

State of Alaska FY2009 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 preventing and controlling disease outbreaks; 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, epidemiological and toxicological expertise for disease control and epidemic response, both for naturally occurring events and for biological, chemical or radiological 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 specific infectious diseases of public health importance.
- 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.
- Provide appropriate treatment and case management for all persons diagnosed with tuberculosis. Assure a complete contact investigation for each person with infectious tuberculosis.
- Assess and control chemical exposures of importance to public health.

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2009 Component Budget: \$12,150,200	Personnel:	
	Full time	55
	Part time	0
	Total	55

Key Component Challenges

- Maintain medical and epidemiological and toxicological expertise needed to accomplish the section's disease control mission.
- Continue to ensure that all children are immunized on time.
- Maintain a vaccine distribution program to provide all recommended vaccines for Alaska children and adolescents receiving services in public and private sector clinics throughout the state. Distribute selected adult vaccines as funding allows.
- Maintain direct observed therapy (DOT) for all persons who have pulmonary tuberculosis.
- Maintain partner notification and disease intervention activities for those exposed to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- Establish and maintain an electronic system of direct disease reporting to the Epidemiology Component from laboratories and health care providers.

- Establish and maintain a web-based database of immunizations received by persons throughout the state, and make this medical history available to Alaska providers.
- Ensure that funding and expertise is available for responses to biological, chemical and radiological terrorism, disease outbreaks, chemical exposures of health concern, 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.
- Seek and administer federal funds to help address core state public health responsibilities.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

- With requested funding, the human biomonitoring program will be able to obtain samples from and test more Alaska women of childbearing age for mercury exposure. This will enable us to provide more generalized and region-specific fish consumption guidelines for at-risk populations in Alaska.
- With requested funding, the tuberculosis program will be able to improve its current ability to rapidly detect and investigate tuberculosis outbreaks and provide tuberculosis treatment and control in Alaska.
- With capital funds appropriated in 2006, the Immunization Program's statewide immunization information system will begin operations to maintain immunization information for Alaskans of all ages.
- With capital funds appropriated in 2006, the section's Disease Surveillance and Management System will begin operations as a database for reportable conditions and a means for centralized and electronic disease reporting, case investigation and monitoring, rule based alerting, and geographical information systems mapping.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

- In partnership with the Municipality of Anchorage, worked to control an ongoing outbreak of tuberculosis (TB) in the homeless population. This outbreak began in December of 2005 and more than 30 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 41 Epidemiology *Bulletins* to inform health care providers and the public of important investigations, concerns, or alerts regarding health issues.
- Responded to 213 after-hours calls; all were responded to within 10 minutes.
- Completed a thorough revision of the booklet, "Conditions Reportable to Public Health." This revision added 14 new conditions that are reportable by health care providers and 16 new pathogens reportable by laboratories. The new booklet includes a laminated insert that lists all reportable conditions, and pathogens and key contact information.
- Completed an extensive revision of the Epidemiology Emergency Procedure Manual (Midnight Madness Manual) and posted the manual on the Epidemiology web site and on the secure First Class system.
- Co-sponsored a statewide meeting for the Alaska Chapter of the Association for Infection Control Professionals (APIC), in collaboration with the Midnight Sun APIC Chapter, the Alaska Regional Hospital, and the CDC Arctic Investigation program.
- Completed a multimillion dollar contract award for a secure Internet-based Immunization Information System (IIS) and Disease Surveillance Management System. This award completed a two-year process to secure funding, develop the RFP, and interview respondents. The contract was awarded to Scientific Technologies Corporation, and the IIS should be up and running in early 2008.
- Incorporated rapid HIV testing into HIV disease intervention activities conducted by HIV/STD program staff, and broadened these activities to include people in related social/sexual networks. From January 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007, 74 cases of HIV were newly identified. During this same period, 89 individuals with HIV were interviewed, identifying 215 contacts plus 107 additional individuals meriting follow-up.
- Disease investigation and intervention activities conducted by HIV/STD program staff continued to address an extended syphilis outbreak in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. From January 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007, 3,158 individuals with syphilis, gonorrhea, or chlamydia were documented to have been interviewed, identifying 4,894 partners, approximately 74% of whom were located and received appropriate treatment.
- At the end of FY07, HIV/STD program staff eliminated a waiting list for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) that had persisted since 2003. Supplemental federal funds in FY08 will allow further formulary and enrollment expansion. The ADAP is managed through staff activities and two contracts with other entities. Other statewide HIV Care activities were implemented through new grants to two entities.
- HIV/STD program staff implemented the statewide *2007-2009 Alaska HIV Prevention Plan* for Center for Disease

