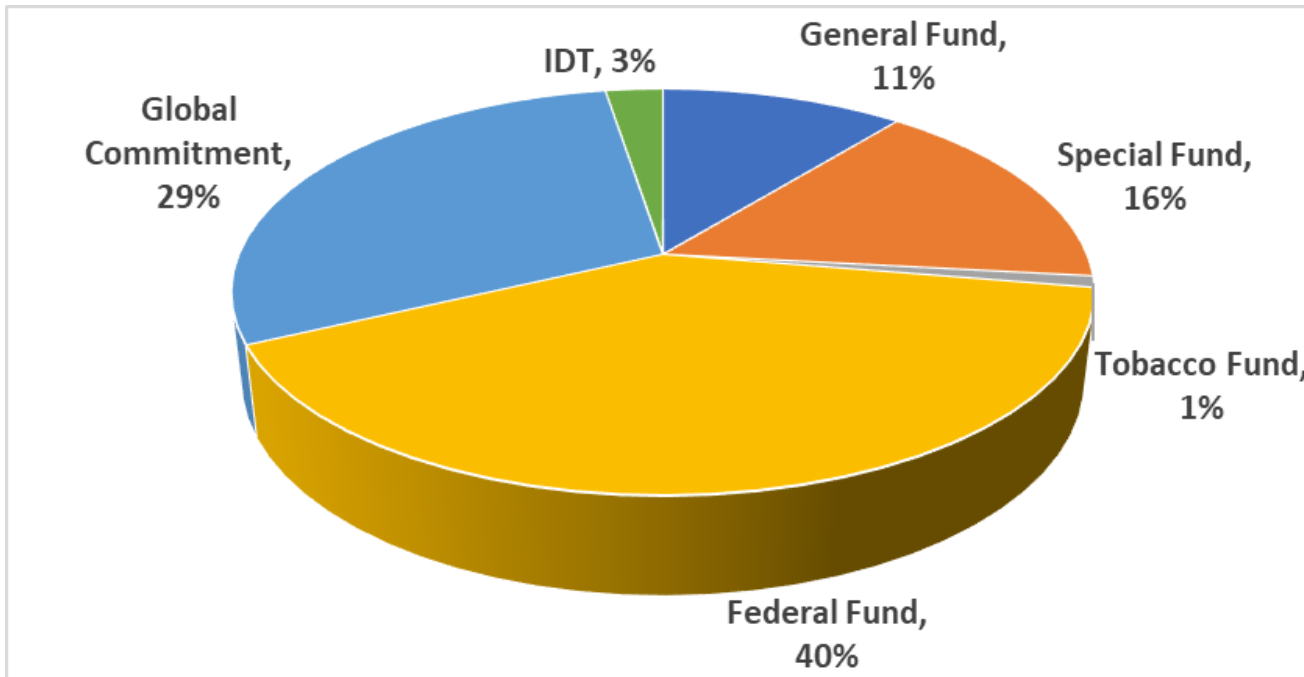




The Role Federal Agencies Play in Enabling the Work of VDH, with Implications of Recent Events

February 21, 2025

Agency of Human Services – Vermont Department of Health Fiscal Year 2026 Governor’s Recommended Budget



General Fund	\$ 24,575,271
Special Fund	\$ 35,819,110
Tobacco Fund	\$ 2,038,835
Federal Fund	\$ 91,238,223
Global Commitment	\$ 66,530,577
IDT	\$ 5,810,155
Total	\$ 226,012,171.00

Health Department Organizational Structure

Health
Department



Environment
al Health

Family &
Child Health

Laboratory
Sciences &
Infectious
Diseases

Substance
Use
Programs

Local Health

Health
Promotion
& Disease
Prevention

Emergency
Preparednes
s Response
& Injury
Prevention

Health
Statistics &
Informatics



Environmental Health

Prevent illness or disease that may be caused by environmental threats, both natural and human-made, and to reduce or eliminate harmful environmental exposures.

