

**Child Health and Disability Prevention Program
Nutrition Subcommittee**

Workgroup Leader

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Dear CHDP Directors and Deputy Directors:

The CHDP Nutrition Subcommittee is pleased to announce the release of a new provider training module "Using the World Health Organization (WHO) Growth Charts to Assess Children from Birth to 2 Years". The training presentation and supporting materials may be accessed from the CHDP website: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/Training.aspx>.

Why is this training module useful to local CHDP programs?

In April 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a new international growth standard for young children ages birth to 5 years of age. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institutes of Health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics convened an expert panel to review scientific evidence and discuss the potential use of the new WHO growth charts in clinical settings in the United States. On the basis of input from this expert panel, CDC recommends that clinicians in the United States use the WHO international growth charts, rather than the CDC growth charts, for infants and children from birth to 2 years.

Because the CDC charts are currently in use in clinical settings to assess growth of children, use of the WHO charts for infants and children up to 24 months will require training of health care providers and others who measure and assess child growth. This training focuses on how to interpret growth using the WHO charts and understanding the differences between the CDC and WHO growth charts.

CHDP nutritionists in two counties pilot-tested the training module with CHDP staff and providers. Evaluations indicate that after the training, participants feel more confident in using the WHO Growth Charts for birth to 2 years and would recommend this training to other health care providers.

Who can be trained with this module?

This training module is designed for training local CHDP providers and staff as well as local CHDP program staff. It is suited for pediatricians, family practice physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, nutritionists, and health educators.

Who can present this training and how long will it take?

The training is designed to be presented by CHDP health professional staff members. The training module includes a user guide with tips for preparing and presenting the training. The slides include a detailed script for the speaker. Local programs may customize the presentation according to the particular audience and the amount of time available. The training takes approximately 35 minutes.

If you have any questions about the materials, please contact me at (626) 569-6037 or email plalezari@ph.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Parvaneh Lalezari, MS, RD
CHDP Nutrition Subcommittee