

bution to health in conjunction with academic institutions.

We aim to strengthen the **intersectoral leadership** of the city's activity in the area of health by interacting with other public and private institutions and organizations in Barcelona that can help us achieve our objectives. Our vocation is to collaborate with all these services, which is why we are always looking for the most suitable options to fulfill our mission.

## Vision

Our vision for the future is to be a benchmark organization in the field of management, research and innovation in public health in Europe, with high levels of effectiveness and efficiency and a drive toward excellence in our products and services.

## A Benchmark Organization

The ASPB is the single Point of entry for citizens in matters related to public health in Barcelona. This involves grouping all the public-health competencies of the Catalan government and the city of Barcelona under a single umbrella organization for efficient concentration and management of these competencies in the city.

The ASPB began its activity on January 1 2003 and is governed by its Board. It is organized in five main functional areas for the rendering of services: the Institute for Food Safety and Health (ISAS), the Laboratory, the Institute for Community Services, the Public Health Observatory and the Office for Environmental Surveillance Services. The activities of all these areas are listed in the catalogue of products and services.



UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025  
Certification for chemical  
and microbiological analysis  
of food products and water.



## Directory

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### Animal Shelter

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### Central Market Health Inspection

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sector C  
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### Care Centers for Patients with Drug Dependence

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Telephone 934 901 940

#### CAS Nou Barris

Via Favència, 379  
08033 Barcelona  
Telephone 933 540 219

#### CAS Garbivent

Sagrera, 179  
08027 Barcelona  
Telephone 933 408 458

#### CAS Sarrià

Dalmases, 76  
08017 Barcelona  
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#### CAS Horta-Guinardó

Sacedón, 18  
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#### Can Puig Residential Center

Ctra. de l'Arrabassada, km 6,8  
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#### Sala Baluard

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Agència  
de Salut Pública

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## Since 1889

The Barcelona Public Health Agency (ASPB) has its origins in three centenarian organizations: the Barcelona Municipal Laboratory, founded in 1889; the Municipal Hygiene Institute, created in 1891; and the corps of Municipal Veterinarians, which dates from 1899. After democracy was reestablished in the city, the three institutions merged in the 1980s, along with other services and structures, in what was known as the Public Health Area. The Municipal Institute for Public Health was created in 1997 and then merged with Catalan government institutions in 2002 to create the ASPB. Besides managing and administering public health centers and services in the city of Barcelona, the ASPB also manages services of the Catalan government for the city of Barcelona.

## Mission

The ASPB **safeguards the health of the citizens of Barcelona and the people who visit the city**, in particular by:

- Evaluating the health needs of the general population, including subgroups with special risks.
- Developing policies and actions for disease prevention and control, as well as health promotion and protection.
- Ensuring equal access of citizens to services that allow them to maintain and improve their health.
- Contributing to the development of an environmental and social context that is sustainable for health.



We aim for **excellence** in our services, based on the qualifications of our personnel and the incentives provided to them, as well as dynamic, rigorous management, the explicit definition of objectives shared with the public, a catalogue of services and the publication of production and economic results.

We want to include the concept of **good public-health practice** by promoting evidence-based action and evaluation, and also through research and training. We aspire to inform the community about our contri-

## Catalogue of Services

The ASPB catalogue of services includes the services and products it provides in relation to its mission, along with the responsibilities it has been entrusted with and the funding received from public administrations. The ASPB also provides other services in keeping with its objectives and capacities: some international-cooperation services and external services derived from contracts and agreements with other organizations and institutions, which the ASPB enters into with the condition that they do not involve a reduction of the resources available to carry out its main mission.

### Information Systems

The ASPB systematically gathers and analyzes data on matters affecting health and different health-related problems in order to obtain a comprehensive vision of the health status of the people of Barcelona and decide on priority action to be taken. These data are used to draw up a report on health in the city with indicators by district and basic health areas.

- Information systems on drug dependence.
- Information systems on reproductive health and children's health.
- Vital statistics.
- Information systems on injuries from traffic accidents and occupational accidents.
- Information system on food safety.
- Information system on air quality and other environmental vectors.
- Integrated health-information system.
- Health surveys of the general population and specific groups.

### Epidemiological Surveillance

The ASPB systematically gathers, processes, analyzes and publishes information on reportable diseases, such as meningococcal meningitis, AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis, among others. It is also responsible for investigating and controlling epidemic outbreaks of all diseases, and for planning and implementing epidemiological prevention, control and surveillance programs. In order to comply with these objectives, it works in conjunction with other research groups at hospitals, primary-care centers, drug-dependence care centers and penitentiary institutions.

