





Senate Committee on Finance

RIDOH FY2021 Supplemental and FY2022 Budgets

Article 2, Section 1: Opioid Stewardship Fund Reporting

Article 6, Section 4: Health Promotion Data Fees

Article 15, Sections 1-7: Medical Licensure Compacts

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Director of Health, Rhode Island Department of Health

May 20, 2021

Outline



- **Public Health Vision and Organization**
- COVID-19 Response
- Budget Initiatives
- Overdose Crisis & Article 2: OSA
- Article 6: Data Fees
- Article 15: Licensure Compacts
- RIDOH State Health Laboratories

RIDOH OVERARCHING GOAL

Positively Demonstrate for Rhode Islanders
the Purpose and Importance of Public Health

RI Population Health Plan LEADING PRIORITIES

**Address
Socioeconomic
and Environmental
Determinants of Health in
Rhode Island**

**Eliminate
Disparities of Health
in Rhode Island
and Promote
Health Equity**

**Ensure Access
to Quality Health Services
for Rhode Islanders,
Including Our Vulnerable
Populations**

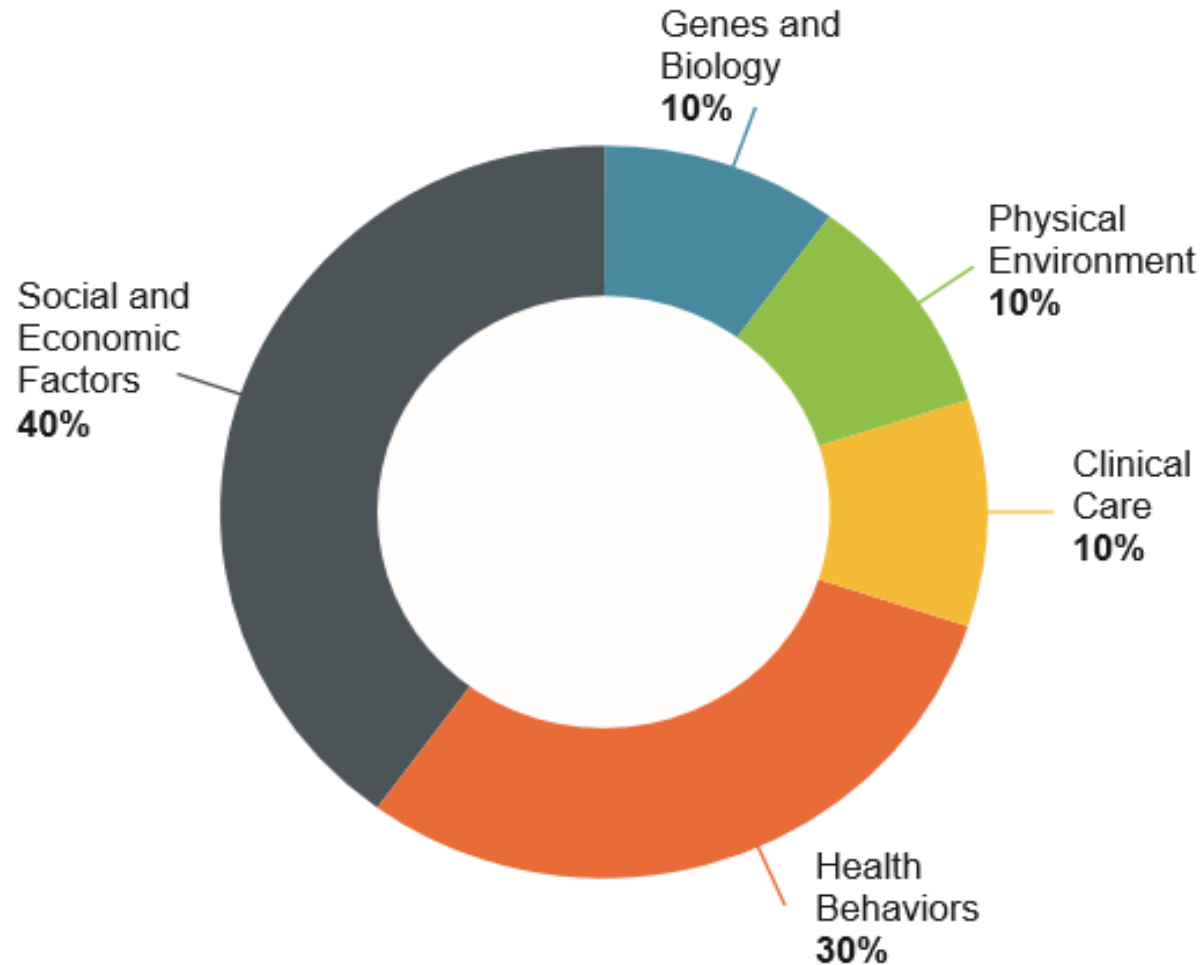
CROSS-CUTTING STRATEGIES

RIDOH Academic Institute: Strengthen the integration of scholarly activities with public health

RIDOH Health Equity Institute: Promote collective action to achieve the full potential of all Rlrs

RIDOH Project Management Unit: Excellence in Execution by coordinating our program efforts with Strategy and Operations

