

DATASPEAK

Sponsored by the MCH Information Resource Center

Economic Analysis in Maternal and Child Health

April 13, 1999

Facilitator's Guide

The MCH Information Resource Center's (IRC) DataSpeak program is designed to provide the MCH community with current information on timely MCH data and related policy issues. In the interest of facilitating the application of information presented during DataSpeak audioconferences, the MCH IRC encourages state and local Departments of Health and other groups to organize DataSpeak participants to listen to and discuss the programs together.

The following questions are suggested to facilitate discussion regarding the utilization of economic analysis techniques by MCH practitioners:

- What are the environmental conditions or pressures that suggest there is a need for an economic analysis to be conducted (e.g., cost data needed for report to legislature, or to assist in budget allocation decisions)?
- What are the specific questions that such an analysis should answer (e.g., What is the cost of a program? What is the impact to society of a specific health condition? Which of several interventions will give us the most return on our investment?)
- What type of analysis would be most appropriate to answering the above questions (e.g., cost description, cost-outcome description, cost analysis)?
- What information do we need to conduct the desired analysis (e.g., direct costs, indirect costs, intangible costs)?

*For more information on the types of economic analysis, cost information needed to conduct different analyses, and other guidance for responding to these questions, please refer to **An Introduction to Economic Analysis in MCH**. This report may be downloaded from the MCHB's web site at: <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/economics/publications.htm>*

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK ON THIS NEW DATASPEAK RESOURCE!

Did you use this facilitator's guide? If so, how? Was it a useful resource?

Email your comments to mchirc@hsrnet.com.

As always, we appreciate your feedback.