WHY DO WOMEN AND CHILDREN DESERVE SPECIAL ATTENTION?

THE NEED IS GREAT:

1. 48% of the U.S. population consists of women of childbearing age, children, and youth under the age of 22 years.
2. They are disproportionately represented among Americans in poverty. In 1990, children comprised nearly 40% of the nation’s poor.

PREGNANCY AND CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ARE ESPECIALLY ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RISK OF DYSFUNCTION, DISEASE, AND DISABILITY.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE THE LEAST REPRESENTED IN DECISION-MAKING CIRCLES THAT DESIGN AND MANAGE HEALTH CARE.

THIS POPULATION OFFERS THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR BENEFIT FROM HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN HAVE UNIQUE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS REQUIRING THE TAILORING OF PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES ALONG WITH COMPREHENSIVE, POPULATION BASED SERVICES.
1 DATA COLLECTION

○ ASSESS AND MONITOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH STATUS TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS PROBLEMS

2 INVESTIGATION

○ DIAGNOSE AND INVESTIGATE HEALTH PROBLEMS AND HEALTH HAZARDS AFFECTING WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH

3 EDUCATION

○ INFORM AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND FAMILIES ABOUT MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH ISSUES

4 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

○ MOBILIZE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN POLICYMAKERS, HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, FAMILIES, THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AND OTHERS TO IDENTIFY AND SOLVE MCH PROBLEMS

5 LEADERSHIP

○ PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR PRIORITY SETTING, PLANNING, AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO ASSURE THE HEALTH OF WOMEN, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES
6 PROMOTE AND ENFORCE LAWS
- Promote and enforce legal requirements that protect the health and safety of women, children, and youth and ensure public accountability for their well-being.

7 ASSURE ACCESS
- Link women, children, and youth to health and other community and family services, and assure access to comprehensive, quality systems of care.

8 ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE
- Assure capacity and competency of the public health and personal health work force to effectively address maternal and child health needs.

9 EVALUATE
- Evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal health and population-based MCH services.

10 RESEARCH
- Support research and demonstrations to gain new insights and innovative solutions to MCH related problems.