

**Public Health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. The core mission is to improve the health of New Hampshire citizens by protecting them from harm and ensuring access to high value, prevention focused healthcare that promotes optimal health for all.**

### Population Health and Community Services

**Programs:** Maternal Child Health (Women's Health, Family Planning, Child Health & Infant Screening); Nutrition Services (WIC, Commodity Supplementary Food Program, Senior Farmers Market) Chronic Disease Prevention & Screening (Cancer, Oral Health, Obesity Prevention); Tobacco Prevention & Cessation

The Bureau of Population Health and Community Services (BPHCS) develops systemic approaches to promote health and wellbeing, prevent and improve chronic conditions and reduce health inequities among the residents of New Hampshire. BPHCS programs reach infants, children, women, families and adults with or at risk for a variety of health conditions. Programs increase access to preventive clinical and other health services through community health centers and other health systems; they improve the quality of needed services based on data and evidence; and focus on serving groups of NH residents that may be most at risk for poor health outcomes.

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### Infectious Disease Control

**Programs:** Disease Investigation; Infectious Disease Prevention Services; Infectious Disease Care Services; Provider Education and Training; Healthcare-Associated Infections; Public Health Emergency Preparedness Surveillance; Surveillance Epidemiology; Adult Immunization; Immunization Information System; Vaccine Distribution and Management; Vaccine Quality Assurance and Improvement

The Bureau of Infectious Disease Control (BIDC) identifies, investigates, monitors and prevents the occurrence of infectious diseases to protect and promote the health of residents and visitors to New Hampshire. Additionally, BIDC coordinates the Division of Public Health Services Incident Management Team, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Hospital Preparedness programs, and maintains a 24/7/365 on-call system to respond to public health emergencies and urgent matters related to infectious disease.

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### Public Health Protection

**Programs:** Asthma Control; Climate Change Adaptation; Food Protection; Health Officer Liaison; Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention; Radiological Health.

The Bureau of Public Health Protection (BPHP) assures the safety of the public from environmental public health risks through licensing, inspecting, enforcement and education.

The Asthma Control Program provides education and data analysis across public health and health care sectors to assist people with asthma and the providers who serve them to minimize the impact of asthma on the 10% of people who have it.

The Climate Change Adaptation program provides climate and health impact change models and training for local emergency response, and funding for local regions to plan interventions and respond to health impacts related to climate change and severe weather events.

The Food Protection Program protects the safety and security of the NH food supply and prevents food borne illness and injuries through licensing (4,500), inspection, enforcement and education.

The Health Office Liaison supports and develops environmental public health intervention capacity in New Hampshire, primarily through supporting and guiding municipal health officers.

Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention supports children and adults with lead poisoning through education, investigations, case management, surveillance, enforcement, policy development and licensing.

The Radiological Health Section assures the safe use of radiation machines (4,000+) or radioactive materials (90 licensees) for medical as well as business and industrial use through a process of licensing, inspection and rule enforcement and by demonstrating an ongoing capability to respond to large-scale emergencies (such as an accident at a nuclear power plant) or small radiological incidents.

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### Public Health Laboratories

**Programs:** Environmental Health/Biomonitoring; Food Emergency Response Network (FERN); Drinking Water Laboratory; Microbiology & Virology Laboratories

Public Health Laboratories (PHL) protect the public's health in New Hampshire through responsive, unbiased, quality clinical and environmental laboratory testing. The PHL actively participates in national and international



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surveillance networks; and improves the quality of health and laboratory services in both the public and private sector.

Environmental Health/Biomonitoring provides rapid response and subject matter expertise to biological, chemical and radiologic emergencies. The Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) assures a safe food supply by rapidly identifying infectious microorganisms and chemical toxins associated with foodborne disease and by participating in national surveillance networks.

The Drinking Water Laboratory assures safe recreational and drinking waters through rapid analysis of water for bacterial and chemical contaminants.

Microbiology and Virology Laboratories respond to incidents of infectious disease by providing rapid identification and characterization of the causative agent.

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### Public Health Statistics and Informatics

The Bureau of Public Health Statistics and Informatics (BPHSI) is responsible for the creation and distribution of New Hampshire health statistics. Data are taken from many different sources (birth/death records, hospital discharge records, cancer deaths and others), and are analyzed along with health risk factors provided by surveys of high schools and adults.

Information is made available through a web based portal known as WISDOM. This information is being used to identify hotspots in need of additional public health work, as justifications for grant applications, and to measure changes in health outcomes over time. No protected health information or otherwise identifying information is

made available through this tool – only publicly available statistics.

The Bureau uses data to better focus state and local resources on public health problems where there is a high probability of making a positive impact. It also maintains the surveys which allow us to understand changes in risky behavior over time. The surveys include the Behavioral Health Factor Surveillance Survey and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

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### Public Health Systems, Policy & Performance

**Programs:** Rural Health & Primary Care; Public Health Networks; Legislative/Policy Liaison; Quality Improvement & Performance Management

The Bureau of Public Health Systems, Policy & Performance supports the statewide Public Health Service Improvement Council, develops and monitors the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP).

The Community Health Development Section sustains the 13 Public Health Regions that serve all communities across the State of New Hampshire. The program oversees funds that are distributed to the regions to execute a number of public health efforts, including the development of Community Health Improvement Plans and regional Public Health Advisory Councils.

The Public Health Improvement Section systematically increases the capacity for performance management, increases efficiency and trains the workforce in quality improvement.

The Rural Health and Primary Care program increases access to Primary and Behavioral Health Care and

Dentistry by administering programs that attract providers to work in medically underserved regions of the state. It also offers technical assistance to small rural hospitals to help them meet the federal standards to receive payment and improve care for their patients.

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### State Epidemiologist

The State Epidemiologist is a medical professional-epidemiologist who works across the different Bureaus within the Division of Public Health Services and with partners external to the Division to support and facilitate the work of DHHS.

As a physician, the State Epidemiologist provides medical expertise and direction when needed. Recent work includes, supporting the effort to prepare for and respond to emerging infectious diseases including Ebola and Zika; responding to health concerns in communities impacted by the Perfluorochemical drinking water contamination and the Seacoast cancer cluster. The State Epidemiologist is supporting the development of a program to prevent antibiotic resistance (antibiotic stewardship program). Additionally, the position supports the Division's development of the quality improvement and performance management systems and the development of the WISDOM data system.

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