

History

The Georgia Department of Community Health (GDCH) established its Office of Health Improvement (OHI) in 1999, and it was stipulated in the agency's enabling legislation that it would house an office to coordinate minority health issues.

Health Priorities

The Georgia Department of Community Health (GDCH) has identified the following health priorities for the general population of Georgia, 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
Medicaid transformation	Language access
Health improvement and resolving disparities	Disease disparity reduction
Financial integrity	
Solutions for the uninsured	
Consumerism	

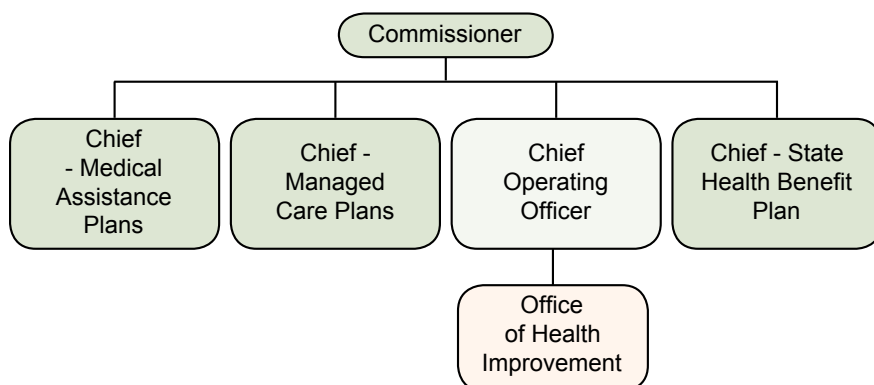
Overview

	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
Georgia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total Affirmative Responses out of 46	30	38	36	36	27	36	39

Organization, Infrastructure and Resources

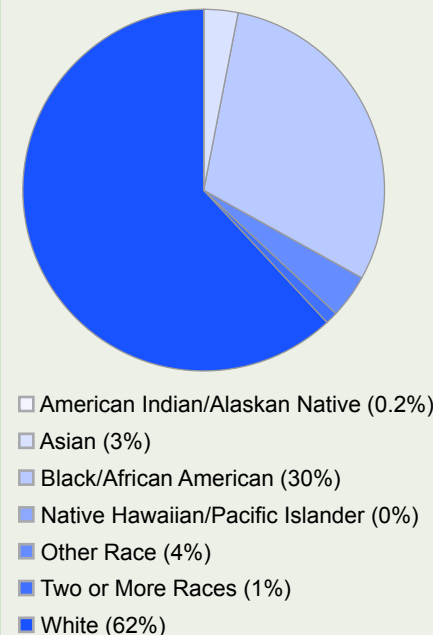
The following is a simplified organizational chart that demonstrates the location of the state's racial/ethnic minority health focal point in relation to key public health offices:

Georgia Department of Community Health

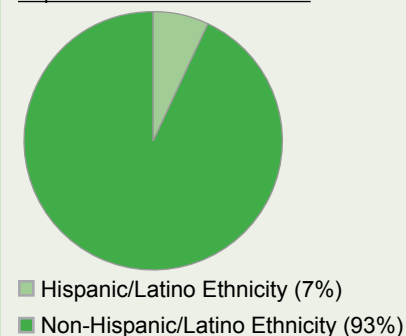


Total State Population:
9,363,941

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 GADCH has incorporated the elimination of health disparities into its overall strategic plan through the following goals:

Goal I: Increase access to affordable, quality health care

Goal II: Support responsible health planning and use of health care resources

Goal III: Promote healthy behaviors and improved health outcomes

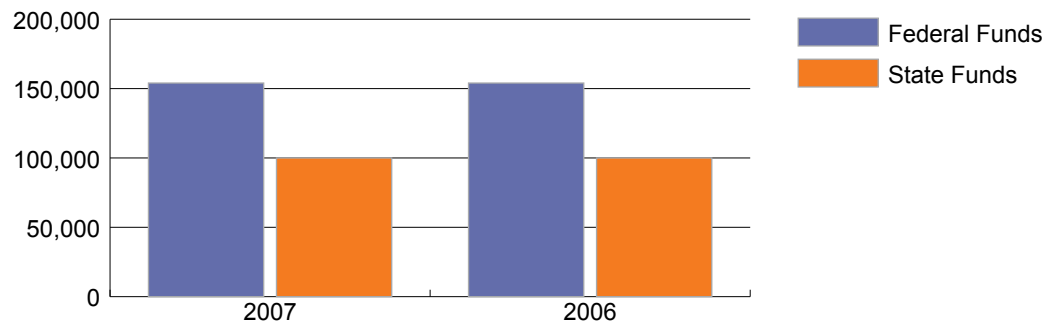
The Georgia Health Disparities Elimination Grant Project was created to support these goals and to facilitate their achievement (see activities section).

