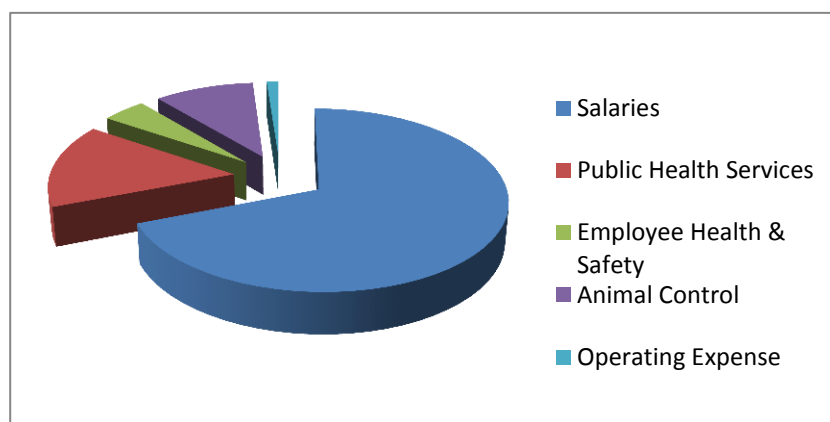
2014 FISCAL YEAR

The Health Department operates under the Freehold Township municipal budget and comprises 1.5% of the total municipal expenditures. Public health services are provided to Freehold Borough and Upper Freehold Township via shared services agreements. Below is a breakdown of revenues and expenditures for fiscal year 2014.

REVENUES \$ 276,057 + \$ 323,600 (local tax)



EXPENDITURES \$ 599,657



SERVICES



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SERVICES WE PROVIDE

Adult immunizations (flu and pneumonia)
 Air pollution complaints
 Animal bite and quarantine enforcement
 Assurance of safe drinking water
 Bioterrorism and emergency response
 Body art facility inspections
 Campground inspections
 Certification of wells and septic systems for realty sales
 Child care center inspections
 Childhood lead poisoning investigations



Community health education
 Community health fairs
 Control of insect vectors of disease
 Control of rodent vectors of disease
 Coordination of animal control services
 Dog and cat licensing
 Emergency response (24/7)
 Enforcement of state and local regulations
 Environmental complaint investigation
 Food-borne illness outbreak investigations



Hazardous material incidence response
 Infectious disease investigations
 Laboratory sampling of food, wells and surface waters
 Noise control
 Occupational health complaint investigations
 Ordinance and policy recommendations
 Pet shop and kennel inspections
 Public health nuisance complaint investigations
 Public pool and spa inspection and enforcement
 Rabies inoculation clinics



Radon testing and education
 Retail food inspections, training and plan review
 Right to Know (RTK) program
 School immunization audits
 Septic system plan reviews and inspections
 Site plan and subdivision reviews
 Soil and site evaluation for septic systems
 Substance abuse prevention
 Tuberculosis control
 Youth camp safety inspections

PARTNERSHIPS



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PARTNERSHIPS

CLINIC

Local Boards of Health must assure access and linkages to needed healthcare and preventive healthcare services for economically-disadvantaged populations. Both Freehold Township and Freehold Borough provide public health clinic services to the uninsured via an agreement with the Paul McGuire Family Health Center. Services include health promotion, assistance in the prevention and control of communicable diseases and maintenance of health and wellness of the uninsured.



2014

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SERVED

PATIENTS	NUMBER OF RESIDENTS
New	191
Total Visits	953
ADULT HEALTH – SCREENING	
Cervical Cancer	47
Mammogram Referrals	10
Hypertension	58
Vision	50
Diabetes Risk Assessments	69
HIV	108
Tuberculosis	8
Immunizations	14

PARTNERSHIPS

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING



Homecare and community-based services that integrate public health nursing practice are provided by the Visiting Nurses Association Health Group. Nursing services provide support to the operations of Freehold Health Department and to the delivery of the 10 Essential Public Health Services. Public health nursing activities include programs and interventions that relate to the uninsured, underinsured, immigrant, indigent and other vulnerable populations for all three municipalities.

