

2019 Health Equity Report

Moving Health Equity Forward

Executive Summary

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) 2019 Health Equity Report, “Moving Health Equity Forward,” serves as the annual report on the department’s efforts to address racial and ethnic health disparities as required by Public Act 653. This legislation was passed by Michigan’s 93rd Legislature in 2006 and became effective in January 2007. It amends the Michigan Public Health Code (1978 PA 368; MCL Section 333.2227). (See Attachment A.)

Public Act (PA) 653 focuses on five racial, ethnic, and tribal populations in Michigan: African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Native American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, and Arab/Chaldean American. In accordance with this law, MDHHS has the responsibility to develop and implement a departmental structure to address racial and ethnic minority health disparities, establish minority health policy, promote workforce diversity, and implement various actions to advance health equity as specified in the provisions of the act.

The 2019 report presents data on minority health status and disparities including social determinants of health, morbidity, and mortality indicators with the highest Index of Disparity. This measure reflects how much variation or disparity exists in the population for an indicator. The report also includes a supplemental data brief on changes in health disparities from 2010 to 2017 (see data brief attached). Additionally, the report highlights evidence-based and promising practices being implemented throughout the department to address these disparities. Evidence-based and promising practices are based on scientific research and field experience, thus increasing the likelihood of success and more efficient use of resources.

Information was obtained through a department-wide survey along with follow-up communications with select program areas within MDHHS. Of those organizational areas that completed the department-wide survey:

- 50.8 percent implemented evidence-based strategies or promising practices to promote workforce development and diversity.
- 39 percent reported implementing evidence-based programs, activities, services, or promising practices to reduce disparities/advance equity.
- 37.3 percent implemented evidence-based strategies or promising practices

related to the delivery of culturally and linguistically appropriate programs and services.

- 30.5 percent implemented evidence-based programs, activities, services, or promising practices to address social determinants of health.
- 25.4 percent reported implementing evidence-based strategies or promising practices to increase equity awareness among health and social service providers.
- 25.4 percent implemented evidence-based strategies or promising practices related to collecting, analyzing, and reporting race and ethnicity data.
- 17.8 percent reported implementing policies to advance equity based on evidence-based or promising practices.
- 17.8 percent reported that they received, allocated, or redistributed funds to support equity-related evidence-based strategies or promising practices.

Evidence-based and promising practices highlighted in the 2019 report include:

- **Michigan’s State Innovation Model (SIM) Community Health Innovation Regions (CHIRs)** – A place-based, promising practice model for improving the well-being of a region and reducing unnecessary medical costs through collaboration and systems change.
- **Ottawa County’s Pathways to Better Health Program** – An initiative based on the research-tested Pathways to Better Health model that facilitates access to preventative care and early treatment by connecting at-risk individuals to services that support care plans and produce positive health outcomes.
- **ERACCE Training and Children’s Services Child Welfare Antiracism Team** – A partnership effort between the Office of Workforce Development and Training and the Children’s Services Administration to address the overrepresentation of children of color in the child welfare system.
- **Pathways to Potential** – An innovative approach to providing human services which places MDHHS caseworkers, called success coaches, in schools and local venues to assist students and families with removing barriers and connecting them to community services so that they can become self-sufficient and find their pathway to success.
- **Michigan’s Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program** – A federally-funded, evidence-based initiative that provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to healthcare and social services for low to moderate income women and children who are at nutritional risk.

These efforts demonstrate how MDHHS is continuing to improve and expand its health and social equity work as it seeks to carry out the provisions of PA 653 and move equity forward in Michigan.