

AMCHP Life Course Indicators

The AMCHP Life Course Indicators Project was designed to provide a standardized set of indicators to maternal and child health (MCH) programs engaged in the planning and evaluation of projects designed within a [life course](#) framework. The indicators, along with corresponding narrative PDFs and available national estimates are accessible through the [Life Course Indicators Online Tool](#). There are currently no programs or policies that require data collection on this set of indicators as a whole. However, several states have participated in the Life Course Indicators [Technical Assistance Project](#), an AMCHP-sponsored initiative that provides in-depth technical support to states who chose to use the indicators within public health initiatives. Many more states have used the indicators in their MCH work.

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)

AMCHP is a national resource, partner and advocate for state public health leaders and others working to improve the health of women, children, youth and families, including those with special health care needs.

The indicator selection and development process was conducted through the [Life Course Metrics Project](#), funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which engaged a diverse team of [AMCHP](#) members and experts. The final indicator set was updated in 2018 and consists of 55 indicators. Seven of the indicators are currently endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF)¹. Through a group decision process in 2013, state teams selected the “[short list](#)”, which consists of 13 indicators to be given top priority status for use in MCH programming.

The indicators cover a wide range of topics including health conditions, services, access and quality, family, community, and economic wellbeing and policies. Each indicator is linked to a specific data source. Adjustments were made to indicators’ definitions in the final set in October 2018. Indicators and their specifications can be found [here](#).

AMCHP Life Course Indicators Tool

Developers	The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) Life Course Metrics Project National Expert Panel .
Funders	AMCHP, The Kellogg Foundation.
Purposes	Designed to provide a standard set of tools to public health researchers and practitioners who conduct assessment, planning, and evaluation for programs guided by a life course framework.
Target Populations	All individuals living in the United States.
Data Sources	Each indicator is linked to a specific data source. 23 data sources are utilized within the set.
Technical Measure Descriptions	AMCHP developed measure descriptions for each indicator. Details include numerator and denominator statements, similar measures, potential modifiers, data sources, background/importance, data availability, and specifications for use. Several of the more complex indicators have tip sheets to assist users in calculation and interpretation.
Number of Measures	55 measures.
Topics of Measurement	Health conditions, access to and quality of care services, environmental factors, social determinants, economic wellbeing, and public policies, among other topics.
Reporting Requirements	Although several of the indicators overlap with federal program measures (i.e. Title V performance measures), this measure set is not currently linked to any known program accountability requirements.
Recommended or Required Stratification	Varies by measure. Numerous stratifications recommended.
Link to Additional Info	Life Course Metrics Project

¹ **NQF endorsement** = The National Quality Forum (NQF) endorses measures through a rigorous process that involves scientific testing and approval from the NQF Consensus Standards Approval Committee, among other activities.

[Browse and Search the Measures](#)

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