

2012 Legislative Report

Mission

To reduce health disparities in Utah and to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations as defined by socio-economic status, race/ethnicity, geography, as well as other populations identified to be at-risk for health disparities.

Mandate

Utah Code Title 26 Chapter 7 Section 2

Strategies

Partnerships & Collaboration

Develop and support partnerships and collaborations among public, nonprofit and private entities to increase awareness and drive action in efforts to reduce health disparities and achieve health equity.

Data & Research

Ensure the availability, coordination, utilization and diffusion of data and research identifying and focusing on populations with health disparities.

Outreach & Media

Serve as a clearinghouse in Utah to increase awareness of health disparities and to disseminate health education materials and resources.

Cultural & Linguistic Competency

Improve cultural competency of the health-related workforce and public health agencies and increase access to health promotion messages among limited English proficient individuals.

The reach of OHD is expanding.

	Project Initiation	Current Status
Quarterly Web Views	3,085	19,379
Partnerships and Collaborations	26	77
Multilingual Library Languages	24	50

Meeting the Challenge to Reduce Health Disparities

Case: Utah Pacific Islander Infant Health

Problem

Utah infants of Pacific Islander race have a death rate that is about twice as high as other Utah infants.

Action

Utah Pacific Islander Study

OHD conducted a statewide surveillance study of Utah Pacific Islander health, the first study addressing mainland Pacific Islanders in the United States. New research methods and data from the study will be disseminated nationwide through a peer-reviewed journal (the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice).

Pacific Islander Perspectives Assessment

OHD collaborated with Community Health Centers Inc. to assess barriers to prenatal care, breastfeeding and maternal health and obtain recommendations for health outreach.

For Me, For Us: Videos

OHD created informational health videos featuring local Pacific Islander Utahns. The Utah Pacific Islander videos have been viewed online more than 10,000 times and also shared in DVD format by local agencies. (Other videos in the series were created for other Utah population groups.)

For Me, For Us: Bridging Communities and Clinics

OHD partnered with local clinics to screen Utahns for health problems and initiate treatment. Of approximately 800 people screened, about 100 were Pacific Islanders.

Community Outreach Mini-Grants

OHD funded Utah Pacific Islander organizations to educate their own communities through support groups, faith-based initiatives, case management, and health promotion activities.

Progress

Indicator	Baseline	Post Data	Objective
Early Prenatal Care	48.1%	54.0%	>52.9% Accomplished
Obesity During Pregnancy	39.5%	32.0%	<35.5% Accomplished
Women 18-44 Taking Folic Acid	31.8%	51.2%	>35.0% Accomplished