



ASPETUCK HEALTH DISTRICT

Serving Easton, Weston & Westport

ANNUAL REPORT

FY2024-2025

AHD



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A Message from the Director of Health



As the newly appointed Director of Health for the Aspetuck Health District, it is an honor to address you in this year's annual report. I have had the privilege of working in a variety of roles within the field of public health over the past 25 years. This experience has given me a deep appreciation for the dedicated professionals and partners working in local and state health agencies.

Over the past year, our staff have worked tirelessly to advance public health, respond to emerging challenges, and ensure equitable access to care for our partner towns, Easton, Weston and Westport. Together, we have had continued success in offering a variety of health services, while ensuring the health and safety of our residents through enforcement of local and state public health codes and regulations. These successes reflect our shared commitment to fostering healthier lives and stronger communities.

Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on disease prevention and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Collaboration will remain at the heart of our work while we continue engaging with communities, leveraging data-driven strategies, and advocating for policies that prioritize well-being.

Thank you for your trust and partnership as we embark on this journey together.

As the new Director of Health for the Aspetuck Health District, I am eager to make positive changes within the health district.

Warm Regards,

Lucienne Bango

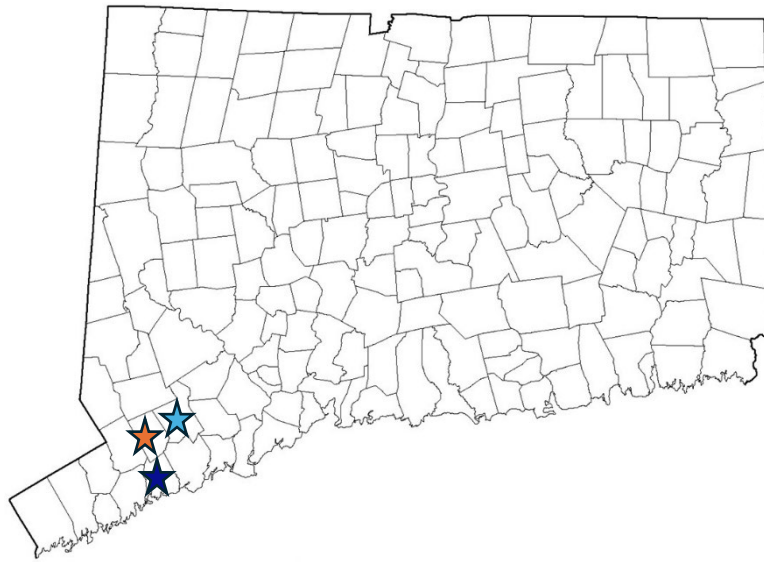
Lucienne Bango, MPH, REHS/RS

ABOUT US

MISSION

The Aspetuck Health District strives to promote health and well-being, prevent disease, and ensure a clean and safe environment for the communities we serve.

The Aspetuck Health District (AHD) is a governmental agency which provides local public health services. AHD is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the First Selectpersons of **Easton**, **Weston** and **Westport**. Population served: 45,209.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Shaum, *Chair*, Westport

Catherine Revzon, *Vice Chair*, Weston

Doreen Collins, Easton

Ali Walker, Weston

Edward Mally, Westport

Paul Fonteyne, Westport

STAFF

Administrative

- Mark A. R. Cooper, MPH, RS-Director of Health (*Retired 3/31/25*)
- Lucienne Bango, MPH, REHS/RS – Director of Health (*Effective 12/2/2024*)
- Pamela Scott – Director of Finance and Human Resources
- Joanna DiPalma-Administrative Support (*Effective 3/17/2025*)
- Michael J. Vincelli – Director of Emergency Preparedness/Response
- Janet Pucci – Bookkeeper
- Kerri F Hagan – Director of Special Projects
- Melissa Romano – Support Services Assistant

Environmental Health

- Lora Hayes, RS – Supervising Sanitarian II
- Richard Janey, RS, MPH –Acting Director of Health, Sanitarian II
- Ryan Currier, RS – Sanitarian II
- Zach Drzal, RS-Sanitarian II (*Effective 2/21/2025*)
- Kelly Phelan – Support Services Assistant (*Retired 3/28/2025*)

Community Health

- Vanessa Hurta, DNP, APRN – Director of Clinical Services
- Rheajeanne Britt, RN – Public Health Nurse
- Judy Reilly, Support Services Assistant

10 Essential Services of Public Health

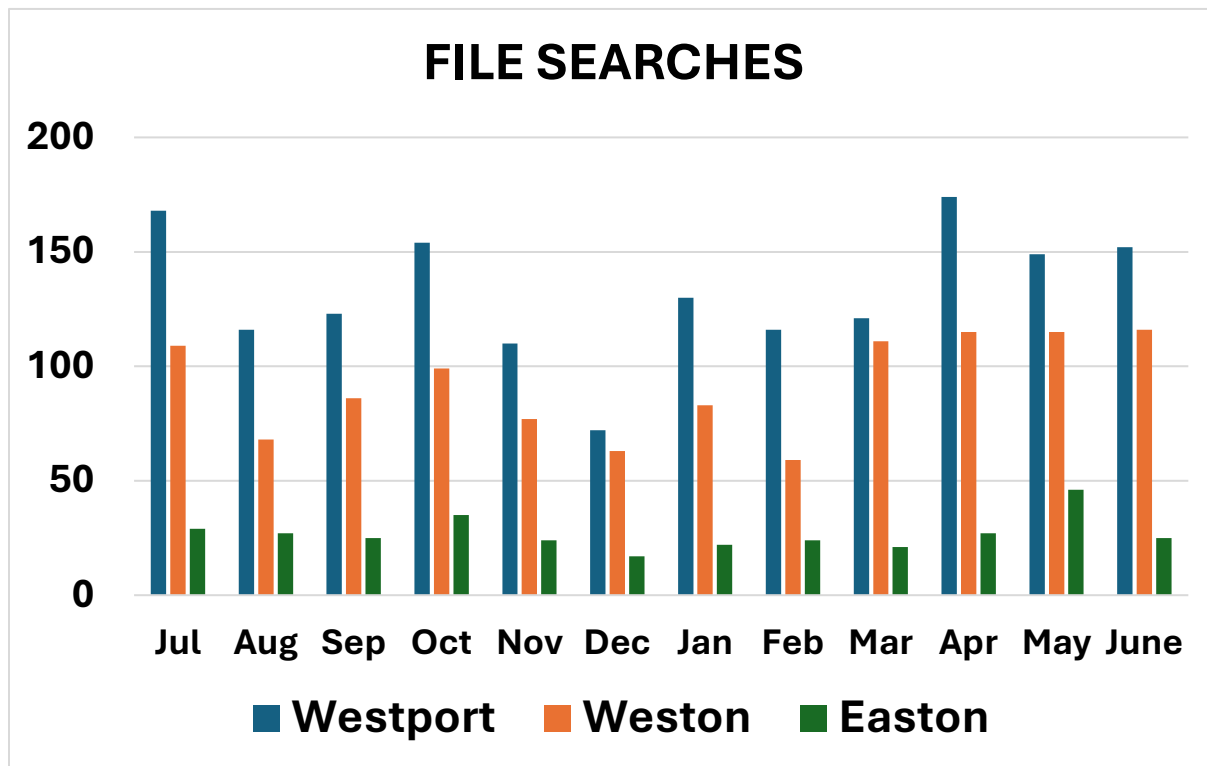


The responsibility of local health departments and districts is to protect and promote health and prevent disease and injury. To accomplish this mission, public health departments and districts deliver **10 Essential Public Health Services** to serve as the framework for public health initiatives. The Aspetuck Health District provides these essential services through the following:

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The **Administrative Division** is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the office and responding to requests from clients and residents. They are committed to providing exceptional customer service, addressing inquiries and resolving issues. The administrative staff organize documents, facilitate communication, and schedule meetings. They are also responsible for processing applications and permits and responding to FOIA and file search requests.



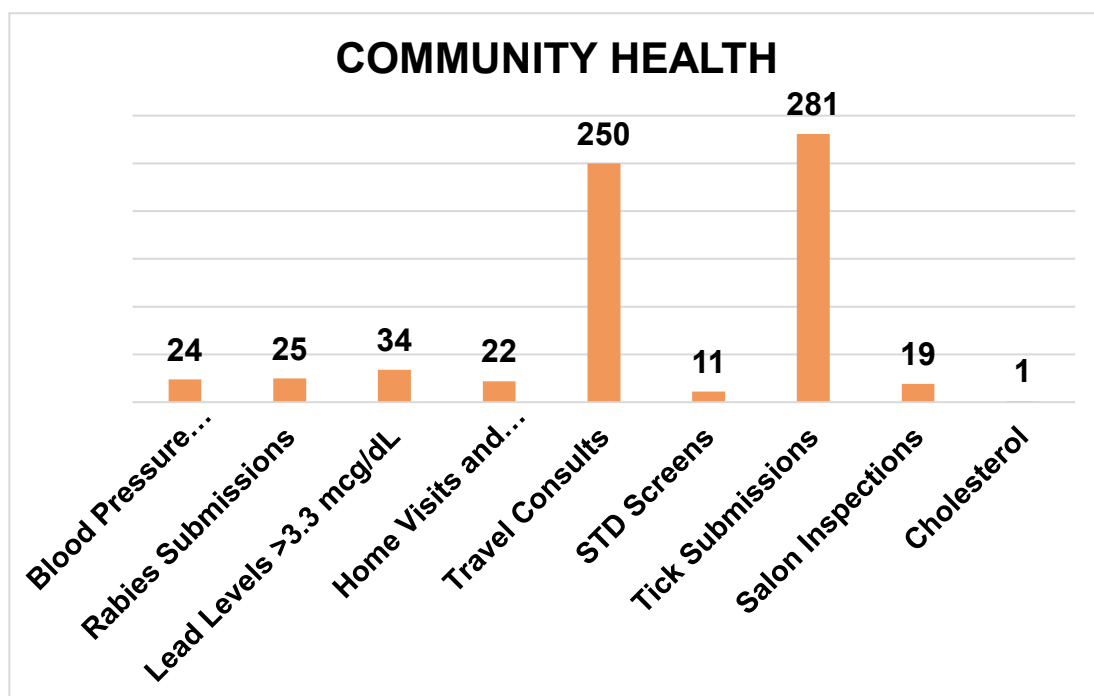
Westport	1585
Weston	1101
Easton	322
Total 3008	

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Community Health provides health promotion and disease prevention through education, screenings, immunizations and surveillance. The community health staff investigate, monitor, track and implement control measures to address communicable diseases to reduce their spread in the community. We work closely with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH), town officials, and other health agencies to prevent and control the spread of disease. The Health District provides preventative programs/screenings for early prevention, detection and control of chronic diseases. Most of these services are provided at the Health District's office and an appointment is necessary for most services.

SOME SERVICES AND PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Blood Pressure Screenings-
Weston 1, Westport 21, Other 2
- Blood Lead Level Monitoring
- Confidential STD counseling and testing- **Westport 2, Other 9**
- Home Visits and Vaccinations-**Weston 5, Westport 17**
- Salon Inspections
- Tick Submissions-**Easton 14, Weston 117, Westport 118, Other 32**
- Rabies Submissions-**Easton 7, Weston 2, Westport 16**
- Travel Consults-**Easton 8, Weston 41, Westport 111, Other 90**
- Cholesterol Screenings-
Westport 1



TRAVEL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

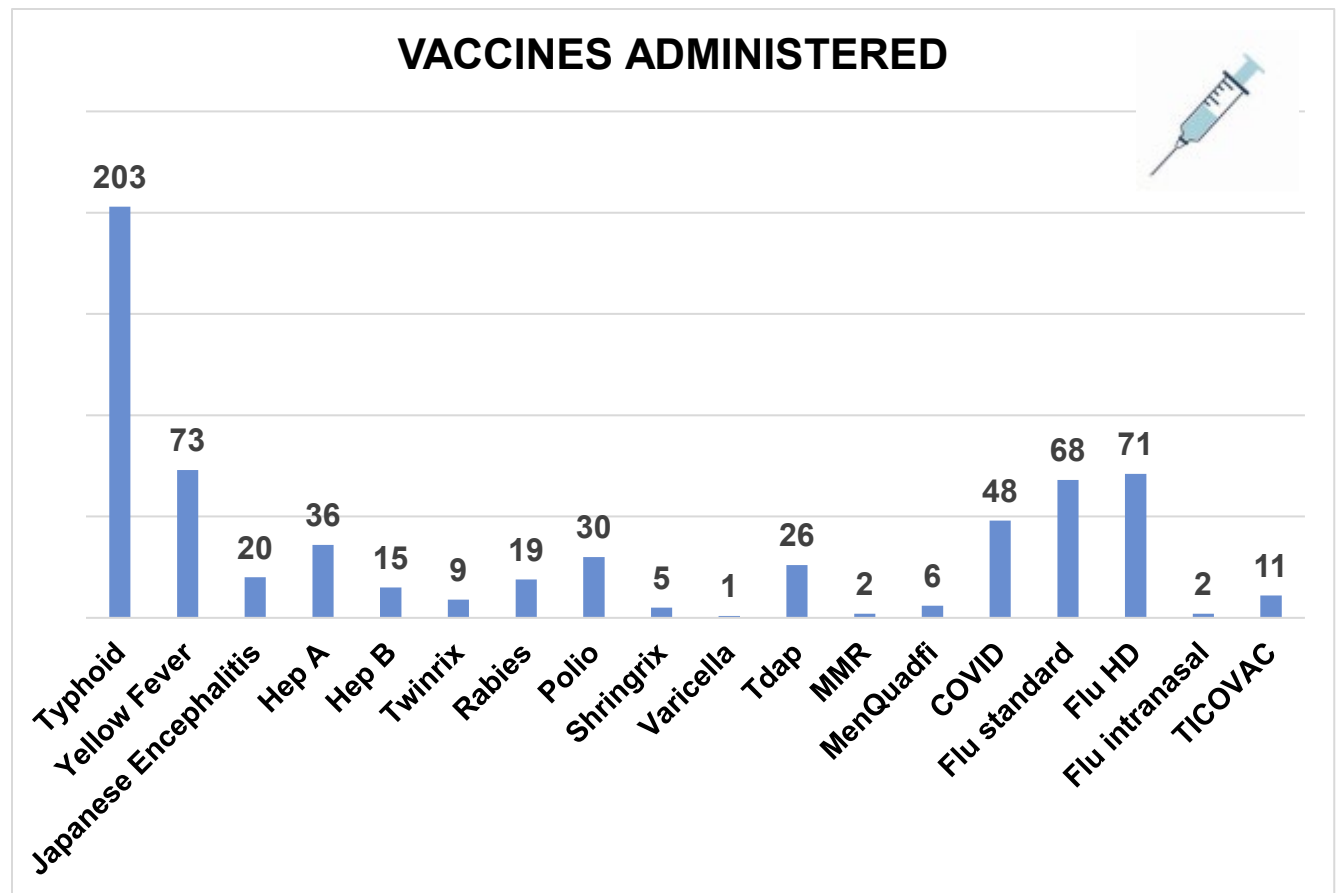
Aspetuck Health District offers a Travel Immunization Program for clients who require vaccination for travel abroad. Staff can provide consultations about travel vaccine needs. AHD is an authorized Yellow Fever Center and can provide travelers with the Certificate of Yellow Fever Vaccination, which is required to enter some countries. Malaria prescriptions are also available. Available vaccines: Typhoid, Rabies, Polio Booster, Meningitis, Japanese Encephalitis, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, TICOVAC, Yellow Fever.

Travel Consults: Easton 8, Weston 41, Westport 111, Other 90

Total Travel Vaccines Administered: 413

VACCINATION PROGRAM

AHD provides vaccinations for a wide variety of preventive diseases for children and adults. Vaccines are obtained through the Connecticut Department of Public Health's Vaccines for Children Program and private purchase. **645 Vaccines Administered (includes travel)**

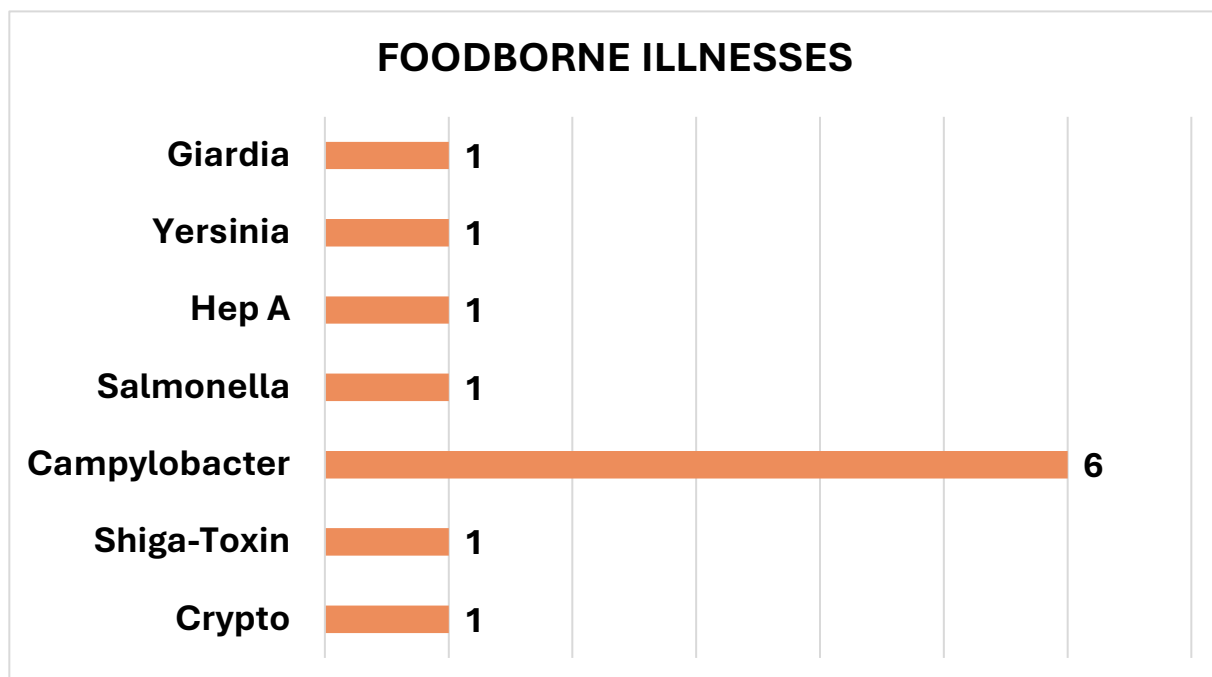
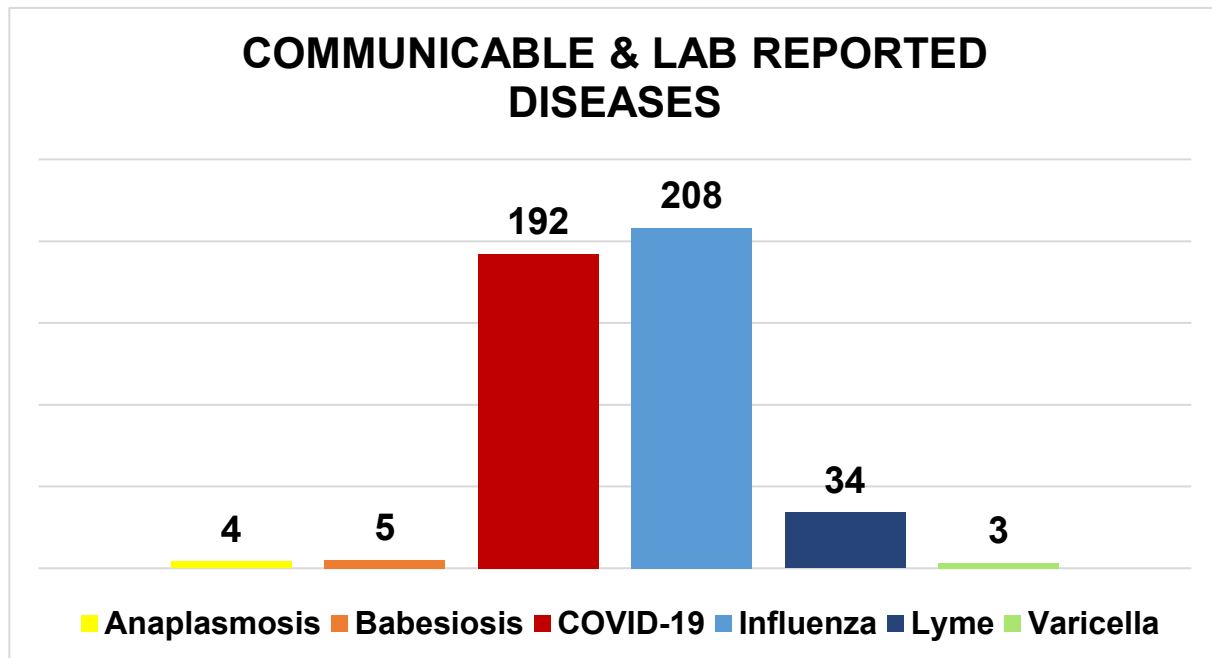


