

## Overview

## Activities of Health Centers

Health centers are front-line comprehensive public health administrative institutions to offer both personal and objective health services. Personal health services include broad-based services, those requiring specialized technologies, and services requiring team work of various health care professionals. In addition, health centers provide required technical support for health services of municipalities.

Health centers are established in 380 locations in 47 prefectures, 107 locations in 66 designated cities, and 23 locations in 23 special wards under the Community Health Act. (As of April 1, 2009)

### <<Personal health service areas>>

#### <Measures against infectious diseases>

Health checkups, reporting emergence of patients, etc.  
Non-regular health checkups of Tuberculosis, preventive vaccination, home-visit guidance, controlled medical examination, etc.  
(the Infectious Disease Act)

#### <Measures against AIDS/intractable diseases>

AIDS individual counselling programs (including free anonymous examination), AIDS consultation (AIDS guidelines)  
Medical consultation of intractable diseases, etc.  
(outlines of infectious disease measures)

#### <Measures for mental health>

Identifying current situation regarding mental health, mental health and welfare consultation, home-visit guidance of mental health, office works regarding medical care and protection, etc.  
(the Mental Health and Welfare Act)

#### <Measures for maternal and child health>

Home-visit guidance for preterm infants, providing medical aid for premature infants, etc.  
(the Maternal and Child Health Act)

### <<Objective health service areas>>

#### <Food sanitation>

Providing business license for restaurants, supervising business facilities, guidance, etc.  
(the Food Sanitation Act)

#### <Environmental health>

Providing business license, notification, on-site investigation, etc.  
(the Act Concerning Coordination and Improved of the Environmental Health Industry, the Entertainment Places Act, the Public Bath Houses Act, the Inns and Hotels Act, the Barbers Act, the Cosmetologists Act, the Laundries Act)

Health centre administration council  
Directors of health centers (doctors)

- Health risk management
- Technical support/advice for municipalities
- Adjustment between municipalities
- Formulation/promotion of regional health/medical care plans

510 health centers  
380 in prefectures  
107 in designated cities  
23 in special wards

Doctors  
Physical therapists  
Dentists  
Occupational therapists  
Pharmacists  
Public health nurses  
Veterinarians  
Midwives  
Clinical radiologic technologists  
Nurses  
Medical social workers  
Certified psychiatric social workers  
Laboratory-medical technologists  
Medical technologists  
Food sanitation inspectors  
Environmental sanitation inspectors  
Registered dieticians  
Dieticians  
Dental hygienists  
Abattoir inspectors etc.

#### <Medical care inspection>

On-site investigation of hospitals, clinics, non-profit medical corporations, dental clinics, clinical laboratories, etc.  
(the Medical Care Act, the Dental Technicians Act, the Act concerning the Exceptional Cases of the Medical Practitioners)

#### <<Planning, adjustment, etc.>>

Publicity  
Dissemination and enlightenment  
Health statistics  
Health consultation

\* In addition to these activities, health centers provide license for opening pharmacies (the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act), take custody of dogs to prevent the spread of rabies (the Rabies Protection Act), and accept applications for opening massage clinics, etc. (the Act for Practitioners of Massage, Finger Pressure, Acupuncture and Moxacauterization, etc.).