

### History

The State Health Officer established the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD) in 1991.

### Health Priorities

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) has identified the following general health priorities for the people of Arkansas.

Health Priorities for the General Population
Heart Disease & Stroke
Diabetes
Infant Mortality
Tobacco Usage
HIV/AIDS

### Overview

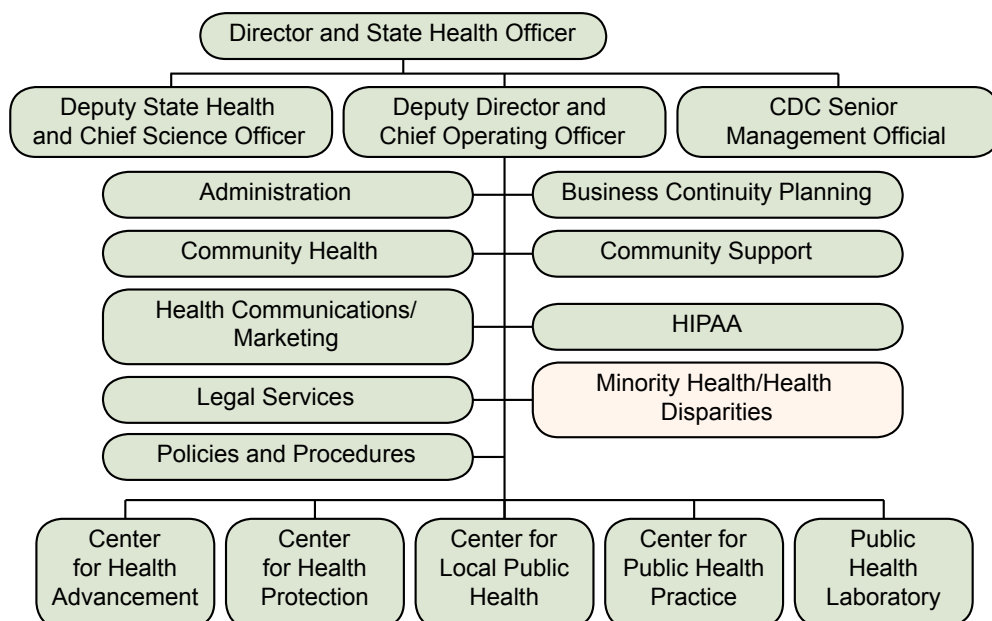
	Funding for MH/HD* Activities	Personnel Dedicated to MH/HD	MH/HD Unit	MH/HD Advisory Body	State MH/HD Legislation or Mandate	MH/HD Strategic Plan	Evaluation of MH/HD Activities
Arkansas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Total Affirmative Responses out of 46	30	38	36	36	27	36	39

\*MH/HD - minority health/health disparities

### Organization, Infrastructure and Resources

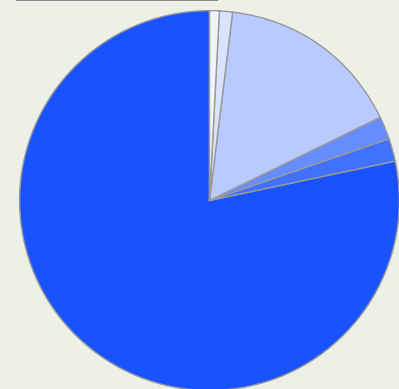
The following is a simplified organizational chart that demonstrates the location of the state's racial/ethnic minority health focal point in relation to the State/Territorial Health Official and other key public health leadership:

#### Arkansas Department of Health



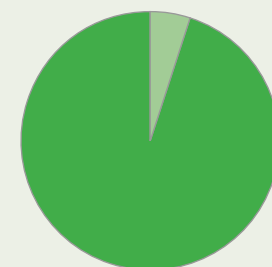
Total State Population:  
2,810,872

Racial Distribution



- American Indian/Alaskan Native (1%)
- Asian (1%)
- Black/African American (16%)
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (0%)
- Other Race (2%)
- Two or More Races (2%)
- White (79%)

Hispanic/Latino Ethnic Distribution



- Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity (5%)
- Non-Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity (95%)

