

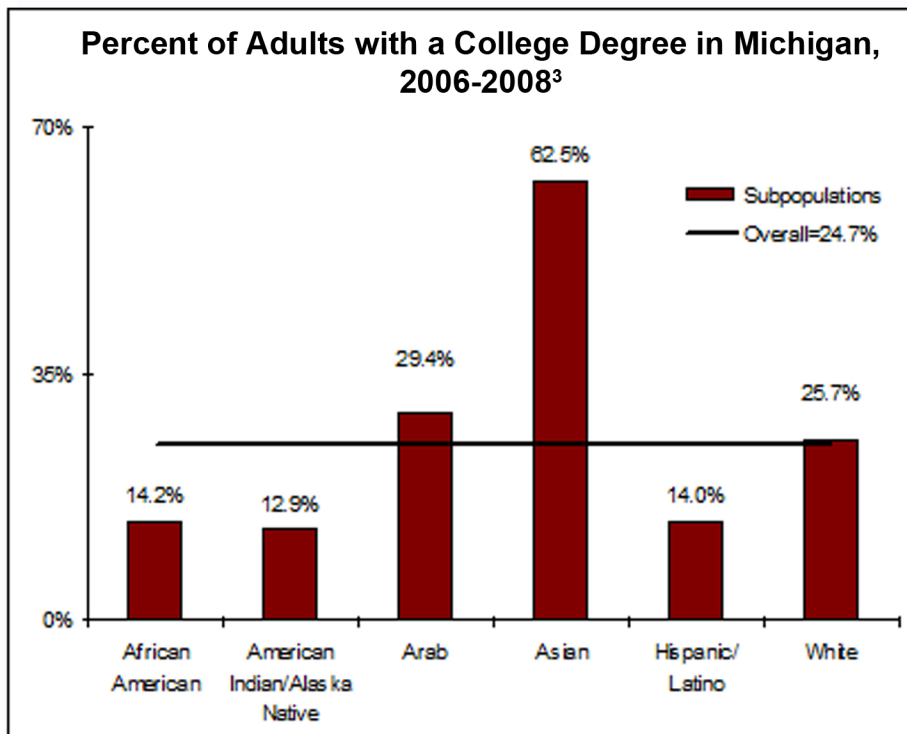
# Holes in the Mitten

## Health Equity In Michigan: A Toolkit for Action Fact Sheet: Education

### HOW MUCH EDUCATION YOU HAVE CAN AFFECT YOUR HEALTH.

A person with a college degree usually has better opportunities for employment and earns a higher income than someone with a high school degree or less. They are also more likely to have health insurance and own a home in a secure neighborhood. Having a higher level of education also helps a person to better understand our complicated healthcare system. This usually means a person gets more of their needs met when dealing with healthcare providers. All of these things play a large role in having good health.

**HEALTH LITERACY** is the ability to understand health information and communicate with healthcare providers. A good education increases a person's health literacy. Persons whose primary language is not English, persons of low income, and racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to achieve a lower level of education or have not finished high school.



This “achievement gap” can be explained, in part, by the fact that schools with high numbers of minority students are often high poverty. High poverty schools have less access to qualified teachers, safe buildings, and other opportunities that help children achieve educational success. These inequalities impact long term health for these children. Creating health equity means providing fair opportunities for a quality education for all Michigan citizens.

### Holes in the Mitten: Addressing Michigan's Gaps in Health Equity

*Holes in the Mitten* is part of *Health Equity In Michigan: A Toolkit for Action* and aims to improve health equity in Michigan communities. The toolkit includes a video series, discussion guide, fact sheets, and other resources. The toolkit can be obtained through the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Indicator	African American	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Arab	Asian	Hispanic/ Latino	White	Total Michigan Population
High School Dropout Rate (%) <sup>1</sup>	20.4%	16.6%	NA	6.8%	21.0%	8.1%	11.3%
Percent of High School Students Who can Read at the High School Level (%) <sup>2</sup>	26.2%	40.2%	NA	63.9%	35.6%	59.3%	52.8%
Median Annual Household Income (\$) <sup>3</sup>	\$31,989	\$40,369	\$45,567	\$72,296	\$39,077	\$52,954	\$49,694

Sources:

- 1) Center for Educational Performance and Information, 2009 Cohort
- 2) Consolidated State Performance Report, US Dept of Education (2008-2009)
- 3) American Community Survey, US Census Bureau, (2006-2008)



## HOW IS MICHIGAN IMPROVING EDUCATION?

Universities have developed programs to help students from disadvantaged areas pursue higher education. For example, Michigan State University (MSU) CAMP program helps students with migrant worker backgrounds get the academic and financial support needed to succeed.

## Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

The Health Disparities Reduction and Minority Health Section (HDRMHS) provides a persistent and continuing focus on eliminating health disparities in Michigan's populations of color. The five populations served by HDRMHS include African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Arab and Chaldean Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics/Latinos.

The major functions of HDRMHS are: 1) To support and initiate programs, strategies, and health policies that address disease prevention, health service delivery, and applied research for populations of color; 2) To collaborate in the development of all MDCH programs and strategies that address prevention, health service delivery, and applied research for populations of color and 3) To facilitate an ongoing integration of culturally appropriate and linguistically appropriate health services into the public health system.

Michigan Department  
of Community Health



Rick Snyder, Governor  
Olga Dazzo, Director