



## NEEDS SURVEY QUESTIONS ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

### Young Children: Priority One

Yes No

Are there charitable or government-supported clinics that make it possible for all pregnant women to have prenatal check-ups?

Is there a program that makes young women aware of the need for prenatal check-ups and their availability in the community?

- What percentage of pregnant women are not receiving regular prenatal check-ups?

Does your hospital have a newborn intensive care unit? If not, is such a resource available nearby?

Are the neonatal and infant mortality rates for your community at or below the state average for people of all ethnic populations?

- What is the infant mortality rate for the community? What is the infant mortality rate for the minority population(s) in the community? How do these compare to the state or national rate?
- What is the rate of low birth weight babies? Has this rate changed over the past 10 years? Over the last 20 years? What percentage of the low birth weight babies do not survive to their first birthday? What percentage of the surviving low birth weight babies will grow up physically handicapped or mentally retarded?
- What percentage of the infants born in the community are affected by alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs consumed by the mother?

Is there a nutritional program for women, infants, and children, like WIC?

Are there reproductive health services available for adolescents and are these services appropriately used by them?

Is the number of pregnancies to unmarried women below the age of 17 zero?



PO Kit #3

# YOUNG CHILDREN PRIORITY ONE



## NEEDS SURVEY QUESTIONS

Serving the Children of the World

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This booklet contains questions for needs surveys related to children's issues in your community. Suggestions for possible contacts are listed below. When conducting the surveys, try to obtain an answer for every "yes/no" question. A "no" answer to any question—or a qualified response of "yes, but"—suggests that further research should be done to determine the issue's severity and course of action your club should take to address to that issue.

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### Helpful Hints:

**Needs Survey Questions for Parents of Young Children**—a general needs survey among parents of young children. Obtain a mailing list of parents of young children from children's specialty stores, hospitals, or the local government office that registers births. Distribute the survey at businesses, child-care facilities, or community centers. Be sure to include all socioeconomic and ethnic groups in the community. After you tabulate the results, discuss your findings with local experts on the identified issues.

**Needs Survey Questions on Child Health Services and Pediatric Trauma**—questions regarding children's health issues and pediatric trauma facilities. Consult with the county health commissioner, your local hospitals, pediatricians and family practitioners, and emergency medical technicians.

**Needs Survey Questions on Parent Support**—determines the level of education and support given to parents. Contact pediatricians and family practitioners, the mental health association, child protective services, family court or juvenile court judges, early childhood educators, and clergy.

**Needs Survey Questions on Safety**—establishes the potential for and incidence of accidental childhood injury. Survey the county health commissioner, hospital emergency room physicians and nurses, pediatricians and family practitioners, firefighters and police officers, the Red Cross, your local safety council, and any other organizations that promote safety.

**Needs Survey Questions on Early Childhood Programs**—measures the availability of affordable, quality child care and early childhood programs. Talk with local government regulators of such programs, child-care resource and referral agencies, teachers and child-care providers, administrators of programs for low-income families (for example, Head Start), pediatricians, and professional associations (such as a local affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children).

**Needs Survey Questions on Maternal and Infant Health**—determines the accessibility of health and nutrition programs for pregnant mothers and infants. Check with the health commissioner, obstetricians and gynecologists, pediatricians, hospital service providers, and others who deal with maternal and infant health issues.

These surveys were adapted from the Healthy Children community assessment quiz developed by Philip J. Porter, MD.

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## NEEDS SURVEY QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

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### Young Children: Priority One

Please give your age, the age of your spouse, and the age of your children.

What are the greatest needs of young children, and their families, in this community?  
Please consider the areas of:

- Health services
- Child care and early education
- Parenting
- Safety

What do you know today about parenting that you wish someone had told you when you became a parent?



## NEEDS SURVEY QUESTIONS ON SAFETY

### YOUNG CHILDREN: PRIORITY ONE

YES NO

Could the number of accidents involving young children be reduced?

