

The Agency

Department of Health

Agency Operations

“Safe and Healthy Lives in Safe and Healthy Communities”, all the programs and services of the Rhode Island Department of Health contribute to this one objective. It organizes and prioritizes the department’s response to threats to public health and measures its accomplishments.

The Department of Health embraces multi-faceted and broad-ranging public health responsibilities at the state and local level. The vision of the Department of Health is that “All people in Rhode Island will have the opportunity to live a safe and healthy life in a safe and healthy community.” Its mission is “to prevent disease and to protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Rhode Island.” To reach its objectives the department employs services and policies based on the science of public health epidemiology.

The Department of Health includes seven programs: Central Management, Office of the State Medical Examiner, Family Health, Health Services Regulation, Environmental Health, Health Laboratories, and Disease Prevention and Control.

Program Objectives

The Rhode Island Department of Health consists of eight “core functions”, including:

- Assure safe food and water supply; respond to emergencies
- Control infectious and communicable disease; promote health and control chronic disease, injury, and disabilities; assure positive pregnancy outcomes
- Monitor the health of the population and maintain a knowledge-base for public health; assure health care quality and minimum standards, and competency of health facilities and professional licensees
- Assist high-risk populations to needed health services; develop insights through research and lead the development of health policy and planning

Statutory History

The Department of Health was established by Section 23-1-1 of the General Laws of Rhode Island. This section states that “the Department of Health shall take cognizance of the interests of life and health among the peoples of the state; shall make investigations into the causes of disease, the prevalence of epidemics and endemics among the people, the sources of mortality, the effect of localities, employments and all other conditions, ascertain the causes and the best means for the prevention and control of diseases or conditions detrimental to the public health, and adopt proper and expedient measures to prevent and control such diseases and conditions in the State. It shall publish and circulate, from time to time, such information as the Director may deem to be important and useful for diffusion among people of the State, and shall investigate, and give advice in relation to such subjects relating to public health as may be referred to it by the general assembly or by the Governor when the General Assembly is not in session, or when requested by any city or town. The department shall adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as it deems necessary, not inconsistent with law, to carry out the purposes of this section.”

The Budget

Department of Health

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures by Program				
Central Management	9,662,803	9,417,787	12,739,784	10,372,702
State Medical Examiner	1,705,345	1,841,955	1,981,393	1,968,104
Family Health	46,963,648	47,482,890	39,413,708	39,415,218
Health Services Regulation	7,778,164	9,552,603	11,094,200	11,130,165
Environmental Health	8,191,171	10,243,261	11,376,246	10,717,469
Health Laboratories	7,547,423	7,901,862	8,326,135	7,868,724
Disease Prevention and Control	20,410,677	24,425,971	25,812,134	25,893,101
Total Expenditures	\$102,259,231	\$110,866,329	\$110,743,600	\$107,365,483
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	43,903,819	46,178,508	49,839,950	51,233,173
Other State Operations	22,737,796	28,571,135	24,677,861	22,696,595
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	35,617,616	36,116,608	36,225,789	33,435,715
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$102,259,231	\$110,866,251	\$110,743,600	\$107,365,483
Capital Improvements	-	78	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$102,259,231	\$110,866,329	\$110,743,600	\$107,365,483
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	34,814,798	33,863,473	29,954,554	27,866,355
Federal Funds	58,733,812	67,020,199	67,988,849	66,752,877
Restricted Receipts	8,627,102	9,903,365	12,687,734	12,631,175
Other Funds	83,519	79,292	112,463	115,076
Total Expenditures	\$102,259,231	\$110,866,329	\$110,743,600	\$107,365,483
FTE Authorization	506.9	502.9	497.9	497.9
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	10.6%	12.5%	13.0%	13.5%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	66.3%	64.8%	65.0%	65.5%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%

The Program

Department of Health Central Management

Program Operations

Central Management includes three sub-programs: Executive Functions, Management Services, and Health Information and Communication. The Executive Function, headed by the Director of Health, provides overall direction for the department and coordinates operations across program lines to carry out statutory mandates. The director and senior management establish critical policy issues intended to guide the development of public health policies, programs, and services including assuring that the quality and access to health care services is maintained in the face of rapid change; developing and maintaining the knowledge base of public health and use information to improve health; enhancing community capacity and structure so that communities will improve their health; eliminating disparities in health among populations; and developing support for public health.

