



MISSISSIPPI

The **Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant** provides funding for health problems in Mississippi that range from unintentional injury deaths to community water fluoridation. PHHS Block Grant funds allow Mississippi to use dollars **where** we need them, **when** we need them to protect the public's health. The following programs receive PHHS Block Grant funds: community health promotion program, rape prevention education, and preventive health and disease control.



Unintentional Injury Deaths—Community Health Promotion Program

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to fund and promote child passenger safety, purchase child car safety seats, distribute educational literature, and co-sponsor child safety seat checkpoints. The Child Safety Seat Program is a statewide child safety seat distribution and educational program offered to underserved families. Annually, this program purchases and distributes more than 4,000 car seats to individuals in the nine public health districts.



Rape or Attempted Rape—Rape Prevention Education

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to support sexually assaulted persons through eight Rape Crisis Centers located statewide. In grant reporting year 2005, Mississippi documented sexual assault cases totaling 400 males and 1,057 females. Of this total, 568 were below the age of 18. In addition, only 28% of cases received immediate medical attention. For the state's fiscal year (FY)2005, a total of 712 youth education training sessions were held statewide with 24,231 participating in the sessions.



Community Water Fluoridation—Preventive Health and Disease Control

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to assist local communities to begin water fluoridation. With 97% of Mississippi's population receiving water from public water systems, there is great capacity to reduce tooth decay and improve oral health through community water fluoridation. Using Block Grant funds, 27 communities have started water fluoridation programs that serve over 150,000 citizens.



School Health Education—Community Health Promotion Program

PHHS Block Grant Funds are used to support the community health programs that provide education and preventive health screenings statewide. These activities focus on physical activity, nutrition, obesity, and other chronic disease risk factors including awareness of signs and symptoms of a heart attack or stroke. In FY2005, 181 screening events were conducted.

Mississippi Department of Health

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Bringing Brighter Smiles to Mississippi Thanks to PHHS Block Grant Funding

Issue:

Dental caries cause a great deal of pain, cost a lot of money, and can be prevented. The problem only gets worse when people have limited or no access to dental care in their communities.

- Mississippi has 1,176 active dentists, or about 1 dentist per every 2,400 persons. Less than half of these dentists accept Medicaid.
- Children living in poverty suffer double the amount of tooth decay and pain, yet, when compared to their affluent peers, they are only half as likely to obtain a dental visit.

Water fluoridation is the cost effective method to preventing dental caries in communities throughout the state. Fluoridated water strengthens the enamel of teeth and makes them more resistant to decay. It also inhibits the bacteria that cause tooth decay and, most importantly, requires no consumer effort.

- Water fluoridation can reduce dental caries by 20% to 60% in people of all ages, regardless of socioeconomic status.
- Every \$1 spent on community water fluoridation saves \$80 in dental treatment costs.
- Only 46% of Mississippi's residents receive fluoridated water through their local water system, well below the national health objective rate of 75%.

With the state's shortage of dentists and with limited access to dental care for the uninsured and underinsured, community water fluoridation is more important than ever.

Intervention:

The Mississippi Department of Health leveraged Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant dollars to acquire additional funding for water fluoridation and to form a public-private partnership. This partnership has—

- Provided 26 communities in Mississippi with new public water fluoridation systems. These new systems have an estimated average ongoing cost of less than 50 cents per person per year.

PHHS Block Grant has also funded the following critical programs in Mississippi's schools:

- The Regional Oral Health Consultant issued a statewide oral health survey of third grade children enrolled in Mississippi's public elementary schools.
- A weekly school fluoride mouth rinse program in 103 elementary schools, serving 29,619 children in grades K-6.
- 47 oral health screening/education events at various locations, including state agencies, community colleges, and public schools.

Impact:

The Mississippi Department of Health has made great strides towards improved oral health in the state with PHHS Block Grant funding—

- 154,000 more Mississippians now have fluoridated water.
- \$368,310 were spent on community water fluoridation, resulting in a projected savings of \$29,464,800 in dental treatment costs.
- 1.55 million or 50.5% of Mississippi's total population now receive fluoridated public water.
- Mississippi received multiple state fluoridation awards at the National Oral Health Conference in 2005 in recognition of these successes.

Thanks to PHHS Block Grant dollars, more people in Mississippi can smile with healthy teeth.

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