COMMUNICABLE AND LAB REPORTABLE DISEASES

The Public Health Nurses monitor the Connecticut Electronic Disease Surveillance System (CTEDSS) for communicable and lab reportable diseases, including foodborne illnesses.

446 Communicable Diseases Monitored and Tracked.

12 Foodborne Illnesses Monitored and Tracked.

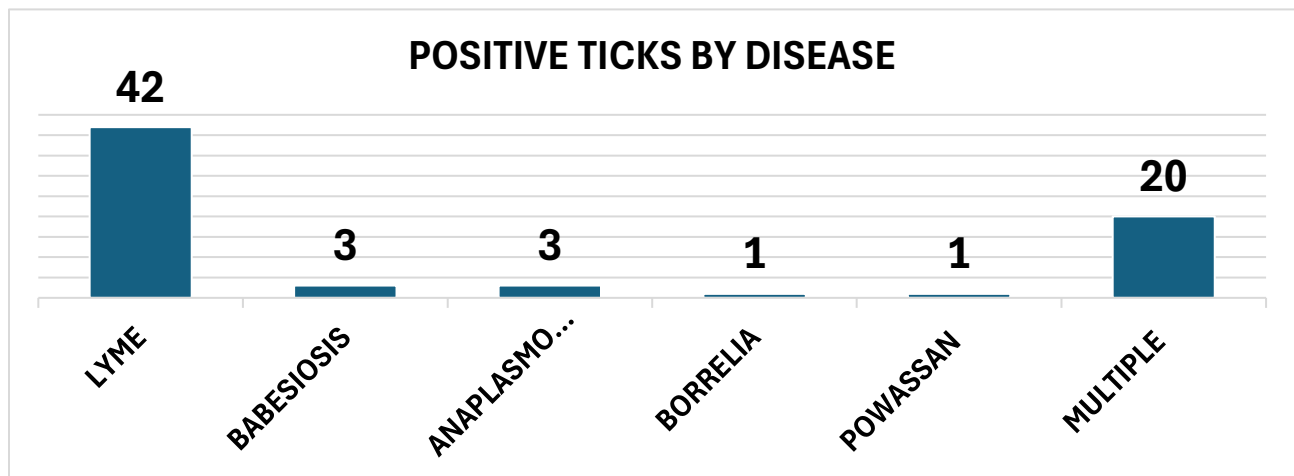


TICKS

Ticks can be brought to the Aspetuck Health District for species identification. The nurse can determine whether the specimen is a deer tick, dog tick, or lone star tick, and provide information on tick-borne illnesses and symptoms. Ticks can be submitted for testing to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) Tick Testing Laboratory. If the tick is a deer tick, it will be tested for five tick-borne illnesses, including Lyme Disease. Nursing staff will contact individuals with the results.

281 Ticks Submitted

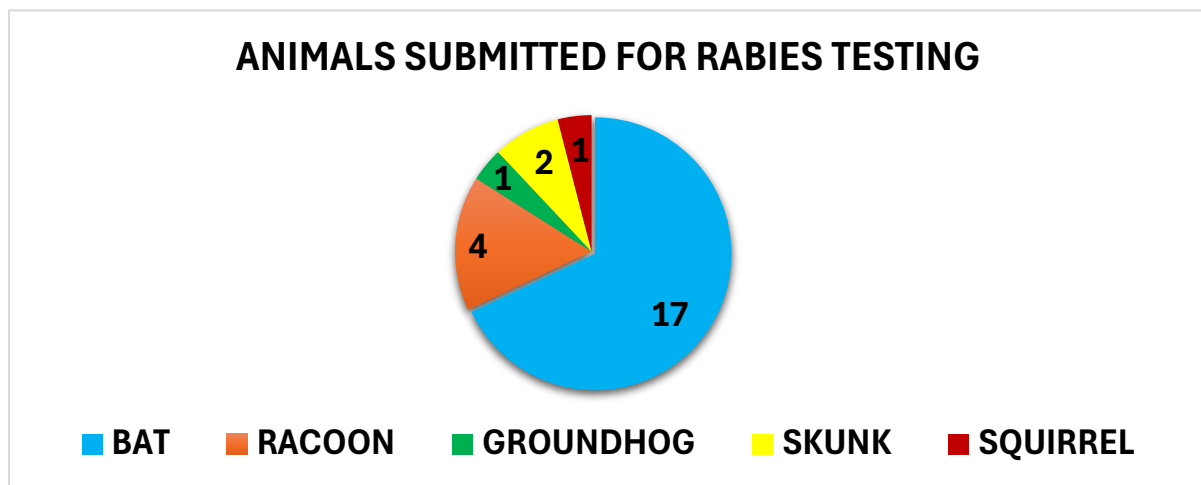
Ticks Submitted by Town: 14 Easton, 117 Weston, 118 Westport, 32 Other



RABIES

The Health District nurses conduct consultations and determine levels of exposures with residents who have been exposed to potentially rabid animals. The animal can be submitted for rabies testing at the State Public Health Laboratory in Rocky Hill, CT. Nursing staff will contact you with results.

