

**Regional Celebration:
HHS Action Plan to Reduce
Racial and Ethnic Health
Disparities and National
Stakeholder Strategy for
Achieving Health Equity**

**Satellite Conference and Live Webcast
Friday, August 26, 2011
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Central Time**

**Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division**

Faculty

**Captain Arlene Lester, DDS, MPH
Regional Minority Health Consultant
United States Public Health Service**

Health Disparities

- While the overall health of most Americans has improved over time, differences in health for racial, ethnic, and other vulnerable communities have persisted over the years

Health Disparities

- Some Americans experience poorer health and can expect to live 20 years less than others based on where they live, their race, their education, or their income

Definition

- A health disparity is a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage

Definition

- Health disparities adversely affect people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion

Economic Burden of Health Inequities

Findings for Study Period of 2003-2006

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Eliminating health disparities for minorities would have reduced direct medical care expenditures | \$1.24 trillion |
| Direct medical care expenditures for African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics – excess costs due to health inequalities | \$229.4 billion |
| Eliminating health inequalities for minorities would have reduced indirect costs associated with illness and premature death | 30.6% |
| Eliminating health inequalities for minorities would have reduced indirect costs associated with illness and premature death | \$1 trillion |

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies (Researchers and authors: LeVeist, Gaskin, Richard)

Definition

- Health equity is attainment of the highest level of health for all people
- Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and healthcare disparities

NPA: A New Approach

| Before | Now |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Siloed | Coordinated <i>Works with public, private, and non-profit organizations at the local, state, tribal, and federal level</i> |
| Health-issue based | Comprehensive <i>Moves beyond controlling disease and addresses the social factors that are the root cause of poor health</i> |
| Led by the health sector | Multi-sector <i>Requires action and commitment from many sectors, including housing, employment, education, transportation, environment, as well as health</i> |
| Community-driven | Community-driven <i>Collaborates with those on the frontlines; builds on and expands existing programs</i> |

NPA Vision: Every American...

- Is aware of health risks and opportunities to prevent/reduce them
- Has affordable access to health care that is culturally and linguistically appropriate
- Receives coordinated, timely health care

NPA Vision: Every American...

- Has access to health information and benefits from research advances
- Grows up in a safe environment with good schools and access to employment opportunities to promote healthy lifestyles

NPA Mission

- Increase the effectiveness of programs that target the elimination of health disparities through the coordination of partners, leaders, and stakeholders committed to action

NPA Goals

- **Awareness**
 - Increase the awareness of disparities, the impact on the nation, and actions needed to combat the problem
- **Leadership**
 - Strengthen and broaden leadership to address disparities

NPA Goals

- **Health System and Life Experience**
 - Improve health outcomes for racial, ethnic, and underserved populations
- **Cultural and Linguistic Competency**
 - Improve cultural, linguistic competency and diversifying the health workforce

NPA Goals

- **Data, Research, and Evaluation**
 - Improve the availability and diffusion of data and research on disparities

NPA Purpose and Components

- **Purpose**
 - Establish a nationwide, comprehensive, community-driven, sustained approach to ending health disparities

NPA Purpose and Components

- **Components**
 - National Stakeholder Strategy, Blueprints for Action, Coordinated initiatives and campaigns

National Stakeholder Strategy

- **Input from thousands of individuals and organizations**
- **Comprehensive, community-driven approach to achieving health equity through partnerships**
- **Common set of goals and strategies**
- **Stakeholders identify/use strategies most important for their communities**



**Working together, we can reduce
health disparities, achieve health
equity, and create a healthier,
stronger nation.**

www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa