2013 Legislative Report

Preventing Infant Death
OHD successfully addressed the infant mortality problem among the two Utah racial groups with the highest infant mortality rates, reducing the African American/Black infant mortality rate from 8.4/1,000 births in 2004-2007 to 7.6/1,000 in 2008-2011 and reducing the Pacific Islander infant mortality rate by nearly half, from 7.4/1,000 births in 2004-2007 to 3.6/1,000 in 2008-2011. Strategies included the first-ever statewide surveillance study of Pacific Islanders in the continental United States, new health promotion videos in English, Samoan, and Tongan featuring African American and Pacific Islander Utahns, and culturally appropriate health promotion and health care referral programs implemented in partnership with ethnic community-based organizations.

Infant mortality
Infant mortality among Pacific Islanders in Utah dropped dramatically in the most recent four-year period.

Rate per 1,000 population

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islanders</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
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Source: Utah Department of Health
The Salt Lake Tribune

For Me For Us Videos
7 videos, 4 languages. Minority Utahns share health tips.
>18,000 views

Health in 3D Video
OHD’s newest video for Utah health professionals.
>500 views

Website & Blog
Multilingual library, disparities news, local/ethnic data.
>67,000 views/year

For Me For Us Videos
See youtube.com/user/DisparitiesUtah and health.utah.gov/disparities

Nationally Recognized Success
OHD and its staff have been recognized for establishing best practices by the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, the National Academy for State Health Policy, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the University Health Consortium and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Utah’s OHD is one of only 22 state offices to win a federal State Partnership Grant for the next two years. Of states funded previously, 24 were not refunded and about half of the funded states received a funding reduction. In contrast, Utah OHD was funded at the same annual level of funding as previously: $130,000/year.

Mission
To reduce health disparities in Utah and to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations as defined by socioeconomic 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