25 Animals Submitted for Testing-1 Positive Skunk, 1 Positive Bat

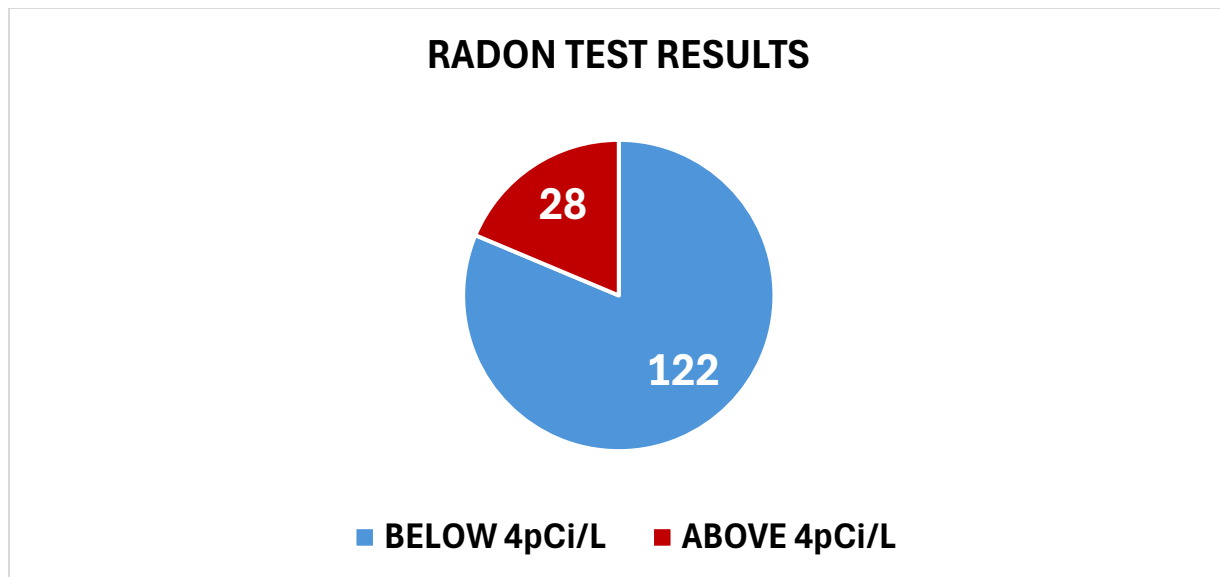


Animals submitted for rabies testing by town

Easton **5 animals, 2 positives**
Weston **2 animals, all negative**
Westport **16 animals, all negative**

RADON

Each year, AHD partners with the CT Department of Public Health to distribute free radon testing kits to residents. Kits are available beginning in January during National Radon Action Month at AHD.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

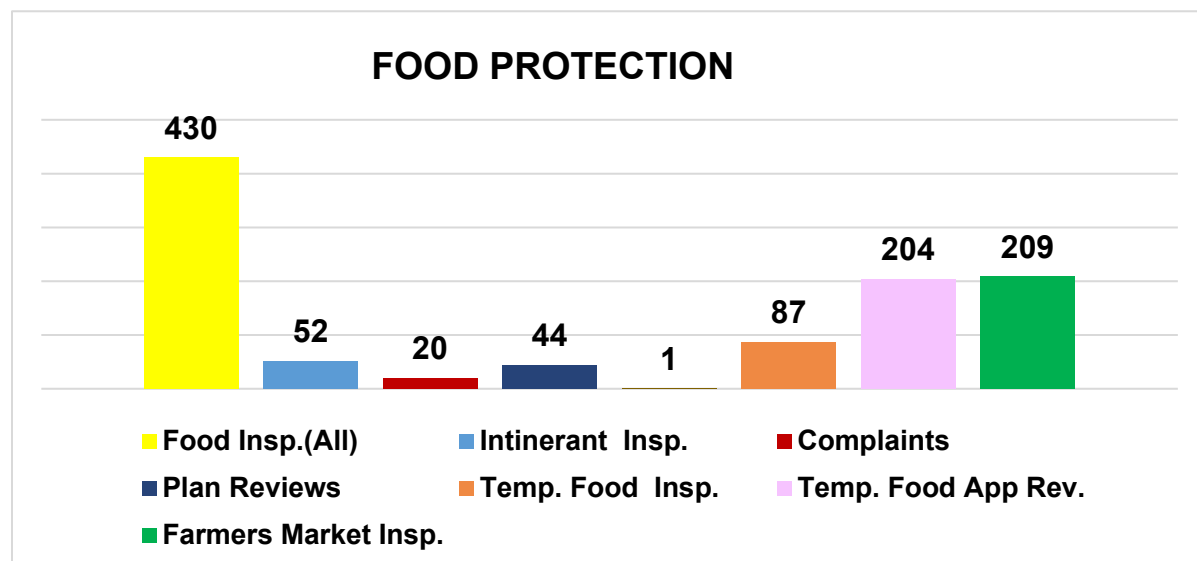
Environmental Health works to prevent and control the spread of disease in the environment and responds to local environmental emergencies. Sanitarians perform health inspections, investigate and resolve nuisance complaints, respond to public health hazards and educate the public about communicable disease prevention. The environmental health division works to provide a clean, safe and healthy environment. The sanitarians protect public health and the environment by ensuring conformance with local, state and federal ordinances and laws pertaining to a wide variety of environmental health programs. Much of this work is accomplished by performing routine inspections and investigations and taking enforcement action when warranted. The Health District's environmental health division is responsible for enforcing the Public Health Code of Connecticut and the local Aspetuck Health District Sanitary Code. It does so through the issuance of permits, plan reviews and regular on-site inspections.

SOME SERVICE INCLUDE:

- Permitting food service establishments, salons establishments and daycares
- Approval of septic systems and private wells
- Enforcement of state public health codes and regulations
- Investigations of public health nuisances and code violations

FOOD PROTECTION

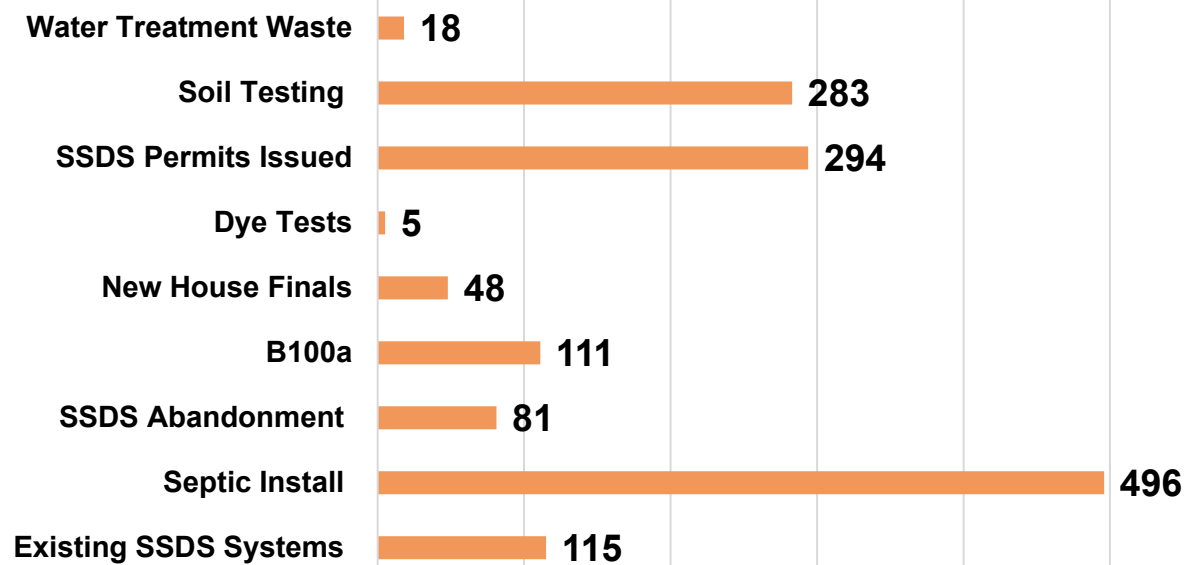
The goal of the food protection program is to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness. Our objective is to meet state requirements for food establishment inspections. Restaurants, convenience stores, grocery stores, bars, schools, private clubs, temporary food events, and farmers markets must obtain a permit and be approved before operation. Sanitarians review and approve plans for new and renovated food service establishments. Staff investigate food related complaints and regularly inspect food service establishments.



