



**State of Louisiana**  
**Bureau of Minority Health Access and Promotions**

Dear Reader:

It is our pleasure to present the State Fiscal Year 2016/17 Bureau of Minority Health Access (BMHA) Annual Report, which provides insight into Louisiana's multiple activities in minority health and numerous accomplishments throughout the year.

The Bureau of Minority Health Access continues to meet the needs in uninsured and underinsured populations by responding to Louisiana's diverse racial and ethnic communities to provide access to quality of care, and eliminate health disparities that will ultimately improve health outcomes. During the State Fiscal Year 2016/17, BMHA with its focus on eliminating health disparities among racial and ethnic populations, launched investigations as to causes for health disparities by exploring social determinants of health that are the economic and social conditions – and their distribution among the population – that influence individual and group differences in health status.

Some of the notable initiatives are Louisiana's Own Your Own Health, which an obesity initiative for communities of color and the Community Preparedness Response Network (CPRN) that assist low-income communities with establishing emergency preparedness plans within the overall state plan. We have already seen improvements in access to care in underserved, racial /ethnic populations and children are starting to be more physically active. We look forward to seeing continued improvements from these initiatives and the impact it will have on our population's health outcomes in the coming years.

Rudy Macklin, Director  
Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports  
Bureau of Minority Health Access and Promotions