

A Health Needs Assessment Study of the Minority Population in Wayne 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 comprehensive community health needs assessment for minority populations in Wayne 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 comprehensive, community-based health needs assessment of minority populations in Wayne County
- Identify the real and perceived 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 Wayne County
- Identify opportunities and initiatives to better meet the health needs

Data for the health needs assessment were collected from existing data containing health indicators, targeted population surveys, focus groups, and key informant surveys.

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 Wayne 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 Wayne County is disproportionately affected when comparing the health indicators among racial groups.

Targeted surveys were developed and administered to 100 local residents in a variety of settings (i.e. churches, community centers, ethnic food markets, grocery stores, health fairs, neighborhood events, and retail stores) to obtain community input on important health issues, needs, values, and beliefs. The results from the surveys highlighted that the Black population of Wayne County perceive cancer, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure and strokes as part of the top five worst health problems in their neighborhood. These results indicated that more than one-fifth (21.9%) of Blacks indicated they had difficulty obtaining the services of a doctor, nurse or other health professional in the past year. For Blacks, the top five barriers attributed to accessing healthcare included: lack of insurance, lack of money, doctor would not accept new patients, waiting too long for an appointment, and waiting too long in doctor or clinic office.

Local residents from selected minority populations with an understanding of significant needs, solutions, and expectations were identified to participate in focus groups and/or key informant surveys. Results from focus groups and key informant surveys indicated that Wayne County community residents perceive the following as major health problems: AIDS/HIV, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, diabetes, and heart conditions.

It is hoped that the findings in this report will provide the catalyst to bring communities together to discuss existing differences in health indicators and ultimately to better develop

strategies to reduce them so that all Wayne County residents can achieve the highest possible level of health status. In addition, this report can be used by policy makers, providers and program administrators to focus interventions on those areas that are of most concern to the minority population.