

TOP TEN LIST

TEN BEST REASONS TO BECOME A MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

With apologies to David Letterman thanks for editorial assistance to Elizabeth Kirby and insights from many colleagues who doubtless prefer to remain nameless.

R.S. Kirby, March 2011

Top Ten List: Ten Best Reasons to Become an MCH Professional

Number 10

You will be able to use terms like 'risk ratio' and 'prevalence estimate' with confidence.



Number 9

There will be many leadership opportunities in the coming years.

At many national MCH conferences, the average age of attendees increases by only slightly less than a year with each passing year.



Number 8

You will have the opportunity to integrate your professional training with colleagues from many other disciplines.

But as an MCH professional, you will be the one who truly understands how to integrate their contributions into a coherent whole.



Number 7

You will have something in common with the Chicago Cubs and this year's USF men's basketball team (among others).

Even though your altruistic views have merit, in politics you will learn to lose.



Number 6

You will learn how to advocate, for clients, for programs, for services, and for legislation.

You will never meet a politician who is not 100% for mothers and babies, and occasionally, you will meet one who actually votes like he/she means it.



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Number 5

You will learn to use acronyms like a true professional.



Number 4

You'll never be at a loss for words to explain what work you do.

In fact, you will probably fail the 'elevator speech' test where you explain your issue in the time it takes the elevator to arrive at the next floor.



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Number 3

You won't have to take a vow of poverty, but you will value your zeal to make a difference more than your income or standard of living.



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Number 2

You'll never go to bed at night thinking –

“All my work is done. What will I do tomorrow?”



Top Ten List: Ten Best Reasons to Become an MCH Professional

Number 1

You'll have numerous opportunities to meet women.

And you'll get to work with many other women.

