



**DATE:** May 13, 2015

**TO:** Members of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

**FROM:** Emma Medicine White Crow, Chair

**SUBJECT: BRIEFING—HEALTH DISPARITIES DATA**

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**Background and Summary:**

Statute requires that the Council develop policy recommendations to address select health topics, including the social determinants of health, on an incremental basis and to include these recommendations in its reports to the Governor and Legislature. In identifying its priorities the Council must consider data on the prevalence of the condition or indicator as well as the level of disparity.

Past Council priorities have included education, health insurance coverage, healthcare workforce diversity, obesity, diabetes, poverty, environmental exposures and hazards, behavioral health, the state system, adverse childhood experiences, CLAS standards, and adverse birth outcomes.

As the Council finishes its work to develop adverse birth outcomes recommendations, we need to start the process of identifying new priorities. To guide that work, it is important that we have an understanding of the current health and health disparities data in Washington State. Today, I am pleased to introduce Dennis McDermot and Cathy Wasserman from the Department of Health, who will provide a briefing on disparities data, including leading causes of death as well as chronic disease and related risk factors.

**Recommended Council Action:**

None at this time.