



## COMMUNITY GRANT OUTCOME REPORT

### What Works: Reducing Health Disparities in Wisconsin Communities

# Getting the word out on promising new practices

Where evidence is limited, the Wisconsin Promising Practices Program provides guidance to groups seeking to reduce health disparities.



*The Smart Smiles program provides in-school dental care to children in Milwaukee and has shown promise in improving the health of children. A WPP grant supported the centralization of information on Smart Smiles and other promising practices so that other communities may test the programs.*

► **Description:** This project identified and disseminated information about public health interventions to contribute to reductions in racial and ethnic health disparities in Wisconsin. The project focused on two health priority areas from Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 (obesity, overweight and physical activity; and access to primary and preventive health services), and on the state's two largest racial/ethnic minority groups — African-Americans and Latinos.

► **Results:** Extensive literature searches in the two health priority areas uncovered few evidence-based practices with demonstrated effectiveness for minority communities. The Wisconsin Promising Practices program was initiated in part because of this lack of clear direction for addressing disparities. Community-based organizations involved in efforts to address either of the two health priority areas among minorities were invited to apply to the program and document their efforts. This encouraged the organizations to focus on systematic

data collection. The summaries produced through the program provide a new resource for sharing information about promising local programs in our state—helping to fill the a gap left by the dearth of evidence-based programs in the literature.

► **The Partnership:** The academic partner teamed with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to assist in identifying promising practices and provided evaluation guidance. Partnerships between project staff and the participating organizations were also mutually beneficial and a key feature of the project.

► **Next Steps:** Wisconsin Promising Practice program summaries are available through the Division of Public Health's Minority Health Program webpage (<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/Health/MinorityHealth/prompractices/index.htm>). The summaries provide grassroots strategies for addressing disparities.

### GRANT FACTS

**Grantee:** Department of Health Services - Division of Public Health

**Contact:** Patricia Guhleman, Director, DHS Bureau of Health Information and Policy, [guhlepa@dhsf.state.wi.us](mailto:guhlepa@dhsf.state.wi.us), 608-266-1347

**Academic Partner:** D. Paul Moberg, PhD, Research Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences, UWSMPH, [dpmoberg@wisc.edu](mailto:dpmoberg@wisc.edu)

**Grant Award:** \$407,322 over three years