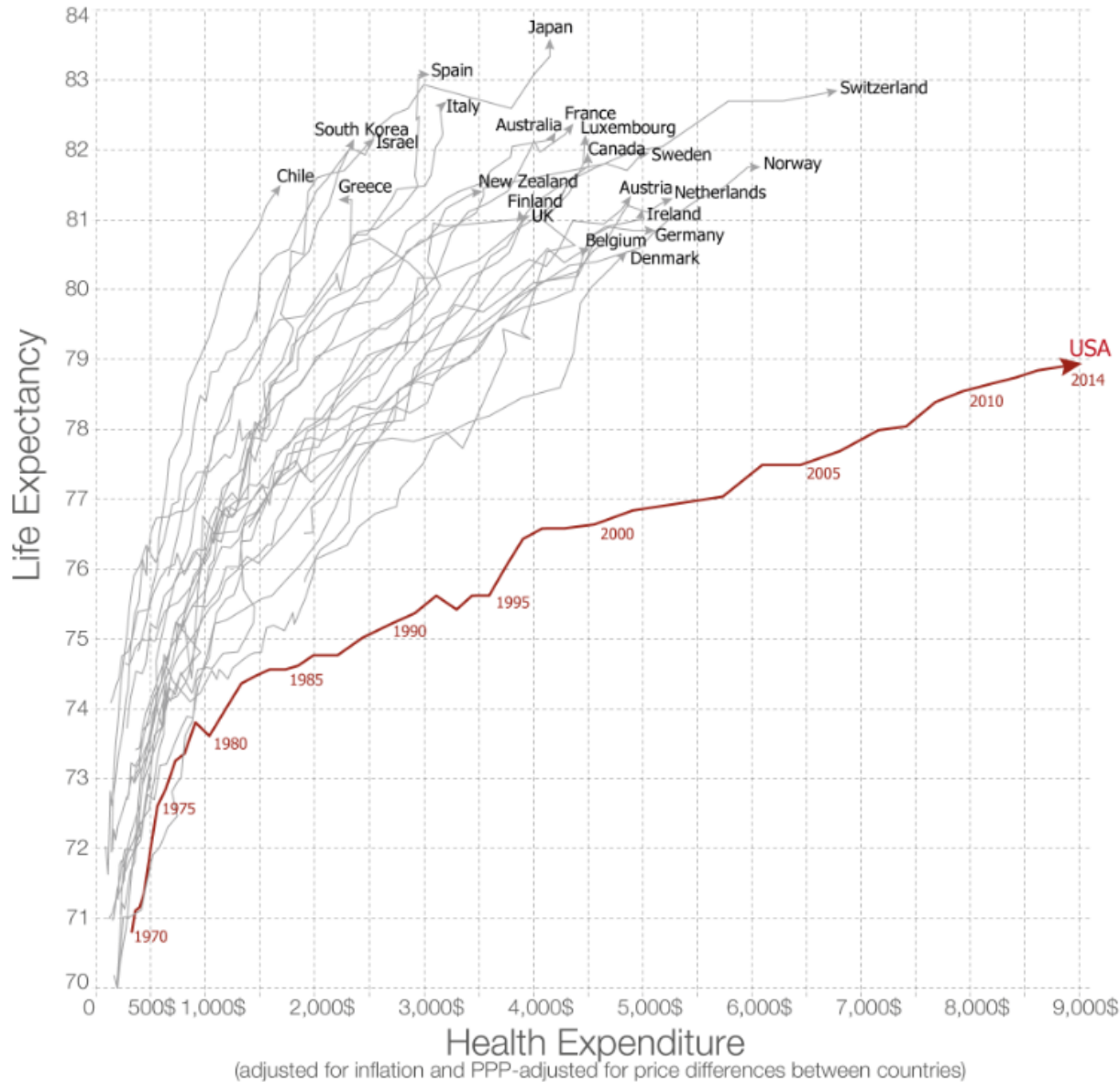
Health Starts in our Communities



80% of health happens in the community

Determinants of Health Model based on frameworks developed by: Tarlov AR. *Ann N Y Acad Sci* 1999; 281-93; and Kindig D, Asada Y, Booske B. *Jama* 2008; 299(17): 2081-2082

Healthcare Spending...

