



City of Gloucester Health Department 2014 Annual Report



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

This report has been prepared by the Board of Health of the City of Gloucester. It describes the activities of the staff at the Gloucester Health Department.

Our Mission

To promote physical and mental health and prevent disease, injury and disability in the City of Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Department Responsibilities

Employing a comprehensive range of tools and a dedicated team of individuals, Gloucester's public health protection team is positioned to provide the city's residents with effective and extensive services. The Gloucester Board of Health consists of knowledgeable citizen-volunteers.

The Gloucester Health Department has a staff of committed professionals from a wide array of disciplines. As statewide leaders, the Gloucester Board of Health and Health Department have spearheaded issues such as:

- Coordination of a citywide coalition to address substance abuse prevention
- Coordination of a regional public health preparedness coalition
- Coordination of a regional active living, healthy eating coalition
- On-site wastewater management and environmental health
- Oral health with a focus on children

The Gloucester Health Department is located at the City Hall Annex
3 Pond Rd, Gloucester, MA 01930

Hours

Mon-Wed: 8 am - 4 pm

Thurs: 8 am - 6:30 pm

Fri: 8 am - 12:30 pm.

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This Report is available online at the **City's website:**

www.gloucester-ma.gov

Board of Health

Richard Sagall, MD, Chairperson
Robert Harris, Vice-Chairperson
Frederick Cowan
Joseph Rosa
Claudia Schweitzer

Recorder: Bobbi Orlando

Health Department Staff 2014

Health Department

Noreen M. Burke, M.P.P., Director
Max Schenk, Title 5 Inspector, Manager, Environ Health
Lianne Cook, R.N., M.P.H., Public Health Nurse
Christopher Sargent, Housing Inspector
Rosalie Nicastro, Food Inspector
Erin Kirchner, B.A., RS, Sanitarian/Title 5 Inspector
Joanne Christopher, Principal Account Clerk
Dianne Corliss, Animal Inspector

Children's Dental Center

Jill Marston, B.A., Administrator
Kim M. Cabral, Dental Assistant
Paula Cary, R.D.H., Hygienist
Benjamin Polan, D.M.D., Dentist

Healthy Gloucester Collaborative

Joan A. Whitney, M.S.W., M.A., Director
Caitlin Kreitman, M.P.H., Youth Coordinator +
Anastasia Satterfield, B.A., Principal Clerk

North Shore-Cape Ann

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Karin Carroll, M.P.H., Director†
Liisa Jackson, NSCA MRC Coordinator
Katherine (Kate) Kokko, MPH, CPH, EP Coordinator
Jenna Melvin, B.S. Grants Specialist

† Individuals resigned, retired or laid off during 2014.

Environmental Health

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

Many Gloucester properties are serviced by the municipally funded, sanitary sewer system. However, approximately 3000 privately owned septic systems remain. Their design approval, installation and operational maintenance remain under the regulatory oversight of the Health Department.

Process	2013	2014
Soil evaluations witnessed	26	34
System or site variances were addressed	96	106
Systems that are undergoing improvement to meet Title 5 standards	33	49

Many of these systems are in the environmentally sensitive areas of West Gloucester, an area that also has many private wells often used for potable water supply.

Since upgrading of onsite systems can be expensive the City, through funding from the Mass Department of Environmental Protection, offers interest-free, 15-year, transferable loans to eligible homeowners that can cover the full cost of an upgrade. In 2013, 12 contracts were in place for a total of \$196,000. In 2014, 15 contracts have been put in place for \$379,941.99.

Beaches: Water Quality Testing



Gloucester has several beaches that provide enjoyment to the resident and visitor population every summer. In accordance with MDPH regulations, all Gloucester public beaches are regularly tested from June through September for compliance with state safety standards. The Health Department pays for additional water quality testing when a beach fails a test. In 2013, 60 tests were performed, and 68 tests were performed in 2014. During 2014 no beaches were closed for failure to meet safe water quality standards.