In the area of occupational health, the surveillance system has been extended to all basic health areas.

- Tuberculosis prevention and control program.
- Surveillance of AIDS/HIV and hepatitis.
- Surveillance and control of meningitis and Legionnaire's disease.
- Surveillance and control of other communicable diseases.
- Surveillance and control of epidemic outbreaks.
- Surveillance of occupational health.

### Environmental Surveillance

The ASPB performs surveillance and control actions in the areas of prevention, evaluation (of the impact of fixed sources and traffic on air quality, and the microbiological quality of beach water and sand, among others), the participation in action plans, the application of surveillance programs and intervention in community outbreaks.

- Programs to improve air quality.
- Surveillance and control of water for human consumption.
- Surveillance and control of water resources (groundwater and coastal waters).
- Surveillance and control of installations with a risk of Legionnaire's disease.
- Surveillance and control of pesticide establishments and services and other risks.



### Food Safety and Hygiene

The ASPB performs surveillance and control of food prepared and sold in the city. These control activities are carried out in wholesale establishments in the Mercabarna Food Unit (slaughterhouse, central fish market and central fruit and vegetable market) and in other establishments throughout the city. It also carries out surveillance of retail food establishments, social cafeterias and commercial restaurants.

- Health surveillance and control of central markets.
- Health surveillance and control of the slaughterhouse.
- Health surveillance and control of wholesale industries and commercial establishments.
- Health surveillance and control of retail establishments and municipal markets.
- Health surveillance and control of communal eating establishments.

### Control of Urban Fauna and Pests

Animal management in the city involves maintaining a strict balance between animal protection, education for responsible ownership of animals and the surveillance and control of zoonotic diseases in the city. The ASPB's pest-control programs are based on comprehensive control methods, designed to reduce the use of

chemical products as much as possible and increase sustainability in the environment and public health.

- Control of lost and abandoned pets.
- Surveillance and control of wild animals in public places.
- Custody and adoption of animals at the Animal Shelter.
- Management of the pet census and control of potentially dangerous dogs.
- Environmental control of pests in public spaces and municipal buildings.

### Public Health Laboratory

The Laboratory carries out its activity in the field of microbiological and physicochemical analysis, and provides analytical support for the city's public-health services. The Laboratory's analytical services are also available to other public administrations, companies and individuals. The Laboratory's analytical results have received international recognition in that the Laboratory has been certified for quality in accordance with standard UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025, granted by the Spanish National Accreditation Body (ENAC).

- Support for food surveillance and control programs.
- Support for surveillance and control programs on tap water.
- Support for environmental surveillance and control programs.
- Support for investigation of epidemic outbreaks.
- Preparation of pharmacological products.

### Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

In the area of disease prevention and health promotion, the ASPB implements activities to facilitate the integration of preventive activities in healthcare, as well as educational and occupational settings (vaccinations, breast-cancer screening, school and company programs).

- Breast-cancer screening program.
- Continuous vaccination plan.
- Smoking prevention and control.
- Health education in schools.
- Support for schools in other health activities.
- Sexual and reproductive health programs.
- Training in the prevention of occupational risks.
- Prevention programs in companies.

### Care for Patients With Drug Dependence

Drug abuse has been one of the main problems affecting life and public health in the city of Barcelona. To deal with this problem, the City Drug Plan was implemented as a comprehensive plan to ensure greater effectiveness of the different action taken, namely prevention and treatment.



- Community programs not connected to schools.
- Treatment programs at specialized centers.
- Programs to reduce risks at social centers.
- Programs to reduce risks on the street.
- Residential programs.

### Coordination and Liaison

Action for coordination and liaison with other agents in the area of public health.

- Coordination with other sectors of the municipal administration.
- Health coordination and support for municipal services in city neighborhoods.
- Coordination with other administrations and health-service planning.
- Intersectoral awareness of the Municipal Drug Plan and consultancy services for police forces and other agents.
- City Environmental Board.
- Providing the general public and social and professional sectors with information.
- Support for health-related and self-help organizations.
- Relations with other towns and cities, the Federation of Municipalities of Catalonia (FMC) and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) and Healthy Cities Networks.
- World Health Organization collaborating center and international relations.

### External Projects

The ASPB provides consultancy services to other organizations in the areas of disease prevention and control and the promotion of public health.

### Research and Training

Besides implementing research projects in different subject areas (health factors, healthcare policies, international health, etc.), the ASPB has an extensive involvement in teaching especially in postgraduate education.