Healthcare in the Cayman Islands

The Ministry of Health Services, District Administration and Agriculture is responsible for the administration of health care services in the Cayman Islands. Together, the Government Health Services Department and the private sector serve the Islands’ health care needs.

The Health Practitioners Board has responsibility for the registration of health practitioners. In addition to general medical care, a wide range of specialist services is available locally.

The Health Services Department is responsible for the provision of all government health care, including public health services. The department operates two hospitals, a public health unit, four district health centres on Grand Cayman, a clinic in Little Cayman and a general practice clinic at the Cayman Islands Hospital. There is also a dental clinic (incorporating school dental services) and the Lions Eye Clinic.

The government has a contractual arrangement with Baptist Health Systems of South Florida for tertiary-care services.

2001 Highlights
Draft bills revising the three major health-related laws — Health Practitioners, Pharmacy, and Mental Health — were prepared to consultation stage.

With the termination of health insurance coverage for civil servants in February 2001, the Government appointed a committee to review its overseas medical arrangements and to study alternate ways of providing health insurance to civil servants.

Dr. Honor Abaecheta, Overseas Medical Adviser of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, visited the Cayman Islands Hospital on 19 March as part of a Caribbean tour of medical facilities in the British Overseas Territories. She assessed the standards of health care,
hygiene and disease prevention in the Islands. She also reviewed standards of primary medical and dental care, secondary medical and nursing care, emergency services, post clinical facilities, and the competence of medical and nursing staff.

In March 2001 the Health Services Department introduced specialist medical services in urology, with regularly scheduled clinics at the Cayman Islands and Faith hospitals.

Construction of the new eight-bed mental health and 12-bed geriatric units and the laundry expansion at the Cayman Islands Health Services Complex started in July. A contract for a Nuclear Imaging Centre, under the auspices of the Cayman Heart Institute, was signed in May 2001. The Health Services Department established the Performance Improvement Co-ordinating Council (PICC) with a view to achieving international accreditation by July 2001. The PICC is a multidisciplinary staff group responsible for establishing and maintaining a planned, systematic improvement programme. In line with worldwide public health initiatives, the forensic science laboratory screened for anthrax in 47 mail referrals, with negative results.

With a focus on mental health, World Health Day featured a walk for service users, hospital staff and members of the public.

**General State of Health**

Life expectancy at birth in the Cayman Islands is 75 years for men and 79 years for women. There were 622 live births in 2001. The crude birth rate in 2001 was 15 per 1,000 population, a slight decrease from 15.4 in 2000.

Deaths among the resident population totalled 133 (122 in Grand Cayman, 11 in Cayman Brac) or 3.2 per 1,000 population, a slight decrease on 2000’s 3.4. There were 13 visitor deaths.

Major causes of death were diseases of the circulatory system, mainly heart disease (45 deaths or 10.9 per 10,000 population) and malignant neoplasm (38 deaths or 9.2 per 10,000 population). One infant died in 2001, translating into an infant mortality rate of 1.6 per 1,000 live births.

### Population, Births and Deaths 1991-2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mid-Year Population ('000)</th>
<th>Births Number²</th>
<th>Rate³</th>
<th>Deaths Number⁴</th>
<th>Rate³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>32.6®</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>34.3®</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>38.1®</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>39.0®</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>40.2®</td>
<td>619®</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

1. Residents only, including those with work permits.
2. Resident births outside of the Islands are excluded from these figures.
3. Rates are expressed as per thousand of the mid-year population.
4. From 1980 visitor deaths were excluded from total.
5. Revised figure.

Source: Cayman Health Department and the Statistics Office.

### Health Services

The Health Services Department provides care through the 124-bed Cayman Islands Hospital and the 18-bed Faith Hospital, on Cayman Brac. Ancillary services are offered at district health centres and at the dental and eye care clinics. Staff in all sectors of the health services, including Sister Islands, numbered 681 in 2001.

Forty-two doctors, including four based in Cayman Brac, are employed in the government service. Another 37 are in full-time private practice.

