

**Suffolk County, Massachusetts
Place Matters Update**

Design Lab 4
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www.bphc.org/disparities



Suffolk County Team

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Social Determinants of Health

- Social and Economic
 - Schools
 - Neighborhoods
- Physical Environment
 - Places for recreational opportunities
 - Safe communities
- Discrimination and Racism
 - Cultural competency trainings
 - Anti-racism trainings

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Key components and infrastructure that support work

- Created a Health Disparities Bureau
 - 3 Staff: Bureau Chief, Program Director, Policy Analyst
- Funding in base budget and in continuing grants



Key components, contd.

- Policy and regulatory approaches
 - Advocacy efforts at both local and state levels
 - Possible regulations re: food and fitness
 - Nutritional labeling
 - Banning trans-fat
 - Siting of fast-food restaurants

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Key partners

- Mayor
- Community Coalitions
- Hospitals
- Community Health Centers
- Universities and Community Colleges
- Insurers
- MGH Disparities Solutions Center
- MA Legislative Leaders: House and Senate

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Major accomplishments in 2006 - 2007

- Provided another \$1 million in grants for year 2 activities
 - Workforce diversity
 - Patient Navigation
 - Violence prevention
 - Food and fitness
 - Created 7th Bureau
 - Completed evaluation of year 1 activities
 - Selected as finalist in Kellogg and RWJ funding for disparities-related activities (food and violence)
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Major accomplishments, contd.

- Data collection regulation
 - Possibility of
 - Interagency collaboration with state partners
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Challenges

- Securing resources to sustain activities
 - Increasing public awareness of efforts
 - Media campaign: critical messages
 - Coordinating work with partners
 - Defining the evolving role of a health department in “non-traditional” arenas
 - Public safety
 - Public education
 - Food systems/production
 - Strengthening intergovernmental collaboration
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