2014 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SERVED

	NUMBER OF RESIDENTS	NUMBER OF VISITS
Homecare & Hospice Services		
Homecare Visits	896	15,141
Hospice	213	4,725
Personal Care	8	735
Palliative care	7	229
Charity Care	7	22
WIC Supplemental Nutrition	960	n/a
Special Child Health Services	356	612
Nurse Family Partnership Program	17	271
Community Health Center	64	269
Senior Wellness	42	14
MOCP	47	183
Underinsured	46	167
Uninsured	12	30

PARTNERSHIPS

HEALTH PROMOTION

The Freehold Area Health Department maintains a contract agreement with CentraState Healthcare System to assist in providing comprehensive health education and promotion programs to the residents of the greater Freehold area. All programs are overseen by the Director of the Health Awareness Center, and are culturally and linguistically appropriate based on area demographics and population served.



HEALTH CONSORTIUM

The Freehold Area Health Department participates in the Monmouth Health Consortium, an interlocal agreement among health departments for the sharing of specialized public health services such as communicable disease investigations and health education. In addition, the Department shares an XRF Lead Analyzer which is used for lead poisoning investigations.



ACTIVITIES



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CONTACTS SUMMARY

The Freehold Area Health Department began tracking calls in 2013. Below is a listing of calls received for 2014. The list is NOT inclusive of all contacts to the Department and only depicts the volume and variety of calls fielded by the main extension, 2060.



SUBJECT	# CALLS
ALLIANCE	23
ANIMAL CONTROL	479
COMPLAINT	168
FOOD LICENSE/CODE	200
GENERAL	57
INSPECTION REQUEST	85
INTERNAL	129
PET LICENSING	226
PROP CERTIFICATION	203
REFERRAL	146
SEPTIC	415
WELL	68
WINDOW	179
OTHER	499
TOTAL	2,877



