



Children's Health Fund

# National Network

22 programs and 2 affiliates in 16 states and the District of Columbia



## Mississippi Gulf Coast Children's Health Project



The Mississippi Gulf Coast Children's Health Project (MGCCHP) was established in response to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Child health indicators rank Mississippi 50th in the nation. Pervasive barriers to care contributing to this include lack of transportation, lack of insurance, geographic isolation and financial instability; nearly one third of all children in Mississippi lived in poverty even before Hurricane Katrina. The MGCCHP is part of Children's Health Fund's Transportation Initiative, which enhances access to transportation to medical appointments for patients living in areas with deficiencies in public transportation.

The MGCCHP utilizes a state-of-the-art mobile health clinic to deliver comprehensive primary and mental health care. Mobile clinics are uniquely suited to the provision of post-disaster health care, allowing clinical teams to bring services directly where they are needed most, and to respond to the changing conditions and needs of the community. As the community continues the recovery process, the MGCCHP has provided continuity of care for a still emigrating community. Recognizing that mental health care plays a crucial role in the response to any disaster, the project places an emphasis on counseling and community outreach, as well as mental health trainings for health care, education and social workers in the community. The MGCCHP provides integrated primary and mental health care for children and their families regardless of their ability to pay - at public housing complexes, public schools, and other community sites.

## PROGRAM FACTS

**Home Institution/Affiliation:**  
Coastal Family Health Center

**Year Established:**  
November 2005

### STAFF

**Medical Director:**  
Per Sharon Dixon, MD

**Mental Health Coordinator:**  
Deborah Traugher, LPC

**Project Manager:**  
Greg Wilson

**Clinical Coordinator:**  
Doreen Brock, PNP

**Nurse/Care Manager:**  
Darline Bush, LPN

**Therapist:**  
Tania Baynes, MS

**Life Skills Coach:**  
Shawn Hicks

**Case Manager:**  
Kristin Amburgy

**Driver/Field Specialist:**  
Anthony Jackson

### Serving Communities in Need

The target population for the MGCCHP is the general population with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), with a special focus on the homeless, in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties, Mississippi. This represents 124,774 individuals in the three-county service area, or 33.8% of the entire population. The table to the right outlines the unique characteristics of the target population as compared to the county overall.

Although educational attainment and unemployment rates are not tracked specifically for the target population, educational attainment in the area is indicative of a population qualified primarily for low-paying jobs. Although the percent of the population without a high school degree (19.7%) is very close to the national average (19.6%), the number of people with a bachelor's degree or higher (17.6%) is much lower than the national average (24.4%). The proportion of the population with only a high school education (29.8%) is higher than is the case nationally (18.6%), portraying a population without the advanced educational attainment necessary to enter professions with high wages and good benefits.

### Available Services

- Comprehensive physical examinations and immunizations;
- Management of acute and chronic illnesses;
- Family planning and referrals;
- Nutrition assessment, cholesterol screening and body weight monitoring;
- Screenings for lead, vision and hearing testing, developmental delay;
- HIV/STD testing and counseling;
- Community and social service referrals;
- Health education; and
- Tele-psychiatry.

	Target Population	County Population
Male	38.5%	49.7%
Female	61.5%	50.3%
Caucasian	49.8%	76.0%
African American	31.8%	19.3%
Asian	2.6%	2.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	<0.1%
Other Race	15.8%	2.2%
Hispanic	1.2%	2.3%
0-4 Years	17.7%	7.0%
5-19 years old	25.9%	22.6%
20-44 years old	31.1%	36.9%
45-64 years old	21.2%	22.3%
65 Years and Older	4.1%	11.2%
Below 100% Poverty	41.4%	11.9%
100-199% Poverty	58.9%	19.9%
200% Poverty and Above	0%	66.2%
Medicaid	47.7%	16.1%
Medicare	0%	14.1%
Private Insurance	0%	52.1%
None/Uninsured	52.3%	17.7%

### Program Sites

Sites visited by the MGCCHP include the following: in Jackson County, Gautier Middle School, Gautier High School, College Park Elementary School, Central Middle School, Colmer Middle School, Trent Lott Middle School, and Pascagoula High School; in Gulfport, Bel Aire Elementary School, Gaston Point Elementary School, Pass Road Elementary School; in Biloxi, North Bay Elementary School, Gorenflo Elementary School, Moore Community House, and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church; in Harrison County, GCCAA, Inc., Head Start; in Hancock County, Hancock North Central Elementary School, Bay - Waveland Middle School, Long Beach Middle School, and Long Beach High School; Mississippi Dept. of Human Services and Public Housing Complexes (Gulf Mist Apartments, Sun Coast Villa Apartments).



[www.childrenshealthfund.org](http://www.childrenshealthfund.org)

