

State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Epidemiology Component Budget Summary

Component: Epidemiology

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Department's mission is to promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans. The Epidemiology component contributes to this mission by providing surveillance, epidemic response and investigation through defining causal factors, identifying and directing control measures and providing a basis for policy development, program planning and evaluation.

Core Services

- Provide medical and epidemiological expertise for disease control and epidemic response, both for naturally occurring events and for biological terrorism.
- Provide around-the-clock epidemiology response capacity for disease outbreak investigations, medical consultation, and response to public health emergencies.
- Gather, maintain and analyze data to conduct disease surveillance, provide an accurate picture of the health status of Alaskans, and enable improved evaluation of program activities.
- Assure adequacy of immunization outreach and access to vaccinations so that all Alaska children are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases and in compliance with daycare and school immunization requirements.
- Provide trained public health professional services for partner notification and contact identification, education, diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring for tuberculosis, HIV, sexually transmitted disease (STD), and other infectious diseases that can be transmitted from person to person.
- Maintain a system of direct disease reporting from health care providers and laboratories to the Epidemiology component to monitor the population for health threats.
- Develop public health guidelines for consumption of subsistence foods to reduce the risks related to environmental contaminants such as lead, arsenic, asbestos, and other toxins and heavy metals.

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2008 Component Budget: \$11,892,600	Personnel:	
	Full time	55
	Part time	0
	Total	55

Key Component Challenges

- Maintain medical and epidemiological expertise needed to accomplish disease control mission.
- Continue to ensure that all children are immunized on time.
- Maintain direct observed therapy (DOT) for all persons who have pulmonary tuberculosis.
- Maintain partner notification activities for those exposed to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.
- Implement regulations to support the new public health law (House Bill 95) to effectively and immediately respond to an urgent public health event, including involuntary isolation and quarantine, and acquisition and distribution of critical antimicrobial agents, vaccines and antidotes.
- Establish and maintain an electronic system of direct disease reporting to the Epidemiology component from laboratories and health care providers.
- Ensure that funding and expertise is available for responses to bioterrorism, disease outbreaks, and control of emerging infectious diseases.
- Collect data to support the development of consensus guidelines for consumption of subsistence foods and commercial seafood.
- Increase cooperative activities with components in the Division of Public Health, with other divisions within the

Department of Health and Social Services, and with other agencies with health missions in Alaska.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

No significant changes.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2006

- Performed major revision and two updates of the State of Alaska Pandemic Influenza Response Plan.
- Began revitalization of the Rabies Control Program and the Rabies Lay Vaccinator Program, including planning of the Alaska Rabies Summit in December 2006 to gain input from partners and subject matter experts to create a science-based, efficient program for rabies control.
- In partnership with the Municipality of Anchorage, investigated an outbreak of tuberculosis (TB) in the homeless population. This outbreak began in December of 2005 and at least 20 cases have been identified. The TB Program has collaborated with the municipality to provide regular screening events at facilities that support the homeless and provided housing for homeless persons with TB during the course of treatment.
- Published the *Epidemiology Bulletin, Recommendations and Reports* entitled "Treatment of Tuberculosis Update." This document updated previous recommendations published in 2001 on clinical evaluation and treatment of persons with tuberculosis in Alaska.
- Responded to outbreaks of Norovirus in two chronic care facilities in southeast Alaska, as well as at least five other Norovirus outbreaks. Rapid identification of the agent causing the outbreak and investigation to determine possible mode of transmission formed the basis of recommendations to prevent additional transmission.
- Adopted use of CDC's Comprehensive Clinical Assessment Software Application (CoCASA) to evaluate immunization policies and procedures in individual clinical settings. By the end of 2006 the Immunization Program was to more than double the number of medical provider site visits conducted during 2005. This large increase in the number of site visits will facilitate increased attention to appropriate vaccine storage and handling, as well as giving providers the opportunity to receive individualized assessments of their immunization practices and training about the most current immunization information.
- Promoted increased use of an updated version of Self ImmAGE, an Alaska-developed software application that allows schools and childcare facilities to assess students' compliance with state immunization requirements and print associated letters and reports. The popularity of this assessment tool continues to grow, as indicated by an almost 100% increase in the number of providers requesting Self ImmAGE in the 2005/2006 school year when compared with the previous year.
- The Alaska Legislature approved a capital budget request allowing initiation of an Alaska Immunization Registry. A workgroup has been meeting for several months to finalize a Request for Proposals (RFP) from vendors wishing to bid on this very complex project, which also includes a disease surveillance and reporting component. It is anticipated the RFP will be issued before the end of 2006 and registry implementation will begin in 2007.
- In partnership with the Vaccinate Alaska Coalition, sponsored the annual "I Did It by TWO!" childhood immunization campaign, integrating the important message of childhood immunizations with the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. The dog musher's racing bibs carried the message "Race to Vaccinate". Several mushers were enlisted to speak throughout the year on the importance of immunizations.
- Working with the Alaska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Vaccinate Alaska Coalition, planned to convene the first annual Alaska Immunization Conference.
- Conducted or coordinated HIV disease intervention activities which identified 29 percent of all HIV cases newly diagnosed in Alaska in 2005 (28 cases). These results illustrate the critical role of disease intervention (partner notification, testing, and where appropriate, treatment) in interrupting disease transmission.
- Disease investigation and intervention activities by HIV/STD program staff helped contain the outbreak of syphilis in south central and interior Alaska.
- HIV/STD Program staff completed activities to implement major changes to the purchasing mechanism and contracts for the statewide AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) early in FY06. By the end of FY06, ADAP enrollment had been expanded from 37 to 65 clients (a 76 percent increase) and the ADAP waiting list had been (temporarily) eliminated.
- HIV/STD Program staff worked with the statewide HIV Prevention Planning Group to develop a comprehensive *2007-2009 Alaska HIV Prevention Plan*. This plan delineates HIV/STD Program strategies and will influence all activities during this period that use HIV Prevention funds from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Interviewed and collected fish and hair samples from 214 sport fishermen to assess the risk of mercury exposure

from sport-caught halibut in Cook Inlet (result pending).