Eighteen dentists practise privately. Visiting dental specialists included a periodontist and two orthodontists. A visiting team of orthopaedic surgeons from Canada supplements dental care offered privately and at government facilities.
Health Services at a Glance

Hospitals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Grand Cayman – Cayman Islands Hospital, 124 beds</th>
<th>Cayman Brac – Faith Hospital, 18 beds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(inpatient, 104; ambulatory care, 8; and observation unit, 12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public & Private Services

- Surgery (general)
- Dermatology
- Gynaecology & Obstetrics
- Reconstructive Surgery
- Cardiology
- General Practice
- Accident and Emergency Care
- Paediatrics
- Faciomaxillary Surgery
- Internal Medicine
- Urology
- Anaesthesiology
- Radiology
- Public Health
- Neurology
- Orthopaedics
- Psychiatry
- Ophthalmology
- Pathology
- Ear, Nose & Throat
- Periodontology
- Rheumatology
- Gastroenterology

District Health Centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Health Centre</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Bay Nurses Health Centre</td>
<td>West Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessie Ritch Memorial Health Centre</td>
<td>Bodden Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dica Brown Health Centre</td>
<td>North Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilith McLaughlin Memorial Health Centre</td>
<td>East End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Cayman Health Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health Practitioners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Cayman:</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cayman Brac:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Practice:</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.B.: *All Others* include other health professionals — physiotherapists, psychologists, pharmacists, chiropractors, radiographers, medical technologists, dental auxiliaries / hygienists, nutritionists, medical social workers, occupational therapists, quality assurance officers, forensic scientists, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, and counselors, etc.

** A government Dental Officer from Grand Cayman provides services two days a week.
## Health Statistics, 2000 and 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital Services:</th>
<th>Grand Cayman</th>
<th>Cayman Brac</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beds available (inpatient)</td>
<td>*104</td>
<td>*104</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions</td>
<td>4,277</td>
<td>4,129</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharges</td>
<td>4,236</td>
<td>4,088</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major operations</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor operations</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Operations</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient clinic visits (total)</td>
<td>46,751</td>
<td>47,533</td>
<td>3,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient clinic visits (specialists)</td>
<td>22,532</td>
<td>23,573</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient clinic visits (G.P.)**</td>
<td>24,219</td>
<td>23,960</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accident and emergency visits</td>
<td>29,953</td>
<td>31,021</td>
<td>3,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance calls</td>
<td>2,611</td>
<td>2,497</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory work</td>
<td>418,325</td>
<td>474,364</td>
<td>33,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiology/ Ultrasound (patients)</td>
<td>16,723</td>
<td>17,206</td>
<td>1,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT scans (patients)</td>
<td>1,103</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammograms (patients)</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapy visits</td>
<td>12,328</td>
<td>11,746</td>
<td>1,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy (prescriptions)</td>
<td>162,767</td>
<td>178,158</td>
<td>26,496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Clinic visits</td>
<td>26,337</td>
<td>20,437</td>
<td>3,228</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District health centres:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District clinic visits</td>
<td>39,820</td>
<td>39,124</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>40,247</td>
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<tr>
<td>School clinic visits</td>
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<td>7,734</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>7,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home visits</td>
<td>8,316</td>
<td>6,882</td>
<td>2,972</td>
<td>3,867</td>
<td>11,288</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vital statistics:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deliveries</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live births</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths (total)***</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death (residents)</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death (visitors)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes 84 acute care beds, 13 newborn baby cots and 7 ECU beds; excludes 8 ambulatory care and 12 observation beds.

** Starting in March 1999, all G.P. clinics were held in the George Town at the General Practice Unit.

*** Includes residents and visitors.
The Cayman Islands Hospital

The Cayman Islands Hospital is a modern, 139,066 square feet, two-storey facility with a total of 124 beds. Main inpatient wards include Medical (24 beds), Surgical (20), Maternity (13), and Paediatric (13). Other facilities include a Critical Care Unit (8 beds), Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (6), an Ambulatory Care Unit (8), an observation room (12) and outpatient facilities. At least one doctor is available on the compound at any given time. There are three operating theatres, a dialysis unit, as well as physiotherapy, X-ray and laboratory facilities. Other facilities include a pharmacy, morgue and a forensic and drug-testing laboratory, along with outpatient specialist clinics, administrative offices, a professional library and a medical records section.

