

**Mississippi State Department of Health**

**Fiscal Years 2016- 2020**

**Strategic Plan**

**Prepared in Accordance with the  
Building a Better Mississippi Instructions  
November 2014**

# Mississippi State Department of Health

## Mission Statement

The Mississippi State Department of Health mission is to promote and protect the health of the citizens of Mississippi.

## Agency Philosophy

The MSDH strives for excellence in government, cultural competence in carrying out its mission, and local solutions to local problems. The MSDH identifies its values as applied scientific knowledge, teamwork, and customer service.

## Relevant Statewide Goal and Benchmarks

*Statewide Goal #1:* To protect Mississippians from risks to public health and to provide them with the health-related information and access to quality health care necessary to increase the length and quality of their lives.

The Mississippi State Department of Health administers more than 200 programs, providing a broad range of services that affect the goals of other agencies. Examples include the WIC program, which provides supplemental foods to eligible women and children up to age five; the Early Intervention Program, which provides services for children with disabilities from birth to age three to prepare them to enter the educational system; and the Local Governments and Rural Water Systems Improvements Loan Program, which helps communities assure safe drinking water for their citizens.

Programs addressed in this plan include Maternal and Child Health, which works to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity; Preventive Health, which collaborates with many other agencies and organizations to improve environments and policies that support and reinforce healthful behaviors and practices across the life span; Environmental Health, which regulates the public water supply, food service and processing establishments, onsite wastewater disposal systems, and other areas of environmental concern to help prevent adverse health effects from environmental hazards; Communicable Disease, which works to reduce the rate of premature death and the spread of various diseases; Tobacco Control, which administers programs designed to decrease the use of tobacco among youth and adults in Mississippi; Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, which develops and tests plans and procedures to respond to any public health threat or emergency; and Health Care Planning and System Development, which helps to assure access to primary care services for underserved areas of the state.

As the MSDH continues to evaluate all of its programs and services, along with needs in the state as a whole and its various communities, additional goals and objectives will be developed and existing ones affirmed based on priorities identified through the multi-year strategic planning process discussed in the following section.

## Overview of Strategic Plan

MSDH is evaluating the overall health of Mississippians and Mississippi communities through a process that includes not only health status indicators of individuals within the population, but also identifies factors that affect health and assesses the availability of resources within the community to adequately address these factors. This process is under way at both the public health district and the statewide levels and involves bringing together a wide variety of public, private, and voluntary entities that contribute to the health, safety, and well-being of Mississippians. The assessment uses a National Public Health Performance Standards tool developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and national partners. Following the assessment, a long-term comprehensive state health improvement plan will be developed that partners can use to set priorities for systematic improvement efforts.

These activities are part of the MSDH's participation in the national Public Health Accreditation Board process. Launched in late 2011 after more than a decade in development, accreditation is an effort to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of the nation's public health departments. The process provides valuable feedback to health departments about their strengths and areas for improvement, laying the foundation for improved protection, promotion, and preservation of the public's health. Achieving accreditation involves documenting that MSDH meets the standards included in each of 12 domains and is a multi-year process.

Through this process, MSDH is seeking to encourage and stimulate quality and performance improvement, promote greater accountability and transparency, identify opportunities, evaluate the allocation of resources, enhance relationships within Mississippi's communities and with other organizations, and increase cooperation and collaboration with other agencies and organizations. The State Health Improvement Plan will be completed during 2014, followed by a revised Mississippi State Department of Health Strategic Plan based on priorities identified during the assessment process.

In conjunction with this process, MSDH plans to implement a performance management system to measure its progress toward meeting targeted goals and objectives. Quality improvement initiatives will address areas of need as they are identified.

As the health assessment and planning processes are ongoing, the strategic direction of the agency must be in sync with the current community environment that affects health in the state. While Mississippi public health has provided safety net services in clinics for decades, including prenatal care, family planning, well baby care, and STD services, and plans to continue doing so, MSDH must also look to engaging communities outside the walls of the clinic. Community engagement in health and the inclusion of health as a consideration in all policies, both locally and statewide, can provide a healthy environment to allow healthy choices to be more easily made. Primary prevention of chronic diseases will require that community engagement, and MSDH will facilitate community changes to improve health. While this primary prevention strategy is evidence-based and will affect health in the long term, it will take decades to reverse the trends that have led to Mississippi's high rates of chronic disease and to see changes in the death rates due to or even incidence of these chronic diseases. Short term and intermediate term goals will have to include objectives related to the risk factors associated with chronic diseases, such as rates of appropriate exercise and tobacco use.

