



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2026-2030 Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Priorities

MCH Priorities

Every five years, Mississippi's Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program conducts a statewide needs assessment to identify current health issues for MCH populations, including women/mothers, infants, children, adolescents, and children and youth with special health care needs, and their families. During the MCH Needs Assessment process, the Title V/MCH Program selects 7-10 priorities which will be addressed by a newly developed five-year State Action Plan. These priorities may address specific populations (e.g., *infant mortality*), reflect cross-cutting needs across all MCH populations (e.g., *access to quality health care*), or identify needs to build more robust health systems (e.g., *improving health system integration*).

Priority Selection Process

In January 2025, a large group of MCH professionals, including MCH program directors, healthcare professionals, and representatives from state agencies, community groups, and professional organizations, met to help identify priorities for the new five-year MCH State Action Plan. They reviewed data from national and state reports as well as results from focus groups, listening sessions, and virtual town halls held during Fall 2024. Working in small groups, the stakeholders generated a lengthy list of health needs for MCH populations. This list was comprised of health outcomes where Mississippi has significantly worse outcomes from the national average or where trends indicated worsening health outcomes. Using a collective voting process, the stakeholders then identified the current top ten needs for MCH populations.

In February 2025, the MSDH MCH leadership team reviewed and refined this list, consolidating some overlapping priorities, to generate a final list of seven key priorities.

Final Selected Priorities for the 2026-2030 State Action Plan

- Improve Access to Family-Centered, Comprehensive Care, including Oral Health Care
- Reduce Maternal Morbidity and Mortality
- Reduce Infant Mortality
- Ensure Integrated Systems of Care and Interagency Data Sharing
- Increase Access to Timely, Appropriate, and Consistent Health, Developmental, and Behavioral Health Screenings
- Ensure Medical Homes to Close the Gaps in Health (CYSHCN)
- Ensure Quality Health Care for All Mississippians

The Mississippi State Department of Health and the Title V/MCH Program would like to express their sincere appreciation of the individuals who participated in the Needs Assessment process and stakeholder meetings to assist with selecting these priorities.



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Title V/MCH Needs Assessment Process and Timeline