Management Services administers Budget and Finance, Personnel, Information Systems, and the Office of Vital Records. Budget and Finance prepares and executes the departmental budget and performs allocation control and cash management of all accounts. Budget and Finance is also responsible for purchasing and support services, which manages all purchasing and facility maintenance functions in the department. The Personnel Office implements all personnel actions and labor relations functions. Information Systems plans, evaluates, implements and manages data processing and electronic communications systems.

Health Information and Communication consists of five units: Health Statistics, Performance Measurement and Reporting, Communications, Minority Health, and Worksite Wellness. Health Statistics collects, analyzes, and reports administrative, survey, and special study data. Performance Measurement and Reporting collects, analyzes and publicly reports data reflecting the health care quality of licensed health care facilities and certified health plans. Communications disseminates health data and information to the public via the mass media including the Department of Health website. Minority Health provides staff support to the Minority Health Advisory Council and develops Community-Based Minority Health Promotion Centers. Worksite Wellness promotes worksite wellness in the Department of Health and in the community. Health Information and Communication is also responsible for the establishment of Year 2010 Health Objectives, and the monitoring of Hospital Community Benefits.

Program Objectives

Prevent disease; protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Rhode Island; maintain an effective and efficient system for management of the department; maintain a knowledge base for public health policy, planning and program development; and inform and educate the public concerning the health of the state population.

Statutory History

General authority is provided in Title 23 Chapter 1 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The Budget

Department of Health Central Management

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram				
Executive Functions	764,930	484,989	383,947	401,033
Management Services	6,608,716	6,783,918	8,971,235	6,432,879
Health Policy and Planning	2,289,157	2,148,880	3,384,602	3,538,790
Total Expenditures	\$9,662,803	\$9,417,787	\$12,739,784	\$10,372,702
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	7,172,604	6,639,421	8,313,682	8,444,241
Other State Operations	1,990,501	2,198,824	1,344,415	1,216,891
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	499,698	579,542	3,081,687	711,570
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$9,662,803	\$9,417,787	\$12,739,784	\$10,372,702
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$9,662,803	\$9,417,787	\$12,739,784	\$10,372,702
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	2,770,697	2,302,515	4,458,359	2,285,557
Federal Funds	4,233,271	3,638,027	4,452,524	4,291,813
Restricted Receipts	2,632,187	3,477,244	3,828,901	3,795,332
Other Funds	26,648	1	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$9,662,803	\$9,417,787	\$12,739,784	\$10,372,702
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Department of Health State Medical Examiner

Program Operations

The Office of the State Medical Examiner investigates causes of death that involves injury, is sudden, unexpected, and unexplained; or causes of death that may, in any way, endanger the public health and safety. Investigations cover all known or suspected homicides, suicides, accidents, sudden infant deaths, drug-related deaths, and medically unattended deaths. Investigation techniques include scene investigation, study of medical and police records, autopsy, body inspection, bodily fluid investigation and other tests as deemed necessary. The Medical Examiner's Office keeps complete records on all cases and provides expert testimony on criminal cases for the state law enforcement agencies and the courts. The Office of the State Medical Examiner is required by statute to approve all cremations performed in Rhode Island.

Other functions of the office include research in forensic pathology; education and training of resident and fellow physicians; training law enforcement personnel in techniques of homicide investigations; and disseminating public information about causes of death in the State.

Program Objectives

- Investigate and determine the manner and circumstance of death and to properly and accurately certify the cause of death in unnatural cases
- Promote safety and reduce untimely deaths through research and education
- Maintain a knowledge base for public health and use information to improve health status
- Control infectious and communicable disease

Statutory History

The Office of the State Medical Examiners is authorized under Title 23 Chapter 4 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The Budget

Department of Health State Medical Examiner

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	1,561,922	1,647,635	1,775,084	1,789,392
Other State Operations	143,423	194,320	206,309	178,712
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,705,345	\$1,841,955	\$1,981,393	\$1,968,104
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,705,345	\$1,841,955	\$1,981,393	\$1,968,104
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	1,705,345	1,753,392	1,843,547	1,830,258
Federal Funds	-	88,563	137,846	137,846
Total Expenditures	\$1,705,345	\$1,841,955	\$1,981,393	\$1,968,104
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Department of Health Family Health

