



Report Card on Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Joanne Fuller, Health Department Director

Julie Maher, Program Design & Evaluation

Rachael Banks, Healthy Birth Initiatives

Jessica Guernsey, Maternal & Child Health

Rujuta Gaonkar, Health Equity Initiative

Gerald Deloney, Coalition of Communities of Color

Suzanne Hansche, Oregon Health Equity Alliance

December 11, 2014

Health Department Mission and Vision

- **Mission:** In partnership with the communities we serve, the Health Department assures, promotes and protects the health of the people of Multnomah County
- **Vision:** Healthy people in healthy communities



Goal of the Presentation

- Present key findings from the Health Department's new report on health disparities in Multnomah County
- Provide information on the Health Department's role in efforts to reduce disparities
- Issue a call to action for County-wide efforts to reduce disparities



Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview of Report
- Community Response to Findings
- Legislative Action to Reduce Disparities
- Looking Ahead: Strategies for Future Efforts to Reduce Disparities
- Conclusion and Call to Action



Purpose of the Report

- To provide a comprehensive analysis of local racial and ethnic disparities in health and related factors
- To use results to inform a range of essential public health activities



Background

- First version of report to examine indicators of underlying causes of health outcomes
- Selection of indicators based on County Health Rankings framework



Source of graphic: Oregon Public Health Institute



Data Sources

- Existing Oregon data, such as:
 - Birth, death certificates
 - Population-based surveys
 - Reportable conditions, hospitalizations
- U.S. Census Bureau data



Limitations: Racial and Ethnic Data

- Analyses limited to four communities of color:
 - Black/African American, non-Latino
 - Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Latino
 - American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Latino
 - Latino
- Grouping together populations that are very different
- Limited in how we analyzed data for people identifying with more than one race



33 Indicators

- Physical environment
- Social and economic factors
- Health behaviors
- Clinical care
- Morbidity
- Mortality



Magnitude of Disparities

Compared to Non-Latino Whites

	Requires Intervention: At least 2 times higher
	Needs Improvement: 1.1 to 1.9 times higher
	Needs Improvement: At least 1.1 times higher; did not reach statistical significance, but consistent local trend or disparity at the state-level
	Geographic Disparity: At least 1.1. times higher
	No disparity detected
*	The community of color did significantly better
--	Not reported due to small numbers



Social and Economic Factors

INDICATORS	American			
	Black/AA	Asian/PI	Indian/AN	Latino
Children living in poverty	Dark Blue	Light Gray	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Children in single-parent household	Dark Blue	Light Gray	Light Blue	Light Blue
Third-grade reading standards	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue
High school graduation (4 yrs./cohort)	Light Blue	Light Gray *	Light Blue	Light Blue
Adults with high school education or less	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue
Unemployed, but seeking work	Dark Blue	Light Gray	Dark Blue	Light Blue



Results Summary

INDICATORS	American			
	Black/AA	Asian/PI	Indian/AN	Latino
Physical Environment	Grid	Grid	--	Grid
Social and Economic Factors	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue
	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue
	Light Blue	*	Light Blue	Dark Blue
	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue
Health Behaviors	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue
	Light Blue	Light Blue	Diagonal	Diagonal
	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue
Clinical Care	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
	Light Blue	Light Blue	--	Diagonal
Morbidity	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
	Light Blue	Light Blue	Diagonal	Light Blue
	Light Blue	Light Blue	Diagonal	*
	Light Blue	Light Blue	Diagonal	*
	Dark Blue	*	Light Blue	Light Blue
Mortality	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Diagonal	*
	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	*
	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	*
	Light Blue	Light Blue	Diagonal	*
	Dark Blue	Light Blue	--	Diagonal
	Light Blue	*	Light Blue	*
	Light Blue	*	Light Blue	*
	Light Blue	*	--	*
Light Blue	*	--	*	
Dark Blue	Diagonal	--	Dark Blue	



Strategies for Future Efforts to Reduce Disparities

- Prioritizing a commitment to authentic community engagement, partnership, and accountability
- Building the capacity of our local Board of Health to understand and act on health disparities
- Creating a Public Health Advisory Board to inform Health Department decisions
- Conducting a Community Health Improvement Plan focused on reducing disparities



Strategies for Future Efforts to Reduce Disparities: continued

- Applying the Equity and Empowerment Lens consistently to internal processes
- Prioritizing Health in All Policies efforts that reduce disparities
- Building up culturally-specific approaches to reduce disparities
- Increasing commitment to trauma-informed approaches
- Increasing investment in early childhood and adolescence among families of color and families living in poverty



Conclusion and Call to Action

- Disparities are **unacceptable** and **avoidable**
- Multnomah County Health Department is committed to taking action, but cannot do so alone
- The Multnomah County Chair, Board of County Commissioners and Department leadership must work together to use our collective power and influence to address disparities through sustained policy, practice and program changes

