

AMCHP PRINCIPLES FOR HEALTH REFORM



The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) advocates that health reform should be a top domestic policy priority for the new Administration and Congress. Health reform should incorporate the following principles and contribute to the following outcomes in order to assure the health of all women, children, adolescents, and families, including those with special health care needs:



Health reform should incorporate the following principles to assure the health of MCH populations:

- Quality affordable health insurance coverage should be guaranteed for all Americans.
- A comprehensive insurance benefits package should include evidence-based services required for all women of reproductive age, children, adolescents, children with special health care needs, and their families.
- Because health insurance coverage alone

is essential but not sufficient to improve the overall health of populations, adequate federal support for state and community-wide public health prevention and promotion services must be included in any health reform package. There should be explicit recognition that women and children have needs that require specific expertise and an accountable locus of public responsibility to assure ongoing attention and leadership. The future roles for State Title V MCH programs should therefore be explicitly considered and enhanced in any health reform legislation.

Health reform should contribute to the following important outcomes for MCH populations:

- Strengthen and expand access to services known to improve the health of women of reproductive age; improve birth outcomes; protect children and youth from preventable disease, disability and death; promote healthy development; and improve family functioning.
- Provide and promote access to family-centered, community-based, coordinated care for children with special health care needs and facilitate the development of community-based, culturally competent systems of services for such children and their families.
- Ultimately contribute to improved health status for individuals, families, and communities.



AMCHP supports state maternal and child health programs and provides national leadership on issues affecting women and children. For over 70 years, state directors of programs for maternal and child health and children with special health care needs have worked with a wide range of public and private partners to improve the health of families. We promote family-centered, culturally and linguistically competent, community-based systems of care for all families in nation. These principles were created by AMCHP's Legislative and Health Care Finance Committees, and approved by its Board of Directors. For additional information, please call AMCHP's Policy and Government Affairs department at (202) 775-0436.