Inspectional Services

Retail Food: Preparation and Sale

Sanitary regulations are especially important to protect the public from food-borne illness. The Department inspects and licenses food stores, restaurants, caterers, mobile food vendors and temporary events where food is served.

Process	2013	2014
Inspections Performed	700	625
Citations Issued	30	6
Stores	68	68
Caterers	13	6
Food Service Establishments	162	164
Residential	14	14
Mobile Food	68	46
Temporary	73	62
Frozen Dessert	9	9
Total	407	375

Housing: Rentals, Hotels & Motels and Campgrounds

The Department ensures the safety and sanitary requirements for all rental housing units, recreational campgrounds and Gloucester-based hotels, motels and inns.

Process	2013	2014
Occupancy Permits	328	510
Lodging/Hotel/Motel Permits	38	38
Public Campground	1	1

Tobacco Sales

In 2014, the Gloucester Board of Health strengthened its existing youth tobacco access regulations by adding nicotine delivery products. Further amendments were reviewed and accepted by the Board that included requirements for the sale of individual non-cigarette tobacco products, such as cigars and cigarillos; extending the tolling period for violations from 24 months to 36 months and strengthening the regulation with respect to vaping establishments.

Additionally, the Health Department, in partnership with the North Shore/Cape Ann Tobacco Alcohol Policy Program conducts regular compliance checks of all establishments permitted to sell tobacco products in Gloucester. In 2014, 28 establishments were checked and 9 were found in violation of regulations. The Board of Health conducted one public hearing where a license to sell tobacco was suspended.

Complaint Investigations

In 2014, approximately 522 complaints were received, either by phone or in person, and investigated. These include, but are not limited to, complaints related to housing, food service establishments, as well as environmental complaints associated with water quality, odors, trash, rodents, chemicals, drainage, and demolition, property use perceived as being inappropriate, presence of lead, asbestos, mold/moisture, and concerns re: respiratory, skin or internal conditions, hoarding, bed bugs and other pests.

Other Permits

In addition, the Health Department is responsible for the permitting and inspection of the following:

Permit	2013	2014
BODYART - ESTABLISHMENT:	2	2
BODYART - ARTIST:	4	6
CAMPGROUND:	1	1
SYSTEM INSTALLER:	43	43
DUMPSTER - INDIVIDUAL:	396	396
DUMPSTER - COMPANY:	10	10
DUMPSTER - TEMP:	1	2
FUNERAL DIRECTOR:	3	3
GARBAGE REMOVAL TRUCK:	24	24
HOTEL/MOTEL:	15	15
LAUNDROMAT:	3	3
NIGHT SOIL TRUCK:	21	21
RECREATIONAL CAMP FOR CHILDREN:	6	7
SEPTIC TRANSFER STATION:	1	1
STABLE:	12	12
SWIMMING POOL:	14	14
TANNING:	2	2
TOBACCO SALES:	31	31

Communicable Disease Surveillance

The Health Department, through its Public Health Nurse, works with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health investigating and monitoring communicable diseases in the community.

These cases do not include many other instances of illness reported to the Department ranging from norovirus infections to animal bites and potential rabies.

Gloucester Communicable Disease Surveillance Report 2014

Babesiosis	3
Campylobacteriosis	6
Giardiasis	1
Group A streptococcus	1
Group B streptococcus	5
Haemophilus influenza	5
Hepatitis C	19 Confirmed, 25 Probable
Influenza	26
Legionellosis	1
Lyme Disease	14 Confirmed, 7 Probable
Pertussis	2
Salmonella	11
Streptococcus	5
Latent TB	20

Vaccination Clinics

For a number of years, the Health Department has provided public flu vaccination clinics to anyone over 6 months of age. Through partnerships that included Gloucester School Nurses, local businesses, not-for-profit agencies and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, over 2,500 residents received influenza vaccinations in the 28 clinics that were provided.

