

Health Priorities

The South Dakota Department of Health (SDDH) identified the following health priorities for the people of South Dakota 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
Health outcomes of infants, children and adolescents	Cancer
Health behaviors to reduce chronic disease	Cardiovascular disease
State response to emerging public health threats	Diabetes
Guiding principles: health technology, customer service, health disparities and partnership	Sexually transmitted diseases

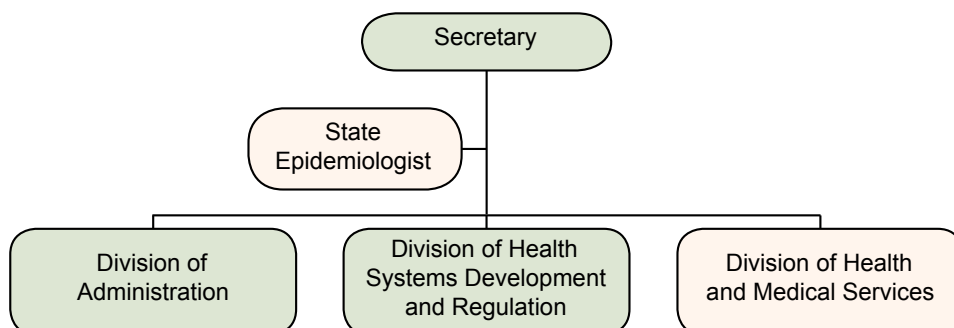
Overview

	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
South Dakota	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Total Affirmative Responses out of 46	30	38	36	36	27	36	39

Organization, Infrastructure and Resources

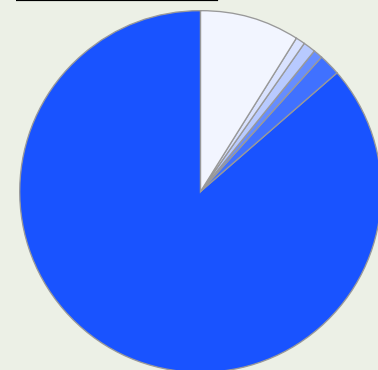
The following is a simplified organizational chart that demonstrates the location of the state's racial/ethnic minority health focal point in relation to the State/Territorial Health Official and other key public health offices.

South Dakota Department of Health



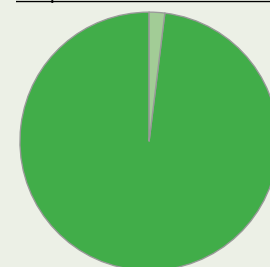
Total State Population:
781,919

Racial Distribution



- American Indian/Alaskan Native (9%)
- Asian (1%)
- Black/African American (1%)
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (0%)
- Other Race (1%)
- Two or More Races (2%)
- White (87%)

Hispanic/Latino Ethnic Distribution



- Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity (2%)
- Non-Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity (98%)

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 reduction of health disparities is a guiding principle for all public health goals and objectives in the SDDH strategic plan, and is taken into account during each phase of their implementation:

Guiding Principle:	Reduce Health Disparities in South Dakota
Goal 1:	Improve birth outcomes and health of infants, children and adolescents
Goal 2:	Strengthen the health care delivery system
Goal 3:	Improve the health behaviors of South Dakotans to reduce chronic disease
Goal 4:	Advance the state's response to emerging public health threats

Partnerships

- The SDDH has formed an internal Multicultural Health Infrastructure Building Work Group that, at the time of the survey, was in the process of developing Departmental capacity to systematically address racial/ethnic health disparities.
- Minority health and health disparities (MH/HD) activities are conducted and coordinated across multiple SDDH program offices including: Chronic Disease; Epidemiology; Infectious Disease, and Maternal and Child Health/Children with Special Health Care Needs.
- SDDH maintains partnerships with an array of entities active in MH/HD, including: tribal government, federal government, MH/HD advisory bodies, community and non-profit organizations.

Human Capital Investments

The SDDH has resource personnel in some of its public health divisions who coordinate and work with their colleagues in incorporating health disparity concerns and solutions into general public health planning and activities. The SDDH is also exploring the possibility of creating staff positions that would dedicate 100% of their efforts to identifying, coordinating and advocating for minority health issues and activities in South Dakota.

Financial Investments

SDDH reported an annual budget for racial/ethnic minority health and health disparities (MH/HD) activities for Fiscal Year 2007. This budget included \$75,000 in federal funding and approximately \$10,000 in state funding.

Activities

The SDDH reported sponsoring a number of activities related to minority health and health disparities (MH/HD). In addition to the Health Disparities Strategic Planning Initiative described in detail in the box below, the SDDH also reported:

- **Making presentations to key state decision-makers:** The State Epidemiologist and the Administrator of the Division of Health and Medical Services have presented to the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the South Dakota Legislature and the South Dakota Health Commission.
- **Bright Start and Healthy Start Home Visiting Programs:** To address disproportional infant mortality in American Indian and immigrant children, the Department has hired additional staff for two home visiting programs (Bright Start and Healthy Start) for high-risk pregnant women and young children.
- **Native American Cultural Awareness Trainings:** During 2007, five training sessions on Native American Cultural Awareness were sponsored by the SDDH for Department employees located throughout the state. In addition, the Department also sponsored an all-day session on cultural sensitivity in written communications that was held in the state capital.

Activities continued...

Health Disparities Strategic Planning Initiative

This comprehensive effort began at the SDDH in 2007 to build state capacity for identifying and addressing health disparities in South Dakota. Specifically, the SDDH established a Multicultural Health Infrastructure Building Work Group to identify health disparities in the state, develop and coordinate a needs assessment regarding health disparities, formulate an SDDH strategic plan for health disparities reduction, and found a multicultural health program at the SDDH.

Partners and Funding

SDDH Multicultural Health Infrastructure Building Work Group, Office of Minority Health/US Department of Health and Human Services (OMH/DHHS) State Partnership Grant funds and technical assistance (\$75,000)

Activity Outcomes

Successful establishment of infrastructure at SDDH to address health disparities

Evaluation Methods

Strategic planning goals, objectives and benchmarks

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

Jacy Clarke

Chronic Disease Epidemiologist, Division of Health and Medical Services
South Dakota Department of Health
<http://doh.sd.gov/>
Phone: (605) 773-2790
Jacy.Clarke@state.sd.us