



Men's Health Caucus Policy Agenda 2022-2026

Recommendations

The Men's Health Caucus proposes the following policy recommendations to improve the health of men, boys, and their families and communities. Implementing these recommendations requires active engagement of policymakers at all levels of government as well as private-sector stakeholders such as healthcare providers and professional licensing boards.

Recommendation #1: Dedicate staff, funding, and other necessary resources to federal, state, and local programs that address the particular health and wellness needs of men and boys.

- Create a federal Office on Men's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that can mirror the 30+ year successes at the Office on Women's Health (established in 1991). This office would be responsible for developing public health campaigns focused on male health and for coordinating the activities of federal agencies related to the promotion of male health within national, state, and local venues.
- Formally establish the Office of Indian Men's Health that was authorized by the passage of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), which passed as part of the Affordable Care Act in 2010.
- Develop a National Men's Health Policy that draws on the goals, themes, and objectives of *Healthy People 2030*. We aim to encourage federal programs to promote the health and wellbeing of men and boys, as well as advance male health sciences and outreach strategies, especially endeavors that are nationally funded and supported, help reduce waste, and promote cost-sharing among established agencies.
- Create state and local-level commissions on men's health to develop recommendations that will guide gender-appropriate public health practice.
- Devote state and local health department staff and other resources to gender-specific health education and outreach programs that respond to the evidence based health needs of men and boys.
- Direct primary, elementary, and secondary educational institutions to develop procedures for identifying at the earliest age boys (and girls) who are struggling in school or in trouble. Appropriate help should be provided to ensure that those most in need receive the educational assistance they need to progress at a normal rate through the education system.



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Recommendation #2: Advance and disseminate funded male health-specific research initiatives.

- Increase federal funding for prostate, testicular, and other male-specific cancer research through annual appropriations for agencies including the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program at the Department of Defense.
- Develop funded research projects that document and respond to areas of health and longevity disparities for men and boys, particularly the impact of men's health on family and social health, national security, and the federal budget.
- Increase the allocation of resources, including funding, toward research on androgen deficiency, improved contraceptive options for men, and other men's reproductive health issues (outside of prostate cancer research).

Recommendation #3: Develop high-impact health education and outreach initiatives targeting men, boys, and their families.

- Provide funding opportunities to facilitate the development of male health marketing campaigns designed to encourage male health initiatives, including those focused on preventive health.
- Extend the scope of health education and support for men and boys beyond reproductive health matters, particularly at the level of state and local public health departments.
- Promote programs that support a "family health model" and enhance the role of fathers as role models for their children, allowing fathers to provide examples of healthy male behavior and healthy living habits.
- Establish a National Men's Health Information Center in collaboration with Men's Health Network and other leading men's health organizations to facilitate the exchange of information regarding matters relating to health information, health promotion, preventive health services, research advances, and education in the appropriate use of health care.

Recommendation #4: Promote the development of a better-trained and more gender-sensitive U.S. public health workforce in the field of male health.

- Ensure that all educational and training curricula for healthcare professionals include competencies in delivering comprehensive, gender-appropriate care for all individuals.
- Fund demonstration projects to serve as models for public and private sector entities and practitioners to utilize in addressing educational and motivational deficiencies, as well as social, cultural, and societal barriers that adversely impact health and longevity disparities in men and boys.
- Establish a better understanding of core skill sets and baseline and ongoing educational needs for educators, public health providers, and practitioners to ensure that health and wellness services provided to males are appropriate, evidence-based, address total health needs of men and boys, and are scientifically and medically rigorous.



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- Develop a national preconception health and reproductive life planning model of care for men, boys, and their families, as recommended by professional associations and patient advocate organizations.

Recommendation #5: Promote strategies that ensure greater access and delivery of health services to men, boys, and their families.

- Implement programs and clinical services for men, boys, and their families that are gender and age appropriate and that address targeted male health issues, working with private sector stakeholders, particularly health systems and employers.
- Establish and require full insurance coverage for an annual “Well-Man” visit for men to receive important preventive health services, comparable to the “Well-Woman” visit covered under the *Affordable Care Act*.
- Expand Medicaid coverage to more childless adults of all genders to improve access to preventive care and other health services.
- Establish evidence-based practices in the delivery of preventive health care for males, an effort that should be sustained by using inclusive wording in all bills proposed and passed by Congress that aim to improve male health in the U.S.
- Reform eligibility requirements for programs such as TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and other social support programs so that nonresidential parents, usually fathers, can qualify for services to the same extent as residential single parents, usually mothers.