



Trends in the Well-Being of Younger Children

New America Foundation

April 25, 2008

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Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

- **ASTHO** is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the **chief health officials** of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing **sound public health policy**, and to assuring **excellence in state-based public health practice**.

State Maternal and Child Health Programs

- Provide Direct Health Care Services (gap filling)
 - Basic health services
 - Health services for CYSHCN
- Provide Enabling Services:
 - Transportation,
 - Translation
 - Family support services
 - Respite care and case management,
 - Coordination with Medicaid, WIC and Education
- Provide Population Based Services
 - Newborn and lead screening,
 - Immunizations,
 - Sudden Infant Death Syndrome counseling,
 - Childhood injury, violence and suicide prevention,
 - Oral health and nutrition,
 - Outreach and public education
- Infrastructure Building Services
 - Needs assessment, evaluation, planning and policy development
 - Quality assurance, standards development, monitoring and training

Trends of Note

- Lead Poisoning (↓)
- Infant and Child Mortality (↓)
- Prenatal Smoking (↓)

- Low Birthweight (LBW) (↑)
- Childhood Obesity (↑)

Trend: Prenatal Smoking

- TVIS National Performance Measure #15
 - Percentage of women who smoke in the last three months of pregnancy.
 - <7% - The Territories, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Utah, Virginia
- Prenatal Smoking as Identified State Priority Need (9)
 - Arkansas, Hawaii, Kentucky, Mississippi, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee

State Policy Options: Prenatal Smoking

- Increase the excise tax on tobacco products
- Pass legislation to eliminate smoking in restaurants, bars, and other public places
- Increase access to treatment services
- Invest in treatment services

Source: SmokeFree Families National Partnership

The Community Guide Recommendations: Tobacco

- Strong Evidence
 - ❑ Smoking bans and restrictions
 - ❑ Increasing the price of tobacco products
 - ❑ Mass media campaigns when combined with other interventions
 - ❑ Provider reminders with provider education
 - ❑ Patient telephone support (quitlines) when combined with other interventions

Source: Community Preventive Services Task Force

State Examples: Prenatal Smoking

- Iowa
 - Family planning clinics screening and intervening for tobacco use
- Missouri
 - Trainings for physicians and mid-levels
- Ohio
 - Trainings of WIC staff
- Oregon
 - Case management

Trend: Obesity

- Influences:
 - ❑ Decreased physical activity
 - ❑ Increased consumption (quantity)
 - ❑ Increased consumption of high calorie low nutrient foods (quality)

- Obesity as Identified State Priority Need
 - ❑ 25 states and territories

State Health Agency Policy Options: Obesity

- ❑ **Increase knowledge** about the benefits of healthy eating and physical activity among individuals and the medical community.
- ❑ Increase delivery of **nutritious meals** to students and encourage participation in recommended levels of physical activity.
- ❑ Advocate for **obesity prevention and treatment coverage** for state employees and Medicaid and SCHIP beneficiaries.
- ❑ Monitor and report on the **economic impact** of obesity on the state.
- ❑ **Partner with employers** to promote wellness and provide opportunities for employees to practice healthy behaviors.
- ❑ Encourage **policymakers and food outlets** to organize responses to the obesity epidemic.
- ❑ Provide **opportunities for residents to be active and purchase healthy food** in their communities.

Obesity: State Legislative Options

- Nutrition Standards for Schools*
- Nutrition Education
- Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Physical Activity, Recess, or Physical Education*
- Trans Fat in School Foods and Other Nutrition Content Information

Source: National Conference of State Legislators (2006)

Community Guide Recommendations: Physical Activity

- Strong Evidence
 - Community-wide campaigns to increase physical activity
 - Creating or improving access to places for physical activity
 - Enhanced physical education (PE) classes in schools to increase physical activity
 - Providing social support in community settings to increase physical activity
 - Health behavior change programs adapted for individual needs

Source: Community Preventive Services Task Force

State Examples: Obesity

- Tracking BMIs of children statewide
 - Arkansas, Tennessee
- Safe Routes to School
 - State Departments of Transportation (all)
- Color Me Healthy
 - North Carolina, South Carolina