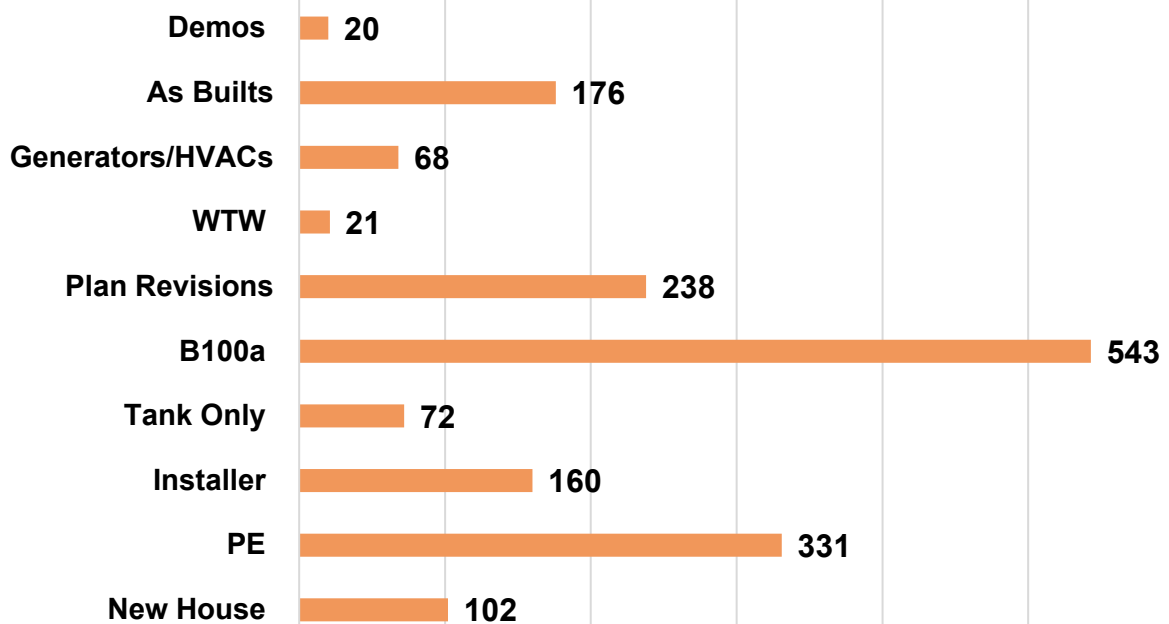
SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Sanitarians review and inspect plans for new septic system installations and repairs to existing systems. Proposed building construction, including private swimming pools and sports courts, are also reviewed and inspected prior to construction.

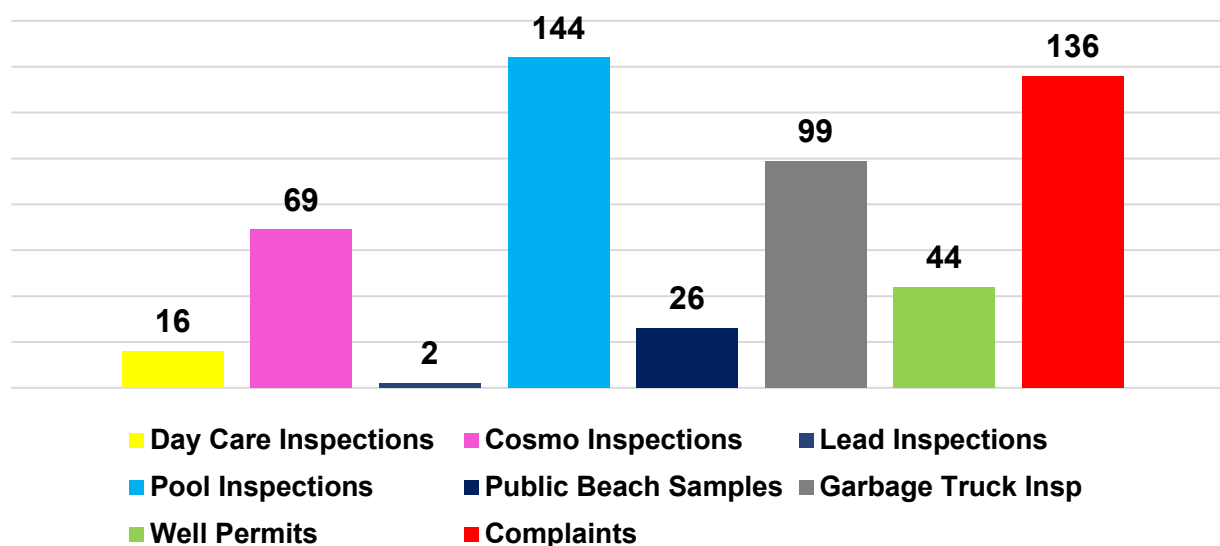
SEWAGE DISPOSAL INSPECTIONS/PERMITS



SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLAN REVIEWS



OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS



ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS AND APPLICATIONS BY TOWN

	EASTON	WESTON	WESTPORT	TOTAL
LOT LINE CHANGES	7	0	6	13
SEPTIC CODE COMPLIANCE	12	27	47	86
TENNIS COURTS	0	0	8	8
WATER TREATMENT WASTE DRAINAGE	3	9	0	12
CHANGE OF PLANS	5	13	38	56
ACCESSORY DWELLINGS	1	2	2	5
GENERATORS/DEMOLITIONS	42	91	104	237
NEW SEPTICS	13	12	43	68
NEW HOUSES	4	7	38	49
HOUSE ADDITIONS	42	82	171	295
SEPTIC ALTERATIONS	11	12	14	37
SEPTIC INSPECTIONS	15	27	57	99
SEPTIC REPAIRS	17	25	37	79
TEST HOLES	45	50	106	201
TANK ABANDONMENTS	2	0	67	69
SWIMMING POOLS	1	8	21	30
SUBDIVISIONS	1	1	0	2
WELL ABANDONMENTS	1	1	5	7
WELL PERMITS	10	15	12	37
COSMETOLOGY PERMITS	0	0	123	123
DAYCARES	3	0	13	16
YEARLY FOOD PERMITS	9	16	230	255
FOOD PLAN REVIEWS	1	1	29	31
TEMPORARY FOOD INSPECTIONS	7	23	57	87

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Preparedness conducts planning activities to prepare for and respond to emergencies. These include threats of pandemic influenza, biological terrorism, and natural disasters. Aspetuck Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) relies on volunteers to support and assist local health officials during public health emergencies.

