

Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)

Maternal and Child Health Bureau

The work of all Maternal and Child Health Bureau divisions, programs, and staff is in support of the Bureau's Strategic Plan for meeting the needs of the maternal and child health populations of the United States and its Jurisdictions (1998-2003). The Plan has three over-arching goals: 1) To eliminate barriers and health disparities in health status outcomes through the removal of economic, social, and cultural barriers to receiving comprehensive, timely, and appropriate health care; 2) To assure the highest quality of care through development of practice guidelines, data monitoring, and evaluation tools; the utilization of evidence-based research; and the availability of a well-trained, culturally diverse workforce; and 3) To facilitate access to care through the development and improvement of the MCH health infrastructure and systems of care to enhance the provision of necessary, coordinated, quality health care. For more information on the "MCHB Strategic Plan" or other programs of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau contact: MCHB Communications (301) 443-0205 or go to www.mchb.hrsa.gov.

The MCHB Vision: MCHB believes in a future America in which the right to grow to one's full potential is universally assured through attention to the comprehensive physical, psychological, and social needs of the MCH population. We strive for a society where children are wanted and born with optimal health, receive quality care, and are nurtured lovingly and sensitively as they mature into healthy, productive adults. The Bureau seeks a Nation where there is equal access for all to quality health care in a supportive, culturally competent, family and community setting.

Charged with primary responsibility for promoting and improving the health of our Nation's mothers and children, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) draws upon nearly a century of commitment and experience. Early efforts are rooted in the MCHB predecessor, the Children's Bureau, established in 1912. In 1935, Congress enacted Title V of the *Social Security Act*, which authorized the Maternal and Child Health Services Programs—providing a foundation and structure for assuring the health of mothers and children for more than 65 years. Today, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, as part of the Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, administers Title V.

The MCHB mission is to provide national leadership and to work in partnership with States, communities, public-private partners, and families to strengthen the maternal and child health (MCH) infrastructure, assure the availability and use of medical homes, and build knowledge and human resources in order to assure continued improvement in the health, safety, and well-being of the maternal and child health population. The MCH population includes all America's pregnant women, infants, children, adolescents, and their families—including women of reproductive age, fathers, and children with special health care needs.

MCHB has implemented a *Strategic Plan (1998-2003)*. The Bureau focuses—through leadership, performance, and accountability—on accomplishment of three over-arching goals: 1) To eliminate health disparities in health status outcomes, through the removal of economic, social, and cultural barriers to receiving comprehensive, timely, and appropriate health care; 2) To assure the highest quality of care through the development of practice guidelines, data monitoring, and evaluation tools; the utilization of evidence-based research; and the availability of a well-trained, culturally diverse workforce; and 3) To facilitate access to care through the development and improvement of the MCH health infrastructure and systems of care to enhance the provision of necessary, coordinated, quality health care. The Bureau's progress—or accountability—toward goal achievement is reported annually.

Programs

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau administers seven major programs which, in FY 2000, have a total budget of \$872.4 million:

- **The Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant** (Title V, *Social Security Act*), \$709 million
- **The Healthy Start Initiative** (*Public Health Service Act*), \$90 million
- **Emergency Medical Services for Children Program** (*Public Health Service Act*), \$17 million
- **The Abstinence Education Program** (Title V, *Social Security Act*), \$50 million
- **Traumatic Brain Injury** (*Public Health Service Act*), \$5 million, which is part of the \$709 million appropriated under Title V, *Social Security Act*.
- **Universal Newborn Hearing Screening** (*Public Health Service Act*), \$3.4 million
- **Poison Control Centers Program** (*Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act*), \$3 million

Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)

The Title V Maternal and Child Health Services. The largest portion of Title V goes to the States through a formula-based block grant process, which includes a matching funds requirement. (States match \$3 in funds or resources for every \$4 in Federal funds they receive.) This \$3 billion Federal/State partnership develops service systems in our Nation's communities to meet critical challenges in maternal and child health, including:

- Significantly reducing infant mortality and incidence of handicapping conditions
- Providing and ensuring access to comprehensive care for women
- Promoting the health of children by providing preventive and primary care services
- Increasing the number of children who receive health assessments, diagnostic and treatment services
- Providing family-centered, community-based, coordinated care for children with special health care needs

Activities supported under **Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS)** include MCH research, training, genetic services, hemophilia diagnostic and treatment centers, and maternal and child health improvement projects that support a broad range of innovative strategies. In FY 2000, the Bureau funded approximately 483 SPRANS grants at a total of \$109 million; \$5 million of these SPRANS funds supports the **Traumatic Brain Injury Demonstration Grant Program (TBI)**, which provides grants to States to implement systems that ensure access to comprehensive and coordinated TBI services.

In FY 2000, 156 **Community Integrated Service Systems (CISS)** grants were awarded, totaling \$13 million. The CISS program seeks to improve the health of mothers and children by funding projects for the development and expansion of integrated health, education, and social services at the community level.

The 1996 Welfare Reform legislation established the **Abstinence Education Program** under Title V. It funds formula block grants to the States from FY 1998 to FY 2002 for abstinence education, and at State option, mentoring and counseling to promote abstinence from sexual activity. The program focuses on those groups most likely to bear children out-of-wedlock.

The **Healthy Start Initiative** funds communities to develop strategies necessary to eliminate the causes of infant mortality and low birth weight among their own residents. The initiative began in 1991 in 15 communities that had very high rates of infant mortality. In 2000, the number of official sites will grow to 94.

The **Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)** program is a joint effort of MCHB and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to improve States' EMS systems and to support research efforts focused on children's emergencies.

The **Universal Newborn Hearing Screening** program helps States implement universal newborn hearing screening prior to hospital discharge. For those infants identified with hearing loss, linkage to a medical home and diagnostic evaluation and enrollment in a program of early intervention by 6 months of age are provided.

Poison Control Centers Support Program, administered jointly by MCHB and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is creating a nationwide toll-free phone number system, a nationwide media educational campaign, and a grant program to develop and improve infrastructure elements of the Regional Poison Control Centers.

Bureau Organization

- Office of the Director, which includes Communications and the Offices of Program Development, Operations and Management, Data and Information Management, and the HRSA Office of Women's Health.
- Division of State and Community Health
- Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs
- Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health
- Division of Perinatal Systems and Women's Health
- Division of Research, Training and Education