



Youngstown Local Office on Minority Health

Round 2 – Continuing the
Conversations

Report to the Community 2016



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National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities



Table of Contents

I.	National Partnership to End Health Disparities (NPA)	p.4
II.	Youngstown Local Office on Minority Health (YLOMH)	p.5
III.	Round 1 Local Conversations in Synopsis – Timeline	p.6
IV.	Youngstown Health Disparity Reduction Plan	p.6-11
V.	Required Elements	p.12
VI.	Continuing the Local Conversations- Round Two	p.12
VII.	Local Conversation Questions	p.13
VIII.	Local Conversations Answers	p.14
IX.	2016 Where Are We Now?	p.15
X.	Racial and Ethnic Population Composition	p.16



The National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities

Spearheaded by the Office of Minority Health, the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA) was established to mobilize a national, comprehensive, community-driven, and sustained approach to combating health disparities and to move the nation forward in achieving health equity.

Through a series of Community Voices and Regional Conversation meetings, NPA sought input from community leaders and representatives from professional, business, government, and academic sectors to establish the priorities and goals for national action. The result is the *National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity*, a roadmap that provides a common set of goals and objectives for eliminating health disparities through cooperative and strategic actions of stakeholders around the country.

Concurrent with the NPA process, federal agencies coordinated governmental health disparity reduction planning through a Federal Interagency Health Equity Team, including representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and eleven other cabinet-level departments. The resulting product is the *HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, launched simultaneously with the NPA *National Stakeholder Strategy* in 2011. The HHS plan outlines goals, strategies, and actions. HHS will take to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities. Both documents can be found on the Office of Minority Health web page at <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/>.

Ohio's Response to the NPA

In support of the NPA, the Ohio Commission on Minority Health (OCMH), an autonomous state agency created in 1987 to address health disparities and improve the health of minority populations in Ohio, sponsored a statewide initiative to help guide health equity efforts at the local and state levels.

In Phase I of this initiative, OCMH sponsored a series of nineteen Local Conversations on Minority Health throughout the state. The purpose of these gatherings was to carry out community-wide discussions on local health disparities in which health needs could be identified and prioritized from the community's perspective, and strategies could be generated toward local action plans to address minority health needs. Sixteen of the Local Conversations were geographically-based and were held in the state's large and small urban regions. In addition, three statewide ethnic health coalitions convened ethnic-specific Local Conversations for Latino, Asian American, and Native American groups, which brought in representatives from these populations across the state.

In Phase II, the Local Conversations communities continued broad-based dialogues on health disparities and refined their local action plans. The Mahoning County Community Health Improvement Plan's Equity development in this document is a result of this process. The lead agency for the Local Conversations in Youngstown was the Youngstown Local Office on Minority Health (YLOMH).





Youngstown Local Office on Minority Health (YLOMH)

The YLOMH, the first of its kind in the Mahoning County, was established in 2008 as a division of the Youngstown City Health District (YCHD). Its mission is to provide leadership to reduce health inequities in minority communities of Youngstown and surrounding areas. The YLOMH has an important role in activating efforts to educate citizens and professionals on critical health care issues through the achievement of four Core Competencies:

- Monitor and report health status of minority populations
- Inform, educate and empower people
- Mobilize community partnerships and actions
- Develop policies and plans to support health efforts

YLOMH works closely with community-based organizations, health care and service providers, schools, business, churches and all those who affect the lives of people in our community.

Mission Statement: YLOMH, through collaboration and partnering with local health care stakeholders and community groups, promotes awareness, education, advocacy and support, and will lead the effort to reduce health care disparities in minority and underserved populations.

Vision Statement: Through capacity building, develop a strategic plan to overcome barriers and gaps to significantly decrease racial and ethnic disparities in Youngstown, Ohio.

Our Guiding Principle: We strongly endorse health equity as a right, not an oversight for the minority community. YLOMH is addressing this crisis as it affects the lives of African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and all ethnic groups.

