



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

From **2016** to **2020**, we conducted **242** service assessments (in clinics and via mail) and **296** repeat assessments.

We made **57** referrals to the RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN) from 2018 through 2020.

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!