Program Operations

Family Health assesses and addresses the health and developmental needs of children and their families by developing comprehensive family-centered systems of care. Functions include development, coordination, and evaluation of children's and women's health programs within the Department of Health. The Maternal and Child Health sub-program includes the Children's Preventive Services and Adolescent and Young Adult Health Services, including Newborn Screening, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Childhood Immunization, Family Planning, Home Visiting Risk Response, and Men 2B Role Model Support Programs. The Children with Special Health Needs sub-program offers family-centered, community-based services for children with, or at risk of, chronic health conditions and disabilities, the Hearing Assessment, the Child Development Center, and the Disability and Health programs. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) sub-program provides supplemental nutritious foods and nutrition education for infants, young children, and pregnant women who are at medical or nutritional risk. Expert data, evaluation, and communications capacity, as well as a statewide public health tracking system through KIDSNET support all Family Health programs.

Program Objectives

- Assure the positive outcome of pregnancies and promote optimal child development
- Prevent death, disease, and disability among children
- Encourage life-long patterns of healthy behavior
- Support effective parenting, in present and future generations
- Improve access to and quality of health care for children and families at high risk
- Promote humane, effective and efficient health services for children with chronic disease and/or developmental disabilities
- Maintain a knowledge base for public health — particularly for health risks and needs among mothers and children in Rhode Island
- Eliminate disparities in health among population groups
- Define the role of community in our mission and implement strategies to enhance community and individual participation in improving health status
- Invest in safe and healthy communities through family-neighborhood and school health partnerships

Statutory History

Authorization for programs within Family Health is contained in Title 23 Chapter 13, Title 40.1 Chapter 22, and Title 42 Chapter 12.3 of the Rhode Island General Laws; the Rhode Island Childhood Lead Program is mandated by Title 23 Chapter 24.6; the authorization for the WIC Program is under Rhode Island General Law Title 23, Chapter 13-17 and the PL 102-518; and the authorization for the Immunization Program and the Central Registry of Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injuries under Disabilities Prevention Program is in R.I.G.L. Title 23, Chapter 1.

The Budget

Department of Health Family Health

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram				
Office of the Medical Director	3,829,735	4,842,350	4,986,138	5,062,431
Women, Infants and Children	24,241,424	25,394,039	27,715,187	27,832,054
Children's Preventive Health Services	1,733,969	2,097,525	2,013,348	2,045,402
Family, Youth and School Success	2,711,378	1,960,725	2,217,219	2,088,110
Families Raising Children w/ Special Needs	14,447,142	13,188,251	2,481,816	2,387,221
Total Expenditures	\$46,963,648	\$47,482,890	\$39,413,708	\$39,415,218
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	8,092,161	8,583,926	7,592,859	7,872,978
Other State Operations	11,352,789	11,767,620	7,969,103	7,944,750
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	27,518,698	27,131,344	23,851,746	23,597,490
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$46,963,648	\$47,482,890	\$39,413,708	\$39,415,218
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$46,963,648	\$47,482,890	\$39,413,708	\$39,415,218
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	9,502,871	9,313,075	2,927,313	2,853,264
Federal Funds	33,699,757	34,302,351	30,797,134	30,854,716
Restricted Receipts	3,761,020	3,867,464	5,689,261	5,707,238
Total Expenditures	\$46,963,648	\$47,482,890	\$39,413,708	\$39,415,218
Program Measures				
Number of Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births in Rhode Island	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.8
Number of Births per 1,000 Teens Aged 15-17	19.0	18.5	18.0	17.5
Percent of Children with Blood Lead Levels Greater than 10 ug/dl	5.3%	4.2%	3.1%	2.0%

The Program

Department of Health Health Services Regulation

Program Operations

The Division of Health Services Regulation licenses, certifies, and enforces regulations relating to health care professionals and facilities, managed care organizations and health systems development. Also, complaints from any source are investigated and, if substantiated, appropriate compliance action is initiated. The division is organized by responsibilities for licensure, oversight, and regulatory functions by category of licensure.

