

## What's the project?

The Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) Health Equity Data Analysis (HEDA) project is a partnership between OSHII, PHP, and MCHS to train and support local public health (LPH) agencies to understand the **root causes of health inequities** in their communities.



HEDA is a data analysis process based on that fact that **health is created by multiple conditions**, not just health care, behaviors and genetics.

HEDA uses **quantitative and qualitative data** to describe health and barriers to health of populations.



HEDA is conducted at the local level in **partnership** with the communities **most impacted** by health inequities.

## HEDA Steps

- **Connection:** Expanding the understanding of the multiple determinants of health
- **Populations:** Identifying populations most likely to experience health inequities
- **Differences:** Identifying differences in health behaviors or outcomes between groups
- **(Re)Connection:** Document the connections between conditions and health
- **Conditions:** Identify and describe the living and working conditions that create health differences
- **Causes:** Identify and describe the causes of the differences in living and working conditions between population groups

## How did you accomplish it?

LPH staff participated in cohort trainings to understand equity and the HEDA process. Training participants also received coaching and technical assistance from MDH staff and consultants to complete their HEDAs. LPH staff shared HEDA learnings back to stakeholders, including communities who participated in the HEDA process, and to use learnings to catalyze shared action.

## Results

**Expanded Capacity:** For LPH the HEDA resulted in broadening the health narrative about their communities, expanding their capacity to assess inequities at the local level, and increasing their understanding of the root causes of inequities.

**Increased Commitment and Accountability:** The HEDA created a new framework for community engagement which has strengthened and built new partnerships, increased commitment and accountability between local public health and their communities, and forged pathways to new solutions.



## Next Steps

LPH staff have used HEDA findings and lessons learned to modify public health practices to better fit the needs of their community members. OSHII staff will use lessons learned and findings to help define future SHIP strategies and activities. The HEDA process, lessons learned and findings can result in **better aligned programs and processes** and **advance equitable policies**.

**Lessons Learned:**  
Community Engagement is Critical to the HEDA

*"[The HEDA] has changed the way I think about how our agency interacts with our community and the different populations within our community."*

*"We know we have these issues... We see it in our quantitative data. But actually sitting down with our community members, and hearing from them ... It was an emotional 'ah-ha', too..."*

-Lessons learned from Local Public Health staff

## Team Members

OSHII: Kim Edelman, Cate Bosserman, Nora Shields-Cutler, Christine Smith, Ann Zukoski  
MCHS: Ann Kinney  
PHP: Jeannette Raymond