Identifying evidence-based best practices in Maternal and Child Health

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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

1. Examined public health sources to identify the knowledge domains and subdomains of public health
2. Compiled a list of public health journals
3. Matched public health journals to identified public health knowledge domains and subdomains
4. 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

MODEL OF INFORMATION SUMMARY, SYNTHESIS & DISSEMINATION: SOURCES AND ORGANIZATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED KNOWLEDGE

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.ahrq.hrsa.gov
- National Center for Health Statistics
  http://www.cdc.gov/nchs
- ADOLESC, Literature on Adolescence Health
  http://www.birenne.hamburg/Adolescence.html
- PPOLINE, Reproductive Health Literature
  http://db1.medicinform.org/basic.html
- MEDLINE

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

This project is funded by an award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine.