



Healthy *Generations*

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Education in Maternal and Child Public Health

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Reproductive and Sexual Health: Public Health Approaches

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In this volume of *Healthy Generations* we profile public health programs and professionals who are dedicated to providing reproductive health services to adolescents and adults, women and men. We describe three state-level efforts in Minnesota and North Dakota that meet reproductive health goals through surveillance, advocacy, science-based practice, and strategic partnerships. These efforts to address chlamydia, preconception health, and mental health were developed in response to a public health need and are characterized by innovative and focused leadership. We are excited to feature an article by a thoughtful and creative team in Iowa who are addressing a critical gap in reproductive health service provision—the lack of valid and meaningful performance measures for contraceptive services. We also highlight the work of three public health professionals whose considerable talents are matched by their passion for their work: Rebecca Schlafer, Cyndy Rastedt, and Liane Grayson. All have set their own path to improve the health of the people they serve. With pride we note that two of these professionals are MPH students in our online MCH Program for advanced students. We also include a short article on one of the many hot topics in reproductive health: long-acting reversible contraception.

This volume has been a joy to produce because of the people my writing team (Summer Martins, Shoua Vang, and Sheilah McGrath) and I have met in doing so. We hope that you enjoy reading about—and are inspired by—the great work that is being done by our public health colleagues in Minnesota, Iowa, and North Dakota.

—Wendy L. Hellerstedt, MPH, PhD

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