

Preliminary results from the Public Health in the Appropriate Continuation of Tested Interventions (PH-ACTION) National Survey

Background

State health departments are tasked with making difficult decision about public health programs all the time. More needs to be understood about how state health departments make program decisions and what factors play into that decision-making. The purpose of this survey is to assess to what degree effective and ineffective public health programs are being continued or discontinued at the state level and how these decisions are affected by different factors.

Methods

Surveys were emailed to a random sample of 1329 individuals on the NACDD membership list who worked in chronic disease related positions at state health departments. The survey achieved a 50% (n=643) response rate over the period from July-August 2018. The survey asked about decision making processes about programs, individual skills, organizational factors and leadership skills and the types of partnerships state health departments engage in.

Characteristics of Respondents and State Health Departments (SHDs)

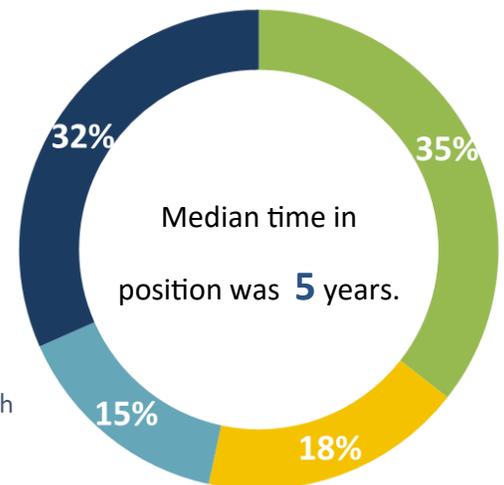
Respondents

643 SHD employees completed the survey.

Female	80%
Education in public health	36%
30-59 years of age	78%
Median years in public health	14 years
Program Area: Chronic Disease	50%

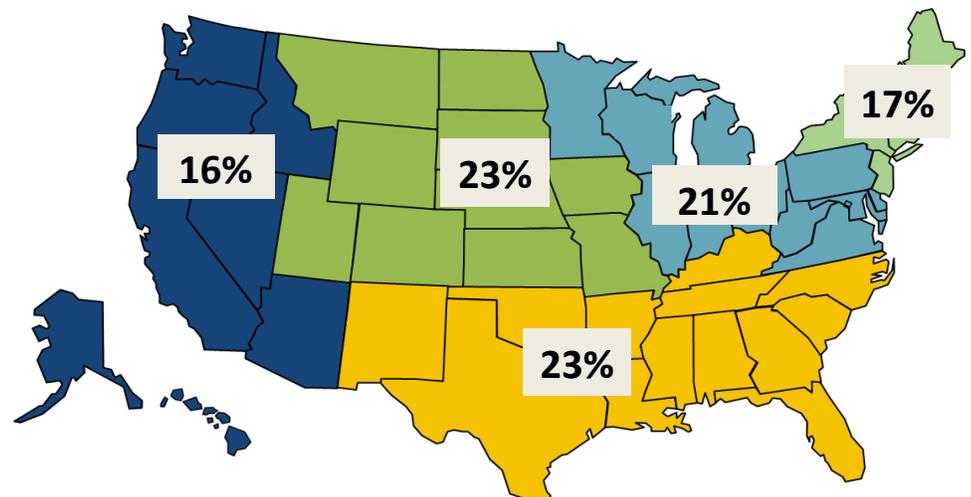
Position

- Director of multiple programs
- Program Manager
- Specialist (e.g. epidemiologist, health educator, etc.)
- Other



States

All **50 states** were represented in the survey.



Donations As an incentive for participating in the survey, respondents were given the option have a donation made on their behalf. A combined total of **\$4520** was donated to the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, America Walks, the Arthritis Foundation, and the American Lung Association.