In addition, with funding from the City of Gloucester, 130 eligible residents received the shingles vaccine.

HIV/Hepatitis C

HIV and hepatitis C can be acquired by coming into contact with infected blood or bodily fluids. Both are preventable diseases and effective behavioral interventions have been demonstrated to reduce transmission. The Health Department is committed to ensuring that all residents at risk for HIV or hepatitis C infection, as well as those living with these diseases have access to information, education, screening and treatment provided by the North Shore Health Project.

Animal Inspections

On behalf of the Board of Health the Animal Inspector implements measures to protect against the spread of disease in animal and human populations. *No cases of rabies were confirmed in 2014.* In the last year, the Animal Inspector, in cooperation with the Animal Control Officer at the Gloucester Police Department, investigated reports of bites/scratches from cats, dogs, bats, skunks and raccoons that resulted in:

Process	2014
Ten-Day Quarantines issued for Dogs, Cats, and Horses	54
Forty-Five Day Quarantines	53
Six-Month Quarantines	19
Rabies Tests	8
Barn Inspections	12

Routine inspections are also made of all hoofed animals and suspect disease cases are investigated. Permitting and annual inspections are performed at all horse stables to ensure compliance with regulations. Over the last year, *12 stable permits* were issued.

Substance Abuse Prevention

Healthy Gloucester Collaborative

Healthy Gloucester Collaborative (HGC) is a state and federal grant-funded community coalition established in 2005 by the Health Department. The HGC mission is to increase the health and well-being of Gloucester residents by reducing illicit substance use and prescription medication abuse.

In 2014, the HGC has:

- Continued support of the First-Responder Nasal Narcan Program. In 2011 Gloucester became the first Massachusetts community to train and equip both the Police and Fire Department first responders with Nasal Narcan to increase capacity to save lives from opiate overdoses.
- Expanded the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) program for alcohol and drug abuse prevention. To date over 2000 individuals have been screened in the Addison Gilbert Emergency Department. The program now also screens youth beginning at age twelve.
- Staffed the Gloucester Middle and High School youth program known as the Gloucester Youth Council. The focus of the program is on developing youth leadership skills, community services, and implementing substance abuse prevention activities. In 2014 the Gloucester Youth Council received the Massachusetts 84 Movement Statewide Youth Leadership Award.
- Increased Data Capacity with On-line Overdose Data Tracking System
- Joined with the Gloucester Licensing board to train all Alcohol licensees in the city on best practices to restrict alcohol access to minors.
- Continued support of the City of Gloucester Medications Disposal Program.
- Facilitates the High-Risk Task Force, to coordinate the care and treatment of the most vulnerable citizens in the City. The Task Force's success rate of increasing access to treatment continues at a high level with an indicated decrease in repeat transports and related police incidents.
- Held four large community educational forums, produced public service announcements on drugged driving and continued to provide regional leadership to our partner communities of Beverly and Danvers.
- HGC continued to support initiatives launched under the coalition, such as the Gloucester Chapter of Learn to Cope and the Gloucester Overdose Vigil.



Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The Gloucester Health Department is the host organization for the North Shore-Cape Ann Emergency Preparedness (EP) Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of representatives from 15 North Shore Health Departments and Boards of Health, from Saugus to Rockport and focuses on designing and evaluating plans and exercises that define specific public health roles in public health emergencies. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health 2014 funding for the North Shore-Cape Ann Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant was \$170,645.

During fiscal year 2015-2016, DPH will be transferring fiscal responsibility for this grant to a newly contracted regional entity. However, the NSCA-EP Coalition will continue to carry out the same preparedness and response activities under the direction of state and federal guidance for years to come.

