

2942 – DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DCH)

POLICY STATEMENT	The Division of Public Health promotes the well being of Georgians of all ages by providing health care, health education, counseling, referral and environmental monitoring.
BASIC CONSIDERATIONS	
Family Health	Women and children receive nutritious foods and nutrition information through the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC). The perinatal case management program works with low-income pregnant women to help them have healthy pregnancies and healthy babies. Family planning services are provided to men and women. Chronically ill and physically disabled children are helped through the Children's Medical Services Program. Infants, children and adults are immunized against infectious diseases. School children are screened for vision, dental health, hearing and scoliosis and visit the health department for assessment and care.
Community Health	County health departments treat persons for gonorrhea and syphilis. At public health clinics, people are screened for hypertension and women are screened for cervical and breast cancer. Migrant workers are treated or referred for treatment by the migrant health program in the Columbus, Macon, Metter and Dublin districts.
Emergency Health and Environmental Health	The division's regulatory functions include licensing and monitoring ambulance services and certifying Emergency Medical Technicians. Other regulatory activities include evaluations of personal care homes and inspections of restaurants, tourist accommodations, and other facilities.
AIDS Project	Health education, testing for HIV infection, counseling and referral services are provided throughout Georgia.

**BASIC
CONSIDERATIONS
(cont.)**

Epidemiology	The Office of Epidemiology collects data on reportable diseases and investigates disease outbreaks.
Laboratory	The state laboratory in Atlanta and three regional laboratories aid in the control of infections and chronic disease by processing patient specimens and performing exams on these specimens.
Vital Records	The unit registers records of births, deaths, spontaneous abortions, induced abortions, marriages and divorces.
Primary Health Care	Fifteen federally-funded and five state-funded centers provide primary health care. Clinics in Atlanta and Savannah, which are state-supported, provide basic health care to homeless persons.