Construction commenced in mid-2001 on new inpatient units for mental health (8 beds), care of the elderly (10 beds), hospice care (2 beds), and a day-care facility for up to 12 mental health or elderly people. Completion is slated for the end of 2002.

Hospital admissions decreased slightly from 4,277 in 2000 to 4,129 in 2001.

Accident and Emergency Services

With 12 observation beds, the Accident and Emergency Unit (A&E) provides seven-days-a-week, 24-hour emergency services. In the event of a disaster the A & E becomes the receiving centre for all seriously injured. Two new ambulances were acquired in September.

Outpatient and casualty visits decreased by 4%, from 78,554 in 2001 to 76,704 in 2000. There was a small increase (2.4%) in ambulance calls (from 2,497 in 2001 to 2,611 in 2000).

Outpatient and Inpatient Specialist Services

Specialist services include surgery, gynaecology & obstetrics, paediatrics, internal medicine, dermatology, anaesthesiology, public health, orthopaedics, psychiatry, cardiology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, radiology, neurology, ophthalmology, ear, nose and throat, periodontology, reconstructive surgery, faciomaxillary surgery, and urology.

Outpatient specialist clinics offer services by appointment as well as on a walk-in basis. The department's staff includes 17 resident physicians, two visiting specialists and a nutritionist. Patient visits increased by 4.6% to 23,573, compared to the previous year's 22,532. A weekly clinic offering electroencephalography (EEG) and electromyography (EMG) was added in 2001 and a new rhino-laryngoscope was purchased.

X-ray and Ultrasound

The X-ray and Ultrasound Unit offers diagnostic mammography services, including fine-needle aspiration biopsies and wire localization procedures. Mammographic studies decreased by 3.6% to 721, from 748 in 2000. X-ray and ultrasound procedures increased by 3%, while CT scans decreased by 12.2%, from 1,103 in 2000 to 968 in 2001.

The unit continued to participate in the Lions Club's Breast Care Programme.

Laboratory

The Pathology Laboratory provides 24-hour, seven-days-a-week services and at least one medical technologist is on site at all times. A total of 474,364 tests were carried out in 53,738 patient visits, an increase of 13.4% over the previous year's 418,325.

Forensic Laboratory

Demand for the Forensic Science Laboratory's services increased, with the number of tests required rising to 2,972 (1,846, toxicology; 71, blood-alcohol content; 844, drug exhibits; 74, fire debris; 111, trace evidence (includes exhibits from sexual assaults and other serious crimes); and 26 post-mortems. Police use of the laboratory increased and analytical turn-around-times averaged two to three days.

Provision of education and training to health agencies and schools continued.

Pharmacy

A consultation room allows for private medication counselling for complex or confidential prescriptions. A total of 178,158 prescriptions was filled in 2001, an increase of 9.6% over the previous year's 162,767. In addition, 37,388 prescriptions were processed at the four district health centres.

Chemotherapy was available locally for the first time in 2001. Ten new drugs, primarily anti-infectives and for treating diabetes, were added.
Physiotherapy
The staff of nine — six physiotherapists, one speech therapist, one physical therapy assistant and one physiotherapy aide — undertook 11,746 treatments in 2001.

Twice monthly in-house training was offered throughout the year, along with monthly classes for hospital personnel and private sector nurses. A session on exercise was organised in collaboration with the Diabetic Association.

Medical Records
The Medical Records Unit operates around the clock, in three eight-hour shifts, seven days a week. This ensures availability of medical dockets to physicians at all times. The department works in close cooperation with the police, lawyers and the Government’s Legal Department on court-related matters.

Dialysis Unit
The purpose-built Dialysis Unit provides quality haemodialysis treatment and related nursing care. Facilities include eight patient stations, one special-care room and two stations for infectious patients. The resident nephrologist oversees the medical operations of the Dialysis Unit.

Serving local outpatients and inpatients, visitors and in-transit cruise ship passengers, the unit undertook 3,697 treatments in 2001, an increase of 22.2% over 3,025 in 2000. While there was no increase in the number of resident dialysis patients (27), the average number of treatments per patient increased from 104 to 123.

