



## NEWS RELEASE

### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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## ADPH seeks input on maternal and child health care needs

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health is asking that families with children or youth complete an online survey concerning health and health care services. The anonymous survey is being conducted in May and June and should take about 15 minutes to complete. To take the survey, please go to the Maternal and Child Health Web site at [www.adph.org/MCH](http://www.adph.org/MCH) and click on "Survey of Alabama's Families."

Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer, said, "We want as much participation as possible from Alabama residents who are raising children or youth. Information gained from the survey will help us identify the most important health-related needs of children, youth and their families. This information will be considered when we decide how to best allocate resources to better promote the health of these groups."

The Alabama Department of Public Health receives approximately \$11.5 million annually from the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau to assure continued improvement in the health, safety, and well-being of women of childbearing age, children and youth, and their families.

A particular area of interest is children with special health care needs. These are children who have or are at risk of a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally. To help assure that these dollars are used wisely, a statewide maternal and child health needs assessment is conducted every five years.

The online survey of families is one aspect of the current needs assessment. Other aspects include a survey of health care providers serving women of childbearing age, children, youth and their families; a survey of nonmedical organizations serving these groups; focus groups; and analysis of pertinent existing databases, such as birth and death records.

If you are raising children or youth, the Alabama Department of Public Health would greatly appreciate your completion of the survey. Postcard-sized fliers to encourage participation in the survey are being distributed statewide at public health clinics and a few other places.

For more information, please contact Dawn Ellis, MPH, assistant director, Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Branch, Bureau of Family Health Services, Alabama Department of Public Health, at (334) 206-5675.

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