

# Office of Maternal and Child Health



## OMCH Sections

- OMCH Administration
- MCH Assessment (MCHA)
- Child and Adolescent Health (CAH)
- Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)
- Genetic Services Section (GSS)
- Immunization Program CHILD Profile (IPCP)
- Maternal and Infant Health (MIH)

OMCH programs work in close partnership with federal, state, and local agencies and consumers to promote effective health policies and quality systems of care.

## Building Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity

OMCH programs contract with local health agencies, community-based organizations, universities, hospitals, direct service providers, family organizations, and other agencies and organizations. Together we develop health education materials, collect data, develop policies, develop systems to improve public health, and deliver health care services.

## Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant

The federal Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (MCHBG) is a major source of funds for state and local MCH programs and activities. Since 1935, the MCHBG has provided money to states to improve the health, safety, and well-being of women and children.

Washington State's block grant application and annual report can be viewed online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/BlockGrant.htm>.

The Office of Maternal and Child Health (OMCH) works to protect and improve the health of people in Washington with a focus on women, infants, children, adolescents, and their families.

## OMCH Priorities

- Adequate nutrition and physical activity
- Lifestyles free of substance use and addiction
- Optimal mental health and healthy relationships
- Health disparities in the MCH population
- Safe and healthy communities
- Healthy physical growth and cognitive development
- Sexually responsible and healthy adolescents and women
- Access to preventive and treatment services for the maternal and child population including access to dental care
- Quality screening, identification, intervention, and care coordination

## Outcomes and Benefits

- Providers and parents receive age-specific health and development information to help them make informed decisions about the safety, health care, and well-being of women, infants, children, and teens.
- More infants, children, and adolescents receive immunizations and other health care in medical homes.
- Families are included as essential participants in policy development, planning, and training.
- Local health agencies increase their abilities to perform public health functions such as assessments and policy development related to child and adolescent health.

## 2007—09 Funding

Funding for OMCH is provided by the state and federal governments. Funding sources include the State General Fund and Health Services Account, the CDC Immunization Grant (Title 317), Federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (Title V), Title XIX (Medicaid), and public partnerships. Federal funding for the MCH Block Grant was reduced in 2005 and 2006. We anticipate an additional cut of as much as 2% in 2008.

**For more information about OMCH, please contact the Office Director or the Section Managers**

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### Web site:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/>

## Outcomes and Benefits continued

- Vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks are prevented and the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases is controlled.
- Women receive information about healthy behaviors before, during, and after pregnancy and more women receive prenatal services.
- Infant death rates have dropped over the past few years.
- MCH programs and others have access to data for program planning, evaluation, and policy development.
- Infants are screened for hearing loss and receive related services if needed through hospital-based universal newborn hearing screening programs and a statewide tracking and surveillance system.
- The number of unintended teen pregnancies is reduced.
- Children and adolescents have access to oral health promotion, screening, referral and sealant programs.

## Trends and Emerging Issues

- Promoting medical homes so children and adolescents receive the medical and non-medical services they need continues to be an important focus. Legislation passed in 2007 requires the development of performance measures to indicate whether children covered by public insurance have medical homes.
- There continues to be a need to use evidenced-based decision making at local and state levels and to develop standard evaluation methods.
- Addressing significant disparities among Native American, African-American, and low-income women, and teens remains important.
- Obesity and lack of physical activity continue to affect the health of children and adolescents.
- Lack of health insurance for children continues to be a barrier to receiving preventive and treatment services. Legislation passed in 2007 expands health insurance benefits to more children in Washington.
- Maternal and Child Health Block Grant budget cuts have resulted in the loss of funds for some activities.