Youngstown Local Minority Health Advisory Council (YLMHAC)

The YLOMH spearheads YLMHAC, a steering committee comprised of community stakeholders that meet monthly to guide the work of the local office. Any interested organization or individual that lives, works, services or worships in Youngstown and Mahoning County can be a part of the YLMHAC. This committee is charged with setting up opportunities within the community to address issues surrounding minority health including:

- Accessing racial/ethnic populations to service agencies/organizations
- Data collection and survey development
- Knowledge of and access to funding and grant opportunities
- Facilitating collaborative relationships with agencies that serve minority populations
- Acting as a sounding board to agencies and organizations on behalf of underserved populations
- Recommending speakers to discuss issues impacting targeted populations
- Coordination of a calendar of events for Minority Health Month (Youngstown/Mahoning County)
- Addressing health and social issues impacting racial, ethnic and underserved populations

Round 1 Local Conversations in Synopsis - Timeline

Phase 1

The local offices of minority health began to look at action planning in response to health disparities by hosting community local conversations. Youngstown held its initial conversation on October 15, 2008. The objective of this event was to identify and prioritize minority health needs in the community and prepare an action plan for response to health disparities in Youngstown. A total of 48 participants took part in the facilitated sessions in which they provided recommendations and implementable action steps for the Youngstown community. Twenty recommendations were generated through this process. Participants discussed needs related to:

- Services
- Resources
- Capacity Building
- Infrastructure

Phase 2

Youngstown Community Conversation invited the participants from Phase 1 back to review the information we collected to develop the action plan. The Health Disparity Reduction Plan is subdivided into the four focus areas (capacity building, infrastructure, resources, and services). Action steps are identified for each area, followed by strategies for completion and a statement of the intended outcome.

Youngstown Health Disparity Reduction Plan

Capacity Building

Action Step 1:

Increase the knowledge of professionals on cultural competency.

Strategies:

- Develop a cultural competency work force training model that can be adapted into organizations' policies and procedures manuals.
- Provide mandatory annual cultural competency trainings for staff with updates as needed.
- Implement the training using a hands-on approach along with written materials.

Intended Outcome:

Employers and employees provide culturally competent services to the community.

Action Step 2:

Promote community collaboration among all sectors (e.g., social service and other community-based agencies, faith-based, grassroots, coalitions, government, business and healthcare).

- Contact community people to work together on addressing social determinants of health issues.
- Agree on a date and time to meet.
- Conduct a community strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis.
- Analyze the results from the SWOT.
- Work on the implementation of the results from the SWOT analyses.





Intended Outcome:

Better communication among all sectors resulting in people being better informed, educated and empowered about services.

Action Step 3:

Provide assistance to community-based organizations (CBOs).

- Conduct workshops on specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-based (SMART) goal development.
- Provide assistance with budget writing and financial record keeping.
- Conduct training on how to locate evidence-based evaluated program models.
- Introduce techniques to help community based organizations (CBOs) collaborate.
- Provide beginner and intermediate grant writing workshops.

Intended Outcome:

Community-based organizations operating while fully meeting their needs.

Action Step 4:

Use multiple communication methods to aid the receiving community.

- Develop a unified website with community events posted.
- Provide bi-lingual printed information and a website that has the capacity to translate into other languages.
- Use social networks to inform and educate the public.
- Work to ensure that billboards posted in neighborhoods have positive messages that promote good, healthy lifestyles.
- Work to ensure that published materials are culturally appropriate.

Intended Outcome:

A community that is well informed.

Action Step 5:

Encourage capacity building within community.

- Advertise community block watch meeting dates.
- Educate consumers on how to advocate.
- Train residents on how to frame their issues to be effective when speaking in public.
- Provide culturally appropriate preventive health information to neighborhood residents.
- Continue regular conversations on minority health.

Intended Outcome:

Consumer development and implementation of community-based participatory projects.

Infrastructure

Action Step 1:

Increase access to services for underserved and underrepresented populations.

- Utilize public health to provide primary prevention and basic medical services to underserved and underrepresented populations.
- Locate community health check centers strategically in communities in need.
- Provide assistance for medical professionals to help them understand the third party medical reimbursement system.
- Educate consumers to help them understand medical benefit procedures.
- Provide health information published in plain language with relatable graphics for easier understanding of contents.

Intended Outcome:

The minority and underserved populations will have access to quality medical services.

Action Step 2:

Promote a healthy physical environment.