Central Sterile Services
The new Central Sterile Unit serves operating theatres and all other units at the Cayman Islands Health Services Complex as well as district health centres. On occasion, the unit also serves Cayman Brac’s Faith Hospital and the Cayman Medical Surgical Centre, on Grand Cayman.

The five-man staff is certified by the National Institute for Certified Health Care Sterile Processing and Distribution Personnel (NICHSPDP). The organization’s monthly newsletter Criterion is utilized as an aid in recertification, slated for 2004.

Mental Health Services
Increasing by 20% over 135 admissions in 2000, 162 patients were admitted in 2001 to the Cayman Islands Hospital for psychiatric inpatient acute care. A psychiatrist, two psychologists, a nurse manager, four registered mental health nurses and three community mental health nurses administer services. A community mental health nurse is based at Faith Hospital in Cayman Brac. Patients requiring drug or alcohol detoxification are admitted or are transferred to the Caribbean Haven Residential Treatment Centre.

The Mental Health Unit also undertakes weekly visits to HMP Fairbanks, the female prison facility.

Dental Services
Dental visits decreased by 22.4% from 26,337 in 2000 to 20,437. Specialist services included oral surgery, orthodontics and periodontics.

Sister Islands’ services expanded with monthly visits by the dental hygienist. These services were complemented by weekly clinics operated by a dental officer from Grand Cayman.

A dental auxiliary attended a four-month health promotion course at King’s College, London. The dental technician attended a course in the UK in advanced crowns, designed to enable the clinic to produce in-house laboratory work in this area.

Lions Eye Clinic
With its two resident ophtalmologists, the Lion’s Eye Clinic continues to maintain a busy pace in assessing and treating childhood eye conditions, as well as glaucoma and eye diseases associated with diabetes. Treatment regimes, including cataract procedures, include laser and general eye surgery. In 2001, 4,360 consultations were carried out, an increase of 3.8% from 4,198 in year 2000. The number of laser treatments, 167, was the same as for 2000. Eye operations totalled 165, an increase of 11.5% over the 148 in 2000. An ophthalmologist continued to visit Faith Hospital twice monthly.
International Agencies

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) offered fellowships for training in the areas of dialysis and quality assurance and helped to facilitate staff’s participation in various technical meetings. The Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) provided technical assistance in epidemiology and laboratory services. A quality assurance team from CAREC visited the Cayman Islands to review the Health Services’ Laboratory Quality Assurance Programme.

Training and Career Development

The Health Service supports a programme of continuing education that features periodic visits by specialists from, and attachments to, Baptist Hospital in Miami. Other training includes mandatory annual in-service programmes totalling 10 credit hours, local workshops and seminars, and attendance at overseas conferences. Support facilities include a medical library with Internet access.

Training in lifting, CPR and infection control was offered monthly. External providers trained staff in continuous renal replacement therapy, ACLS certification and customer service. Freccius (a dialysis equipment manufacturer from the USA) trained all dialysis and ICU staff in the use of new dialysis machines. One registered nurse assigned to the Dialysis Unit was trained in Miami in July 2001.

New and existing staff was trained in fire safety and disaster preparedness. Nurses were trained in “Rhythm Strip” analysis and EKG interpretation as well as in non-violent crisis intervention. Training was also offered in recognition and prevention of domestic abuse. In February, 15 members of staff, drawn from the Medical Records, Insurance and Finance units, completed a one-week PAHO-organized course on the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) system, making the Cayman Islands the second in the Caribbean to meet certification requirements.

Two one-week workshops on ICD-10, conducted by Dr. Margaret Hazlewood, PAHO, Washington, D.C., were sponsored jointly by PAHO/WHO and the Cayman Islands Health Services. Approximately 30 coders were trained, including 13 from the private sector.

A workshop entitled Young Child Feeding was conducted as a joint venture between the Caribbean Food & Nutrition Institute (CFNI) and the Cayman Islands Health Services.

Seminars updated health-care workers on dental health, HIV and drugs, and the management of HIV/AIDS patients.

The Health Services held its first Careers Week in September to expose students to medical career options. Fourteen sections/units of the health services exhibited in display booths and activities for the some 200-attending students drawn from four high schools. Twenty-two high schoolers took advantage of work experience offered in the summer months while ten others participated at other times.

