

History

The Ohio Commission on Minority Health was established by state legislation in 1987, and the Commission on African-American Males was established in 2005 to advise State Government on racial/ethnic minority health issues. The Ohio Department of Health (ODOH) Health Disparities Council was established in 2003, but it did not become fully active until early 2005. The Council develops strategies that increase Departmental focus on reducing health inequities for the people of Ohio.

Health Priorities

The leadership at the **Ohio Department of Health (ODOH)** is currently revising its health priorities for the people of Ohio and possible health priorities for racial/ethnic minority populations residing in the state.

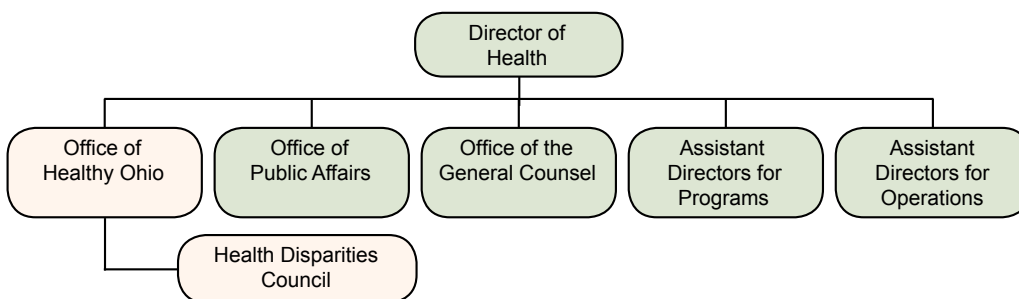
Overview

	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
Ohio	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
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:

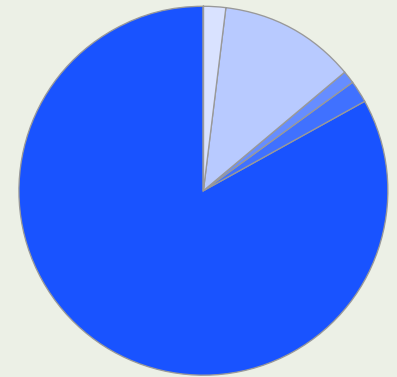
Ohio Department of Health



The external Ohio Commission on Minority Health and the Commission on African-American Males also advise the Department on racial/ethnic minority health issues.

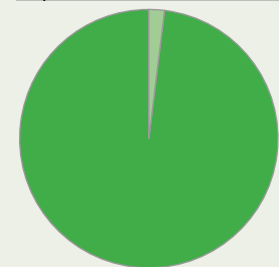
Total State Population:
11,478,006

Racial Distribution



- American Indian/Alaskan Native (0.2%)
- Asian (2%)
- Black/African American (12%)
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (0%)
- Other Race (1%)
- Two or More Races (2%)
- White (84%)

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 Director of Health is developing a 2008 strategic plan for ODOH. The Health Equities Coordinator will also review and unify the various strategies for reducing health disparities that currently exist at many ODOH program offices. In the interim, ODOH continues to pursue its goal of eliminating health disparities as put forth in its 2006 strategic plan:

Goal:	Eliminate Health Disparities
Tracking Methods:	<p>Monitoring - number of diabetes-related complications and deaths for racial/ethnic minorities, number of children at high-risk schools who receive dental sealants through school-based health programs, number of people in medically underserved areas with access to primary health care, number of African Americans with access to HIV medications and services</p> <p>Evaluation - funding and provision of services for children with disabilities and developmental delays</p>

Partnerships

- Currently, MH/HD activities are conducted and coordinated by designated MH/HD contact people across ODOH program offices and by its Health Equities Coordinator in the Office of Healthy Ohio.
- ODH maintains partnerships with an array of entities active in MH/HD including: local health departments, other state government agencies, independent and agency-supported advisory bodies from state's racial/ethnic minority communities, federal agencies, community- and faith-based and non-profit organizations, local news media, professional and other associations.

Financial Investments

The ODOH does not maintain a separate budget specifically for racial/ethnic minority health or health disparities (MH/HD) activities. Funding for MH/HD activities is derived from other ODOH program budgets.

Human Capital Investments

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

Job Category	Total Number Dedicated to MH/HD	% of Work Hours Each Spends on MH/HD Activities
Administrator/Director	18	50-100%
Policy/Program Officer	2	10%
Program Specialist*	42	60-100%
Clinical Consultant/Specialist	5	5-35%
Epidemiologist	8	100%
Public Information Specialist	2	10%
Administrative/Clerical Staff	5	20-100%

Activities

Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative

The initiative works with leadership and health care providers in African-American communities to educate and empower African-American mothers to seek perinatal, prenatal and well-baby care for themselves and their babies and to link them with health care services.

Partners and Funding

Community-based organizations and health care providers

Activity Outcomes

The Cleveland initiative achieved a 32% reduction in infant mortality during its first ten years of operations.

Evaluation Methods

Infant mortality surveillance data

Community Heart Health Program

This program promotes nutrition, physical activity, smoking cessation, diabetes management, blood pressure and cholesterol reduction among African-American, African immigrant, Latino, Russian and Appalachian populations in economically-disadvantaged regions of the state. Program activities include worksite wellness programs, multilingual radio and cable messaging, minority health fairs with the Northwest Ohio Diabetes Coalition, and health education via churches and community physicians.

Partners and Funding

GM Powertrain, Northwest Ohio Diabetes Coalition, local news media, faith communities and health care providers, with funds from the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

Activity Outcomes and Evaluation Methods

To be determined

ODH Health Disparities Council

This internal body was formed in 2005 to develop strategies that increase the Department's focus on reducing and eliminating health inequities for the people of Ohio. The Council is comprised of diverse ODOH staff that volunteer their time to conduct Council activities. The Council collaborates with internal and external partners to increase awareness about MH/HD issues. Specifically, the Council held an open house with ODOH employees and partners to increase awareness about MH/HD issues and the formation of the Council. The Council is currently planning a state-wide health disparities forum for 2008 to raise awareness about health disparities and obtain input from the greater Ohio community.

Partners

Ohio Commission on Minority Health; ODOH Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, HIV/AIDS, Maternal and Child Health Programs; ODOH grantees; other public and private partners

Activity Outcomes

Plans to a) eliminate cultural and linguistic barriers to accessing health care, b) create a comprehensive source of information on ODOH programs and activities that focus on racial/ethnic health disparities, and c) develop a state-wide health improvement action plan for eliminating health disparities

Evaluation Methods

Surveys and focus groups

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

Health Equities Coordinator

Office of Healthy Ohio
Ohio Department of Health
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov>
Phone: (614) 466-2253