



DataSpeak
Using Adolescent Health Data to Influence Policy and Programs
May 24, 2000

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 use of adolescent health data to influence policy and programs, the topic of the May 24, 2000 Dataspeak audioconference.

Suggested Discussion Questions:

- Do we have a clear picture of the health of adolescents in our state/community?
 - What kinds of data do we have about adolescent health?
 - What data gaps exist?
 - How could this picture be made clearer?

- Are we collecting both quantitative and qualitative data on adolescent health?

- Do we use, or have we explored, various approaches available for collecting data about adolescent health data (e.g., Youth Risk Behavior Survey, ASSETS)?

- How are data about adolescent health shared with people around the state, including those working with adolescents, policy makers, and the general public, including teens and their families?

- Are data effectively used by various constituents? What steps could be taken to facilitate their use of available data?

- Do we routinely solicit input from constituents, particularly at the local level, about how adolescent health data could be enhanced to facilitate programming and policy decisions and advocacy efforts?

- What technical assistance could help our state/community improve our adolescent health data capacity? (AMCHP and ASTHO are providing TA in this area; share your ideas with Marian James at AMCHP at (202) 775-0061 or mjames@amchp.org or with Jennifer Henry at ASTHO at (202) 371-9797 or jhenry@astho.org.)

