

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

2017 - 2022 Strategic Plan

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) was established by the Washington State Constitution in 1889 to serve the health and safety of the people of Washington.

The Board monitors the public's health and serves as a public forum to inform health policy in Washington state. The Board provides recommendations to improve health to the Legislature and Governor, and regulates many health activities.

We engage in policy and rule development, conduct health impact reviews, and promote partnerships that advance the public's health and improve health equity.

Vision Statement

Our vision is that the health, safety, and wellbeing of all people in Washington will improve.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide statewide leadership in developing and promoting policies that prevent disease and improve and protect the public's health for all people in Washington. This mission is achieved by:

- Reviewing and monitoring the health status of all people in Washington;
- Initiating and supporting policy development, analyzing policy proposals, providing guidance, and developing rules;
- Promoting system partnerships; and
- Fostering public participation in shaping the health system.

Strategic Plan Goals

- Strengthen the Public Health System
- Promote prevention to improve health and wellness
- Promote Health Equity
- Promote Healthy and Safe Environments

Statutory Authority

The State Constitution, Article XX, Section 1 states: "There shall be established by law a State Board of Health and a Bureau of Vital Statistics in connection therewith, with such powers as the legislature may direct." The Board's primary authorizing statute is chapter 43.20 RCW. Section 020 describes the composition of the Board, while section 050 describes most of its powers and duties.

This latter section contains the broad, general authorities that underlie most traditional public health activities in this state, such as clean drinking water standards, communicable disease control and reporting, food safety, and regulation of onsite septic systems.

In addition, some three dozen statutory sections outside of chapter 43.20 RCW grant the Board a variety of authorities. The Board also provides staff to the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. The statutory sections granting the Board its operating authorities are listed in [Appendix A](#)

Organizational Structure

Chapter 43.20 RCW describes Board membership and staffing, and describes many of its duties. Our ten members include:

- The Secretary of Health or his designee,
- Four individuals experienced in health and sanitation, one of whom is a health official from a federally recognized tribe,
- An elected county official who serves on a local board of health,
- An elected city official who serves on a local board of health,
- A local health officer, and
- Two consumer representatives.

The Board employs an executive director and a confidential secretary. The Department of Health provides necessary technical staff support to the Board. These employees include four policy staff and a communications professional. The staff organizational chart and the Board's fiscal information is located in [Appendix B](#)

GOAL 1: STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

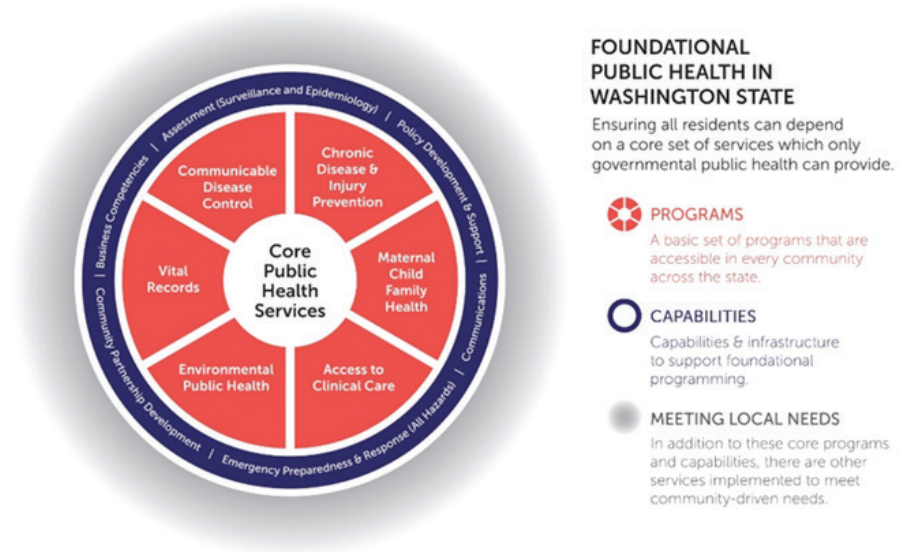
Objective 1: Contribute to Public Health's Capacity to Control Disease and Respond to Public Health Emergencies

