Working Towards Addressing Women’s Health Disparities in Arizona

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Defining Disparities

The term “racial and ethnic health disparities” is an umbrella term that includes disparities in health and disparities in health care.

**Disparities in health**: differences between two or more population groups in health outcomes and in the prevalence, incidence, or burden of disease, disability, injury, or death.

**Disparities in health care**: differences between two or more population groups in health care access, coverage, and quality of care, including differences in preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services.
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

The problem of racial and ethnic health disparities has been well documented, leading the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to make eliminating health disparities by 2010 a national goal.

However, recent threats to public health programs such as Medicaid and SCHIP (the State Children’s Health Insurance Program), changes in the Medicare program, and the growing number of uninsured racial and ethnic minorities make reducing and ultimately eliminating these disparities a challenging task.
Growth in Arizona Residents by Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/ethnic Group</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>% Increase from 1990-2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>110,524</td>
<td>187,507</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>688,338</td>
<td>1,527,388</td>
<td>122%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White non-Hispanic</td>
<td>2,607,633</td>
<td>3,922,026</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: ADHS, 2005*
Health Insurance for populations
Access to Healthcare Coverage


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>AZ</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Not sufficient data</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kaiser Family Foundation (http://www.statehealthfacts.org)
Use of Prenatal Care
Cervical Cancer Deaths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Deaths per 100,000 Female Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL GROUPS</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White non-Hispanic</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of deaths per 100,000 female population (age-adjusted to the 2000 standard)
Deaths from Diabetes

5-13 Diabetes

2005

- American Indian: 69.9
- Black: 55.2
- Hispanic: 46.0
- ALL GROUPS: 20.1
- Asian: 17.8
- White non-Hispanic: 15.5

Number of deaths per 100,000 population (age-adjusted to the 2000 standard)
Teen pregnancy more prevalent among Hispanic than ‘all groups’

Source: ADHS, 2005
Median age at death males vs. females

Source: ADHS, 2005
American Indian/Native American Health Disparities in Arizona

- Birth to Unwed Mothers – 73.1 per 100 births (41.9 all races)
- Birth to Teenage Mothers – 18.7 per 100 live births (all races 12.7)
- Incidence of Gonorrhea – 142.7 per 100,000 (70.1 all races)
- Incidence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome - 0.49 per 1,000 live births (all races 0.04)
American Indian/Native American Health Disparities in Arizona

- Incidence of Birth Defects – 1.6 per 100 births (all races 1.0)
- Incidence of Pregnancy Associated Hypertension – 54.4 per 1,000 births (all races 28.8)
- Incidence of Anemia During Pregnancy – 54.6 per 1,000 births (all races 21.7)
- Incidence of Diabetes During Pregnancy – 75.6 per 1,000 births (all races 24.5)

Source: ADHS Health Status Profile of American Indians in Arizona 2004 Data Book
Arizona Health Disparities Center

**Mission:**
To promote and protect the health and well being of the minority and vulnerable populations of Arizona by enhancing the capacity of the public health system to effectively serve these populations and reduce health disparities.

**Vision:** Health equity for all
We envision a state where each person has equal opportunity to prevent and overcome disease and live a healthier and longer life.
Social Determinants of Health

Disparities in health represent a complex interplay of behavioral, environmental, social, economic, access to care, and historical factors.
Barriers to Health Care

- Lack of insurance coverage
- Rural health infrastructure limitations
- Provider shortages
- Cultural Competence
  - Language barriers
  - Providers may lack understanding of cultural beliefs, concerns, practices.
- Other access issues
  - Lack of transportation
  - Inability to access childcare
Select women’s health priorities identified based on AZ Maternal Child Health Needs Assessment 2005

- Reduce teen pregnancy and increase women’s access to reproductive health services
- Reduce obesity and overweight among women and children
- Reduce preventable infant mortality
- Increase access to prenatal care among the underserved
- Integrate mental health with general health care

Source: ADHS, 2005
What is Arizona doing to Address Women’s Health and Health Disparities?

*Well, we are just scratching the surface—but working to enhance each of these existing initiatives*

- Well-Woman Health Check
- Healthy Weight Action Learning Collaborative
- County Prenatal Block Grants
- Community Health Block Grant
- Health Start Program
- STEPS Program
- Domestic Violence Program
- Baby Arizona
- Women’s Health Week
What is Arizona doing?

Women’s Health Resource Guide

- Health Tips
- Routine health exams & screening
- Toll free information lines
  - Cancer screening
  - Domestic violence
  - Parent education
  - Health insurance
- WIC
Governor’s Commission on the Health Status of Women and Families in Arizona

**Goals**

- Increase access to health care for the women of Arizona
- Improve the health and well-being of women in Arizona
- Reduce the teen pregnancy rate in Arizona
- Increase prenatal care and pre-conception care for Women in Arizona
Governor’s Commission on the Health Status of Women and Families in Arizona

Activities

- Collaboration with Arizona Department of Health Services on National Women’s Health Week

- Developed Interagency Workgroup on Teen Pregnancy and STD Prevention to address youth served by state agencies

- Worked with various state agencies to revitalize the Baby Arizona Program
The Arizona Health Disparities Center works in conjunction with these initiatives to ensure strategies to address health disparities are incorporated into program goals and performance measures. Elements of this support include:

- Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services Standards training
- Strategic Planning and Policy Development Assistance
- Links to community groups, organizations, and nontraditional partners
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ten Focal Areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient preferences, utilization, and adherence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient culture &amp; lifestyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulations, policies, systems of care</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

“The real challenge lies not in debating whether disparities exist……..

But in developing and implementing strategies to reduce and eliminate them”