

Centers for Health Equity and Community Health

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FACT SHEET

About us

The MDH Centers for Health Equity and Community Health (CHECH) is comprised of four Centers (described below) and the Director's Office, which provides leadership, coordination, budget, administrative and communications support. CHECH works across MDH and with many community partners to contribute to MDH's vision of "all communities thriving" by:

- Supporting Minnesota's local public health system;
- Ensuring that MDH and all communities are "ready to respond" to public health emergencies;
- Serving as a source of health statistics;
- Working to advance health equity and support community-based grantees; and providing consultation within MDH and to partners on crosscutting skills, like quality improvement, community engagement, strategic planning, incident management, and integrating health equity.



Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

Team members implement emergency response and recovery activities to protect people's health, while also increasing the readiness of state, local and tribal health departments, working with the healthcare system and other partners.

EXAMPLE SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Providing training and support to organizations statewide to prepare for respond to and recover from public health emergencies.
- Managing the Health Alert Network (HAN) to notify thousands of healthcare, public health and community partners about emerging disease threats.
- Maintaining the capacity to receive, stage, store and rapidly distribute vaccines and medications to protect people in Minnesota in the event of a biological attack.
- Conducting risk assessments, testing emergency response plans, and coordinating with community partners to ensure effective and timely emergency response statewide.



Center for Health Equity (CHE)

Team members serve as a link to Minnesota’s diverse communities and a hub for organizing and promoting work to advance health equity in our state.

EXAMPLE SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Cultivating health equity leaders, within MDH and the community, who are champions for communities’ most impacted by health inequities.
- Empowering and supporting networks of health equity leaders to amplify the work of the community and equip them to drive solutions.
- Advancing health equity in all of MDH’s activities and policies (i.e., grants, workforce).
- Investing in reducing health disparities through grants to the communities most affected.



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics (MCHS)

Team members collect, analyze and share data to better understand health issues and inform public health policy decisions in Minnesota.

EXAMPLE SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Designing public health surveys and collecting, analyzing and sharing health-related data.
- Responding to data requests and providing technical assistance to community and governmental partners.
- Monitoring trends in vital statistics (e.g., pregnancy risk factors, birth outcomes, causes of death) for the state overall and for specific groups (i.e., by race, age, county of residence).
- Implementing an Institutional Review Board (IRB), to protect human subjects, by providing a review and approval process for MDH-sponsored research.



Center for Public Health Practice (PHP)

Team members ensure that Minnesota’s state, local and tribal public health system is strong, coordinated and equipped to carry out public health responsibilities.

EXAMPLE SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Working with partners to develop policies to strengthen Minnesota’s local public health system.
- Supporting effective management of Minnesota’s 51 community health boards, and administering the Local Public Health Act grant.
- Providing technical assistance to local health departments, on a range of issues from community health assessments to performance improvement.
- Providing coaching to MDH programs and local public health departments on foundational capabilities like, quality improvement, and community engagement.

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01/24/2018

To obtain this information in a different format; call 651-201-3880.