



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

APR 11 2003

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6143

Dear Mr. Waxman:

Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns about the health consequences of tobacco use by pregnant women and parents and how the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) is well positioned to improve access to cessation services. I share your concerns about the public health effects of smoking and the need to aggressively pursue actions to decrease those risks.

HRSA's MCHB is beginning discussions with states on revising the Title V Block Grant Performance Measures that are part of the Title V Reporting System. The original measures were developed in close collaboration with states, and any revisions will involve their input. We will make every effort to see that tobacco use by pregnant women and parents is a central issue for consideration as the performance measures are revised.

I am pleased to inform you of some new developments regarding the performance reporting system used for the Title V State Block Grant and the Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS) discretionary grant programs. In addition to the 37 SPRANS performance measures cited in your Committee Report, an extensive amount of data will be collected on risk reduction and preventive services of persons served by SPRANS grants. Specifically, the Department will require all Healthy Start providers to report on the number of pregnant women who are screened for smoking, who receive smoking prevention counseling, whose smoking cessation treatment is supported by the Healthy Start grant program, and who are referred for further assessment and/or treatment.

For your reference, I have enclosed the list of data items that are under review by the Office of Management and Budget. As you know, Healthy Start is a major part of the Department's strategy for improving birth outcomes among high-risk women. This year, there are Healthy Start projects operating in 96 communities around the nation, across 37 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. All of the Healthy Start projects will be required to provide this information.

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Another development is the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which is being conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This survey is being done to determine how many states collect adequate data for statewide estimates of the number of youth who use tobacco. It is expected that having this measure formally incorporated in the Title V Performance Measurement System will encourage more states to participate in the survey.

CDC also provides funds to states for the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System in an effort to collect data on smoking by pregnant women. This data has been used by states to develop policies and programs to reduce smoking by pregnant women. In addition, CDC funds regional training centers within the Office of Population Affairs to include smoking cessation for pregnant women in their curriculum for family planning clinicians.

As you mentioned, the Cessation Subcommittee of the Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health, which I established, recently forwarded their recommendations for a national smoking cessation campaign. My staff is currently reviewing the recommendations. While I share your commitment to smoking cessation, the Administration does not support raising the per pack federal excise tax to fund cessation efforts. I am committed to working with you and your colleagues to decrease smoking nationally through a variety of other proven activities.

Thank you for raising these important issues. Please contact me if you have any further thoughts or questions.

Sincerely,



Tommy G. Thompson

Enclosure

Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Discretionary Grant Performance Measures

PART 3
Additional Data Elements
For
[DIVISION OF PERINATAL SYSTEMS AND WOMEN'S HEALTH]

**DIVISION OF PERINATAL SYSTEMS AND WOMEN'S HEALTH
DATA SHEET**

A. Characteristics of Participants

	RACE (Indicate all that apply)					ETHNICITY	
	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino
Number of Pregnant Women							
Under age 15							
Aged 15-17							
Aged 18-19							
Aged 20-24							
Aged 25-34							
Aged 35-44							
45+							
Number of Pregnant Women with Incomes:							
Below 100 Percent of the FPL							
Between 100-185 Percent of the FPL							
Number of Pregnant Participants who Enter Prenatal Care:							
During First Trimester							
During Second Trimester							
During Third Trimester							
Receiving No Prenatal Care							
Unknown							
Number Pregnant Participants Receiving Adequate Prenatal Care (Kotelchuck¹, or similar index)							
Specify _____							
Number of live births to participants							
Number of live births between 2500 grams and 1500 grams to participants							
Number of live births less than 1500 grams to participants							

	RACE (Indicate all that apply)					ETHNICITY	
	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino
Number of Participating Women in Interconceptional Care/Women's Health Activities During Reporting Period							
Under age 15							
Aged 15-17							
Aged 18-19							
Aged 20-24							
Aged 25-34							
Aged 35-44							
Aged 45-54							
Aged 55-64							
Aged 65 and older							
Number of Infant Participants Aged 0 to 12 months							
Number of Child Participants aged 13 to 24 months							
Number of Male Participants 17 years and under							
Number of Male Participants 18 years and older							

