

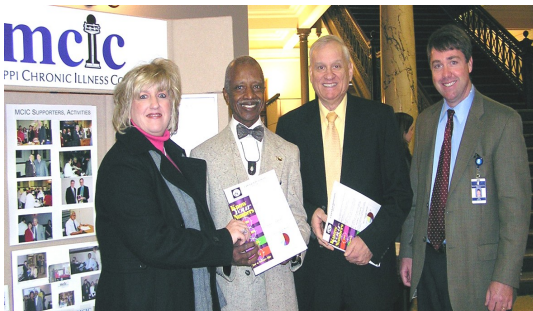
**The Power of Alliances -  
MOHCA Community Events**



Sealant Day Event 2009  
Northeast Regional Chapter of MOHCA  
Northeast Mississippi Community College



Healthy Mouth Healthy Schools  
National Dental Health Month Contest 2009  
Oak Grove Lower Elementary



MOHCA members support  
Mississippi Chronic Illness Coalition's  
Capitol Day 2009

**Better Oral Health for Mississippi**



**MOHCA**  
P O Box 11504  
Jackson, MS 39283-1504



**Better Oral Health for  
Mississippi**

Mississippi Oral Health Community Alliance (MOHCA) is a group of individuals and organizations from across the state interested in improving oral health for all Mississippians.



**Our Mission:**

- To offer a comprehensive approach to improve the oral health status for Mississippians by serving as an advocate for optimal oral health;
- To mobilize community partnerships between and among policy makers, state agencies, professionals, organizations, the public and other groups that are interested in improving oral health; and
- To develop and seek implementation of plans and policies through a collaborative process;
- To establish an oral health infrastructure that assures the protection, promotion and provision of oral health care for all Mississippians.

**Why Do We Exist?**

Oral health implies more than healthy teeth. Our goal is to raise awareness about a “silent epidemic” of dental and oral diseases that diminishes quality of life and well-being. Those with poor oral health include people with complex health conditions that, in turn, further complicate their health.

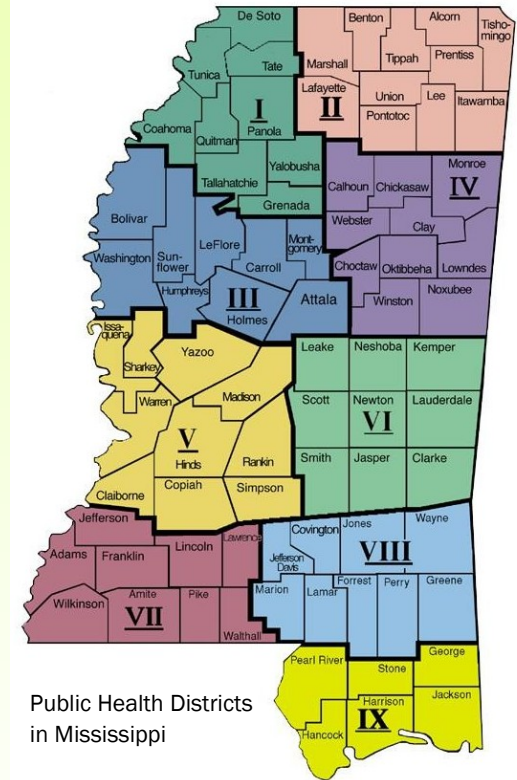
Research conducted by the Mississippi State Department of Health shows that:

- Overall, more than half (56%) of all Head Start children in Mississippi have experience with dental decay.
- 2 in 5 (41%) of Head Start children ages 3 to 5 have **untreated** dental decay (cavities) and need dental care.
- 7 in 10 (69%) third-grade children ages 8 to 9 have experience with dental decay.
- 2 in 5 (39%) third-grade children have **untreated** tooth decay (cavities).
- 1 in 10 (10%) , or about 3,800 third-grade children, need **urgent** dental care due to pain or infection
- 2 in 5 adults did not see a dentist for an annual check-up as recommended by the American Dental Association.



**You can make a difference to improve the oral health of Mississippians by joining MOHCA TODAY!**

**MOHCA needs your support to form a regional MOHCA Chapter in each of Mississippi’s nine Public Health Districts.**



**MOHCA**

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