

Proposed Final Report: LARC Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities

Legislative Auditor's Conclusion:

Council meets statutory administrative requirements. Progress on eliminating health disparities is unknown – reports do not track status of health disparities or **Council recommendations**



JLARC Staff: John Bowden

January 2017

Concerned with health disparities, the Legislature:



Stated its intent to "strive to eliminate health disparities in people of color and between men and women"



Created the Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities



Directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to review the Council

Source: JLARC staff analysis of 2SSB 6197 (2006).



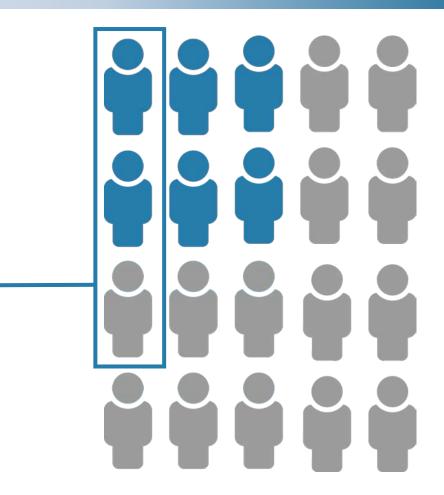
What is a health disparity?

Health disparity:

- Disease or condition
- Rate of death
- Lack of access to health services

Disproportionately affects one or more groups

Groups may be based on race, ethnicity, or gender.



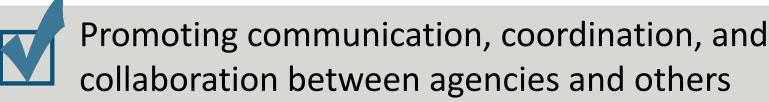
Source: JLARC staff analysis of RCW 43.20.025.

16 health disparities specified by Legislature in 2006

Asthma Infant mortality Breast cancer Mental health Cervical cancer Oral disease Chronic kidney disease Prostate cancer Diabetes Smoking Heart disease Strokes HIV/AIDS Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) Immunization rates of children and seniors Women's health issues

Source: JLARC staff analysis of RCW 43.20.285.

Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council responsible for:



Improving availability of culturally appropriate health literature and interpretive services



Understanding how state government actions ameliorate or contribute to health disparities



Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council responsible for:



Establishing advisory committees to help in planning how to address specific issues



Prioritizing health disparities and social determinants and making recommendations

Reporting to Governor and Legislature about progress eliminating health disparities



Progress on eliminating health disparities **unknown**

Council reports do not clearly and consistently track status of:

Prioritized health disparities and social determinants

Recommendations made by the Council





Legislative Auditor Recommendations

1

The Council should submit action plan updates every two years which prioritize health disparities and social determinants and include clear recommendations.

Council on Health Disparities Concurs



Proposed Final Report: Council on Health Disparities



Legislative Auditor Recommendations

2

The Council should submit progress reports which include progress made on <u>all</u> recommendations and the status of <u>all</u> health disparities and social determinants included in the action plan updates.

Council on Health Disparities Concurs

Timeline for Council reports



Source: JLARC staff analysis of RCW 43.20.280



Proposed Final Report: Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities

Full Report is available at:

leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2016/HealthDisparities/pf/default.htm

Contacts:

John Bowden

Research Analyst

john.bowden@leg.wa.gov 360-786-5298

Valerie Whitener

Project Supervisor valerie.whitener@leg.wa.gov 360-786-5191

Eric Whitaker Research Analyst

eric.whitaker@leg.wa.gov 360-786-5618