The staff orientation workshop was revised and expanded to provide up-to-date staff information on policies and procedures.

Public Health

The Health Services Department shares responsibility for public health in the Cayman Islands with various other Government departments such as the Environmental Health, the Mosquito Research & Control Unit and the Department of Agriculture. The Health Services Department, through the Community Health Service, is responsible for district health centres, general practice, the Public Health Unit and community health programmes. This service is provided by a team of general practitioners, community health nurses, health promotion officers, a genetics counsellor, a nutritionist and administrative staff.

Community Health programmes include:
- Health advice and vaccines for international travellers;
- Antenatal, post-natal and family planning services;
- Health assessment, including vision and hearing tests for children (defaulters are followed up in the school system);
- Nutrition and dietary counselling clinics, regularly offered at the Cayman Islands Hospital and district health centres;
- Child growth and development monitoring;
- Communicable disease screening; and
- Disease control programmes, including immunization.

The overall incidence of communicable disease remains low in the Cayman Islands.

Though cause for concern, reports of sexually transmitted infections (such as syphilis, gonorrhoea and chlamydia) have been on the decline since 1998. Since the
first reported case of AIDS in 1985, 61 HIV infections have been identified among residents. At 31 December 2001, 24 persons had died, nine others were living with AIDS and 28 others were HIV-infected. These statistics include even new HIV-infections among residents reported in 2001.

Malaria and dengue fever are not endemic to the Cayman Islands. Chicken pox has been on a steady decline since 1998. Influenza, food-borne illnesses and gastroenteritis remain significant communicable diseases.

For the first time in Cayman and the Caribbean, a case of West Nile Fever was diagnosed and treated. No further cases were detected.

Immunization
Resident children continued to be immunized against many communicable diseases, namely tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, haemophilus influenza b infections, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella and chicken pox.

Immunization coverage, which continues to exceed World Health Organization (WHO) targets, were recorded at the following levels:
- Polio, 92%.
- DPT (diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus), 92%.
- Hib (Haemophilus influenza b), 92%.
- MMR (measles/mumps/rubella – 1st dose), 87%.
- BCG (tuberculosis), 93%.
- Hepatitis B (3 doses), 79%.
- Varicella (chicken pox), 39%.

Health Promotion
Highlights of health promotional activities included:
- HIV in the Work Place
This initiative aims to encourage development of workplace HIV/AIDS policies and training activities. A specific concern is the elimination of discrimination against employees with HIV/AIDS. The programme also aims to combat further HIV infections. Two companies — Barclays Bank and Cable & Wireless — have taken advantage of the programme to train all their staff. Cable & Wireless has also developed and implemented its own HIV work-place policy.
- Breast Cancer Awareness
The Health Services continued participation, in association with the Lions Club of Tropical Gardens, in Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- The Scranton Community Health Project
This aims to empower participants to improve health in their own community. A programme of health awareness

was organized to address the community’s main health concerns.
- World No-tobacco Day
Participation, in association with the National Drug Council, continued in 2001. Activities included supporting the George Town scout group in preparing a range of projects to combat smoking among young people. A revised Good Air Guide (to smoke-free hotels and restaurants) was also published.
- Men’s Health Awareness Week
The Health Services joined with the Jewels of Cayman Lodge #1 in organizing this first observance. During the week, 213 men were screened for Prostate Cancer.
- STD Awareness Week and World AIDS Day
In conjunction with the Cayman AIDS Foundation, various activities were organized in observance of these two annual events. Activities included production and distribution of a poster, a panel discussion, awareness-raising through businesses and free HIV screening.
- AIDS – We care, do you?
A poster with this theme was produced featuring well-known persons drawn from the corporate and sporting sectors, a person living with HIV/AIDS, and a minister of religion. T-shirts, sponsored by the Cayman AIDS Foundation, featured the World AIDS Day theme: I Care, Do You?
- Annual World Diabetes Activities
Community nutrition was a key component of these activities, featuring awareness-raising sessions, the annual fundraising walk and the first anniversary picnic. The Cayman Islands Diabetes Association includes education on nutrition in many of its activities and meetings.
- The Fit Fi Ya Now Club
Promoting healthy lifestyles, this club continued activities at George Hicks and John Gray high schools.
- Nutrition Support
Focus was continued in this important sphere through community service groups such as Meals on Wheels, the Young Parents Programme, the Red Cross, the Lions Club, etc., and church groups.

