

CHARGE

To strengthen the health and wellness of Minnesota's racial/ethnic, cultural, and tribal populations by engaging diverse populations in health systems, mutual learning and actions essential for achieving health parity and optimal wellness.

To learn more about the OMMH, including EHDI, conferences, workshops and other initiatives, please visit

www.health.state.mn.us/ommh

...or call our coordinators directly

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651-201-5822

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Office of Minority and Multicultural Health

*Honoring Our Traditions
Healing All Communities*



The Office of Minority and Multicultural Health

Provides leadership on minority and multicultural health issues among programs and communities

- Promotes collection of reliable racial and ethnic health data
- Identifies and promotes best practices to improve the health of populations of color and American Indians
- Promotes and designs multicultural health events and activities
- Identifies and supports assets within MDH and populations of color and American Indians to address public health issues

Promotes racial and ethnic approaches to public health and health care services

- Collaborates with local and state public health programs
- Collaborates within MDH to create activities that are inclusive of Minnesota's populations of color and American Indians
- Promotes policies to improve the health status of populations of color and American Indians



Programs and Initiatives

Conferences and Workshops

- 2008 OMMH National Health Disparities Conference - HEALTH EQUALITY: Honoring Culture While Closing the Gap
- Mental Health: A Public Health Issue (*Partnership with MN Department of Human Services*)
- Emergency Preparedness for Communities of Color and American Indians (*Partnership with University of Minnesota*)
- Genomics Conference (*Partnership with National Institutes of Health*)
- Healing Ourselves and Strengthening our work with HIV/AIDS (*Ongoing Collaborative*)

Community Health Worker Project

Minnesota's Community Health Worker Project is a statewide initiative whose mission is to reduce cultural and linguistic barriers to health care, improve quality and cost effectiveness of care, and increase the number of health care workers who come from diverse backgrounds or underserved communities.

“Disparities in the health care delivered to racial and ethnic minorities are real and are associated with worse outcomes in many cases, which is unacceptable. The real challenge lies not in debating whether disparities exist, because the evidence is overwhelming, but in developing and implementing strategies to reduce and eliminate them.”
- Alan Nelson, former president of the American Medical Association

Programs

Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (EHDI)

In 2001 the Minnesota Legislature provided funding for the Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (EHDI) (Minnesota Statute 145.928).

The EHDI program provides an opportunity for the grantees, community members, and the Minnesota Department of Health to build on the strengths and assets of our community. EHDI promotes the health and quality of life for individuals and communities, and works toward reducing the health disparities of racial and ethnic populations.

EHDI Legislation addresses statewide racial/ethnic health disparities in these areas:

- Breast and Cervical Cancer
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Diabetes
- Healthy Youth Development
- HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Immunizations
- Violence and Unintentional Injuries
- Infant Mortality

