

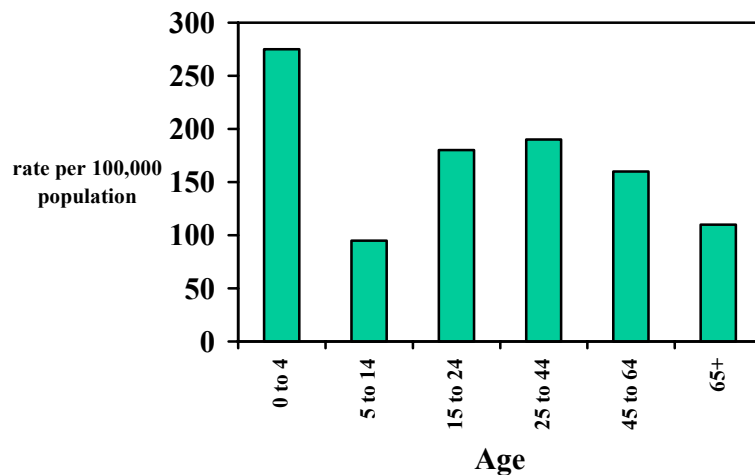
## Hands on Hands

The Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division of Derby City Council received 869 notifications of infectious disease in 2002/2003. Of those 15% were children under 5 years old. 30% of these notifications were located in the less affluent wards of the City. It is estimated that unreported cases of infectious disease would increase this number ten fold.

Saving lives: Our Healthier Nation (Department of Health 1999) highlights food poisoning as an important risk to health. The East Midlands Health Profile 2003 highlighted 0 to 4 years olds as having the highest rate of food poisoning notifications per 100,000 population in England and Wales, see figure 1. There is a particular risk to those in the less affluent wards due to the lack of understanding symptoms of infectious disease, control measures necessary to prevent the occurrence or further transmission of the disease. The lack of understanding may also be linked to greater hospital admissions of young children from these areas of Derby.

**Figure 1**

(Graph source:  
Adapted from Public  
Health Laboratory  
Service NOIDS  
Report 2001 East  
Midlands Health  
Profile)



Hands on Hands was run to educate parents and children on how to reduce the risk of young children contracting and spreading infectious disease. The pilot project was aimed at vulnerable groups, in particular children under 4 years old, and their parents. The very young have been identified as being especially vulnerable to the effects of infectious disease.

The project involved liaising with current service providers who support families, mothers and children in a selective group environment. Hands on Hands was a unique project that provided information and a practical demonstration using an UV light box to these groups on the importance of effective hand washing to prevent and control infectious disease. This allowed them to understand the risk of food borne and viral infectious disease. Enabling parents to take simple actions that could prevent themselves and their children from contracting and spreading infectious disease. The project was aimed directly at those who may be at greater risk due to their

vulnerability, experience of poverty or social exclusion. The project was very well received and evaluation was very positive. Statistics for this year show cases of infectious disease down on last year.

Hands on Hands started and continues to be part of the Safety First Schools Roadshow that was first held in Derby in 2000. This is a multi-agency safety event for junior school children that are 10-11 years old. Agencies include various Departments of Derby City Council, Derbyshire Constabulary, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and Children's Accident and Emergency. 2004 saw the event held for the fourth time. The event informs children about personal safety and accident prevention.

The format of the events in both 2003 and 2004 was to bring the children into an out-of-school centre. The children were divided into two groups. Whilst one group received an anti-bullying message delivered by a theatre group, the other group would be divided into eight smaller groups. These would then go around the different topic-specific workshops that were delivered on a carousel basis. Subjects covered included our Hands on Hands information, mobile phone theft, running away, volatile substance misuse, arson, domestic violence, cycle safety & helmets and empty properties & dangerous litter.

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