The Office of Facilities Regulation is responsible for ensuring that all federally certified and state-licensed health care facilities or providers meet the applicable conditions and regulations of the law. That compliance is formally recognized through the licensure and certification process, which involves survey visits and other inspections for continuing compliance.

The Office of Health Professionals Regulation oversees the licensure, certification, registration, and discipline of more than 70,000 individuals in 65 health occupations and 2,600 facilities. The office also oversees the administrative and regulatory functions of 35 licensing boards comprising 325 members representing the various professions and consumers.

The Office of Managed Care Regulation is responsible for ensuring that all certified Health Maintenance Organizations, Utilization Review Agencies, and Health Plans meet the conditions and regulations of the applicable laws. Survey data is reported, compiled, and analyzed as required. Staff conducts on-site surveys and inspections and administers certification processes.

The Office of Health Systems Development administers the State's "Certificate of Need" Program designed to prevent unnecessary duplication of expensive medical services and equipment; and reviews proposed hospital conversions, proposed changes in ownership of existing health care facilities, and requests for initial health facility licensure.

Program Objectives

- Direct and coordinate the department's health services regulatory activities; Assure minimum standards and competency of health facilities, managed care organizations, and professional licensees; promote high quality health care services through licensed health care facilities, licensed health care professionals, certified managed care organizations, and health plans
- Assure the appropriate use of drugs and other controlled substances through enforcement, compliance, and regulatory activities; assure that the quality of health care services is maintained in the face of rapid change
- Inform and educate the public of licensee information and nursing home quality information through the departmental web site

Statutory History

Authorization for programs within Health Services Regulation is contained in Titles 5, 21, 23, 31 and 42 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The Budget

Department of Health Health Services Regulation

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram				
Medical Licensure and Discipline	779,456	790,728	712,366	812,185
Professional Regulation	2,577,604	2,584,861	2,530,810	2,594,513
Facilities Regulations	3,797,516	3,695,916	4,233,871	4,451,176
Managed Care	623,588	2,481,098	3,617,153	3,272,291
Total Expenditures	\$7,778,164	\$9,552,603	\$11,094,200	\$11,130,165
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	6,684,985	7,327,634	8,833,443	9,306,612
Other State Operations	987,468	1,928,099	1,926,580	1,489,376
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	105,711	296,870	334,177	334,177
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$7,778,164	\$9,552,603	\$11,094,200	\$11,130,165
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$7,778,164	\$9,552,603	\$11,094,200	\$11,130,165
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	4,582,197	4,424,901	4,759,983	5,069,660
Federal Funds	2,811,316	4,788,004	5,977,033	5,680,052
Restricted Receipts	384,651	339,698	357,184	380,453
Total Expenditures	\$7,778,164	\$9,552,603	\$11,094,200	\$11,130,165
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Department of Health Environmental Health

Program Operations

The Environmental Health Program protects and promotes the public's health in the areas of drinking water quality, food protection, occupational and radiological health, and environmental lead.

The Environmental Health Risk Assessment sub-program provides technical support to environmental and occupational health programs. This office conducts risk assessments; provides expert consultation on environmental hazards; responds to complaints about environmental tobacco smoke; conducts surveillance of chemical spills and releases; responds to calls from the public concerning environmental health issues; and provides emergency response planning for the Department of Health.

The Drinking Water Quality sub-program protects public health by assuring that public drinking water supplies comply with the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act. It reviews and approves projects for financial assistance and plans for public water system infrastructure maintenance and repair.

The Food Protection sub-program protects and promotes health and prevents disease by assuring the safety and quality of the food supply from harvest to consumer. Food Protection regulates over 8,500 food businesses; responds to more than 1,100 complaints annually; investigates the causes of food-borne outbreaks; and administers the Food Manager Certification Program. It also is responsible for assuring water quality at Rhode Island's public bathing beaches.

The Occupational and Radiological Health sub-program protects and promotes the health of Rhode Islanders through programs regarding the control of health and safety hazards at the worksite, environmental lead hazards, and radiation hazards. The office provides free safety and health consultation services to employers and licensees; inspects x-ray equipment; administers a licensing and inspection program for by-product radioactive materials; and protects Rhode Island's children from lead hazards by enforcing regulations to ensure these hazards are abated.