- Control and Prevention funds through staff activities and new grants to six entities.
- Responded to an epizootic (>35 cases) of animal rabies in northern and western Alaska, ensuring that any and all persons potentially exposed to this fatal virus received appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis. This response was ongoing for the first half of 2007 and involved close working partnerships with the State Virology Laboratory, Offices of Environmental Health for various Native health corporations and the North Slope Borough, and the Department of Fish and Game.
- Increased by 35% the number of child care facilities receiving audits of their immunization compliance records during the 2006/2007 school year.
- 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 mushers' 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, held the first annual Alaska Immunization Conference.
- Published an Epidemiology *Bulletin* and worked with state librarians to remove lead-tainted toys from circulation after they were disseminated through a statewide summer reading program.
- Increased the participation rate in the Statewide Hair Mercury Biomonitoring Program among women of childbearing age by nearly 4-fold (153 samples from January through June 2007, compared with an average of 40 samples per six-month period for the preceding 4.5 years of the program).
- Interpreted the public health implications of persistent organic pollutant data from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Fish Monitoring Program, and collaborated with them to report those findings.
- Investigated elevated blood lead levels among student rifle team members in Delta Junction who use an indoor shooting range. Collaborated with the school district, coach and parents to identify and mitigate the source of lead exposure at that range, and worked with the Alaska School Activities Association to develop protective standards for student rifle team members statewide.
- Reported results of a collaborative evaluation of fish mercury levels, hair mercury levels and fish consumption survey data among 273 people that fished in Homer or Seward during the summer of 2006.
- Established new fish consumption guidelines for the State of Alaska that balance the health benefits of fish consumption against the potential risks from mercury exposure. Established an Alaska Scientific Advisory Committee for Fish Consumption, developed consensus recommendations, engaged stakeholders extensively, presented at the National Fish Forum sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and published a scientific monograph to document the guidelines.

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

Contact Information

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**Epidemiology
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	4,465.1	5,451.9	5,696.6
72000 Travel	354.0	372.3	382.3
73000 Services	1,801.0	2,482.8	2,494.8
74000 Commodities	1,341.2	1,618.2	1,880.5
75000 Capital Outlay	352.9	188.5	188.5
77000 Grants, Benefits	1,691.3	1,507.5	1,507.5
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	10,005.5	11,621.2	12,150.2
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	7,114.5	8,278.1	8,320.3
1003 General Fund Match	478.2	478.2	478.2
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,675.2	2,109.0	2,595.8
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	325.8	396.9	396.9
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	411.8	359.0	359.0
Funding Totals	10,005.5	11,621.2	12,150.2

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	7,114.5	8,278.1	8,320.3
Interagency Receipts	51015	325.8	396.9	396.9
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	411.8	359.0	359.0
Restricted Total		7,852.1	9,034.0	9,076.2
Total Estimated Revenues		7,852.1	9,034.0	9,076.2

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2008 Management Plan	2,587.2	8,278.1	755.9	11,621.2
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Tuberculosis Control Program	150.0	-150.0	0.0	0.0
-FY 09 Health Insurance Increases for Exempt Employees	0.4	0.6	0.0	1.0
-FY 09 Bargaining Unit Contract Terms: General Government Unit	36.4	191.6	0.0	228.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Human Biomonitoring for Chemical Contaminants	300.0	0.0	0.0	300.0
FY2009 Governor	3,074.0	8,320.3	755.9	12,150.2

**Epidemiology
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
<u>FY2008</u>				
<u>Management</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2009</u>		
		<u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	55	55	Annual Salaries	3,523,349
Part-time	0	0	COLA	221,657
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	280,553
			Annual Benefits	1,928,367
			<i>Less 4.32% Vacancy Factor</i>	(257,326)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	55	55	Total Personal Services	5,696,600

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant II	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	4	0	0	0	4
Administrative Clerk III	9	0	0	0	9
Administrative Officer I	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Supervisor	2	0	0	0	2
Health Program Associate	3	0	0	0	3
Health Program Mgr I	1	0	0	0	1
Health Program Mgr II	5	0	0	0	5
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
Project Coord	1	0	0	0	1
Public Health Nurse V	1	0	0	0	1
Public Health Spec I	4	0	0	0	4
Public Health Spec II	6	0	0	0	6
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