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***Newly Released State Public Health Department Survey Results Highlight  
Dedicated Infrastructure and Resources for Men's and Women's Health***

Points to Need for Federal Office of Men's Health in Department of Health and Human Services

State Departments of Health provide this nation's communities and its citizens with critical access to care, health information and services, as well as educational outreach programming. An effort to explore available infrastructure and resources for gender based health services and the degree to which women's and men's health is institutionalized was undertaken in the summer and fall of 2008. The survey, conducted by Men's Health Network (MHN), will hopefully provide useful data and information Healthy People 2020 developer discussions and objective development.

The survey, a national phone and direct mail effort, was administered to the Secretary/Director of 50 State Department's of Health (including Washington, DC) as well as the Governor's Office, where appropriate. The survey findings will be formally presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA on Sunday, October 26th, 2008 at 2:30 p.m.

Of those states responding to the survey, 42 indicated that they've established an office or coordinator for women's health. Twelve of these states have an office or coordinator for men's health. All 50 states and D.C. have a website that contains information specifically related to women's health. Fourteen states (including D.C.) have a website with information specifically covering men's health. Thirty three states established and continue to have a commission to study and make recommendations regarding the health or general status of women. Four states have a comparable entity for the health or general status of men. All states have women's health coordinators and representatives organized through the federal Office of Women's Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. At this time there is no federal Office of Men's Health.

The survey results highlight the need for concrete plans and policies to address these unmet needs and underserved populations. Prospects exist to address the gender gap within State Departments of Health relating to education, outreach, services, and access to care. It is imperative to perform a comprehensive environmental scan of current women's and men's health tools, resources, and infrastructure by state.

Men's Health Network ([www.menshealthnetwork.org](http://www.menshealthnetwork.org)) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to reach men and their families where they live, work, play, and pray with health prevention messages and tools, screening programs, educational materials, advocacy opportunities, and patient navigation.

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