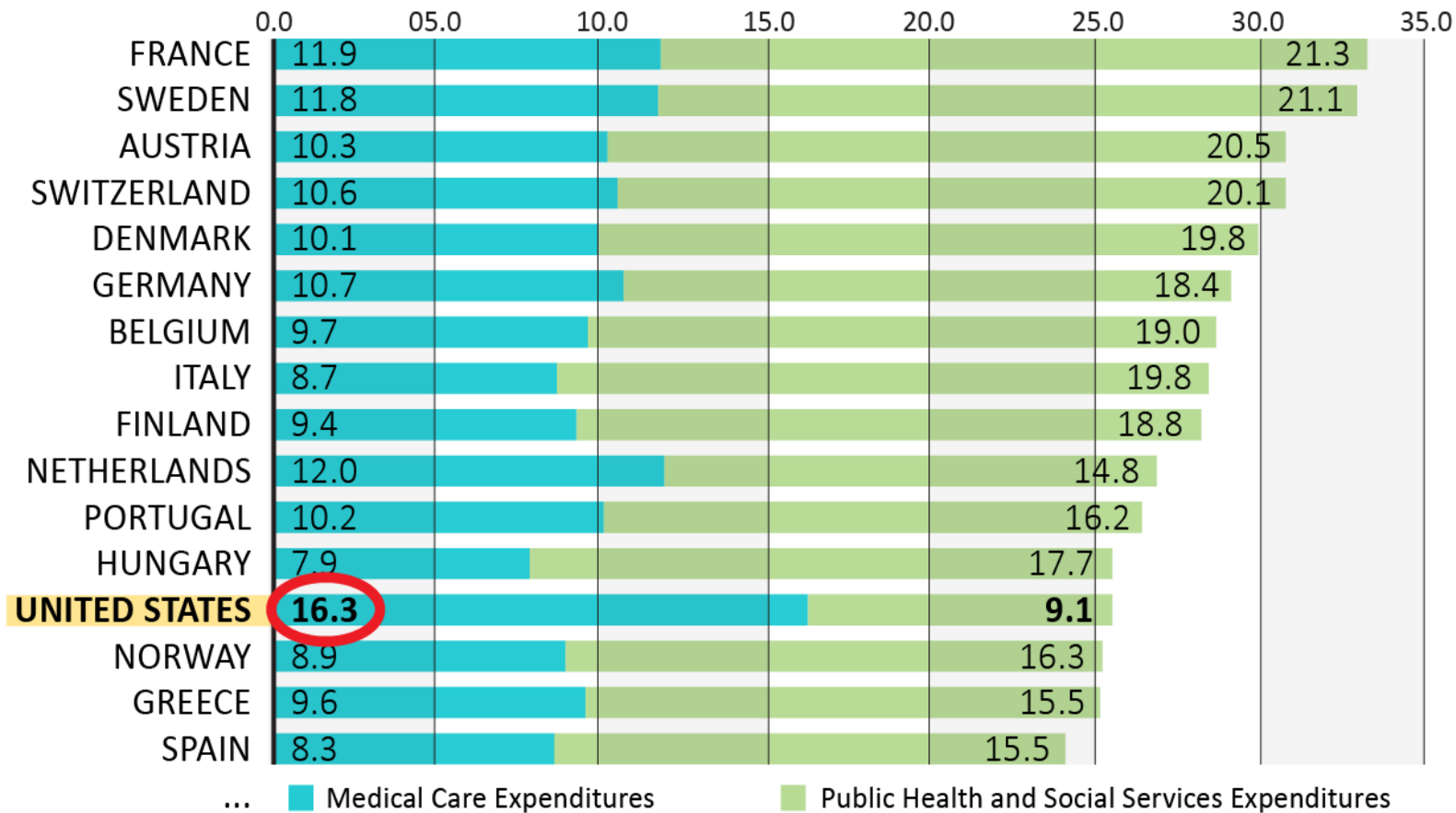


The U.S. spends more on healthcare, yet our life expectancy is worse.