- **Activity:** Hold a briefing following emergency event exercises to identify potential gaps in public health response.
- **Activity:** Assure Notifiable Conditions rules are up to date.
- **Activity:** Monitor the impact of multi-drug resistant infections to understand the state's response capacity.
- **Activity:** Develop a protocol for emergency rulemaking to prevent and control the spread of infectious disease during emerging outbreaks and epidemics. (*Underway*)

Objective 2: Maintain and Strengthen the Organizational Capacity of the Public Health Network

- **Activity:** Work in partnership with local health to advance public health and promote stronger state/ local coordination by participating in WSALPHO membership meetings.
- **Activity:** Provide a public forum to promote local health successes and identify challenges and opportunities within the public health system (e.g. oral health strategy, local health's drinking water/ on-site efforts, CAFOs). *This activity will include:*
 - *Inviting local health officials and local Boards of Health to join Board of Health meetings.*
 - *Holding Board of Health meetings in locations outside of Thurston County.*
 - *Maintaining a website that provides information about local Boards of Health.*

- **Activity:** Endorse strategies to implement and fully fund Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) *This activity will include:*
 - *Participating in FPHS workgroups.*
 - *Monitoring FPHS efforts through regular updates to the Board.*
 - *Participate in active communications such as webinars and social media to promote awareness of FPHS to engage local communities.*
- **Activity:** Increase awareness of the Board's role and authority and communicate information regarding how to engage the Board to other agencies, organizations, and community groups.



GOAL 2: PROMOTE PREVENTION TO IMPROVE HEALTH & WELLNESS

Objective 1: Increase the Availability, Accessibility, and Utilization of Preventative Health Services

- **Activity:** Work with the Department of Health to engage stakeholders to identify possible inconsistencies in the immunizations rules, and strategies to reduce the administrative burden to schools while decreasing the number of children who are out of compliance with school immunization requirements. *(Underway)*
- **Activity:** Convene an advisory committee to review the Board's 2006 immunization criteria and make recommendations to the Board on potential revisions. *(Underway)*
- **Activity:** Engage in conversations with partners (e.g. DOH, LHJs) to identify ways to improve the public health system's response to disease outbreaks.
- **Activity:** Work with partners to promote fluoridation of drinking water and its oral health benefits.
- **Activity:** Hold briefings on, and endorse when appropriate, partner activities supporting the Oral Health Initiative. *(Ongoing)*
- **Activity:** Assure child health rules are current (Newborn Screening, Vision Screening, Immunization rules, etc.) *(Ongoing)*

Objective 2: Promote a Preventative Approach to Improve Behavioral Health and Wellness

- **Activity:** Support and promote statewide efforts and partnerships (such as the State Prevention Advisory Group) that work to improve behavioral health and wellness and expand capacity to address behavioral health infrastructure.
- **Activity:** Hold briefings on pertinent behavioral health and wellness topics (e.g. Adverse Childhood Experiences, mitigation of toxic stresses, Accountable Communities of Health activities, Healthier WA initiative, etc.) and identify how the Board's work or authority intersects with each topic.

Objective 3: Encourage Healthy Behaviors

- **Activity:** Improve nutrition and increase physical activity/ access to nutritious foods by participating in Washington's Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives Project to improve the nutrition status of low income households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. *(Underway)*
- **Activity:** Support efforts to reduce youth access to tobacco and vaping by encouraging the state to increase the age for purchasing tobacco from 18 to 21.
- **Activity:** Identify and pursue opportunities to highlight the adverse health impacts of vaping.
- **Activity:** Monitor the use of vaping products among youth and the emerging evidence regarding health impacts.
- **Activity:** Hold a briefing on opioid abuse and unintentional overdose deaths in Washington, and statewide efforts to address this issue.
- **Activity:** Hold a briefing on youth marijuana use.
- **Activity:** Explore authorities related to and feasibility of rulemaking to increase the utilization of immunization registries.



GOAL 3: PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY

Objective 1: Support Statewide Initiatives to Reduce Health Disparities

- **Activity:** Support the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities (Ongoing). This activity will include:
 - Annual updates to the Board regarding Council recommendations.
 - Incorporate Council recommendations in the Board's State Health Report.
- **Activity:** Complete Health Impact Reviews for the Governor and Legislature. (Ongoing)
- **Activity:** Support partners work to promote health equity through activities such as writing letters, resolutions, sharing communications, etc.

