



Office of Epidemiology and Research FACT SHEET

The Office of Epidemiology and Research (OER) promotes the health and well-being of women, children and families by providing national leadership in the advancement and utilization of scientific knowledge to inform MCH research. In partnership with State and local MCH programs, academic institutions, professional organizations, and other federal government agencies, the OER tries to achieve this goal through four avenues:

- Build data capacity at the national, State, and local levels;
- Strengthen the present and future workforce skill levels in MCH epidemiology and research;
- Support applied research to ensure that MCH initiatives are based on tested applications of the most recent and emerging science; and
- Disseminate information and strengthen the evidence base in MCH.

Division of Epidemiology (DOE), <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/researchdata/>

Build Data Capacity at the National, State, and Local Levels: The DOE recognizes the need to strengthen data capacity in State and local areas to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs that are evidence-based. In that regard, MCHB has developed the National Surveys of Children with Special Health Care Needs and the National Surveys of Children's Health. Each of these surveys has been conducted every four years since 2001. Their purpose has been to provide national and state-specific information on the health and well-being of America's children. The DOE also seeks to increase the efficiency of existing data systems at the State and local-level through supporting grants to integrate child health information systems.

Strengthen the Present and Future Workforce Capacity in MCH Epidemiology: In addition to building data capacity, the DOE has an extensive program for building workforce capacity in MCH epidemiology. These programs are targeted at the present workforce engaged at the State and local levels through trainings, webinars, a special course dedicated to MCH epidemiology, and support for the annual MCH Epidemiology Conference. Programs for the future workforce are designed to build necessary skills and provide hands-on experience through work in a State or local MCH department.

Disseminate Information and Strengthen the Evidence Base in MCH: The DOE's efforts to build data capacity is coupled with a multi-pronged strategy for disseminating data and research for a variety of audiences. Approaches include: an on-line user-defined query system for the National Surveys of Children's Health and the National Surveys of Children with Special Health Care

Needs (<http://www.childhealthdata.org>); annual and survey-specific chartbooks including *Women's Health USA*, *Child Health USA*, and chart books which present National and State-level results from sponsored surveys on multiple aspects of children's health and well-being as well as aspects of the family and the neighborhood that can affect children's health; and publication of original scientific research to strengthen the evidence base in MCH.

Division of Research (DOR), <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/research>

The **MCH Research Program** supports applied research and research networks that have the potential to improve the health and wellbeing of mothers, children and families by uncovering strategies designed to improve health care and service delivery systems for individuals and communities at both the State and national levels. For almost 50 years, support for cutting-edge investigator-initiated research has resulted in critical advances in health care services and improved health of MCH populations.

Consistent with HRSA's mission as the access agency that provides services to underserved populations, the MCH Research Program investments address the unique needs of underserved MCH populations that: examine health disparities; investigate factors that promote quality of care; uncover the social and environmental context of child and family health and well being; and encourage an integrated view of family health over the lifespan and across generations. A unique feature of the MCH Research Program is its focus on interdisciplinary science that allows researchers to explore the interwoven roles of families, schools, neighborhoods, culture and policies.

The programs supported and administered by the DOR are authorized by Title V of the Social Security Act or the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act and include the following:

- R40 Extramural MCH Research and Secondary Data Analysis Studies
- Pediatric Research in the Office Setting Network (PROS and EPROS)
- Pregnancy-related Care Research Network (PRCRN)
- Life Course Research Network (LCRN)
- Home Visiting Research Network (HVRN)
- R40 Autism Intervention Research and Secondary Data Analysis Studies
- Autism Intervention Research Networks (AIR-P and AIR-B)
- Developmental Behavioral Pediatric Research Network (DBPnet)

Program Contact

Michael D. Kogan, PhD
Director, Office of Epidemiology and Research
Phone: 301-443-3145

Media HRSA Office of Communications (301) 443-3376; press@hrsa.gov