



New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services



Office of Minority And Multicultural Health

Linda Holmes, Executive Director



Addressing Health Disparities in New Jersey



OMMH Background

In September 1990, the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services Office of Minority Health was established under executive order.





OMMMH Background

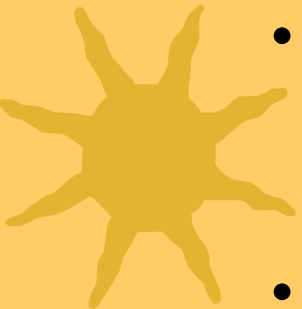
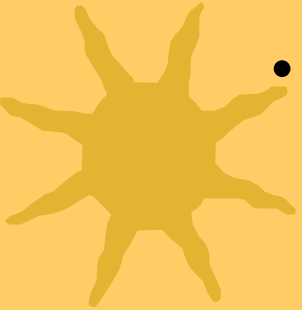
- In January 1992, legislation creating the office was passed and signed into law.
- In 2001, an amended bill was signed, renaming the Office of Minority Health to the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health.





OMMH Background

- The OMMH convened three summits between 2000 and 2002 that examined the health of African American, Latino and Asian American populations in New Jersey.
- Reports were issued after each of these summits, giving recommendations for improving the health of minorities in NJ.
- Based on the summits, the OMMH identified several crosscutting issues that affect all New Jersey minorities.





OMMH Background

Crosscutting issues:

- Need to be more specific in **data** collection when focusing on race/ethnic groups.
- Need to develop and support **cultural competency** training programs for health care providers.
- Need to develop strategies that increase **access to care** for NJ minorities
- Need to increase the numbers of minorities entering **health care professions**



Legislation



Cultural Competency



Recent legislation (bill signing S144, March 23, 2005) requires that NJ physicians have cultural competency training in order to be licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners.





Legislation

Disparities Plan

Recent legislation (bill signing 655, September 1, 2004) established the Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative in the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health.





Legislation



Disparities Plan – Target Disease Areas:

- ★ Asthma
- ★ Infant Mortality
- ★ Breast, Cervical, Prostate & Colorectal Cancer Screening
- ★ HIV/AIDS
- ★ Immunizations
- ★ Diabetes



DHSS Initiatives

Disparities Plan

OMMH surveyed current departmental initiatives addressing health disparities.

- ★ Rapid HIV test - campaign targets minority women.
- ★ Infant mortality initiative targets minority babies.
- ★ Immunization for children and adults.
- ★ Refugee Health Program.
- ★ Update of the Healthy NJ 2010 report.





DHSS Initiatives

Division of Aging and Community Services

- The **Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshop** – this initiative provides weekly classes that educate seniors on managing chronic diseases.
 - This demonstration program currently focuses on two groups, one of which is an Asian Indian community-based group (Bridgewater, NJ).





DHSS Initiatives

Division of Family Health Services

- **WIC** provides supplemental nutrition to pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to age five.
- **(NJCEED)** NJ Cancer Education Early Detection, a program that provides screening mammograms, clinical breast examinations, Pap tests and pelvic examinations.





OMMH Areas of Focus

Data

- Most statistical agencies do not report health and demographic data by country of origin.
- New Jersey ranks fourth nationally among states with a large population of residents of Asian origin.





OMMH Areas of Focus

Data

- 14.5 percent of AAPI* in NJ reported not having health insurance in 2002, compared to 11.3 percent of whites.
- It is estimated that approximately 10 percent of AAPIs are diagnosed with diabetes, about 1.7 times higher than the general U.S. population (5.9 percent).
- Nationally, the rate of kidney failure due to diabetes in AAPIs (156 per million) is considerably higher than the rate among whites (79 per million).

*Asian American Pacific Islander



OMMH Areas of Focus

Data

- AAPIs are less likely than all U.S. adults to have had their cholesterol checked within the past five years and to have had their blood pressure measured within the past two years.
- Nationally, AAPI children aged 2-8 have substantially higher rates of untreated dental decay than all children in this age group.





OMMMH Areas of Focus

Data

- Young Asian women are less likely to perform a breast self examination and to receive a Pap test.
- Southeast Asian women have higher incidence rates of invasive cervical cancer than most other ethnic groups in the U.S.