Objective 2: Integrate Health Equity Awareness into Board Activities

- **Activity:** Include disparities data and other equity considerations in Board briefings and reports.
- **Activity:** Require cultural humility training for Board staff (and members when resources allow)
- **Activity:** Assure government to government (tribal relations) training for Board staff (and members when resources allow).
- **Activity:** Establish and integrate processes for applying an equity lens to Board policy development.
- **Activity:** Develop a plan to implement the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS).
- **Activity:** Explore opportunities to use an equity lens in Board communications



GOAL 4: PROMOTE HEALTHY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Objective 1: Promote Environmental Health in Urban, Suburban, Rural, and Recreational Settings

- **Activity:** Monitor on-site sewage systems operations and improvements. *This activity will include:*
 - Review and update rule as needed.
 - Support efforts to fully fund local implementation of local on-site sewage systems plan
- **Activity:** Hold a briefing on zoonotic diseases in Washington, including emerging diseases.
- **Activity:** Promote safe and reliable drinking water systems.
- **Activity:** Convene state agencies and partners to support efforts to reduce exposure to environmental toxics and toxins and address environmental health.

Objective 2: Promote School Environments That Protect Health

- **Activity:** Work with state and local partners to increase the understanding and identification of potential public health risks and hazards in schools and appropriate techniques and procedures for addressing these risks.
- **Activity:** Assess and improve school environmental health and safety rules.
- **Activity:** Help create a coalition of support for safe and healthy schools.
- **Activity:** Support DOH in engaging local health jurisdictions, OSPI, and school districts and partners to cooperatively strengthen efforts to improve Environmental Health and safety in schools.
- **Activity:** Support and advance efforts to improve school safety (e.g. emergency preparedness and response).

Objective 3: Monitor the Health Effects of Climate Change

- **Activity:** Adjust rules for effects on water systems, sewage systems, food supply, air quality and zoonotic effects.
- **Activity:** Monitor health effects (need for cooling, stress, health disparities) associated with climate change.



APPENDIX A

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POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES	RCW
Composition of SBOH	43.20.030
Serve as public forum	43.20.050(1)
Adopt rules for accessing existing databases for health-related research	43.20.050(2)(g)
Prepare biennial health report to Governor each even-numbered year	43.20.100
All local boards of health, health officials, officers of state institutions, police officers, and all other state and local government employees shall enforce SBOH rules or be subject to a fine of not less than fifty dollars on first conviction and not less than one hundred dollars on second conviction	43.20.050(5)
CHILDREN'S HEALTH	RCW
Immunizations	
Adopt rules on proof of immunizations for school and day care attendance	28A.210.080
Prescribe form of written records for in schools and daycares for immunizations	28A.210.100
Adopt rules that establish requirements for "full immunization"	28A.210.140
Prenatal and Newborn Testing for Congenital Disorders	
Adopt rules for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders, which group disability insurance for childbirth must cover when medically necessary	48.21.244
Specify screening tests for newborn infants	70.83.020
Specify what positive tests for newborns must be reported to Department of Health	70.83.030
Adopt rules for testing newborns for congenital disorders	70.83.050
Visual And Auditory Screening	
Adopt rules for auditory and visual screening in schools	28A.210.020
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES	RCW
General Authority	
Adopt rules for prevention and control of infectious and noninfectious diseases	43.20.050(2)(f)
Adopt rules for isolation and quarantine	43.20.050(2)(e)
Adopt rules to restrict persons with contagious diseases on school premises	28A.210.010
Disease Reporting	
Specify by rule the diseases physicians must report to the local health officer	70.05.090
Specify by rule the contagious diseases local health officials or physicians must report to State Board of Health	70.05.110
Human Remains	
Adopt rules for receipt and conveyance of human remains	43.20.050(2)(f)
May adopt rule requiring embalming of deceased persons	18.39.215