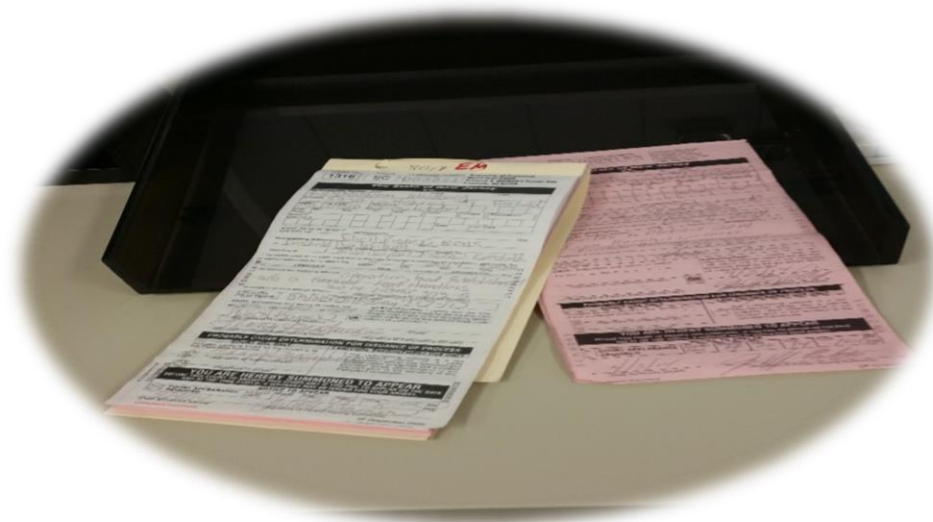
ACTIVITY SUMMARY

ACTIVITY	FT	FB	UF	TOTAL
Body Art Inspections	-	1	-	1
Camp Inspections	4	1	1	6
Consultations	1	-	3	4
Emergency Response	7	-	-	7
Environmental Complaints	24	9	4	37
Env. Complaints Follow-up	14	9	4	27
Food Complaints	37	6	-	43
Food Inspections	185	77	21	283
Food Permits Issued	238	120	-	358
Food Plan Review	9	4	-	13
Food Pre-opening Inspections	36	26	2	64
Food Re-inspections	52	28	5	85
Immunization Audits	20	5	4	29
Immunization Re-audits	12	1	1	14
Kennel Inspections	5	-	2	7
Lead Investigations	1	-	-	1
Misc. Inspections/ Activities	13	1	2	16
Mobile Food Inspections	15	6	3	24
Nuisance Complaints	26	14	6	46
Nuisance Follow-up	25	11	2	38
Pool Inspections	26	1	2	29
Pool Pre-opening Inspections	23	1	2	26
Pool Re-inspections	1	-	-	1
Septic Checks	63	-	76	139
Septic Inspections	84	-	140	224
Septic Permits Issued	18	-	48	66
Septic Plan Review	24	-	92	116
Septic Repair	1	-	2	3
Soils Evaluation	22	-	30	52
Subdivision & Site Plan Review	24	-	1	25
Tanning Inspections	2	-	-	2
Water Sample Reviews	47	-	75	122
Well Investigations	3	-	6	9
Well Permits Issued	5	3	14	22
TOTAL	1067	324	548	1939

COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

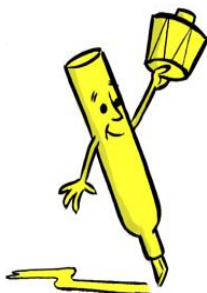
COMPLAINT	FREEHOLD TWP	FREEHOLD BOROUGH	UPPER FREEHOLD	TOTAL
FOOD	38	6	-	44
GARBAGE	6	3	-	9
GENERAL NUISANCE	17	5	1	23
SEPTIC/SEWAGE	6	4	1	11
RODENT	7	2	-	9
ANIMAL	6	3	2	11
INSECT	23	11	1	35
INDOOR AIR	6	2	2	10
LEAD	-	-	-	0
HAZARDOUS WASTE	1	2	1	4
AIR POLLUTION	1	2	-	3
MOLD	2	1	-	3
FOOD ILLNESS	4	1	-	5
OTHER MISC.	7	3	-	10
TOTAL	124	45	8	177

Summonses Issued: 10



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Freehold Area Health Department is responsible for keeping the communities we serve free from disease. We monitor disease trends, respond to disease outbreaks and prevent the spread of infectious disease.



2014 HIGHLIGHT

In March 2014, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that an outbreak of Ebola hemorrhagic fever was announced by the Ministry of Health of Guinea. While the first cases of Ebola in the U.S. were being reported, Freehold Area Health Department received one of the initial phone calls regarding a potential case of Ebola in an ill female traveler who recently returned from Liberia. Amid the unfolding investigation, Freehold Health Department and CentraState Medical Center set the backdrop for future Ebola response practices recommended by CDC across the Nation.

NUMBER OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES INVESTIGATED

TOWN	2014	2013	2012
Freehold Borough	65	67	51
Freehold Township	215	238	203
Upper Freehold	44	73	48
TOTAL	324	378	302



