

The Boston Public Health Commission

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Boston Public Health Commission is to protect, preserve, and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, particularly the most vulnerable.

AN OVERVIEW

The Boston Public Health Commission, the country's oldest health department, is an independent public agency, providing a wide range of health services and programs. It serves as the City's Board of Health and is governed by a seven-member board appointed by the Mayor. The Commission's more than 40 programs are grouped into six bureaus.

Bureaus

CHILD, ADOLESCENT & FAMILY HEALTH | The Child, Adolescent & Family Health Bureau addresses physical and mental health needs of Boston children, youth and families, particularly those whose health is compromised by social inequality. Bureau programs offer services to families and children at home, in school and in community settings across Boston.

COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES | The Community Health Initiatives Bureau addresses health issues affecting the entire community of Boston through community and home-based services. The Bureau supports the Commission's commitment to environmental concerns, chronic disease prevention and management, access to health care, and the enforcement of citywide health regulations.

HOMELESS SERVICES | The Homeless Services Bureau oversees a variety of programs that address complex needs associated with homelessness, such as emergency shelter, health and behavioral health services, job readiness and training, substance use treatment, recovery support, and rapid rehousing services.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE | The Infectious Disease Control Bureau works with diverse populations to reduce the impact of infectious diseases, prevent morbidity associated with these diseases, and create healthier lives for the residents of Boston. Work within the Infectious Disease Bureau includes disease surveillance, investigation of cases and outbreaks, funding a continuum of HIV/AIDS-related education and care through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act, community and provider education related to communicable diseases, and the operation of a tuberculosis (TB) clinic.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES | Boston EMS is committed to compassionately delivering excellent pre-hospital care, and to protecting the safety and health of the public. As Boston's municipal Emergency Medical Service, Boston EMS is one of three public safety agencies that respond to 9-1-1 calls.

RECOVERY SERVICES | The integration of substance use treatment programming in the Commission allows for a coordinated continuum of care in Boston, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations. The Bureau provides prevention services, outpatient and residential treatment, training, harm reduction, and access to care services.

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Building a Healthy Boston

Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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Boston Public Health Commission

CHILD, ADOLESCENT & FAMILY HEALTH

Boston Healthy Start Systems

Provides support and case management to pregnant and parenting women, their babies and their partners through home visits across Boston and at seven health care sites. Healthy Start health care sites serve women individually and in group settings, offering the benefits of the Centering Pregnancy model of care to program participants.

Healthy Start in Housing

Leverages partnership with the Boston Housing Authority to combine access to public housing with one-on-one case management for pregnant women who are homeless and at risk of negative pregnancy outcomes.

Welcome Family

Provides a one-time home visit to Boston mothers in the post partum period after they give birth. Welcome Family nurses link the family to a wide range of services and ensure that mother and baby are safe and healthy at home.

Father Friendly Initiative

Provides individual case management and group parenting support to fathers and male partners of women raising young children. Staff work with other early childhood programs, promoting best practice to help fathers connect with children.

Early Childhood Mental Health

Works with parents of children from birth to age nine in community settings around the City to offer parents support and guidance on child development. Services are typically provided in community health centers by a mental health clinician and a trained family partner.

Connecting Families to Schools

Provides case management to families whose school-aged children regularly miss school. Program staff help families address the issues, often medical but sometimes related to employment, transportation or other social needs, that make regular attendance difficult.

BAHEC/Youth-to-Health Careers Program

Aims to diversify the pool of health professionals in Boston by providing middle and high school students with opportunities to increase their awareness of health professions, public health issues, and concepts.

Peer Leadership Institute

Trains and supports high school students to become role models and leaders who promote positive behavior change around health practices in their school communities.

School Based Health Centers

Delivers health education and health care to students in eight public high schools. Services include primary medical care as well as mental health and reproductive health education and care.

Health Resource Centers

Partners with the Boston Public Schools to provide comprehensive sexual health education, in-school health counseling and referrals to community health care resources in eight Boston high schools. HRC educators provide students with the information and skills they need to make responsible choices to protect their health and promote well being.

Youth Development Network

Works with Boston public high school students who are chronically absent. A school-based program, Youth Development Network helps students improve attendance by working with them and with their families around goal setting, problem solving and mentoring.

Inclusion Partners Program

Builds awareness and empathy among Boston high school students toward people with disabilities. Students participate in education sessions on disability, and then gain hands-on experience mentoring a child with special health needs or interning at an organization that advocates for children with special health care needs.

