

History

The Texas Office of Minority Health, currently the Office for the Elimination of Health Disparities (OEHD), was established in 1993.

Health Priorities

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has identified health priorities for the people of Texas based on the leading causes of death in the state. Additional health priorities for racial/ethnic minority populations were determined by the Texas Health Disparities Task Force.

Health Priorities for the General Population	Health Priorities Specifically for Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations
Diseases of the heart	Cardiovascular disease delivery
Cancer	Cancer
Stroke	HIV/AIDS
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	Infant Mortality
Accident and injury prevention	Mental health and substance abuse

Overview

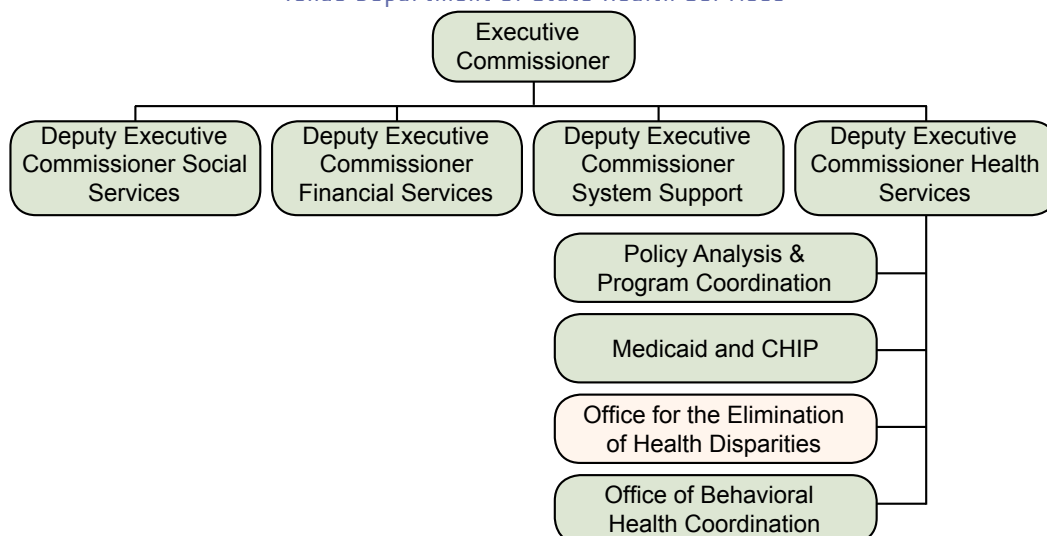
	Funding for MH/HD*	Personnel Dedicated to MH/HD	MH/HD Unit	MH/HD Advisory Body	State MH/HD Legislation or Mandate	MH/HD Strategic Plan	Evaluation of MH/HD Activities
Texas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total Affirmative Responses out of 46	30	38	36	36	27	36	39

* MH/HD - minority health/health disparities

Organization, Infrastructure and Resources

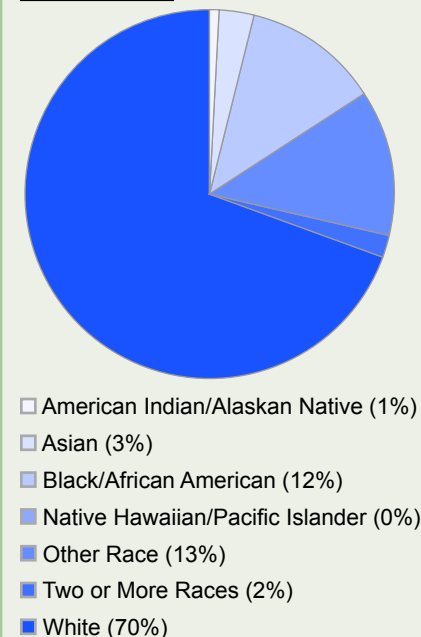
The following is a simplified organizational chart that demonstrates the location of the state's racial/ethnic minority health focal point in relation to the State/Territorial Health Official and other key public health offices:

