

Getting People Healthy in New Orleans

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DRAFT

Produced by
The City of New Orleans Health Department

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Volume I - Monograph
Volume II - Appendices



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PREFACE

Getting People Healthy in New Orleans is the result of a collaborative research and review effort that resulted from a strategic planning and reorganization project for New Orleans Health Department (NOHD) in Spring 2005. During this project, it was determined that the many strengths of the NOHD required integration to improve cohesiveness and efficiency and this document represents a needed focal point, as well as a communication tool. Healthy People 2010 and Healthy Louisiana initiatives provided the perfect template upon which to organize information about NOHD programs for the intended audiences. It also provides a practical monitoring template to move forward with a cost effective set of services to address the health problems of the citizenry.

This document can provide a common work plan and record for program monitoring and development in the NOHD and its programs. It is also a collection of applicable national, state and local data resources and a resource for annual reviews. It is the starting point and anchor for reports of the various projects that relate to the over-arching goal and mission of the NOHD. Developed as a base document that will receive periodic updates, it is structured to address the highest health priorities in New Orleans at this writing.

This document is designed for use by several audiences. Internal and external audiences include public officials, government employees, granting agencies and institutions, community partners and students.

This document outlines NOHD activities within a quality improvement framework, which addresses:

- Tools for more effective planning, tying the work of the NOHD with the *Healthy People 2010* and *Healthy Louisiana*, which provide both strategic goals and tactical plans for reaching these goals.
- Guidelines for structured implementation, which are linked to *Healthy People 2010* and *Healthy Louisiana*. In addition, comprehensive plans are in place or being developed within each part of NOHD, to address the unique needs of the citizens of New Orleans.
- Data and methods for program monitoring and assessment. Beginning with the comprehensive data gathering done through *Healthy People 2010*, the NOHD is re-structuring its support systems to ensure data-driven decisions and sound measurement and assessment systems.
- Expectations for re-evaluation and re-invention of the plan. This continuous improvement process will ensure that this plan remains a living document, changing as the needs of New Orleans change and as health conditions improve in the focus areas of this plan.

To this end, the purposes of this document include the following:

- A description of the New Orleans Health Department and Challenges and Progress
- A source of important information and references for grant writers
- Educational resources for students of medicine and public health
- A source for ideas for additional research
- A framework for program monitoring and development within the New Orleans Department of Health
- Information about collaborating with community based organizations, research institutions and others.

HOW TO USE THIS MONOGRAPH

This document is a living document, outlining the primary focus areas of the New Orleans Health Department (NOHD), linking these focus areas to the national health improvement agenda entitled *Healthy People 2010* and *Healthy Louisiana 2010*, the state-level agenda. The NOHD has selected only some of the 467 health improvement objectives identified in *Healthy People 2010*: those objectives that, when met, can have the greatest impact on the health of New Orleans and its citizens and visitors. In addition, the document outlines how the NOHD is re-inventing itself to better meet these needs and describes current activities related to each focus area.

The document begins with an Executive Summary and Introductory Sections, which together provide the reader with an overall state of health in the City of New Orleans and a context in which change can occur. The next section outlines seven critical health areas that are being addressed through the programs and practices of NOHD and its collaborating partners. More detail about each of these health areas can be found in the accompanying appendices, which describe in detail the *Healthy People 2010* objectives that are currently being considered by the NOHD. In these appendices, each objective is described, measurement methods are outlined and specific interventions are recommended.

In the final section of this document, the infrastructure needed to support these efforts is defined. Changes to the supporting resources within the NOHD are outlined, as well as current collaborative efforts that extend this infrastructure are identified.

This document will continue to change, as the NOHD changes – and as the health of the City of New Orleans improves. Your input, reactions and comments are welcomed as the New Orleans Health Department continues to strive to positive impact the health of New Orleans, its citizens and its visitors.

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