

# Training Course In Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology

Denver, Colorado  
Westin Denver Downtown  
May 29 – June 2, 2012



**Sponsors: Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

The MCHB and CDC are offering a Training Course in MCH Epidemiology as part of their ongoing effort to enhance the analytic capacity of state and local health agencies. This national program is aimed primarily at professionals in state and local health agencies who have significant responsibility for collecting, processing, analyzing, and reporting maternal and child health data. Faculty working with state or local MCH departments are also eligible for the course. This year, the course is geared to individuals with **intermediate to advanced** skills in using statistical and epidemiologic methods, preferably in MCH or a related field.

The training curriculum is designed to build conceptual, technical, and analytic skills for using data effectively, and focuses on applications that are relevant to the day-to-day work of participants. The training course is an intensive program, combining lectures, discussion, hands-on exercises, and opportunities for individualized technical assistance. In addition, the in-person training will be supplemented with webinars both before and after the course.

Training topics include:

- MCH epidemiology for needs assessment and priority-setting
- Population-based program evaluation design
- Multivariable regression modeling
- Data interpretation and presentation
- Trend analysis
- Small area analysis
- Multilevel models
- Propensity scores
- Population attributable fractions
- Modeling risk differences

The course will be held from mid-day Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> to mid-day Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Denver, Colorado. **Lodging, breakfast, and lunch will be covered. A limited number of scholarships for airfare are available.**

**STATE AGENCY EMPLOYEES:** The application must be accompanied by a letter from your state MCH director indicating that he or she is aware that you are applying for the training course. This letter helps to foster communication between state MCH directors and data analysts.

Go to [www.positiveoutcomes.net](http://www.positiveoutcomes.net) to complete an online application. Only applications submitted online will be accepted. Completed applications must be submitted to Positive Outcomes, Inc. by **5 pm EST, Friday, March 2, 2012.**

For additional information, call Dr. Julia Hidalgo at: (443) 203-0305 or email Dr. Hidalgo at: [Julia.hidalgo@positiveoutcomes.net](mailto:Julia.hidalgo@positiveoutcomes.net)

## Faculty Biosketches

**Dr. Kristin Rankin** is Research Assistant Professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health. She has used numerous state and national databases to conduct MCH research including Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), the National Survey of Children's Health, Current Population Survey, National Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Survey, Medicaid claims, prenatal medical records, a longitudinal Illinois transgenerational birth certificate database that links mothers and infants over time. She was the principal investigator for an evaluation of Illinois Medical Home Project, an intervention with pediatric care providers to improve the quality of care to patients with special needs. She also teaches a CDC-sponsored online course for MCH epidemiologists and an MCHB-sponsored on-site training in epidemiologic methods. She has led pre-conference training during past MCH Epidemiology conferences.

**Dr. Deborah Rosenberg** is Research Associate Professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health. Dr. Rosenberg has led national initiatives to enhance epidemiologic capacity in state and local health agencies for over twenty years. From 1991-1997, she was core faculty and Co-Director of the Enhanced Analytic Skills Program at UIC and an outgrowth of this initiative was the MCHB publication, *Analytic Methods in Maternal and Child Health*. For the past seven years, she has been core faculty for the MCHB Training Course in MCH Epidemiology and leads distance-based courses in multivariable methods for the CDC MCH Epidemiology Program. Dr. Rosenberg has conducted studies using data from PRAMS, the National Survey of Children with special Health Care needs, the National Survey of Children's Health, and from other large data systems. Her research focuses on maternal morbidity and mortality, prenatal care utilization, and the medical home. In addition, Dr. Rosenberg led an assessment of the functioning of MCH epidemiology in state health agencies. She teaches biostatistics and epidemiology courses at UIC and is Co-Director of the MCH Epidemiology degree programs. In 2005, she received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology.

**Dr. William Sappenfield** has more than 27 years of experience in MCH epidemiological research and practice at a local, state, and national level. As a nationally recognized leader in the field of MCH epidemiology, he has spent most of his career as a CDC epidemiologist working with state and local public health agencies to enhance their capacity to use epidemiology to improve the health of the women and children. His assignments include state public health agencies in Massachusetts, Mississippi, and South Carolina; CityMatCH, and a four-year term as Team Leader of CDC's MCH Epidemiology Program. He currently is professor and chair of the Department of Community and Family Health and Director of the Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies at the College of Public Health, University of South Florida. He served for six years as the State MCH Epidemiologist and Chief of the Office of Surveillance, Evaluation and Epidemiology, Division of Family Health Services, Florida Department of Health. His major contributions to MCH include early efforts to develop community-based fetal and infant mortality reviews, to adapt the perinatal periods of risk approach to assess infant mortality, to propose state preconception health indicators and to shape best practices in applied MCH epidemiology. His current research projects include: maternal and infant mortality, chronic diseases in pregnancy, assistive reproductive technology, unintended pregnancy and contraceptive use, non-medically indicated deliveries prior to 39 weeks, population-based perinatal quality improvement, access to childhood preventive dental care, and use of data file linkages in MCH.

**Dr. Ashley Schempf** is a Health Scientist at the MCHB. Her research focuses on socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities in MCH and policy-relevant strategies to reduce inequality. Prior to joining MCHB, she worked as an epidemiologist for the Hawai'i Health Department and completed an AcademyHealth postdoctoral fellowship at the National Center for Health Statistics. Her current research projects include an examination of excess infant mortality in southern states, a Healthy People evaluation of state and county performance toward disparity elimination in birth outcomes, and a Healthy Start location evaluation. Her research findings were published in the American Journal of Epidemiology, American Journal of Public Health, and American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She serves as an MCHB expert in advanced research/evaluation methods, GIS, and perinatal epidemiology. She completed her doctoral studies at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.