



Rhode Island Birth Defects Program

Service Assessment Key Findings



the Rhode Island Department of Health’s Birth Defects Program (RIBDP) has been conducting service assessments with families of children with selected conditions.

The results of these service assessments provide the RIBDP with information on whether children are receiving **TIMELY, NECESSARY**, and **APPROPRIATE** services and referrals.

Over the last **14 YEARS**, we have increased the number of service assessment conditions from **1**  to **8** 

From **2019** to **2023**, we conducted **202** service assessments (in clinics, by mail, and on-line) and **332** repeat assessments.

We made **73** referrals to RIPIN from 2019-2023.

Other referrals frequently made were for:

- Parent support groups
- Health insurance
- Housing
- SNAP- food insecurities
- Early Intervention or Individual Education Plans (IEP)
- Social Security benefits
- Childcare for children with special healthcare needs

Gaps identified in the process include:

- The need to increase awareness of and have more parent support groups for specific conditions
- Help with Katie Beckett applications
- Better support for transitions
- Issues with obtaining timely referrals to Early Intervention services
- Insurance companies not covering needed services

We will continue to use this data to monitor service and referral gaps, identify ways to improve access to services, and educate providers and families.

https://health.ri.gov/programs/detail.php?pgm_id=121

Thanks for your participation in this program!