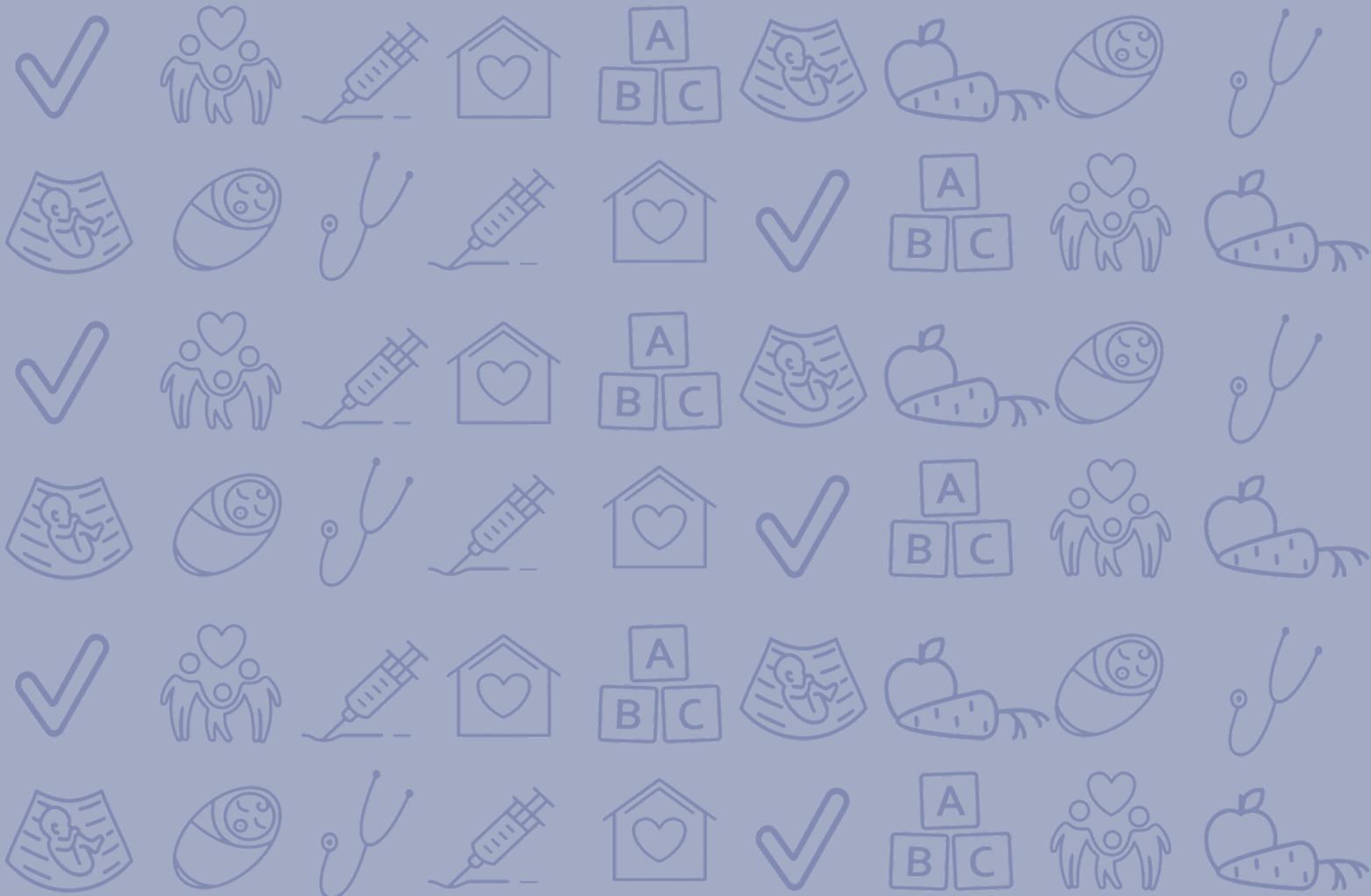




The Montana Children's Health Data Partnership Project

Summary & Strategic Plan Update

April 2022



Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies
The Montana Coalition

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In 2016, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies (HMHB) launched the Montana Children’s Health Data Partnership Project (MHCDPP). The results of this statewide, stakeholder driven effort to better measure maternal and child health in Montana included agreement upon ten shared measures for use on a data dashboard with county-level statistics. Additionally, the group produced a strategic plan to implement and sustain the use of the data dashboard. The process resulted in a greater understanding and investment in Health Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE), and increased partnership and awareness around using data to guide and gauge efforts to improve the lives of families in Montana.

