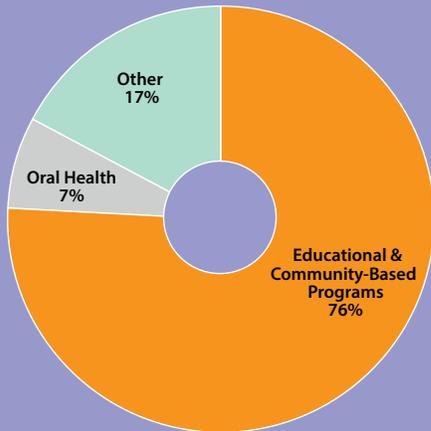


# Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

## North Carolina

### How North Carolina Invested PHS Block Grant Funding

Total FY 2015 Funding: \$3,677,276



North Carolina used PHS Block Grant funding for its Oral Health Program, which provides dental services to children who don't have a regular dentist.

### School Dental Screenings Help Reduce Tooth Decay

Tooth decay is one of the most common childhood dental issues in the United States. Untreated tooth decay can cause infections, toothaches, and problems with chewing food. Children whose teeth hurt can have a hard time speaking and concentrating on their schoolwork. Conducting dental screenings at school is an effective way to prevent tooth decay in children. In North Carolina, 13% of kindergarteners and 14% of third graders had untreated tooth decay in 2013. The North Carolina Division of Public Health uses Preventive Health and Health Services (PHS) Block Grant funding to support its Oral Health Program.

The Oral Health Program helps treat children who are more likely to develop tooth decay, such as children from families with low incomes or children who don't have a regular dentist. The program provides dental screenings and treatments at schools. Screenings can identify any cavities children have that could require a dentist's care. During the school screenings, dental program staff also apply sealants—thin, protective plastic coatings put over tiny grooves on the back teeth chewing surfaces—to prevent germs and food particles from causing decay.

The Oral Health Program also teaches dental care, like brushing and flossing, to school children and involves parents by providing them easy-to-understand brochures in English and Spanish about child dental care. Twenty-five dental hygienists across North Carolina currently offer these dental and educational services aimed to maintain oral health.

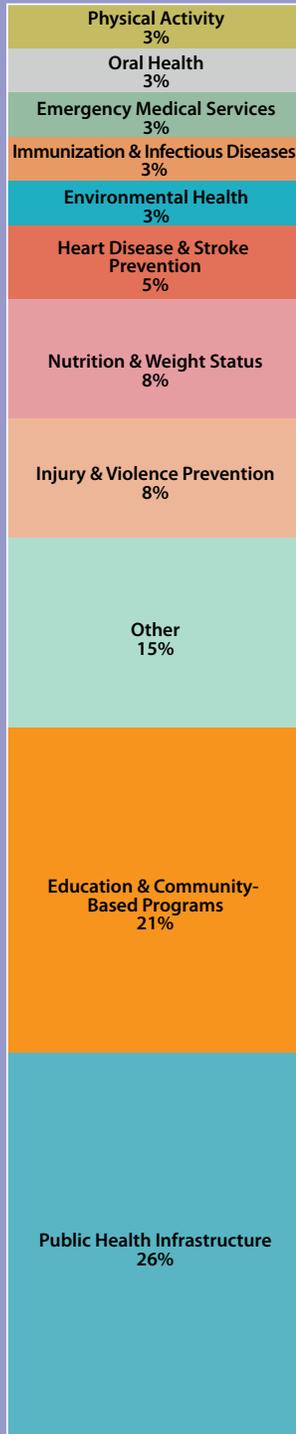
During the 2013–2014 school year, Oral Health Program staff screened more than 64,000 elementary school children for tooth decay, and more than 8,300 children were found to need care such as dental sealants. Also, more than 10,200 parents received information about keeping their children's teeth strong.

Because of the PHS Block Grant support for school-based oral health, many North Carolina children who are less likely to get dental care now can have healthy teeth.



# Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

## 2015 Top-Funded Health Areas



*Excludes all non-discretionary funding: administrative costs (up to 10%), direct assistance, and funds set aside for sexual violence (rape prevention).*

## What is the PHHS Block Grant?

The Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant provides flexible federal funding to 61 states, tribes, and US territories. These grantees use the funding to meet vital public health needs within their jurisdictions that align with national priorities—the Healthy People (HP) 2020 objectives.

## Block Grant Investment Across the Nation

In fiscal year 2015, the 61 grantees received about \$126 million from the PHHS Block Grant to support critical programs and services. Most funds (85%) supported HP 2020 objectives in 10 key areas: 1) Public Health Infrastructure, 2) Education and Community-Based Programs, 3) Injury and Violence Prevention, 4) Nutrition and Weight Status, 5) Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, 6) Environmental Health, 7) Immunization and Infectious Diseases, 8) Emergency Medical Services, 9) Oral Health, and 10) Physical Activity.

Public Health Infrastructure was the most funded area (26% of total funding); 43 grantees directed funds toward public health systems assessment, health improvement planning, accreditation, quality improvement, laboratory services, and other infrastructure activities. Education and Community-Based Programs was the second-most funded area (21% of total funding); 29 grantees directed funds toward community-based primary prevention services, worksite health promotion programs, and culturally appropriate community health programs.

Grantees also directed funds toward supporting local organizations working to improve community health (27% of total funding) and reduce health disparities (23% of total funding).