



The *Northwest Bulletin: Family and Child Health* (NWB) provides timely, relevant information about issues related to the health and health care of children and families to public health professionals working in the Northwest region of the United States (Region 10). Each issue contains an editorial, articles, state reports, and a list of resources, all focused on a particular issue of concern to public health professionals, such as preterm births, immunization, child and adolescent obesity, and children's mental health.

The NWB is published twice a year on-line at <http://depts.washington.edu/nwbfch/>

The Maternal and Child Public Health Leadership Training Program at the University of Washington, Seattle; maternal and child health programs in the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington; Public Health—Seattle & King County; and experts in maternal and child health collaborate to publish the NWB with support from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Over 500 people subscribe to the bulletin and the Web site logs more than 5000 visits per year. Subscribers include nurses, program managers, pediatricians, social workers, dentists, and administrators working at hospitals, medical centers, clinics, public health departments or districts, and private, government, and tribal organizations.

Timely

The NWB keeps these professionals informed about trends, the latest research, and program management issues related to maternal and child health. For example, the summer 2005 issue on immunization provided information on how to address parents' concerns about the perceived risks of vaccines, up-to-date information on new vaccines, and tools and partnerships for managing and promoting immunization programs.

Relevant

The NWB provides a forum for sharing information and collaborating. Most of the Northwest region is sparsely populated rural or frontier areas where delivery of health care services is very challenging. Geographical barriers, such as mountains and bodies of water, and long distances between population centers add to the challenge, as does the shortage of health care professionals in these areas. State and local public health programs need to be creative in their use of resources to reach MCH populations. Each issue of the NWB contains reports from the Region 10 state MCH programs showcasing their creative solutions to the challenges they face.