

Functions of State Offices of Minority Health

A common goal of state Offices of Minority Health is to support reduction and elimination of disparities in health and health care, achievement of health equity, and insurance of high quality cultural competence standards. Offices of Minority Health carry out the ten essential public health services in order to serve racial, ethnic, and underserved communities as well as tribal organizations and nations. Some examples of activities include the following:

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community problems.

- Review and report data that describes the health status of specific groups disproportionately at higher risk than the total population for disease and injury.
- Assess and review the health care workforce in terms of its effectiveness in serving and meeting the needs of communities.
- Identify existing systemic barriers to quality public health and health care delivery
- Provide information on health status, access, utilization, costs, and outcomes



2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and hazards.

- Assist with investigation of disease outbreaks and patterns of chronic disease and injury (specific subgroups) disproportionately at higher risk than the total population.

3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.

- Ensure development of culturally and linguistically appropriate health education/health promotion education, materials, and marketing campaigns.
- Facilitate assessment and evaluation of health promotion/education strategies tailored for communities.



4. Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve health problems.

- Engage communities in planning, development, evaluation of health promotion/education messages and programs



5. Develop policies and plans that support community health efforts.

- Develop public health policies that are culturally and linguistically appropriate based on monitoring health status and needs.
- Develop mechanisms by which public health programs and service resources are allocated based on multiple data sources.
- Establish strategies and measurable objectives (as a component of quality improvement) to ensure the health needs and perspectives of underserved populations are integrated into all domains of public health service systems.

Functions of State Offices of Minority Health

6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

- Support appropriate standards to ensure underserved communities have clean air and water, and are free of environmental hazards which can result in preventable injury and exposure-related disease.



7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

- Provide information and support regarding data, best practice programs, program planning, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Provide information and expertise regarding emerging health needs of minority populations.
- Provide technical assistance to groups (i.e., faith community, companies, interagency task forces, workgroups) in developing health promotion/disease prevention programs tailored to minority populations.

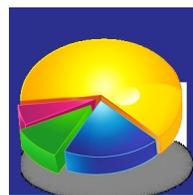


8. Assure a competent public health workforce.

- Develop strategies to promote on-going training of public health workforce with skills and competencies needed to deliver services to minority populations.

9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of public health services.

- Promote research methods and evaluation practices that address health needs and disparities among population groups.
- Support community-based research as a strategy to evaluate the impact of public health programs and services.
- Establish measurable objectives to link disparities reduction/elimination outcomes with public health goals and objectives.



10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

- Develop linkages with appropriate and actively engaged health disparities researchers to conduct public health evaluations and other needed public health services research for minority populations.
- Support efforts to conduct high quality and mutually beneficial minority health, health disparity, and cultural competence research.

References

National Association of State Offices of Minority Health (NASOMH) "State Offices Of Minority Health Core Functions Guidance"

