



April 23, 2013

Children and Public Health in the House Ways & Means Budget

Public health programs ensure that children and adults are able to live healthy lives, both by protecting the public from the threat of diseases and other hazards, and by promoting healthy behavior and providing direct health services to at-risk populations. While many Department of Public Health (DPH) programs indirectly affect the well-being of children in some way, MassBudget's [Children's Budget](#) identifies a subset of 20 programs that provide direct services to children and adolescents, either exclusively or alongside adults. This group of programs, which are described below, accounts for nearly half of FY 2013 funding for DPH in the state budget. In recent years, overall funding for public health programs has declined sharply, and the decline for children's programs has also been steep--from FY 2001 to FY 2013 spending on the children's programs dropped by 29.8 percent, after adjusting for inflation.

The House Ways and Means (HWM) budget proposal does not reverse this trend, proposing a slight decrease of \$1.2 million to children's programs, in contrast to the Governor, whose budget included a \$13.6 million increase in funding for these programs. Underlying this net change are changes to individual line items, including increases to some and decreases to others. For example, the HWM budget includes an increase for the main Substance Abuse Services line item (which chiefly funds adult services, although it also supports important services for children), but it cuts a smaller substance abuse program aimed at adolescents, and it also proposes to decrease funding for a range of other programs, from Early Intervention to Youth Violence Prevention Grants.

This budget brief compares the funding proposed by the HWM and Governor's budgets for children's public health programs to current FY 2013 spending, and provides some basic background on each spending item. More detailed descriptions of each of these programs and funding history is available on the MassBudget [Children's Budget](#) website. Click on individual line item numbers to go directly to a description for that line item.

Line Item	Program	FY 2013 Current	FY 2014 Governor	FY 2014 HWM	HWM-FY13	% change
Maternal & Child Health						
4513-1002	Women, Infants, and Children's (WIC)	12,366,617	12,748,383	12,748,384	381,767	3%
4513-1012	WIC Program (Manufacturer Rebates Retained Revenue)	26,355,000	27,060,000	27,060,000	705,000	3%
The WIC program is a nutrition program that serves low- and moderate-income pregnant women and small children. The HWM budget includes a slight increase for WIC programs that is identical to the increase included in the Governor's House 1 budget. [Note that both line items support the same activities; the second is a retained revenue account that allows DPH to spend revenue from rebates that manufacturers of infant formula pay as a condition of distributing their products through the program.]						

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Line Item	Program	FY 2013 Current	FY 2014 Governor	FY 2014 HWM	HWM-FY13	% change
4513-1020	Early Intervention	28,025,263	26,241,537	25,241,573	(2,783,689)	-10%
<p>The Early Intervention program serves infants and toddlers who exhibit cognitive, motor, language, and other developmental delays. The House budget cuts an additional \$1.0 million beyond the \$1.8 million decrease included in the Governor's H1 budget. The H1 decrease is related to the end of funding for a one-time rate increase included in the FY 2013 budget. The additional \$1.0 million decrease proposed in the HWM budget would likely lead to tightened eligibility standards (for instance, an increase in the level of cognitive development delay required for eligibility) that would reduce access to EI services for children.</p>						
4513-1023	Newborn Hearing Screening Program	70,193	74,036	74,061	3,868	6%
<p>This program ensures that newborn children in Massachusetts are screened for hearing problems and receive access to services for problems that are diagnosed. The HWM and Governor's budgets both propose a 6 percent increase in funding for this program.</p>						
Violence Treatment & Prevention						
4510-0810	Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) & Pediatric SANE Programs	3,160,740	3,165,124	3,160,740	0	0%
4513-1130	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment	5,514,340	5,518,935	5,518,990	4,650	0%
<p>The SANE programs provide medical care and expert forensic evidence collection, along with other support, for victims of sexual assault, and a separate line item funds programs to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault, and to provide services for victims. The HWM budget proposes level funding (a slight cut relative to inflation) for both these sets of programs, as did the Governor's budget.</p>						
4590-1506	Youth Violence Prevention Grants	1,501,178	1,501,178	1,000,000	(501,178)	-33%
4590-1507	Youth-At-Risk Matching Grants	2,700,000	2,700,000	1,800,000	(900,000)	-33%
4000-0005	Safe and Successful Youth Initiative	4,000,000	10,000,000	0	(4,000,000)	-100%
<p>Two DPH programs provide grants to communities and organizations for anti-violence activities and a third program, the Safe and Successful Youth program located within the Office of Health and Human Services, also funds grants aimed at preventing youth violence and promoting positive youth development. The HWM budget would reduce funding for the first two programs by a third and eliminate the Safe and Successful Youth program—a total cut of \$5.4 million for these programs. The Governor's House 1 budget plan included level funding for the two DPH programs, and proposed to more than double funding for the Safe and Successful Youth program.</p>						
Public Health Care Access						
4510-0025	SEAL Dental Program (Retained Revenue)	889,889	889,889	889,889	0	0%
4512-0500	Dental Health Services	1,403,897	1,414,980	1,415,040	11,143	1%
<p>The SEAL program provides dental sealants and other dental care to low income children, and a second budget line item funds dental health services for both children and adults, including people with developmental disabilities. The HWM budget proposes level funding for these programs, as did the Governor's budget. Funding for the second dental health services program has been cut in half since FY 2008.</p>						