...Vs. Community Investments



Expenditures as a % of GDP

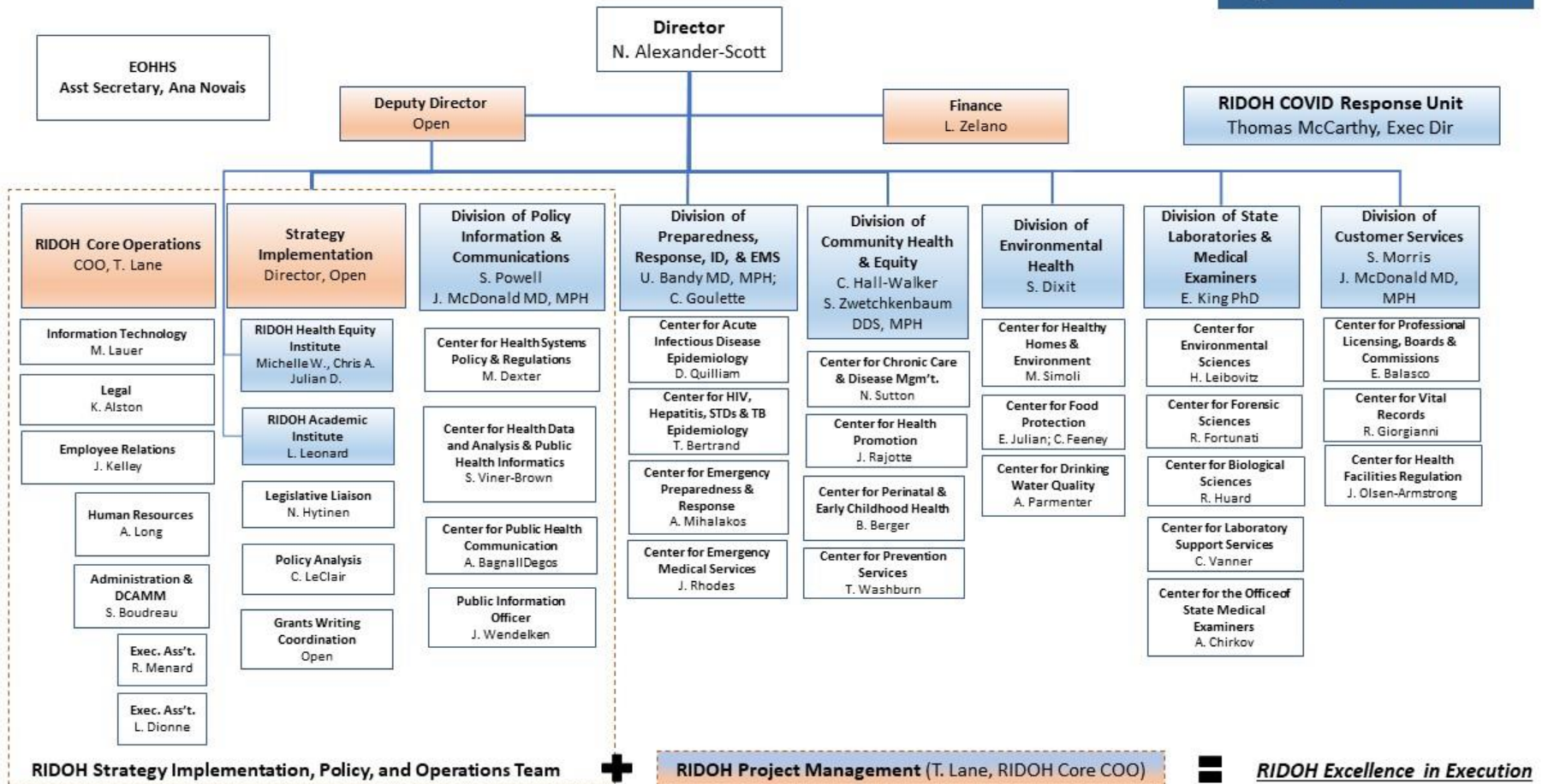


For every \$1 spent on healthcare, most countries spend \$2 on public health and social services. The US only spends 55 cents.

RIDOH Organizational Chart



RIDOH Organization



RIDOH Strategy Implementation, Policy, and Operations Team

RIDOH Project Management (T. Lane, RIDOH Core COO)

RIDOH Excellence in Execution

RIDOH Excellence in Execution



- RIDOH has a renewed focus on execution
- Leveraging our effective alignment toward outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic (testing, treatment, vaccination, etc.)
- Replicating this outcomes-oriented approach in addressing other public health challenges
- Success depends on adequate resources and support

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COVID-19 Response Highlights



- **National leader in testing**
 - Started with and sustained by RIDOH's State Health Laboratories
 - Rhode Island tests more than states 4 or 5 times our size
