

### History

The Wisconsin Minority Health Program (MHP) was established in 1999 to coordinate racial/ethnic minority health and health disparities (MH/HD) activities across the Department.

### Health Priorities

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) has identified the following health priorities for the people of Wisconsin, one of which focuses specifically on eliminating health disparities:

Health Priorities for the General Population
Eliminate health disparities
Promote and protect health for all
Transform Wisconsin's public health system

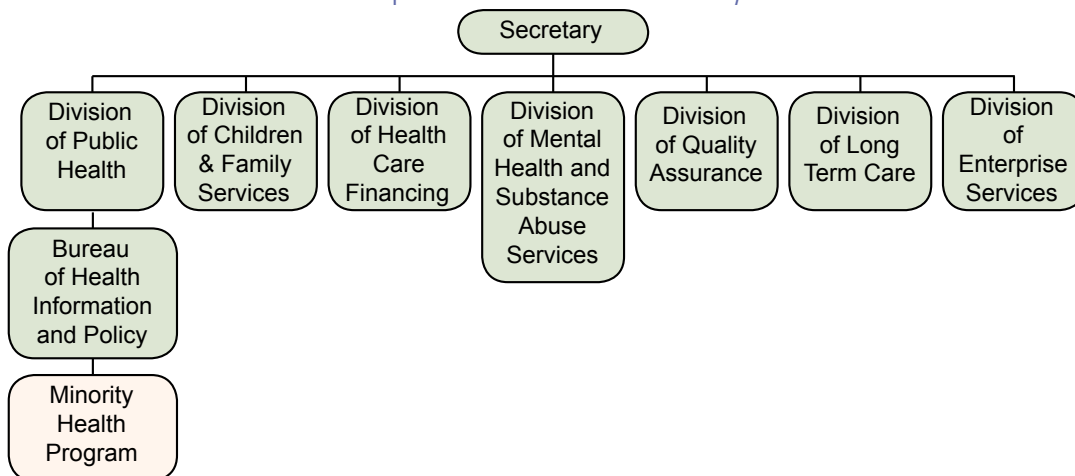
### Overview

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

### Organization, Infrastructure and Resources

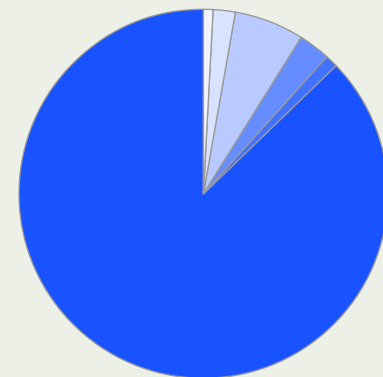
The following is a simplified organizational chart that demonstrates the location of the state's racial/ethnic minority health focal point in relation to the State/Territorial Health Official and other key public health offices:

#### Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services



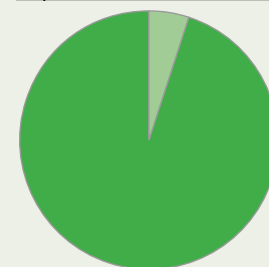
Total State Population:  
18,089,889

Racial Distribution



- American Indian/Alaskan Native (1%)
- Asian (2%)
- Black/African American (6%)
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (0%)
- Other Race (3%)
- Two or More Races (1%)
- White (88%)

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

## Strategic Planning

Elimination of health disparities is the driving force behind the Wisconsin Minority Health Program. It is also an overarching goal of Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 (the State Health Plan). The Minority Health Program ensures that this goal is reinforced.

**Goal:** Improve access to culturally and linguistically competent systems of care  
**Objective:** Increase the infrastructure and capacity of the Minority Health Program to address minority health issues, enhance coordination and communication with internal and external partners

**Goal:** Foster complete and accurate health status data and surveillance of minority populations  
**Objective:** Increase the availability, analysis, and dissemination of racial/ethnic health data to monitor and evaluate progress toward eliminating health disparities through systematic and standardized health indicator data reports and evaluation tools

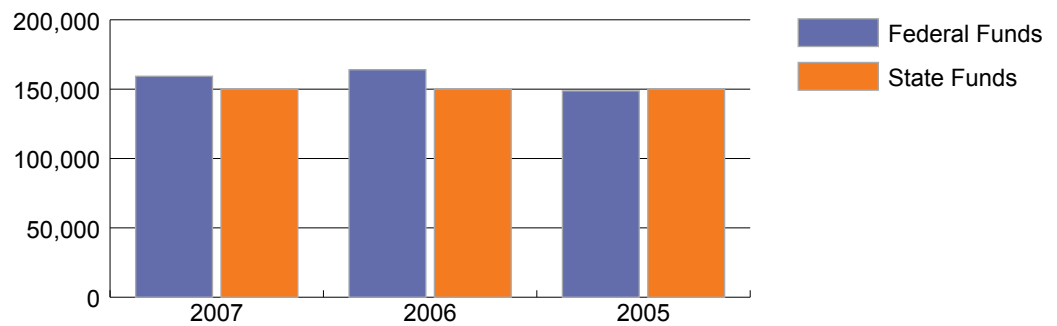
**Goal:** Recommend and implement strategies to eliminate health disparities in Wisconsin  
**Objective:** Develop policy recommendations based on a strategic state health disparities plan that will result in state priorities for program activities and funding

### Partnerships

- The DHFS consults with the external Minority Health Leadership Council on MH/HD issues.
- DHFS maintains partnerships with an array of entities active in MH/HD including: local health departments, tribal government, other state government agencies, federal government, MH/HD advisory bodies, community-based and non-profit organizations, health systems, schools and universities.