Line Item	Program	FY 2013 Current	FY 2014 Governor	FY 2014 HWM	HWM-FY13	% change
4513-1000	Family Planning (Family Health Services)	4,666,697	4,671,059	4,466,697	(200,000)	-4%
4530-9000	Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Services	2,378,411	2,382,583	2,265,015	(113,396)	-5%
<p>These line items fund comprehensive family planning services for low-income women, men, and adolescents, as well as community-based programs designed to prevent teen pregnancy and encourage young people to develop healthy relationships. The HWM budget proposes small reductions for these programs, both of which have been cut substantially in recent years. The Governor’s House 1 budget plan proposed level funding for these programs.</p>						
4590-0250	School-Based Health Programs	11,714,634	11,623,167	11,397,967	(316,667)	-3%
<p>School-based health programs help support health services to children and adolescents in a school setting and help reduce barriers to care, especially for children in low-income communities. The HWM budget proposes a small cut in funding for these programs in FY 2014. Since FY2008, funding for the programs has declined about one-third.</p>						
4590-1503	Pediatric Palliative Care	821,051	825,183	825,184	4,133	1%
<p>This program provides supportive services to Massachusetts children with life-limiting illnesses and to their families. Both the HWM budget and the Governor’s budget propose level funding for this program.</p>						
Prevention & Wellness						
4512-0200	Bureau of Substance Abuse Services	77,029,178	83,858,094	83,696,690	6,667,513	9%
<p>The majority of funding from this line item supports treatment and services for adults, but funding also goes to a smaller set of crucial services for adolescents and young adults. The HWM budget follows the Governor’s H1 budget in proposing a \$6.7 million increase that is largely the result of a shift of funding from an off-budget trust to this line item.</p>						
4512-0203	Family Intervention Program	1,500,000	1,500,000		(1,500,000)	-100%
<p>The Family Intervention Program, which began in FY 2011, provides services for adolescents and young adults with substance abuse disorders, and supports for their families. The HWM budget eliminates funding for this program.</p>						
4516-0263	Blood Lead Testing Fee (Retained Revenue)	1,117,101	1,117,101	1,117,101	0	0%
<p>The state oversees the testing of pediatric blood specimens to identify children with elevated blood levels. This line item allows revenues (such as payments from insurers) derived from that program to be retained and used for the cost of the tests, and both the HWM budget and the Governor’s budget authorize the same level of retained revenue.</p>						
4580-1000	Universal Immunization Program	52,879,812	54,425,120	54,425,120	1,545,308	3%
<p>This program funds the purchase and distribution of vaccines to children (and some adults).</p>						
4590-0300	Tobacco Cessation & Prevention Programs	4,151,958	4,172,622	3,972,621	(179,337)	-4%
<p>These programs aim to prevent people from starting to smoke and help those who have started to quit. A number of activities funded by this line item are aimed at children and adolescents. Funding for these programs has been cut more than two-thirds since FY 2008.</p>						