

SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

MCH Training Program

PROGRAM HISTORY AND STRATEGY

The maternal and child health (MCH) training grants to schools of public health were the first long-term training programs funded by the Children's Bureau, beginning in 1947. The program was initiated to help establish an MCH concentration within schools of public health. The developing MCH state agencies required a work force that was knowledgeable about public health principles and that focused on children and families.

Currently, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) funds grants that support the development and enhancement of MCH content, expertise, and training in 12 schools of public health. The grants also foster the availability of such resources to all parts of the country. The schools of public health MCH training programs have demonstrated their ability to advance the field of MCH and to help achieve MCH-related health objectives.

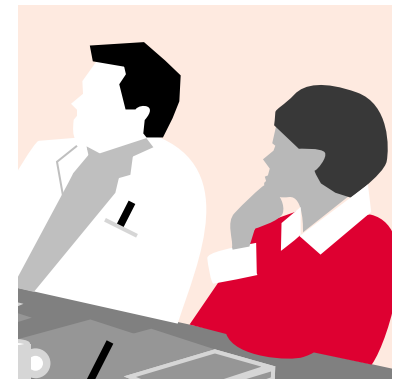
PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

The objectives of the MCH training programs in schools of public health are as follows: (1) to educate future leaders and to assist current leaders in solving MCH public health problems; (2) to discover and test solutions to these problems by conducting applied research at the local, state, and national levels; and (3) to improve the health status of women, children, and families through participation in community activities. The programs are interdisciplinary in focus, with faculty from many professional disciplines working as a team to provide training. Schools of public health MCH training programs use a competency-based curriculum designed to train students to become leaders in public health practice, research,

planning, policy development, and advocacy. The curriculum focuses on the development of scientific and analytic skills, as well as on the development of skills in management, communication, and advocacy.

HIGHLIGHTS

Trainees. According to the Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health, more than 550 students are supported annually by the MCHB funds through stipends and traineeships. The stu-



dents in these training programs participate in a variety of activities aimed at preparing them to become leaders in the MCH field. These activities include assisting in community-based health agencies, conducting community-based training sessions, producing educational materials, and conducting evaluations on the effectiveness of MCH community-based programs. In addition, students participate on local and national task forces, advisory panels, and commissions.

Faculty. Faculty from the schools of public health MCH training programs train public health professionals for leadership roles; provide technical assistance and consultation to local, state, and national organizations; develop and disseminate new knowledge; provide continuing education to practicing public health professionals; and advocate for the MCH population. Faculty in the training programs include nurses, social workers, obstetricians, pediatricians, nurse-midwives, nutritionists, economists,

psychologists, sociologists, epidemiologists, and health services researchers.

PROGRAM PROFILE

- In FY 2000, MCHB funded 12 general MCH training programs in schools of public health with annual grant awards totaling about \$4.5 million.
- The grant awards range from \$243,000 to \$402,000 per year, with a mean award amount of \$318,000.

Present Grant Recipients

STATE	GRANTEE
AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham
CA	University of California, Berkeley University of California, Los Angeles
FL	University of South Florida
IL	University of Illinois at Chicago
MD	Johns Hopkins University
MA	Boston University Harvard University
MN	University of Minnesota
NC	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
PR	University of Puerto Rico
WA	University of Washington

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health. Fall 1998. Maternal and child health training in U.S. schools of public health: What is it? Who does it? Who benefits? *ATMCH Newsletter*.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Division of Systems, Education, and Science. n.d. *Maternal and Child Health Training Program Announcement of Grant Availability: MCH Training in Schools of Public Health*. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

