

Division of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Workforce Development: Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH)

MISSION

Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) provides interdisciplinary leadership training in adolescent health for five core disciplines including medicine, nursing, nutrition, psychology, and social work. The pre- and post-doctoral training prepares health professionals for leadership roles in public health practice and clinical care, research, training, and advocacy with the goal of improving family- and youth-centered, community-based care for adolescents and enhancing the capacity of Title V programs to improve young people's health.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the MCH LEAH Training Program is to prepare trainees in a variety of professional disciplines for leadership roles in the public and academic sectors and to ensure high levels of clinical competence. The LEAH Programs educate and mentor the next generation of leaders in adolescent health who will influence public health, create new knowledge, translate research to practice, and train the interdisciplinary and primary care workforce to deliver culturally competent, evidence-based, coordinated health care to diverse adolescents. Training is designed to integrate biological, developmental, mental health, social, economic, and environmental issues within a public health framework. The seven interdisciplinary programs consist of the following components:

1. Preparation that focuses on prevention as well as care coordination
2. Public health training, including opportunities for trainees to interact with state adolescent health coordinators
3. Training in research methodology
4. Development of clinical, communication, and teaching skills

PROGRAM PROFILE

MCHB currently funds seven (7) projects in schools of medicine and teaching hospitals, with annual awards totaling \$2.5 million. The next competition for LEAH grants is in FY2017.



PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Alabama

[University of Alabama at Birmingham](#)

California

[University of California at San Francisco](#)

Indiana

[Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis](#)

Maryland

[Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore](#)

Massachusetts

[Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston](#)

Minnesota

[University of Minnesota, Minneapolis](#)

Washington

[University of Washington, Seattle](#)

Program Impact

- ▶ **Trainees.** In FY 2011, the LEAH training program trained 79 long-term trainees, 488 medium-term trainees, and 1,688 short-term trainees. Over 36% of long-term trainees are from underrepresented racial groups and almost 5% are from underrepresented ethnic groups.
- ▶ In FY 2011, over 90% of LEAH program graduates (5 years following completion of program) are engaged in work related to MCH populations and 94% demonstrated field leadership in academic, clinical, public health practice and/or public policy and advocacy activities.
- ▶ **Faculty.** LEAH faculty served on the Healthy People 2020 Adolescent Health Workgroup, bringing the scholarship, practical experience, and interprofessional approach to the public health framework. LEAH faculty and trainees gave over 1,300 clinical, research, and policy presentations and provided over 1,400 continuing education courses to advance the field and provide workforce development to meet Healthy People 2020 goals.
- ▶ Core faculty at each site include pediatricians and internists who are sub-boarded in adolescent medicine, nurses, psychologists, nutritionists, and social workers. Faculty oversee the clinical experiences of trainees, as well as research, field experiences, and academic performance. Faculty also engage in clinical health services and social epidemiological research and provide continuing education and technical assistance for the health professional and policymaking communities.
- ▶ **Title V.** In FY 2011, all seven LEAH training programs reported collaborating with State Title V (MCH) agencies or other MCH-related programs on over 1,500 activities in areas of service, training, continuing education, technical assistance, product development and research.

<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/training/>

