SCIENCE OF HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH

NIMHD STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

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NIMHD conducts and supports research, training of a diverse workforce, research capacity and infrastructure development, and public education and information dissemination programs. NIMHD is the leading entity at the NIH for planning, reviewing, coordinating, and evaluating minority health and health disparities research activities conducted by the NIH Institutes and Centers.
Strategic Plan Synergy

NIH Strategic Plan

NIH Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan

NIMHD Strategic Plan
Define Minority Health and Health Disparities distinctively in order to:

- scientifically investigate the health of race/ethnic minority groups
- better design projects to reduce health disparities among disenfranchised groups

Ensure the best scientific strategies to address minority health and health disparities are included in the NIH and NIMHD strategic planning process.
Minority Health Definitions

• **Minority Health Definition**: Health characteristics and health care of minority racial and/or ethnic group who are socially disadvantaged and/or subject to potential discriminatory acts.

• **Minority Health Research Definition**: The scientific investigation of health and health care of minority racial and/or ethnic groups.
Minority Health Populations

OMB standards – Minority Racial/Ethnic Classification

• African American or Black
• Asian American
• American Indian or Alaska Native
• Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
• Latino or Hispanic
Minority Health Research Activity Strategies

Research

• Understand the etiology of adverse health outcomes
• Develop/test interventions to improve the health status
• Conduct implementation and dissemination research

Capacity Building

• Develop a diverse biomedical research workforce
• Support institutional infrastructure development
• Track racial/ethnic group survival, incidence, prevalence, mortality, biobanks

Outreach

• Disseminate knowledge effectively
• Engage affected populations to participate in clinical research and ‘omic data collection
MH Differences that Indicate a Health Disparity

Disease/Disorder presents with:

- Greater Risks for disease
- Higher or unique incidence or prevalence
- Earlier onset of illness
- Faster progression or aggressive form
- Later diagnosis and worse health care
- Poorer outcomes (morbidity, survival, quality of life, differential outcomes and mortality)

Health Indicators
NIH Health Disparity Definition:
A health difference that adversely affects traditionally disadvantaged populations based on one or more of the health indicators

NIH Health Disparity Research Definition:
A multi-disciplinary field of study devoted to gaining greater scientific knowledge about the influence of health determinants, and translating this knowledge into interventions to reduce health and health care disparities
Health Disparity Populations

OMB standards – Minority Racial/Ethnic Classification

Plus Other Populations with Health Disparities
(2012 Health Disparities Report AHRQ)

• Poor (low income)
• Rural
• Urban
• LGBT/Sexual and Gender Minorities (SGM)
• Child and Adolescent Health
• Immigrant and Migrant
• Special Needs: Disabled, Chronic Care, End-of-life, Medically Underserved, Disadvantaged
Health Disparities Research Activity Strategies

Research

• Identify health disparity based on the health indicators
• Understand the etiology of the health disparity with respect to social, behavioral, environmental, and biological determinants
• Develop and test interventions to reduce a health disparity

Capacity Building

• Establish the science of health disparities and Train a workforce in these methodologies
• Support infrastructure development to build institutional capacity
• Improve strategies for data management by developing a common taxonomy
Health Determinants

New Strategy: Multi-disciplinary systems approach across life span that examines the contributing role of health determinants to health disparities in various population groups.
Health Disparities: Complex & Interactive Domains thru Life Course

Individual
- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity
- Education
- Income
- Health history
- Comorbidities
- Primary Language
- Marital Status
- Age

Community
- Social networks
- Social/community norms
- SES
- Cultural norms
- History
- Family
- Neighborhood indicators
- Exposures
- Stress

Environment

“Domains of Disparities”
- Biological Factors
- Environmental factors
- Behavioral Factors
- Psycho-Sociocultural Factors

Provider
- Access
- Resources
- Organizational/environment
- Limited treatment options
- Finance (Insurance)
- Quality of healthcare
- Training

Health Care System
Proposed Health Determinant Domains

Individual Factors
- Biology
- Behavior
- Resiliency/Protective
- Quality of Life Conditions

Social and Environmental Determinants
- Social Influence and Resources
- Environmental conditions and toxins

Institutional Systems Practices & Policies
- Health care systems
- Research systems
Science Visioning for Planning

- NIH Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan
- NIMHD Strategic Plan
A Model for Health Disparities Research: Multi-disciplinary Systems Approach Across Development/Life Course

Health Disparity Indicators

LIFE COURSE

Etiology
Identify the patterns and influence of interactive HEALTH DETERMINANTS

Intervention
Design interventions to assess impact on HD Indicators

Implementation
Conduct generalizability and validation studies to assess impact on HEALTH DISPARITY INDICATORS

Reduce Risk & Occurrence of Negative Health Outcomes

Health Disparity Research Framework

Health Disparity Research Resources

Impact - Outcomes Assessments
Training & Career Development
Infrastructure Building
Education Communication Dissemination
Resources & Tools

*Health Disparity Methodologies and Metrics
Pillars for the Science Visioning

• Etiology of Health Disparities; Pathways, Mechanisms and Models
• Measurement and Analytic Approaches
• Intervention Science: efficacy
• Implementation Science: effectiveness
Criteria for Selecting Scientific Research Areas

• Scientific Importance
• Innovation and Leverage
• Collaborative Effort
• Translational Impact
• RFI “Soliciting Input into the NIH Science Vision for Health Disparities Research” (April – July 2015)

• Working Group for each Scientific Area (June 2015– Feb 2016)

• Consensus Meeting (Spring 2016)

RFI Notice Number: NOT-MD-15-006
Timeline

• NIH Strategic Plan – Completed December 2015

• NIH Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan – Expected Fall 2016

• NIMHD Strategic Plan – Expected Winter 2016
NIMHD Current AI/AN Program Highlights

Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health

• Tribal communities and health researchers focused on the social determinants of health in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota.

Indigenous Wellness Research Institute National Center of Excellence

• Trans-disciplinary research partnerships to study behaviorally-rooted health conditions that disproportionately affect American Indian and Alaska Native populations: cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, substance use, and mental illness in the historical context.

Substance Use and Mental Health Collaborative for Rural American Indian Adolescents

• Community-based participatory research principles to work with the Spokane Tribe to develop culturally-relevant intervention strategies for rural AI/AN adolescents in Washington State on substance use and mental health in an effort to decrease the risk of suicide. Input from the Tribal Council has been instrumental in formulating the intervention development process.
Qungasvik (Toolbox): Prevention of Alcohol/Suicide Risk in Alaska Native Youth

• This community-based participatory research project employs culturally-based practices and activities to enhance resiliency to alcohol use and suicide in 12-18 year old Yup'ik Alaska Natives. (NIAAA)

RISING SUN and the Arctic Council

• The Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Indigenous Groups – Strengths United through Networks (RISING SUN) aims to create common metrics for suicide prevention efforts in the Arctic. Partnership with SAMHSA and the CDC.

Network for Cancer Control Research among American Indian and Alaska Native Populations

• The Network strives to increase the number of AI/AN researchers, scientists, and medical students involved in cancer control activities in AI/AN communities (NCI)
MH & HD Research Resources

Support research resources and tools that enhance health disparities research, such as capacity building (infrastructure building, training, career development), tools, data systems, and communication/dissemination.
Questions-Comments

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