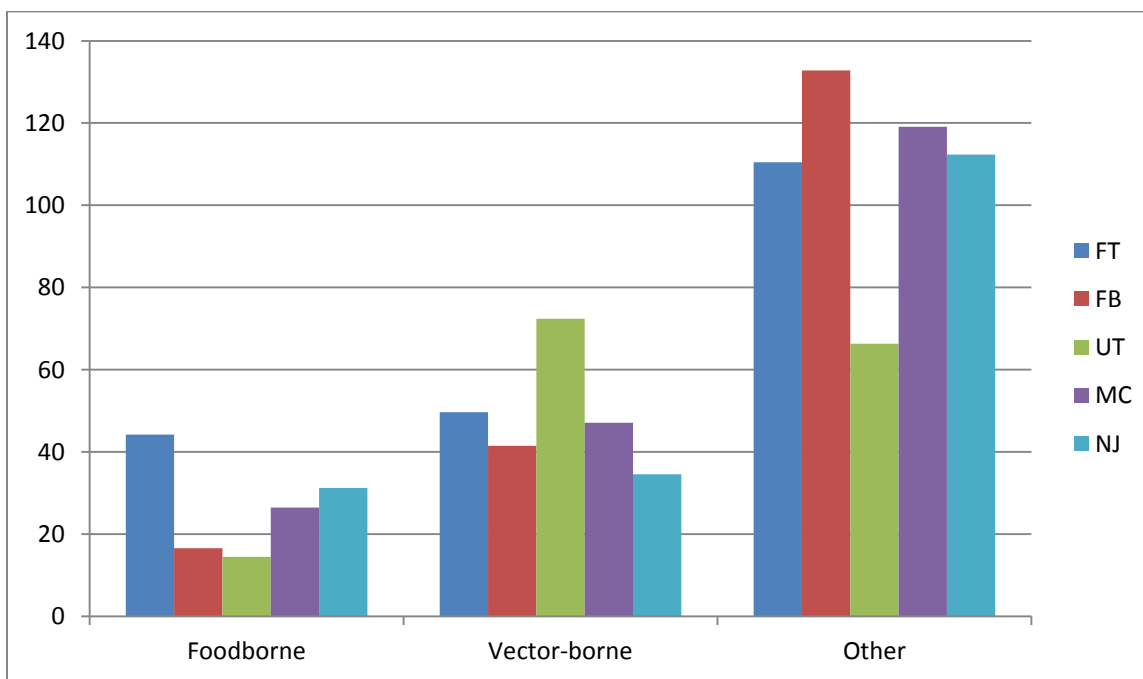
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

DISEASE TRENDS 2013

Incident Rates of Selected Diseases Per population 100,000

DISEASE	FT	FB	UT	MC	NJ
Babesiosis	0	33.2	14.5	2.7	1.6
Campylobacteriosis	16.6	0	14.5	10.9	14.5
Hepatitis C -chronic	49.7	83.0	0	84.1	74.8
Lyme disease	47.0	8.3	58.0	43.8	31.7
Salmonella	19.3	8.3	0	11.4	11.0

SELECT CATEGORIES OF DISEASE INCIDENCE 2013

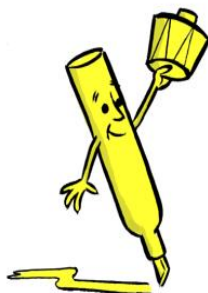


ANIMAL CONTROL

Many local health departments in New Jersey oversee animal control services. Both Freehold Township and Freehold Borough contract with Western Monmouth Animal Control for animal services and the health department is responsible for coordinating the services. In addition to animal control, the health department inspects kennels, pet shops and animal shelters to ensure that these facilities are operating in compliance with sanitation, safety and animal welfare rules. Most importantly, the health department is responsible for rabies control which includes pet licensing and animal bite investigations.



	<u>FT</u>	<u>FB</u>
Dog Complaint	29	22
Dog at Large	25	2
Dead Dog Pick Up	0	0
Injured/ Sick Dog	3	7
Dogs Picked Up	28	36
Lost/Found	17	5
Cat Complaints	44	27
Dead Cat Pick Up	6	1
Injured/ Sick Cat	16	7
Cats Picked Up	77	38
Cat Trap	15	14
Farm Animals	2	0
Wild Animals	40	30



2014 HIGHLIGHT

Occasionally, the health department is advised of a vicious dog bite. When that occurs, the Health Officer is obliged to request a hearing to have a judge determine whether the dog should be considered vicious or potentially dangerous. In 2013, we were successful in having a dog declared dangerous and the owner was required to obtain a special license, muzzle the dog in public, post signage and obtain special homeowner's insurance. In 2014, the owner failed to follow the law and the potentially dangerous dog attacked and killed a neighbor's dog. We issued a summons for failure to comply with the judge's edict. In the end, the owner had to pay hefty fines and ultimately euthanized the animal.

RABIES CONTROL

ANIMAL BITE INVESTIGATIONS

<u>EXPOSURES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Dog	52
Cat	11
Bat	5
Raccoon	3
Other	4
Total	75



TESTS FOR RABIES

Total Referred:	31
# Positive:	6

RABIES CLINICS

MONTH	# DOGS	# CATS	TOTAL
January	226	21	237
September	19	5	35
TOTAL	245	26	272



PET LICENSING

1-Year Licenses Issued:	717
3-Year Licenses Issued:	449

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health education occurs throughout all health department programs, with a focus on providing education and health promotion services that help the public make informed decisions about their health. Health education programs and activities help the community achieve a healthier lifestyle and promote healthy behaviors.

