

# **A Health Needs Assessment Study of the Minority Population in Porter County**

**by the**

**Indiana Minority Health Coalition**

**Indiana Minority Health Coalition**

Nancy Jewell, MPA, President/CEO

**In Staff Support**

Frank Lloyd, Jr., MD, Executive Director

Calvin Roberson, Jr., MHA, MPH, Research Director

Anita Ohmit, MPH, Data Analyst

Layla Baker, MPH, Research Assistant

Natalie Duncan, BA, Research Assistant

**Indiana University**

**School of Medicine**

**Department of Family Medicine**

**Bowen Research Center**

Robert M. Saywell, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H. Consultant

Terrell W. Zollinger, Dr. P.H., Consultant

Wambui G. Gathirua, MPH., CHES, Research Assistant

May 2005

## **Executive Summary**

This report presents results of a community health needs assessment for minority populations in Porter County, directed by the Indiana Minority Health Coalition with technical assistance from the Indiana University Bowen Research Center. Initial project planning activities began in 2003, with most of the data collected in 2004. The purpose of this needs assessment study is to:

- Perform a community-based health needs assessment of minority populations in Porter County
- Identify the real health-related issues of minority groups across age, gender, socio-economic, and geographic categories
- Examine the wide spectrum of factors impacting the health and well being of the minority populations in the Porter County

Data for the health assessment were collected from existing data containing health indicators.

Existing data from birth and death certificates, and hospitalizations that have health indicators were gathered and analyzed for minority groups. The analysis of these existing data for Porter County indicated that disparities exist by race and ethnic group. It also revealed that most rates need to be improved to meet the Healthy People 2010 Objectives. The Black population in Porter County is disproportionately affected when comparing the health indicators among racial groups.