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2 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Sexually Transmitted Diseases	
Adopt rules for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs): investigation, diagnosis, detention, treatment, counseling, confidentiality, reporting human disease	Ch. 70.24
Tuberculosis	
Adopt rules for reporting and due process standards for testing, treating and detaining infected individuals (see local health officials, 70.28.035)	70.28.032
VITAL STATISTICS	RCW
Adopt rules specifying information required on birth certificates	70.58.055
Determine evidence required for legitimation of paternity for new birth certificate	70.58.095
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	RCW
General Authority	
Adopt rules to prevent health hazards and nuisances related to disposal of human and animal excreta and animal remains	43.20.050(2)(c)
Adopt rules for environmental conditions in public facilities including food service establishments, schools, recreational facilities, and transient accommodations	43.20.050(2)(d)
Contaminated Properties	
Adopt rules for processes to force decontamination of properties used for illegal drug manufacturing	64.44.010 and 64.44.070(1)
Food Service	
Consider most current FDA Food Code when adopting rules	43.20.145
Adopt rules for food and beverage service worker permit requirements	69.06.010
Set uniform statewide food handler permit fee	69.06.020
Adult family home caregiver training must meet SBOH standards for food workers	70.128.250
Molluscan Shellfish	
Adopt rules for sanitation of growing areas and operations, considering most current version of national shellfish sanitation program model ordinance	69.30.030
On-Site Sewage Systems	
Adopt rules for design, construction, operation, and maintenance of systems with design flows of less than 3,500 gallons per day	43.20.050(3)
Approve training programs for pumping and inspecting on-site sewage systems	35.67.020, 35.92.020, 36.94.020, 57.08.005
Adopt rules for repair of existing failing systems adjacent to marine waters	90.48.264
Outdoor Music Festivals	
Adopt rules for siting, development, and sanitation of outdoor music festivals	70.108.040
Pesticide Poisoning	
Adopt rules for reporting by physicians and health care providers to Department of Health of pesticide poisonings	70.104.055

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APPENDIX A (CONT'D)

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3 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Public Drinking Water Systems	
Adopt rules for Group A public water systems	43.20.050(2)(a)
Adopt rules for Group B public water systems	43.20.050(2)(b)
Department of Health and local health agencies shall implement SBOH drinking water rules	70.119A.060
Transient Accommodations	
Adopt rules regarding health, safety and sanitation in transient accommodations	70.62.240
Water recreation	
Adopt rules on safety, sanitation, and water quality for water recreation facilities	70.90.120
Zoonotic Diseases	
Adopt rules on importation and possession of pet animals to control diseases in humans	16.70.040
Adopt rules to prevent and control infectious diseases, including vector borne illnesses	43.20.050(2)(f)
HEALTH EQUITY	
Convene and staff Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities	43.20.275
Develop health impact reviews in collaboration with Council on Health Disparities	43.20.285
CONSULTATION AND INTEGRATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Review and comment on applications from health professionals seeking regulation	18.120.040
May delegate rule making authority to Secretary of Health	43.20.050(4)
May advise Secretary of Health on health policy	43.20.050(6)
Review need for advisory committees under respective jurisdictions biennially	43.70.040(2)
Promote and assess health care along with Secretary of Health and receive list of priority health study issues for consideration of inclusion in state health report	43.70.050
Receive reports from Secretary of Health and take action as determined necessary	43.70.130
Consult on public health services improvement plan	43.70.520
Adopt such rules necessary to entitle state to participate in federal funding, unless prohibited by law	70.01.010
Advise on medical education programs regarding pesticide poisoning	70.104.057
Receive from Secretary of Health emergency medical services and trauma care system plan for consideration during preparation of state biennial health report	70.168.015
CONSULTATION AND INTEGRATION WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES	
Consult with Director of Licensing on training requirements for cosmetologists, barbers and manicurists	18.16.100
Consult with Director of Licensing on salon and barber shop sanitation requirements	18.16.175
Consult with Secretary of Department of Social and Health Services on nursing home rules	18.51.070

