

April 2015

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), I am most pleased to present the 2014 MDCH Health Equity Report as required by Public Act 653. Included in this report are several documents:

- PA 653 Report documenting the Department's 2014 health equity efforts and accomplishments.
- Four inserts that focus on the importance of data; the status of racial/ethnic disparities in Michigan; the importance of health equity for all; and health equity success stories.

It is with great anticipation that we embark on the 2015 New Year. More than ever our Department is involved in multiple health equity efforts. Integral to all of these efforts is adherence to the requirements of Public Act (PA) 653, which charges MDCH to '*create a structure to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities*' and report to the Michigan Legislature annually on the Department's progress.

This important amendment to the Michigan Public Health Code would not have become a reality without the hard work and dedication of persons committed to the ideal that racial and ethnic health disparities can and must be eliminated. One such person was the late Reverend, and former Michigan State Representative, Michael C. Murphy. Representative Murphy, the original author of Public Act 653, passed away on December 28, 2014. Through our collaborative work across this state to improve health equity for racial and ethnic minorities in Michigan his legacy will live on.

It is with great honor that we dedicate the 2014 Michigan Health Equity Report to the memory of Representative Michael C. Murphy.

Sincerely,
Sheryl Weir, MPH
Manager
Health Disparities Reduction and Minority Health Section
Michigan Department of Community Health