

Translating MCH Research Into MCH Practice

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Translating Research Into Practice at the State Level

- Conduct program evaluations
 - Directly
 - In partnership with universities
- Implement programs based on others' research
- Implement programs in a political and economic context

Illinois Example: Program Evaluation

Family Case Management

- Statewide care coordination program to reduce infant mortality
- Internal evaluation
- Crude rates of very low birth weight and infant mortality consistently and dramatically better than comparison group
- Recent analysis controlled for confounding factors; statistically significantly lower rates of early preterm birth

Illinois Example: Program Planning

Targeted Intensive Prenatal Case Management

- Targets areas selected through analysis of Medicaid expenditure data
- Advocacy based on reduction in NICU costs through prevention of low birth weight

Illinois Example: Work With University Partners

- Healthy Families Illinois evaluation with Northern Illinois University
- Prenatal care evaluation with the Illinois Department of Public Aid and the University of Illinois at Chicago MCH Training Program

Illinois Example: Others' Research

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening

- National research demonstrated
 - Impact on cognitive development
 - Availability of screening technology

But Research Isn't Everything ...

- Some services should be provided for reasons other than research - such as professional consensus
 - Prenatal Care
 - Well Child Care

... And Sometimes It's Not Enough ...

- Family planning saves \$4.40 for each \$1 spent - *Forrest & Singh, 1990* and reduces infant mortality
- Medicaid expansions still require an 1115b waiver despite more than 20 completed demonstrations.
- Despite the cost-benefit, few states invest their own funds in family planning services

... Or Doesn't Matter At All

- Some services have strong political support despite the lack of evidence to support them or the presence of evidence that suggests ineffectiveness
 - Abstinence Only Education

Translating Research Into Practice

- All levels of government MCH programs have a role in translating research into practice
- Government MCH programs depend on research conducted by our partners
- Translation takes place in a political context with both scientific and economic arguments