



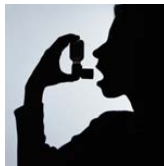
Diversity Committee

Federally Funded Programs that Address Health Disparities in Communities of Color

Communities of color disproportionately face negative health outcomes. Factors associated with adverse health outcomes are poverty, low educational attainment, racism, poor housing conditions, limited access to fresh produce, safe neighborhoods and affordable health care. These factors have led to persistently high **asthma**, **low birth weight**, **diabetes** and **HIV/AIDS** rates. However, federal funds have been allotted to address, lessen and ultimately, eliminate these health disparities, as outlined in *Healthy People 2010*.

ASTHMA

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Asthma Control Program supports the goals and objectives of *Healthy People 2010* for asthma. The goals of the program are to reduce the number of deaths,



hospitalizations, emergency department visits, school or work days missed, and limitations on activity resulting from asthma. To decrease the burden of asthma among children in inner city populations, CDC has collaborative agreements with seven communities (New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, Richmond, Oakland, St. Louis, and Minneapolis/ St. Paul). The CDC has also funded seven urban school districts (Albuquerque, Baltimore, Charlotte, Detroit, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Philadelphia) and one state education agency (Oregon) to develop and implement exemplary policies and programs to reduce asthma episodes and related absences. In addition to these state government efforts, the CDC has funded six national nongovernmental organizations (American Lung Association, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation, National Association of School Nurses, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Association of School Administrators) to support and address asthma education and management within a coordinated school health program. For updates on school-related asthma activities, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/asthma>.

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

Because low-income women are more likely to go without prenatal and perinatal care, and are thus at increased risk of experiencing low infant birthweight, premature delivery, and infant mortality, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program supplies supplemental food, health care referrals, and nutrition education to low-income women who are pregnant or postpartum (breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding); it also serves infants and children at "nutritional risk." WIC is a federally funded program administered through state grants. A wide variety of state and local organizations cooperate in providing benefits, and most state WIC programs provide recipients with vouchers that can be used at authorized food stores. Forty-six thousand merchants nationwide accept WIC vouchers. Designed to meet the special nutritional needs of low-income individuals who are at risk of inadequate nutrition during the critical periods of pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood, WIC is a supplemental nutrition program. For more information about WIC programs, check out <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/menu/whatis/whatis.htm>.



DIABETES

The California Diabetes Program (CDP) sponsored by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care. The intention of the pilot was to translate the findings of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) into the real world. A federally funded health center in California, La Clinica de la Raza was one of 5 in the nation selected to participate in this pilot. Persons with prediabetes seen at the health center were identified and encouraged to enroll in a lifestyle modification intervention (increased physical activity and dietary change) to help them lose weight and prevent or delay the onset of diabetes. The California Diabetes Program (CDP) is currently a member of the Diabetes Prevention Pilot (DPP) Collaborative Planning Group. Successful translation of the DPP interventions during this Pilot has provided a blueprint for a diabetes prevention collaborative to be initiated nationwide as part of the BPHC, HRSA Health



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Disparities Collaboratives. This Pilot began in November 2002 and concluded in November 2004. However, the pilot health centers continue their work in prediabetes and plans to spread this work to other federally funded health centers in the country is underway. For more information, please visit <http://www.healthdisparities.net>.

HIV/AIDS

Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers of New York has two federally funded programs, the Immigrant Program and the Airbridge program. Funded by Ryan White Titles II, the Immigrant Program provides comprehensive primary care and intensive case management services to HIV positive undocumented immigrants, refugees, or persons with tourist, work or student visas. The Airbridge Project is a state and federally-funded program which provides coordination of medical care and case management services for patients traveling between Puerto Rico and New York City. The services of this clinic cover pediatric to geriatric HIV, and include every member of the infected and/or affected family unit. These services are available in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. Go to <http://www.svcmc.org/hiv> for additional information on these programs.



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The vision of the **Diversity Committee** is to ensure the APHA Student Assembly puts forth a concerted effort towards the establishment of a diverse group of public health practitioners. The strategies necessary to accomplish our vision are twofold, which include, but are not limited to:

1. Recruitment and maintenance of a diverse PHSC student membership; and
2. Development and implementation of programs, initiatives and activities that address the multicultural competencies needed by future public health professionals.

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APHA STUDENT ASSEMBLY

MISSION

APHA-SA is a student-led national organization within APHA representing students of public health and other related disciplines. We are dedicated to enhancing students' professional development by providing resources, fostering diversity, and promoting opportunities.

VISION

To improve the future of public health by promoting excellence and the professional development of students in public health and related disciplines.

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For more information, please contact Michelle Silverio and Maranda Ward at diversity@phsc.org

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