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History

The Michigan Office of Minority Health was established by Executive Order in 1988 on the recommendation of the Director’s Task Force on Minority Health. Convened by the Michigan Department of Community Health, the task force issued the state’s first comprehensive minority health report in 1987 titled ‘Minority Health in Michigan: Closing the Gap’. The Office functions as the lead on health disparities elimination and health equity efforts for African Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Arab and Chaldean Americans, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics/Latinos in Michigan.

Current Organization Structure

In 2005 the Office of Minority Health was renamed the Health Disparities Reduction and Minority Health Section (HDRMH). HDRMH is located in the Office of Health Policy and Innovation in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), previously the Michigan Department of Community Health.
PA 653 (Minority Health Law)

The 93rd Michigan Legislature passed Public Act (PA) 653 in 2006, in response to the racial and ethnic disparities in Michigan. This Public Act amended the Public Health Code (1978 PA 368) and requires the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to take specified actions to address racial and ethnic health disparities and work towards achieving health equity. HDRMH serves as the lead in monitoring progress to achieve the provisions of PA653.

HDRMHS Mission and Activities

HDRMHS mission is to provide a persistent and continuing focus on assuring health equity and eliminating health disparities among Michigan’s populations of color.

Activities are to:

- To support and initiate programs, policies, and applied research to address social determinants of health that contribute to health inequities for racial and ethnic minority populations in Michigan.
- To collaborate in the development of Michigan Department of Community Health prevention, health service delivery, and research strategies in an effort to improve health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority populations in Michigan.
- To facilitate implementation of culturally and linguistically appropriate health services throughout the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Health Equity Steering Committee

The Health Equity Steering Committee (HESC) represents a cross section of MDHHS staff and programs. The HESC mission is to communicate with, serve as a resource to and actively involve MDCH Administrators and other staff in department efforts to achieve racial and ethnic health equity. HESC members work to increase awareness, disseminate data, promote best practices, and support inter- and intradepartmental health disparities related efforts.

Michigan Health Equity Roadmap

In June 2010, in accordance with PA 653, the Michigan Health Equity Roadmap: A vision and framework for improving the social and health status of racial and ethnic minority populations in Michigan was released. The Roadmap was spearheaded by the Health Disparities Reduction and Minority Health Section (HDRMH) with representative input from Michigan residents, public health, community and faith-based organizations, health professionals, researchers and academic institutions. The process used was designed to stimulate coordinated efforts among these partners through a set of recommendations to address social and economic determinants of health and improve
health outcomes. The recommendations and strategies presented in the Michigan Health Equity Roadmap are categorized into five areas: 1) race/ethnicity data, 2) government and community capacity, 3) social determinants of health, 4) access to quality health care, and 5) community engagement and empowerment.

**Current Initiatives/Partnerships**

- Building Organization Capacity to Adopt CLAS standards
- Improving Minority Wellness and Equity for Life (IM-WEL)
- Provider Health Literacy and Cultural Competency Initiatives
- Web-based Health Equity Staff Training
- Equity-based Cultural Competency Training
- Racial/ethnic minority populations BRFS projects
- Asian American Maternal and Child Health Data Project
- Asian American Health Fair Data Collection Standardization Project
- Practices to Reduce Infant Mortality through Equity (PRIME)

**Level of Funding Sources**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>2013</td>
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**Staffing Resources**

Michigan’s Health Disparities Reduction and Minority Health Section include:

1 FTE Section Manager is responsible for directing and managing the Section.

1 Program Specialist responsible for special section projects, the annual PA 653 report and Minority Health Month activities.

2 FTE Health Disparities Program Coordinators is responsible for oversight of the demonstration grant programs and new program initiatives.

.6 FTE Health Disparities Epidemiologist guides the data collection/monitoring and provides data for health promotion and education.

.5 FTE Administrative Assistant performs all clerical activities for the Section.
Recent Publications - www.michigan.gov/minorityhealth

- Understanding Health Equity – Brief (2015)
- The Importance of Race/Ethnicity Data- Brief (2015)
- Health Risk Behaviors Among Hispanic Adults – 2012 BRFS survey results (2015)
- Health Risk Behaviors Among Arab Adults – 2013 BRFS survey results
- Michigan Health Equity Roadmap - 2010