

**DataSpeak**  
**New Health Status Indicators in the MCH Block Grant**  
**October 12, 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 new health status indicators in the MCH Block Grant, the topic of the October 12 DataSpeak audioconference.

*Suggested Discussion Questions:*

- How will our state's MCH program be able to use the data collected for the new health status indicators to enhance program planning and operations?
- In what ways can the new health status indicators enhance the effectiveness of our state MCH program's needs assessment activities?
- What challenges might be experienced in meeting the new reporting requirements? How can these be addressed?
- How will the data collected for the new health status indicators be integrated with those collected for the existing performance measurement and other indicator measurement initiatives in our state?
- To what degree does our data collection capacity support the new health status indicators' draft reporting requirements for demographic information by racial categories (White, Hispanic, Black, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, Other)? What steps could we take to enhance our existing capacity to collect data by more discrete racial categories?
- With regard to draft health status indicator #8 "State MCH data capacity," to what degree does our MCH program have access to the following data sets:
  - Birth certificates
  - Medicaid paid claims or eligibility files
  - WIC eligibility files
  - Hospital discharge survey
  - PRAMS survey of new mothers
  - Birth defects surveillance system
  - Youth risk behavior survey

What steps can we take to increase the MCH program's access to one or more of these data sets?

