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ARIZONA PREVENTION
RESEARCH CENTER

2014 NATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ADVOCACY SURVEY

A project of the
University of Arizona,
Arizona Prevention Research Center

The 2014 National Community Health Worker Advocacy Survey (NCHWAS) is the largest on-line survey of Community Health Workers (CHW) conducted to date. NCHWAS represents the voices of approximately 1,767 CHWs from 45 United States and 4 US territories. Data gathered through NCHWAS is intended to be 'open source' and used for CHW workforce development and sustainability.

The NCHWAS aims to describe (1) the state of CHWs as a professional field and (2) the impact of CHW community advocacy on community engagement to address health disparities. Although Community Health Workers or CHWs go by a variety of titles including, *Promotora de Salud*, Community Health Representatives, Community Health Aides, Peer Educators, and Patient Navigators to name just a few, we use the term Community Health Worker or CHWs as the umbrella term to describe the workforce.

CHW workforce data collected by NCHWAS includes; gender, race/ethnicity, education, salary, experience, work environment, training, and health and social areas of focus, professional affiliation and leadership, engagement in Affordable Care Act outreach and enrollment, CHWs advocacy efforts and impact on the social determinants of health and CHWs -led initiatives to sustain and advance the CHW workforce.

The anonymous, on-line survey was distributed to CHWs through local, state, and national CHW professional associations, programs, and allies during the months of February and May of 2014 and was available in English, Spanish and Korean languages. Data reported here are not intended for publication in academic journals.

This report represents preliminary data for **HRSA Region I**.

A total of 74 individuals initiated the on-line survey, of which 74 self-identified as a CHW of whom 74 had not taken the survey in the previous 12 months and were eligible to complete the survey. All reports include data for CHWs who initiated the survey and may or may not have completed the entire survey thus the number of participants fluctuates by question as responses were not required for every question.

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*National Community Health Worker Advocacy Survey: 2014 Preliminary Data Report for HRSA
Region I – (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)
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If you have questions please contact us at the COPH-azprc@email.arizona.edu

CHW Demographics

States

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
New Hampshire	1	1%
Maine	5	7%
Vermont	6	8%
Connecticut	14	19%
Rhode Island	23	31%
Massachusetts	25	34%
TOTAL RESPONSE		74



Years Worked as a CHW

	<i>Response</i>
Average Years Worked	8
Minimum Years Worked	1
Maximum Years Worked	29
TOTAL RESPONSE	72

CHW Age

	<i>Response</i>
Average Age in Years	43
Minimum Age in Years	22
Maximum Age in Years	77
TOTAL RESPONSE	58

CHW Gender

<i>Answer</i>		<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Male		5	9%
Female		52	91%
TOTAL RESPONSE			57