The Prison Health Centre
The Northward Prison Health Centre is administered by a registered nurse under the direction of a medical officer. The district medical officer, the psychiatrist and a dental officer visit regularly. Total attendance in 2001 was 3,587, an increase of 24.7% over the previous year’s 2,877. A new clinic facility was commissioned in December 2001.
Faith Hospital, Cayman Brac
A surgeon, an anaesthetist, a resident obstetrician/ gynaecologist and a general practitioner staff the modern, 18-bed Faith Hospital. Visiting specialists from Grand Cayman offer services in the fields of paediatrics, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, internal medicine and E.N.T. There is a full nursing service, which includes public health, mental health and infection control. Radiology and physiotherapy services are also available.

Faith Hospital provides emergency, primary and secondary care to residents of, and visitors to, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Total admission in 2001 was 530, an increase of 40% over 379 in year 2000.

A dental officer serves two days weekly and dental technicians are on duty two days each month. Full-time dental auxiliary and dental assistants serve the clinic. There were 2,719 dental visits in 2001, a decrease of 15.8% from 3,228 in 2000.

Little Cayman Clinic
A resident nurse, supported by twice weekly clinics conducted by a physician from Faith Hospital, offers medical services on Little Cayman. There were 1,628 patient visits in 2001, an increase of 5.4% over the previous year’s 1,544. The visits in both years included GP appointments, emergencies, walk-in patients and dental appointments. A dental hygienist from Grand Cayman visits monthly, while a dental officer dispenses care three to four times a year. A physiotherapist and a mental health nurse visit monthly.

Department of Substance Abuse Services
The Department of Substance Abuse dispenses services through three distinct programmes: On Grand Cayman, Caribbean Haven Outpatient Service and Caribbean Haven Residential Centre, and, on Cayman Brac, Brac Haven Outpatient Service.

Caribbean Haven and Brac Haven outpatient services assessed and treated 890 clients. The ratio of men to women treated was three to two.

Outpatient services incorporate an outreach programme. Staff conduct individual and group counselling sessions approximately eight hours a week at the Fairbanks and Northward prison locations. Early-release prisoners with a substance abuse history are admitted directly to Caribbean Haven Residential Centre.

Adolescent treatment groups and individual counselling sessions were conducted at both George Hicks and John Gray high schools. The Cayman Islands Marine Institute (CIMI) regularly transports its students to the Outpatient Service for individual counselling. Seventeen percent of Caribbean Haven’s caseload comprises adolescents younger than 17 years.

The Driving Whilst Impaired Programme was introduced in response to growing demand. Court referrals commenced in February, with 53 of 62 referees completing the programme by year’s end. Referrals from the courts or probation, parole and prison services constitute 41% of all clients.

Caribbean Haven Residential Centre became fully operational in January 2001, admitting 60 clients to its intensive three-week programme. Twenty-three others were accepted into its “Alternate-living Beds,” an interim living arrangement until the halfway house for males becomes operational. Family therapy and education are integral aspects of treatment. Clergy offer spiritual guidance, professionals visit on a regular basis to give lectures, while others share their talents in other helpful ways. The many donations received are applied towards making the environment pleasant and friendly.

The wall mural project attracts much attention. Before discharge, clients are invited to paint on the centre’s back wall, expressing feelings about the future or the past. It becomes a personal testimony for many and gives hope to newcomers.

A halfway house, serving transitional needs of male clients preparing for re-entry to society, is three-quarters built. Plans call for clients, who will benefit from its life-skills training, to contribute to the facility’s upkeep.

The Department of Substance Abuse Services, Social Services and the CIMI jointly hosted a three-day workshop on the treatment of adolescent substance abuse. This workshop was subsequently repeated in response to demand.

The planned establishment of a drug treatment court in 2002 was expected to impact significantly the Department of Substance Abuse services. Estimates indicate some 150 referrals in the Drug Court’s first year of operation.
National Drug Council

The mission of the National Drug Council (NDC) is to eradicate substance abuse in the Cayman Islands and to address effectively, in cooperation with other agencies and foreign governments, the global trafficking of illicit drugs and related concerns.

