

ADOLESCENT HEALTH CARE AND ACCESS

Last fall, the Data Resource Center (DRC) received an email from Incenter Strategies seeking information about National Survey of Children's Health data pertaining to racial and ethnic disparities in adolescent health and access to care. Incenter Strategies was formed in 2006 to provide education, research, policy analysis, and technical assistance to support improvements in financing and structure of adolescent health care. Harriette Fox and Margaret McManus, the executive directors of the Maternal and Child Health Policy Research Center, are Incenter Strategies' CEO and President. Through a series of subsequent conversations, DRC research staff helped identify a relevant set of health status and risk measures from the National Survey of Children's Health for a fact sheet publication on racial and ethnic disparities in adolescent health and health care being developed by Incenter Strategies. DRC staff also conducted adolescent age specific multivariate analyses of racial/ethnic variations for each of the selected health and health care indicators. Drawing upon their own research in this area, DRC researchers included comparisons of Hispanic adolescents from primarily Spanish-speaking with those from primarily English speaking households in the analysis models. The additional stratification of Hispanic adolescents according to primary household language revealed dramatic differences in health status and access – highlighting additional policy relevant areas for discussion in Incenter's publication.

The fact sheet: *"Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Adolescent Health and Access to Care"* has been widely disseminated to Congressional staff, federal and state policymakers, provider organizations, minority organizations, consumer groups, and health services researchers. Since its release in January 2007, McManus and Fox have been invited to make presentations on information in the fact sheet to the American Medical Association and before Senator Obama's health staff.

Margaret McManus, President of Incenter Strategies, described the assistance her organization received from the DRC as: "...extensive, professional, efficient, thorough, creative, and flawless." She noted that the technical assistance provided by the DRC made possible for them to supplement National Health Interview Survey information with additional data on adolescent health from the National Survey of Children's Health. Without the support of the DRC staff, they would have likely relied exclusively on the National Health Interview Survey. For a look at Margaret and Harriette's work, please click [here](#).

In Her Own Words:

MARGARET MCMANUS, PRESIDENT OF INCENTER STRATEGIES, PRAISES THE DRC: "The support provided by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau to the Data Resource Center is a wise investment. This Center allows ready access to excellent data that would have otherwise been available only to those with expertise in analyzing large national data sets. Good luck to CAHMI's Data Resource Center in your ongoing work. We look forward to working with you in the future on adolescent health issues".