CHW Race and Ethnicity

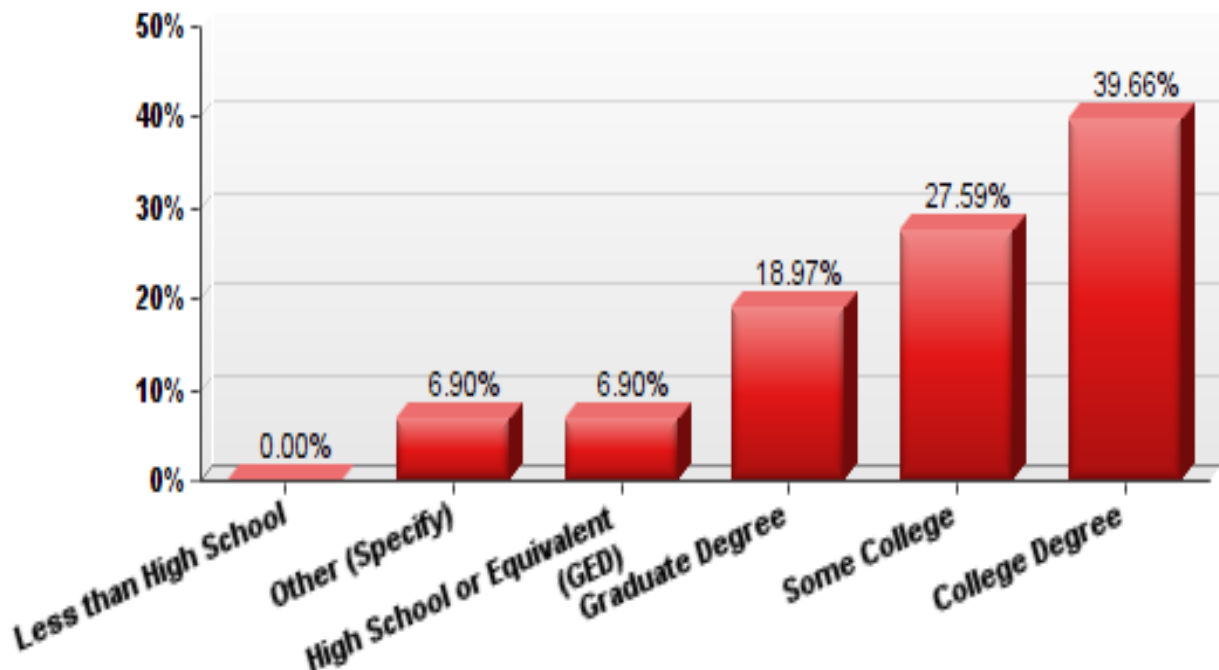
Answer	Response	%
Asian / Pacific Islander	0	0%
American Indian / Alaska Native	0	0%
Other (Specify)	2	4%
Black / African American	16	28%
Non Hispanic White	17	30%
Hispanic / Latino(a)	26	46%
TOTAL RESPONSE		57

CHW Highest Level of Education

Answer	Response	%
Less than High School	0	0%
High School or Equivalent (GED)	4	7%
Some College	16	28%
College Degree	23	40%
Graduate Degree	11	19%
Other (Specify)	4	7%
TOTAL RESPONSE		58

