



The SC Department of Health and Environmental Control - Office of Minority Health (OMH) is coordinating National Minority Health Month activities in the state. In recognition of National Minority Health Month, OMH proudly presents its annual minority health month calendar. The Calendar of Events highlights health promotion and disease prevention activities across the state to promote optimal health and wellness for South Carolina's communities of color.

About OMH

OMH serves as principal advisor to the Agency as well as to other agencies and organizations on public health and environmental issues affecting minority populations (African Americans, Hispanic/ Latinos, American Indians and Asian/Pacific Islanders) in the state. OMH targets its efforts to African Americans as a priority population as they represent the largest minority group and carry a disproportionate burden of the health disparities.

The mission of OMH is to provide leadership in addressing health disparities and other minority health issues. Its goal is to improve the health of minority communities by ensuring the development or modification of policies, programs, strategies and initiatives to *effectively* target and provide culturally competent services to the minority population. OMH is dedicated to accomplishing this goal to attain its vision of *Healthy Minorities Living in Healthy Communities*.

The Office focuses its efforts on six priority health problems that account for the large and disproportionate number of preventable deaths and disabilities affecting minorities in the state. The six priority health disparity areas are:

- Cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke)
- Infant Mortality
- Immunizations (Childhood and Adult)
- HIV/AIDS
- Cancer (Breast and Prostate)
- Diabetes

Attention is also given to Sickle Cell and other health problems that significantly affect the minority population.

Program Activities

OMH is involved in a number of state and local initiatives to address health disparities and other issues, which impact the health status of communities of color. The Office serves as a focal point for consultation, collaboration, technical assistance, advocacy, and coordination of internal and external programs and initiatives. Cultural competence principles and application(s) guide all of the efforts of the Office in advancing minority health. The Office of Minority Health employs strategies in the following areas to carry out its mission in an effort to eliminate health disparities:

- Planning, Policy and Program Development
- Community Engagement and Capacity Building
- Cultural Competence Initiatives
- Health Promotion / Marketing
- Partnership Development
- Faith-based Health Initiatives
- Minority Health Professions Development
- Data, Research & Evaluation