



OMH U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Office of Minority Health



**Presentation on HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic
Health Disparities
for National Vaccine Advisory Committee**

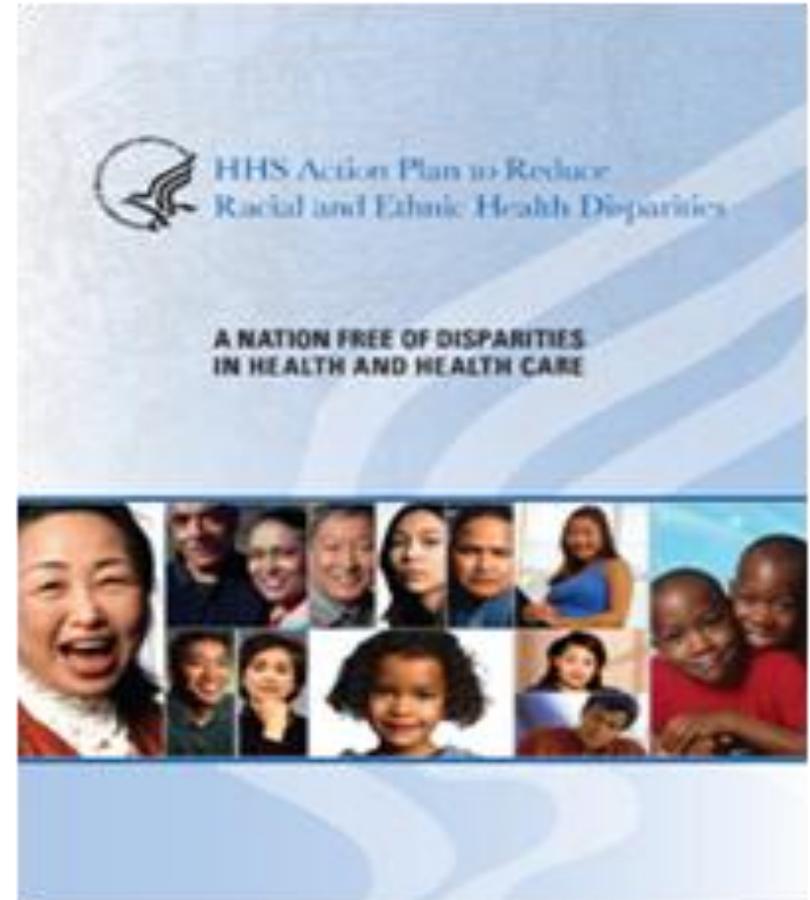
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U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

The overriding intent of the goals, strategies and actions in this plan is to generate national momentum toward health equity by aligning resources of HHS in focused efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.



A NATION FREE OF DISPARITIES IN
HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

What is the HHS Action Plan?

- **A Department-wide response and complement to the National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity**
- **First ever HHS Action Plan to reduce health disparities - builds on health disparity reduction provisions in the Affordable Care Act**
- **A set of Secretarial priorities, pragmatic strategies, and high-impact actions to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities**
- **A set of evidence-based approaches designed to achieve large-scale impact, and achieve Secretary Sebelius' strategic goals for the Department**
- **An HHS commitment to continuously assessing the impact of all policies and programs on racial and ethnic health disparities**

The Mission of the NPA

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

Goals of the NPA and National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity

1. **Awareness:** Increase the awareness of disparities, the impact on the nation, and actions needed to combat the problem
2. **Leadership:** Strengthen and broaden leadership to address disparities
3. **Health System and Life Experience:** Improve health outcomes for racial, ethnic, and underserved populations
4. **Cultural and Linguistic Competency:** Improve cultural and linguistic competency and diversity of the health related-workforce
5. **Data, Research, and Evaluation:** Improve the availability of data and diffusion of research/evaluation outcomes on disparity reduction

Overarching Secretarial Priorities for the Health Disparities Action Plan

- 1. Assess and heighten the impact of all HHS policies, programs, processes, and resource decisions to reduce health disparities.**
- 2. Increase the availability, quality, and use of data to improve the health of minority populations.**
- 3. Measure and provide incentives for better healthcare quality for minority populations.**
- 4. Monitor and evaluate the Department's success in implementing the HHS Disparities Action Plan**