A Closer Look: Disparities

- Lead Poisoning:
 - In some communities, the rate of exposure is about five times the national average.
 - Nationally, black children are at two times greater risk than white children

- Infant Mortality
 - 2003: BIMR 13.6 vs. 5.7 non-Hispanic white IMR

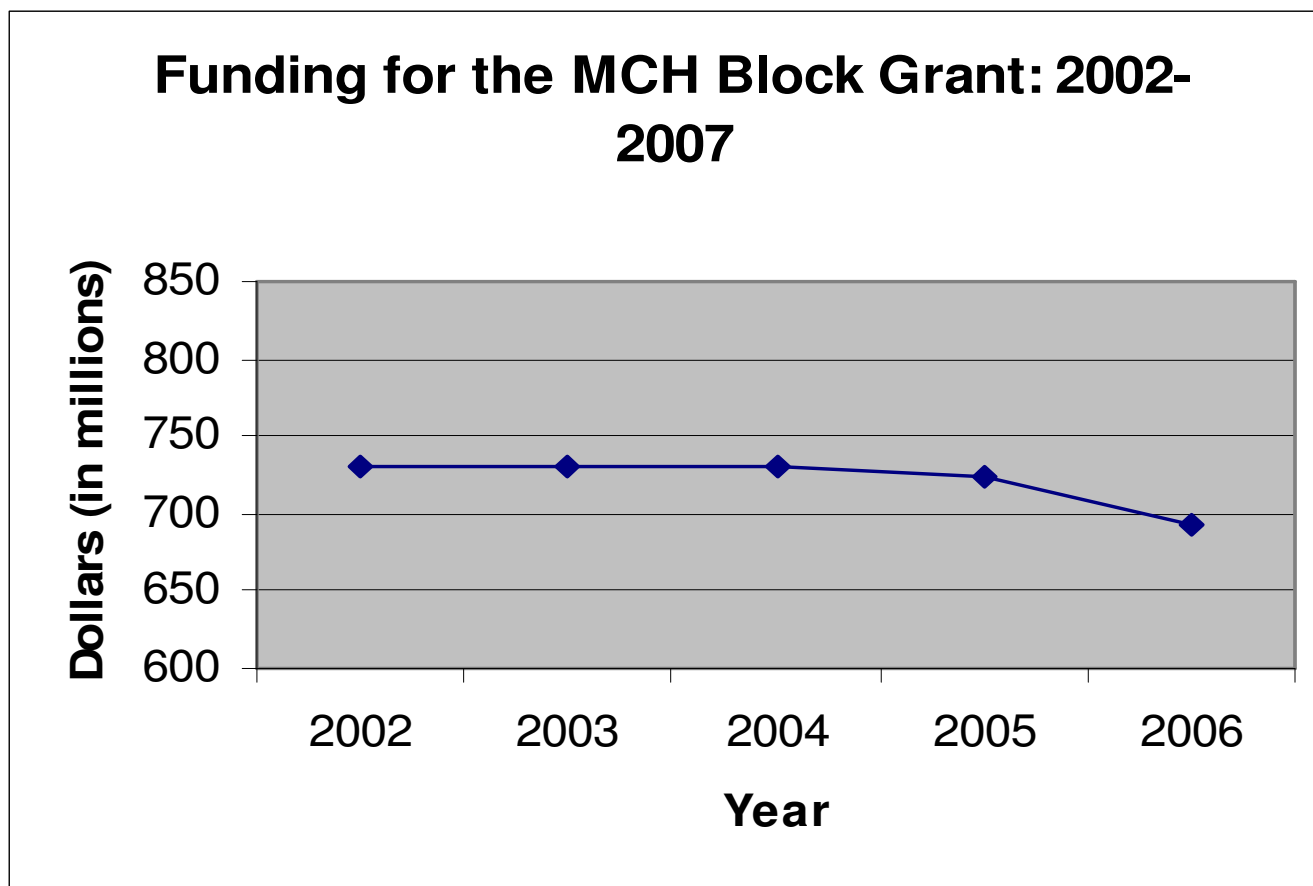
- Prenatal Smoking
 - Disparities between Asian (reference group) and all other races/ethnicities had increased by 100% at HP2010 Mid Course Review

- Low Birthweight
 - Rate of low birthweight infants born to African American mothers is twice that of white women.