- Applied for and was awarded a competitive 5-year Cooperative Agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct public health evaluations of contaminated sites in Alaska. This provides the Environmental Public Health program with a stable source of funding to respond to health concerns related to environmental contaminants in Alaska.
- Organized and hosted a two-day “Contaminant and Subsistence Foods Summit” on May 1-2, 2006 attended by public health officials, physicians, environmental scientists and nutritionists. Participants reviewed and discussed human exposures to contaminants from consumption of traditional foods in Alaska, the Alaska Division of Public Health’s dietary recommendations for fish and marine mammals, and priorities for future biomonitoring projects.
- In partnership with Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, evaluated the health risks associated with lead-based paint and other environmental hazards in six buildings on St. Paul Island, including the village’s Head Start building. As a result of these investigations, various remediation activities are on-going to make these buildings safe for future occupancy.
- *The Midnight Madness Manual*, a reference handbook for Epidemiology and Public Health Nursing staff to use for 24/7 responses, was updated and an electronic version was posted for secure electronic access.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 09-65.161	Immunity for disclosure of required health care data
AS 40.25.120	Public Records: exceptions; certified copies
AS 14.07.020	Administration of Public Schools
AS 14.30	Pupils and Educational Programs for Pupils
AS 18.05.010-.070	Administration of Public Health and Related Laws
AS 18.15.120 - 320	Disease Control and Threats to Public Health
AS 44.29.020	Department of Health & Social Services
AS 47.35.010	Child Care Facilities, Child Placement Agencies, Child Treatment Facilities, Foster Homes, and Maternity Homes
4 AAC 06.055	Government of Schools - Immunizations Required
4 AAC 60.100	Pre-Elementary Schools - Immunizations Required
7AAC 12.650	Employee Health Program – TB testing; rubella immunity
7AAC 27.005-.900	Preventative Medical Services
7AAC 50.455	Health in Full Time Care Facilities
7AAC 75.220	Operation of Assisted Living Homes - General Requirements
7 AAC 78.010-.320	Grant Programs
13 AAC 08.025	Medical Standards – school bus drivers health screening

Contact Information

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Epidemiology Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	6,138.7	4,851.4	5,597.7
72000 Travel	419.4	198.3	198.3
73000 Services	2,710.7	2,772.4	2,742.4
74000 Commodities	1,870.9	1,658.2	1,658.2
75000 Capital Outlay	29.8	188.5	188.5
77000 Grants, Benefits	1,493.9	1,507.5	1,507.5
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	12,663.4	11,176.3	11,892.6
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	9,699.2	7,792.8	8,325.3
1003 General Fund Match	478.2	478.2	478.2
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,613.4	2,258.0	2,420.8
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	280.1	437.6	458.6
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	215.4	209.7	209.7
1168 Tobacco Use Education and Cessation Fund	377.1	0.0	0.0
Funding Totals	12,663.4	11,176.3	11,892.6

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	9,699.2	7,792.8	8,325.3
Interagency Receipts	51015	280.1	437.6	458.6
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	215.4	209.7	209.7
Restricted Total		10,194.7	8,440.1	8,993.6
Total Estimated Revenues		10,194.7	8,440.1	8,993.6

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2007 Management Plan	2,736.2	7,792.8	647.3	11,176.3
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Transfer Nursing Salary Market Based Pay	21.3	0.0	0.0	21.3
-FY 08 Health Insurance Increases for Exempt Employees	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.7
Proposed budget increases:				
-FY 08 Retirement Systems Rate Increases	141.2	532.1	21.0	694.3
FY2008 Governor	2,899.0	8,325.3	668.3	11,892.6

**Epidemiology
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2007</u> <u>Management</u> <u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2008</u> <u>Governor</u>		
			Annual Salaries	3,306,348
Full-time	55	55	Premium Pay	125,330
Part-time	0	0	Annual Benefits	2,582,016
Nonpermanent	0	0	<i>Less 6.92% Vacancy Factor</i>	(415,994)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	55	55	Total Personal Services	5,597,700

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	6	0	0	0	6
Administrative Clerk III	9	0	0	0	9
Administrative Supervisor	1	0	0	0	1
Health Program Associate	3	0	0	0	3
Health Program Mgr I	1	0	0	0	1
Health Program Mgr II	4	0	0	0	4
Health Program Mgr III	3	0	0	0	3
Nurse Consultant I	1	0	0	0	1
Nurse Consultant II	7	0	0	0	7
Pharmacist	1	0	0	0	1
Public Health Nurse V	1	0	0	0	1
Public Health Spec I	5	0	0	0	5
Public Health Spec II	7	0	0	0	7
Staff Physician	3	0	0	0	3
Supply Technician II	1	0	0	0	1
Veterinary Epidemiologist	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	55	0	0	0	55