CHW Highest Level of Education

N = 58

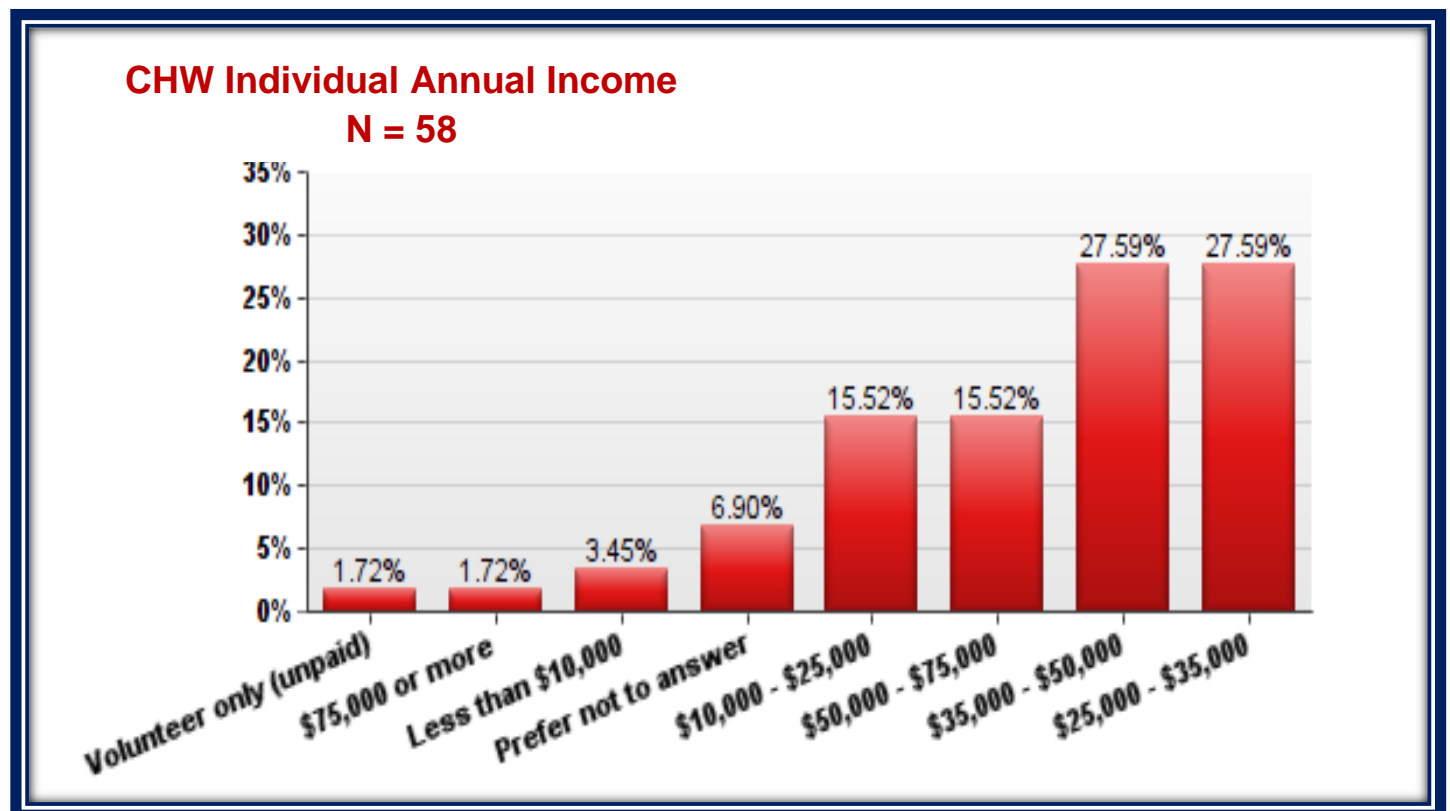


Number of Hours CHW Worked or Volunteered in a Typical Week

<i>Paid</i>		<i>Volunteer</i>	
Average Hours Worked	39	Average Hours Worked	13
Minimum Hours Worked	7.5	Minimum Hours Worked	3
Maximum Hours Worked	65	Maximum Hours Worked	70
TOTAL RESPONSE	55	TOTAL RESPONSE	37

CHW Individual Annual Income

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Less than \$10,000	2	3%
\$10,000 - \$25,000	9	16%
\$25,000 - \$35,000	16	28%
\$35,000 - \$50,000	16	28%
\$50,000 - \$75,000	9	16%
\$75,000 or more	1	2%
Volunteer only (unpaid)	1	2%
Prefer not to answer	4	7%
TOTAL RESPONSE		58



