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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 VIII**.

A total of 84 individuals initiated the on-line survey, of which 84 self-identified as a CHW of whom 84 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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Region VIII – (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)  
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If you have questions please contact us at the [COPH-azprc@email.arizona.edu](mailto:COPH-azprc@email.arizona.edu)

## CHW Demographics

### States

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
North Dakota	0	0%
Wyoming	1	1%
South Dakota	2	2%
Utah	9	11%
Montana	11	13%
Colorado	61	73%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>84</b>



### Years Worked as a CHW

	<i>Response</i>
Average Years Worked	5
Minimum Years Worked	2 months
Maximum Years Worked	45
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>80</b>

### CHW Age

	<i>Response</i>
Average Age in Years	48
Minimum Age in Years	23
Maximum Age in Years	73
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>72</b>

### CHW Gender

<i>Answer</i>		<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Male		8	11%
Female		64	89%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>			<b>72</b>

## CHW Race and Ethnicity

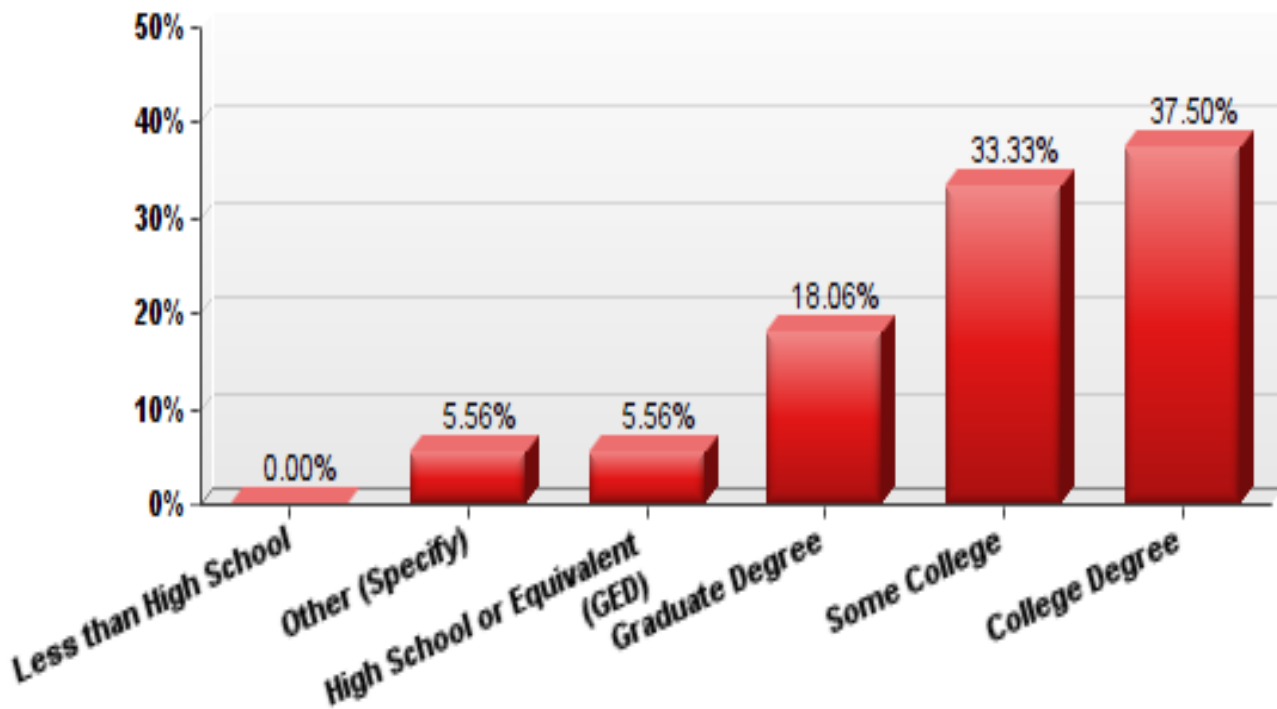
Answer	Response	%
Asian / Pacific Islander	0	0%
Other (Specify)	2	3%
Black / African American	8	11%
American Indian / Alaska Native	13	19%
Hispanic / Latino(a)	22	31%
Non Hispanic White	28	40%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>70</b>