- Obesity
 - Higher prevalence of overweight among African American girls 6-11 years old compared to non-Hispanic white girls (23% vs 13%).
 - Rates of obesity are 27% for Mexican boys 6-11 year old versus 14% for their non-Hispanics white counterparts.

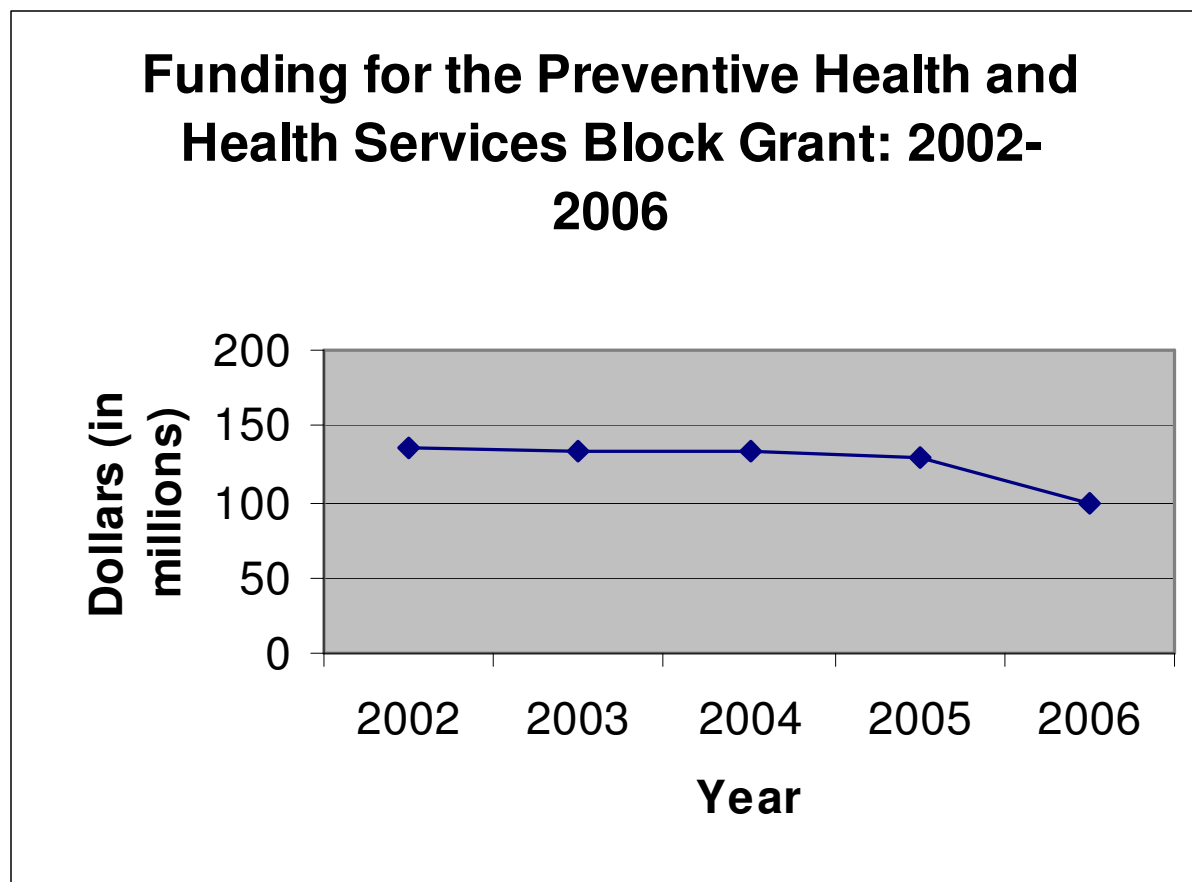
Challenges: Funding

- Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant



Challenges: Funding

- Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant



Challenges: Workforce

- Average age of public health workforce – 46.6 years
- Public health retirement rates as high as 45% between 2003 and 2010
- Vacancy rates of up to 20% in some states

Source: ASTHO (2003)

Critical State Partners

- Medicaid/Insurers
- Departments of Education
- Departments of Transportation
- Environmental agencies
- State legislatures
- Provider groups

Thank you!

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