## **External/Internal Assessment**

Numerous factors may influence the agency's ability to reach its goals and objectives. MSDH is strongly affected by changes in federal and state laws, regulations, and funding. As MSDH funding is from many sources, and only 11% of the budget is from the state general fund, activities are often driven by funding stream requirements, regardless of the state needs and priorities. In addition, the agency must respond to changes in the health care system, an arena that remains volatile. The following represent a summary of major external factors that the Department must consider in its planning:

### **Demographic**

- High poverty and unemployment rates, creating greater demands for public services
- Very rural population, creating transportation and service delivery problems
- Low education levels in the general population
- Poor local tax base; diminishing state dollars
- Increasing Spanish-speaking population

### **Health Status**

- High mortality and morbidity rates
- High rates of behavioral risk factors
- High teen birth rates

### **Service Delivery System**

- Increased attention to bioterrorism and other public health threats and emergencies
- Maldistribution of health care providers, especially physicians
- Shortages of nurses and other health care providers
- Lack of Community Health Centers statewide
- Uncertain third party and federal reimbursement levels
- Continuing excessive cost increases in the medical care arena: staff, equipment, and contractual items
- Changes in standard medical practice and malpractice insurance concerns
- Changes in program operations and practices mandated by state and federal legislation

### **Internal Management**

Quality improvement is an essential part of the agency's accreditation process and will be an ongoing effort to ensure that concepts of quality improvement are a permanent part of all MSDH activities. It will ultimately include the practice of actively using performance data to evaluate how well programs are meeting established targets and standards.

As a part of performance management and quality improvement, plans are under way to evaluate and revise the MSDH process to monitor program and service delivery activities carried out by local health departments within the centralized organizational structure. Activities will include all dimensions of the agency – counties, districts, programs, disciplines, and related or support units. The desired result is a continuous improvement in the quality of services delivered to the state's citizens.

In addition, state audit and federal program reviews are a significant part of the agency's operations. These reviews assure compliance with federal rules and regulations, as well as quality and performance standards.

Complaints from the public or from staff are relayed to the MSDH Office of Field Services for investigation. Coordination with other offices is planned as required by the nature of the complaint. A written report is filed on each complaint received.

In addition, Internal Audit staff conduct financial, compliance, electronic data processing, and operational and efficiency audits of the agency. Internal Audit staff also evaluate internal controls over accounting systems, administrative systems, electronic data processing systems, and all other major systems to ensure accountability. Internal Audit is independent of the Department of Health; the Internal Audit director is hired by and reports directly to the State Board of Health.

## Program Plans

### Program 1: Health Services

#### Sub-Program: Maternal and Child Health

**Goal A:** Reduce maternal and infant mortality, morbidity, and low birthweight through prenatal and postnatal care; reduce the incidence of unplanned pregnancies; provide assistance to children with special health care needs; and minimize the effects of genetic disorders through early detection and timely medical evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment. [MS Code 1972 Annotated §41-3-15, 41-42-1, 41-21-201, 41-21-203; U.S. Code 106-354, and MCH federal block grant]

**Objective A.1:** Reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity and ensure access to comprehensive health services that affect positive outcomes for women through risk-appropriate prenatal care.

*Outcome:* Infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)

*Outcome:* Incidence rate of low birthweight births (less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces)

*Outcome:* Percentage of women who received prenatal care in the first trimester

*Outcome:* Percentage of live births delivered prior to 37 weeks of gestation

**A.1.1. Strategy:** Serve as a “safety net” provider of prenatal care for pregnant women, particularly those in high-risk categories, by offering maternity services through county health departments, targeting women whose income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

*Output:* Number of maternity patients served

*Output:* Number of maternity visits by type of health care professional: nurse, physician, nurse practitioner, social worker, nutritionist, field nursing visits

*Efficiency:* Cost per maternity clinic visit (lab work not included)

**A.1.2. Strategy:** Continue the Perinatal High Risk Management/Infant Services System (PHRM/ISS) to help decrease premature birth, low birthweight, and infant mortality, as well as counsel on birth spacing and work toward healthy pregnancies and beginning of life outcomes. PHRM/ISS provides enhanced services to Medicaid-eligible pregnant/postpartum women with high-risk pregnancies and infants at high risk for health problems. Services include case management; home visits; nursing, psychosocial, and nutritional counseling; and health education provided through a multi-disciplinary team of a nurse, social worker, and nutritionist.