Texas Department of State Health Services

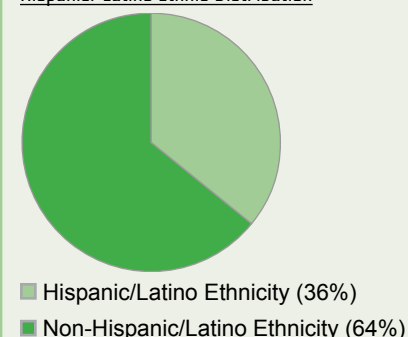


Total State Population:
23,507,783

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

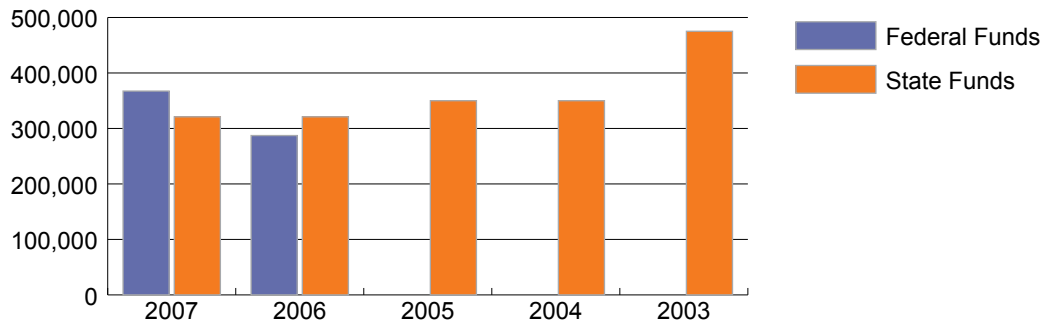
Strategic Planning

The DSHS addressed health disparities through a strategic goal for minority health/health disparities (MH/HD), which is part of the DSHS Strategic Plan:

Goal:	Reduce health disparities among special or underserved populations in Texas
Tracking Methods:	Number of internal and external partnerships to develop health disparities policies and programs; research and evaluation of health promotion and disease prevention program activities

Financial Investments

The DSHS reported an annual budget for minority health/health disparities (MH/HD) for fiscal years 2003-2007. This total may not include funding for specific activities related to MH/HD and may therefore be an underestimate of the total annual investment in MH/HD.



Human Capital Investments

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

Job Category	Total Number Dedicated to MH/HD	% of Work Hours Each Spends on MH/HD Activities
Administrator/Director	1	100%
Program Specialist	3	100%
Epidemiologist	1	30%

Activities

African American Summit on Health and Human Services

The biennial summit highlights and encourages participants to address health and related issues affecting African American Texans and develop strategies for health and human service provision to African-American Texans.

Partners

OMH/USDHHS, State of Texas, Texas State Legislature, private organizations

Activity Outcomes

Identification of key health issues, barriers and recommendations regarding African-American Texans; increased awareness regarding health disparities

Evaluation Methods

Conference evaluation tool designed by OEHD/DSHS, follow-up interviews, tracking of plans and partnering on activities resulting from the conference

Partnerships

- DSHS leadership consults with an external Health Disparities Task Force that advises leadership on MH/HD issues and efforts in the state.
- MH/HD activities are conducted and coordinated across many DSHS program offices.
- DSHS maintains partnerships with an array of external entities active in MH/HD including: local health departments, local government, tribal government, other state government agencies, health departments in other states, federal government, independent MH/HD advisory bodies, community-based and non-profit and faith-based organizations, corporations, health systems, foundations, schools, universities, professional associations, clinical networks and the media.

Texas State Partnership to Address and Eliminate Health Disparities (TPAHD)

This five-year project works to reduce health disparities by strengthening relationships between health professionals, academic institutions, communities, legislators and other partners, to determine evidence-based MH/HD policy and prevention program strategies. The TPAHD collaborative will also contribute to the development of statewide health disparities initiatives and provide expertise, mentorship and consultation on MH/HD through seminars, educational materials, policy and programs. TPAHD will establish principles and guidelines for cultural competency and propose solutions for building infrastructure and interface between collaborating institutions and organizations. TPAHD is expected to enhance the public health program capacity of DSHS and its ability to conduct research, which will lead to innovative strategies for reducing health disparities in Texas. TPAHD efforts focus on three core areas: 1) conducting needs assessments to determine barriers to public health and health care services and potential solutions; 2) enhancing and supporting community-based collaboration to recommend, test, inform and reform MH/HD strategies; and 3) create and support a process for diffusion of technical assistance regarding health disparities information, research and strategies. In addition, TPAHD will develop a project evaluation plan to assess planning, process and program development. To further ensure outcomes and provide guidance, DSHS contracts with an external evaluator to assess the process, determine the effectiveness of proposed interventions/policies, and estimate TPAHD impacts on health disparities in Texas.

