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**Maternal and Child Health Program  
School of Public Health & Community Medicine  
University of Washington**

**Topics in Maternal and Child Health I: Historical, Legislative, and Organizational Bases of Health and Social Services for Children and Families in the U.S.**

Health Services 541  
Autumn 2000  
MW, 1:30-2:50  
T 498

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Office hours: MW 3:30-5:00

Course Objectives:

The course provides an overview of the major health and welfare policies and programs for children and families in the U.S. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the main historic, legislative, organizational and financing bases for programs serving families and children;
2. Outline the provisions and limitations of major health and social service programs;
3. Identify gaps in the programs serving this population;
3. Assess the effectiveness of existing programs in meeting the needs of specific MCH populations.

Course Organization:

The course is designed as a seminar, with a specific topic for each session. Students are expected to complete the required readings for each session, in preparation for class discussion. As is true for all seminars, the value of each session will depend to a great extent on thoughtful preparation and discussion by all participants.

Readings:

The required text for the course is Jonathan B. Kotch (ed.) *Maternal and Child Health: Programs, Problems, and Policy in Public Health*. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers, 1997. Additional required readings are available by electronic reserve from the Health Sciences Library; these readings can be accessed by computer and downloaded. The website is:

<http://catalog.lib.washington.edu/search~/>

The username and password are <erfall>

The required readings will also be available in binders in F351, from which individual readings may be checked out.

The required readings are supplemented by recommended readings which are also available in F351. Reprints are filed in a binder; books are on the shelf. Most readings can also be found in the Health Sciences Library but are not on reserve.

### Assignments

The attached outline contains one or more Discussion Questions for each week. Students are expected to prepare a brief written response to the discussion question to hand in on the specified date. Responses should be approximately two and never more than three typewritten, double-spaced pages. Papers are due at class time on the date designated; late papers will be accepted but points will be deducted. Criteria for grading written assignments will include: 1) appropriate use of data, 2) integration of readings and in-class discussion, and 3) *critical* commentary on the issue discussed in the paper.

### Grading

The course grade will be based on the written assignments (seven short papers, with a maximum 10 points per paper) - 70%; and on class participation - 30%. The grading criteria for the Department of Health Services are attached.

### Disabled Student Services

If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 543-8924 (V/TDD). If you have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to the instructor so we can discuss the accommodations you might need for class.

### Websites

There are many sites on the World Wide Web that contain up-to-date information on health-related policies and programs for children and families. Below are listed a few websites; students are strongly encouraged to visit these and other sites to obtain current information, as many programs and policies are changing almost daily. If you find additional websites that would be useful to the class, please share them!

*Children's Defense Fund:* <http://www.tmn.com/cdf/index.html>

Child Health Information Project Listserv: to subscribe

[http://www.childrensdefense.org/listserv\\_chip.html](http://www.childrensdefense.org/listserv_chip.html)

*Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics:*

<http://childstats.gov>

*Healthy People 2000 Review, 1998-99:* <http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww>

*Healthy People 2010:* <http://web.health.gov/healthypeople/>

*The Future of Children:* <http://www.futureofchildren.org/>

*National Health Law Program:* <http://www.healthlaw.org>

*Global Reproductive Health Forum:*

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/organizations/healthnet>

*The Economic Policy Institute:*

*Annie E. Casey Foundation/Kids Count 2000:*

<http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/kc1999>

*Institute for Research on Poverty*

<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/povlinks.htm>