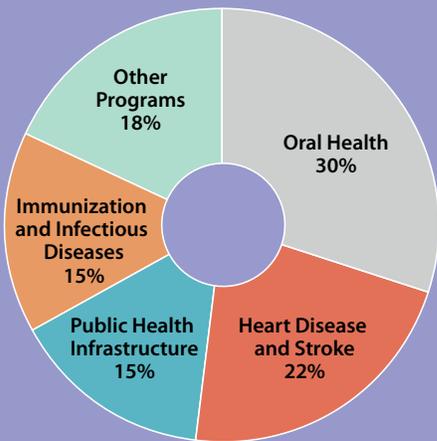


Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

Arkansas

How Arkansas Invested PHHS Block Grant Funding

Total FY 2015 Funding: \$1,221,216



Blocking Prescription Drug Abuse

Prescription drug abuse is a serious public health problem across the United States. "Abuse" is defined (or characterized) as people using prescription medicines to get high or change the way they feel. Pain medications (opioids) are the most abused type of prescription drug. In Arkansas, the rate of prescription drug overdose deaths in 2010 was slightly higher than the national rate. Arkansas youth and adolescents are also abusing prescription drugs at an alarming rate, ranking in the top fifth of states for people aged 12–25 years.

The Arkansas Prescription Monitoring Program (AR PMP) allows prescribers and pharmacists to electronically track and control how frequently patients are receiving pain medications throughout Arkansas and up to 47 other participating states. The database shows whether a patient has used controlled substances in the past or is visiting multiple doctors for similar complaints, a possible sign they are seeking more drugs to abuse or sell. With substantial support from the Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant, the state was able to continue the AR PMP without a gap in services during a time when the state budget had less than half of the money needed to run the program.

The Arkansas Department of Health and other state agencies significantly reduced prescription drug abuse in Arkansas from 2013 to 2014. There was a reduction of two-thirds in the number of people seeking controlled substances from multiple prescribers. Between 2013 and 2014, Arkansas saw a dramatic drop (65%) in the number of patients who went to 7 or more doctors, and to 7 or more pharmacies, within 90 days.

The state also used the PHHS Block Grant funds for staff training, keeping them up-to-date on ways to stop prescription drug abuse. Improving the way pain medications are prescribed and monitored can decrease abuse or overdose from these drugs while ensuring patients have access to safe, effective treatment. Health administrators expect this program to have a long-lasting positive impact on the public health and safety of Arkansans.

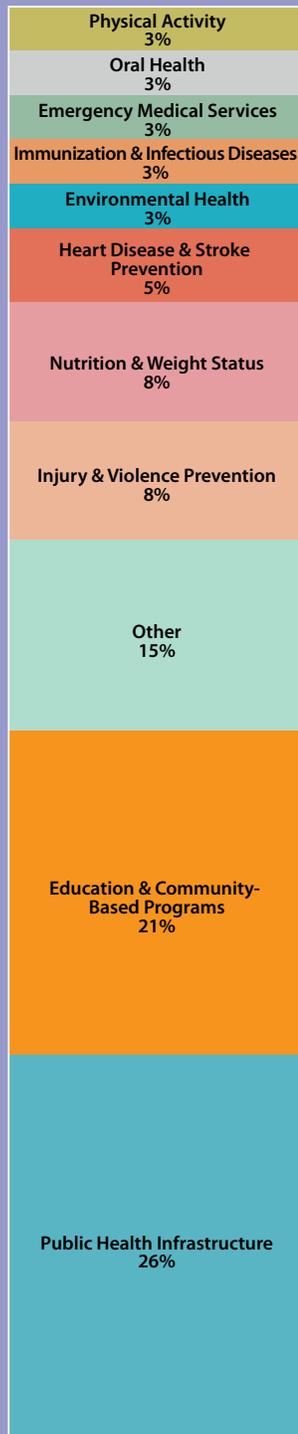


The Arkansas Department of Health reduced prescription drug abuse with support from the PHHS Block Grant.



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).