

About

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is the state's public health and environmental protection agency. With more than **3,400 employees** working in **80 locations** statewide, our vision is healthy people living in healthy communities.

The agency is organized into four separate divisions: (1) **Health Services**, which operates the agency's public health and state laboratory functions; (2) **Health Regulation**, which oversees the licensing of healthcare facilities and EMS providers; (3) **Environmental Affairs**, which issues and enforces environmental permits and operates the Ocean and Coastal Resource Management program; and (4) **Operations**, which provides procurement, strategic planning, project management, facilities oversight, and information technology support for the agency.

Agency Director

Catherine Heigel has served as Director of DHEC since April 2015.



A S.C. native, Heigel has more than 20 years of combined legal, regulatory, and executive management experience. Before joining DHEC, she served as General Counsel and Corporate Strategies Officer for Elliott Davis Decosimo, LLC. Prior to her role at Elliott Davis Decosimo, LLC, Heigel spent 11 years with Duke Energy, leaving the company as President of its South Carolina Operations. Additionally, Heigel served as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at the American Transmission Company.

Heigel earned her bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina and her law degree from The Ohio State University School of Law. Heigel also has completed the Advanced Management Program at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and the State Health Official Leadership Program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

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DHEC by the Numbers

DHEC performs countless important functions impacting nearly every citizen of our state. Here's a snapshot of what "business as usual" looks like:

In a year, our **Health Services** teams:

- Log more than **777,000 clinical client encounters** at our health departments.
- Investigate more than **363 acute disease outbreaks** and **55,000 disease reports**.

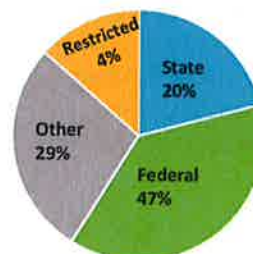
Environmental Affairs annually:

- Manages over **30,000 active permits**, including asbestos projects, private wells, septic tanks, industrial storm water general permits, infectious waste generators, mines, and more.
- Conducts **over 90,000 inspections**, covering programs as diverse as recreational waters and underground storage tanks to air quality.
- **Investigates more than 46,000 complaints**, ranging from rabies exposures to open burning and emergency response spills.

Our **Health Regulation** team:

- Conducts over **8,020 inspections**, including facility, construction, registrants of controlled substances, EMS agencies, ambulances, and X-Ray machines.
- DHEC's legal responsibilities currently touch on **more than 360 state and federal statutes and regulations, and state provisos**.

Budget



Total	\$606,956,752
Federal	\$286,140,200
Other	\$175,589,511
State	\$119,916,820
Restricted	\$25,310,221

Agency Goals and Strategic Plan

3 Aspirational Goals

1. To be recognized as a leading public health and environmental protection agency in the nation.
2. To be a model of operational excellence in state government.
3. To be the preferred public sector employer in public health and environmental protection in the Southeast.

Under the leadership of a new executive management team, DHEC in 2015 updated its strategic plan for the first time in more than 10 years. This roadmap charts a path toward modernization in service delivery, builds on our existing successes, and aims to establish DHEC as a model of operational excellence in state government.

Read more at www.scdhec.gov/strategicplan.

Emerging Issues

Employee Retirement

Like many state agencies, DHEC is bracing for the upcoming wave of employee retirements and the loss of institutional knowledge. More than a third of DHEC's workforce is nearing retirement. Meanwhile, 42% of employees have been with the agency less than five years. This presents the challenge of succession planning and knowledge transfer.

Facilities

The agency's facilities are degrading, functionally obsolete, present safety concerns, and do not meet the needs of our staff and customers. To mitigate these concerns, DHEC will need to pursue redevelopment of our current facilities or consider alternative facilities for our central office, state laboratory, and some regional offices. The consolidation of the numerous central office locations is a substantial, but necessary, undertaking that will require the support of many partners, including the General Assembly. DHEC will continue to partner with the Department of Administration to evaluate redevelopment and relocation opportunities.

Funding

DHEC relies on funding from numerous sources and when this funding is reduced or eliminated, it greatly impacts the agency's ability to protect the health of the public and the environment. Reliable, stable funding for basic agency infrastructure is a key to ensuring consistent agency operations and provision of services.

Event Response

Hurricane Matthew and October 2015 Flood

From pre-storm evacuation support to post-storm damage assessments and clean-up, our team was fully engaged for Hurricane Matthew in October 2016.

- DHEC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers **assessed the condition of 469 dams** in areas impacted by the storm.
- We opened and staffed **9 Special Medical Need Shelters** housing **130 shelterees**.
- Our Health Regulation team **worked with 114 inpatient health care facilities**, including four hospitals, to evacuate from the medical evacuation zones, and **over 1,700 patients** were transported to other facilities.

Collectively, DHEC staff expended more than **55,000 work hours** on the 2015 flood response and recovery. The agency was able to mobilize, identify problems and develop solutions, while still providing day-to-day services.

Wildfires 2016

We served as a leading source of information concerning wildfire smoke safety across the state in November 2016, by providing interviews and dependable forecasting and material assistance to first responders.

- DHEC provided a mobile communications trailer to the Table Rock Wesleyan Camp command post in Pickens starting on November 13, 2016.
- Our medical staff increased public awareness regarding health hazards associated with smoke in affected areas.
- Bureau of Air Quality staff provided daily air quality forecasts.
- Our website had **374,466 views** for this topic in a two-week period.

Hepatitis A Outbreak in Food Handlers

In September 2015, DHEC was notified by a hospital lab of positive test results for Hepatitis A in employees of two Upstate restaurants. The outbreak was successfully managed and no patron of the restaurants developed Hepatitis A.

- Health Services staff administered **4,975 Hepatitis A vaccinations**.
- Environmental Affairs staff conducted restaurant inspections.
- Our response effort included **277 staff** from across the state.