- Provide incentives to businesses within the inner-city to offer affordable, healthy, quality foods.
- Collaborate with city officials to effect zoning changes that will help neighborhoods be healthy and safe.
- Work to see that sidewalks and streets are repaired to accommodate bike riding and roller-skating. Build safe, well-lighted walking trails.
- Improve the safety and environmental quality of each neighborhood (e.g., air, soil, water, building materials and removal methods).
- Expand the public transportation system to include more routes.

Intended Outcome:

To provide an environment that fosters healthy lifestyles.

Action Step 3:

Work on eliminating economic barriers.

- Offer incentives for youth to stay in Youngstown after completing college.
- Advocate for interventions that address social and economic determinants of health.
- Develop and implement pipeline programs placed in city schools that will work with minority youth to improve their academics.
- Advocate for policy changes that make health care more flexible and focused on the consumer's needs.
- Advocate that when policies are written, their potential impact on people and communities is taken into account.

Intended Outcome:

Minority populations will have greater career opportunities in Youngstown.





Action Step 4:

Improve public awareness techniques on how people receive health services and information.

- Work to ensure that agencies and businesses utilize the Youngstown Office on Minority Health to inform the community.
- Develop and maintain a website designed to list community agencies and events.
- Utilize students in health care and health promotion to conduct community outreach.
- Increase awareness to the community about the SCHIP Program.
- Establish after-hour health clinics to decrease the burden on emergency rooms.

Intended Outcome:

A community more informed on health care.

Action Step 5:

Implement a strategic plan to address social determinants of health issues in Youngstown.

- Develop group guidelines to facilitate community discussions.
- Involve the community in town hall meetings to address social determinants of health in various locations.
- Invite local, state and federal officials to community meetings.
- Invite healthcare professionals and insurance providers to participate.

Intended Outcome:

To have the community collaboration and strategic plan implemented.

Resources

Action Step 1:

Create multi-purpose neighborhood wellness centers.

- Provide primary prevention services at multi-purpose wellness centers to stop the onset of problems and introduce healthy habits.
- Provide the centers with updated equipment and educational materials.
- Staff the centers with certified health educator instructors to work with the people.
- Provide wrap-around services helping people to become more self-sufficient.

Intended Outcome:

Centers located within the city providing services that will assist families with resources that will empower them to become self-sufficient.

Action Step 2:

Assess existing programs in the Youngstown community.

- Conduct an overview of what programs are currently available to the community.
- Inform the community of what resources are available to them.
- Conduct consumer-based participatory research studies throughout the city.
- Document the results from the study and inform the community of the findings.

Intended Outcome:

Consumers informed about community resources and increase collaboration.

Action Step 3:

Advocate for safe and accessible neighborhoods that foster healthy living.

- Provide safe trails for walking, biking and skating.
- Work with City Council to identify and repair streets' potholes and curb extensions and re-paint fading traffic lanes and crosswalks.
- Improve the green space by adding shrubs, plants, flowers and trees.
- Have positive, healthy messages advertised in neighborhoods.
- Increase night vision buy adding additional lighting and street signs with bolder printing.
- Implement neighborhood cleanup and have vacant land be used for community recreation, gardens or community sports.

Intended Outcome:

Ensure neighborhood safety to foster healthy lifestyles.

Action Step 4:

Promote community coordination between agencies, churches, schools and government programs.

- Develop a uniform data and evaluation system to monitor progress.
- Design a user-friendly system that can be utilized by all agencies to collect data.
- Develop planning teams to address health, land usage, education, transportation, policies and procedures regarding health.
- Provide current local level data that reflects the true needs of the city of Youngstown.
- Provide interpreter/translator services that will assist non-English speaking consumers.

Intended Outcome:

Community agencies will collaborate to address the holistic needs of the people.





Action Step 5:

To develop a cohesive community that fosters trust in the city of Youngstown.

- Increase sense of community through organized recreational events and neighbors knowing who lives in their neighborhoods.
- Educate people on the history of their neighborhoods.
- Engage the elderly to participate in city-wide events. Utilize their expertise on skills they have mastered during life.
- Generate dialogue on the importance of knowing your family health history.
- Provide city-sponsored events which involve elected officials and citizens.

Intended Outcome:

Community cohesion, trust and respect among citizens and elected officials.

Services

Action Step 1:

Place more emphasis on preventative healthcare measures.

