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 since 2009.

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 **10 YEARS**, we have increased the number of service assessment conditions from **1** to **8**.

We made **48** referrals to the RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN) from 2016 through 2018.

We made 291 service assessments (in clinics and via mail) and **166** repeat assessments.

From **2014** to **2018**, we conducted **291** service assessments and **166** repeat assessments.

Other referrals frequently made were for:

- Parent support groups
- Early Intervention or Individual Education Plans (IEP)
- Social Security benefits
- Health insurance
- Speech and Feeding Therapies
- Cedar Family Centers
- Section 8 housing
- Childcare for children with special health-care needs

Gaps identified in the process include:

- The need to increase awareness of and have more parent support groups, since families found these groups to be very helpful
- Issues with obtaining timely referrals to Early Intervention services
- Better support for transitions
- Better follow up from hospitals with referrals to specialists
- 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.

Thanks for your participation in this program!