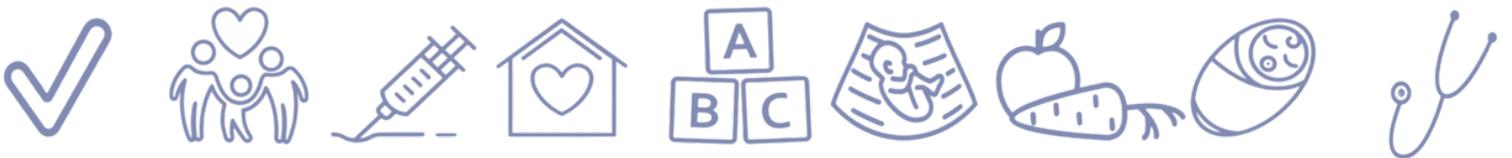
In the Spring of 2019, the Montana Children’s Health Data Partnership Project Summary and Strategic Plan was published. Since that time, HMHB has continued to steward the MCHDPP forward. This is a brief summary of the progress as of Spring 2022.

HOPE in Montana

A key element of the MCHDPP was bringing awareness to Health Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE). While studies on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) clarified the increased health, emotional, and social risks associated with exposure to childhood trauma, HOPE quantifies the impact of positive childhood experiences (PCEs) on lifelong health outcomes. Key to this, is the impact that safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments have on optimal childhood development. In fact, emerging science reveals that PCEs can lessen the health risk associated with ACEs.

The paradigm shift, to measure both risk and protective factors associated with increasing positive outcomes in children, was considered in the design of the MCHDPP. This project has set a path to measure and grow HOPE, as well as measure and reduce risk, for local health improvement and collaborative efforts with a pregnancy and early childhood population focus.

To establish a baseline for measuring HOPE more broadly in Montana, HMHB and DPHHS partnered to include CDC-approved HOPE measures into the 2019 BRFSS survey. The data provides population-level data on resiliency and family engagement in Montana. A report, titled “HOPE in Montana” will be completed in the fall 2022. In this initial exploration of the data, a broad array of risk and protective factors and associations would be looked at to establish direction for future work on the potential for HOPE in Montana.



Development of the Dashboard

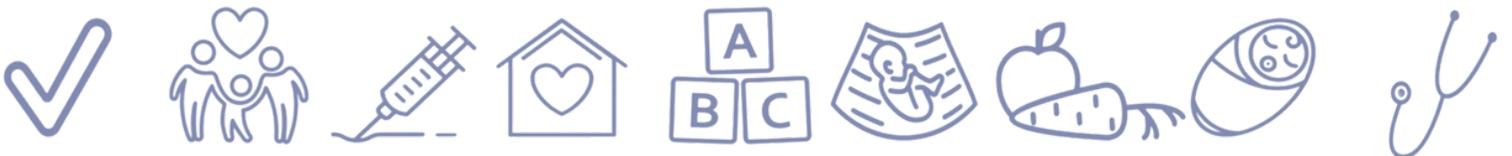
HMHB has worked in close partnership with Montana KIDS COUNT to bring the Data Dashboard envisioned in the original report and proposal to life. KIDS COUNT assisted HMHB in further defining and identifying existing data sources to serve as indicators for each of the ten MCHDPP measures. KIDS COUNT is committed to requesting data for the MCHDPP measures and making that data publicly available on the KIDS COUNT Data Center. When possible, data was requested for a few years prior to when this work began in order to better understand trends in the data. In the fall of 2021, KIDS COUNT onboarded a MPH student who began work on the dashboard as part of their capstone project. KIDS COUNT worked with local collaborative groups in Montana to better understand data needs for our audience, develop a prototype for the dashboard, and ensure it was user-friendly. From that prototype, a full dashboard was developed and will be hosted on the KIDS COUNT website into the future. Tutorial videos are available for four of the MCHDPP measures to help orient new users to the dashboard. The dashboard became publicly accessible in April and will be updated according to a data maintenance schedule.

Promoting Use of the Dashboard in Local Community Efforts

HMHB followed the strategic plan over a two-year period and piloted implementation of the use of the MCHDPP measures and dashboard into two counties in Montana: Big Horn and Missoula.

