Assessment in Maternal & Child Health: 
...More Than an Every 5 year MCH Function

MCHB Title V Partnership 2017 Tech. Assistance Meeting
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October 17, 2017
Learning Objectives

✓ Describe “assessment” as a core public health function
✓ Examine relationship of MCH Needs Assessment to “assessment”
✓ Understand the need for follow up Needs Assessment activities
✓ Consider benefits of pre MCH Needs Assessment activities
✓ Explore future tools for the MCH Needs Assessment
✓ Promote better communication of findings and progress to all
1988: Public Health and the Core Functions

Assessment: “The committee recommends that every public health agency regularly and systematically collect, assemble, analyze, and make available information on the health of the community, including statistics on health status, community health needs, and epidemiologic and other studies of health problems.”
1994: The 10 Essential Public Health Services

- Assessment
- Policy Development
- Assurance
Essential Public Health Services to Promote Maternal and Child Health in America (1995)

MCH Assessment Functions

- Assess and monitor maternal and child health status to identify and address problems.
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards affecting women, children, and youth.

How Does the MCH Needs Assessment Relate to the Core Public Health Functions?

State Title V MCH Program Needs Assessment, Planning, Implementation and Monitoring Process

Essential Public Health Services to Promote Maternal and Child Health in America

Our Practice Is Our Passion
MCH Assessment Functions

- Assess and monitor maternal and child health status to identify and address problems.
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards affecting women, children, and youth.

Assessment is more than every 5 years…
MCH Assessment

1. Need to monitor & further investigate your selected MCH Need Assessment priorities
   • Monitor your selected MCH Needs Assessment priorities
   • Further assessment of new & emerging priorities
   • Modify surveys, link databases & improve info systems
   • Work with communities to bring the assessment and monitoring to the community level
   • Develop/select better evidence-based or informed strategy measures
Example of Strategy Measure Strengthening:

“Percent of Infants placed to sleep on their backs”

- Are the training workshops evidence-base?
- Will the same training work with different audiences?
- Is this the training or “train the trainer”?
- What percent of the target audience needs to receive the training to have an impact?

Sponsor 4 regional safe sleep training workshops for nurses, day care providers, and other infant care takers.
## NPM 5 Brief
Women’s and Children’s Health Policy Center
Feb 2017
Johns Hopkins University

### Strengthen the Evidence Base for Maternal and Child Health Programs

**NPM 5: Safe Sleep**

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<th>Intervention Category</th>
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Example of Strategy Measure Revision:

“Percent of Infants placed to sleep on their backs”

Sponsor 4 regional safe sleep training workshops for nurses, day care providers, and other infant care takers.

Percent of delivery hospitals who implement the state’s Caregiver + Provider + Hospital Program
MCH Assessment

Potential Criteria for Selecting ESMs

• **Meaningful:** evidence-based, relevant, feasible, potential

• **Measurable:** quantifiable, specific, available, incremental

• **Achievable:** improvement attainable, sensitive to change
MCH Assessment

2. Need to assess & monitor other MCH priorities

- Healthy weight
- Zika
- Hurricane Harvey, Irma or Maria
MCH Assessment

3. Prepare for the new or emerging priority *(Due 2020)*

- Other priorities become new MCH priorities
- Favorite MCH priorities “voted off the island”
- Impact of health care reform on MCH populations
- Immigrant health
- Contraception and use of LARCs
- Quality of care and maternal/infant morbidities
MCH Assessment

4. Develop new needs assessment and monitoring tools and measures

• Social Determinants
  – Measure better define & measure—Concentrated Disadvantage
  – Measure programs, services, policies, and outcomes across social determinants categories
MCH Assessment

4. Develop new needs assessment and monitoring tools and measures
   • Social Determinants
   • Positive Experiences
Graphic Concept Adapted from Neal Halfon, UCLA
Positive Experiences

Sege R, Bethell C, et. al. *Balancing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) with HOPE.* Casey Family Programs 2017
MCH Assessment

4. Develop new needs assessment and monitoring tools and measures
   - Social Determinants
   - Positive Experiences
   - Health Equity
Health Equity

Health Equity Three
Photo Description
Health Equity across population groups

Health Equity Three
Photo Description

- Don’t risk adjust health outcomes
- Measure the prevalence of risks
- Measure risk appropriate services
- Measure services & outcomes within risk category
MCH Assessment

4. Develop new needs assessment tools / measurement

Need provoking questions—racial health equity lens

• What’s the problem?
• What’s the cause?
• What’s the solution?
• What action is needed?
• What values are highlighted?

Adapted the Boston Public Health Commission and the MA Dept of Public Health from *Race Forward*
MCH Assessment

5. Remember to include families, providers, and partners in your assessment and monitoring activities
MCH Assessment

6. Better communicate progress to staff, leadership, partners and the public

Developing an “MCH Score Card”
Assessment is more than every 5 years...