The NDC, an autonomous statutory corporation, was established by the NDC Law (2001 Revision). It coordinates the balanced approach needed to reduce both demand and supply of alcohol and drugs in the Cayman Islands.

Mandate

The NDC Law (2001 revision) sets out the following functions for the NDC with respect to drug abuse in the Cayman Islands:

- Education, with particular respect to young people
- Prevention
- Treatment & rehabilitation

The following supporting functions are also included:

- Scholarships for those wishing to pursue studies related to drug abuse.
- Conferences, seminars and meetings related to drug abuse.
- Initiation, support and publishing of studies, reports and other documentation on drug abuse.
- Development of information systems, databases and facilities on policies, programmes and research on drug abuse.
- Gathering of knowledge on the availability and supply of drugs likely to be abused.
- Advising on law reform relating to the misuse of drugs.

Strategy

The National Strategic Plan for Drug Abuse Prevention and Rehabilitation serves as the master plan guiding the activities of the NDC and its partners.

The plan allows the NDC and its partners to determine their respective roles in the realization of the National Strategy, which sets specific objectives in the following areas:

- Prevention
- Treatment and rehabilitation
- Research
- Education of young people

- Public education
- Supply control

In October 2001 the NDC conducted its annual update of the National Strategic Plan. In a comprehensive review of the National Strategy, the planning team proposed a number of amendments.

Regional and International Partnerships

- United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)
- Barbados
- UNDCP/Vienna
- Organization of American States, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD)
- Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC)
- Caribbean Drug Information Network (CARIDIN)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Canadian Association For Mental Health (CAMH)

Achievements in Strategic Areas

Public Information Campaigns and Special Projects

The NDC is actively engaged in initiating and promoting several campaigns informing on, preventing and reducing the harm associated with substance misuse and abuse.

World No-tobacco Day Campaign

On 31 May 2001, the NDC supported the WHO’s World No-tobacco Day. The campaign’s theme was Second-Hand Smoke: Let’s Clear the Air.

Sports, Not Drugs Initiative, United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)

On 26 June 2001 the NDC participated in the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking by hosting a special sports day for young offenders at HM Prison Northward. Activities were based on the UNDCP’s theme, Sports, Not Drugs.

Drug Awareness Month

The NDC’s annual Drug Awareness Month (October) campaign is the agency’s most extensive. The list of activities included an ecumenical church service; a motivational speaker, who made special presentations at all schools; a special newspaper supplement distributed to all students; a Beach Bash featuring catboat races; a Youth to Youth Conference; web site competitions and various contests promoted through the local media. Over 30 government and private organizations collaborated to make the campaign successful.

**Designated-driver Campaign**
This campaign encourages restaurants and establishments serving alcohol to offer designated drivers free, non-alcoholic drinks during December. Participation increased by 25% over 2000.

**Purple Ribbon Bus**
In its second year, this programme provides free bus service island-wide on New Year’s Eve and on other holiday occasions. Participation in the 2001 New Year’s service increased by 25% over 2000.

**Community Involvement**
The NDC participates in a variety of district fairs, hosting booths with exhibits and information on substance abuse/misuse and on available community resources. “I Guanna B a Millionaire,” based on the popular TV game show and featuring drug-related questions, is a star attraction wherever the NDC exhibits.

**Prevention and Education**
During the 2001 fiscal year, the NDC formulated policies designed to prevent or reduce drug use and abuse. The NDC’s mandate is to encourage and support the implementation of these policies by Government and other non-governmental organizations. Key policies are:

**Drug-free Work Place**
The NDC began working with the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), the Department of Substance Abuse Services (DOSAS) and the George Town Health Services Complex Forensic Science Laboratory to develop a drug-free work-place policy. A survey to determine the nature and extent of drug use and abuse in the workplace will be conducted in 2002.

**Tobacco Control**
A policy document was prepared advising the Minister of Community Services on law reforms needed to update current tobacco legislation. The document incorporates the ten key elements of WHO’s comprehensive tobacco-control policy.

**Legal Substances**
The NDC has forwarded to the Minister its recommendations for the implementation of policies and legislation to address the abuse and misuse of legal substances.

