

Wyoming Miners' Hospital Board

Annual Report-2006

Quality of Life Result:

Wyoming Residents have affordable and accessible health care and insurance. (Healthcare).

Department/Division/Program:

The Wyoming Miners' Hospital Board

Contribution to Wyoming Quality of Life:

This Board contributes to the improvement of the quality of life in Wyoming through The provision of health/wellness programs to the State's active and retired miners, with emphasis on pulmonary/respiratory, hearing loss, cardiac and musculoskeletal conditions. The Board's goal is to ensure that Wyoming's miners, active, contract, or inactive, are provided with health and wellness programs to improve their health from medical conditions disproportionately peculiar to the mining industry, in the particular illness areas of cardiac, hearing, musculoskeletal and pulmonary.

Basic Facts:

The Board consists of nine (9) members from the mining communities of Sweetwater and Campbell counties appointed by their respective county commissioners and/or the Governor. The board has one employee, an executive director, who out sources all other office and program functions. The Miners' Hospital Board had a current budget of \$5,149,034 for the biennium budget period just ended. These funds come from the miner's hospital account within the permanent land fund and the miner's hospital income account within the permanent land income fund. The board can utilize annually up to 5% of the balance of those two accounts. The board's budget targeted for use 80% of the allowable funds available.

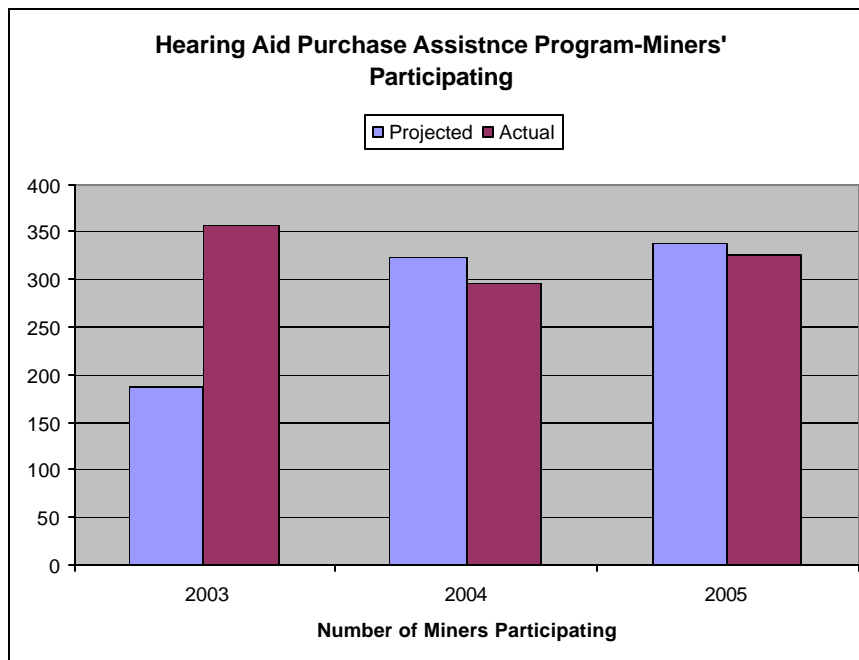
Story Behind the Last Year Performance:

The three major programs the Board has undertaken include:

Hearing Aid Purchasing Assistance Program

Designed to assist miners with acute hearing loss to obtain hearing aids, up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) is available toward the purchase of those hearing aids. The board also has established a PPO (Preferred Provider Organization) whereby member hearing aid providers (audiologists and hearing aid specialists) have agreed to offer miners significant price discounts for their purchase of hearing aids from them in return for the board's promotion of their involvement in the PPO.

The board projected 338 miners would participate in this program in 2005. The actual number served was 326. For the three years this program has been in operation the projections were 850. In reality 964 miners purchased hearing aids during that time with the board's help.



Mobile Wellness Testing Program

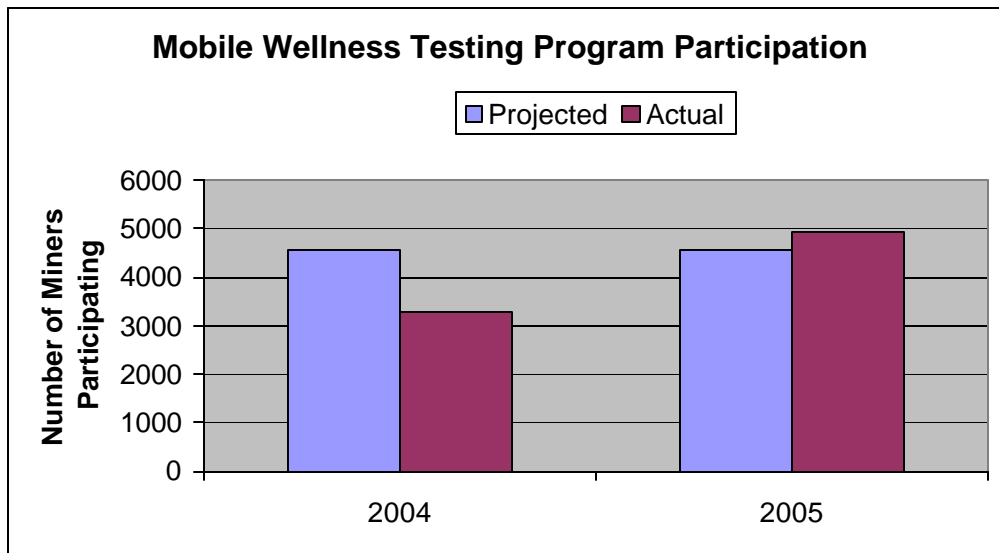
This program offers annual physicals for miners performed in mobile testing trailers or vans that travel to various locations throughout the State of Wyoming. The mobile units travel to areas with high concentrations of miners such as Rock Springs, Gillette,

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Sheridan, Green River, Kemmerer, Greybull, Lovell, Riverton, Douglas, Rawlins, Casper, Cheyenne, Wright, Upton and Newcastle.

