

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Ann Pugh, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Harry Chen, MD, Commissioner, Department of Health

RE: FY '17 Budget Testimony Follow Up

DATE: February 5, 2016



Thank you for the opportunity to provide your committee with a review of the Health Department's fiscal year 2017 proposed budget. Here is the additional information requested by committee members during my testimony.

A. Minimum Wage and Health

Committee members asked for additional information about assessments in other states exploring the relationship between the minimum wage and public health.

- a. [White Paper](#) on Income and Health - Minnesota Department of Health
- b. [Health Impacts of Raising California's Minimum Wage](#) - Rajiv Bhatia, MD, MPH

B. Firearm Safety

Committee members requested a [link](#) to the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers position statement on Preventing Firearm Misuse, Injury, and Death.

C. Rising Midlife Morbidity in 21st Century

Committee members requested additional information about the research on rising morbidity among middle age white non-Hispanic Americans.

- a. ["Death Rates Rising for Middle-Aged White Americans, Study Finds"](#) Gina Kolata, New York Times, Nov. 2, 2015
- b. ["Rising morbidity and mortality in midlife among white non-Hispanic Americans in the 21st century"](#) Anne Case and Angus Deaton. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, vol. 112 no. 49



D. Leisure Time Activity

Committee members requested additional information about the data regarding leisure time physical activity. The data source is the 2013 Vermont Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

The survey question is: “During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?”

In the 2013 survey, 20% of adult Vermont respondents answered “No” to this question, compared to 26% of all US adults.

Additional information about our BRFSS data may be found at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/research/brfss/reports.aspx>

E. Cigarette Smoking Among Middle School Aged Youth

Committee members requested additional information about smoking rates among middle school aged youth. The data source is the 2015 middle school youth risk behavior survey (YRBS).

In the 2015 survey, 9% of middle school students reported ever trying cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs, and 5% have smoked a whole cigarette. This rate is unchanged from 2013.

Additional information about our YRBS data may be found at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/research/yrbs.aspx>

F. Opioid Overdose Prevention Pilot Program

Committee members requested the location of ten community based organizations that distribute overdose rescue kits containing nasal naloxone.

BAART Behavioral Health Services 475 Union St. Newport, VT 05855	Central Vermont Addiction Medicine 300 Granger Rd. Berlin, VT 05602
Habit Opco - Brattleboro 16 Town Crier Dr. Brattleboro, VT 05301	Howard Center Safe Recovery Program 45 Clark St. Burlington, VT 05401
HIV/HCV Resource Center 70 North Main St. White River Junction, VT 05001	Turning Point of Addison County 228 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
Turning Point of Bennington County 465 Main Street, Bennington, VT 05201	Turning Point of Franklin County 182 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT 05478
Vermont CARES 1091 Hospital Dr. St. Johnsbury, VT 05819	West Ridge Center for Addiction Recovery 1 Scale Ave., Building 10, Rutland, VT 05701

Additional information about the program may be found at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/adap/treatment/naloxone/>

[Report](#) to Legislature “Evaluating the Statewide Opioid Antagonist Pilot Program”

