



## TITLE V TIP SHEET: 5-Year Needs Assessment

Every 5 years states and territories must conduct a statewide Needs Assessment and include those results in their Title V Block Grant Applications. The most recent was completed in July, 2010; the next will be due in 2015. A goal of the Needs Assessment is to strengthen partnerships and collaborative efforts at federal, state, and local levels. The Needs Assessment is intended as an on-going, continuous activity. States must identify the needs for:

- Preventive and primary care services for pregnant women, mothers, and infants up to age one
- Preventive and primary care services for children
- Services for children with special health care needs

The Needs Assessment must include descriptions of methods to: assess needs, examine capacity, select priorities, set targets, identify activities, allocate resources, and monitor progress.

### What Families Can Contribute to the 5-Yr Needs Assessment

**Ideas** . . . about what data to collect, what priorities are important, who to collect data from, what methods to use

**Information/data** . . . that family organizations collect about family needs, perspectives, concerns, experiences

**Insights** . . . about data collected

### Background

1. Learn about the specific requirements for the 5-Year Needs Assessment.
  - Go to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau website, which administers the Title V Block Grant:  
<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/MaternalChildHealthInitiatives/TitleV/blockgrantguidance.pdf> The Needs Assessment requirements and process begin on page 22.
2. Find out how the process is being carried out in your state.
  - Talk to your MCH or CSHCN Director
3. Ask how families are or can be included in the process. (Note that States must describe, in their Title V Block Grant Reports, how citizens and families are involved in the Needs Assessment process.)

### Needs Assessment Content and Process

Ask about the vision your State has for the Needs Assessment, as well as specifics about the kinds of information/data the State intends to collect:

1. Ask what kinds of data are regularly collected, what data the State plans to collect, and how they will collect or gather it.
2. Suggest the kinds of information/data families would like to see collected on topics important to families.

**Child Health Data for Title V Needs Assessment**

**Background**  
Title V Maternal and Child Health legislation requires states to prepare a statewide needs assessment every five years consistent with national health objectives and health status goals. The next five year Needs Assessment will be submitted in 2015. Each state's assessment will identify need for the following services and priority populations:

- Preventive and primary care services for pregnant women, mothers and infants;
- Preventive and primary care services for children; and
- Services for children with special health care needs (CSHCN).

**Online resource for child health care quality data**  
The Data Resource Center (DRC) website offers standardized national and state-level child health data from two surveys: the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) and the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CSHCN). The site's interactive query feature allows users to search and compare state, national and regional results for an array of child health indicators. In addition, users can stratify and compare findings for children by age, household income, race/ethnicity, family structure, special health care needs status and more. DRC staff can also provide expert help and assistance by phone or e-mail.

Title V Needs Assessment Process	How the Data Resource Center Can Help
Assess Needs	Immediate access to over 100 state-specific indicators of child health and well-being for children overall and children with special health care needs (CSHCN) provides information to help frame and choose critical questions.
Examine Capacity	"Point and click" menus allow users to explore disparities and gaps in access to care and services for various subgroups of children and CSHCN.
Select Priorities	User-generated tables, bar and pie charts, and customizable reports supply prevalence and count estimates to help guide selection of priority needs.
Set Targets	"All States" ranking maps and tables provide benchmark data to assist in identifying state-negotiated performance measure targets.
Identify Activities	Information on national, state and across state variation using standardized indicators encourages dialogue and helps stimulate collaborative efforts within the MCHB, Department of Health, and state organizations.
Monitor Progress	Controlled measures for population-based survey questions to use in collecting standardized child health data, helping to inform local and program-level evaluation efforts.

**Examples of How You Could Use Title V Needs Assessment Relevant Data**

**2009/10 NS-CSHCN**  
Proportion of Insured CSHCN with Adequate Insurance Overall and by Type of Health Insurance

Category	Percentage
Overall	65.7%
Private Only	64.3%
Public Only	65.4%
Public & Private	64.1%

**2011/12 NSCH**  
Proportion of US Children Born with Low Birth Weight (< 3500 grams) Overall and by Race/Ethnicity

Category	Percentage
Overall	9.6%
White, Non-Hispanic	7.3%
Hispanic	9.9%
Other, Non-Black, Non-Hispanic	10.3%
Black, Non-Hispanic	16.2%

Suggested Citation: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (2010). "Child Health Data for Title V Needs Assessment." Data Resource Center, supported by Cooperative Agreement #49400000020 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), available at [www.childhealthdata.org](http://www.childhealthdata.org). Report #17/11.

Download Child Health Data for Title V Needs Assessment at:

[http://www.childhealthdata.org/docs/nsch-docs/titlevdiabrief\\_508.pdf.pdf](http://www.childhealthdata.org/docs/nsch-docs/titlevdiabrief_508.pdf.pdf)

3. Data for your State's Needs Assessment will likely come from many sources, including from families themselves via questionnaires, focus groups, key informant interviews, public forums, or other methods.
  - How will the topics and questions be determined?
  - How important and relevant will the questions seem; how burdensome or intrusive?
  - What isn't being asked that should be?
  - How will information be collected from families of diverse languages and ethnicities?
  - How will families who participate receive information about findings?
4. States sometimes contract with the F2F or other family organizations to carry out parts of the Needs Assessment
5. Learn more about the needs of families in your state by reviewing national survey data. Find this on the Data Resource Center – <http://www.childhealthdata.org>.

### Analysis of Findings – Questions to Ask

1. What process will States use to deliberate about the data that is collected and its significance?
2. How can interested families be part of this process?
3. What kind of assistance will there be to help families understand the technical language of data, research, and statistics?

### How States will Use the Findings

1. As part of their 5 Year Needs Assessment Report for their Block Grant
2. To determine and shape program activities
3. To determine their State Priority Needs and State Performance Measures
4. For many other purposes

### How Can Families Learn about States' Findings?

1. How will families know about the Needs Assessment and what data is being collected so they can plan for its use?
2. How will this be publicized and made available within the State?
3. Will there be public forums or other opportunities for families and others to discuss and ask questions about the Needs Assessment findings?
4. The 2010 State Block Grant Applications, including the Needs Assessments, are available on the Title V website: <https://mchb.tvisdata.hrsa.gov/Home/StateApplicationOrAnnualReport>

### How Families Might Use the Information

1. To set priorities and plan for family organizations' activities
2. For use in grant applications
3. To discuss family involvement in your State's on-going Needs Assessment
4. To advocate for the needs of families in your state

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

##### MCH Navigator Trainings: Needs Assessment

Although the resources on this page are primarily for program staff, there is much information that family leaders can learn from these resources.

<http://www.mchnavigator.org/trainings/needs-assessment.php>

##### AMCHP Resources

As above many of the resources are directed towards program staff. However, there are several resources on stakeholder engagement:

- Stakeholder Engagement in the Title V Needs Assessment (ppt)
- Oregon Title V Needs Assessment: Stakeholder Engagement (ppt)
- Stakeholder Engagement In Wisconsin's Needs Assessment Process (ppt)
- Engaging The Wind River Indian Reservation In Wyoming's Title V Needs Assessment (ppt)

<http://www.amchp.org/AboutTitleV/Resources/Pages/NeedsAssessmentResources.aspx>

### Most important to consider

*How will the information and data collected in the Needs Assessment be used to improve care, services, and policies for children and families?*