Missoula

HMHB has provided technical support to the Healthy Start Coalition of Missoula County in support of their local home visiting collaboration efforts. In 2021, HMHB convened a series of meetings with the Missoula Home Visiting Committee, a pre-existing group of the five home visiting providing organizations in the county. The goals of the meetings were to find ways to use data to better understand and demonstrate the impact of home visiting in Missoula County. As home visiting generally has rigorous data collection, the group began by collecting data points across the models and creating a cross walk to understand the comparison possibilities between models.



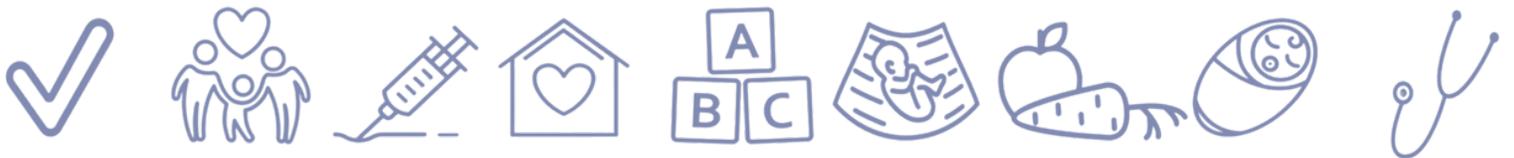
One area of consistent data collection is location of the family. It was observed that the more urban zip codes served had more families than more rural zip codes. Currently, the work is focusing on gaining a clearer picture of who is receiving home visiting services to assist the committee in more targeted outreach, particularly to more rural areas.

The group also identified the overlap between the MCHDPP and public health department accreditation work and will continue to explore how the MCHDPP can be used to meet accreditation requirements.

Big Horn

HMHB provided technical assistance to the Big Horn County Best Beginnings Coalition (BHCBBC) in 2021 to support incorporating MCHDPP measures into their local work. Through a series of meetings between July and December of 2021, HMHB supported the coalition in choosing two measures, including increasing high quality child care and increasing postpartum follow up, to incorporate in their upcoming planning.

The initial planning meeting in June started with a review of the dashboard measures in Big Horn County and a discussion of each data source. HMHB worked with the coalition coordinator to identify areas of overlap between the MCHDPP measures and the current work of the coalition. After initial discussions of the measures, the group agreed that while child care was a very pressing need and an area of strong possible impact in Big Horn County, they would be unable to move the needle on that indicator given the current availability of licensed child care in their county. As of December 15th, 2021, there were no STAR 3 facilities in Big Horn County and only 4 licensed child care providers with 87 slots, serving approximately 10% of the eligible children. In conversation, BHCBBC and HMHB both value high quality child care and agree that it should be the long term goal, but it was necessary to adjust given local needs. In order to move the county towards the goal of having high quality STAR 3 providers, it was necessary to first support and expand the current licensed providers in the county. As such, HMHB, in consultation with stakeholders, determined that the dashboard would use the number of licensed child care providers, as opposed to the STAR 3 rating, as the indicator.



The new measure reflects the community need and reality and allows the coalition to use the data dashboard to measure their impact on increasing child care in their community. They plan to use strategies to target current unlicensed providers and stay-at-home moms to engage in the licensure process.

An additional measure of interest was percentage of women who have a postpartum visit within 60 days. The coalition worked closely with a local health center and a national affinity group hosted by Mathematica and supported by several DPHHS partners to increase rates of postpartum care. This measure will be utilized to demonstrate the impact of this work. The coalition plans to continue to apply strategies designed to encourage families to attend their postpartum follow up visits as well as continue to provide new moms and families lists of resources available.

Beyond the Pilots

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies serves in the role of a backbone organization for the Montana Early Childhood Coalition (MTECC). The MTECC is comprised of local early childhood leaders from across Montana who gather regularly to support collaborative efforts to improve outcomes for families who are expecting or caring for young children. In this role, the organization uses the Collective Impact framework, which requires five conditions, including: common agenda, shared measurement systems, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and backbone support organization. The MCHDPP provides a mechanism for shared measurement amongst the MTECC partners and beyond. HMHB remains committed to creating conditions to allow for collective success and will continue to seek opportunities to build awareness and use of the MCHDPP.

