

MCH Essential Public Health Servicesⁱ

Since 1988, the public health field has built consensus around the core public health functions (assessment, policy development, and assurance) and the corresponding set of ten essential public health services. These now serve as the blueprint for local and state public health agency operations. In the maternal and child health field, a corresponding discipline-specific tool was developed, the Ten Essential Public Health Services to Promote Maternal and Child Health in America.

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

- 1.**
Assess and monitor maternal and child health status to identify and address problems.
- 2.**
Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards affecting women, children, and youth.
- 3.**
Inform and educate the public and families about maternal and child health issues.
- 4.**
Mobilize community partnerships between policymakers, health care providers, families, the general public, and others to identify and solve maternal and child health problems.
- 5.**
Provide leadership for priority-setting, planning, and policy development to support community efforts to assure the health of women, children, youth and their families.
- 6.**
Promote and enforce legal requirements that protect the health and safety of women, children, and youth, and ensure public accountability for their well-being.
- 7.**
Link women, children, and youth to health and other community and family services, and assure access to comprehensive, quality systems of care.
- 8.**
Assure the capacity and competency of the public health and personal health work force to effectively address maternal and child health needs.
- 9.**
Evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal health and population-based maternal and child health services.
- 10.**
Support research and demonstrations to gain new insights and innovative solutions to maternal and child health-related problems.

ⁱGrason, H.A., and Guyer, B. *Public MCH Program Functions Framework: Essential Public Health Services to Promote Maternal and Child Health in America*. Baltimore, MD: Child and Adolescent Health Policy Center, The Johns Hopkins University, December 1995. www.jhsph.edu/wchpc/publications/mchfxstapps.pdf