



## Background

Since 1991, States and Jurisdictions have submitted both annual grant applications and annual reports for the Title V Block Grant to the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) in accordance with guidance documents from MCHB. These applications and reports contain a wealth of qualitative and quantitative information concerning state initiatives designed to address health-related needs of women, infants, and children. The ability to access and summarize data contained in the applications and annual reports has remained difficult because of their length and variations in reporting formats employed by States.

To make data from State applications and annual reports more accessible, MCHB and the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health (NCEMCH) are developing an electronic Title V Information System (IS). This effort occurred as MCHB was rewriting the Title V MCH Services Block Grant guidance to address the new focus on performance measurement required by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). Because the Title V IS and new Title V MCH Services Block Grant guidance were being developed simultaneously, each was able to inform the development of the other.

## Data Being Captured

Forms required by the Title V MCH Services Block Grant guidance are the source of standardized State data. During the revision of the Title V MCH Services Block Grant guidance, forms were designed to capture desired information including performance measure data required under GPRA. Data from the forms include:

- Performance measurement data
- Health outcome measurement data
- Fiscal data by class of individual served
- Fiscal data by source
- Fiscal data by service type
- Screening & treatment data
- Numbers served by Title V
- State priority needs
- Title V clients served
- Source of coverage for Title V clients
- Description of State Title V initiatives
- MCH toll-free hotline data
- Service System constructs for CSHCN

Data from other sources will also be included in the Title V IS as needed to generate specific reports.

## The Electronic Reporting Package (ERP)

Forms provide a standard reporting format, but they have not always been completed in a consistent manner among States. Within State applications calculation errors and inconsistencies between forms also occurred from time to time. States found updating forms by hand awkward and expressed interest in an electronic version of the forms required in their applications and annual reports.

To address these issues NCEMCH and MCHB created the Electronic Reporting Package (ERP) to produce the required forms. The goals of the ERP are simple, provide States with an easy way to fill out and update forms and provide electronic data to the Title V IS. There are many advantages to this approach. In addition to providing printed forms and electronic data, the ERP also automates calculation, updates multiple forms at one time, and warns States when conflicting or unacceptable figures appear, thus enhancing the quality of the data received. The ERP also includes templates for standard word-processing packages to be used for the narrative portion of the application and annual report.

### Electronic Reporting Package By the Numbers

The Electronic Reporting Package is a user friendly database application for States to use in filling out their Title V MCH Services Block Grant applications and annual reports. The programming of the ERP, however, was complex. The ERP includes:

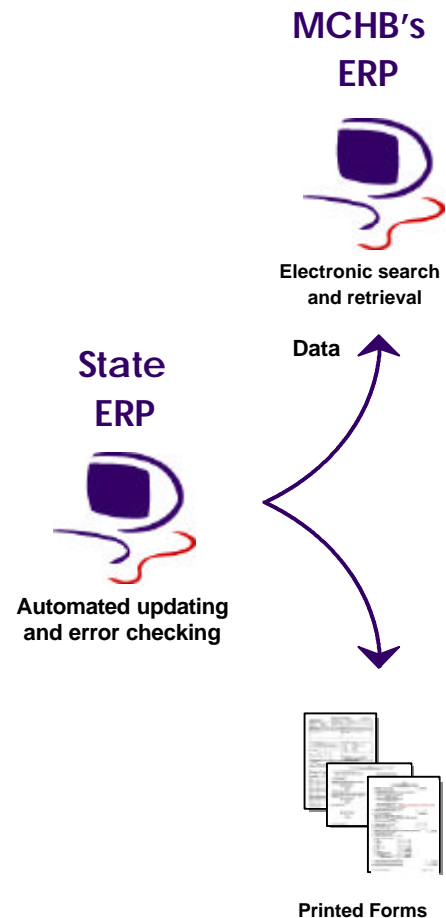
- 1,640 data fields
- 380 programmed routines
- 89 layouts
- 118 records for on-line help and instructions

The ERP was designed for ease of use using FileMaker Pro 3.0.

