

History

The Florida Office of Minority Health (FOMH) was established in 2004 by Florida Statute.

Health Priorities

The **Florida Department of Health** (FDOH) has identified the following health priorities for the population of Florida, and additional priorities for racial/ethnic minority populations residing in the state.

Health Priorities for the General Population	Health Priorities Specifically for Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations
Wellness and healthy lifestyles	Chronic disease prevention
Health workforce development	HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment
Equitable health care access for vulnerable populations	Immunization
Prevent and control infectious disease	Maternal and infant mortality
Protect the public and health system preparedness	Oral health care
Create a healthy built environment	Community resiliency/environmental justice

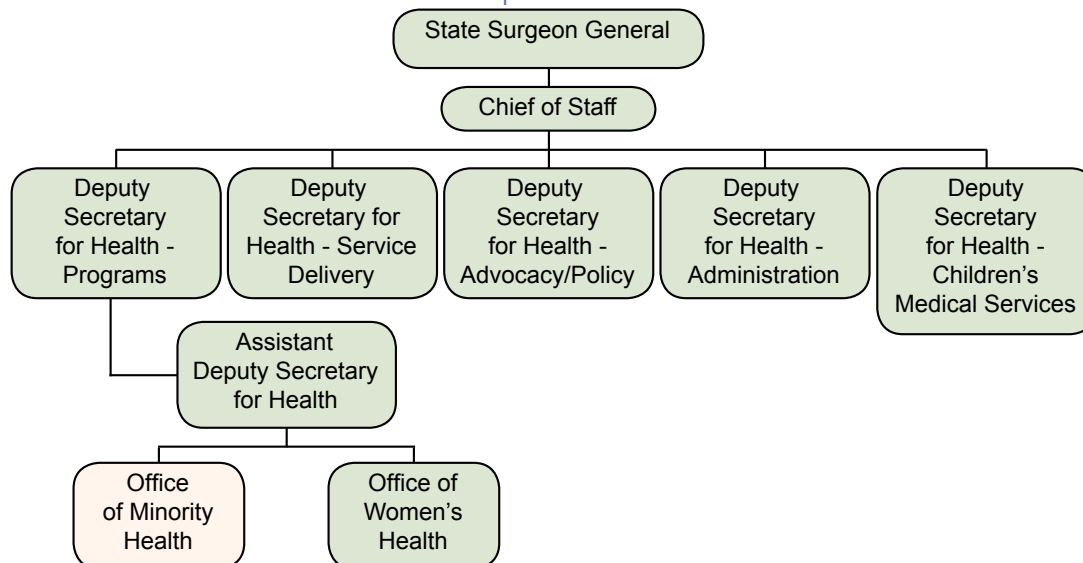
Overview

	Funding for MH/HD Activities	Personnel Dedicated to MH/HD	MH/HD Unit	MH/HD Advisory Body	State MH/HD Legislation or Mandate	MH/HD Strategic Plan	Evaluation of MH/HD Activities
Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total Affirmative Responses out of 46	30	38	36	36	27	36	39

Organization, Infrastructure and Resources

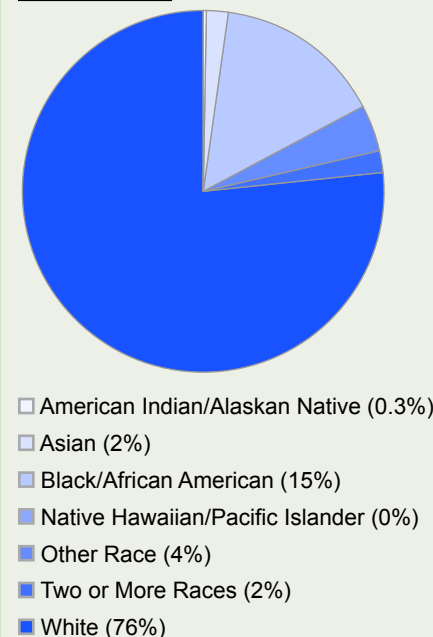
The following is a simplified organizational chart that demonstrates the location of the state's racial/ethnic minority health focal point in relation to the State/Territorial Health Official and other key public health leadership:

