



# Missouri Health Equity Collaborative (MOHEC)

*Empowering Missourians to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities through communication and collaboration.*

## ~ **MOHEC History** ~

MOHEC began in 2005 with funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) to identify health disparities in St. Louis and the Bootheel region of Missouri and to identify potential solutions and partners to achieving health equity. In 2007, MOHEC expanded statewide with continued funding from MFH and additional support from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. Currently, MOHEC has 225 members from over 60 organizations.

## ~ **MOHEC Mission** ~

To empower Missourians to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities through communication and collaboration by connecting educators, researchers, students, health professionals, and a wide variety of community organizations in a mutual partnership.

## ~ **MOHEC.org** ~

MOHEC.org was developed to establish a virtual, online community aimed at identifying health disparities and addressing these gaps by aligning existing resources (both research and community) with disparity-reducing best practices while providing evidence to inform policy decisions. More specifically, it allows collaborators to:

- Connect to a diverse network of resources and knowledge
- Bridge research and community needs
- Inform Missourians about effective and evidenced-based practices and programs
- Provide a centralized source of current events, reports and programs focused on achieving health equity

## ~ **MOHEC Activities** ~

- Building an online community – provides opportunities for members to communicate through discussion lists and chat rooms (coming soon). It also includes a database of health disparities researchers, resources, and events that can be populated by the members themselves.
- Hosting statewide conferences and regional meetings – designed to connect members and raise awareness about key health disparities issues, research, and best practices.
- Establishing and coordinating collaborative working groups – each focused on common arenas and issues of health disparities. Current groups include: data collection, research needs, patient education and empowerment, and cultural education for professionals and students.
- Identifying health disparities –findings are reported in regional chart books. Currently, we have examined St. Louis, the Bootheel region, and Kansas City.
- Providing local and state policy recommendations for achieving health equity.