## CHW Highest Level of Education

Answer	Response	%
Less than High School	0	0%
High School or Equivalent (GED)	4	6%
Some College	24	33%
College Degree	27	38%
Graduate Degree	13	18%
Other (Specify)	4	6%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>72</b>

## CHW Highest Level of Education

**N = 72**



## Number of Hours CHW Worked or Volunteered in a Typical Week

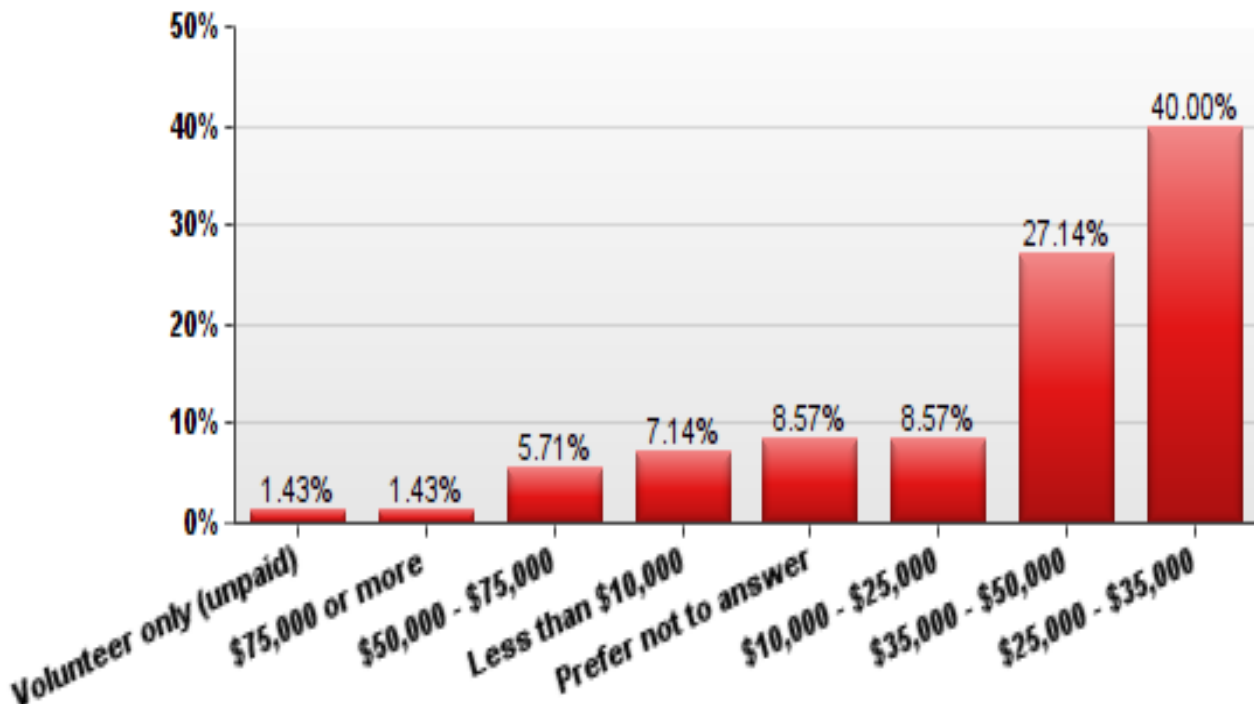
<i>Paid</i>		<i>Volunteer</i>	
Average Hours Worked	34	Average Hours Worked	11
Minimum Hours Worked	2	Minimum Hours Worked	1
Maximum Hours Worked	65	Maximum Hours Worked	36
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>37</b>

## CHW Individual Annual Income

<i>Answer</i>		<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Less than \$10,000		5	7%
\$10,000 - \$25,000		6	9%
\$25,000 - \$35,000		28	40%
\$35,000 - \$50,000		19	27%
\$50,000 - \$75,000		4	6%
\$75,000 or more		1	1%
Volunteer only (unpaid)		1	1%
Prefer not to answer		6	9%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>			<b>70</b>