*Output:* Number of PHRM/ISS maternity patients served and number of professional visits received

*Output:* Number of PHRM/ISS infant patients served and number of professional visits received

*Efficiency:* Cost per patient for PHRM/ISS monthly case management

**Objective A.2:** Prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy.

*Outcome:* Teenage birth rate (live births per 1,000 women ages 19 and younger)

*Outcome:* Births to unmarried women as a percentage of total live births

**A.2.1. Strategy:** Work through county Health Department clinics and other local providers under contract with MSDH to maximize and improve the delivery of high quality, evidence-based family planning and related preventive services such as medical exams, education, and counseling (including abstinence) and to ensure that a broad range of acceptable and effective family planning methods are available to clients in the target population (low-income individuals ages 13-44, with priority given to sexually active teenagers [19 and younger] at or below 100% of the federal poverty level).

*Output:* Number of unduplicated Comprehensive Reproductive Health Program users

*Output:* Number of teen Comprehensive Reproductive Health Program users (19 years of age or younger)

*Output:* Number of family planning waiver clients served by MSDH

*Efficiency:* Average cost per patient enrolled in Comprehensive Reproductive Health

*Efficiency:* Percentage of program funds used for providing comprehensive reproductive health services

**A.2.2. Strategy:** Increase awareness of and promote the availability of family planning services to the priority population through use of social marketing, promotional strategies, teen focus groups and conferences, and community outreach, as well as educational presentations and materials to the priority population and to providers and community partners who provide services to this population.

*Output:* Number of providers and community partners receiving education on evidence-based Comprehensive Reproductive Health strategies and program services

*Output:* Number of Comprehensive Reproductive Health educational materials distributed through local providers and community partners

*Efficiency:* Average cost per educational material distributed through local providers and community partners

**Objective A.3:** Prevent premature death and undue illness through early detection and treatment of breast and cervical cancer.

*Outcome:* Female breast cancer incidence rate per 100,000 population (age-adjusted)

*Outcome:* Rate of female breast cancer deaths per 100,000 population (age-adjusted)

*Outcome:* Cervical cancer incidence rate per 100,000 population (age-adjusted)

*Outcome:* MS rate of cervical cancer deaths per 100,000 population (age-adjusted)

**A.3.1. Strategy:** Use federal funding and non-profit funds to contract with providers to screen eligible women through mammography, clinical breast exams, pelvic exams, and Pap smears, and provide diagnostic testing and treatment for women whose screening exams reflect abnormalities. (Eligible women are those with incomes below 250% of the federal poverty level who are uninsured or under-insured, age 50-64 for mammograms and 40-64 for cervical screenings.)

*Output:* Number of providers contracted to deliver mammography services

*Output:* Number of providers contracted to deliver breast and cervical cancer screening services

*Output:* Number of women screened for breast or cervical cancer

*Output:* Number of women referred to Medicaid for treatment of breast or cervical cancer

*Output:* Number of breast biopsies

*Output:* Number of cervical biopsies

*Output:* Number of colposcopies

*Output:* Number of prevention education programs conducted

*Efficiency:* Cost per screening mammogram

*Efficiency:* Cost per colposcopy/cervical biopsy

*Efficiency:* Percentage of women with abnormal breast findings who received complete follow-up services and diagnosis within 60 days of screening

*Efficiency:* Percentage of women with a diagnosis of breast cancer who received treatment within 60 days

*Efficiency:* Percentage of women with abnormal cervical findings who received complete follow-up services and diagnosis within 90 days of screening

*Efficiency:* Percentage of women with a diagnosis of cervical cancer who received treatment within 90 days

**Objective A.4:** Reduce morbidity and mortality of Mississippi newborns with genetic disorders through early detection and treatment, accompanied by counseling and appropriate referrals.



*Outcome:* Percent of newborns screened  
(Number diagnosed with a genetic disorder)

*Outcome:* Percentage of newborns with positive and inconclusive genetic screens who received recommended follow-up

**A.4.1. Strategy:** Use program fees to contract with laboratory to conduct screening tests and provide training to newborn screening submitters (hospital staff and public health nurses); identify infants with disorders and provide follow-up for evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment.