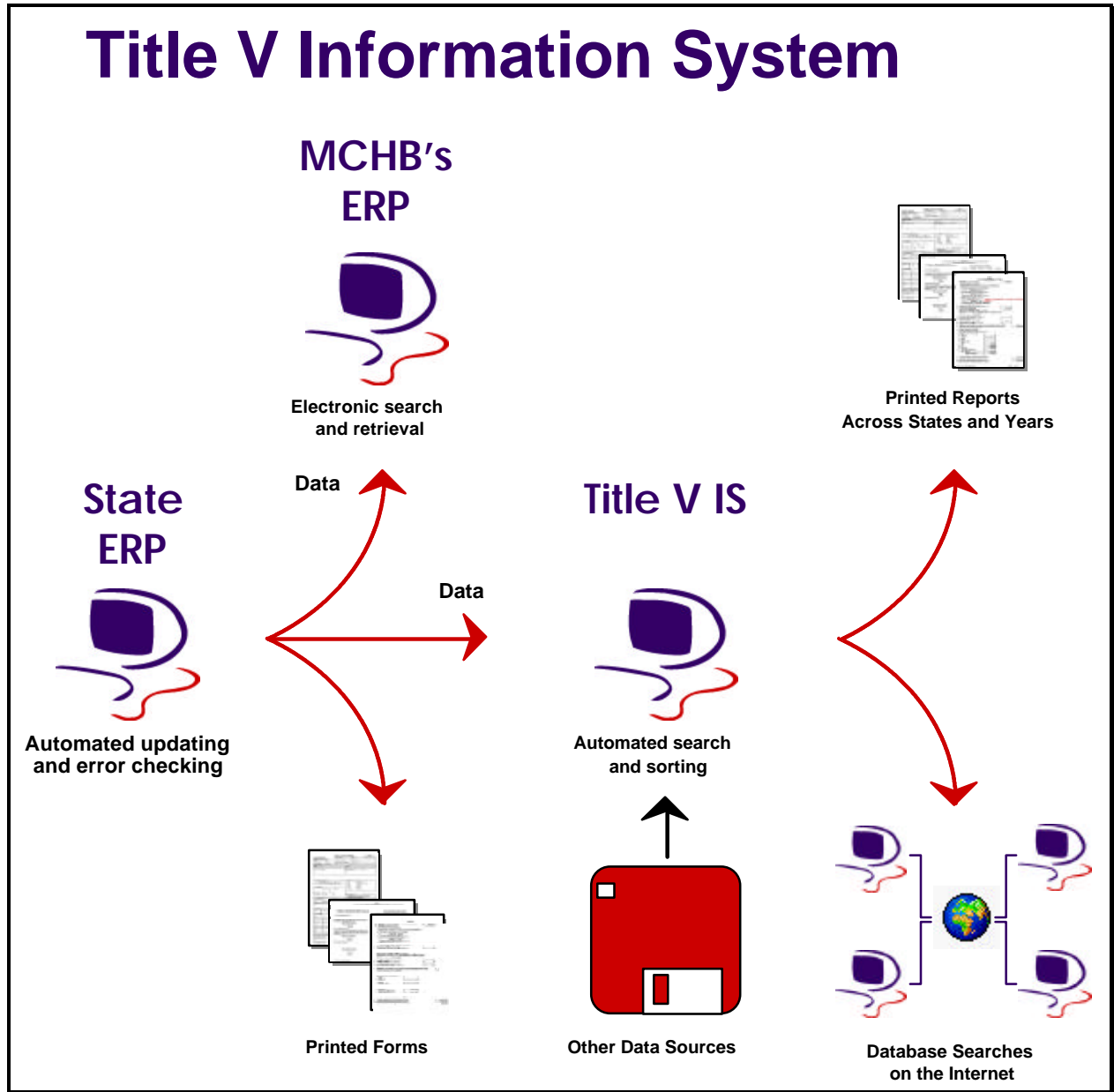
Eight States pilot tested a beta version in December 1997 to obtain feedback prior to making final decisions on its specifications. The ERP was introduced at the annual meeting of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs on March 7, 1998 and was mailed to all 59 States and Jurisdictions on March 17, 1998 for use on their 1999 MCH Block Grant applications. The ERP will provide printed forms and data that can be retrieved by MCHB on a read-only version of the ERP to aid in reviews. State data will be available for the completed Title V IS.

## Title V Information System (IS)

The Title V IS is being designed to utilize data collected by the ERP for generating reports across states and years. Users will be able to search for and sort information by state, range of years, performance measures, types of service (MCH pyramid levels), levels of spending, or other predetermined categories. Specific reports are being developed to meet a variety of needs in the MCH field. The Title V IS is being developed with FileMaker Pro 4.0 to make it available to



specific users via the Internet. To help inform the development of the Title V IS, a fourteen member advisory committee was formed with representation from States, MCHB, regions, AMCHP, and other interested parties. Completion of the Title V IS is anticipated around the first of January 1999.



For more information contact Thomas Vallin at the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health at (703) 524-7802 (tvallin@ncemch.org) or the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Office of State and Community Health at (301) 443-2204.