

# Health Services

The Arlandria Health Center for Women and Children, which handles 5,000 patient visits per year, is fully funded by a \$1.05 million federal grant that expires in 1996.

Providing medical care, preventing and controlling disease, and promoting environmental health are among the primary responsibilities of the Alexandria Health Department.



The Department operates four medical facilities -- a clinic at North St. Asaph Street, the Flora Krause Casey Health Center adjacent to Alexandria Hospital, the Adolescent Health Center on Braddock Road, and the Arlandria Health Center for Women and Children on Executive Avenue. Three of every four patient visits during Fiscal Year 1994 involved persons who were eligible for services at no cost or who were covered by Medicaid.

As a field office of the Virginia Department of Health, the Department works in partnership with City government in such areas as primary and preventive health care and environmental quality. The Alexandria office is one of only ten Health Department agencies in the State providing primary care to the medically indigent. City Council's annual appropriation provides nearly 60% of the Department's \$9.2 million operating budget.

The Department also works in partnership with Alexandria Hospital, a not-for-profit community health care facility. In recent years, its partnership with the Hospital has centered on child immunization and health education. The City's own partnership with the Hospital reimburses a share of the Hospital's cost of providing medical care to City residents who are unable to pay. In FY 1995, the City's contribution to the Hospital totaled \$700,000.

The City's partnerships with the Alexandria Health Department and the Hospital face several critical challenges in the coming years:

- As health reform continues to be debated in Congress and in statehouses nationwide, funding reductions and the increased use of managed care to serve low-income persons appear likely. These potential changes would affect the Department's ability to provide primary care to low-income Alexandrians.
- The Arlandria Health Center for Women and Children, which opened in 1993, is fully funded by a four-year, \$1.05 million federal grant. It is unlikely that the State or the City will assume the cost of operating the center when its federal funding expires in October 1996. Health Department staff are working to develop a continuation plan for the center. The loss of the center, which handles almost 5,000 patient visits per year, would have public health consequences as well as

financial impacts on the Department, the Hospital, and the City.

- Recent State personnel and administrative actions, including a hiring freeze, elimination of part-time positions, and a voluntary employee "buy-out" retirement program, have reduced staffing within the Department and increased waiting times for services. Responding to these changes, the Department is pursuing reorganization and the contracting out of work performed by its employees.
  - Among communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis continue to receive major attention locally. In 1993, Alexandria had the State's second highest AIDS rate and the second highest rate of new cases of HIV. In June, a single active case of TB prompted the Alexandria Health Department to conduct a screening of all students and faculty at T.C. Williams High School. No other active cases were found, but 140 students who tested positive for exposure began a program of preventive medication.
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## Health Facts

### Alexandria Health Department Patient Profile (FY 1994 visits)

Minorities - 84%

Women - 64%

Visits eligible for services at no cost - 46%

Visits covered by Medicaid - 29%

Outpatient Visits (FY 1994) - 61,598

Medicaid Visits (FY 1994) - 17,900