Office Of Health Disparities, Legislative Report 2018

Mandate
Utah Code Title 26, Chapter 7, Section 2

Mission
To advance health equity and reduce health disparities in Utah

Director
Dulce A. Diez, MPH, MCHES  ddiez@utah.gov  (801) 703-0064
www.health.utah.gov/disparities

PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to Utah Department of Health (DOH) Programs and Other Partners

Assistance with creating databases to better track and follow-up with participants
- Creating a REDCap database for the transfer of referrals from International Rescue Committee (IRC) dental screenings to Roseman University Dental School for completed dental care.
- Creating a REDCap database for Communities United (CU).
- Creating a REDCap database for data entry and storage for data from the Utah Department of Health, Family Dental Plan school-based sealant program.
- Standardize the data collection for the school-based sealant program in Utah for Big Smiles.

Assistance with interpretation
- Interpretation equipment provided for 115 users attending health conferences and focus groups.
- Medical-related telephone interpretation: 32 users of DOH Family Dental Clinic.

Assistance defining target populations and target areas
- To the University of Utah, Wellness Bus.
- To Seal Your Smile (a school-based, nationwide, dental care initiative).

Assistance in developing surveys/questionnaires
- For the Southern Utah Pacific Islander Coalition.

Support for grant application
- DOH – Arthritis Program, EPICC Program, BeWise Program.
- Communities United – RWJF Culture of Health Award.

COLLABORATING with DOH, Local Health Department Programs, and Other Agencies

In collaboration with the DOH Maternal and Infant Health Program
- Write the health disparities section of the Infant Mortality Report.

In collaboration with the DOH Bureau of Health Promotion
- Ongoing - Development of a measure (the Health Improvement Index or HII) to assess geographic disparities and better tailor public health interventions to the needs of communities by geographic areas.
- Ongoing - Coordination of the community health workers work group.

In collaboration with the DOH, Office of Public Assessment
- Improve the collection of racial/ethnic granular data in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

In collaboration with the Salt Lake County Health Department
- Applied for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) grant. Grant was approved but not funded.

In collaboration with the Utah Library Association
- Ongoing - Develop a resource toolkit for health literacy.

In collaboration with the city of South Salt Lake and Fortis College
- Coordinate dental screenings and dental services for residents.

In collaboration with The Children’s Center
- With OHD’s guidance, the center adopted the Cultural and Linguistic Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards Framework. OHD also provided an initial CLAS assessment.
LINKING Underserved Communities to Medical and Dental Care

Out of 1,046 people served during this year in our Bridging Communities and Clinics Project

- 68% had a household income of less than $25,000/year
- 70% had an education of high school or less
- 62% had no health insurance
- 17% had visited the emergency room within the last year

DISSEMINATING Utah Specific Health Disparities Information

Reports

- January 2018 - Addressing Oral Health Disparities in Urban Settings: A Strategic Approach to Advance Access to Oral Health Care. This white paper outlines efforts to increase access to oral health care services in urban settings by addressing the social determinants of health.
- August 2018 - Cross-Cultural Education and Training: Oral Health Education Institutions in Utah. This report provides the results of a survey of oral health education institutions in Utah and serves as baseline data of the cross-cultural curricula within those institutions.
- September 2018 - Seal Your Smile: A Step Toward Combatting Oral Health Disparities in Utah. This report provides the findings of a newly developed school-based sealant program conducted in schools on Salt Lake City's west side.

Website and Online Newsletter

- This fiscal year, our website averaged 5,861 visits, with the highest volume in May 2018 of 7,947 views.
- Our newsletter is sent monthly to nearly 300 community partners with an average of nearly 80% total open rate in the last year.
- You Tube views as of July 31, 2018 = 26,952.
- Launched It Takes a Village: Giving Our Babies the Best Chance (ITAV website), the first nationwide health promotion program that addresses birth outcomes disparities among Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders (NHPI) in the context of NHPI cultural beliefs and practices.

Statewide Presentations

- Utah Public Health Association Conference (March 2018)
- Hispanic Health Care Taskforce Conference (April 2018)
- Utah Language Access Conference (May 2018)
- Intermountain Health Care Cultural Competency Conference (May 2018)
- Binational Health Week Conference (October 2018)

Nationwide Presentations

- April 26, 2018, national webinar—Strategies for Building and Strengthening the Community Health Worker Effort in Your Area: A Case Study from Utah. Webinar done in collaboration with the Bureau of Health Promotion.
- June 12, 2018, national webinar—Addressing Oral Health Disparities in Utah.
- November 8, 2018, national webinar—It Takes a Village: Addressing Birth Outcomes Disparities in Utah’s Hawaiian Natives/Pacific Islander Communities.