- In the past year, how many children age five and under have been treated at an emergency room for an accidental injury? How many have been treated at clinics and doctors' offices?
- How many of these accidents could have been prevented through parent education or proper use of safety devices?
- How many of these children died?
- What are the five most common types of accidents in the community in which young children are involved?
- How can these accidents be prevented?

Is there a well known crisis hotline for emergency services?  
Is the seat belt law for children enforced?

Are there ordinances requiring installation of smoke detectors, anti-scald safety valves, or lower-temperature water heaters in multi-family dwellings?

Do homes generally have smoke detectors? Do they work?

Are there swimming or drown-proofing classes for young children?

Is there a training program for baby-sitters?

Is there a poison education program or hotline in the community?

Is there a program to check the safety of older apartment buildings in the community?



## NEEDS SURVEY QUESTIONS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

### YOUNG CHILDREN: PRIORITY ONE

YES NO

Is there a resource and referral agency in the community?

Does the capacity of early childhood programs meet the demand?

Does the quality of early childhood programs meet the demand?

- How many children under age six are there in the community? How many are in full-day child care programs? How many are in other early childhood programs?
- How many child care facilities operate in the community?
- How many children are in these programs? What are the greatest needs in these programs?
- How many family child care providers are estimated to be in the community? Serving how many children?
- Are family child care providers required to be licensed or registered by the local government? How many have done so?
- What do family providers need to improve their child care?

Is there a government-sponsored program, such as Head Start, available to young children living in poverty?

Does it meet all the needs for such a program?

- What are the requirements to participate in the program?
- What percentage of the eligible children are in the program?
- What resources does the program need to better serve the children?
- What resources does the program need to serve more children?

Does the Reading Is Fundamental program operate in early childhood programs in the community?

Is there a family literacy or family development program in the community?



## NEEDS SURVEY QUESTIONS ON CHILD HEALTH SERVICES AND PEDIATRIC TRAUMA

YOUNG CHILDREN: PRIORITY ONE

YES NO

### CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

Are comprehensive primary care services available to children from all income groups?

Is your community free of measles, polio, diphtheria, and whooping cough?

Are 90% of the children over age 2 fully immunized?

Are the emergency wards of your hospitals used only for true emergencies rather than for routine care?

Do the following services exist?

- Fluoridation
- Nutritional program for women, infants, and children
- Hearing and vision screening and referral for treatment
- Lead detection program

### PEDIATRIC TRAUMA

Are the local emergency medical technicians trained in the differences between severe pediatric trauma and adult trauma?

Do the ambulances and hospital emergency room have equipment designed to fit young children?

Is the local hospital adequately prepared to be a primary care hospital for pediatric trauma?

Is there a secondary care hospital for pediatric trauma within fifty miles?

Is there a tertiary care hospital for pediatric trauma that can be reached by helicopter in an hour?



## NEEDS SURVEY QUESTIONS ON PARENT SUPPORT

YOUNG CHILDREN: PRIORITY ONE

YES NO

Are there programs that educate new parents about caring for their children?

- How many parents-to-be annually attend childbirth education classes?
- Do any of these programs continue with classes on parenting young children?

Do young parents know what resources are available in the community to help them raise their children?

Is there a family resource center in the community?

- What services does it provide?
- What other services are needed?

Are there programs available for parents who want to learn how to be better parents?

- Is there a parenting fair? A parent hotline? A family resource library?
- Are there parent support groups?

Are there programs available for parents who face special obstacles, such as poverty, lack of education, or physical disabilities?

- Is there a home visitation program in the community? How many families does it serve? How many more need to be served?
- Is there a family literacy program or family development program in the community? What are its greatest needs?

Are there programs available for families in crisis?

- Is there a respite care program?
- Are there counseling programs available to low-income families?
- Is there a Parents Anonymous group?
- How many cases of child abuse occurred in the last year? How does this compare to the incidence of child abuse 10 years ago? 20 years ago?