



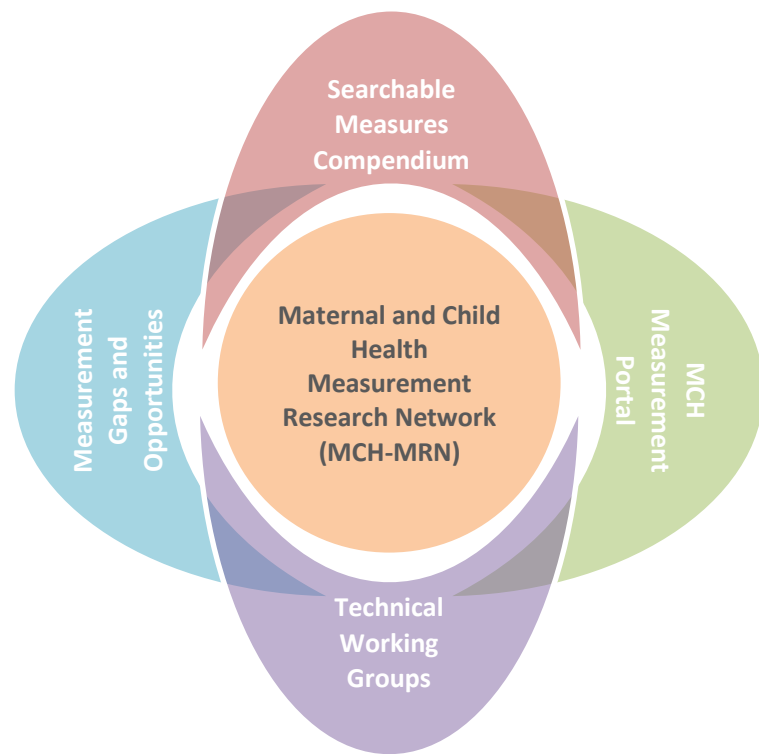
# Overview of the Maternal and Child Health Measurement Research Network (MCH-MRN): 2016-2019 Cycle

*The MCH-MRN, led by the CAHMI, provides leadership in the development and validation of MCH measures to better address the needs of researchers and programs serving MCH populations.*

## What is the MCH-MRN?

The MCH-Measurement Research Network (MCH-MRN) is a virtual collaborative network of MCH researchers, providers of programs and services, and thought leaders providing the infrastructure, leadership, and research support to ensure access to timely, useful, actionable, and innovative MCH measures, tools, and strategies. The purpose of the Maternal and Child Health Measurement Research Network (MCH-MRN) is to ***provide leadership in the development and validation of MCH measures to better address the needs of researchers and programs serving MCH populations.***

The MCH-MRN is sponsored by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) (UA6MC26253). The MCH-MRN's 2016-2019 cycle is led by the [Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative \(CAHMI\)](#). In addition to coordinating the MCH-MRN, the CAHMI has created a series of resources to assist help MCH leaders ***connect the dots between MCH programs, accessible measures, and data.***



**What Defines “Success” for the MCH-MRN?** From Fall 2016 to Summer 2019, the MCH-MRN aims to:

- **Develop and validate** new, critical MCH measures in identified “gaps and opportunities areas”
- **Harmonize key MCH measures** between programs and initiatives
- Spark **efficient, productive conversations** about MCH measurement between MCH stakeholders
- Provide the launching pad for **new, innovative, fully-funded MCH measurement initiatives**

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## Why do we need an MCH-Measurement Research Network?

Measures generate powerful data, *which can be used to identify needs, assess performance, and justify funding across child-serving programs at the local, state and national level.* Recent technological advancements have resulted in tremendous improvements in maternal and child health (MCH) measurement and data collection. However, health administrators and practitioners at all levels are *still faced with a great deal of variation in access to usable data, often resulting in redundant efforts and non-comparable data across programs.*

Given the gaps in current MCH measurement tools and strategies, it is vital that existing, high-quality measurement resources be identified, adapted, and tested, and that new, effective measurement resources be developed according to evolving paradigms in the field.

## What has the MCH-MRN achieved so far?

The MCH-MRN's accomplishments and on-going work includes:

- Formulating a **MCH Measurement Research Framework** to guide conversation about the current scope and scale of MCH measurement.
- Creating a **MCH Measurement Research Agenda** to highlight the gaps and opportunities in MCH measurement, and translate these findings in to policy and practice.
- Developing a series of **one-page, at-a-glance profiles** on the MCH measure sets from national programs such as Title V, CHIPRA, Healthy People 2020 and more.
- Developing an **interactive compendium of over 800 MCH and wellbeing measures**. The purpose of the compendium is to allow users to quickly browse through over 800 MCH measures by measure set, data source category, or 3 levels of topical categories.
- Creating a **MCH Measurement Portal** on the Data Resource Center (DRC), located at [www.childhealthdata.org/browse/mchmeasurement](http://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/mchmeasurement). The Portal hosts several MCH-MRN resources:
  - One-page profiles of MCH measure sets
  - Interactive compendium of MCH and wellbeing measures
  - A series of Frequently Asked Questions about MCH measurement

## How can I get involved?

Please check out our MCH-MRN overview page for information on ways to participate, including becoming a member of a Technical Working Group (<http://childhealthdata.org/browse/mchmeasurement/MRN-project>). You can also e-mail Kathleen Powers, Senior Research Program Coordinator, at [info@cahmi.org](mailto:info@cahmi.org) for more information.

**For more information, visit:**

- <http://childhealthdata.org/browse/mchmeasurement/MRN-project>
- <http://childhealthdata.org/browse/mchmeasurement>

**To join the conversation, email [info@cahmi.org](mailto:info@cahmi.org).**