*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

## Partnerships

- The ADH consults with an internal Minority Health and Health Disparities Advisory Committee that supports and guides leadership on racial/ethnic minority health and health disparities (MH/HD) issues in the state.
- MH/HD activities are conducted and coordinated across ADH program offices including the following: the Health Connection Branch (Center for Health Advancement), Comprehensive Cancer Control Section, Diabetes and Prevention Control Program, HIV/STD Section, Abstinence Education Program, Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, Family Health Branch, Immunizations Section, Oral Health Program, Lifestage Health Branch, and the Arkansas Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP).
- ADH maintains partnerships with an array of external entities active in MH/HD including: local health departments, local government, health departments in other states/territories, federal agencies, advisory bodies comprised of representatives from state/territory's racial/ethnic minority populations, community, non-profit and faith based organizations, health systems, foundations, schools, universities, professional associations and the media.

## Strategic Planning

The ADH addresses racial/ethnic health disparities in Arkansas through the following strategic goals derived from the State's Healthy People 2010 Plan:

**Goal:** Work toward the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities  
**Tracking Methods:** Compare state health data for minority populations against Healthy People 2010 indicators and report findings in bi-annual minority health report card

**Goal:** Partner with the Arkansas Minority Health Commission and Consortium to align services and meet needs of minority communities to improve their health status  
**Tracking Methods:** Indicators tracked: number of meetings held with the Commission and Consortium, number of site visits to minority communities by ADH staff, number and variety of health services provided to minority communities

**Goal:** Support diabetes prevention and control with an emphasis on populations disproportionately affected by the disease  
**Tracking Methods:** The Diabetes Prevention and Control Program monitors disparity by using diabetes morbidity/mortality data, by performing evaluations of interventions implemented by sub-grantees and by soliciting feedback from the Diabetes Advisory council during the entire process.

**Goal:** Reduce fetal and infant deaths by recording suspected Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) occurrences and offering nurse home-visitation to homes where babies under one year old have died due to SIDS  
**Tracking Methods:** Track using SIDS Reporting Form Log and Vital Records Death Certificates

**Goal:** Protect Arkansans from harmful effects of cigarette smoking and decrease use of tobacco products, focusing on tobacco-related health disparities among minority populations  
**Tracking Methods:** Conduct and track evaluations of the Youth Tobacco Survey and the Adult Tobacco Survey, utilize an external evaluator

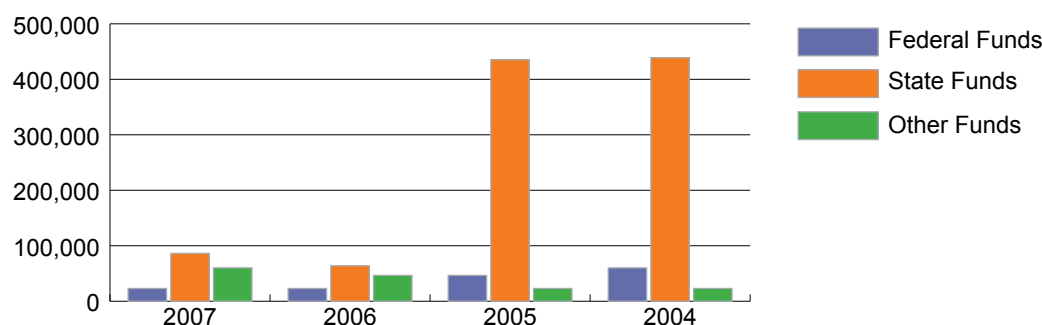
## Human Capital Investments

The following staff dedicate all or part of their work hours to minority health/health disparities (MH/HD) issues and activities at the ADH:

Job Category	Total Number Dedicated to MH/HD	% of Work Hours Each Spends on MH/HD Activities
Administrator/Director	1	100%
Administrative and Clerical Staff	1	100%
Contractor	1	50%
Other	4	100%

## Financial Investments

ADH reported an annual budget for racial/ethnic minority health and health disparities (MH/HD) activities for fiscal years 2004-2007. Although not included in the annual budget, ADH reports additional funding from other sources, such as universities, for specific activities described below. This graph may therefore be an underestimate of the total annual investment in MH/HD.



## Activities

### Cultural Awareness Training Seminar

ADH began to present a one-day seminar in 2005 for agency employees that covered health issues affecting different racial and ethnic populations in Arkansas and the impacts culture can have on health outcomes, access, attitudes and behaviors.