Partners (and Funding)

Office of Minority Health/US Department of Health and Human Services (OMH/USDHHS)(\$800,000); Health Disparities Education, Awareness, Research & Training (HDEART) Consortium; Texas Health Institute; University of Texas - MD Anderson Cancer Center, Health Science Center at Houston, Medical Branch at Galveston, Health Science Center at San Antonio and Health Center at Tyler; Rice University; Prairie View University College of Nursing; Texas A & M University; Texas Southern University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences; Texas Women's University Health Science Center; Baylor College of Medicine; Texas Tech University Health Science Center; Lee College; South Florida A & M University; Deakey Veteran Administration Hospital; City of Houston's Department of Health & Human Services; and over 100 other academic and health organizations

Activity Outcomes

TPAHD will provide opportunities to develop collaborations with organizations and institutions that conduct health disparities research and work with populations affected by health disparities as well as conduct research in a coordinated effort that facilitates testing and application of evidence-based interventions.

Evaluation Methods

Objectives evaluated by monitoring progress benchmarks and the success of the program as a whole. Benchmarks include process and outcome indicators. Direct measures of program activity will provide an indirect measure of the potential impact of the project on health disparities issues identified in the TPAHD assessment.

Regional MH/HD Health Service Coordinators

The OEHD coordinates MH/HD issues and activities with its regional staff in the state's eleven health service regions, and provides financial and technical resources to support and direct their work in addressing health disparities. The many regional MH/HD projects include coalition building, community outreach and education awareness activities on public health issues disproportionately affecting racial/ethnic minority populations in Texas.

Partners

OMH/USDHHS, TPAHD Consortium, State of Texas, DSHS regional staff and community coalitions

Activity Outcomes

Guidance for designing future interventions and for planning and implementing regional projects in subsequent years

Evaluation Methods

Needs assessments, partnership development, population-specific focus groups, dialogue sessions, pre- and post-intervention surveys and tests, monitoring and evaluation of health surveillance data over time for target populations, tracking of MH/HD health indicators

Activities continued...

Health Disparities Index

This Index (HDI) monitors progress toward eliminating health gaps in Texas through the collection of baseline data across the TPAHD coalition, and through public health indicators from state databases that provide an overall picture of health. Current data are presented by race and ethnicity to describe health status gaps; the HDI will enable the coalition to identify all causes that affect health disparities. The HDI initiative was also designed to stimulate research on reducing health disparities through the integration of methodologies for future collection of demographic, social and other data known to contribute to health disparities.

Partners

OMH/USDHHS, State of Texas, TPAHD Consortium, HDEART and the Texas Health Institute

Activity Outcomes

The project is in early stages of implementation and

Evaluation Methods

The HDI initiative incorporates a community-based participatory research model designed to involve community stakeholders in identifying effective and efficient solutions to health disparities. The HDI project is guided by community participatory principles and will grow out of recommendations and goals identified by communities. A multidisciplinary approach will be employed to address the many factors believed to contribute to health disparities.

Health Disparities Learning Lunch Series

The Learning Lunch Series is professional training on MH/HD “best practices”, evidence-based interventions and policies for DSHS staff. Nineteen (19) events had been held between October 2005 and September 2007. Attendance has been high among staff from local and county health and human service agencies and universities. Certificates of attendance are awarded to those who attend at least six sessions. Those who attend all eleven sessions will have the opportunity to attend a health disparities conference each year. Educational materials and information shared at the Learning Lunches is being collected and will be used to create a resource manual accessible to anyone.

Partners

OMH/USDHHS and the State of Texas

Activity Outcomes

Increased education and awareness regarding health disparities among public health stakeholders, application of evidence-based interventions to address racial/ethnic health disparities.

Evaluation Methods

Evaluation forms for learning lunch attendees

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

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