

2013-2014 Latino/Hispanic Health Equity Initiative

Achieving Health Equity Through Education, Collaboration and Action

Health disparities are differences in the rates of disease and health status among groups of people. Health inequities result when disparities or differences are combined with conditions that are unfair, unjust and avoidable.¹ Where we live, work and play define the social determinants of health.

Despite steady improvement in the overall health in the United States, **racial and ethnic minorities** are disproportionately impacted by health disparities. They experience a lower quality of health services, are less likely to receive routine medical procedures and have higher rates of morbidity and mortality than non-minorities.³

Approximately 52 million Latinos/Hispanics live in the United States (US), representing 16.7% of the total US population, making people of Latino/Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or race minority. An estimated 19.6 million individuals reside in NYS of which 3.5 million (18.2%) identify as Latino/Hispanic.⁴ As a racial/ethnic minority Latinos/Hispanics from different countries and communities continue to show a higher incidence and prevalence rates of chronic and degenerative conditions when compared to other racial/ethnic groups.

Most health disparities impact populations defined by socioeconomic status, age, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, geographic location or a combination of these factors.²

- Latinos/Hispanics are 30 percent more likely to visit the hospital for asthma, as compared to non-Hispanic Whites. Hispanic children are 40 percent more likely to die from asthma, as compared to non-Hispanic Whites.⁵
- Mexican Americans are twice as likely as non-Hispanic whites to be diagnosed with diabetes; have higher rates of end-stage renal disease, caused by diabetes, and are 50% more likely to die from diabetes as non-Hispanic whites.⁶

"Individuals' health and well-being should not be negatively affected by their race, ethnicity or the community in which they live. Differences in the health of New Yorkers due to these factors are unacceptable. Addressing health disparities and improving public health services for minority populations are key priorities of the Department. Our goal is to assure every New Yorker has access to high-quality health care services."

*Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner*

- Both Hispanic men and women are twice as likely to have, and to die from, liver cancer.⁷
- Hispanic Americans accounted for 20% of all HIV infection cases in 2011. Hispanic men are 2.5 times and Hispanic women twice as likely to die from HIV/AIDS than Whites.⁸
- In 2010, 23.2% of elementary and high school students were Hispanic, but only 6.2% of college students were Hispanic.⁹

Latino/Hispanic Health Equity Initiative

In the fall of 2013 the NYSDOH AIDS Institute in partnership with the United States Health and Human Services, Region II, convened seven regional forums throughout New York State. The forums provided an opportunity for community stakeholders to identify key challenges to living healthy and provided input on the needs, gaps and barriers to addressing health disparities in the Latino/Hispanic community. The forums facilitated partnership building and collaboration; shared existing resources to address health disparities; and promoted discussion on the development of regional community action plans. The main topics of interest

were 1) health and cultural competency; 2) the health of vulnerable Latino subpopulations; and 3) health education, literacy, and communication. This information will be used as a platform to guide the

discussion of the symposium plenary and concurrent breakout sessions that will be held.

In order to effectively and efficiently address health disparities within the Latino/Hispanic community, partnerships must be created with individuals and organizations within and beyond the public health sector. The NYSDOH, AI believes that wide gaps in minority health can be reduced through collaboration with medical and public health communities, corporate entities, academia, elected officials, consumer advocacy organizations and others through cooperative planning, networking and action. As such, the symposium will convene and engage over 200 allies from the national, state, local levels and diverse disciplines who are actively involved in health equity initiatives and/or committed to addressing health disparities in their communities.

Purpose and Goals

A one day Latino/Hispanic Symposium entitled: *Achieving Health Equity Through Education, Collaboration and Action* will be held on May 16, 2014. The symposium will be part of the NYSDOH's continued response to address racial and ethnic health disparities and will further efforts to impact the disproportionate effect on Latinos/Hispanics in NYS. Using a three-tiered approach, participants of the Symposium will be offered opportunities for: 1) Education; 2) Skills Building; and 3) Collaboration and Networking. Lastly, woven throughout the day will be opportunities to engage in various discussions about best practices and lessons learned. The goals of the symposium are to:

- ✓ Increase participant understanding of social, economic and political factors that cause health inequities;
- ✓ Provide information on major disease prevention and health promotion challenges facing Latinos/Hispanics and potential solutions to those challenges;
- ✓ Learn about core competencies necessary for culturally and linguistic appropriate prevention, education and models of care;
- ✓ Review specific tools that can aid in addressing health inequities in New York State; and
- ✓ Further the development of collaborative partnerships among symposium participants to maximize regional stakeholder participation in the implementation of Community Action Plans.



Event Information

The day-long symposium will feature expert speakers, panel presentations and interactive concurrent workshops. The event will commence with a Regional Stakeholder Exchange to be held the evening of May 15, 2014.

May 15, 2014 - May 16, 2014
Hilton Albany
Albany, New York

A partnership of the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention and United States Department of Health and Human Services, Region II

¹⁻² National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, Health Equity Council- Health Equity Survey, 2010

³ American Medical Association - <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/public-health/eliminating-health-disparities.page>

⁴ 2013 United States Census Bureau: State & County QuickFacts

⁵⁻⁷ US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health Data/Statistics Hispanic/Latino Profile <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov>

⁸ CDC 2013. HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnoses of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2011,

⁹ CDC Office of Minority Health & Health Equity (OMHHE) <http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/populations/REMP/hispanic.html#Stats>