In 2014, Freehold Area Health Department contracted with an independent health educator to coordinate the departmental health education needs and develop the Mayor's Wellness Campaign.

Mayor's Wellness Campaign

The Mayor's Wellness Campaign (MWC) was initiated in 2013 by the Freehold Health Department and then- Mayor, Barbara McMorrow. At inception, a group of motivated community members from diverse disciplines, who share a passion for better health within Freehold, established the Mayor's Wellness Council. The prototype was initiated by the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute who developed a program to give mayors the tools necessary to promote healthy and active living in their communities (www.njhcgq.org/initiative/mayors-wellness-campaign/).

With the assistance of the health educator, the Council completed an informal needs assessment and inventory of community resources and programs available to Freehold Township, engaged interested community partners, created marketing and promotional information and constructed a website. In addition, she helped to formalize strategic directions for the MWC while continuing to explore and acquire grant or other funding opportunities.

"The Mayors Wellness Campaign is a program that gives mayors tools and strategies to champion healthy and active living and to improve the overall health of their communities."





Mayor's Wellness Campaign



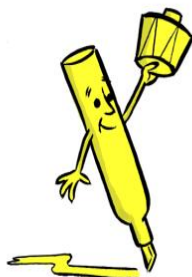
NEWS FLASH!



Poor diet and lack of physical activity are the #1 preventable cause of illness and disease.

2014 SPONSORED PROGRAMS

- ✓ Food Drive – Freehold Township Senior Center (July)
- ✓ Food Drive – Freehold Township Recreation Summer Camp (July)
- ✓ Color Me Crazy Run – September 28, 2014
- ✓ Bounce Back: The Power of Resilience – October 8, 2014
- ✓ Food Stock - October
- ✓ Focus on Wellness Employee Wellness Program
 - Employee Wellness Fair – December 11, 2014
 - “Healthy Eating 101” Lunch and Learn – December 15, 2014



2014 HIGHLIGHT

A \$1,500 mini-grant was acquired from the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute's Mayors Wellness Campaign. These monies funded a program called Supermarket Sweep and helped to support the Employee Wellness Program, *Focus On Wellness*, which began in late 2014 and ran into 2015.

ALLIANCE TO PREVENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

In January 2008, the substance abuse prevention program, the Freehold Municipal Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse (the "Alliance"), was merged with the Freehold Health Department. Today, the Alliance remains a joint Board whose members are comprised of citizens and professionals from both Freehold Borough and Freehold Township. The Alliance exists to meet the need for comprehensive, coordinated substance abuse awareness planning and programming for the residents of Freehold. In addition, the Freehold Alliance conducts needs assessments, produces an annual prevention plan, and advocates for enhanced prevention services based on community needs and priorities.

Through the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Funds (D.E.D.R. grant), the Freehold Health Department provides a coordinator for the Alliance activities. Responsibilities include grant administration, program planning and the facilitation of monthly meetings and fund-raising events.

NEWS FLASH



Marijuana is the number one choice
among Freehold area youth who use
illicit substances.

ALLIANCE TO PREVENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

2014 PROGRAMS

- ✓ American Conference on Diversity
- ✓ Botvin Life Skills Training
- ✓ Community Mobilization
- ✓ Freehold Awakenings
- ✓ Campfire USA
- ✓ New Jersey Peer to Peer
- ✓ Problem Identification and Referral

The Alliance conducted e-cigarette awareness training with Nicki Francis from CentraState Health Awareness Center. A group of students from Freehold Township High School were trained on the dangers and use of electronic cigarettes, who were then tasked with developing a lesson plan to be delivered to the sixth graders of Barkalow and Eisenhower Middle Schools. The high school students and the program were well received by both middle-schools.