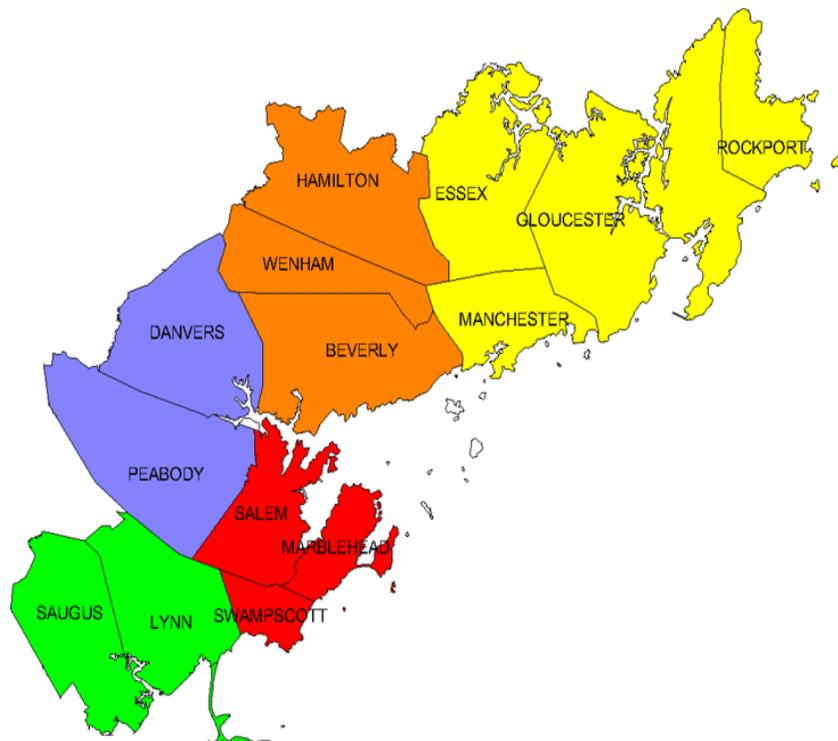
The Preparedness Grant has benefited Gloucester and the surrounding Cape Ann communities of Essex, Manchester-by-the-Sea and Rockport in the following ways:

- Recruited and trained Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers to support regional emergency response and community-wide (non-emergency) activities throughout the year. MRC volunteers come from medical AND non-medical backgrounds and can be utilized for community events including athletic events (such as the Boston Marathon or local triathlons), flu clinics and staffing shelters.

MRC has conducted the following activities since July 1, 2014:

- Verified the active status and credentials of over 480 regional volunteers.
- Activated volunteers to staff local shelters during three major winter storms in February of 2015 alone.
- Supported 7 local flu clinics, most of which also served as drills for mass dispensing operations.
- Supported and participated in a hands-on shelter exercise in Lynn.
- Trained volunteers on proper use of personal protective equipment.
- Secured federal funding to build specialized teams of volunteers who can respond to specific local response needs such as setting up shelters.
- Contributed 508 hours of volunteer time valued at \$16,869.78 (06/30/14-03/18/15). Provided preparedness, professional development training opportunities to local health departments including Emergency Dispensing Site, Risk Communication, an online Emergency Operations Center (WebEOC) and sheltering trainings.

- Conducted preparedness drills including communication drills, mass dispensing set-up and sheltering drills.
- Conducted an HSEEP-compliant tabletop exercise of a modified mass dispensing model, using a “drive through” setup to dispense vaccinations. Funding for this was secured through the Regional Homeland Security entity.
- Conducted an exercise that tested one social service agency’s ability to respond to the dispensing needs of refugee populations who may experience language and cultural barriers during an emergency.
- Updated local emergency plans and tested components of those plans.
- Developed an MOU for shelter operations in the City of Gloucester.
- Supported communication tools that ensure 24/7 access to the health directors and public health nurses of all partner communities.



Children's Dental Center

The Children's Dental Center is overseen by a site administrator, the Board of Health and Health Department Director. It provides oral health services and hygiene education to underserved children from one year of age to age 20.

