Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders Data: The Power to Incite Positive Change



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Case Study:

Despite community and legislative efforts to disaggregate Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders from Asianswe are still struggling to address this challenge.

This case study examines the affect aggregation has, the most challenging places this still exists, and positive and constructive efforts to address this challenge.



Background

Federal Racial Data Collection Mandates

- October 30, 1997––OMB published final <u>Revisions to the</u> <u>Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and</u> <u>Ethnicity</u>.
- OMB standards apply to "all federally collected data and reporting, including all levels of education, the national census, medical research, disease statistics, drawing boundaries for Congressional districts, the Voting Rights Act, and compliance with federal law and statutory regulations."
- "Asian or Pacific Islander" was split into two categories, "Asian" and a "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander."

Challenges with the Data



http://www.omhrc.gov/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlID=/1

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

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From the OMH NHPI Profile...

- Overview (Demographics): This racial group refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands.
- Cancer: Asian/Pacific Islander women are 30% less likely to have breast cancer as non-Hispanic white women.
- Diabetes: Asians are 30% less likely than non-Hispanic whites to die from diabetes.
- Heart Disease: Asian/Pacific Islander adults are less likely than white adults to have heart disease and they are less likely to die from heart disease.
- Stroke: Asians/Pacific Islander adults are less likely to die from a stroke.

Another Example

- Study done to assess the mortality of the adult Asian and Pacific Islander population in the United States.
- Overall age-standardized mortality was the lowest in Asians/Pacific Islanders, whose risk of death was about 40% lower than whites.
- CONCLUSIONS: Overall mortality is substantially lower among Asians and Pacific Islanders than in all other major ethnic groups.

Source: Liao, Y., D. L. McGee, et al. (1999). "Mortality among US adult Asians and Pacific Islanders: findings from the National Health Interview Surveys and the National Longitudinal Mortality Study." <u>Ethn Dis</u> **9**(3): 423-33.

Mortality Rates

Total US population Asian/Pacific Islanders Native Hawaiians 524/100,000 350/100,000 901/100,000

Source: National Center for Health Statistics. Asian or Pacific Islander mortality, selected states, 1992. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report.* 1997;46(1)(suppl). Publication PHS 97-1120)



No Data \neq No Problem



Lack of Quality Data Can Silence A Community

Percent Late or No Prenatal Care Washington Birth Certificate, 2005–2007



Source: Washington State Dept. Health

Mortality Rates – Leading Causes of Death in Hawaii, 2000 Native Hawaiian vs. All Other Ethnicities





Effective Strategy

Native Hawaiian EpiCenter

- Established January 1, 2009
- Division of Papa Ola Lokahi

- Assist in the development of workable strategies to address data issues around Native Hawaiian populations
- Native Hawaiian community based and controlled
- Partnerships with the private sector and federal, state, local governments

Primary Services

- Provide Technical Assistance to Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems
- Produce National Native Hawaiian Health Reports
- Develop Instruments for Data Gathering
- Report Findings to Broader Community to Raise Awareness of Native Hawaiian Needs
- Serve as a Clearing House of Information Essential to NHHCS & the Communities they Serve

Pacific Islander EpiCenter

- Established 2010
- Housed within Guam Communications Network
 - Long Beach, California
 - Serves Pacific Islanders residing in all 50 States
 - Director, Joey Quenga



Region IX Data Round Table

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health Region IX California Department of Public Health California Dept of Health Care Services, Office of Multicultural Health

Sacramento, California - May 18 - 19, 2009

Commitment

- Never Use the Category Asian/Pacific Islander
 - Instead *No data available for Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- When you report "race" Don't just show Black & Hispanic Honor the Diversity Among Us – Don't Succumb to the Divide and Conquer Strategy
- For the Statisticians in the Group....
 - Don't Simply Adjust for Race Stratify and Report by Race Groups
- For the Feds in the Group.....
 - Work with your community partners –
 - If we aren't at the table, we are on the menu.
- For the Community Folks in the Group.....
 - Find Government Allies
 - They can help us get to the table and sometimes help prepare us.

Hello Maile!

First, I wanted to say that I really enjoyed your presentation at last week's HHS Region IX meeting. I found it very refreshing and informative.

Secondly, I have very good news for you: OSHPD is now collecting race/ethnicity data with Asian and Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian broken out into two separate categories. So, in the not too distant future we hope to be able to present data specifically on the Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian population in California.

Please keep up your excellent work!

Dave Carlisle Director, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

Mahalo

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