

## OFFICE OF HEALTH DISPARITIES LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2018

**Mandate** Utah Code Title 26, Chapter 7, Section 2  
**Mission** To advance health equity and reduce health disparities in Utah  
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[www.health.utah.gov/disparities](http://www.health.utah.gov/disparities)

### PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to Utah Department of Health (DOH) Programs and Other Partners

**Assistance with creating databases** to better track and follow-up with participants

- Creating a REDCap database for the transfer of referrals from *International Rescue Committee* (IRC) dental screenings to *Roseman University Dental School* for completed dental care.
- Creating a REDCap database for *Communities United (CU)*.
- Creating a REDCap database for data entry and storage for data from the *Utah Department of Health, Family Dental Plan* school-based sealant program.
- Standardize the data collection for the school-based sealant program in Utah for *Big Smiles*.

#### Assistance with interpretation

- Interpretation equipment provided for 115 users attending health conferences and focus groups.
- Medical-related telephone interpretation: 32 users of DOH Family Dental Clinic.

#### Assistance defining target populations and target areas

- To the University of Utah, Wellness Bus.
- To *Seal Your Smile* (a school-based, nationwide, dental care initiative).

#### Assistance in developing surveys/questionnaires

- For the Southern Utah Pacific Islander Coalition.

#### Support for grant application

- DOH – Arthritis Program, EPICC Program, BeWise Program.
- Communities United – RWJF Culture of Health Award.

### COLLABORATING with DOH, Local Health Department Programs, and Other Agencies

#### In collaboration with the DOH Maternal and Infant Health Program

- Write the health disparities section of the Infant Mortality Report.

#### In collaboration with the DOH Bureau of Health Promotion

- Ongoing - Development of a measure (the Health Improvement Index or HII) to assess geographic disparities and better tailor public health interventions to the needs of communities by geographic areas.
- Ongoing - Coordination of the community health workers work group.

#### In collaboration with the DOH, Office of Public Assessment

- Improve the collection of racial/ethnic granular data in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

#### In collaboration with the Salt Lake County Health Department

- Applied for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) grant. Grant was approved but not funded.

#### In collaboration with the Utah Library Association

- Ongoing - Develop a resource toolkit for health literacy.

#### In collaboration with the city of South Salt Lake and Fortis College

- Coordinate dental screenings and dental services for residents.

#### In collaboration with The Children's Center

- With OHD's guidance, the center adopted the Cultural and Linguistic Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards Framework. OHD also provided an initial CLAS assessment.

## LINKING Underserved Communities to Medical and Dental Care

Out of 1,046 people served during this year in our *Bridging Communities and Clinics* Project

- 68% had a household income of less than \$25,000/year
- 70% had an education of high school or less
- 62% had no health insurance
- 17% had visited the emergency room within the last year

## DISSEMINATING Utah Specific Health Disparities Information

### Reports

- January 2018 - [Addressing Oral Health Disparities in Urban Settings: A Strategic Approach to Advance Access to Oral Health Care](#) This white paper outlines efforts to increase access to oral health care services in urban settings by addressing the social determinants of health.
- August 2018 - [Cross-Cultural Education and Training: Oral Health Education Institutions in Utah](#) This report provides the results of a survey of oral health education institutions in Utah and serves as baseline data of the cross-cultural curricula within those institutions.
- September 2018 - [Seal Your Smile: A Step Toward Combatting Oral Health Disparities in Utah](#) This report provides the findings of a newly developed school-based sealant program conducted in schools on Salt Lake City's west side.

### Website and Online Newsletter

- This fiscal year, our website averaged 5,861 visits, with the highest volume in May 2018 of 7,947 views.
- Our newsletter is sent monthly to nearly 300 community partners with an average of nearly 80% total open rate in the last year.
- You Tube views as of July 31, 2018 = 26,952.
- Launched *It Takes a Village: Giving Our Babies the Best Chance* ([ITAV website](#)), the first nationwide health promotion program that addresses birth outcomes disparities among Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders (NHPI) in the context of NHPI cultural beliefs and practices.

### Statewide Presentations

- Utah Public Health Association Conference (March 2018)
- Hispanic Health Care Taskforce Conference (April 2018)
- Utah Language Access Conference (May 2018)
- Intermountain Health Care Cultural Competency Conference (May 2018)
- Binational Health Week Conference (October 2018)

### Nationwide Presentations

- April 26, 2018, national webinar—*Strategies for Building and Strengthening the Community Health Worker Effort in Your Area: A Case Study from Utah*. Webinar done in collaboration with the Bureau of Health Promotion.
- June 12, 2018, national webinar—*Addressing Oral Health Disparities in Utah*.
- November 8, 2018, national webinar—*It Takes a Village: Addressing Birth Outcomes Disparities in Utah's Hawaiian Natives/Pacific Islander Communities*.
- November 14, 2018, American Public Health Association, San Diego, CA. *It Takes a Village: Addressing Birth Outcomes Disparities in Utah's Hawaiian Natives/Pacific Islander Communities*.