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Identifying Evidence-Based Resources for Maternal and Child Health

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INTRODUCTION

- Public health practitioners need high quality evidence-based information to make informed decisions
- Many resources are available to practice evidence-based medicine (EBM)
- Fewer resources are available to practice evidence-based public health (EBPH)

METHODS

- Examined public health sources to identify the knowledge domains and subdomains of public health
- Compiled a list of public health journals
- Matched public health journals to identified public health knowledge domains and subdomains
- Systematically identified existing public health and clinical medical models for summarizing, synthesizing, and disseminating evidence-based knowledge in the public health and medical fields

Defining the Field of Public Health

We examined public health sources:

- Public health accreditation criteria
- Public health associations
- Government health agencies
- National health objectives
- Public health literature
- Public health subject headings from the National Library of Medicine

Identified Public Health Knowledge Domains

- Maternal & Child Health
- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Vital Statistics & Surveillance
- Environmental Health
- Occupational Health
- Health Services Administration
- Social & Behavioral Sciences
- Health Promotion & Education
- Community Health
- Nutrition
- Public Health Nursing
- Disaster Control & Emergency Services
- Communicable Diseases
- HIV/AIDS
- Chronic & Noncommunicable Diseases & Conditions
- Public Health Laboratory Sciences
- Public Health Informatics
- Global Health

Maternal and Child Health Journals



Maternal and Child Health Databases

- Maternal and Child Health Library <http://www.mchlibrary.info>
- HRSA, Health Resources and Services Administration, Information Center <http://www.ask.hrsa.gov>
- National Center for Health Statistics <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>
- ADOLEC, Literature on Adolescence Health <http://www.bireme.br/bvs/l/ibid.htm>
- POPLINE, Reproductive Health Literature <http://db.jhuccp.org/popinform/basic.html>
- MEDLINE <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed>

Models of Information Summary, Synthesis & Dissemination: Sources and Organization of Evidence-Based Knowledge

Model Type	Public Health Resources
1. Reports of Original Research	PubMed, Health People, CHID
2. Summaries, Critiques and Commentaries	JOURNAL WATCH WOMEN'S HEALTH, NHS Economic Evaluation Database
3. Systematic Reviews, Meta-Analysis, and Evidence-Based Guidelines	Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field, COMMUNITY Preventive Services, CDC Recommends
4. Comprehensive Knowledge Base	TRIP, Health Development Agency, Evidence Base

DISCUSSION

- These information resources can be used by maternal and child health professionals at federal, state, and local levels.
- Our current efforts involve determining the information needs of public health practitioners and exploring the feasibility and usability of several models for providing evidence-based information.
- Identified public health journals, bibliographic databases, and evidence-based resources can be found on the project's website: <http://library.umassmed.edu/ebpph>.



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