Top 5 Reasons for Programs Continuing and Ending

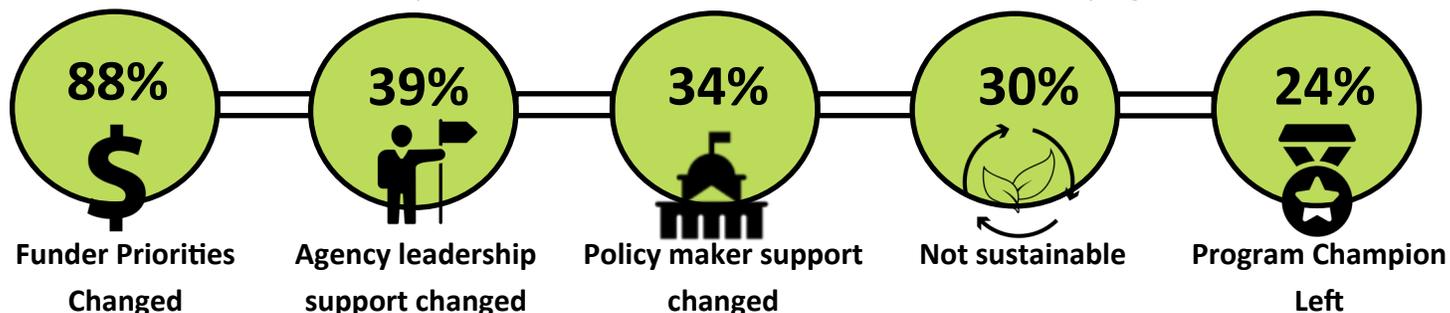
Programs Continued that should have ended

Almost 49% reported that their SHD sometimes, often or always continued ineffective programs that should have ended

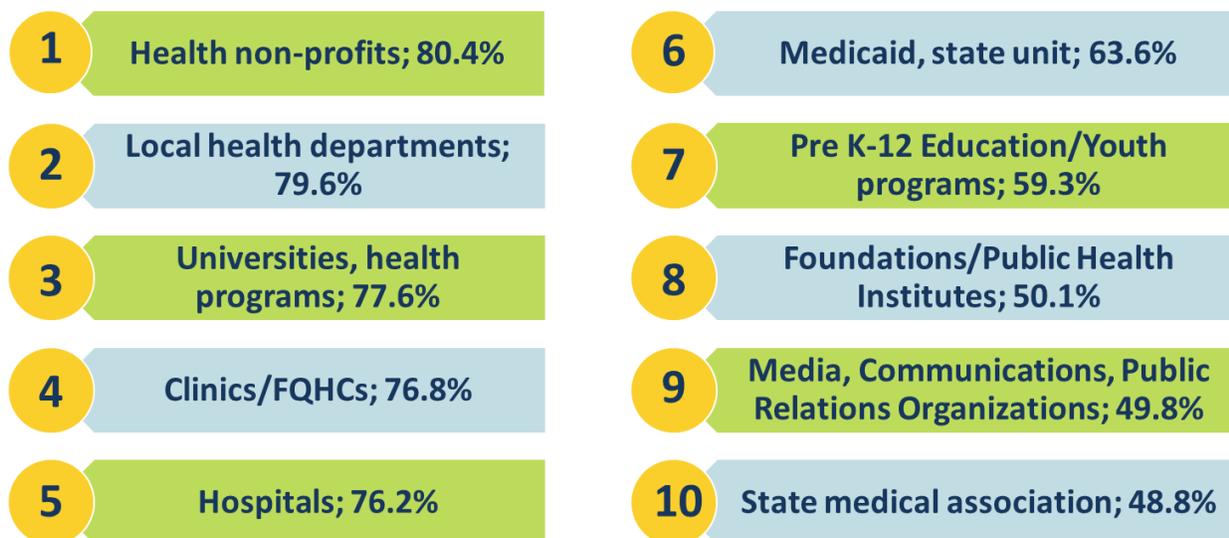


Programs Ended that should have continued

Over 50% reported that their SHD sometimes or often ends effective programs



Top 10 Partnerships of SHDs



Next Steps:

We will continue to get a more in-depth understanding of how SHDs make decisions. The project will develop case studies through in-depth interviews to dive down deeper into the factors that affect such decision-making around program continuation or ending. The end goal is to build interactive, predictive models that could help to inform decisions-makers in SHD on what conditions leads to the continuation of evidence-based public health programs. We will continue to keep our participants informed of further findings. To stay up to date on our project activities and other project at our research center, please check out our website & Twitter handle.

If you would like more information about the project please email: mpadek@wustl.edu