Florida Department of Health

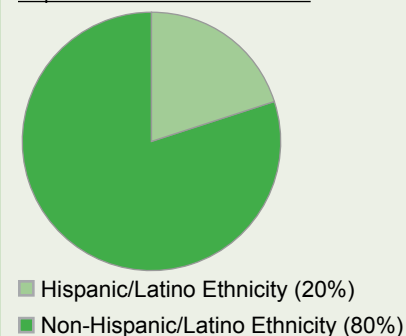


Total State Population:
18,089,889

Racial Distribution



Hispanic/Latino Ethnic Distribution



Note: People can self-identify as members of any racial group in the Census, as well as report having Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Strategic Planning

The Florida Department of Health maintains a general strategic plan for the entire Department. Its Office of Minority Health also maintains a strategic plan for eliminating racial/ethnic health disparities and promoting minority health, which includes the following goals:

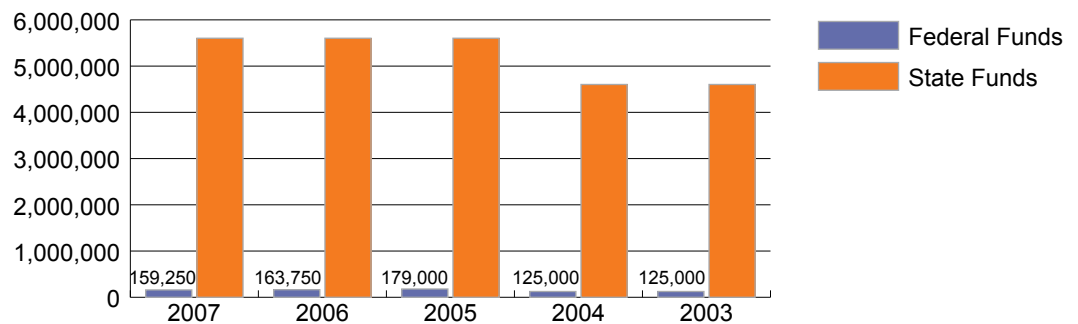
Goal:	Establish a sustainable infrastructure to provide leadership and coordinate, monitor and evaluate OMH strategic plan implementation. Advocate for a minority health coordinator at each county health department to work with local community partners
Tracking Methods:	Track formation of new MH/HD focal points, number of MH/HD representatives and partnerships at county health departments, new MH/HD policies and programs at other state program offices and county health departments
Goal:	Establish and maintain the Florida Office of Minority Health as a resource and clearinghouse on state health disparities and minority health issues
Tracking Methods:	Track establishment of a web-based MH/HD resource directory and speakers' bureau, number of hits at FOMH website, completion of bi-annual minority health summits, number of local MH/HD initiatives recognized by FOMH awards program
Goal:	Work with other FDOH entities to deliver services that enable providers to offer culturally competent health care
Tracking Methods:	Track the implementation of the state cultural competency plan at the state and local levels
Goal:	Maximize funding opportunities for improving minority health and reducing health disparities
Tracking Methods:	Track number of community assessment grants awarded, FOMH grant applications submitted and awarded, quarterly reports on state MH/HD funding, health disparities surveillance, and legislation passed regarding MH/HD in the state and nation
Goal:	Strengthen capacity of communities to improve minority health and reduce health disparities
Tracking Methods:	Track Protocol for Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH), funding awards in areas with greatest health disparities, number of new variables in FOMH and FDOH databases related to MH/HD, and the number of community-based organizations participating in MH/HD promising practices initiative

Partnerships

- The FDOH consults with an external health disparities advisory committee that counsels leadership on racial/ethnic minority health and health disparities (MH/HD) issues in the state.
- MH/HD activities are conducted and coordinated across multiple FDOH program offices.
- FDOH maintains partnerships with an array of entities active in MH/HD, including: local health departments, other state government agencies, federal government, independent MH/HD advisory bodies, community-based, non-profit and faith based organizations, schools and universities.

Financial Investments

FDOH reported annual investments in racial/ethnic minority health and health disparities (MH/HD) for 2003 through 2007. It should be noted that the amounts represented below may not include funding for specific activities related to MH/HD and may therefore be an underestimate of the total investment from all sources in MH/HD activities.



* Federal funding for Florida's MH/HD activities has ranged from \$125,000 to \$164,000 annually.

Human Capital Investments

The following staff dedicates all or part of their work hours to MH/HD statewide activities in the FDOH:

Job Category	Total Number Dedicated to MH/HD	% of Work Hours Each Spends on MH/HD Activities
Administrator/Director	1	100
Policy or Program Officer	3	100
Program Specialist*	26	20-50
Epidemiologist	2	5
IT or Systems Specialist	1	100
Consultant	1	50
Administrative/Clerical Staff	1	100

* Program Specialists are located throughout FDOH in program areas dedicated to MH/HD issues.

Activities

Closing the Gap Grant Program

This grant program targets racial/ethnic health disparities in infant mortality, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, immunization, oral health and HIV/AIDS among the state's racial/ethnic minority populations by providing funding and technical support to health care organizations serving minority populations in these areas.

Partners and Funding

Florida State Legislature (\$5,602,500), FDOH Chronic and Infectious Disease, Infant, Maternal, and Reproductive Health Programs

Activity Outcomes

Early detection and treatment of high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer have resulted in improved health outcomes, fewer trips to the emergency room and avoidance of hospitalization through the management of target conditions for minority populations. Program clients have also increased their physical activity and use of preventive and primary health care. Pre- and inter-conception outreach, education, screening, case management and referrals to medical services have improved maternal and fetal health prior to pregnancy.

Evaluation Methods

Monthly project data collection, monitoring and site visits by contract managers

State Partnership Grant Program

This grant program provides technical assistance in developing infrastructure and providing organizational and partnership development to community and faith based organizations that focus on reducing racial and ethnic health disparities. The program provides guidance in the development of a state-wide FOMH strategic plan, the establishment of a web-based resource directory, a speakers' bureau, and workshops to assist organizations in improving community health through planning and partnership.

Partners and Funding

\$159,250/yr for five years from the Office of Minority Health (OMH) at the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Activity Outcomes

Twenty community and faith-based organizations were trained in MH/HD planning, program management and fund-raising to sustain their MH/HD efforts. This resulted in an average 40% increase in outside funding for MH/HD activities.

Evaluation Methods

Apart-time consultant/evaluator conducts process and outcome evaluations of State Partnership Grant program activities.

Activities continued...

Minority Health Month

The month of April is dedicated to activities throughout the state that raise awareness about racial/ethnic health disparities and minority health concerns. Awareness is achieved through outreach, education, health screenings and referrals on health issues disproportionately affecting racial/ethnic minorities.

Partners and Funding

County Health Departments, hospitals, health maintenance organizations, community and faith-based organizations provided staffing, financial support, health vendors and volunteers to screen and educate clients.

Activity Outcomes

People without health insurance and residents in medically underserved areas received health education, preventive screenings, referrals for treatment and other diagnostic services, which enabled them to treat and manage health conditions.

Evaluation Methods

Monitored number served by month's activities, e.g. number, types and results of health screenings, number of abnormal findings referred and treated by health care providers

2007 Minority Health Disparities Summit

This educational forum provided a venue for the exchange of ideas and dialogue regarding racial/ethnic health disparities in the state. It also created opportunities for FOMH grantees to share their MH/HD projects and form networks among their peers. Health issues covered at the summit included breast and cervical cancer among women of color, mental health issues in populations of color, racial/ethnic minorities in the health professions, racism in the healthcare system, impacts of health disparities among youth and elderly populations, oral health in communities of color, and minority health advocacy.

Partners and Funding

Several public and private entities partnered with FOMH to provide financial support for this event.

Activity Outcomes

More than 400 people participated in the summit and benefited from the educational and networking opportunities it provided.

Evaluation Methods

Participants' evaluations were collected, compiled, and submitted to the FOMH by an Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

Florida's primary contact for racial/ethnic minority health and health disparities is:

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