All who have Mass Health (Medicaid) or Children's Medical Security Plan (CMSP) insurance are welcomed, and the program is exclusively funded by reimbursements. Bus transportation is made available from the public schools to the Center which has served the children of Cape Ann since 2002. The Center is located at the Curtis Clark Senior Building in affordable space provided through the generous support of the Gloucester Housing Authority.



Process	2013	2014
Number of Patients	1300	1658
Number of Procedures	4196	4604
Cleanings	946	933
Fluoride Treatments	889	901
Exams	927	1033
Fillings	396	396
Sealant Treatments	416	578
X-Ray Exams	502	561
Space Maintainers	6	8
Extractions	114	54

The Children's Dental Center is proud to announce the installation of a Panorex x-ray machine, an essential diagnostic tool providing young patients the best clinical evaluation of their dental needs. In addition, the office has received a long-overdue facelift of painting and new flooring that brightens the space making the overall office visit experience more pleasant!

Mass in Motion: Cape Ann (Formerly: Get Fit Gloucester!)

Since 2009 Gloucester has been one of 10 Massachusetts communities to participate in the "Mass in Motion" program funded by Mass Department of Public Health, as well as by Blue Cross/Blue Shield and others.

The program is managed by Stephen Winslow and is a partnership of the City Health and Community Development Departments.

The Health and Community Departments worked successfully this past year to secure a Massachusetts Department of Public Health's 3-year grant to fund "Mass in Motion - Cape Ann".

The new coalition builds on the success of "Get Fit Gloucester" by adding the communities of Essex, Manchester-by-the-Sea and Rockport to the effort to create conditions for more active lifestyles and improve access to healthier foods. In FY 2015, Mass in Motion - Cape Ann, is performing a needs assessment with special focus on: Active Streets, Access to healthy foods, regional trail connections, and regional recreational facility needs.



Hoarding Task Force

In 2009, the Gloucester Health Department Director and Public Health Nurse initiated a Cape Ann Hoarding Task Force to address the emergence of a relatively new public health phenomenon known as hoarding and to address its underlying causes. In partnership with the Gloucester Housing Authority, the Task Force identifies potential hoarders and seeks to link them to resources and appropriate referrals. Police, Fire, Building Inspector, PACE, Mental Health and Social Service providers, Action Inc. and faith groups are active Task Force members.

In 2014, 12 cases of hoarding and/or squalor were investigated. Taskforce members have created hoarding response outreach materials. They will be provided to families, landlords and individuals impacted by hoarding.

Special Issues and Initiatives - 2014

Arbovirus Planning and Advocacy

The Gloucester Health Department conducts public outreach and education to Gloucester and Cape Ann residents about their risk from arbovirus disease and specific actions that individuals and communities can take to reduce the risk.

The Board of Health continues to advocate joining the Northeast Mosquito Control District. Membership of the Mosquito Control District would yield surveillance and phased response guidance for arbovirus diseases such as West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). The Board of Health believes that mosquitoes are no longer just a nuisance but a public health threat. During 2014 the Board met with State Senator Bruce Tarr, to discuss concerns regarding the current mosquito control districting framework.

Keeping of Fowl

In response to questions and concerns by residents regarding the proper keeping of chickens, the Board of Health and Health Department staff began the process of investigating ways of ensuring the health and safety of the animals, while also supporting residents who want to have the chickens at their home. Public meetings to discuss the topic were held between June and December, with the result that current regulations provide enough regulatory authority to the Board to be able to respond to any concerns by residents. A "frequently asked questions" sheet was created by the Health Department in order to assist residents in knowing what they can do if there are issues with the keeping of animals in the city.

Fluoride in the Public Water Supply

On June 5th, a proposal to remove fluoride from the public water supply was presented to the Board of Health at their meeting by representatives of the Cape Ann Fluoride Action Network (CAFAN).

