What Do Infant Mental Health Specialists Do?

Infant mental health specialists often work with vulnerable children whose development is at risk due to the following factors:

- Parental mental health problems
- Poverty and homelessness
- Absence of social supports
- Parental substance abuse
- Child abuse and neglect

Clinicians provide services usually in the family home, but services can also be provided through schools, hospitals, outpatient clinics, and physicians’ offices. Not all infant mental health specialists provide therapeutic services. Some conduct research on effective prevention and early intervention programs, or how different environments influence children’s mental health. Others work for child advocacy programs.

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**Infant Mental Health**

Infant mental health is a multi-disciplinary field focused on the social and emotional development of infants and young children. Infant mental health specialists work with parents and infants together to help the parent learn more about his or her baby's development, to refer the family to other helpful community resources, and to help parents improve their ability for self-observation and reflection.

While infant mental health practitioners represent a variety of disciplines -- like social work, psychology, early childhood education, special education, nursing, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, social policy, and physical therapy -- they share common beliefs about working with infants and families. These beliefs include:

- Development occurs in the context of nurturing relationships
- The birth of a baby offers the hopefulness of a new relationship and the possibility for growth and change
- Parents want what is best for their babies
- Early attachment relationships serve as prototypes for later relationships and healthy development
- The development of healthy attachment relationships may be disturbed or interrupted by parental histories of unresolved losses or traumatic events (from the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health).

**WSU Infant Mental Health Dual-Title Degree Program**

The Infant Mental Health Dual-Title degree is aligned with guidelines established by the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH) for infant mental health programs and is designed to prepare students for a variety of roles - the social work, education, nursing, psychology, early childhood education, special education, family therapy, or social policy.

**What is Infant Mental Health?**

Learn More At: [www.mpsi.wayne.edu/training/infant-mental-health](http://www.mpsi.wayne.edu/training/infant-mental-health)

**Description of Core Courses**

- **Infant Mental Health Theory to Practice**
  Provides the student with theories of infant mental health and research-based information on infant mental health practices applied to various early childhood settings. Interdisciplinary, relationship-based interventions to promote development and learning in infants and young children will be emphasized through course readings, discussions, and projects.

- **Infant Mental Health Assessment**
  An overview of both formal and informal assessment methods used to assess infant mental health and related research. Students will become familiar with assessment methods through lecture, video, and practical use.

- **Infant Mental Health Intervention**
  Focuses on the relationship between theory, assessment, and practice in the field of infant mental health. Students will become familiar with interventions used in infant mental health through course readings, activities, assignments, and lecture.

- **Psychology of Infant Behavior and Development**
  Explores the cognitive, emotional, and social development of infants and toddlers. A multi-disciplinary approach is taken to examine the infant's relationship with the environment.

- **Infant Mental Health Clinical Seminar (MSW students only)**
  Students will participate in a clinical seminar that provides the opportunity to work with infants and their families in a real-world setting. The seminar focuses on the integration of infant mental health theory, assessment, intervention, and research through the internship experience.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork**
  Offers fieldwork opportunities in infant mental health settings to provide students with hands-on experience in the field. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork II**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork III**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork II, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork IV**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork III, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork V**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork IV, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork VI**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork V, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork VII**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork VI, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork VIII**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork VII, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork IX**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork VIII, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork X**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork IX, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XI**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork X, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XII**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XI, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XIII**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XII, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XIV**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XIII, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XV**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XIV, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XVI**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XV, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XVII**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XVI, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XVIII**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XVII, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XIX**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XVIII, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XX**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XIX, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXI**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XX, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXII**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXI, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXIII**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXII, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXIV**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXIII, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXV**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXIV, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXVI**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXV, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXVII**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXVI, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXVIII**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXVII, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXIX**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXVIII, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.

- **Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXX**
  Continues the experience gained in Infant Mental Health Fieldwork XXIX, offering more advanced opportunities for fieldwork and supervision. Students will work with infants and families in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community agencies.