



PURPOSE

BFHN protects and promotes the health of the Commonwealth's pregnant people, mothers, infants, children, youth, and their families. With a vision of optimal health for all families, BFHN is committed to addressing institutional and structural racism to reduce health disparities. The Bureau prioritizes family engagement to address racial inequities, develop successful programs, and implement effective care. BFHN's work includes:

- Administering the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program
- Providing the Early Intervention (EI) program, which serves infants and toddlers who have or are at risk for a developmental delay
- Supporting services for children and youth with special health needs
- Promoting healthy pregnancy, home visiting, and early childhood mental health
- Conducting surveillance and research to inform maternal and child health programming and policies

PRIORITIES



1. Eliminate maternal and child health disparities through initiatives such as increasing equitable access to doula care and strengthening the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee.



2. Support a resilient and diverse maternal and child health workforce by ensuring competitive wages, promoting professional development, and creating a sustainable career pipeline.



3. Address behavioral health needs for families, including increasing access to integrated primary care for young children.



4. Optimize quality of life for children and youth with special health needs, including addressing the lack of respite care and ensuring full school participation.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Keep children, women, and their families healthy

- Provide critical health services to **860,000 women, infants, and children** as the state Title V agency
- Serve **121,000 WIC participants** every month at **120** locations
- Screen **99.3% of babies** for hearing loss

Give children a healthy start and support families in vulnerable situations

- Serve **44,000 children** under the age of three with a developmental delay or risk of delay
- Provide home visiting services to more than **4,000 families**, including new parents, those in emergency shelters, and those in recovery from substance use
- Meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of **700 children and youth with life-limiting conditions** via the Pediatric Palliative Care Network

Translate data to action to inform maternal and child health policies and programs

- Engage with **2,500 new mothers** each year through the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) to understand their prenatal and postpartum experiences and inform maternal health care
- Conduct studies and surveillance through the Center of Birth Defects Research and Prevention, **1 of 6 in the nation**, with initiatives addressing stillbirth, rare congenital conditions, neonatal abstinence syndrome, and COVID-19 surveillance among pregnant women

Questions? Contact Ryan McGeown-Conran (ryan.c.mcgeown-conron@mass.gov) or Hannah Dudley-Youngs (hannah.dudley-youngs@mass.gov).

Learn more: mass.gov/bfhn