

Integrating Genomics Into State Chronic Disease Prevention Programs

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BACKGROUND

The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) received funding from the CDC in July 2003 and created the Chronic Disease Genomics Program (CDGP).

A major goal of the CDGP is to integrate genomics information into existing UDOH program activities, data collection systems, and state priorities to address the burden of chronic disease in Utah.

METHODS

- » Eight chronic disease programs were targeted for inclusion of genomics.
- » CDGP staff reviewed program activities and funding proposals annually.
- » Genomics-related strategies were drafted according to funding requirements and program goals.
- » Meetings were held with the CDGP and program staff to discuss methods for implementation.

RESULTS

Genomics strategies were integrated into 7 chronic disease programs and 3 state chronic disease plans including:

- Baby Your Baby Program
- Center for Multicultural Health
- Diabetes Prevention and Control Program
- Healthy Utah
- Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Strategic Plan
- Reproductive Health Program
- Utah Asthma Program and 2007-2012 Utah Asthma Plan
- Utah Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and 2006-2011 Utah Cancer Plan

STRATEGIES

Strategies included:

- Conducting training workshops
- Analyzing cancer enrollment form data
- Adding family history data to the youth diabetes registry
- Developing TV and radio segments to promote family health history
- Pilot testing an electronic family health history tool
- Presentations at the 2006 World Cancer Congress and 2006 National Diabetes Conference
- Developing other educational materials

The CDGP successfully demonstrated an effective method for developing partnerships vital for capacity building. This strategy has enabled the UDOH to form strong partnerships with chronic disease program staff and integrate genomics into programs on an ongoing basis.

Visit www.health.utah.gov/genomics for more information.