## Financial Investments

DHFS reported annual investments in racial/ethnic minority health and health disparities (MH/HD) for 2005 through 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 activities at the DHFS:

Job Category	Total Number Dedicated to MH/HD	% of Work Hours Each Spends on MH/HD Activities
Administrator/Director	1	100%
Policy or Program Officer	2	50%
Administrative/Clerical Staff	1	50%

## Activities

### Minority Health Mini-Grant Program

The MHP has partnered with other divisions and offices in the DHFS since 1999 to provide funding for health needs in racial/ethnic minorities in Wisconsin that would otherwise go unaddressed. Funding is on a yearly basis, and is used to meet specific, demonstrated health needs.

#### Partners and Funding

\$100,000/year from MHP and matching funds from grantees

#### Activity Outcomes

Funding has met stated health needs that were previously unaddressed in underserved communities, but it is often inadequate to meet long-term health needs.

#### Evaluation Methods

Grantee reports

### Beloit African American Infant Mortality Coalition

The coalition formed to reduce the high incidence of low-birth weight babies and infant mortality that was occurring among African Americans in the city of Beloit. The coalition produces education and outreach materials on healthy birth outcomes for African Americans and conducts an annual infant health fair in Beloit.

#### Partners and Funding

Regional DHFS office (MHP and MCH staff), Rock County Health Department, UW Extension, Infant Death Center of Wisconsin, Beloit College, Memorial Hospital (clinic and Head Start Program)

#### Activity Outcomes

Attendees reported the fair to be educational and planned to share what they had learned with others in their community. Attendees also reported intentions to make changes in their lifestyles to promote healthy births and healthy babies.

#### Evaluation Methods

Post-event surveys regarding attitudes and behaviors that affect healthy birth outcomes; feedback was used to plan improvements for the next annual fair.

### Milwaukee Alliance for Sexual Health

Starting in 2006, the DHFS Division of Public Health and a coalition of partners began planning a city-wide effort to combat teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) that disproportionately affect African-American adolescents in Milwaukee. The alliance seeks to identify unmet systems-level needs for STD/pregnancy prevention services for this population, and potential resources and strategies to meet those needs.

#### Partners

DHFS Division of Public Health, City of Milwaukee Health Department, Health Care Education Training, Inc, New Concepts Self-Development Center, Medical College of Wisconsin

#### Activity Outcomes

Development of partnerships to reduce unplanned pregnancy and STDs among the city's African-American teens, a best practices inventory to guide funding allocations and program planning, engagement of community stakeholders in needs assessments and activity planning

#### Evaluation Methods

Completion of key products in project plan, community needs assessment, epidemiological profiles, literature reviews

## Activities continued...

### Healthy Birth Outcomes: Eliminating Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities

This five-year project promotes state and local coordination and action to improve birth outcomes for racial/ethnic minority communities through the development and implementation of effective, evidence-based strategies that reduce premature birth, low birth weight and infant death. Although the program focuses particularly on healthy births for African Americans, it is intended to reduce disparities in birth outcomes for all racial/ethnic minority communities in the state.

#### Partners and Funding

\$1.3 million in FY 08-09 for a Medicaid Managed Care Pay-for-Performance incentive to improve birth outcomes, reduce infant mortality and eliminate racial/ethnic disparities in birth outcomes; Federal Title V and MHP programs (\$150,000); Tobacco (\$50,000) and MHP (\$50,000) program funds for social marketing campaign

#### Activity Outcomes

Increase awareness and gain agenda status regarding disparities in birth outcomes for racial/ethnic minorities, identify and apply evidence-based strategies and methods that support healthy birth outcomes for minority communities, improve programs and services to achieve reductions in premature birth, low birth weight and infant death for state's minority communities

#### Evaluation Methods

Focus groups: community, program and outcome performance measures; evaluations of the Medicaid Prenatal Care Coordination Benefit and Milwaukee Home Visiting Programs

### Minority Health Leadership Council

The Minority Health Leadership Council was formed in 2007 to serve as an advisory body to the leadership of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Governor and State Legislature on racial/ethnic minority health and well-being in the state. The Council will also provide input regarding the development of strategies, goals and program activities for the Wisconsin Minority Health Program.

#### Partners and Funding

State Partnership Grant funding from the Office of Minority Health (OMH) at the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); DHFS division and offices, racial/ethnic minority community partners and representatives

#### Activity Outcomes

The Council formed in 2007; no results had been produced to at the time of the survey.

#### Evaluation Methods

The Council was in a formative phase of development.

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

#### **Minority Health Officer**

Minority Health Program

Bureau of Health Information and Policy

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/health/MinorityHealth/Report.htm>

Phone: (608) 266-1512