- **National leader in the area of education and COVID-19**
 - Set up first in the country Education Operations Center (EdOC)
 - Worked consistently to get as many children doing in-person learning as possible, which is critical for academic, social, and emotional health

COVID-19 Response Highlights



- **National leader in COVID-19 immunization**
 - 5th among states for residents fully vaccinated
 - Strategic, targeted approach early on led to greater decreases in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths than any other state in New England and most other states in the country
- **Equity front and center throughout response**
 - Built on existing partnerships and forged new collaborations to get COVID-19 tools and resources into communities hardest hit, including communities of color

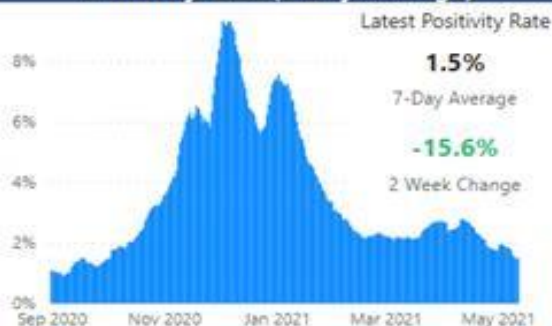
COVID-19 Response Data



EPIDEMIOLOGICAL TRENDS

DASHBOARD UPDATED
May 12, 2021

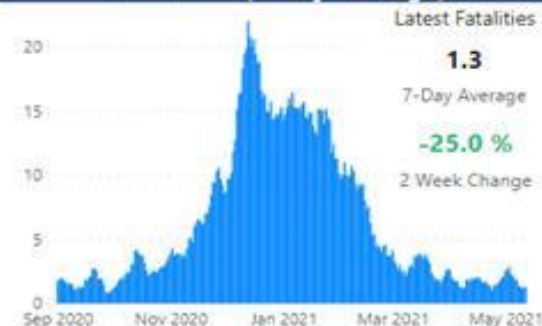
Positivity Rate (7-Day Average)



