Alaska

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant 2021

The Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant, Title V of the Social Security Act, is the only federal program devoted to improving the health of all women, children and families. In FY2019, 92.1% of all pregnant women, 98.0% of infants, and 59.6% of children nationwide benefitted from a Title V-supported service. To learn more about Title V, visit www.amchp.org.

MCH Block Grant Funds to Alaska

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,057,450</td>
<td>1,078,526</td>
<td>1,077,677</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Title V Administrative Agency:
Women’s, Children’s and Family Health, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

*States must provide a three dollar match for every four Federal dollars allocated.

Protecting and Improving the Health of Alaska’s Families

MCH Epidemiology — This group collects, analyzes and reports data regarding the status of family health in Alaska. This includes data from the Maternal Child Death Review Committee, PRAMS, Alaska Birth Defects Registry, MCH indicators, the Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS), and the Alaska Longitudinal Child Abuse and Neglect Linkage Project (ALCANLink).

Newborn Screening — The newborn bloodspot screening program tests infants for serious medical conditions and provides diagnostic testing and medical consultation from a specialist. The newborn hearing screening program aims to implement universal newborn hearing screens in all birthing facilities throughout the state and offers linkages to providers for diagnostic services and referrals for deaf or hard of hearing children to early intervention services by six months of age.

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) — Priorities for CYSHCN focus on the promotion of developmental screening, improving health care transition for youth and adolescents, providing gap-filling pediatric specialty clinics, and empowering family leaders.

Oral Health — The oral health program prioritizes improving access to dental services, reducing disparities, and improving oral health outcomes for all Alaskans through a focus on workforce development in health provider shortage areas. The program has an emphasis on oral health issues experienced in the perinatal, school-age youth, and the CYSHCN populations, and employs collaborative partnership with the Alaska Dental Action Coalition to address oral healthcare needs and concerns in Alaska.

Perinatal Health — This program focuses on improving perinatal and infant health outcomes by addressing such topics as infant safe sleep, home visiting services, and screening for substance use. In 2019, Alaska launched a statewide perinatal quality collaborative that aims to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes. Current initiatives include universal screening for substances, maternal hypertension and birth transfers.

Reproductive Health and Teen Pregnancy Prevention — This program offers clinical, outreach and pregnancy prevention efforts delivered through local nonprofit agencies and public health centers. TANF and PREP funding support healthy relationships and sexual health education.

School Nursing/School Health — This program supports and strengthens student health and nursing services in schools through the development of standards and guidelines and the development and dissemination of evidence-based resources. The program works closely with school nurses, other school health personnel, and school district administrators statewide to ensure students have safe access to needed health care to support academic success.

COVID-19 Response — The section’s response included facilitating a series of surveys on the impact of COVID-19 on families, creating materials for special populations, providing assistance to schools and school nurses for re-opening schools, provider education through Perinatal ECHOs, supporting the Department’s data dissemination dashboard, and analytics support for predictive modeling and other complex analyses.
Percentage Served by the Alaska MCH Program*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Served</th>
<th>Population Served</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>Pregnant women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>Infants under one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>Children and adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.0%</td>
<td>Children with special health care needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2019 State/Jurisdiction Annual Reports Submitted to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau

Health Needs in Alaska

- Reduce substance abuse among families, including alcohol, tobacco, and drugs
- Increase access and preventative health care services to Alaskans and their families
- Increase healthy relationships
- Increase access to reproductive health services that adhere to national best practices guidelines
- Improve system of care for families with children and youth with special health care needs
- Reduce the rate of child maltreatment
- Increase evidence-based screenings for all MCH populations for behavioral and mental health problems

For more information, contact:

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**Current Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS)**

**Building Data Capacity in Alaska**
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Juneau, AK