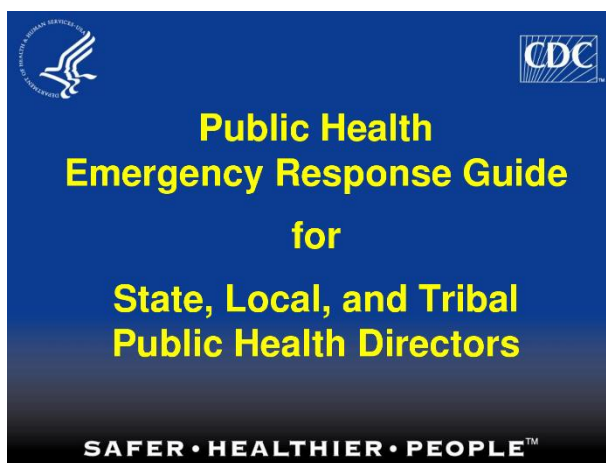


2014 HIGHLIGHT

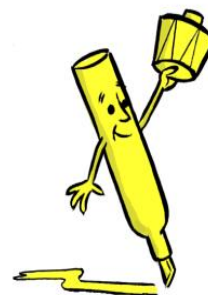


EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

When natural or man-made disasters occur, local health officials must respond with police, fire and other public safety individuals to assure effective public health response, communication and mitigation. Health department officials are available for emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for 365 days of the year. We frequently respond to immediately reportable diseases, hazardous spills, gas leaks, power outages and fires occurring in retail food establishments. We are called for anything that potentially affects the health of our residents.



In November of 2014, the health department received a call from police dispatch requesting a response to a potential hostile threat involving the release of pepper spray at the Freehold Township High School. The release occurred in the cafeteria and students had reported feeling ill. The police and fire had responded to mitigate further threat and nearby classrooms were evacuated. School officials were seeking clearance from the health department to reopen the school and our personnel investigated the school's response. Windows in the area had been opened and fans used to disperse the chemical. The school had responded appropriately and the threat was alleviated quickly.



2014 HIGHLIGHT

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

N.J.A.C. 8:52-8 and Essential Service #8 require that local Boards of Health maintain a competent public health workforce by providing continuing education, training and leadership development activities to staff members. In addition, we are required to recruit, train, develop and retain a diverse staff. Below is a list of employees and continuing education activities performed in 2014.

Margaret Jahn, Health Officer (32.25 CEU)

Communicable Disease Outbreak Training
 Regional Public Health Emergency Preparedness in New Jersey
 Improving Your Community's Health by Thinking Outside of the Box
 Prevent, Promote, Protect: Public Health Leadership and Advocacy
 Creating a Workforce Development Plan for Your Health Department
 Developing a Quality Improvement Plan for Your Health Department
 Animals in the Community and Public Health
 Ebola Community Education for Public Health Staff

Jeffrey Palatini, Principal REHS (23.5 CEU)

Regional Public Health Emergency Preparedness in New Jersey
 Mental Health First Aid
 Leading Your Agency through the PHAB Assessment
 Creating a Workforce Development Plan for Your Health Department

Lee Westcott, Senior REHS (17.75 CEU)

Community Noise Enforcement Recertification
 NJDOH Communicable Disease Forum – Spring 2014
 Mental Health First Aid
 Immunization Auditing: New Tools and Best Practices

Julie Kramer, REHS (22.00 CEU)

Communicable Disease Outbreak Training
 NJDOH Communicable Disease Forum – Spring 2014
 Improving Your Community's Health by Thinking Outside of the Box
 Prevent, Promote, Protect: Public Health Leadership and Advocacy
 NJDOH Summer 2014 Communicable Disease Forum – Webinar
 Fall 2014 Communicable Disease Forum – Central East Region

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Margaret Karl, REHS (26.00 CEU)

Communicable Disease Outbreak Training

Mental Health First Aid

Prevent, Promote, Protect: Public Health Leadership and Advocacy

Developing a Quality Improvement Plan for Your Health Department

Immunization Auditing: New Tools and Best Practices

Lauren Mann (18 PDH)