- Lead
- Cyanobacteria
- Food and Water Safety
- Climate and Health
- PFAS in drinking water
- PCBs in school air



Learn more about this division, below:

- Visit the [webpage](#)
- [Lead Poisoning Prevention Report on 2023 Program Outcomes and Activities](#)

Family and Child Health

Programming across the life course: before, during and after pregnancy, and throughout infancy, early childhood and the school years.

- Pregnancy and Breastfeeding
- School Health
- Adolescent Health
- Home visiting programs
- WIC



Learn more about this division, below:

- Visit the [webpage](#)

Laboratory Sciences and Infectious Disease

Track, prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases.

- Infectious Disease – Covid, Flu, HIV
- Food and Water-borne Disease
- Vector-borne Disease
- Vaccinations
- Public Health Lab



Learn more about this division, below:

- Visit the [webpage](#)

Substance Use Programs

Oversees a network of prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services to prevent, reduce and eliminate the health impacts of alcohol and other drug use.

- Community Prevention Coalitions
- Improving Equitable Access to Services
- Prescription Opioid Awareness
- End Addiction Stigma



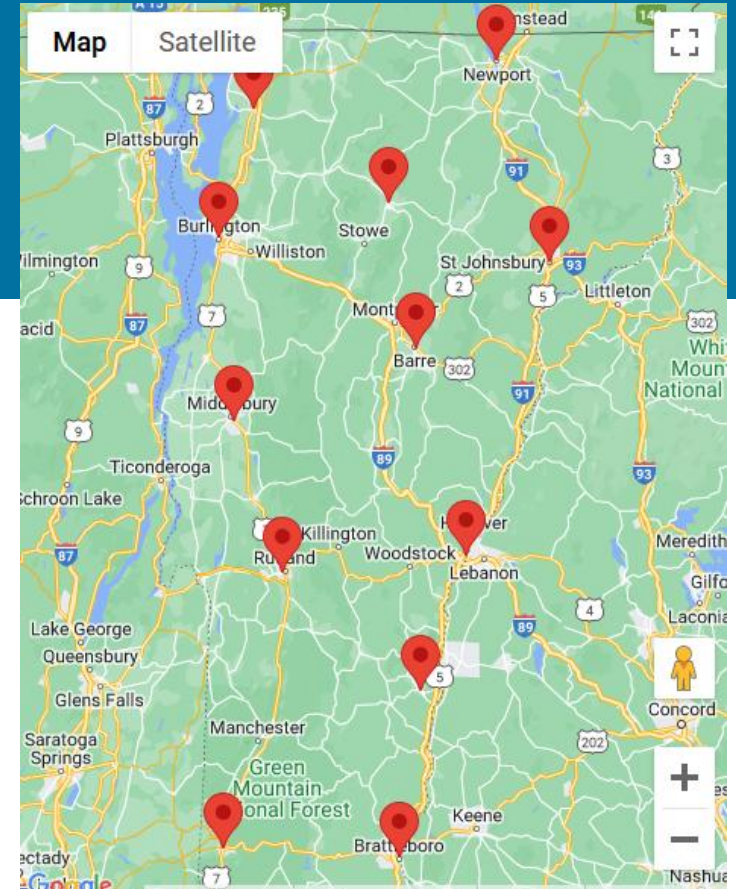
Learn more about this division, below:

- Visit the [webpage](#)

Local Health

12 District Offices around the state providing the breadth of public health services direct to Vermonters.

- WIC Clinics
- Vaccination Clinics
- Partnerships and Community Support



Learn more about this division, below:

- Visit the [webpage](#)

Health Promotion & Disease Prevention

Promote healthy lifestyles, prevent chronic diseases and support management of chronic conditions.

- Tobacco Control
- Oral Health
- Diabetes Self-Management
- Healthy Aging



Learn more about this division, below:

- Visit the [webpage](#)

Emergency Preparedness & Injury Prevention

Prepare for and respond to emergencies that threaten the health and safety of Vermonters and work to prevent injuries.