Hospital Admissions (7-Day Average)



Fatalities (7-Day Average)



Tests (7-Day Average)



MABs Administered (Weekly Totals)



Vaccinations Administered (7-Day Average)



COVID-19 in the FY2022 Budget



Governor McKee's 2022 budget includes \$161.7 million related to COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery

- Funding would support several key efforts, including:
 - Testing – how we get ahead of clusters and stop outbreaks before they happen; particularly important with more contagious variants of COVID-19 circulating in Rhode Island
 - Vaccination campaign – focus on education and access to get to hardest to reach populations
 - Contact tracing – effective contact tracing limits the impacts on schools, workplaces, and the community as a whole as we reopen
 - Community mitigation – science-based, data-driven public health interventions to prevent transmission of COVID-19

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Budget Initiatives – Family Home Visiting



Budget Article 12: Governor McKee is recommending \$1.4 million (to match current state funding of \$0.6 million)

- Family Home Visiting is a home-based service to ensure that pregnant women and families receive the necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn
- Rhode Island's three evidence-based programs are Nurse-Family Partnership, Healthy Families America, and Parents as Teachers
- Roughly 20,000 visits per year
- Programs can save more than \$74,000 per family served (ROI of \$8 for every \$1 we invest).
- Without this funding, we will have to reduce the number of families we serve

Budget Initiatives – First Connections



Budget Article 12: Governor McKee is recommending \$0.2 million (with \$0.1 million coming from general revenues)

- First Connections is part of RIDOH's Family Home Visiting Program
- Support needed to expand First Connections to better serve women in the prenatal period
- The primary referrals for this program come from the developmental screening performed by Rhode Island's birthing hospitals and referrals from DCYF
- The program serves approximately 2,700 families and 135 pregnant women per year
- First Connections is able to respond to about only 5% of the prenatal referrals received

Previously Heard Budget Initiatives



Budget Article 10: Governor McKee is recommending \$366,300 to allow RIDOH to create a Dockside Program

- Would permit surf clam processors licensed by RIDOH to harvest clams from federal waters in which biotoxin testing is not conducted; program would ensure the safety and quality of shellfish

Budget Article 11: Governor McKee is recommending \$1.1 million in EOHHS's budget for Health Equity Zones (HEZs) to expand community-driven health initiatives and infrastructure supported by RIDOH

- \$366,785 specifically dedicated to RIDOH for public health prevention and surveillance activities on adult-use marijuana
- Activities would focus on vulnerable populations, including young adults, pregnant women, and people with disabilities
- HEZs are a readymade infrastructure for this kind of public health partnership