Intro to Methods and the Impact of Environmental Change, P401

Assessment and Planning of Environmental Strategies, P402

Marijuana: Facts and Myths

Andrea Trozzi (15.25 CEU)

Leading Your Agency through the PHAB Assessment

Creating a Workforce Development Plan for Your Health Department

Developing a Quality Improvement Plan for Your Health Department

Internships:

The Health Department believes in developing the next generation of public health workers. We are dedicated to providing opportunities for training and acquiring experience to young professionals and students. This year, we accepted two interns to voluntarily work with our staff. One intern trained with the Registered Environmental Health Specialists and another worked with the Health Educator in developing the Mayor's Wellness Campaign.



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES



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QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Strategic Plan Review

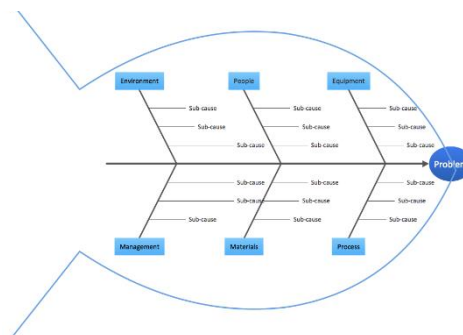
- ✓ In January 2014, the staff briefly discussed frustration with the implementation of our strategic plan and the lack of progress. The group decided to employ a QI process tool to determine the barriers to success that could inform revisions to the existing plan. The group convened to brainstorm about some of the reasons for making so little progress on the implementation plan and identified the causes and effects using an interrelationship digraph depicting potential drivers and outcomes.

Septic and Well Permit Database

- ✓ In an effort to update and streamline the septic/well permitting and compliance process, a Microsoft Access database was developed, tested, refined, and improved. The database eliminates the use of the typewriter and two-part forms for the permit process and facilitates improved tracking of open permits. The IT Department and Margaret Jahn designed the database with input from the Health Department's clerical and technical staff.

Property Certification Process

- ✓ A step-by-step process map was created by the Health Department to effectively identify the steps in the issuance of Property Certification procedure. The process map exercise helped staff to understand the complete Property Certification process. Problem areas, redundancy, and unnecessary loops, were identified, simplified and standardized.



FUTURE INITIATIVES



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FUTURE INITIATIVES



- ✓ Continue organizational alignment with PHAB accreditation standards
 - Develop a written Quality Improvement Plan
 - Develop a written Workforce Development Plan

- ✓ Increase public awareness of department activities
 - Improve consistency of website updates
 - Develop a social media campaign

- ✓ Continue development of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign in Freehold Township

- ✓ Improve the performance management of the retail food inspection program

A FINAL WORD



Over the past century, one of the greatest accomplishments of public health has been the control of infectious diseases and the extension of our lifespan by 25 years. With the development of antibiotics and other pharmaceuticals, society largely credits modern medicine for the successes. However, while medicine can *cure* an infectious disease, public health aims to prevent the *spread* of that disease. Imagine if officials were solely interested in treating sickened patients, as opposed to preventing further spread of Ebola. Surely, we would have seen more illness and fatalities.

Public health receives minimal funding in New Jersey and is grossly undervalued, as most people do not fully realize public health's impact. Occasionally, when a new disease like

Ebola is sensationalized, public health briefly surfaces, only to fade and be forgotten once the threat is minimized. Hence, with the few dollars allotted to us, we struggle to maintain status quo with the health of our communities. Moreover, we are now challenged with a rise in certain infectious diseases that were once all but eradicated.

Immigration and travel of unvaccinated individuals from countries where vaccine preventable diseases are endemic are a constant source and introduction of illness into the population. Couple that with a significant decrease in vaccination rates, spurred by special interest groups that strongly oppose mandatory vaccination, and we have a "perfect storm," where a once preventable disease, is re-emerging. For example, U.S. cases of measles have increased more than a thousandfold from 2004 -2014. Clearly, the health of our society is diminishing and we must not be complacent in allowing what we have accomplished to be reversed. Communities should value the work of public health and advocate to protect its funding!

Thank you for your support.

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Health Officer