

**New York State Department of Health
Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities Prevention**

Health Coalitions: A Resource for Community Collaboration!

General Description

The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention's (OMH-HDP) major thrust is to identify and implement successful strategies and practices that have the potential to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes. In this context, OMH-HDP sees collaboration as important both at the departmental level and at the community level given the evidence of increasing burden and worsening inequities in health outcomes in some populations, and the need for leveraging resources in an era of constrained budgets. Among OMH-HDP's strategic goals is cutting across departmental programs to enhance integration and coordination of disparities reduction work, and supporting community-level collaboration to achieve a broader reach than is possible through isolated efforts.

During the Summer of 2012, OMH-HDP in partnership with the department's Office of Public Health Services, launched a Coalition Assessment Project to conduct an environmental scan of coalitions funded by New York State Department of Health (Department) in order to get a better understanding of how many coalitions there are, how they are utilized, their challenges and successes, lessons to be learned, and ways in which we can promote collaboration between and among coalitions to address specific health issues.

For purposes of the project, the definition of a coalition is:

“A group involving multiple sectors of the community; coming together to identify community needs and solve community problems”.

This data set includes information on seven of the nine initiatives, comprising approximately 160 coalitions. It provides us with a view of where coalitions are and their service areas. It also includes coalition contact information and departmental funding programs. This information can be helpful in community and program planning efforts, intervention development, increasing collaboration(s), identifying resources, and community mobilization and mass messaging efforts such as emergency preparedness and disaster response.

Data Collection Methodology

A survey was distributed amongst various bureaus and divisions to identify NYSDOH funded coalitions. Twenty-five initiatives comprising 225 coalitions were recognized from the initial scan of the Department's funded coalitions. The majority of responses were received from the Center of Community Health, due to the high number of coalitions funded by the DOH for chronic conditions. The project aimed to capture coalitions that were doing ground level work in communities. Therefore, those that were solely an advisory council, and did not focus on community engagement were excluded. As a result, the project focused on 164 coalitions.

The response rate from coalition lead agencies was approximately 51% comprising 83 coalitions and representing the universe of the project. Responses were representative from the following areas: Tobacco, Obesity, Healthy Eating Active Living by Design (HEALD), Asthma, Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play, Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP), HEAL-10, HEAL-17 and State Partnership Program –Rural Minority Health Program (SPP).

Limitations

Although nine initiatives were identified through the assessment, this dataset only provides information on seven of those initiatives. Further research is being conducted and it is anticipated that additional information will be added in the future.