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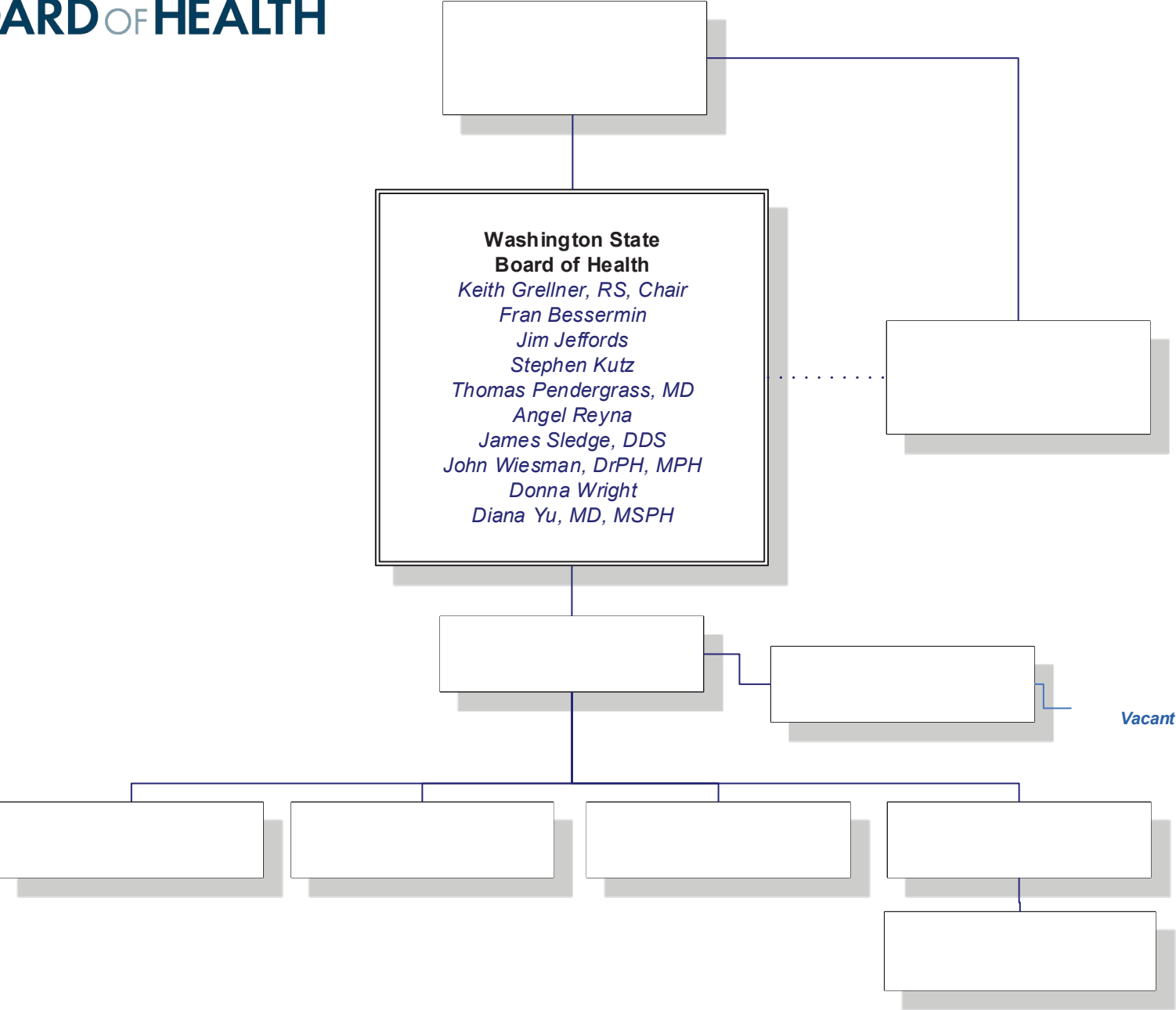
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4 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Consult with Superintendent of Public Instruction about exclusion from school entry for students lacking required immunizations	28A.210.120 and 28A.210.160
Integrate policies with Director of Ecology	43.21A.140 and 43.70.310
Consult with Department of Corrections about defining "possible risk" for HIV infection at state correctional facilities	70.24.370
INTEGRATION WITH LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS	
May remove local health official for failure to enforce SBOH rules	70.05.120
Local officials must apply SBOH health and sanitation standards to mobile home parks -- \$100 fine to park owner	59.20.190
Establish guidelines for health district funds	70.46.080
Develop health services standards for any county that withdraws from a health district	70.46.090
Remove local health officer as registrar of vital statistics for neglect of duties	70.58.020

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APPENDIX B



APPENDIX B (CONT'D)



Washington State Board of Health December 2016

The Washington State Board of Health is established in the State Constitution and serves our state by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. The Board provides leadership through rulemaking and policy development, and by offering a public forum that enables citizens to help shape state health policy.

