

Maternal and Child Health Priority Issue Briefs

MCH Priorities

Adequate nutrition
and physical activity

Lifestyles free of
substance use and
addiction

Optimal mental
health and healthy
relationships

Health disparities

Safe and healthy
communities

Healthy physical
growth and cognitive
development

Sexually responsible
and healthy
adolescents and
women

Access to preventive
and treatment
services

Quality screening,
identification,
intervention, and
care coordination

Setting Priorities

Assessing Needs

Every five years the Office of Maternal and Child Health (OMCH) undertakes a comprehensive needs assessment process that includes setting public health priorities for improving the health of mothers and children in Washington State. The priorities guide local and state public health activities toward specific goals. Many factors influence the activities that support each priority and the activities may change over time. The priorities themselves stay the same until a future needs assessment indicates they should change.

Healthy women, infants, children, adolescents, and families in Washington served as the central theme and vision for the 2005 Five-Year Needs Assessment. The needs assessment process began by asking the question, “What can we do so mothers and children can be healthy?”

Identifying Outcomes

Through extensive research and stakeholder input, the Needs Assessment Steering Committee and designated work groups identified a total of 30 desired health outcomes for different groups served by maternal and child health programs. These groups were: pregnant women and women of childbearing age; infants; young children (aged 1-5 years); and youth or school-age children (aged 6 -18 years). The Steering Committee combined similar outcomes to create Washington’s nine Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Priorities.

OMCH prepared an issue brief for eight of the nine priorities identified in the 2005 Five-Year Needs Assessment.¹ Each issue brief is an overview of data, activities supported by OMCH, and expected outcomes. The issue briefs also include information about how the MCH priorities relate to other national and state public health goals. Resources for related topics are listed on the other side of this page.

¹ The Health Disparities priority and issue brief are under development.

Resources

Additional information is available from the following sources. Other references are identified in the reference section of each issue brief.

Washington State's Maternal and Child Health Title V Block Grant Annual Application and Report and Five Year Needs Assessment

<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/>

Healthy People 2010

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/>

Washington State's Public Health Improvement Plan (PHIP)

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/PHIP/default.htm>

Washington State Department of Health Strategic Plan 2005-2007

http://www.doh.wa.gov/strategic/StratPlan03_05_ed1.pdf

The Health of Washington State

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/HWS/default.htm>

The 2006 MCH Data and Services Report and other OMCH data publications

http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/mch_assessment/mch_assesshome.htm

For more information about the Maternal and Child Health Priorities and the Issue Briefs, please contact Candi Wines at the Office of Maternal and Child Health via phone: (360)236-3459 or email: candi.wines@doh.wa.gov.