CHW with Employer-Based Health Insurance

Answer	Response	%
Yes	51	89%
No	6	11%
TOTAL RESPONSE		57

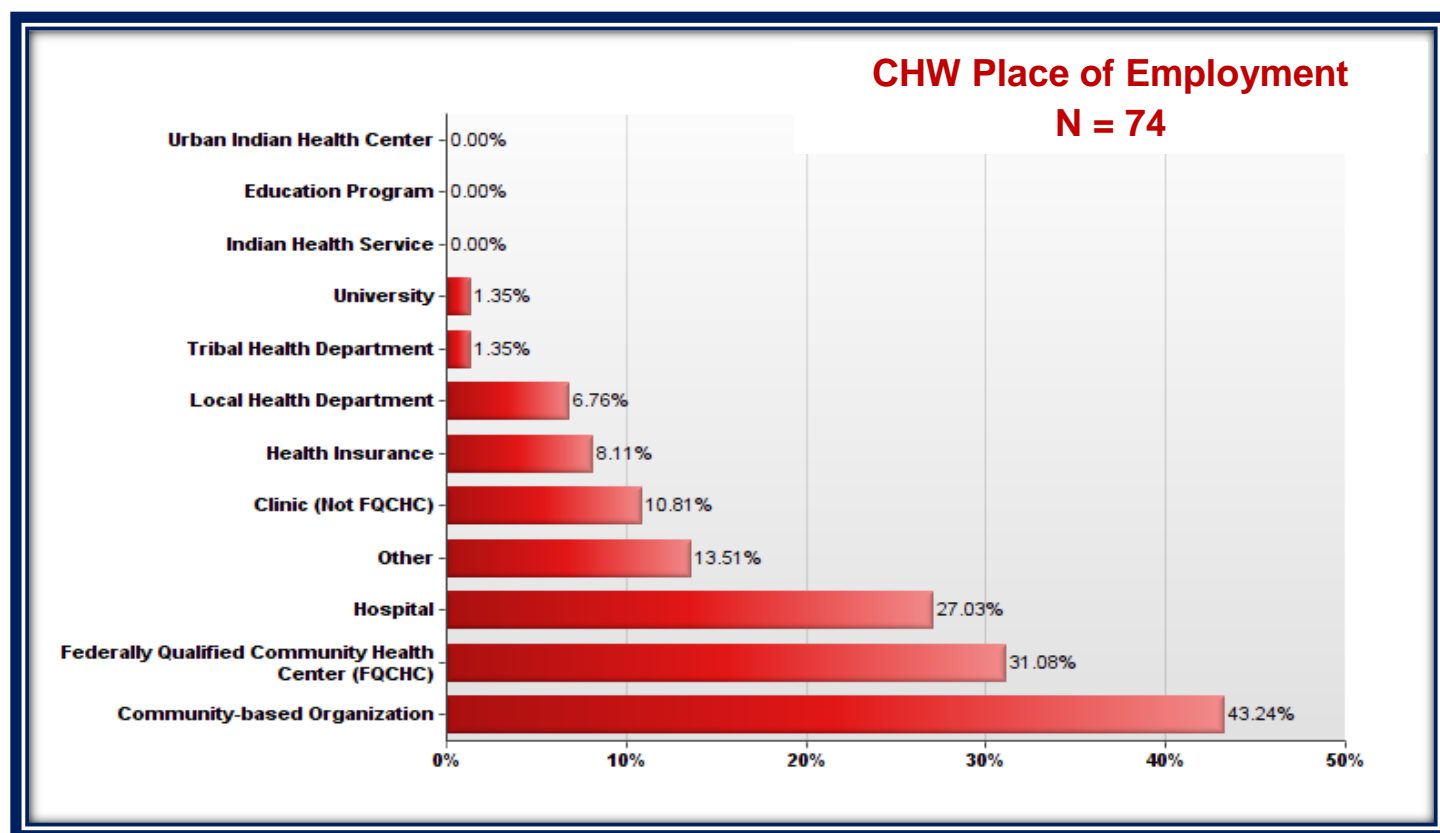
CHW Place of Employment

Answer	Response	%
Urban Indian Health Center	0	0%
Education Program	0	0%
Indian Health Service	0	0%
University	1	1%
Tribal Health Department	1	1%
Local Health Department	5	7%
Health Insurance	6	8%
Clinic (Not FQCHC)	8	11%
Other	10	14%
Hospital	20	27%
Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQCHC)	23	31%
Community-based Organization	32	43%

* CHWs could select more than one place of employment.

CHWs often selected a primary place of employment listed above and marked Other to specify Where CHWs Work

TOTAL RESPONSE	74
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Where CHWs Work
SUMMARY – City Only

City	Response
Boston	11
Bridgeport	5
Burlington	1
Concord	1
Cranston	1
Danvers	1
Framingham	1
Greater Boston Area	1
Hartford	5
Holyoke	1
Lewiston	1
Lynn	1
Machias	1
Narragansett	1
New Haven	2
Newport	1
Pawtucket	3
Portland	3
Providence, Central Falls, Pawtucket	1
Providence	13
Rutland	1
Saint Johnsbury	3
Salem	2
Somerville	1
South Burlington	1
Springfield	3
Stamford	1
Trumbull	1
Waltham MA	3
Warwick	1
Woonsocket	1
TOTAL RESPONSE	73

Top Three Health Issues CHWs Work On

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Tuberculosis - TB	1	1%
Occupational Health	1	1%
HIV / AIDS	2	3%
Injury Control	2	3%
Elder Health	4	6%
Dental Health	5	7%
Sexual or Reproductive Health	5	7%
Alcohol / Substance / Tobacco Use	6	8%
Adolescent Health	7	10%
Cardio Vascular Disease - CVD (Screening and Management)	9	13%
Asthma	12	17%
Diabetes (Screening and Self-management)	13	18%
Cancer (Screening and Treatment)	14	20%
Maternal and Child Health	16	23%
Environmental Health	16	23%
Prevention (Nutrition and/or Physical Activity)	17	24%
Behavioral Health / Mental Health	17	24%
Chronic Disease Prevention	22	31%
Accessing Health Services	36	51%
TOTAL RESPONSE	71	