- Provide early reproductive educational programs for male and female youth.
- Provide programs to address the unmet needs in the mental health, disabled and substance abuse population.
- Provide health educational classes for youth in pre-school through twelfth grade.
- Provide community re-entry programs that assist with medications and lifestyle adjustments.
- Redirect consumers to seek a primary care physician rather than receive medical care in the emergency room.

Intended Outcome:

To have a healthier and more informed community.

Action Step 2:

Allocate services strategically.

- Strategically place programs in areas where the need is.
- Improve self-help/support groups.
- Address the needs of childcare for working mothers.
- Have a centralized location which houses social service agencies.
- Utilize the City Health District for primary health care needs and prevention education.

Intended Outcome:

To have services that cover the basic needs of minority and underserved people in the community.

Required Elements

Activities during the Local Conversations FY 2016 included planning and hosting meetings. Planning meetings conducted by YLOMH included preparing and reviewing the Local Conversations 2011 report and working with the (YLMHAC) Youngstown Local Minority Health Advisory Council and the REEP (Research and Evaluation Enhancement Program) evaluator to design a survey. The survey was used as a point of focus to begin the conversation. Local Conversations 2016 occurred in the form of community forums/meetings. Sign-in sheets and evaluations were used as documentation and were provided to the OCMH in the quarterly and year-end reports.

Those who were welcome to participate in the conversation were community members, Local Conversation 2008 participants, community-based organizations and partners that reside in the Youngstown area.

Continuing the Local Conversations - Round 2

The Round 2 conversations focused on how the community as a whole responded to health disparities. Participants in the conversation reviewed the progress from goals set in 2011. The Youngstown Local Office on Minority Health (YLOMH) conducted a total of four community forums and one that surveyed staff from the Youngstown City Health District for a total of five conversations. These forums were comprised of community members from various populations and backgrounds within Youngstown, Ohio. There was representation from African American and Latino communities as well as various service providers and city employees. The YLOMH reached a total of 74 community members who participated in the conversation, and 51 community members completed the survey questionnaire through the five conversations. All community forums were free and open to the public, held in a public location and located in a handicap accessible facility.

Method

The focus of *Round 2 Continuing the Conversations* was to survey and address the health disparities affecting the minority population in the City of Youngstown. The participants that were given a survey answered questions that were generated from the goals that were set in the 2011 Conversation. Not everyone that was part of the conversation completed the survey. The survey was completed and used after the first two conversations had taken place. The questions for the survey were generated to see whether, in the five years since the publication of the initial Conversation, we have reached the specified goals.





2016 Survey Questions:

In the last five years.....

1. Local professionals who render services to the public do so while being respectful of race, sex, etc., in an appropriate manner.
2. I believe that there has been community partnership in culturally competent services between agencies, organizations and business that serve the public.
3. I feel that there is an acceptable amount of communication methods (newspapers, TV, websites, etc.) used to inform the community of resources and services.
4. I have opportunities to provide input into the services (health and social) that I receive.
5. I believe that minority populations have access to all services offered to the entire community.
6. The neighborhood environment in which I live or work encourages a healthy lifestyle.
7. Minorities can find quality healthcare coverage.
8. I agree that the public transportation system reaches all areas where resources and services are provided.
9. The public is well informed on where and how they can receive health services.
10. The community in which I live or work partners with local schools, churches, agencies and government programs.
11. I have trust in the health fairs, walks, speakers, etc. that the City of Youngstown or community partners offer to promote health to families in the city.
12. I am aware of preventative healthcare measures to reduce the likelihood of developing a chronic or serious disease.

All questions were on a scale from strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree to strongly agree.

2016 Survey Responses:

1. Local professionals who render services to the public do so while being respectful of race, sex, etc., in an appropriate manner.

SDA (7) DA (6) N(15) A (37) SA (2)*

2. I believe that there has been community partnership in culturally competent services between agencies, organizations and business that serve the public.

SDA (1) DA (4) N (26) A (14) SA (3)*

3. I feel that there is an acceptable amount of communication methods (newspapers, TV, websites, etc.) used to inform the community of resources and services.

