

Men's Health Week in Denmark (MHW)

The Danish Men's Health Society was founded in 2003 in connection with the first Men's Health Week in Denmark, and the week continues to be an important and highly prioritised activity. Men's Health week provides the society an international platform for profiling and raising awareness about Men's Health in Denmark. And for the past 5 years, the week has evolved with various high-profile partners and increasing media coverage.

The first Men's Health Week was held in Denmark in June 2003.

In Denmark, the week is organised by the Danish Men's Health Society, Copenhagen University Hospital and the National Board of Health (the co-ordinating group). Each year additional organisations are invited to join the group. This year (2007) the Danish Nurses Organisation and 3F, United Federation of Danish Workers are co-organisers. Previous years have included The Danish Mental Health Fund, The Danish Family Planning Association, Department of Gender Equality and University of Southern Denmark.

Danish MHW focuses on different area of policy relevant to men's health just like the British MHW. However themes have varied slightly and in previous years Danish MHW have looked at:

- Male health in general (2003)
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- Men and sexual health (2005)
- Men's mental well-being (2006)
- Male sensitive communication in health settings (2007)

The main objective of MHW is to raise awareness about specific issues affecting men, and to improve the health and well being of boys and men. Health services have been slow to recognise particular issues affecting men in relation to health. These issues include men's increased risk of developing a condition because of risk-taking lifestyles, delay in diagnosis due to men's late presentation to health services and men's reluctance to take appropriate care of themselves and to access support services once diagnosed.

During the week there are plenty of opportunities for organisations and charities to join in as active partners by organising local events, by providing information packs, reviews or press coverage in local magazines.

The co-ordination group provides a framework for the week, and the following activities takes place:

1. **An opening meeting** with key-speakers from high-profile organisations. This meeting is a 2-hour long afternoon meeting with short talks to start off the week. The media is invited. Key-speakers may be politicians, scientists of international reputation, chairman, director-general, celebrities or other high-profiled individuals.
2. **Men's Health Week prize:** The prize was introduced in 2004, and it is now given every year to an individual or group of people, who have been successful or played a major role in addressing a particular focus on boy's or men's health in public. Previous years prize-winners includes a journalist and a research-group.
3. **Central activities or events** organised by the co-ordinating group ranging from national conferences, press releases of research news, talks on Men's health topics, distribution of booklets and information packs to GP's, workshops and training of health professionals.
4. **Local activities** organised by our partners in the week.
5. **Media coverage.**
 - a. The week is launch by presenting new Danish **research results** on men's health. This attracts the Medias attention and ensures extensive media coverage during the week.
 - b. A **comprehensive list of individuals/professionals**, with knowledge of Men's health is provided, so the Media have easy access to comments, interviews, research or other relevant information.
 - c. The co-ordinating group will make a complete **press-announcement** including all activities for the week, to ensure that all activities in the week are seen as being a part of Men's Health Week.
6. All events and activities are advertised on our **website** www.sundmand.dk. So are all the organisations (partners).

For the last 3 years, the National Board of Health has provided some funding for the week. The Copenhagen University Hospital has provided secretarial help, and likewise the Danish Men's Health Society has contributed with manpower and some funds. This year we have received a small grant from Ministry of Social Affairs. To date we do not have funding from one year to another.

Activities organised by partners are normally funded by the organisations themselves.

For more information on Danish Men's Health Week or Men's Health Society, Denmark contact:

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