

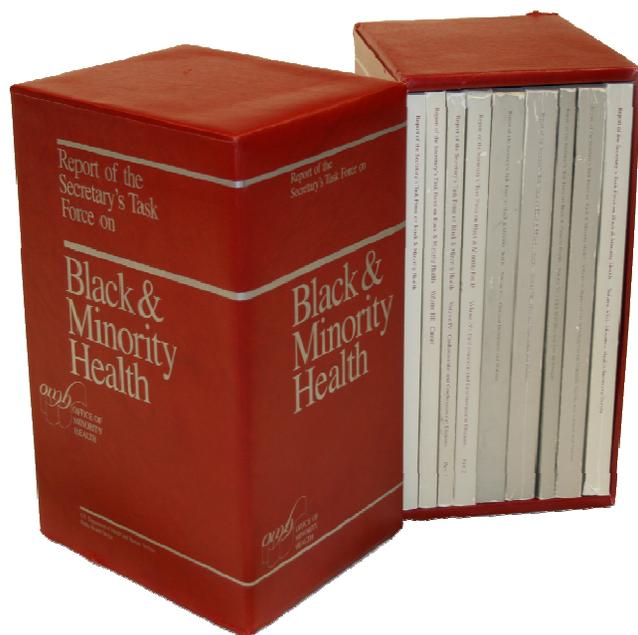
# **Office of Minority Health (OMH) and American Indians/Alaska Natives**

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**J. Nadine Gracia, MD, MSCE  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health  
Director, Office of Minority Health  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

National Indian Health Board Tribal Public Health Summit  
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## 2015: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Heckler Report



In 1985, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a landmark report, the **Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health** (Heckler Report). It documented the existence of health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities in the United States and called such disparities “an affront both to our ideals and to the ongoing genius of American medicine.” The Office of Minority Health was created in 1986 as one of the most significant outcomes of the Heckler Report.

*“Despite the unprecedented explosion in scientific knowledge and the phenomenal capacity of medicine to diagnose, treat and cure disease, Blacks, Hispanics, Native American Indians and those of Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage have not benefited fully or equitably from the fruits of science or from those systems responsible for translating and using health sciences technology.”*

## OMH in Indian Country

- Outreach, education, and training
- Programs
- Partnerships and networks
- Data
- Research

## American Indian/Alaska Native Health Disparities Program

- Strengthen the capacity of Tribal Epidemiology Centers and Urban Indian Health Programs to:
  - Collect and manage data more effectively
  - Create a pipeline program for students to increase racial and ethnic diversity in the public health and biomedical sciences professions
- Examples
  - Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona
  - Alaska Native Epidemiology Center

## Youth Empowerment Program (YEP)

- Designed to address unhealthy behaviors in at-risk minority youth (ages 10-18) and their families, providing them with the opportunity to develop lifestyles that are more positive and enhance their capacity to make healthier life choices
- Menominee YEP: College of Menominee Nation, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Extension, Menominee Indian School District, and Woodland Boys and Girls Club
- Menominee YEP addresses four of the YEP health/safety issues:
  - unintentional injury;
  - diabetes prevention;
  - substance abuse; and
  - teen violence.



## American Indian and Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC)

The purpose of the HRAC is to advise HHS on the following:

- AI/AN health research priorities
- Research ethics pertaining to AI/AN populations
- Development of funding guidelines and standards
- Data collection, reporting, and dissemination

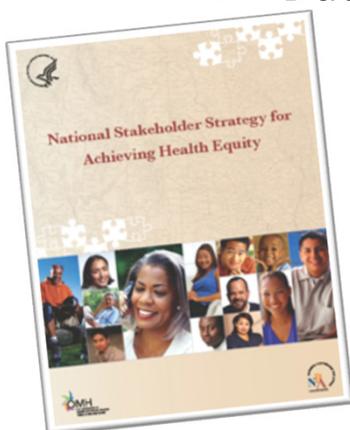


## National Partnership for Action (NPA)

**Purpose:** To mobilize a nationwide, comprehensive, and community-driven movement to combating health disparities, using a social determinants of health approach.

### Goals of the NPA:

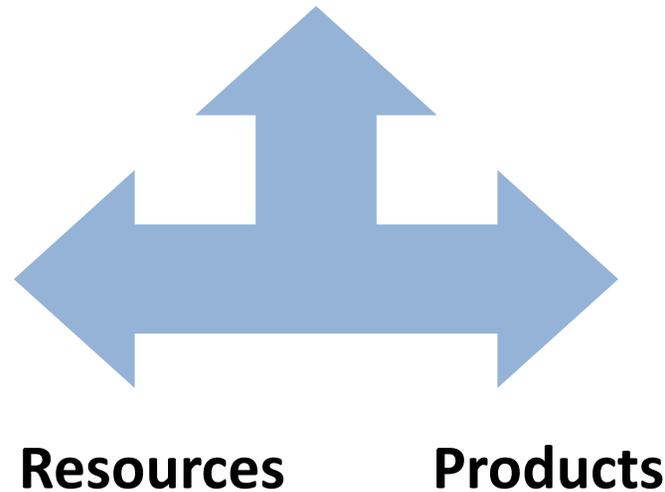
- I. Awareness
- II. Leadership
- III. Health System and Life Experience
- IV. Cultural and Linguistic Competency
- V. Data, Research, and Evaluation



**American Indian and Alaska Native Health Equity Caucus:** Provides a forum for Regional Health Equity Council members to address health disparities among American Indians and Alaska Natives and to enhance tribal, state, and local efforts to reduce health disparities.

## OMH Resource Center (OMHRC)

- Knowledge Center
- Information Services
- Communications
- Capacity Building
- Information Technology



- Literature searches
- Data and Statistics
- Customized information and funding searches
- E-Newsletters
- Social Media
- Website
- Technical Assistance

## Examples of OMHRC Programs

- **Circle of Life**
  - Online HIV/AIDS prevention and intervention curricula designed for American Indian and Alaska Native youth
- **Higher Education Technical Assistance Project (HE-TAP)**
  - New training program to help our nation's colleges and universities to become even more competitive in securing resources and building partnerships
  - Will work with Institutions of Higher Education, including Tribal Colleges and Universities, to strengthen skills in:
    - Coalition building;
    - Financial management;
    - Evaluation; and
    - Resource development.

## Office of Minority Health

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 600

Rockville, MD 20852

(240) 453-2882 or (800) 444-6472

[www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov](http://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov)

Connect with OMH on social media:



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