



**Roundtable on Putting Population Health into Practice:
Three Case Studies**
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Name of project or collaborative

Changing the Narrative about What Creates Health – Essential Steps in Improving Population Health

Geography

State of Minnesota with Regional and National Implications

Brief description

The target population is all residents of the State of Minnesota with special emphasis on populations experiencing health inequities.

Health issue that is the focus of the initiative:

Recognizing that health is created mostly outside of the health care system, the focus of this initiative is how to effectively address the social determinants of health.

Main strategies used by the initiative:

- Community Health Needs Assessment focusing on the factors that create the opportunity to be healthy not just health problems.
- Community engagement through the Healthy Minnesota Partnership to establish vision, themes, indicators, and outcome objectives.
- Creation of a Healthy Minnesota 2020 framework that could be used by partners in all sectors.
- Publication of a report “Advancing Health Equity in Minnesota” for the Minnesota Legislature.
- Publication of a White Paper on Income and Health.
- Creation of teams focusing on “Narrative,” “Community Engagement,” and Health in All Policies.”
- Establishment of a Cabinet-Level committee on Health in All Policies.
- Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) established to address local policy, systems, and environmental changes that could impact social determinants of health.
- Creation of Accountable Communities for Health as part of our State Innovation Model (SIM) grant.

Partners in the initiative:

Multi-sector collaboration including health care, public health, education, business community, faith-based organizations, labor, housing, transportation, economic development, human services, corrections, commerce, agriculture, etc.

Time frame:

Initiated in 2011 and continues to the present.

Relevance of project to this breakout session

This initiative demonstrates the role of public health in helping create the conditions in which all people can be healthy and clarifies the role of policies, systems, and environments in addressing the social determinants of health. Embedding clinical care systems into a community framework shifts the responsibility for health to a community level and shifts the focus from payment for care to investments in health.

Results/outcomes

By focusing on the narrative about what creates health, more community agencies and groups are involved in a health in all policies approach. This has contributed to some statewide policy changes (same sex marriage law, anti-bullying law, minimum wage increase, women's economic development act, etc.), some local and private policy changes (smoke free campuses and apartments, complete streets ordinances, safe routes to school initiatives, farm to table efforts, Baby Friendly Hospitals, etc.), new Health in All Policies initiatives (Statewide Food Charter, substance abuse collaborative), and some objective health outcomes (decreasing rates of childhood obesity, increasing rates of breast feeding, decreasing rates of youth tobacco use, etc.) Hospitals, clinics, and health care systems have begun to better integrate their services with local and state public health initiatives (Million Hearts, SIM, Accountable Communities for Health, Health Care Homes, etc.).

Funding

Initiative is led by State Health Department using existing resources as a new way of doing business. Some state resources from Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) help support this effort along with some resources from SIM, CTG, and Prevention and Health Services Block grant.

Contact

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