*Output:* Number of newborns screened for genetic disorders

*Output:* Number of genetic screens with positive or inconclusive results

*Efficiency:* Cost per newborn genetic screening

*Efficiency:* Percentage of newborns who received a repeat genetic screen due to inadequate or rejected specimens

### **Sub-Program: Preventive Health**

**Goal B:** Promote healthy lifestyles through population and evidence-based interventions including policy, systems, and environmental changes in worksites, schools, and diverse community settings at the local and statewide level. [MS Code 1972 Annotated §41-3-15 (5) (a); Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant; CDC 1305: State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity and Associated Risk Factors, and Promote School Health (CDC-RFA-DP13-1305)]

**Objective B.1:** Implement population and evidenced-based interventions to reduce the incidence, complications, and burden of such diseases as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

*Outcome:* Percentage of population diagnosed with diabetes

*Outcome:* Premature death rate due to cardiovascular disease (per 100,000 population)

**B.1.1. Strategy:** Increase access to and promote the use of programs in community settings to help people prevent and manage diabetes and other chronic diseases:

Lifestyle Change Programs (for the primary prevention of Type 2 Diabetes);

“*Motivated to Live a Better Life*”, a Stanford licensed Chronic Disease Self-Management Program for people living with a long-term health condition, and Diabetes Self-Management Program for people living with diabetes, along with their family member or caregiver;

Education courses for Certified Diabetes Educators to teach diabetes self-management to others in the community.

*Output:* Number of Lifestyle Change Programs implemented in the community

*Output:* Number of Chronic Disease Self-Management Program and Diabetes Self-Management Program workshops conducted

*Output:* Number of Certified Diabetes Educator preparation courses conducted

*Efficiency:* Cost per patient enrolled in Lifestyle Change Program

*Efficiency:* Cost per participant of Chronic Disease Self-Management and Diabetes Self-Management Program workshops conducted

*Efficiency:* Cost per participant in Certified Diabetes Educator preparation course

**B.1.2. Strategy:** Increase use of quality improvement processes, such as electronic health records to manage high blood pressure, among health care providers (federally qualified community health centers, rural health clinics, and private practices); increase use of team-based/multi-disciplinary care for patients with high blood pressure.

*Output:* Number of training sessions conducted for healthcare providers on how to effectively use electronic health records to manage high blood pressure

*Output:* Number of training workshops on team-based care/multi-disciplinary approach to treating patients with high blood pressure

*Efficiency:* Cost per healthcare provider trained on the effective use of electronic health records to manage high blood pressure

**Objective B.2:** Reduce the obesity rate among adults in Mississippi.

*Outcome:* Percentage of adults who are obese (defined as a Body Mass Index of 30 or more, regardless of sex)

*Outcome:* Adult compliance with recommended levels of aerobic physical activity (percentage of adults who report participating in 150 minutes or more of aerobic physical activity per week)

**B.2.1. Strategy:** Provide technical assistance to state agencies on establishing a worksite wellness committee.

*Output:* Number of active state agency worksite wellness committees

*Efficiency:* Average time spent providing technical assistance to state agency worksite wellness committees

**B.2.2. Strategy:** Provide training and technical assistance for schools and community sites to formalize shared-use agreement policies with an emphasis on physical activity.

*Output:* Number of shared use agreement policies in schools and community sites that enhance opportunities for physical activity within these sites

*Efficiency:* Average time spent providing technical assistance to schools and communities to implement shared-use agreement policies that enhance opportunities for physical activity within these sites

**Objective B.3:** Reduce deaths and disabilities that occur as a result of non-use or incorrect use of a child restraint device in the event of a motor vehicle crash.

*Outcome:* Deaths of persons ages 0-4 years by motor vehicle injuries (number of deaths and rate per 100,000 population per year)

*Explanatory:* MSDH has a small grant aimed at increasing the use of child safety seats, but no programs or funding to address other causes of death, such as unintentional injuries, homicide, and suicide.

**B.3.1. Strategy:** Distribute child safety seats; conduct one-on-one training with parents, guardians, or other individuals on best child passenger safety practices; and conduct checkpoints for the correct usage of child safety seats.

*Output:* Number of child safety seats inspected at child safety checkpoints

*Output:* Number of child safety seats distributed

*Efficiency:* Average time to inspect child safety seats at child safety checkpoints

*Efficiency:* Cost per child safety seat

## Program 2: Health Protection

**Goal A: Prevent adverse health effects from environmental hazards that can spread disease.** [MS Code 1972 Annotated §41-26-1 – 103 and 42 U.S.C. § 300(f) et seq]

**Objective A.1:** Assure that public water supplies routinely provide safe drinking water to the citizens of Mississippi.

