

2024 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

We are grateful for the ongoing funding support from the legislature. We thank the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) and the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) for setting and monitoring public health legislative priorities.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Support funding to sustain and strengthen our behavioral health system and supportive services for youth

Sustainable funding is needed for services ranging from prevention to crisis-level care. The 2022 Kitsap Community Resources survey found that appointment wait times, cost, and finding a counselor were barriers to getting needed care.

HEALTHCARE



Support equitable access to affordable and quality healthcare delivery

Improving healthcare delivery, clinical care, and workforce is a longstanding Kitsap community priority. This includes maternal and infant health, primary care delivery, communicable disease containment, and insurance coverage. Increasing access and affordability of healthcare is vital for populations with the highest health disparities.

IMMUNIZATION



Support and ensure access to innovative immunization technologies

Vaccines help protect us from serious illness. Updating and broadening the definition of vaccine in the law is critical to reducing cost barriers for childhood vaccines and increasing access for our most vulnerable populations.

OPIOID RESPONSE



Support opioid response, prevention education, low barrier treatment programs, and resources for youth and first responders

The rate of opioid overdose deaths in Kitsap has increased since 2018. The number of responses to suspected opioid use has increased by 15-20% each quarter. Funding for services along the continuum of care, including public education, is essential.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Support environmental public health programs and assessments

Support safe and healthy schools and fund local health jurisdiction school inspection programs and local school facility upgrades. Support for a statewide septage capacity analysis will help local health jurisdictions identify challenges related to ensuring the proper, ongoing management of septic systems within their jurisdictions.

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAMS



Support modernizing Washington's child death review statute

Child fatality review teams are an important community tool in the development of child injury and death prevention strategies. Updating statute RCW 70.05.170 would strengthen language for local public health review processes, data access, and partner collaboration.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact Adrienne Hampton at adrienne.hampton@kitsappublichealth.org or 360-728-2235.