In addition to CAFAN supporters, the Board of Health heard comments from the City's Water Compliance Office, as well as the consulting dentist for the Gloucester Children's Dental Center. After deliberation and research, the Board voted unanimously to continue supplementing the naturally-occurring fluoride in the public water supply to prevent tooth decay.

Updates to Tobacco Regulations

On September 11, 2014 changes to the "Regulation of the City of Gloucester Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Nicotine Delivery Products" and the "Regulations Prohibiting Smoking in Workplaces and Public Places" were adopted. The changes took effect in December and included, but were not limited to, setting a minimum price for the sale of individual, non-cigarette tobacco products (such as cigars and cigarillos); extending the tolling period for violations from 24 months to 36 months and strengthening regulations with respect to vaping establishments.

Animal Waste on Local Beaches

During 2014 The Board of Health Chair and Health Department staff provided information and answered questions posed by City Council on the potential health impacts of pet waste on our beaches and watersheds.

Sharps Disposal Kiosk at Addison Gilbert Hospital

Funded through MDPH an on-going partnership between the Gloucester Health Department and Lahey Health, the sharps disposal kiosk at the Fisher Entrance of Addison Gilbert Hospital provides Gloucester residents an opportunity to safely dispose of their sharps including hypodermic needles and lancets.

Health Department Budget

	2013	2014
Expenses (Total)	\$393,701	\$410,816.00
Personnel	\$386,853.00	\$404,048.00
Ordinary Maintenance	\$6,848.00	\$6,768.00
Revenues from Fees and Permits (Based upon the city's accounting system for revenue information)	\$120,000	\$128,000

Grants

\$194,984 - Public Health Emergency Preparedness

- \$170,645 - North Shore-Cape Ann Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Funds staff, planners, communications equipment, fiscal support, training exercises and drills.
- \$7,500 - North Shore-Cape Ann Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Grant originates with FEMA through MEMA a Citizen Corps Program for the purpose of building the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) capacity during public health emergencies throughout the North Shore and Cape Ann.
- \$13,340 - North Shore-Cape Ann Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Grant for the purpose of assisting the North Shore-Cape Ann Emergency Preparedness Coalition in preparing for public health emergencies by enhancing the capacity of the Medical Reserve Corps.
- \$3,500 - North Shore-Cape Ann Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Grant originates with National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) to provide training, skill building and educational materials to best prepare Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to support local public health during an emergency.

\$305,000 - Substance Abuse Prevention Grants

- \$80,000 - Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, Underage Drinking Grant. Prevention of underage drinking among Gloucester youth.
- \$100,000 - Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative. Addresses the issue of opioid misuse and abuse, and unintentional deaths and non-fatal hospital events associated with opioid poisonings in the communities of Gloucester, Beverly and Danvers.
- \$125,000 - Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, Drug-Free Communities Grant. The funding organizes the Gloucester community around substance abuse prevention through visible enforcement of existing laws, social norming, further training of professionals who come in contact with youth, and limiting access to drug and alcohol substances.

\$110,000 - Obesity Prevention

Mass in Motion - Cape Ann, is a Mass in Motion initiative in partnership with the Community Development Department. The grant funds staff who then facilitate opportunities for Gloucester residents to be more active and access healthier foods. Partners provide mobile fresh food markets and develop school, backyard and community gardens.

Health Department Revolving Funds

- *Children's Dental Center Revolving Fund* supports the Children's Dental Center staff and operating expenses. The current spending limit approved by City Council is \$300,000.
- *Vaccine Revolving Fund* supports public health vaccination goals to prevent the spread of diseases such as influenza. The current spending limit approved by City Council is \$45,000.
- *Tobacco Revolving Account* supports a contract employee to conduct compliance checks at establishments permitted to sell tobacco products in Gloucester. The remaining balance in this account is approximately \$2,000.

The Gloucester Fund

The funds are contributed by the non-profit Needy Meds organization (NeedyMeds.org) as part of a community give-back program to support public health initiatives. Balance is approx. \$3,000.