*Outcome:* Percentage of Mississippi population receiving water from a public water supply

*Outcome:* Percentage of Mississippi population receiving water from a public water supply which has had no water quality violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act in the past year.

**A.1.1. Strategy:** Annually survey/inspect all community public water supplies to eliminate operational and maintenance problems that may potentially affect drinking water quality.

*Output:* Number of public water systems surveyed/inspected annually:  
Community systems  
Non-transient non-community systems  
Transient non-community systems

*Efficiency:* Cost per unit for surveys/inspections

*Efficiency:* Percentage of water systems surveyed/inspected

**A.1.2. Strategy:** Monitor drinking water quality for compliance with Safe Drinking Water Acts.

*Output:* Number of water quality samples analyzed for compliance with Safe Drinking Water Acts (SDWA):  
Microbiological  
Radiological  
Chemical

*Efficiency:* Percentage of acute water quality violations corrected within five days

*Efficiency:* Percentage of non-acute water quality violations corrected within 90 days

**A.1.3. Strategy:** Negotiate with consulting engineers on the final design of engineering plans and specifications for all new or substantially modified public water supplies.

*Output:* Number of reviews of engineering plans and specifications for new or modified water supply projects

*Efficiency:* Cost per unit for review of engineering plans and specifications

*Efficiency:* Percentage of engineering plans and specifications reviewed and commented on within 10 working days of receipt

**A.1.4. Strategy:** Issue mandatory boil water notices when necessary and assist public water systems with voluntary boil water notices.

*Output:* Number of "Boil Water Notices" issued on public water systems: State issued, Self imposed, and State assisted

*Efficiency:* Cost per boil water notice issued

*Efficiency:* Percentage of boil water notices issued within 24 hours of sample results or receipt of a request

**A.1.5. Strategy:** Certify water works operators to ensure operation of the water supply in compliance with Safe Drinking Water Acts.

*Output:* Total number of certified operators  
Number of new certified operators  
Number of recertifications issued

*Efficiency:* Cost per operator certification

*Efficiency:* Percentage of community public water supplies with an MSDH-certified operator

**A.1.6. Strategy:** Provide training to water works operators.

*Output:* Total number of training sessions conducted by MSDH staff for water works operators

*Efficiency:* Cost per training session

**Goal B: Improve the oral health of Mississippians through proven preventive strategies such as community water fluoridation.** [MS Code 1972 Annotated §41-26-2]

**Objective B.1:** Increase the proportion of Mississippi's population receiving optimally fluoridated water.

*Outcome:* Percentage of Mississippi population receiving fluoridated water

**B.1.1. Strategy:** Encourage and assist communities to adjust the fluoride content that occurs naturally in a community's water to the best level for preventing tooth decay.

*Output:* Number of public water systems that implemented a new water fluoridation program

*Output:* Number of training presentations conducted by MSDH staff on water fluoridation

*Efficiency:* Percentage of water systems that submit monthly fluoride content reports.

**Goal C:** Assure that trauma patients arrive at the facility most appropriate for the treatment of their injury as quickly as possible [MS Code 1972 Annotated §41-59-5 and State Trauma Plan].

*Outcome:* Transfer time (in minutes) from Level III and IV Trauma Centers to appropriate facilities for treatment

**Objective C.1:** Transfer trauma patients from initial receiving hospitals to higher levels of care as rapidly as possible.

*Strategy:* C.1.1: Audit Trauma Registry records yearly for Levels I-III trauma centers (including pediatric and burn centers) to ensure accuracy and completeness of data.

*Output:* Number of records audited annually by licensed practitioners

*Efficiency:* Cost of Trauma Registry audit per facility

**Strategy:** C.1.2: Conduct initial and recurring training for at least one Trauma Registrar from each reporting hospital annually.

*Output:* Total number of registrars from reporting hospitals receiving training

*Efficiency:* Cost per quarterly training session.

### **Program 3: Communicable Disease**

**Goal A:** Reduce the morbidity and premature mortality due to communicable diseases among Mississippians. [MS Code 1972 Annotated §41-23-1 – 41-23-5]

**Objective A.1:** Reduce the number of outbreaks of reportable diseases by implementing appropriate disease interventions to prevent further spread of secondary cases.