- State EMS
- Pandemic and Disaster Response
- Suicide Prevention



Learn more about this division, below:

- Visit the [webpage](#)

Health Statistics and Informatics

Track health data and trends to assess the health of Vermonters.

- Vital Records
- Population Health Surveys and Data
- Registries



Learn more about this division, below:

- Visit the [webpage](#)

World Health Organization

- Dedicated to the well-being of all people and guided by science, the World Health Organization leads and champions global efforts to give everyone, everywhere an equal chance to live a healthy life.
- WHO leads global efforts to expand universal health coverage. We direct and coordinate the world's response to health emergencies. And we promote healthier lives – from pregnancy care through old age.... using science-based policies and programs.

Implications of WHO Withdrawal

- Decreased access to surveillance systems, early outbreak notification and early response
- Impact on access to genotype data sequencing = vaccine development, collaboration in clinical trials
- CDC trains local personnel – Ebola, polio, pandemic preparedness; but workers will be home for next year
- Health security of US and int'l partners, work on health inequities world-wide ->int'l security, economic stability
- WHO goes beyond ID – chronic disease
- Bottom line: The future is all about emerging infections and threats to health, and we will lack data and early warning systems

USAID (Agency for International Development)

- The United States Agency for International Development is an independent agency of the United States government responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance. the principal U.S. agency to extend assistance to countries recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty, and engaging in democratic reforms.
- Statute law places USAID under "the direct authority and policy guidance of the Secretary of State". It implements programs in global health, disaster relief, socioeconomic development, environmental protection, democratic governance and education.

Implications of Foreign Aid Freeze and Dismantling USAID

- Limited waiver for “life-saving” services – confusion
- Dismantling of USAID = disregards laws, harms national security, issue of Congressional oversight, impacts soft power, strengthens hand of authoritarian regimes
- Special case of PEPFAR and combatting AIDS

Health and Human Services (HHS)

- CDC
- FDA
- CMS
- SAMHSA
- NIH

Implications for Health Communication (verbal and written)

- Communication ban CDC with WHO
- Removal of webpages mentioning gender, vaccines, climate change...
- Withdrawal of research papers submitted
- Dismantling of PH survey instruments (YRBS) -> challenging to compare prior surveys and trends
- Information not flowing through usual channels – lack of technical guidance for clinicians and public – layers of approval needed
- CDC representatives cancelling conference participation, esp. immunization

Implications for Health Communication (verbal and written)

- CDC's MMWR
- Pathogens do not respect borders, need coordinated response
- Essential PH information needed now to respond to health threats:
 - Heavy flu season
 - Specter of H5N1
 - Measles outbreaks SW
 - Ebola outbreak in Uganda
 - New Mpox Clade 1 infections

Other Current Risks and Implications for CDC

- If ID is carved out of CDC, what about the rest of the portfolio?
 - Injury prevention, firearm safety, suicide prevention, health equity/gender affirming care, immunizations, EP, EH/climate change, PH block grants and infrastructure
- Perhaps less to worry about chronic disease prevention, tobacco control
- Laboratory response to infections and outbreaks, emergency preparedness

Other Risks Across HHS

- CMS: Changes to Medicaid program and impact on population health
 - Will CMMI exist – impact on healthcare reform
 - Firings already disrupting communications channels
- NIH: Travel ban, cancelled meetings, cancelled review panels
 - Issue of indirect costs (70+% -> 15%)
- FDA: Food safety and regulating food packaging, chemicals in food, role in outbreak response, infant formula

Impact of Current Firings

What do people do who work for FDA, CMMI, CDC, EIS...?

Agriculture and the egg industry at a time of widespread avian influenza

Past musings of RFK Jr.: “cleaning house”, “returning gold standard science” to them; “restructure, streamline, efficiencies”

Real World Concerns in our LSID Division

- Status of no cost extension of Covid funds
- CDC 5-year cooperative agreement
- Vaccine program issues: ACIP status, school entry requirements, VFC list
- Misinformation and disinformation campaigns
- Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity Grant status and ability to respond
- Laboratory Flexible Funding Model Grant and ability to respond/surveillance