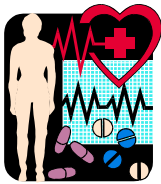




RHODE ISLAND

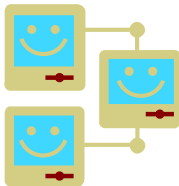
The **Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant** provides funding for health objectives in Rhode Island that range from hospital coalitions to work site wellness. PHHS Block Grant dollars fund five different Rhode Island health programs.

PHHS Block Grant allows Rhode Island to use funds **where** we need them, **when** we need them to protect the public's health. A large portion of the PHHS Block Grant funds are concentrated in health promotion programs and public health information and communication. Programs that serve our state's unique health needs through the PHHS Block Grant include:



Work Site Health Promotion Programs

The Work Site Wellness Program has the potential to reduce healthcare costs and absenteeism, increase productivity, and improve employee morale. The Work site Wellness Initiative in Rhode Island works with participating companies and organizations to provide health promotion information and interventions at the work site. To date, 25 companies or organizations have been certified by the Wellness Councils of America (WELCOA) as "well work places."



Health Data Systems

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to increase the proportion of Leading Health Indicator Objectives based on health risk behaviors for which data, especially for minority populations, are available and reported at the state level. All seven of the state's birthing hospitals are now online with the automated birth module of VR2000, which enhances the accuracy and speed of data collection and reporting activities in the Office of Vital Records.



The Rhode to Health Coalition

Physical activity and nutrition are both critical to the prevention of disease and promotion of health in our contemporary environment. PHHS Block Grant funds are used to support the Rhode to Health Coalition (RTHC), a collaboration of 15 non-federal hospitals in Rhode Island and the Department of Health. RTHC selected physical activity and overweight and obesity as its priorities and has developed and distributed thousands of health promotion materials such as stairway use prompts, fast food prompts, and healthy grocery lists.



Internet Health Information

PHHS Block Grant funds are used to accomplish several goals: increase public use of information on the HEALTH Web site by translating information into Spanish, conducting community education seminars, and expanding local media coverage; delivering Web-based emergency or alert content in a user-friendly and consistent interface format; and conducting community and professional training about health communications for the Internet. The Rhode Island HEALTH Web Query System, an online publicly accessible data system that provides custom-generated aggregate state health data to users through the HEALTH Web site, now includes the adult Behavioral Risk Factor Survey and the school-based Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Rhode Island Department of Health

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Fact Sheets Empower Rhode Island Health Practitioners to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

Issue:

As Rhode Island's population changes, so must its public healthcare system to keep up with these changes.

The population of Rhode Island is becoming increasingly diverse.

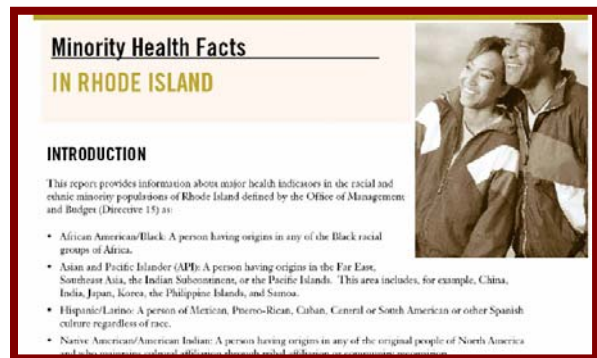
- From 1990 to 2000, Rhode Island's minority population increased by 77%, while the white (non-Hispanic) population decreased by 3%.
- 18% of the state's population is composed of racial or ethnic minority groups.
- In general, the median age of Rhode Island's minority population is lower than the median age for the overall state population (36.7 years), and a larger percentage of the minority population is over the age of 50 compared to the overall state population (70%).

Unfortunately, information about the health needs of these growing populations has not been made available. As a result, health practitioners are not reaching these groups because they lack culturally appropriate health information.

Intervention:

To make minority health data more accessible, the Office of Minority Health partnered with the Office of Health Statistics to create minority health fact sheets based on data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). These fact sheets were funded by the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant to raise awareness of the health status of minorities and to create programs to better meet their needs.

- Five fact sheets were created for each ethnic population as well and one was created for all populations.
- In December 2004, the fact sheets were printed and disseminated to healthcare providers, partners, and stakeholders.
- A PowerPoint presentation about the fact sheets has been presented at minority health conferences throughout the country.
- Throughout fiscal year 2005, the Rhode Island Department of Health promoted the use of these fact sheets as a resource and for community partners.



The Minority Health Fact Sheets are available at <http://www.health.ri.gov/chic/minority/fact.php>*

Impact:

In 2005, 1,000 sets of Minority Health Fact Sheets were provided to healthcare practitioners. The fact sheets, now available on the Rhode Island Department of Health's Web site, received an overwhelmingly positive response. Within two months—

- 170 African American fact sheets were downloaded.
- 133 Native American fact sheets were downloaded.

It is impossible to eliminate health disparities without accurately and effectively targeting the audience through culturally and linguistically appropriate messages. These fact sheets give community organizations and partners the information needed to create more effective programs to reach these populations.

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