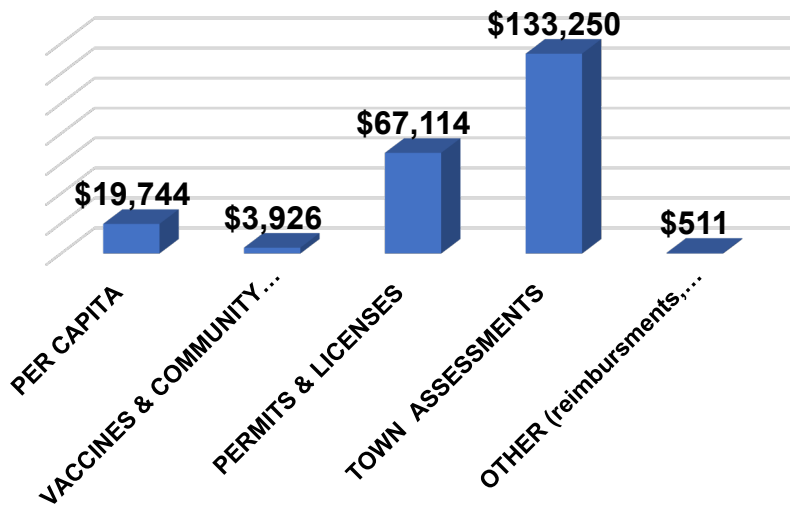
Public health prepares for responding to emergencies such as disease outbreaks, contaminated food or water, chemical releases, insect-borne diseases, and other health hazards. The Aspetuck Health District works to ensure that the towns of Easton, Weston and Westport respond effectively to natural disasters, bioterrorism and other emergencies that could affect the health of the public. This is achieved through department planning and collaboration, staff training, and educating our citizens. AHD is part of the CRI Region 1 Planning Group which consists of Bridgeport, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. In the event of a bioterrorism attack, the Health District is prepared to do mass dispensing and mass vaccination, providing medication or vaccinations quickly to town residents to prevent disease. Some of the activities during this past year that staff participated in to prepare for such an event included:

- Participation in Statewide Preparedness Exercises
- Participation in Local Regional Tabletop Exercises
- Participation in Regional Full-Scale Exercises
- Coordination of Local Full Scale and Functional Exercises
- Participated in Call-down and Radio Drills
- Participation in various trainings, such as Stop the Bleed, N95 Fit Testing Train the Trainer, ICS Training
- Plan development which includes Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication, Mass Dispensing Plan
- Staff Review of Emergency Preparedness Response Plans and emergency call down drills
- Staff Review of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Response Plan and Point of Dispensing Plan for the town

