Puerto Rico
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 Puerto Rico

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$15,636,032</td>
<td>$15,800,897</td>
<td>$15,785,792</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Title V Administrative Agency:
Puerto Rico Department of Health
Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division
Children with Special Medical Needs Division
*States must provide a three-dollar match for every four Federal dollars allocated.

Protecting and Improving the Health of Puerto Rico’s Families

Women/Maternal Health - Maternal health care will continue to be a main feature of the Home Visiting Program (HVP). The Home Visiting Nurses (HVN) will continue to receive periodic in-service training on various aspects of women’s physical and mental health, including preconceptional, prenatal and postpartum care, so they can offer updated information to participants, as well as on effective interventions with participants. The HVP protocol specifies the educational and support interventions that are offered to all pregnant and interconceptional women; however, the HVNs will continue to personalize their actions according to the participant’s needs and available resources. In addition, the HVP reacts to emerging threats or needs and incorporates the response into the protocol accordingly. The Health Educators (HEs) will continue to revise and update the educational materials and curricula used by the Community Health Workers (CHWs) and HVNs, as is the case with the prenatal and parenting courses, in order to adapt them to new methods of dissemination, to include emerging conditions and incorporate the latest evidence-based information. PR MCAH proposes to concentrate its efforts on strengthening collaborations with MCH stakeholders that provide services to pregnant women to develop strategies that promote preventive oral health care visits. Therefore, PR MCAH will monitor and guide public policies to promote and improve access to preventive oral health services for all pregnant women. Finally, the MCAH Preventive Care Guidelines for women in reproductive age will be updated and publish according to the latest developments and recommendations of local and national public agencies and professional organizations, including ACOG.

Perinatal/Infant Health – The MCAH Program has identified decreasing Infant Mortality (IM) as a top priority for which it will continue to focus its efforts on; improving the adoption of safe sleep practices, strategies to improve birth outcomes by decreasing preterm births, increasing the percent of very low birth weight infants delivered at facilities with the specialty level required for the care of high-risk neonates, educating women on how to prevent Zika infection and high risk behaviors during pregnancy, and promoting and supporting breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding until infants reach at least 6 months of age.

Child Health – The MCAH Program has identified improving preventive health in children as a top priority, for which it will continue to focus its efforts on promoting; preventive dental and pediatric visits, healthy lifestyles to reduce the risk for childhood obesity, increased on-schedule immunization, decreased non-intentional injury, prevention of child abuse and neglect, increased early childhood developmental screening and early developmental stimulation, quality child care, and child emotional wellbeing. PR MCAH will also continue to collaborate in the development of recommendations to improve preparedness and recovery plans of the DOH and other emergency response agencies with emphasis in advocating for the needs of children.

Adolescent Health – The MCAH Program maintained as adolescent health priority, to improve health and wellbeing of adolescents, addressing preventive visits in this group and bullying/cyberbullying. Youth participation and youth/adult alliances are MCAH’s main assets towards youth’s health/wellbeing and Positive Youth Development leads all initiatives. Youth Health Promoters Project empowers youths in public schools to adopt healthy behaviors and reach their full potential while promoting health and wellbeing. The second Youth Advisory Council (2018–2021) includes 18 youths with diverse capabilities/orientations from across the island.
PRYAC gives advice on initiatives and public policies regarding adolescent health, carries out public education, and represents DOH within and outside PR.

Children with Special Health Care Needs – The CSHCN provides support and link families of children with congenital populations through surveillance data, as well as provide support and link families of children with congenital disabilities to services promptly. The implementation of electronic medical records and telehealth services remain a priority under the CSHCN’s medical home action plan to ensure access to health services as well as consistent follow-up, tracking, and monitoring of infants, children, and youth with special health care needs. Lastly, the CSHCN Program continues to be the lead for services and care coordination for families affected by Zika.

Percentage Served by the Puerto Rico MCH Program*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99.0%</td>
<td>Pregnant women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>Infants under one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>Children and adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>Children with special healthcare needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>Others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Priority Health Needs in Puerto Rico

- Promote health and wellbeing in women of reproductive age
- Improve birth outcomes
- Decrease infant mortality
- Improve preventive health in children
- Improve health and wellbeing of adolescents
- Increase the number of CSHCN who receive regular ongoing comprehensive health care within a medical home
- Increase the number of YSHCN who receive adequate support and services for their transition to adult health care
- Decrease the age when children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) receive their first diagnostic evaluation
- Decrease the prevalence of neural tube defects at birth

Current Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS)

**State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI)**
**PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**
San Juan, PR

For more information, contact:

**Maternal & Child Health**
Manuel Vargas-Bernal, MD, MPH
Director, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Division
Puerto Rico Department of Health
P.O. Box 70184
San Juan, PR 00936
Phone: (787) 765-2929 x 4550
E-mail: mivargas@salud.pr.gov

**Children with Special Health Care Needs**
Miguel Valencia-Prado, MD
CSHCN Director
Puerto Rico Department of Health
P.O. Box 70184
San Juan, PR 00936
Phone: (787) 765-2929 x4572
E-mail: mvalencia@salud.pr.gov

**State Family or Youth Leader**
Coraliaidee Jimenez-Burgos
Family Representative
P.O. Box 70184
San Juan, PR 00936
Phone: (787) 765-2929 x4575
E-mail: coraliaidee@salud.pr.gov

Puerto Rico State Profile 2021