*Outcome:* Number of cases of mosquito-borne illness (West Nile virus) and associated number of deaths

*Explanatory Note:* While MSDH provides public information regarding the current occurrence of cases in the state and how to prevent the disease, and this assists in assuring that individuals participate in prevention activities such as using mosquito repellent and getting rid of standing water in which mosquitoes may breed, there is no state funding for mosquito control programs, which are the mainstay of prevention in communities with ongoing West Nile virus transmission. In addition, as West Nile virus illness has been in this country for more than 10 years now, the occurrence in humans in any given year is more affected by the epidemiology of the virus in birds and other hosts than on public health intervention.

*Outcome:* Number of outbreaks of food-borne illness (salmonella) and case rate per 100,000

**A.1.1. Strategy:** Conduct disease surveillance and investigation on reported cases and target prevention messages to public.

*Output:* Number of mosquito-borne illness (West Nile virus) reports received and investigated

*Efficiency:* Costs of mosquito-borne illness (West Nile virus) per case investigated (estimated staff time plus cost of test)

*Explanatory:* MSDH does not have funding for a mosquito-control program; efforts are directed to disease surveillance and public awareness and prevention messages.

**A.1.2. Strategy:** Analyze and conduct surveillance of food-borne illness reports for potential outbreak to prevent further spread.

*Output:* Number of food-borne illness (salmonella) case reports investigated

*Efficiency:* Costs of food-borne illness (salmonella) per case investigated (estimated staff time plus cost of test)

**Objective A.2:** Reduce the incidence of TB in Mississippi.

*Outcome:* Number of Tuberculosis cases per year and case rate per 100,000

**A.2.1. Strategy:** Conduct surveillance and investigation of TB cases and suspects, provide treatment and follow-up through completion of therapy, conduct investigation of exposures, and provide treatment for those found to be infected.

*Output:* Number of individuals evaluated for suspected TB and contacts to verified cases

*Output:* Number of newly-reported tuberculosis infection patients started on therapy

*Output:* Number of newly-reported tuberculosis cases completing therapy

*Efficiency:* Therapy completion percentage for patients with tuberculosis infection who started therapy

**Objective A.3:** Reduce the prevalence and incidence of sexually transmitted disease among Mississippians.

*Outcome:* Number of new cases of Chlamydia and case rate per 100,000 per year

*Outcome:* Number of new cases of Primary and Secondary Syphilis and case rate per 100,000 per year

*Outcome:* Number of new cases of Gonorrhea and case rate per 100,000 per year

**A.3.1. Strategy:** Interrupt the natural course of STDs in individuals and communities by (1) detecting and preventing new infections through comprehensive epidemiology; (2) interviewing and counseling; (3) screening at-risk populations for asymptomatic STD infections and ensuring that all positive laboratory tests are followed and adequately treated; (4) implementing education programs directed towards people at risk for STDs; and (5) ensuring that uniform standards of health care are available to all persons in both the public and private medical communities.

*Output:* Number of MSDH patients screened for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia using DNA technology

*Output:* Number of STD diagnostic, treatment, and follow-up services (nursing encounters only)

*Efficiency:* Percentage of new primary and secondary syphilis cases interviewed within 14 days of specimen collection

*Efficiency:* Percentage of new primary and secondary syphilis contacts treated within 14 days of interview

**Objective A.4** Reduce the incidence of HIV Disease in Mississippi, and assist in the provision of care and services to people living with HIV Disease.

*Outcome:* Number of new cases of HIV disease and case rate per 100,000 per year

**A.4.1. Strategy:** Reduce HIV infection rates by conducting surveillance activities; providing counseling, testing, referral, and partner notification services; and implementing culturally-



competent strategies to modify risk-associated behaviors. Administer funds provided by Part B of the Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act for care and services to people living with HIV Disease.

*Output:* Number of HIV antibody screening tests conducted by MSDH

*Output:* Number of persons served by AIDS Drug Program

*Efficiency:* Average cost of AIDS Drug Program per person served (affected by patient rotation)

*Efficiency:* Percentage of HIV partner notification reports completed and returned within 14 days

*Efficiency:* HIV Contact Index (number of contacts named divided by number of original patients)

**Objective A.5:** Eliminate morbidity and mortality due to vaccine-preventable diseases in children, adolescents, and adults.