REVENUE AND FUNDING

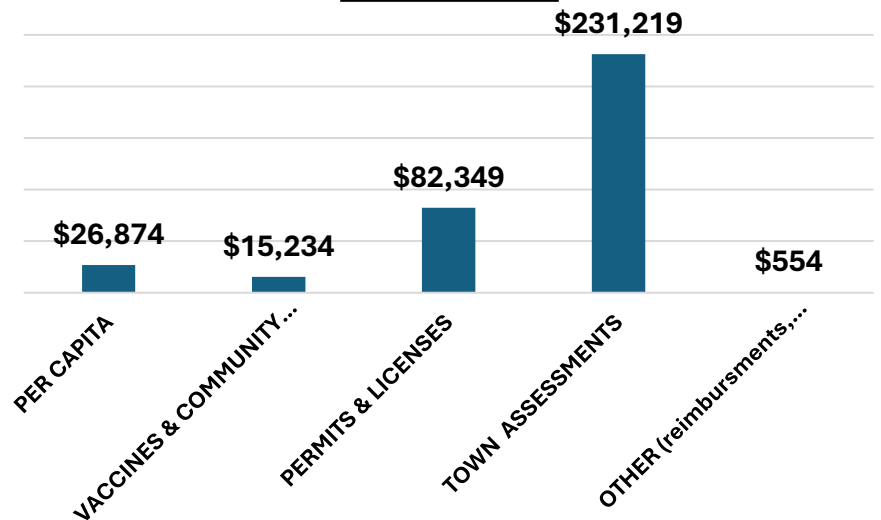
EASTON REVENUE

TOTAL \$224,545



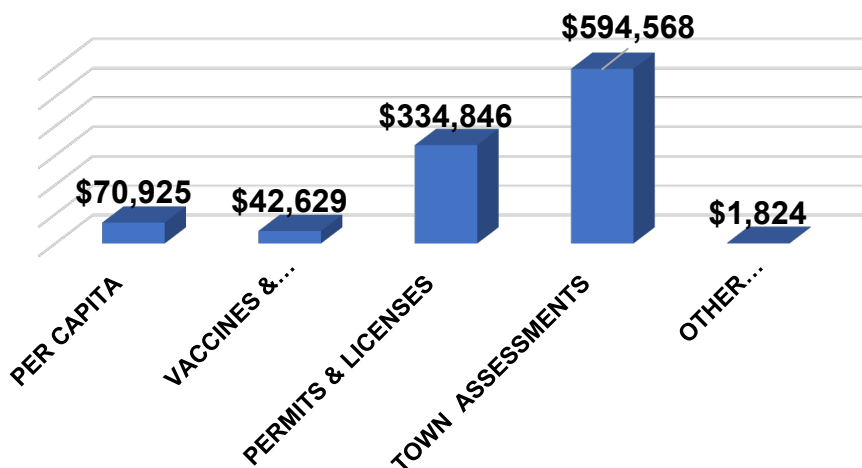
WESTON REVENUE

TOTAL \$356,230



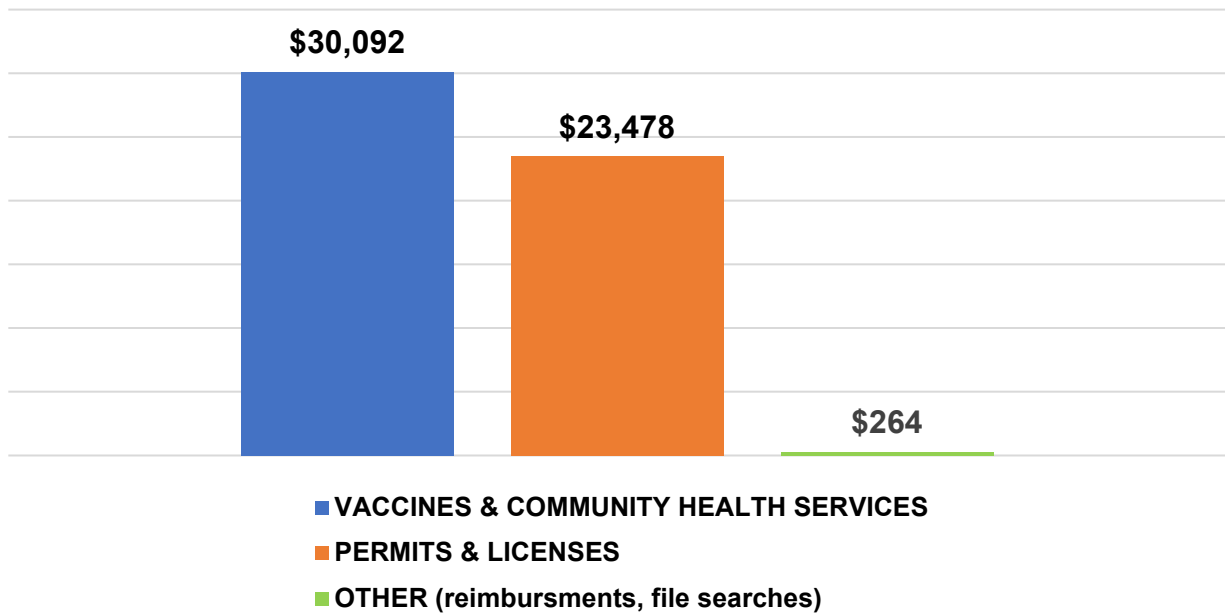
WESTPORT REVENUE

TOTAL \$1,044,792



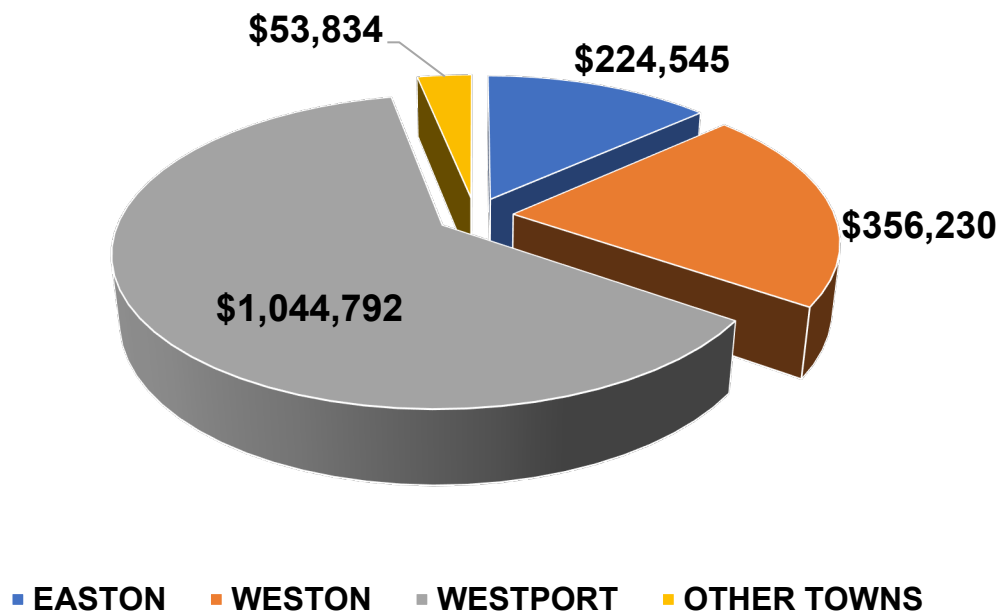
NON-DISTRICT TOWNS/CITY REVENUE

TOTAL \$53,834



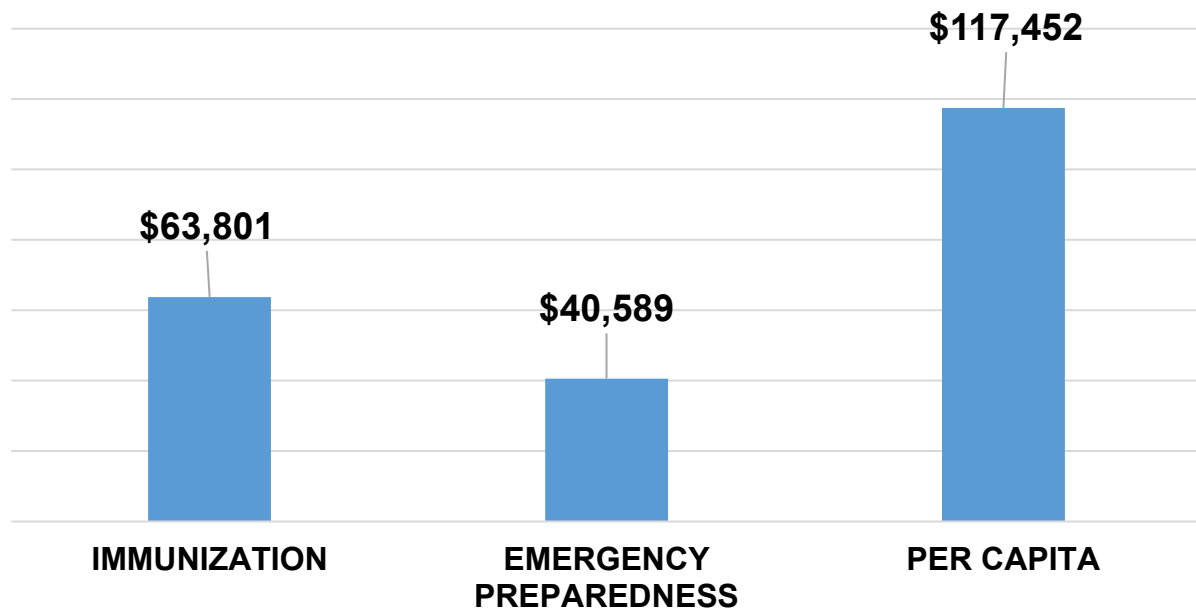
TOTAL REVENUE BY TOWN

TOTAL \$1,679,401



GRANT REVENUE

TOTAL \$221,933



ALL REVENUE SOURCES

TOTAL \$1,679,401

