

MINNESOTA'S TITLE V SUPERVISOR USES THE DRC TO DEVELOP NEEDS ASSESSMENT FACT SHEETS

When CSHCN SLAITS data initially became available to each state, Sarah Thorson had a notebook full of data with no cross-tabs, queries, comparisons, rankings, and no research analyst. Thank goodness her data was population weighted! Supervisor of the Minnesota Title V CSHCN Policy and Research Section, Sarah Thorson has been a DRC user since it went live in 2004.

In 2003, Sarah and her team began the five year needs assessment required by the Title V Maternal and Child Health program (the federal program that governs the Minnesota program). They identified thirty-two potential priority areas to review identified by CYSHCN parents and professionals. This process required Sarah and her team in Minnesota to develop fact sheets on each of the thirty-two areas to include the size of the problem, who is effected by the problem, what the community's commitment to address the problem, and effective interventions available to address the problem. Since Sarah and her team did not have the support of a research analyst, and only limited support from an epidemiologist, they used the DRC, where they were able to quickly and accurately collect data and transform it into information.

Sarah has also used the DRC on many occasions for technical assistance, especially recently for more in-depth analysis of access to care and service utilization issues. Overall, having the DRC allowed Sarah and her team's report in 2004 to have a more in-depth assessment than in previous years. Please feel free to see a copy of the fact sheets on her website:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/cfh/na/factsheets/index.html>.