Program Objectives

- Identify, prevent, and remediate environmental and occupational health hazards to protect the public's health; develop and maintain the knowledge base for public health and use it to improve health status
- Define the role of community development in our mission and implement strategies to enhance community and individual participation in improving health status; reduce disparities in health status among sub-populations

Statutory History

Authorization for the Environmental Health program is contained in Title 2, Title 21, Title 23, Title 28, and Title 46 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The Budget

Department of Health Environmental Health

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram				
Drinking Water Quality	3,535,293	5,230,437	5,955,279	5,186,587
Food Protection	2,352,429	2,408,274	2,750,902	2,786,027
Occupational and Radiological Health	1,447,882	1,684,121	1,705,542	1,754,027
Environmental Health Risk Assessment	855,567	920,429	964,523	990,828
Total Expenditures	\$8,191,171	\$10,243,261	\$11,376,246	\$10,717,469
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	6,716,907	7,559,066	8,300,661	8,399,259
Other State Operations	1,239,928	2,383,433	2,477,517	1,856,810
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	234,336	300,684	598,068	461,400
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$8,191,171	\$10,243,183	\$11,376,246	\$10,717,469
Capital Improvements	-	78	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$8,191,171	\$10,243,261	\$11,376,246	\$10,717,469
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	4,169,788	4,207,800	4,465,197	4,696,140
Federal Funds	2,868,730	4,854,040	5,240,571	4,415,280
Restricted Receipts	1,152,653	1,181,421	1,670,478	1,606,049
Total Expenditures	\$8,191,171	\$10,243,261	\$11,376,246	\$10,717,469
Program Measures				
Population Served by Public Water Systems	91.2%	87.3%	85.0%	85.0%
Number of Food Borne Illnesses per 100k pop.	41.2	36.0	40.0	38.0
Percent of the Following Tested for Radon:				
Schools	96.0%	97.0%	100.0%	40.0%
City and Town Buildings	95.0%	96.0%	100.0%	10.0%
State Agency Buildings	98.0%	98.0%	100.0%	5.0%
Day Care Centers	90.0%	96.0%	100.0%	30.0%
Home Day Care	25.0%	34.0%	100.0%	5.0%

The Program

Department of Health Health Laboratories

Program Operations

The Health Laboratories monitor and protect public health and safety through modern scientific laboratory services. These services include surveillance testing for early detection of diseases such as tuberculosis, rabies, West Nile Virus, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, Lyme Disease, pertussis, rubella, measles, and other emerging diseases as well as pathogens which may represent a bioterrorism threat; surveillance and testing for lead poisoning; analysis of food products, drinking and waste water, soil and air for the presence of potentially toxic environmental contaminants; analysis of evidence obtained during the investigation of crimes such as homicide, sexual assault, drug trafficking, and drunk driving. Staff from the Health Laboratories present expert testimony in court; and respond to public health emergencies such as man-made and natural disasters and epidemics.

The Health Laboratories analyze approximately 250,000 specimens each year. In addition to the Department of Health, the laboratory serves the Attorney General, the Department of Environmental Management, state and municipal law enforcement agencies, hospitals, private laboratories, and health care professionals. Health Laboratories offer public services to individuals, primarily on a fee-for-service basis.

Program Objectives

- Protect the public health and safety through the application of modern scientific methods
- Assure that the quality of health care services is maintained in the face of rapid changes
- Develop and maintain the knowledge base for public health and use it to improve health status
- Develop support for public health

Statutory History

Authorization for the Laboratories Program is contained in Title 23 Chapters 1, 11 and 13; Title 31 Chapter 27; and Title 41 chapter 3.1 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The Budget

Department of Health Health Laboratories

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Administrative and Support Services	1,498,918	1,638,273	1,888,152	1,602,881
Forensic Sciences	1,802,592	1,786,592	1,650,345	1,555,144
Environmental Sciences	2,482,125	2,954,934	3,295,593	3,226,192
Biological Sciences	1,763,788	1,522,063	1,492,045	1,484,507
Total Expenditures	\$7,547,423	\$7,901,862	\$8,326,135	\$7,868,724
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	5,589,801	5,820,557	6,021,177	5,922,657
Other State Operations	1,952,646	2,078,879	2,301,958	1,943,567
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	4,976	2,426	3,000	2,500
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$7,547,423	\$7,901,862	\$8,326,135	\$7,868,724
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$7,547,423	\$7,901,862	\$8,326,135	\$7,868,724
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	6,086,232	5,999,231	5,910,184	5,882,469
Federal Funds	1,461,191	1,902,631	2,415,951	1,986,255
Total Expenditures	\$7,547,423	\$7,901,862	\$8,326,135	\$7,868,724
Program Measures				
Number of Water Samples Per 1,000 That Need to be Re-collected Due to Quality Control Problems	10	0.47	0.45	0.45
Percentage of Proficiency Test Results Found Acceptable:	94.1%	96.1%	96.4%	96.8%
Percentage of Human Specimen Test Results Found Acceptable:	98.2%	97.5%	98.6%	98.9%