Goal I - Transform Health Care

- A. Reduce disparities in health insurance coverage and access to care**
 - Increase and equalize the number of people with health insurance via Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, Health Insurance Exchanges, and other forms of health insurance

- B. Reduce disparities in access to primary care services and care coordination**
 - Increase and equalize the proportion of persons with a usual primary care provider

- C. Reduce disparities in the quality of health care**
 - Improve the quality of care provided to minorities in the Health Exchanges
 - Increase adoption of electronic health records to improve care for racial and ethnic minority communities through the Regional Extension Centers program

Goal II - Strengthen the Nation's Health and Human Services Workforce

- A. Increase the ability of all health professions and the health care system to identify and address racial and ethnic health disparities**
 - Support the advancement of translation services
 - Enhance Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services Standards

- B. Promote and increase the use of community health workers and Promotoras**

- C. Increase the diversity of the health care and public health workforce**
 - Increase the diversity and cultural competency of clinicians

Goal III - Advance the Health, Safety, and Well-Being of the American People

A. Increase the availability and effectiveness of community-based programs and policies

- Implement an education and outreach campaign regarding preventive benefits
- Implement targeted activities to reduce disparities in flu vaccination.

B. Conduct and evaluate pilot tests of health disparity impact assessments of selected proposed national policies and programs.

Action III.A.6 - Implement targeted activities to reduce disparities in flu vaccination.

- This initiative will improve vaccination rates in racial and ethnic minority communities. These activities, building on demonstration efforts in the 2010-2011 flu season, will include working with the private sector (pharmacy chains, health plans, and others), medical associations, community-based organizations, and state and local public health departments to increase the availability of flu vaccine and communicate a common set of messages about the seriousness of flu and the safety of the vaccine.
- Participants: NVPO, OMH, CDC, ACF, CMS, FDA, HRSA
- Timeline: Starting in FY 2011
- Measure: Percentage of people receiving seasonal influenza vaccination in the last 12 months – by race, ethnicity and income.

Goal IV – Advance Scientific Knowledge and Innovation

- A. Increase the availability and quality of data collected and reported**
 - Establish data standards and ensure federally supported programs and surveys collect and report data on race, ethnicity, gender, primary language and disability status per Sec. 4302 of the Affordable Care Act

- B. Conduct and support research to inform disparities reduction initiatives**
 - NIH will bring together various Federal Departments to promote greater collaboration, utilization, and dissemination of health disparities research results.
 - Develop, implement, and test strategies to increase the adoption and dissemination of patient-centered outcomes research.
 - Leverage regional variation research in search of replicable success in health disparities.

Goal V- Increase Efficiency, Transparency, and Accountability of HHS Programs

- **Streamline grants administration for health disparities funding**
- **Monitor and evaluate implementation of the HHS Strategic Action Plan**
 - **Goal-Level Monitoring and Surveillance**
 - **Strategy-Level Evaluation**
 - **Action-Level Monitoring**

Recommendations and Considerations

As the National Vaccine Advisory Committee:

- (1) recommends ways to encourage effective vaccination;**
- (2) recommends research priorities;**
- (3) advises on optimal prevention of infectious disease; and**
- (4) identifies important areas for public- private cooperation.**

Important Considerations from the HHS Health Disparities Action Plan:

- **HHS Action Plan responds to and complements National Stakeholder Strategy**
- **Secretarial Priority 1 – Heighten the impact of all HHS policies, programs, processes, and resource decisions to reduce health disparities**
- **Strategy I.B - Reduce disparities in access to primary care services**
- **Strategy II.A - Increase the ability of all health professions and the healthcare system to identify and address racial and ethnic health disparities.**
- **Strategy II.B - Promote the use of community health workers and Promotoras.**
- **Strategy III.A.6 - Targeted activities to reduce disparities in flu vaccination.**
- **Strategy IV.A.1 – Multifaceted health disparities data collection strategy**

NPA PLANS

Both plans available at <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov>

HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/files/Plans/HHS/HHS_Plan_complete.pdf

National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity

<http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/templates/content.aspx?lvl=1&lvlid=33&ID=286>

For Additional Information Contact Office of Minority Health at 240-453-2882