

## Background

Local health departments (LHDs) are well positioned to affect programs and policies related to chronic disease control; however, they face organizational barriers and need complex skills for conducting evidence-based programs and policies (EBPPs).

The purpose of this project was to understand factors supporting or hindering use of evidence-based chronic disease control among local health directors and practitioners in Missouri.

## Methods

We conducted one-hour interviews by phone in Jan.-Apr. 2017. The interview asked about:

- Awareness of the existence of chronic disease control EBPPs
- Leadership and agency support for use of EBPPs
- Ways to spread and promote EBPPs
- Partnerships

## Participants

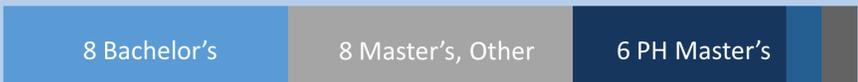
**24 local health directors and practitioners** leading or involved with chronic disease control from 16 LHDs in Missouri were interviewed.



Varying sized LHD jurisdictions were represented; small (<50,000), medium (50,000-199,999), and large (≥200,000).



The majority of participants had a bachelor's degree or a master's degree in a field other than public health.

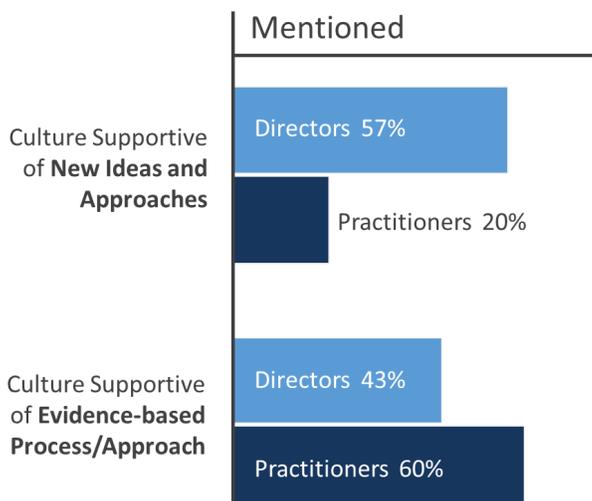


## Agency Support for Use of Evidence-based Chronic Disease Control

All participants reported feeling supported by the leaders of their LHD (health officers, directors, or local governing entity).

Directors and practitioners noted **supportive cultures** for evidence-based chronic disease control at their LHDs; however, more directors cited a culture supportive of new ideas/approaches while more practitioners mentioned one supportive of an evidence-based process.

**Most directors** reported chronic disease control was deemed a priority by their agency and a community need. Examples of how this was shown included leadership support for maintaining a chronic disease prevention division or efforts in a small LHD, and financial commitment by providing a core budget for those efforts.



“I really think that it’s part of our core business...we have an entire division that’s focused on chronic disease prevention...we have core budget focused on those types of efforts...we’re dedicated both in spirit and financially.” -Director

**All practitioners** noted feeling supported by their supervisors when they needed it; supports cited:

- Encouragement and recognition
- Strategizing and problem-solving
- Navigating partnerships
- Professional development

“So, that’s just part of that expectation...we’re going to go back and find where is there evidence for that.” -Practitioner