Primary Race or Ethnicity of Population Served by CHWs

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Other (Specify)	3	4%
American Indian / Alaska Native	6	8%
Asian / Pacific Islander	11	15%
Non-Hispanic White	38	52%
Black / African American	42	58%
Hispanic / Latino(a)	55	75%
TOTAL RESPONSE	73	

CHW Professional Development

Level of Agreement with the *American Public Health Association* definition of a Community Health Worker

A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy text.

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
Level of agreement	3 (5%)	0 (0%)	22 (38%)	33 (57%)	58

CHW Perceptions on Opportunities for Better Pay in Current Place of Employment

Answer	Response	%
Yes	15	26%
No	17	30%
I don't know	25	44%
TOTAL RESPONSE	57	

Desired Aspects of a Community Health Worker Professional Association or Group

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Getting peer support from others.	44	77%
Opportunities to gain leadership skills.	44	77%
Opportunities to network with other CHWs.	46	81%
Opportunities to share information or learn about community events.	47	82%
Training or seminars.	50	88%
Opportunities to work with other CHWs on issues that are important to the CHW profession.	50	88%
Opportunities to work with other CHWs on issues that are important to my community.	51	89%
TOTAL RESPONSE		57

A CHW Member Of A CHW Professional Association or Group

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	30	53%
No	27	47%
TOTAL RESPONSE		57

CHW Community Advocacy Readings and Resources

Publications

- **Establishing a Professional Profile of Community Health Workers: results from a national study of roles, activities, and training.** Ingram M, Reinschmidt K, Schachter KA, Davidson CL, Sabo S, De Zapien JG, Carvajal SC. *Journal of Community Health* 2012;37(2):529-37. doi:10.1007/s10900-001-9475-2. PubMed PMID: 21964912.
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10900-011-9475-2/fulltext.html>
- **Predictors and a Framework for Fostering Community Advocacy as a Community Health Worker Core Function to Eliminate Health Disparities.** Sabo S, Ingram M, Reinschmidt K, Schachter K, Jacobs L, Guernsey de Zapien J, Robinson L, Carvajal C. *American Journal of Public Health* 2013; 103(7):e67-e73. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2012.301108. Epub 2013;15(2):427-36. PubMed: PMID: 23678904.
<http://ajph.publicatons.org/doi/abs/10.2105?AJPH>
- **Developing an Action Learning Community Advocacy/Leadership Training Program for Community Health Workers and Their Agencies to Reduce Health Disparities in Arizona Border Communities.** Schachter K, Ingram M, Jacobs L, Guernsey de Zapien J, Hafter H, Carvajal S. *Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice, Volume 7(2)Spring 2014, 34-49.*
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10935-013-0335-y>
- **A community health worker intervention to address the social determinants of health through policy change.** Ingram M, Schachter K, Sabo S, Reinschmidt K, Gomez S, Guernsey de Zapien J, Carvajal SC.. *Journal of Primary Prevention*. April 2014, Volume 35, Issue 2, pp 119-123 <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10935-013-0335-y>

CHW Advocacy and Leadership Curriculum

Acción Para La Salud (Action for Health)

The Acción Para La Salud core research project aims to determine the effectiveness of integrating community advocacy into community health worker (CHW) outreach and education activities in increasing community-driven policy change related to chronic disease prevention.

English Version

<http://azprc.arizona.edu/sites/azprc.arizona.edu/files/Accion-Para-La-Salud-English.pdf>

Spanish Version

<http://azprc.arizona.edu/sites/azprc.arizona.edu/files/Accion%20Para%20la%20Salud%20Guia%20Curricular.pdf>

NCHAWS National, Regional and State Reports

- Reports : <http://azprc.arizona.edu/resources/reports>