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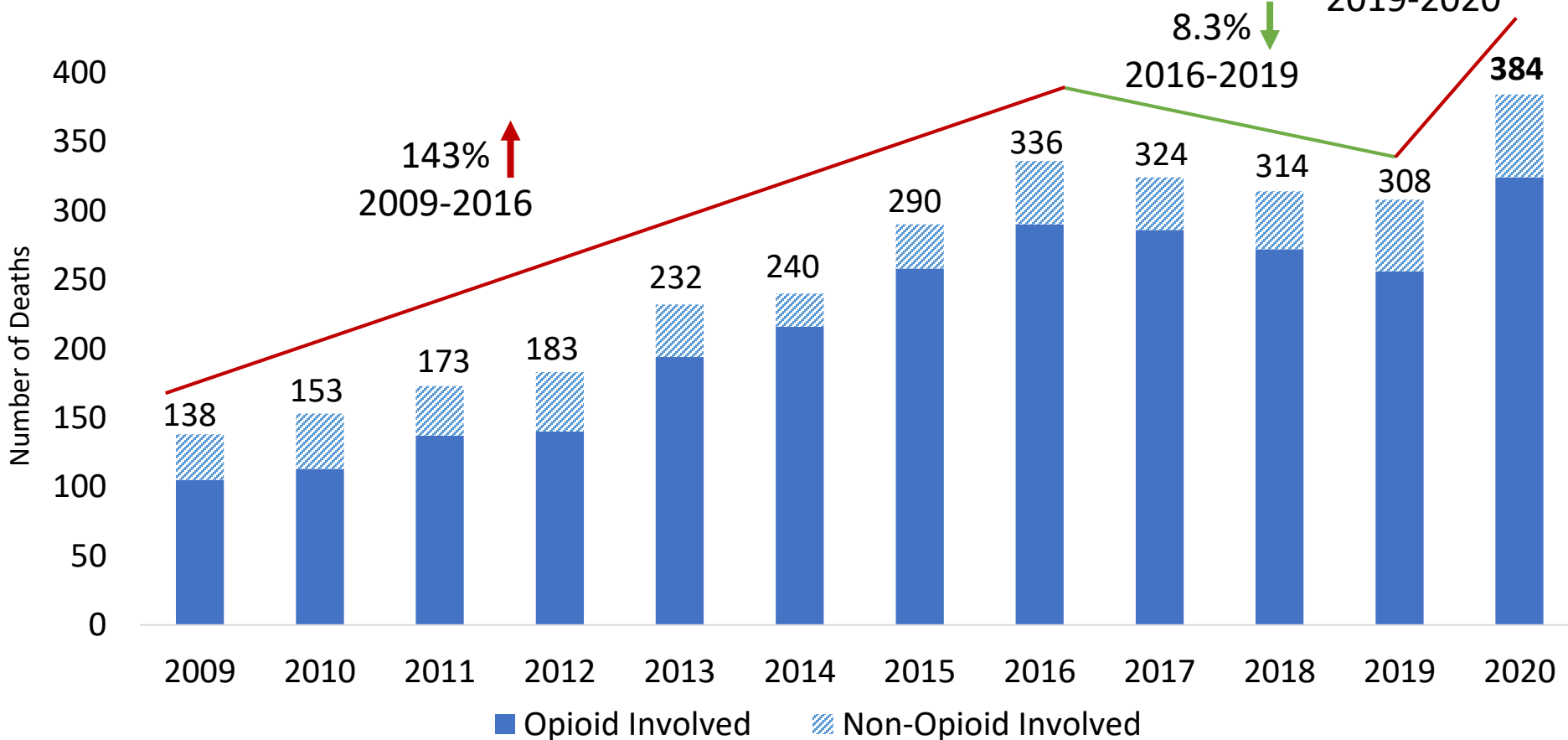


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Overdose Crisis



After seeing a decrease by 8.3% from 2016 to 2019, accidental drug overdose deaths **increased by 25%**, from 308 in 2019 to **384 in 2020**.



Source: Office of the State Medical Examiners (OSME), Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). Data updated as of April 7, 2021.

Note: Data reflect accidental drug overdose deaths and do not include suicides, homicides, or undetermined deaths.

Overdose Crisis



Factors

- 75% of overdoses in 2020 involved fentanyl
- 50% of fatal overdoses in 2020 involved cocaine
- Counterfeit pills are being increasingly found in Rhode Island (many containing fentanyl)
- The stressors and isolation of COVID-19 pandemic likely contributed, but recent increase started before Rhode Island's first COVID-19 case

Demographics

- 75% of overdose deaths occurred among males
- 2020 saw an increase in the rate of fatal overdoses in every age group; 45 to 54-year-olds saw the greatest increase

Opioid Stewardship Act



Budget Article 2, Section 1: Governor McKee is recommending \$1.9 million

- Opioid Stewardship Fund is funding from an assessment on opioid products sold or distributed in Rhode Island
- Funding would cover various costs, including a new FTE to manage the finances for the Opioid Stewardship Fund and staffing costs for FTE positions working on the opioid response
- One of a range of initiatives being coordinated by Governor McKee's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force to respond to the overdose crisis

