“System” Organization, Historical Background, and MCH Legislation

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Section A
Maternal and Child Health Policy Context

Historical Background, “System” Organization, and Legislation
- Describe the “organization” of public programming for maternal and child health (MCH) populations
- Discuss major historical forces shaping MCH
- Discuss the array and sequence of MCH-related legislation

Characteristics of US Health System: Overview
- Private sector/public sector mix
  - Providers, insurance
  - A partnership?
- Local-, state-, and federal-level activities
- Disbursed accountability across sectors, public agencies, e.g., schools, agriculture
- Extreme variation across regions, states, communities

Characteristics of US Health System: Some Specifics
- Primary and secondary prevention
- Acute care
- Chronic care
- Paying for health care
- Safety net
- Health infrastructure
- Health professionals
  - Types?
  - Who do they work for?
- Oversight
- Organized system(s)
- Address emerging health problems (e.g., bioterrorism)
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Elements of a System

- A system entails:
  - Delineation of shared goal(s)
  - A set of defined, complementary, interdependent components (i.e., structures—resources and services)
  - Effective communication and coordination vehicles interacting (processes) to assure that components and processes are compatible and are aligned to achieve the shared goal(s)

The MCH “System”: Selected Components & Organization

- Department of Education
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Public Health
- Welfare Department
- Human Services agency
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Conclusion of Section A