



Preface

This workbook is an outgrowth of efforts by the University of Illinois School of Public Health (DEAL-MCH and the MCH Training Program) over the last seven years to develop and implement a training program to enhance the analytic skills of maternal and child health professionals in state health agencies. In its seven offerings, this program went through many iterations and in each provided a variety of different analytic modules which attempted to capture the skills needed by those involved in MCH assessment, planning, evaluation and policy development. Unfortunately, we cannot include all of these modules in this workbook. Those included offer new perspectives or insights to traditional topics (e.g., epidemiology, biostatistics) or offer fresh material that specifically addresses applied analytic issues confronted by MCH professionals in their daily work (e.g., summarizing data).

In producing this workbook we have teamed up with our colleagues from *MCH-Info: An Analytic Software Tool* project so that we can provide an electronic version of these modules as well as a print version. We are hoping that the availability of the material in two versions will facilitate its use as a training tool, self-instruction guide, and general reference.

We encourage you not only to read the basic text but to actively participate in learning by completing the Test Yourself questions and the Exercises and reading the accompanying Answers and Solutions which elaborate on the material found in the narrative. Similarly, the *Comments and Examples* sections offer either a different perspective or additional detail that complements the main body of the text. While it is not necessary to read the modules in order, or in particular, to read the epidemiology-biostatistics modules before the others, the usefulness of the workbook as a training tool or self-instruction guide may be enhanced for some individuals by working through the material in the order presented.

We look forward to your feedback as you use this workbook.

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