*Outcome:* Number of reported cases of vaccine-preventable communicable diseases and case rates per 100,000: Hepatitis A, Measles, Mumps, Pertussis

*Outcome:* Immunization rate for children 19 to 35 months (National Immunization Survey: 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series)

*Explanatory:* This objective depends in large part of the continuation of the current Mississippi immunization law (Miss. Code Ann. § 41-23-37), which allows for the provision of vaccine exemptions for medical reasons, but does not allow religious (found to be unconstitutional in 1979) or philosophical exemptions for immunizations required for school. The current law is very much supported by the scientific evidence regarding the safety and efficacy of vaccines.

The CDC and the National Immunization Survey report the immunization rates of children ages 19 to 35 months old as a key benchmark because recommended vaccinations for two year olds may be administered as appropriate at any time during this time frame.

*Outcome:* Adolescent immunization rates (age 13 to 17 years), by recommended vaccine: [meningococcal, combined tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap), human papillomavirus (HPV)]

*Explanatory:* Tdap became a required immunization for students entering seventh grade beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. Meningococcal and HPV are not currently required immunizations for Mississippi adolescents.

**A.5.1. Strategy:** Monitor immunization levels, administer vaccinations, distribute education and informational materials, enforce immunization laws, and administer the Vaccines for Children program (VFC). This federally-funded program supplies vaccines to VFC-enrolled public and private providers to immunize eligible children at no cost who might not otherwise be immunized because of a family's inability to pay.

*Output:* Doses of vaccine administered (includes all vaccines administered in MSDH clinics)

*Output:* Number of providers enrolled in Vaccines for Children Program

*Efficiency:* Cost per child of age-appropriate immunizations administered for children 19 to 35 months of age

*Efficiency:* Cost per adolescent of age-appropriate immunizations administered for adolescents 13 to 17 years of age

**Program 4: Tobacco Control** [MS Code 1972 Annotated §41-113-1 – 41-113-11]

**Goal A:** Reduce the prevalence of tobacco use among youth and adults in Mississippi.

**Objective A.1:** Refine and implement a statewide comprehensive tobacco education, prevention, and cessation program in accordance with the CDC’s “*Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs*” as periodically amended.

*Outcome:* Prevalence of current smokers among public middle school students

*Outcome:* Prevalence of current smokers among public high school students

*Outcome:* Prevalence of current smokers among adults 18 years and older

**A.1.1 Strategy:** Establish and support tobacco-free coalitions in each Mississippi county to implement evidence-based programs consistent with CDC’s “*Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs*”.

*Output:* Number of counties with tobacco-free coalitions implementing evidence-based programs consistent with CDC best practice guidelines

*Efficiency:* Per capita funding for community interventions (MS Tobacco Control Program Fund)

**A.1.2 Strategy:** Support organizations that provide tobacco cessation services to Mississippians.

*Output:* Number of unduplicated individuals who contacted Office of Tobacco Control (OTC)-funded tobacco cessation treatment programs

*Output:* Number of unduplicated individuals who have completed the intake process for OTC-funded tobacco cessation treatment programs

*Efficiency:* Per capita funding for cessation interventions (MS Tobacco Control Program Fund)

## **Program 5: Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response**

**Goal A.** Ensure readiness for any public health threat or emergency at the state and local/regional levels. [MS Code 1972 Annotated §41-3-15 (5) (a); §319-C-1 and 319-C-2, U.S. Public Health Service Act as amended by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2006; Presidential Directive 8]

**Objective A.1.** Establish, maintain, and test plans and procedures to protect Mississippians in the event of natural or human-caused disasters.

*Outcome:* Mississippi's score on the National Health Security Preparedness Index overall and by domain: health surveillance, community planning and engagement, incident and information management, surge management, and countermeasure management

*Explanatory:* The Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response does not utilize the National Health Security Preparedness Index as a means of measuring its performance. While the Index provides an overall score for the state, along with individual scores for domains, the individual measures which lead to these scores require data from sources outside of the MSDH and include numerous indicators that are not part of MSDH. CDC and ASPR (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response) verify that certain performance measures contained in grants funded by these agencies are met each year; however, these measures do not receive scores.

**A.1.1. Strategy:** Review and update emergency operation plans of licensed medical facilities and MSDH emergency preparedness plans and procedures according to established schedule.

*Output:* Number of licensed medical facility emergency operation plans and MSDH emergency response plans and procedures reviewed and updated

*Efficiency:* Percentage of emergency preparedness and response plans and procedures reviewed and approved

**A.1.2. Strategy:** Continue to improve processes for mass dispensing efforts of Strategic National Stockpile (pharmaceutical supplies) during an incident.