SDA (7) DA (8) N (16) A (14) SA (2)*

4. I have opportunities to provide input into the services (health and social) that I receive.

SDA (4) DA (10) N (10) A (16) SA (16)*

5. I believe that minority populations have access to all services offered to the entire community.

SDA (5) DA (12) N (20) A (8) SA (4)*

6. The neighborhood environment in which I live or work encourages a healthy lifestyle.

SDA (2) DA (13) N (11) A (11) SA (8)*

7. Minorities can find quality healthcare coverage.

SDA (8) DA (11) N (13) A (11) SA (2)*

8. I agree that the public transportation system reaches all areas where resources and services are provided.

SDA (6) DA (14) N (15) A (8) SA (2)*

9. The public is well informed on where and how they can receive health services.

SDA (13) D (14) N (12) A (5) SA (2)*

10. The community in which I live or work partners with local schools, churches, agencies and government programs.

SDA (7) DA (13) N (12) A (11) SA (2)*

11. I have trust in the (health fairs, walks, speakers, etc.) that the City of Youngstown or community partners offer to promote health to families in the city.

SDA (4) DA (12) N (12) A (17) SA (2)*

12. I am aware of preventative healthcare measures to reduce the likelihood of developing a chronic or serious disease.

SDA (1) DA (7) N (6) A (20) SA (11)*

* Strongly Disagree (SDA), Disagree (DA), Neutral (N), Agree (A), Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A)





2016 Where Are We Now?

There has been measurable progress made toward the goals set in 2011. However, there is still a great deal more work to do according to the survey. There are a vast number of community members that are unfamiliar with the initiatives that have been set in place to address the goals set by the 2011 report. A great number of the initiatives are in their infancy and are being introduced to the community on an ongoing basis. It is this office's goal to increase knowledge and awareness of the resources available to the community as they present themselves.

Progress:

Capacity Building

- Annual Cultural Competency Training for YCHD Staff
- Collaboration among all sectors of the community addressing infant mortality
- Creating Racial Dialogue and Community Base Participatory projects
- Establishing evidence-based evaluated program models like Centering Pregnancy
- Integrating community-based organizations in infant mortality coalitions
- Enhancing the use of social media to inform, promote and educate

Infrastructure

- YCHD continues community outreach to inform underserved populations of provided services
- YCHD has onsite health care enrollment agency, Access Health Mahoning Valley
- Addressing the locations of future Centering Pregnancy sites within the city
- Addition of an Equity lens in looking at the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- Plans to implement health care clinics on the south side of town
- City leaders, health providers, community stakeholders, community leaders and citizens' block watch members working on the Taft Promise Neighborhood
- Youngstown City Development Corporation

Resources & Services

- Utilizing the Taft Promise Neighborhood as a resource for wrap-around services
- MY Baby's 1st
- Pathways HUB

Racial and Ethnic Population Composition

Youngstown, Ohio 2010-2015

Source: US Census Bureau statistics; Population Tables AN=Alaskan Native; NHPI=Native Hawaiian and other Pacific islander

City of Youngstown	2010 Population	2015 Population(estimate)
Census	66,982	64,628
Race/Ethnicity		
Black/African American	45.2%	X
Hispanic or Latino	9.3%	X
Asian/NHPI	0.4%	X
Two or more races	3.7%	X
White alone not Hispanic	43.2%	X

“X” indicates information was not available at the time of this report.

2014-2015 Infant Mortality Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Youngstown/ Mahoning County (per 1000)	2014 White Infant/Live Births(per1000)	2015 White Infant/Live Births (per1000)	2014 Black Infant/Live Births (per 1000)	2015 Black Infant/Live Births (per 1000)
Percentages	6.4	5.2	10.2	17.7

Source: Ohio Department of Health Vital Statistics, 2014-2015. Data analyzed by Mahoning County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), Mahoning County District Board of Health Office of Epidemiology

Notes: Rate is per 1,000 live births

2014-2015 Mortality Rates by Race/Ethnicity were not available at the time of this report





The Youngstown Local Office on Minority Health would like to thank the following agencies that participated in the Round 2 Continuing the Conversations Report to the Community 2017 process:

- Mahoning County Community Health Improvement Plan
- Advisory Board Committee of the Hispanic Health Program through Mercy Health
- Kinship Care Social Group
- Women of Worth (WOW)
- Youngstown City Health District

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