

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM COLLABORATION

TO PREVENT CHRONIC DISEASES

PUBLIC HEALTH

HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

HEALTH CENTERS



U.S. health care systems have traditionally used independent approaches to address chronic diseases. Collaboration between public health (PH) and health care systems can improve health through greater integration of services. The objective of this study was to explore current public health and health care activities among U.S. state public health department (SHD) staff.

904
respondents

“Does your program or work unit collaborate with health care systems?”

OVERVIEW

During spring 2013, a national survey was conducted that asked SHD staff whether they collaborated with health care systems (77% response rate). Those who reported yes were asked to indicate all topic areas in which they collaborated and provide examples of their collaborative work.

RESULTS

A total of 84% of respondents reported collaborating with health systems. Staff who used the Community Guide, an evidence-based online resource, and those who used evidence-based decision making processes were at least twice as likely to collaborate. Staff working in obesity, nutrition, and physical activity were less likely to report collaboration than staff working in cardiovascular health and diabetes or tobacco control.

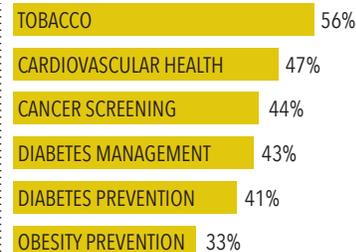
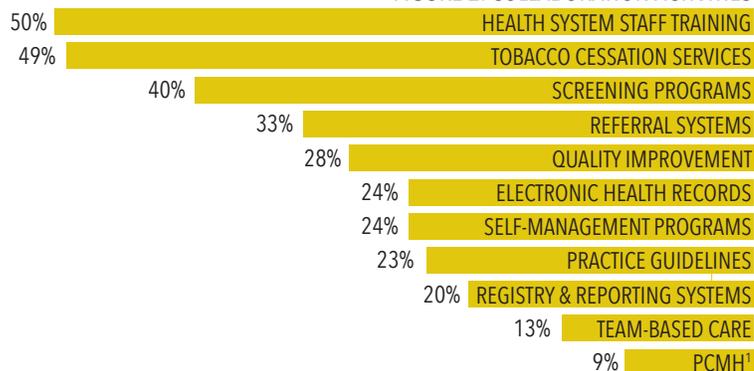


FIGURE 2. COLLABORATION ACTIVITIES



Commonly mentioned collaborative activities are displayed in Figure 2. Overall, individual-level, direct services such as cancer screenings were more commonly mentioned than system-wide activities such as changes to delivery systems or enhancing Electronic Health Records (EHRs).

¹ PCMH - Patient Centered Medical Homes

RECOMMENDATIONS

- UTILIZE ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEMS:** Well-designed EHRs can support the implementation of evidence-based public health interventions. The PH workforce can collaborate with health systems to implement, redesign, or help sustain EHRs with embedded system-wide procedures such as provider reminder systems to promote preventive health screenings and services.
- UTILIZE EVIDENCE-BASED RESOURCES FOR COLLABORATION GUIDANCE:** Free resources such as the Community Guide (www.thecommunityguide.org) describe evidence-based interventions within multiple program areas. Such resources may help PH staff to broaden the current scope of collaboration by working with health systems on system-wide policies and procedures.
- UTILIZE PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING:** For example, the Institute of Medicine provides collaboration case studies available at: www.iom.edu/Reports/2015/PH-and-HC-WIB.aspx. Learning communities for collaboration may also provide peer-to-peer guidance.