Neighborhood Trauma Teams NTT

Serves five Boston neighborhoods most affected by community violence. Community based teams provide

support for families directly affected by violence, keep residents informed and engaged in the immediate period after an act of violence, and through community health centers, offer ongoing behavioral health care to residents of all ages.

Violence Intervention & Prevention (VIP)

Engages residents in actions to prevent violence in the communities where they live. The initiative was designed to address violence in five of Boston's high-need neighborhoods.

Defending Childhood Initiative

Seeks to decrease the behavioral health and social impacts of violence on children and teens in Boston. Programming includes training for early childhood, youth development, and other service providers on the signs, symptoms, and appropriate responses to trauma in children and on the health care services available for children who have witnessed violence.

Family Justice Center

Brings together staff of 13 organizations that serve survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse to together provide clients with case management, advocacy and trauma-informed support.

HealthCREW

Prepares young men of color between the ages of 18 and 25 to provide health education to their peers in the community as the young men pursue their own health career goals.

COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES

Chronic Disease Prevention & Management

Promotes early detection, prevention, and disease management to reduce cancer, hypertension and diabetes incidence and deaths in the City of Boston. The program reaches residents through outreach, health education, and referrals for screening and programs.

Healthy Eating & Active Living

Promotes and supports healthy lifestyles for all Boston residents through environmental, policy, and systems changes that favor and support

healthier choices, increased public awareness about the benefits of and resources for healthier eating and regular physical activity, and education and direct services/support programs for high-risk populations.

Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund

Implements evidence-based approaches to reducing pediatric asthma, hypertension and older adult falls by focusing on extending care and services beyond the hospital and into the community. The program strengthens connections between health care providers, community organizations and public health agencies.

Oral Health

Strives to improve the oral health of Boston residents by helping to eliminate health disparities and inequities. Oral Health program staff work to ensure access to oral health care and prevention resources for all residents.

South End Fitness Center

Provides access to a variety of fitness options including weight training and cardiovascular equipment, a basketball court, a swimming pool, an exercise studio, group fitness classes, and personal training. Space in the exercise facility is also available for community programming.

Mayor's Health Line (800) 847-0410

Connects Bostonians to health care, social services, and affordable health coverage. The Mayor's Health Line is a free, confidential, multilingual information and referral service.

The Biological Safety Program

Regulates and licenses biological laboratories in the City of Boston through registration, permits, inspections, and surveillance.

Environmental Hazards

Responds to a wide range of complaints from the public regarding environmental health hazards. These can include hazards such as asbestos, indoor air pollution, chemical spills and leaks, hazardous waste dumping, and environmental emergencies.

Environmental Permitting

Regulates and permits asbestos removal projects, solid waste and recycling businesses, private water wells, tanning salons, body art (tattoo and piercing) establishments and practitioners, nail salons, marijuana dispensaries, and marijuana dispensary agents in Boston.

Safe Shops Program

Provides outreach, education, and technical assistance to small businesses in Boston on methods to reduce and prevent worker and customer exposure to harmful chemicals and conserve natural resources. The program's Green & Clean Program recognizes those businesses making the greatest effort to protect their workers, clients, and the environment.

Lead Poisoning Prevention

Works to prevent childhood lead poisoning. The Lead Program provides case management and medical follow-up services, home inspections, and monitoring of lead hazard abatement. The program also offers training for property owners and landlords in moderate risk deleading.

Asthma Prevention & Control

Works with clinical and community partners to coordinate strong linkages, programs, policies and systems that improve asthma outcomes and advance asthma standards of care. Offers free asthma home visit services for Boston residents who qualify, providing effective asthma education and support for asthma prevention, asthma management, and healthy environments.

Healthy Homes

Works to reduce asthma and other health conditions by advancing policies that promote safe, healthy, affordable, and stable housing for residents living in rental multi-family housing, particularly residents living in public, affordable or Section 8 housing. Through partnerships with housing and inspection agencies, the program improves conditions in the home that adversely affect health and quality of life.

Injury Prevention

Partners with residents and policy makers to reduce the risk of unintentional injury and death across the life span through education, technology, and legislation. The program provides parents, caretakers, and providers with education, training and resources to prevent injuries in a range of settings.

Tobacco Prevention & Control

Enforces local ordinances that protect residents, workers, students and youth from the harmful effects of tobacco. The program regulates the sale, use and distribution of tobacco and nicotine products, including electronic cigarettes. This office enforces the workplace smoke-free laws and conducts compliance checks to ensure that businesses adhere to the minimum age requirement of 21 years on sale of all tobacco products.

