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

Colorado MCH Mission and Strategic Direction
MCH Block Grant Funding
State and Federal Legislative Requirements
HRSA Proposed National Performance Measures
Current MCH Priority Efforts
Advisory Group and Key Principles

Advisory Group
Capacity Assessment Prioritization Process
Nov 2014 - Jan 2015

Identification of Colorado MCH Priorities
Submitted in July 2015

2016-2020 State and Local MCH Public Health Work

Quantitative Data

2012 State Trend Analysis
2013 Colorado Health and Environment Assessment

MCH Issue Briefs Present - Dec 2014

Existing Resources and Initiatives

Advisory Group Input Present - Dec 2014

Stakeholder Engagement Meetings July - October 2014

Qualitative Data

Existing Resources and Initiatives

Stakeholder Engagement Meetings July - October 2014

Advisory Group Input Present - Dec 2014

2012 State Trend Analysis
2013 Colorado Health and Environment Assessment

MCH Issue Briefs Present - Dec 2014

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