



HB309/SB565-Public Health Data of 2021: An Update

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Background



- ▶ HB309/SB565 of 2021 requires that Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities shall (OMHHD) in coordination with Maryland Health Care Commission ...
 - Submit a plan that reflects the State's current goals and implementations to eliminate minority health disparities.
 - Submit plans to:
 1. Improve the collection of health data that includes race and ethnicity;
 2. Ensure that the OMHHD has access to up-to-date race and ethnicity information;
 3. Enable the posting of health data that includes race and ethnicity information on the Office's website; and
 4. Update the data on the Office's website at least once every 6 months.

Project Approach



Development of a Vulnerable Populations Questionnaire – 25 questions

Questionnaire Administration

- ▶ Labor intensive process
 - MHCC established the equivalence of a call center for the survey
 - Multiple opportunities to submit with escalating ‘encouragement’ from MDH and MHCC leadership
 - Local health departments proved especially challenging due to leadership changes in some counties and several extensions on reporting issued
- ▶ The survey tool supported real-time data analysis which enabled ongoing technical assistance

Program Summaries and Findings

- ▶ Over 150 MDH respondents/ 405 programs
- ▶ Organizing the results
 - State Integrated Health Improvement Strategy objectives
 - Programs by Jurisdiction

Recommendations



- ▶ Recommendation#1: Invest in the infrastructure for standardized collection of race and ethnicity information at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) program level. Implementation of this strategy must include the following components:
 - An effective communication strategy to ensure all MDH units are aware of expectations
 - An electronic data collection tool for MDH units to report process and performance metrics and eventually health outcomes by Race/Ethnicity by program, on an annual basis.
 - An inventory of MDH programs that target the needs of vulnerable populations stratified with race/ethnicity information. Post the inventory on state website for assessment by consumers, advocates and other stakeholders who work toward health equity
 - Reinforce the principle that health equity is the responsibility of all units within MDH. OMHHD is the coordinating agency for state efforts

Recommendations (cont'd)



- ▶ Recommendation #2: Investigate tools for measuring/assessing social determinants of health (SDOH) as it relates to health outcomes to inform efforts to address and/or eliminate health disparities
- ▶ Recommendation #3: Require collection of race/ethnicity data in the current Health Occupations Boards license/certificate application and renewal process and support the infrastructure to enable sharing of the racial and ethnic background of health professionals among MDH units including the OMHHD for the annual Health care Disparities Report Card
- ▶ Recommendation # 4: Collaborate with the newly established Health Equity Commission established under the Shirley Nathan Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021 to guide this process

Next Steps



- ▶ Share the Draft Report with MDH leadership for approval
- ▶ MDH/OMHHD will submit Final Report to General Assembly
- ▶ Continue to support development of the Statewide HD Program Inventory
- ▶ Collaborate with the new Health Equity Commission



Thank You