Partnerships

- MH/HD activities are conducted and coordinated across many GDCH program offices.
- The Division of Public Health at the Georgia Department of Human Resources is an entity outside GDCH that also coordinates some MH/HD activities in the state.
- GDCH maintains partnerships with local health departments, other state governmental agencies, health departments in other states, federal agencies, agency-supported and independent advisory bodies, community- and faith-based organizations, corporations, health systems, public/private foundations, schools, universities, professional and clinical networks on MH/HD issues.

Financial Investments

GADCH reported annual investments in racial/ethnic minority health and health disparities (MH/HD) for 2006 and 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.



Human Capital Investments

The following staff dedicates all or part of their work hours to MH/HD issues and activities at the GDCH:

Job Category	Total Number Dedicated to MH/HD	% of Work Hours Each Spends on MH/HD Activities
Administrator/Director	1	25%
Policy/Program Officer	1	75%

Activities

Georgia Minority Health Disparities Elimination Report

The GDCH and its Minority Health Advisory Council (MHAC) are conducting a systematic, county-by-county data collection and analysis of racial/ethnic health disparities throughout Georgia. Georgia consists of 159 counties. This analysis will be utilized to link poor health status indicators to social conditions and other factors in each county. It will also provide tools for the MHAC and the Office of Health Improvement (OHI) to inform policy and programs. Resulting policy recommendations will guide the development of the Georgia Health Disparities Elimination Project, and provide information to health policy makers, healthcare advocates, health systems, and practitioners for eliminating disparities in healthcare and improve health outcomes for all Georgians.

Partners and Funding

GDCH, Georgia Minority Health Advisory Council and county governments across the state

Activity Outcomes

Identification of the root causes of health disparities and targeted interventions that address them

Evaluation Methods

Local data collection and analysis using health and related indicators that measure health status, access to care, and other determinants of health. maternal and fetal health prior to pregnancy

Georgia Disparities Elimination Project

The Office of Health Improvement (OHI) has partnered with the State Office for Rural Health (SORH) to establish a statewide grant program designed to (1) reduce and eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities through increased access to care, (2) promote the health and quality of life of individuals and communities, (3) build on community strengths and assets to address health issues, (4) develop effective working relationships among community members and the organization and leaders who serve them, and (5) focus on prevention and early detection of illness and disease. Targeted health conditions disproportionately affecting racial/ethnic minorities in Georgia include cancer, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and access to health care. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Centers, Volunteer Centers, Rural and Critical Access Hospitals will be awarded approximately \$100,000 each to support grantees in working toward these goals.

Partners and Funding

Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Primary Health Care and the Office of Rural Health Policy (\$1,000,000)

Activity Outcomes

Grantees provide primary and preventive care, disease management, education and wellness programs to medically underserved populations. Grantees also improve access to vital services that improve the health status of the people of Georgia and the economic viability of its communities.

Evaluation Methods

Analysis of grantee data reports demonstrate reduced health disparities and increased primary care service utilization.

Activities continued...

HIV/AIDS Disparities Initiative

The OHI receives federal grant monies from the Office of Minority Health at the US Department of Health and Human Services through its State Health Partnership Program, to address HIV/AIDS health disparities among racial/ethnic minority populations through access to HIV/AIDS education and testing.

Partners and Funding

Federal Office of Minority Health State Health Partnership

Activity Outcomes

Documented reductions in the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS in minority communities, development of a statewide HIV/AIDS Community of Practice that provides a continuum of care and treatment among state and local government, minority faith- and community-based organizations

Evaluation Methods

Qualitative evaluation of project activities and outcomes, grantee program evaluation

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

James T. Peoples

Executive Director, Office of Health Improvement

Georgia Department of Community Health

http://dch.georgia.gov/00/channel_title/0,2094,31446711_40827916,00.html

Phone: (404) 463-4013