



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Colorado's Maternal and Child Health 2016-2020 Needs Assessment

Prevention Services Division
www.mchcolorado.org

Why do a needs assessment?

Every five years, Colorado's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program conducts a state-level needs assessment of the health and well-being of women, children, youth and families to guide state and local public health work and to meet Title V MCH Block Grant requirements. The goal of the assessment is to gather information to understand what issues are facing this population and then to identify seven to ten specific priorities that can be positively impacted by public health work during the next five years. State and local MCH staff use the selected MCH priorities as a tool to focus efforts, align resources, and to positively impact in the lives of women, children and youth including those with special health care needs, and their families.

What are the main components of the needs assessment process?

The main components of the needs assessment process include collecting quantitative and qualitative data that are used in identifying priorities. Issue briefs on many key MCH topics are being developed to gather and highlight data. Each brief includes information on a topic's incidence and prevalence, related social determinants of health, and contributing factors. The 2012 MCH State Trend Analysis and the 2014 State Health and Environmental Assessment also provide key information about the MCH population. Finally, stakeholder input – including the perspectives of youth and families – is critical to informing the identification of MCH priorities. To this end, state staff will be holding regional stakeholder input meetings between July and October.

How does the MCH needs assessment affect me?

The resulting MCH priorities will affect what issues state and local public health professionals address in the next five years. Maternal and child health public health professionals develop and implement population-based prevention and health promotion programs and strategies with the aim of optimizing the health and well-being of the MCH population. If you would like to participate in the needs assessment process, consider attending a stakeholder input meeting! Detailed information will be sent out in late June, so stay tuned.

For more information, contact:

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**Look at
Page 2 for an
illustration of
the needs
assessment
process!**

Colorado Maternal and Child Health 2016-2020 Needs Assessment Process