The Program

Department of Health Disease Prevention and Control

Program Operations

Disease Prevention and Control promotes and protects community and individual health through the detection, surveillance, control, and eradication of infectious, communicable, and vector-borne diseases, and through the surveillance and control of chronic diseases.

The Communicable Diseases sub-program conducts surveillance, outbreak control, follow-up, case investigations, and public education regarding infectious and reportable diseases. Lyme disease, Hepatitis A and B, rabies, hantavirus, and mosquito-borne disease currently threaten public health. The Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program assures TB clinical services, provides outreach and daily, directly observed therapy to active cases, and conducts surveillance activities. The AIDS/STD Program monitors the epidemics of HIV infection, AIDS and STDs, and targets prevention strategies to high-risk groups.

The Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion sub-program promotes healthy lifestyles; to reduce smoking, poor nutrition, sedentary lifestyle, and injury causing behaviors; and to decrease the incidence, complications, and mortality due to the leading chronic diseases.

The Primary Care sub-program works with health care professionals, institutions and other state and voluntary agencies to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of primary care. Programs focus on prevention and early detection of disease and on maintenance of health.

Program Objectives

- Improve access to timely, high quality, cost-effective primary health care for all Rhode Islanders; detect, control and eradicate communicable diseases; including AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases
- Educate the public about the control of infectious and communicable diseases; monitor chronic diseases and educate the public about how to adopt healthy lifestyles
- Develop standards and monitor the provision of appropriate, quality, primary care; assure that the quality of health care services (particularly primary care) is maintained in the face of rapid change
- Develop and maintain the knowledge base for public health and use it to improve health status; define the role of community development in our mission and implement strategies to enhance community and individual participation in improving health status
- Reduce disparities in health status among sub-populations; develop support for public health

Statutory History

The programs and duties of Disease Prevention and Control are defined in Title 23 Chapters 1,3,6,12,14.1,20,20.6,20.7,20.9, 23 and 24; Title 5 Chapter 31.1; and Title 15 Chapter 1 to 3.

The Budget

Department of Health Disease Prevention and Control

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram				
Primary Care	1,127,401	1,079,889	1,108,818	1,109,219
Oral Health	39,614	(2,076)	-	-
Chronic Disease Prevention	8,436,113	9,135,758	10,041,898	9,999,195
Communicable Diseases	10,807,549	14,212,400	14,661,418	14,784,687
Total Expenditures	\$20,410,677	\$24,425,971	\$25,812,134	\$25,893,101
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	8,085,439	8,600,269	9,003,044	9,498,034
Other State Operations	5,071,041	8,019,960	8,451,979	8,066,489
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	7,254,197	7,805,742	8,357,111	8,328,578
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$20,410,677	\$24,425,971	\$25,812,134	\$25,893,101
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$20,410,677	\$24,425,971	\$25,812,134	\$25,893,101
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	5,997,668	5,862,559	5,589,971	5,249,007
Federal Funds	13,659,547	17,446,583	18,967,790	19,386,915
Restricted Receipts	696,591	1,037,538	1,141,910	1,142,103
Other	56,871	79,291	112,463	115,076
Total Expenditures	20,410,677	\$24,425,971	\$25,812,134	\$25,893,101
Program Measures				
Percentage of RI Adults Age 20+ who Smoke	22.4%	22.2%	21.5%	21.5%
Percentage of Active Tuberculosis Cases Completing Therapy	90.2%	82.9%	90.0%	90.0%
Percentage of Women Age 40+ Receiving Annual Mammograms	51.0%	53.0%	55.0%	57.0%