*Output:* Number of emergency preparedness and Strategic National Stockpile (pharmaceutical supplies) training sessions

*Output:* Number of personnel trained to provide mass prophylaxis to the citizens of Mississippi in an emergency

*Output:* Number of Cities Readiness Initiative training sessions (number of people trained)

*Output:* Number of Closed Points of Dispensing pre-identified to provide mass prophylaxis during an event (thus increasing the speed of dispensing prophylaxis to all citizens)

*Efficiency:* Percentage of population able to receive mass prophylaxis in closed points of dispensing rather than open points of dispensing during an incident (thus reducing the number of citizens in the

general population standing in line to receive prophylaxis and increasing the speed of dispensing to all citizens)

*Explanatory:* This measure is significant because Closed Points of Dispensing (PODs) provide their own staff to dispense prophylaxis. Without the pre-arranged closed PODs, MSDH would need 80 additional open PODs, requiring staff of 250 each, to serve the same number of people.

**A.1.3. Strategy:** Maintain a statewide volunteer program to support health care organizations with medical preparedness and response to incidents and events.

*Output:* Number of volunteers registered and credentialed in Mississippi Responder Management System to provide additional support when resources at the local and state resources are limited during an incident.

*Efficiency:* Average cost savings to the state per staff person per day by using volunteers pre-registered and credentialed in Mississippi Responder Management System to support local resources during an incident versus using paid staff

**A.1.4. Strategy:** Plan for the shelter needs of at-risk populations with special medical needs during a time of disaster.

*Output:* Number of pre-identified shelters to house individuals with special medical needs requiring specialized care not obtainable in a general population shelter during an incident and number of people these shelters would be able to house

*Efficiency:* Average cost savings to the state per individual with special medical needs served in a specialized shelter versus hospitalization during an event

**A.1.5. Strategy:** Conduct National Incident Management System and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program preparedness exercises annually and respond to real-world incidents as necessary; evaluate response and complete after-action report as required by CDC.

*Output:* Number of National Incident Management System and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program preparedness exercises conducted and real-world incidents responded to

*Efficiency:* Average time required to produce after-action report improvement plan following an exercise or real-world emergency response

## **Program 6: Administrative and Support Services**

**Goal A:** Help assure access to primary care services for underserved areas of the state. [MS Code 1972 Annotated §41-3-15 (5) (a)]

**Objective A.1:** Assist underserved communities to increase the number of primary care, dental, and mental health providers.

*Outcome:* Number of Health Professional Shortage Areas designated: primary care, dental, and mental health

*Outcome:* Number of entire counties designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas for primary care and dental, and number of catchment areas designated for mental health (of 15 total in the state)

*Outcome:* Percentage of Mississippi population living in an area designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area for primary care, dental, and mental health

*Outcome:* Number of practitioners needed to remove health professional shortage areas, by type of practitioner: primary care, dentists, and core mental health professionals

*Explanatory:* Health Professional Shortage Area designation reviews are conducted to assist the federal government with directing resources to areas of greatest need. HPSA designation qualifies an area for various federal resource incentives, including a 10% Medicare bonus payment for primary care providers, loan repayment programs through the National Health Service Corps, and site approval for J-1 Visa Waiver physicians.

*Outcome:* Number of approved National Health Service Corps sites

*Explanatory:* National Health Service Corps designation provides incentives to help attract physicians, such as federal loan repayment programs.

**A.1.1. Strategy:** Conduct annual health professional shortage area designation (HPSA) updates.

*Output:* Number of Health Professional Shortage Area designation reviews conducted: Primary Care, Dental, and Mental Health

*Efficiency:* Percentage of HPSA designation reviews completed by federal deadline (a calendar date that changes annually)

**A.1.2. Strategy:** Coordinate physician recruitment incentive programs to increase the number of health care professionals in areas of need, including the recruitment of physicians for these areas.

*Output:* Number of National Health Service Corps site applications processed

*Output:* Number of J-1 Visa Waiver applications reviewed

*Output:* Number of National Interest Waiver applications processed

*Output:* Number of health care professionals placed in areas of need: Primary Care, Dentists, and Core Mental Health Professionals

*Efficiency:* Percentage of National Health Service Corps site applications processed within 21 days

*Efficiency:* Percentage of J-1 Visa Waiver physician placements completed within 180 days

*Efficiency:* Percentage of J-1 Visa and National Interest Waiver applications approved by U.S. Department of State