

Community Health Division

FACT SHEET

About us

Community Health is a division within the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). We are working to achieve MDH's vision of "all communities thriving."

Our division includes:

- the Office of Statewide Health Improvement Initiatives (OSHII)
- the Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)
- the Center for Health Equity (CHE)
- the Center for Public Health Practice (PHP),
- the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics (MCHS) and
- the Director of American Indian Health.

Office of Statewide Health Improvement Initiatives (OSHII)

We support all Minnesotans in leading healthier lives, raising healthier families and building healthier communities by preventing chronic disease well before it starts.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Supporting local and tribal public health and their partners with science-based strategies, technical assistance and evaluation, so communities can make it easier for people to incorporate healthy living in their daily lives.
- Connecting health professionals and the public to valuable resources on workplace wellness, community health systems and early childhood.
- Connecting health professionals and the public to resources on the effects of tobacco use, guidance on community-based tobacco prevention programs, and smoking cessation resources.
- Supporting Minnesotans to be active, eat healthy foods and maintain a healthy weight through innovative programs like SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership), Farm to School, and Safe Routes to School.

Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

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

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)

We serve as a link to Minnesota's diverse communities, and a hub for organizing and promoting work to advance health equity in our state.

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)

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

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)

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

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Working with partners to develop policies to strengthen Minnesota's local public health system.
- Supporting effective management of Minnesota's 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.

Director of American Indian Health

Ensuring the Minnesota's tribal communities have input and involvement in the health programs and policies that directly affect them.

Jackie Dionne is the American Indian Health Director at MDH. She serves as MDH's official liaison to the 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations in Minnesota. A key function of her position is to ensure that MDH's tribal consultation policy is followed, to prevent actions being taken that significantly affect one of more of Minnesota's tribal nations without their input or involvement. While a member of this division, Jackie also has a direct line to the Commissioner of Health. Additionally, she leads the MDH Internal American Indian Advisory Committee, which has over 20 members, and represents all parts of MDH that work with the tribes. MDH programs who wish to contact tribal leaders, must work with Ms. Dionne.

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