

Wisconsin Minority Health Program

In August 1999, the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) established the Minority Health Program in the Division of Public Health to work with government and community partners to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in Wisconsin. The Minority Health Program has four program goals:

- Enhance government and community awareness of minority health issues
- Recommend and implement strategies to eliminate health disparities
- Improve collection and reporting of minority health data
- Promote access to culturally and linguistically competent systems of care.

The Minority Health Program provides technical assistance and oversight of DHFS programs and initiatives, recommends distribution of program resources, and assists in developing policies to support the goal to eliminate health disparities in Wisconsin. In addition, the program educates government, private, academic, and community groups on current and emerging topics in minority health, health disparities, and culturally competent health care. Minority Health Program current priorities are as follows:

- Enhance the Minority Health Program Web pages as a clearinghouse for programs and strategies to eliminate health disparities.
- Monitor and report progress on goals and strategies for the Minority Health Program and the Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 state health plan to eliminate health disparities.
- Evaluate and report the impact of projects funded by the Minority Health Grant Program.
- Document progress on program priorities and strategies to eliminate health disparities on the Minority Health Program Web site at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/health/minorityhealth>.
- Increase the capacity and financial sustainability of the Minority Health Program.
- Increase the capacity of racial and ethnic communities to address health disparities.
- Increase the coordination, efficiency, communication and partnership with communities and public health programs.
- Increase the availability, analysis, and dissemination of racial/ethnic health data to monitor and evaluate progress toward the goal of eliminating health disparities.