

For Immediate Release

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Mississippi Health Benefits – The Longer the Child is Enrolled The Higher the Rate Seeking Care

Jackson, Miss. – Children enrolled in the Mississippi Health Benefits Program are receiving needed health care. According to a recent report issued by the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration, 68 percent of children enrolled for just one month received health care from at least one source. The longer the child was enrolled, the higher the rate of those seeking care. Studies now indicate that 80 percent of children enrolled for six months, and 86 percent of children enrolled for twelve months received some type of health care service.

Mississippi Health Benefits Program children also appear to be receiving appropriate childhood immunizations. By matching enrollment data and State Immunization Registry records, the State Department of Health determined that at least 87 percent of children enrolled in Mississippi Health Benefits completed the required set of childhood immunizations by two years of age. MHB gleaned high satisfaction rates for enrollees reporting 93.2 percent satisfaction with claims service, 94 percent satisfaction with customer service, and 93.8 percent satisfaction with provider access. As of June 1st, 43,187 Mississippi children were enrolled in the program, an increase of 1,645 over May of this year.

The Office of the Governor - Division of Medicaid, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Finance and Administration jointly administer the Mississippi Health Benefits Plan. The Division of Medicaid receives and distributes federal and state funds and handles the overall management of the Program. Medicaid contracts with the Department of Human Services to determine eligibility for the Program and with the Health Insurance Management Board, acting administratively through the Department of Finance and Administration, to administer the separate insurance plan that provides health insurance coverage to eligible children. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi currently provides this health insurance coverage.

For direct information, parents may call 1-877-543-7669 to discuss eligibility or to obtain an application.