**Educational Materials**
During October 2000’s Drug Awareness Month, the NDC distributed to all schools educational video materials, activity and comic books, and quizzes suitable for grades K-12.

**Community Intervention Programmes**
Renovation of the former Racquet Club on Elgin Avenue was completed and opening ceremonies were held in December 2000. Limited operations commenced following a workshop in early 2001 to develop programmes.

**Treatment and Rehabilitation**
While not operating treatment centres, the NDC plays a supporting role in ensuring that treatment and rehabilitation services are readily available and adaptable to the diverse needs of those suffering from chemical dependency. The lead treatment agency is the Department of Substance Abuse Services (DOSAS).

**Drug-treatment Court**
The NDC continues to demonstrate its interest and support for the establishment of a drug-treatment court. The Chief Justice, who chairs a judicial advisory committee on alternate sentencing options, prepared drafting instructions for the legislative framework to operationalize a drug-treatment court in 2002.

**Driving Whilst Intoxicated (DWI) Initiative**
The NDC recommended an intervention programme implemented in 2001 to reduce the growing number of DWI offences.

**Research and Statistics**

**Cayman Islands Drug and Alcohol Survey (CIDAS)**
The first household survey, CIDAS was designed to secure baseline data on the prevalence of alcohol and drug use. Ninety-four percent — 927 households in the survey sampled — responded. The principal substances consumed, by far, are alcohol, tobacco and ganja (marijuana), with men outnumbering women. The 15-29-age range showed the highest levels of drug use for all substances. CIDAS will be repeated in 2003, allowing for comparative analyses over time.

**Cayman Islands Student Drug Use Survey (CISDUS)**
Data for the second cycle of CIDUS was collected in
October 2000, during Drug Awareness Month. The data was sent to the Institute for Social Research at York University, Ontario, Canada, for coding and data entry then returned to the NDC for analysis.

**Local Statistics**

The NDC continues to collect annual and quarterly data on frequency of incidents/cases resulting from drug- and/or alcohol-abuse. Data are used for detection and monitoring of trends.

**Supply Reduction and Control**

With full support from the NDC, the Police Service and Customs have responsibility for controlling the supply of harmful substances in the Islands. The Police Commissioner, the Head of the Drugs Task Force and the Assistant Collector of Customs sit on the NDC’s council.

**The Employee Assistance Programme of the Cayman Islands**

The Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) is a confidential consulting/counselling firm available to local companies, their employees and families. The benefits of the services spin-off to the employer with higher levels of productivity in the workplace. The wider community gains from its positive impact on families and general society.

The EAP is a non-profit agency, supported by member companies, who pay nominal fees based on the number of full-time employees. The local EAP operates autonomously but within the guidelines of the internationally recognized EAP organization.

In addition to Government membership that includes over 3,000 clients, the EAP has more than 3,000 clients from some 95 member-companies in the private sector. Client companies grow daily, as new members endeavour to enhance productivity and deal more effectively with troublesome issues. The EAP provides individual and group counselling for problems involving relationships, marriage, domestic violence, family, stress, depression and substance abuse.

This programme is offered as an employee benefit, and the annual fee covers all counselling charges. Counselling is strictly confidential, unless initiated by a manager or supervisor, in which case the employee signs a Disclosure Statement, allowing for provision of progress reports.
Health Care

Staff of the Health Services Department regularly assisted the Cayman Islands Diabetes Association, a community-based group, with educating the public about the illness.

Foster Brothers distributed toothpaste and mouthwash samples to government and private dental offices in Cayman as part of a regional promotion by pharmaceutical manufacturer Pfizer.

The Hon. Minister Linford Pierson (second from left), whose portfolio included the Health Services Department for much of 2001, begins a tour of George Town Primary’s school-based clinic.

As part of World AIDS Day activities, Community Health joined with Cable and Wireless (Cayman) Ltd. and Barclays Bank to offer free HIV/AIDS screening to employees.

Public Health staff “sweeten up” a baby during a special Mothers to Mothers meeting held in commemoration of World Breastfeeding Week.

Minister of Health Services, the Hon. Gilbert McLean (front, centre) is pictured with the Health Services’ senior staff.