

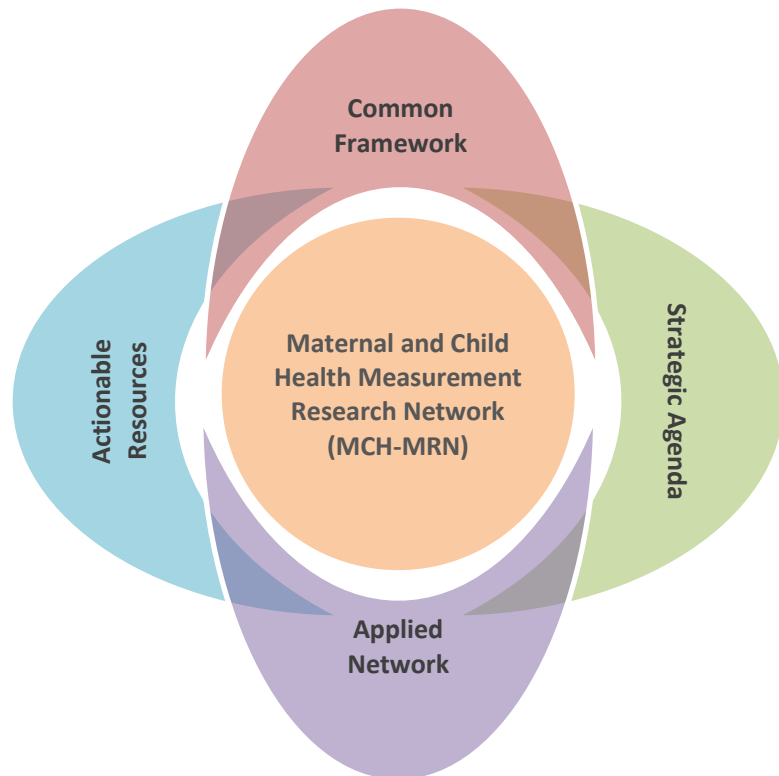
Overview of the Maternal and Child Health Measurement Research Network (MCH-MRN): 2016-2019 Cycle

What is the MCH-MRN?

The MCH-Measurement Research Network (MCH-MRN) is an interdisciplinary, virtual collaborative network of experts who represent the MCH lifespan and who are active in the measurement of health and wellbeing of MCH populations.

The purpose of the Maternal and Child Health Measurement Research Network (MCH-MRN) is to *create a sustainable, interdisciplinary network to ensure data-driven innovation and shared accountability to improve outcomes and systems performance on behalf of the nation's children, youth, and families.*

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 \(CAHMI\)](#).



The MCH-MRN's Focus

From Fall 2016 to Summer 2019, we would consider this effort a success if we continuously establish:

- **A common, recognizable framework**, which creates a shared vision for the landscape of MCH measures needed for monitoring, accountability, and improvement in the health and wellbeing
- **A strategic agenda embraced by MCH stakeholders**, which leverages existing opportunities and addresses key gaps to ensure effective MCH measurement, and guides the development and harmonization of measures across programs and initiatives
- **An applied network**, which provides the platform and opportunities for interdisciplinary experts who represent the MCH lifespan to connect and develop innovative, funded MCH measurement initiatives
- **Actionable resources**, which support MCH stakeholders in their knowledge and use of MCH measures in priority areas, and application of measures into a variety of practices, policies, and processes

Measures generate powerful data, ***which can be used to monitor health and wellbeing, identify assets and needs, assess and improve performance, build knowledge, evaluate programs, and justify funding across MCH programs at the local, state, and national level.*** The US enjoys an impressive array of measurement resources and information pertinent to the assessment and improvement of maternal, child, and family health and wellbeing. 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 resources are available now?

As the CAHMI assumes leadership for the MCH-MRN, we are pleased to build on and continue to develop the resources produced during the MCH-MRN's 2013-2016 cycle:

- A starting-point ***Common Framework for MCH Measurement*** to facilitate a common vision for the landscape of MCH measures needed to effectively monitor health, wellbeing, and MCH systems performance.
- A ***Strategic Agenda for MCH Measurement*** to address key gaps and leverage existing opportunities to ensure effective MCH measurement in research, policy, and practice.
- An ***Applied Network*** of interdisciplinary experts who represent the MCH lifespan, with opportunities to join thematic working groups focused on advancing knowledge, use, and development of MCH measures in priority areas (e.g.: family health, positive health, social determinants of health, and use of local data).
- ***Actionable Resources*** hosted on the *Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health's MCH Measurement Portal* (www.childhealthdata.org/browse/mchmeasurement), including a ***searchable compendium*** of over 800 MCH and wellbeing measures and ***quick summaries of MCH measure sets used across several MCH programs and initiatives***, such as Title V, Healthy People 2020, and more.

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 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.

