

Identifying Concepts for Family Health Measurement: A Delphi Expert Process

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Overview

1. Background – MCH Bureau Measurement Research Network (MRN)
2. Goals for Family Health Measurement
3. Initial steps: Identify core concepts
4. Methods
5. Analysis and results
6. Implications and future goals

Family MRN Background

Almost no national or state-level health surveys assess family health and functioning

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graph TD; A[Almost no national or state-level health surveys assess family health and functioning] --> B[Limits understanding of family needs, capacities, and well-being]; A --> C[Prevents setting national and state health goals for families]; A --> D[Unable to monitor family well-being and health];
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Limits understanding of family needs, capacities, and well-being

Prevents setting national and state health goals for families

Unable to monitor family well-being and health

Family MRN Goal

Create the scientific foundations needed for the advancement of Family Health measurement to support child and family health at the population and program levels

Methods

Pre-MRN, 2012-2016

Developed definitions and content of family health

Scanned nationally representative federal health surveys for family health items

MRN, 2017: Technical Working Group (TWG) of U.S. health and family researchers and practitioners (N=15)

Three Phase Delphi process using Co-Digital

1. Edited and commented on definitions of 'family' and 'family health'

1. Ranked 16 concepts of family health based on importance and measurement feasibility



Organized into domains for measurement

3. Ranked each concept within each domain



Ranks for each domain, and within domain concepts, were averaged among respondents

Results: Final Working Definition of Family

“Two or more persons related by blood, adoption, marriage, or choice and whose relationship is characterized by at least one of the following:

- 1) social and/or legal rights and obligations,
- 2) affective and emotional ties, and
- 3) endurance or intended endurance of the relationships”

Relations by choice should be characterized by an emotional connection strong enough to be perceived by individuals as a kinship tie.

Results: Final Working Definition of Family Health

- A resource at the level of the family unit that develops from the intersection of the health of each family member, their interactions and capacities, as well as the family's physical, social, emotional, economic, and medical resources.
- Family health is greater than the sum of its parts.
- Positive family health promotes family members' sense of belonging and capacity to develop and adapt, to care for one another, and to meet responsibilities.

Results: Family Health: Domain Rankings

(Average of TWG member responses (N=15))

<u>Domain</u>	<u>Final Score</u>
Family Relationships, Interactions, and Beliefs	2.55
Family Social Context	2.64
Family Member Health	2.91
Family Health-Related Practices	3.55
Family Health Resources	4.45
Management of Time and Activities	4.91

* 1=Highest priority, 2=second highest priority, ... etc.

Results: Family Health: Key component rankings

(Based on average ratings of N=15 TWG member responses)

- **Top Ranked Domain: Family relationships**
 1. Love, cohesion, supportiveness; sense of family belonging
 2. Family problem solving; communication

- **Family social context domain**
 1. Safety in the family
 2. Quality of the home environment
 3. Satisfaction with family life

- **Family member health domain**
 1. Overall (physical/mental) health status of family members
 2. Mother mental health
 3. Father's (other parent) mental health

Family Health: Component rankings (cont')

- **4TH Highest Ranked Domain: Family health-related practices domain**
 1. Shared family meals
 2. Parent support for and modeling of physical activity
 3. Parenting support for and modeling of health eating
 4. Caring for the sick
- **Family health resources domain**
 1. Parents' capacities for caregiving (parenting)
 2. Adequacy of economic resources
 3. Family/family member resilience (internal resources)
- **Management of time and activities domain**
 1. Family routines

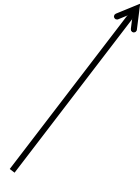
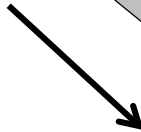
Future goals

Apply definitions and concepts to identify items for family health measures

Develop and test new items

Secure funding to assess psychometrics and relevance of core items

Integrate small set of core items in state and national surveys and in MCHB program performance measures



Thank you!

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- Family Health TWG participants
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Supplemental Slides

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- **Wood, Robert**, PhD (Mathematica)

Phase 1: Family-Based Goals in Healthy People 2020

- Early and Middle Childhood
 - % parents who report that they and child talk 'very well' about things that matter;
 - % 0-5 y/o children whose parents read to them every day
- Adolescent health (12–17 years)
 - % adolescents whose parents say they are safe at school
 - % adolescents whose parents attend their events and activities

Phase 1: Family Health in Federal Surveys?

- Among the nationally representative, ongoing federal surveys of health:
 - **National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)**
 - Health, nutrition via interview & physical examination
 - No items on family routines, meals, interactions
 - **National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)**
 - 10,000 interviews with women & men
 - Partner relationships, marriage, divorce, pregnancy, infertility, contraception, men's and women's health
 - **National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)**
 - Symptoms, violence, disease – no family health

Phase 1: Good Models for Family Health in Surveys

- **National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH)**
 - 3 waves, longitudinal, 1997-2002. Not active.
 - Primary respondent, partner respondent, child
 - Many items re: family relations, strengths
- **National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) (and NS-CSHCN)**
 - Periodic, cross-sectional, representative nation/states
 - Current survey: time spent with family, interactions with children, parenting experiences
 - Current & prior surveys: family aggression, violence

**Phase
1:**

Family Health Related Assessments in Federal Measure Sets

	Any Family Measure	Potential for Improvement**
Measures linked to funding		
Child Welfare	X	X
CHIPRA	0	
Head Start	X	X
Home Visiting	X	X
Title V (new)	0	
Other Measure Sets Reviewed		
AMCHP	0	
HEDIS	0	
Healthy People 2020 - CDC	X	X
PQMP	0	
PROMIS	X	X
NFP	0	