Division Overview
Disease Control and Health Statistics serves as a community health partner by using innovative methods to provide quality information, vital records, and assessment services. The division systematically collects and analyzes data to identify the health status of populations. It works with state and local partners to take public health actions, develop public health policy, and conduct assessment activities to improve the health of people in Washington.

Communicable Disease Epidemiology
The Communicable Disease Epidemiology office works to protect the public from communicable diseases including zoonotic, foodborne, and vaccine preventable diseases, tuberculosis and respiratory illness through surveillance, investigation and response. It works as a Center of Excellence with Washington’s local health jurisdictions to enhance early detection and response to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies. The Rapid Health Information Network looks for events and trends from electronic health records reported by emergency rooms, urgent cares, in-patient and ambulatory clinics. The Healthcare Associated Infections program reports infection rates for hospitals in Washington, and works with hospitals to improve infection control and reduce infections. The Refugee Health Program works to improve health in refugee populations by identifying, controlling and preventing disease and providing reliable public health information.

Infectious Disease
Infectious Disease works to prevent and control of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV adult viral hepatitis, and improve the health of people who use drugs. The office works closely with the health care delivery system and community partners to provide services. It is responsible for the HIV Client Services Early Intervention Program, which pays for HIV treatment and limited medical care for low-income, eligible HIV-positive individuals. Additionally, the office tracks and assesses disease and health conditions by collecting, analyzing, and evaluating data. These data are shared with public health partners and stakeholders and are used to prioritize resources to areas with the highest disease burden.

Center for Health Statistics
The Center for Health Statistics (CHS) collects and distributes timely, accurate and complete data on the health of Washingtonians that is used by public health, government agencies, community partners, and researchers to monitor health, identify emerging issues, plan improvement initiatives, and evaluate results. These data include vital events (birth, death, fetal death, marriage and divorce), induced terminations of pregnancy (ITOP), data on hospital patients collected through the Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System (CHARS), health behavior data collected through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), and data on use of Washington’s Death with Dignity Act (DWDA). The Center operates Washington’s statewide vital records program and supports the issuance of these records, both at the state and county level, used for proving identity, age, and relationships to others.

Public Health Laboratories
The Public Health Laboratories (PHL) provide a wide range of diagnostic and analytical services for the assessment and surveillance of infectious, communicable, genetic, and chronic diseases and environmental health concerns. PHL assists healthcare providers and public health programs at local, state and national levels by identifying organisms during routine disease monitoring as well as during disease outbreaks. It is the only lab in the state that analyzes clinical samples in statewide outbreaks of human illness, analyzes biotoxins and bacteria for shellfish contamination, and identifies agents suspected in terrorist events. The Newborn Screening Program conducts screening and follow-up management for genetic disorders for infants born in Washington.

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Public Health—Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Washington
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