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Budget Article 6, Section 4: Governor McKee is recommending \$219,450; would authorize RIDOH to collect fees in response to requests for extensive data analysis

- Fee would be \$140 per hour
- Would not pertain to routine data requests from students, press, and policy makers
- Fees collected would be deposited as general revenue, with 50% appropriated to RIDOH to sustain RIDOH's capacity to manage and sustain data systems

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Budget Article 15: Authorizes the State to join 5 interstate healthcare compacts to allow expedited licensure

- Would pertain to licensure for nurses, physicians, EMS professionals, physical therapists, and psychologists
- Allows a health professional to have one multistate license with the ability to practice in their home state and in other states
- Benefits:
 - Increases access to care (for example, expands the ability for patients and professionals to utilize telehealth)
 - Maintains oversight and quality standards
 - Decreases licensure costs for professionals working in multiple states
 - Increased flexibility helps states respond to public crises (like COVID-19)

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RIDOH State Health Laboratories



RIDOH's State Health Laboratories provide vital public health services and have been central to Rhode Island's COVID-19 response.

Disease Surveillance & Management:

- Investigate life-threatening diseases (e.g. **COVID-19, EEE, Ebola**) to detect outbreaks, provide diagnosis, and guide treatment
- Blood lead screening to ensure safety of **children**

Environmental Quality Monitoring:

- Ensure safety of drinking **water, food, local shellfish, and dairy products**
- Enable safe use of 400 miles of **coastal waters**
- Monitor pollution of **outdoor air and environment**

Criminal Investigations:

- **DNA** testing and **illegal drug** identification to aid **law enforcement**
- Help determine causes of death
- **Toxicology** testing to track and fight the **overdose crisis**

Emergency Preparedness:

- Protect against threats from **bioterrorism** and **chemical terrorism**

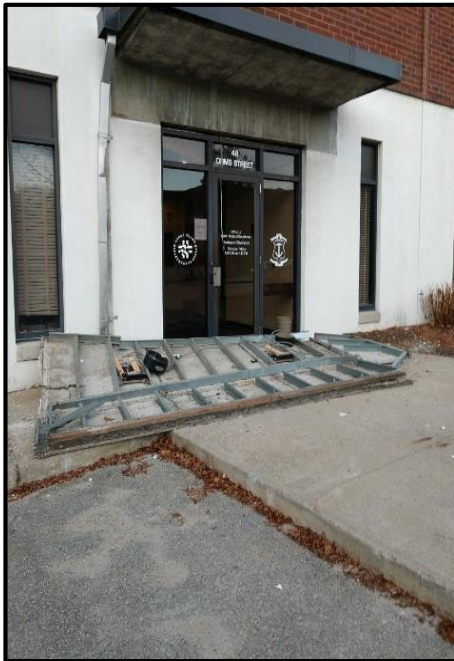
Federal Connection:

- State's link to **specialized CDC Laboratories** and access to federal funding

RIDOH State Health Laboratories Current Need



- The current facility is inadequate. It is undersized and has serious safety issues with the utility systems, air distribution and ventilation, temperature control and air quality, and the physical structure of the building.



Fallen soffit at OSME entrance



Roof membrane leak impacted lab below



Mechanical distribution systems past end of life

Investing in a new, modern facility will make the State better prepared for the next epidemic or pandemic:

- Enhanced capacity to provide critical public health services
- New larger bio-containment facility
- Spacious specimen handling and accessioning areas for safety and improved workflows
- Dedicated laboratories for strain/variant characterization through genome sequencing
- Training labs for workforce development can be converted to additional testing spaces in an emergency to house high-throughput instruments

Funding for critical capital projects has been included in recently passed American Rescue Plan. We look forward to working with the Committee once Treasury issues additional guidance on available federal funding for projects such as new state health laboratories.



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