HOMELESS SERVICES

Emergency Shelter

Offers guests a warm bed and meals, as well as access to a variety of services including medical and behavioral health care, substance use disorder counseling and referrals, case management, and emergency clothing. Emergency shelter is provided in two locations, operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Permanent Housing

Adults receive one-on-one case management, substance use counseling, and referrals for employment assistance and health care.

Job Training and Education

Offers multiple vocational rehabilitation and educational programs to clients to help them with the transition from shelter to permanent housing. Clients receive a range of services, from adult education to pre-employment training and paid hands-on job training. The Serving Ourselves Program recognizes an individual's needs and struggles and seeks to support clients in moving beyond shelter.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Communicable Disease

Control Division

Responsible for surveillance and control of communicable diseases dangerous to the public's health such as hepatitis, norovirus, meningitis, and measles. The Division also operates a syndromic surveillance system within Boston to provide real time situational awareness. In addition, Division staff provide community based services such as Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) for active tuberculosis cases and for untreated Chlamydia cases in adolescents and young adults.

Education and Community

Engagement Division

Provides education and outreach about infectious diseases so individuals can reduce their risk of illness. Strategies include social marketing campaigns, development and distribution of educational materials in multiple languages, direct training for health-care providers and community groups, and funding of community agencies that provide neighborhood based education.

Ryan White Services Division

Responsible for funding received from Part A of the Ryan White Care Act to provide services to people living with HIV in the Boston Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA).

HIV Dental Program

Using a combination of state and federal funds, this program supports dental services for people living with HIV.

Tuberculosis Clinic

Provides diagnostic and treatment services for people with tuberculosis with no out of pocket costs to the individual. The Tuberculosis Clinic is the largest provider of tuberculosis services in New England.

RECOVERY SERVICES

Community Prevention Services

Partners with neighborhood-level and citywide organizations to increase knowledge and awareness of substance use, address environmental barriers to risk reduction and treatment, and build long-term capacity for Boston communities to address substance use.

AHOPE Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention

Uses evidence based strategies, support, and training to engage residents who use substances. AHOPE provides safe supplies, safe injection education, abscess care, referrals to medical and behavioral health treatment, and overdose prevention education.

PAATHS Access to Care Center

A walk-in substance use triage and assessment service that provides referrals to treatment services offered by the Recovery Services Bureau and programs across the state, including detoxification, residential programs, and medication-assisted therapies. The PAATHS call center also provides telephone support, recovery coaching, and family support.

Residential Treatment Services

Provides programs including short-term treatment for homeless adults, long term residential programs for women and their children, and a long term residential program for residents reentering the community from incarceration.

Outpatient Treatment Services

Offers services including gender-specific, evidence-based, outpatient addiction treatment in individual and group settings, and a behavioral clinic focused solely on dually-diagnosed patients engaged in substance use disorder treatment.

The Office of Recovery Services

Created by Mayor Martin J. Walsh to forge partnerships that increase collaboration among City, State, and other key partners to educate stakeholders about substance abuse, reduce stigma, and develop outreach strategies to engage Boston residents.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Field & Dispatch Operations are responsible for delivering the 9-1-1 emergency medical response to the residents and visitors of Boston. Boston EMS utilizes a two-tier response model, offering Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support. The Research, Training, and Quality Improvement Division conducts critical research

designed to introduce new treatment protocols and technologies reinforcing the department's efforts to deliver excellent pre-hospital care.

Public Health Service Centers Administrative Services

All programs of the Commission are served through a centralized administrative service department, which provides human resources, labor relations, fiscal services, operations and property management, legal counsel, communications, grants, security, and information technology services.

Consortium for Professional Development

Educates, trains, and prepares Boston's public, private, and not-for-profit public health workforce with comprehensive and culturally competent curricula in prevention and emergency preparedness. The consortium includes the DeValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness and the Community Health Education Center.

The Office of Health Equity

Provides guidance and leadership in BPHC's efforts to eliminate racial health inequities in Boston. The Office does this through a range of activities including community engagement, professional development for staff, health planning and quality improvement. BPHC is committed to holding our agency accountable for reducing racial and ethnic health disparities and the Office is responsible for monitoring progress toward these goals.

The Office of Accreditation and Quality Improvement, Policy & Planning

Leads BPHC national public health accreditation efforts and works to promote an organization culture of quality improvement, ongoing learning and performance management through training, coaching and consultation.

Public Health Preparedness Office

Oversees all areas of biological, chemical and nuclear preparedness for BPHC by developing plans, training front line workers and educating the public.

Research & Evaluation Office

Oversees the analysis and evaluation of health data for Boston residents and responds to data requests from the public.