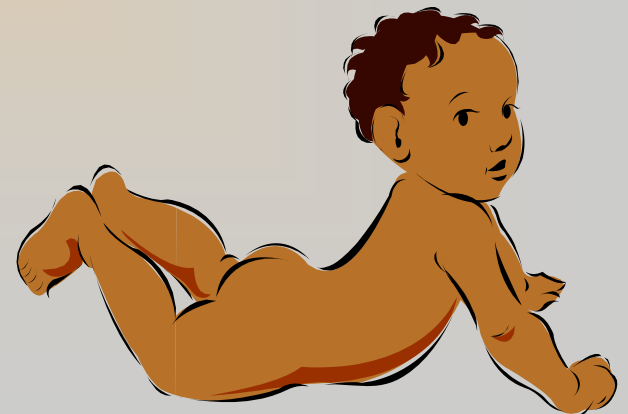




OMMH Areas of Focus

Data - Diabetes/Risk Factors in Pregnancy

- AAPI women have higher rates of diabetes as a medical risk factor of pregnancy than women of any other race.
- Of AAPIs residing in New Jersey, Asian Indian babies had the highest rate of low birth weight.

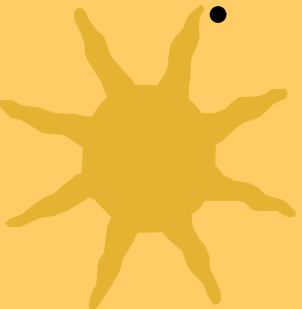
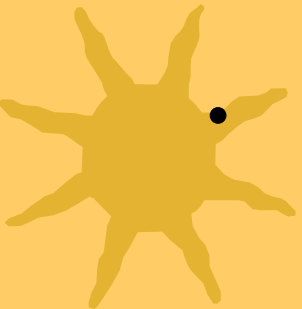
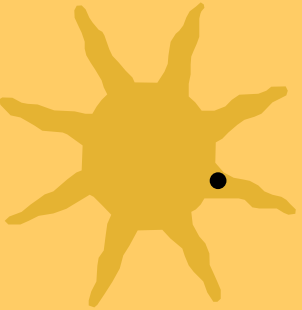




OMMH Areas of Focus

Data - the good news:

- In 2002 births, rates of chronic and pregnancy-associated hypertension were relatively low among Asian Indian mothers.
- Asian Indian mothers had early prenatal care rates over 80 percent.
- The crude death rate among AAPIs in New Jersey is much lower than the rate in the total population.





OMMH Areas of Focus

Access to Care - Grants

- First 3-year cycle (FYs 2002-05)
Ten grantees, including two faith-based projects
Disparity areas: Diabetes, Asthma, Cardiovascular Disease
- Second 3-year cycle (FYs 2005-08)
Five grantees
Disparity area: Diabetes





OMMH Areas of Focus

Access to Care – Quality of Care

- Programs provide outreach, education, screenings, referrals and links to community supports.
- Programs target immigrant populations and the uninsured.
- Outcome measures:
 - Linkages
 - Improvement in control
 - Follow-up care





OMMH Areas of Focus

Access to Care – Minorities in Health Care Professions Race/Ethnic Concordance

- OMMH supports the development of a scholarship guide to health careers for Latino students.
- OMMH hosts students from the Cook/Rutledge fellowship, a ten-week internship program for minority graduate students.
- OMMH supports health resource guides that highlight various minority health care professionals in NJ.



OMMH Areas of Focus

Cultural Competency

New Jersey is home to an increasingly diverse population.





OMMH Areas of Focus

Cultural Competency

- OMMH supports the development of specific culturally competent tools for addressing health. (e.g., cookbook, *Recipes for Healthy Living* was developed by an OMMH grantee)
- *Cross-cultural Medical Interpreter Project of the NJ Medical School* – a project that developed and standardized a cross-cultural curriculum to train volunteer medical interpreters for health facilities in NJ.





OMMH Areas of Focus

Cultural Competency

- OMMH commissioned Dr. Glenn Flores, assoc. professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin, to conduct a study focusing on those with limited English proficiency (LEP).
- Project findings:
 - NJ health care providers lack adequate interpretation and translation services.
 - This results in medical errors.



OMMH Areas of Focus

Cultural Competency

- Annually during the month of September, OMMH leads the state in celebrating **Minority and Multicultural Health Month.**
- Community and faith-based organizations as well as healthcare providers participate by sponsoring local events and activities.





Future Challenges

- Serving New Jersey's increasingly diverse population
- Improving data collection (Asian-American population—special statistical challenge)
- Implementing the Disparity Plan
- Increasing humanism in medical care
- Building coalitions with community & faith-based groups





NJ Department of Health and Senior Services
Office of Minority & Multicultural Health

Phone: (609) 292-6962

Fax: (609) 292-8713



<http://www.state.nj.us/health/commiss/omh/omh>



Richard J. Codey

Acting Governor

Fred M. Jacobs, MD, JD

Commissioner

