Rhode Island’s Health Equity Zones

The Rationale for Addressing Determinants of Health

The U.S. spends far more on healthcare than other countries—but we have poorer health outcomes.

The Rationale for Addressing Determinants of Health

In OECD, for every $1 spent on health care, about $2 is spent on social services. In the US, for $1 spent on health care, about 55 cents is spent on social services.

Garneau

The case for investing at the community level to improve health

Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)
Approach:
Create shifts in investments from the 10% clinical care to the 80% that determines health outcomes.

Garneau

RIDOH OVERARCHING GOAL
Positively Demonstrate for Rhode Islanders the Purpose and Importance of Public Health

RI Population Health Plan
LEADING PRIORITIES

- Address Socioeconomic and Environmental Determinants of Health in Rhode Island
- Eliminate Disparities of Health in Rhode Island and Promote Health Equity
- Ensure Access to Quality Health Services for Rhode Islanders, Including Our Vulnerable Populations

CROSS-CUTTING STRATEGIES

- RIDOH Academic Center: Strengthen the integration of scholarly activities with public health
- RIDOH Health Equity Institute: Promote collective action to achieve the full potential of all RIers

How Well is Rhode Island Doing?

**Improvements**
- Tobacco Use
- Responsible Sexual Behavior & Teen Pregnancy
- Injury and Violence
- Environmental Quality
- Children and Adolescent Immunization

**No Change**
- Physical Activity

**Setbacks**
- Overweight and Obesity
- Mental Health and Substance Use

**Mixed Results**
- Access to Healthcare
- Adult Flu Immunization
The Theory of Change for Addressing Determinants of Health

- **IF** Rhode Island collaboratively invests in defined geographic areas to develop sustainable infrastructure, and aligns a diverse set of resources to support community-identified needs...

- **THEN** we will positively impact the socioeconomic and environmental conditions driving disparities and improve health outcomes.

The development of sustainable community infrastructure working to improve the community from within + The alignment of resources to create sustained investments in the community to address the needs identified by the community = Will lead to positive impacts on the social and environmental determinants of health and improved population health outcomes.
RIDOH Health Equity Zones

• Nine local collaboratives across Rhode Island.

• Geographic areas with measurable health disparities, and socioeconomic and environmental conditions that keep people from being as healthy as possible.

RIDOH HEZ Goals

• Improve health of communities with health disparities.

• Improve birth outcomes.

• Create economic and employment opportunities.

• Improve socioeconomic and environmental conditions of the neighborhood.

• Support policy, systems, and environmental health changes.
RIDOH HEZ Scope of Activities

Build/expand local collaborative
- Evidence of meaningful, true engagement of key stakeholders
- To include: local housing authority, local education agency, City Hall, Federally Qualified Community Health Centers and mental health community centers, health care providers (e.g. hospitals, PCPs, insurers), CBOs, residents, youth organizations
- Identify backbone organization

Identify and prioritize local health issues
- Community assessment (needs/assets)

Develop and implement local plans of action
- Community Prioritization process: evidence-based strategies
- Focus areas: maternal and child health/chronic disease
- Addressing health inequities and inequalities

RIDOH HEZ Financing

Braided funding drives collective action with authentic community engagement.

Funds are woven together from several sources, including:
- Maternal and Child Health Bureau
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- State General Revenue
RIDOH HEZ: An Exercise in Collective Decision Making

RIDOH HEZ Results to Date

- Leverage approximately additional $2M
- Increased staff diversity, hired from local communities
- WIC and SNAP redemption at farmer’s market increased 34% to 91.4% from baseline
- Over 3000 youth engaged in healthy eating, physical activity programming and 1,175 reached through the Youth Female empowerment program
- 76 plot community garden developed in partnership with Public Housing Authority
- Mapped out and published a walking map for residents that shows access points to key destinations (e.g. health centers, businesses, city landmarks, schools), and organized walking club (to date the club has 25 members and is growing)
- City of Central Falls passed New England’s first Complete Streets Ordinance
**More Information**

- [www.health.ri.gov/pez](http://www.health.ri.gov/pez)
- Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERTIK36ki8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERTIK36ki8)