The tests are offered by Most Healthcare Inc. and Campbell County Memorial Hospital with whom the board has contracted for this service. They divide up the state geographically. The tests include: Blood Chemistry Screen, Urinalysis, Chest X-Ray, CBC, EKG, Stationary Bike or Treadmill, Pulmonary, Hearing, Vision, Blood Pressure, Height, Weight, Body Fat and Stool Screen. The PSA (Prostate Cancer Screen) was just added.

The initial year's estimate was for 4565 miners to be tested. The actual number was 3270. Some mines already have clinics or providers on sight. And it was also thought that a lot of the testing would be at the mine site. This proved incorrect. However, through promotion and adding the PSA screen to the test panel, the numbers for 2005 increased well beyond the projected 4565 to 4927 and are still climbing.



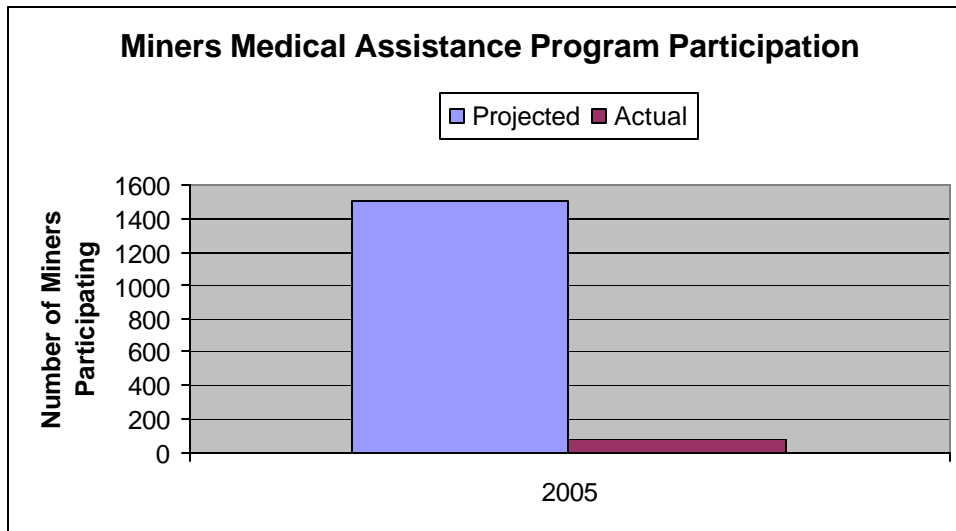
The Miners' Medical Assistance Program

Through this program one thousand dollars (\$1,000) is made available to miners for unpaid medical bills incurred for care given for cardiac, pulmonary, musculoskeletal and hearing conditions. For miners with health insurance there was a one thousand five hundred dollar (\$1,500) out of pocket expense which first had to be incurred before the (\$1,000) could be utilized. For miners without any health insurance the fund can be accessed immediately.

It was originally estimated that 1500 miners would access this program last year. Well, the actual 2005 number was 80, although the numbers at year end were increasing more dramatically. The original estimate was so strong that out of fear of heavier than

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anticipated volume depleting the program's funds, prescription drugs were excluded. In the current year, they are being included.



What has been accomplished?

With regard to all three of the board's major programs, the major thrust has been to make the mining community aware of these free health and wellness benefits and avail themselves of these services. So achievement is measured initially in volume of miners served.

The Hearing Aid Purchasing Subsidy. There was an initial estimate of a back log of miners needing hearing aids that would be taken care the first and/or second year. This would be followed by a steadily declining volume as that need and reoccurring need leveled off. Experience in the program has proven if anything a stronger demand. Nothing is slowing the board's efforts to regularly promote the program to the mining community. All the mining companies have cooperated with the board's effort to promote an awareness of this program. In addition, the board has convinced additional providers to join the Preferred Provider Organization thus offering the hearing aids to miners at a significant savings and with more providers to choose from at more convenient distances.

Mobile Wellness Testing Program .This program began two years ago and has climbed to a plateau of almost 5000 miners' tested last year with the volume still on the upswing. Again this has been the result of massive media promotion and the cooperation of the mining companies. The inclusion of mining contractors under the definition of "miner" has increased the potential wellness testing population. While listening to the miners themselves in exit interviews after being tested, the board added the prostate cancer screen (PSA) which assisted the increase in miners' tested.

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Miners' Medical Assistance Benefit This program was started a little over a year ago with great expectations, but it well undershot those estimates despite intense media promotion and mining companies' cooperation. The board has since simplified the benefit removing an out of pocket expense deductible that may have been a barrier and also adding prescription drugs for this current year.

Supplemental Budget Implications:

The Board does not have any plans at this time of submitting a supplemental budget request.