

MCH Leadership, Education, and Advancement in Undergraduate Pathways (LEAP) Training Program Fact Sheet

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Leadership, Education, and Advancement in Undergraduate Pathways (LEAP) Training Program promotes the development of a diverse and representative public health and health care workforce by recruiting undergraduate students from historically underserved or underrepresented backgrounds, including trainees from racially and ethnically underrepresented groups, into MCH public health and MCH-related health professions in order to improve levels of representation, reduce health disparities, and increase access to health care for vulnerable and underserved MCH populations.

The LEAP Program educates, mentors, guides, and provides enriching experiences to increase students' interest in and entry into MCH and related health fields such as pediatrics, nutrition, social work, nursing, pediatric dentistry, psychology, health education, pediatric occupational/physical therapy, and speech language pathology.

The LEAP Program encourages students to seek careers in MCH by making undergraduate didactic research, clinical/field experiences, and opportunities available; and by exposing students to Title V and other MCH agencies that serve children and families.

The LEAP Program develops leadership skills, fosters a broader public health perspective, and explores the integration of primary care and public health to improve population health. LEAP programs also link to MCH graduate training programs.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Trainees

In FY 2022, LEAP programs trained 564 short-term, 231 medium-term, and 47 long-term trainees, and provided the knowledge and skills for public health practice and leadership that placed them on a career track for entering MCH-related professions.

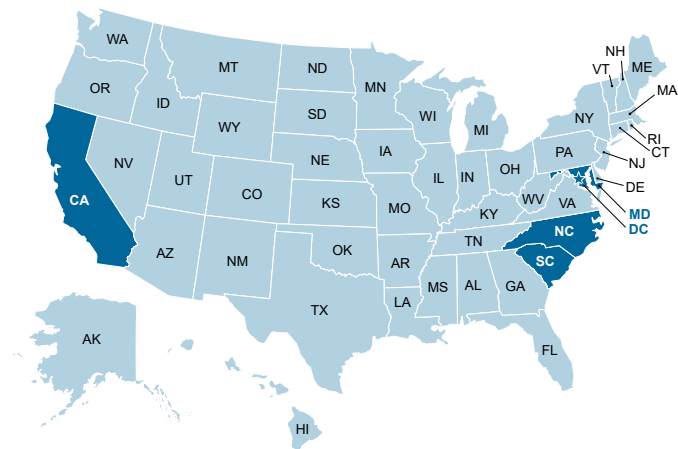
LEAP trainees are trained to serve historically underserved, underrepresented MCH communities to reduce health disparities and improve service delivery to women, children, youth, families, and communities.

Over 70% of LEAP long-term trainees are from underrepresented racial groups and 21% are Hispanic/Latino.

Title V

In FY 2022, LEAP programs reported collaborating with state Title V (MCH) agencies or other MCH-related programs on 387 activities in the areas of service, training, continuing education, technical assistance, product development, and research.





PROGRAM LOCATIONS

California

- [University of California, Berkeley](#)

District of Columbia

- [George Washington University](#)

Maryland

- [Kennedy Krieger Institute](#)

North Carolina

- [East Carolina University](#)
- [University of North Carolina at Greensboro](#)

South Carolina

- [University of South Carolina](#)

DIVISION OF MCH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (DMCHWD)

DMCHWD, part of the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), provides national leadership and direction in educating and training our nation's current and future leaders in maternal and child health (MCH). The Division also provides leadership through state and community-based capacity building programs.

Special emphasis is placed on the development and implementation of interprofessional, family- and person centered, community-based and culturally responsive systems of care across the entire life course.

DMCHWD supports programs established in federal legislation ([Title V of the Social Security Act](#), the [Autism CARES Act](#), and [§ 330M of the Public Health Service Act \(42 USC 254c-19\)](#), as added by the [21st Century Cures Act \(P.L. 114-255\)](#) and amended by the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act \(P.L. 117-159\)](#)) to complement state and local health agency efforts. DMCHWD partners with state MCH programs, academic institutions, professional organizations, and other health training programs of the federal government to ensure that MCH workforce development programs are grounded in emerging and evidence-based practices.