

Sharon Biggers, MPH, CHES

Sharon Biggers is the Director of SC Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control, a position she has held since 2003. She received her BS degree from the University of South Carolina in 1992 in Exercise Science, and her MPH from the School of Public Health in 1994. Sharon joined DHEC the same year, working first in the local health department settings in the Sumter and Columbia areas, then moving into the state-level Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control in 2000 in the capacity of Schools and Youth Coordinator.

Sharon currently manages both the CDC Cooperative Agreement and the state-funded program for Comprehensive Tobacco Control, which was awarded \$5 million dollars in recurring funding as part of South Carolina's 50-cent cigarette tax increase. Her state also received two awards under the *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* program for state-coordinated small city and rural area efforts under tobacco control, which focus on two counties in the Pee Dee region, best known for its tradition as the top tobacco producing area of the state. These programs focus on policy and environmental change in the areas of prevention, cessation, secondhand smoke, and elimination of tobacco-related disparities in an extremely challenging environment.