#### Partners (and Funding)

Arkansas Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD) and Office of Minority Health at the US Department of Health and Human Services (OMH/DHHS) (\$10,000)

#### Activity Outcomes

Departmental recognition of the need for cultural awareness training and continued support for training efforts

#### Evaluation Methods

Seminar presentations are evaluated by participants.

### Arkansas Navigational Guide

In response to the thousands of minority residents that relocated from Louisiana to Arkansas following Hurricane Katrina, the ADH developed a comprehensive service guide that assists dislocated individuals and organizations serving dislocated individuals in finding essential resources to support them during their transitions.

#### Partners (and Funding)

OMHHD/ADH, OMH/DHHS (\$33,000), Arkansas Minority Health Commission and Minority Health Consortium

#### Activity Outcomes

Many health and social service organization across the state reacted positively to the guide, requests for additional copies continue, and requests to translate the guide into Spanish have also been made.

#### Evaluation Methods

Feedback from people and organizations using the guide.

### Minority Health Month

Since 2005, the ADH has hosted press conferences, healthy lifestyle seminars, conferences and other activities during the month of April to promote health and wellness for people of color and raise public awareness about racial/ethnic health disparities. ADH also hosts an annual "Taste of the World" potluck at which ADH employees and outside partners are encouraged to participate and learn about the racial/ethnic backgrounds of their colleagues.

#### Partners (and Funding)

OMHHD/ADH (\$2,500) and other internal and external partners

#### Activity Outcomes

Increased awareness regarding racial/ethnic health disparities in Arkansas

#### Evaluation Methods

Surveys and evaluation forms distributed at Minority Health Month events

## Activities continued...

### Arkansas Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP)

The purpose of the TPEP is to protect all Arkansans from the harmful effects of cigarette smoking and decrease the use of other tobacco products. However, TPEP administers a number of programs that are focused on minority populations. For example, as part of the Stamp Out Smoking Campaign, the TPEP hosts "Take It Outside" events in counties with large Hispanic/Latino populations, has contracted with a marketing firm to update the TPEP Web site to include Spanish translations of SOS material and resources, and supports the SOS Quitline that serves minority populations. TPEP also sponsors the Taking Care of Your Children's Air program that encourages smoke-free homes and cars among the Vietnamese and Laotian communities. The program recruits Vietnamese and Laotian translators to help with community outreach and to identify cessation resources. Other relevant activities of the TPEP include: providing education to Asian-owned businesses regarding tobacco laws and committing businesses to post "No Smoking" signage in different Asian languages at their employees' work areas, and funding the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) to administer the Masters of Science in Addiction program.

#### Partners

The Mexican-Arkansas Hispanic Soccer League (composed of 26 teams), University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Public Health, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office

#### Activity Outcomes

For the Quitline, ADH reports the following utilization statistics from 2005: from July 5-December 31, 2005 – 1732 unique callers utilized the Quitline for intakes. Nineteen percent of the callers were African American, 2% Hispanic/Latinos, <1% Asian, 2% American Indian and 1% Multi-ethnic or Other.

#### Evaluation Methods

Not reported

### Comprehensive Cancer Control Section and Arkansas Cancer Coalition (ARCC)

ADH reports that its cancer programs target all citizens that are affected by cancer, with special emphasis on the underserved residents including racial/ethnic minority groups of the state. Programs administered by the Cancer Section include the Mayor's Campaign for Prostate Cancer targeting 13 counties in the Delta region where African-American men are at greatest risk and the Colorectal Cancer Demonstration Project that screens and treats the underinsured and uninsured. The Arkansas Cancer Coalition's primary focus is the elimination of health disparities in the area of cancer prevention, treatment and control. To this end, the Coalition formed a Disparities Workgroup to assist in planning and completing activities such as the Minority Cancer Awareness Week. The Disparities Workgroup also made the elimination of disparities a focus area for the Annual Arkansas Cancer Summit.

#### Partners (and Funding)

Partners and funding not reported

#### Activity Outcomes

Activity outcomes not reported

#### Evaluation Methods

Evaluation methods not reported

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

#### **Christine B. Patterson**

Director, Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities

Arkansas Department of Health

[http://www.healthylarkansas.com/services/services\\_ts2\\_all.html#Minority](http://www.healthylarkansas.com/services/services_ts2_all.html#Minority)

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