B. Risk Reduction/Prevention Services

Risk Factors	Number Screened	Number Receiving Risk Prevention Counseling	Number Receiving Risk Reduction Counseling	Number whose Treatment is Supported by Grant	Number Referred for Further Assessment and/or Treatment
PRENATAL PARTICIPANTS					
Group B Strep or Bacterial Vaginosis					
HIV/AIDS					
Other STDs					
Smoking					
Alcohol					
Illicit Drugs					
Depression					
Other Mental health problem					
Domestic Violence					
Homelessness					
Overweight & Obesity					
Underweight					
Hypertension					
Gestational Diabetes					
Periodontal Infection					
Asthma					
INTERCONCEPTIONAL WOMEN PARTICIPANTS					
Group B Strep or Bacterial Vaginosis					
HIV/AIDS					
Other STDs					
Smoking					
Alcohol					
Illicit Drugs					
Depression					
Other Mental health problem					
Domestic Violence					
Homelessness					
Overweight & Obesity					

Risk Factors	Number Screened	Number Receiving Risk Prevention Counseling	Number Receiving Risk Reduction Counseling	Number whose Treatment is Supported by Grant	Number Referred for Further Assessment and/or Treatment
Underweight					
Lack of Physical Activity					
Hypertension					
Cholesterol					
Diabetes					
Family History of Breast cancer					
Fecal occult blood test					
Asthma					
Periodontal Infection					
INFANT/CHILD (0-21 mo)					
Prenatal Drug Exposure					
Prenatal Alcohol Exposure					
Mental Health Problems					
Family Violence/Intentional Injury					
Homelessness					
Not Attaining Appropriate Growth					
Developmental Delays					
Asthma					
HIV/AIDS					
Other Special Health Care Needs					

C. HEALTHY START MAJOR SERVICE TABLE

DIRECT CLINICAL CARE SERVICES	
Prenatal Clinic Visits:	Number of Medical Visits by All Prenatal Participants
Postpartum Clinic Visits:	Number of Medical Visits by All Postpartum Participants
Well Baby/ Pediatric Clinic Visits:	Number of Any Provider Visits by All Infant/Child Participants
Adolescent Health Services	Number of any Provider Visits by participants age 17 and under
Family Planning:	Number of Participants Receiving Family Planning Services
Women's Health	Number of Participants Receiving Women's Health Services
INDIRECT SERVICES	
	Total Number of Families Served
	Number of Families in the Prenatal Period Assisted by Case Management
	Number of Families in the Interconceptional Period Assisted by Case Management
	Number of Families in the Prenatal Period Assisted by Outreach
	Number of Families in the Interconceptional Period Assisted by Outreach
	Number of Families in the Prenatal Period Receiving Home Visiting
	Number of Families in the Interconceptional Period Receiving Home Visiting
	Number of Participants Age 17 and Under who participated in Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Activities
	Number of families who participated in Pregnancy/Childbirth Education Activities
	Number of families who participated in Parenting Skill Building/Education
	Number of participants in Youth Empowerment/Peer Education/ Self-Esteem/Mentor Programs
	Number of Families Who Received Transportation Services Includes Tokens, Taxis, Vans

Number of Families Who Receive Translation Services	
Number of Families Receiving Child Care Services	
Number of Participants Who Received Breastfeeding Education , Counseling and Support	
Number of Participants Who Received Nutrition Education and Counseling Services including WIC Services	
Number of participants in Male Support Services:	
Number of Participants Referred for Housing Assistance	
Total Participants assisted with Jobs/Job Training:	
Total participants served in Prison/jail Initiatives	
HEALTH SERVICES	
Number Of Immunizations provided	
Public Information/Education: Number of Individuals Reached	
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING	
Consortia Training Number of Individual Members Trained	
Provider Training Number of Individual Providers Trained	