Services

Develop statewide policy recommendations and explore ways to improve the public's health. In 2016, the Board issued its [2016 State Health Report](#). This report outlines highlights strategic directions that deserve the attention of the Governor, Legislature and senior management across state agencies. The 2016 report includes recommendations that: support state funding for Foundational Public Health Services; promote health equity in Washington state; and advance school health.

Engage the public through public meetings, and outreach to local boards of health and advisory groups. The Board holds public forums and briefings on newborn screening, youth tobacco use, and the health status of Washington residents.

Staff and support the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. The Council is charged with creating recommendations for eliminating health disparities by race, ethnicity and gender. The Council's [June 2016 report](#) includes a recommendation for the Governor to create policy to promote equity in state government. The Council's current focus is on assisting state agencies to intentionally consider equity impacts of program, policy, and budget decisions.

Conduct health impact reviews, upon the request of legislators or the Governor. A health impact review provides an objective analysis of how a proposed legislative or budgetary change may impact health and health disparities in Washington.

Develop public health and safety rules. The Board engages the regulated community, the public, and other partners to examine best practices and review scientific literature for many health rules including:

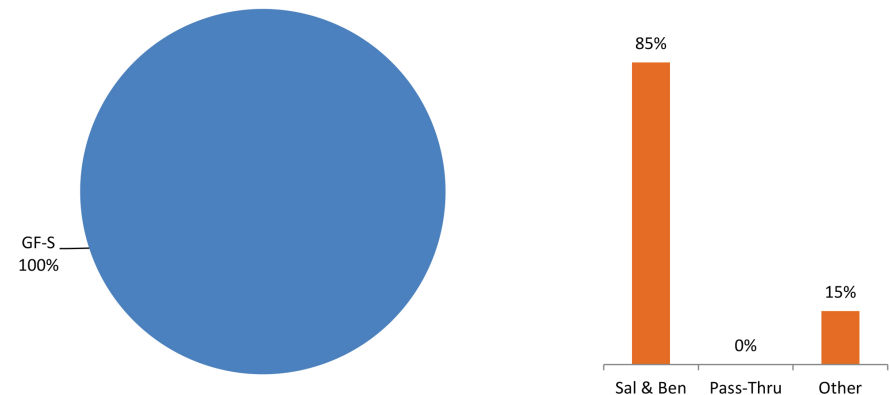
- Disease reporting
- Vital Statistics
- Drinking water systems
- Septic tanks/ onsite sewage disposal
- HIV testing and partner notification
- Immunizations
- Food service
- School environmental health
- Hotels and Motels
- Newborn screening

Stakeholders:

- Local health jurisdictions and governments
- State agencies including: Department of Health, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the departments of Ecology, Agriculture, Corrections, Fish and Wildlife, Social and Health Services, Health Care Authority, and Early Learning
- Tribes and the American Indian Health Commission
- Commissions on African American, Asian Pacific American, and Hispanic Affairs
- Regulated entities including: hotels and motels, health care facilities and providers, pool operators, onsite systems designers, drinking water system operators, grocers, restaurant owners, funeral home directors, public school districts, private schools, water purveyors, and shellfish growers

2015-17 Biennium

Washington State Board of Health Fiscal Information



Total	1,592,050	0	0	0	1,592,050	1,328,670	0	263,380

Recent Funding History

2009-11 biennium:

- One-time GF-S reduction of \$119,000 per fiscal year for health impact reviews

2011-13 biennium:

- One-time GF-S reduction of \$119,000 per fiscal year for health impact reviews
- In the December 2011 Early Action budget, SBOH was permanently reduced by \$68,000 GF-S per fiscal year.

2013-15 biennium:

- GF-S funding of \$119,000 per fiscal year was restored for health impact reviews

2007-2015: Awarded multi-year federal grant for health disparities.

August 2015: Federal grant for health disparities ended.



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