## CHW Individual Annual Income

**N = 70**

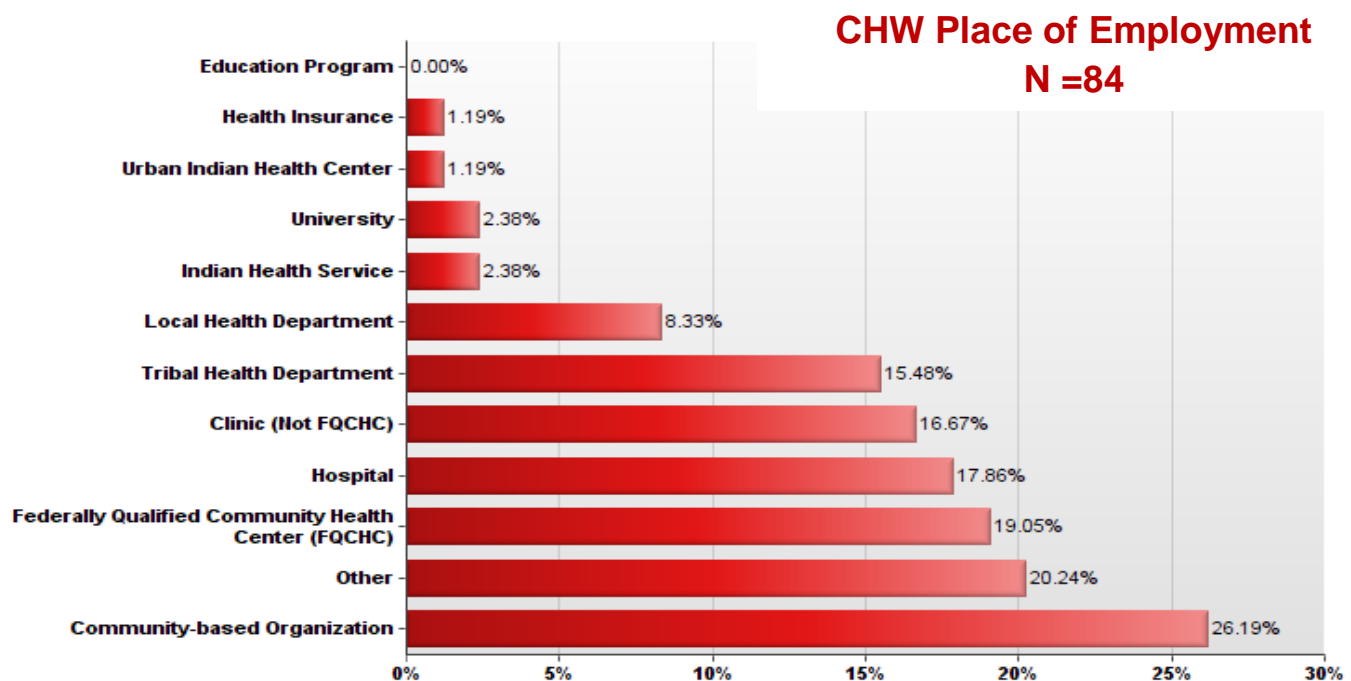


## CHW with Employer-Based Health Insurance

Answer	Response	%
Yes	51	72%
No	20	28%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>71</b>

## CHW Place of Employment

Answer	Response	%
Education Program	0	0%
Health Insurance	1	1%
Urban Indian Health Center	1	1%
University	2	2%
Indian Health Service	2	2%
Local Health Department	7	8%
Tribal Health Department	13	15%
Clinic (Not FQCHC)	14	17%
Hospital	15	18%
Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQCHC)	16	19%
Other	17	20%
Community-based Organization	22	26%
* 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		
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>84</b>



**Where CHWs Work**  
**SUMMARY – City Only**

<b>City</b>	<b>Response</b>
Alamosa	1
Aneth	4
Arlee	1
Aurora	5
Big Timber	1
Cedar City	1
Centennial	1
Choteau	1
Colorado Springs	3
Commerce City	1
Craig	1
Denver	19
Dove Creek	1
Durango	3
Eagle Butte	1
Elmo	1
Forsyth	1
Fort Benton	1
Frisco	1
Ft. Duchesne	1
Glenwood Springs	1
Grand Junction	3
Harlowton	1
Idaho Springs	1
Lakewood	1
Littleton	2
Longmont	1
Montezuma County	1
Monument Valley	1
Naturita	1
Norwood	3
Olathe	1
Pagosa Springs	1
Park City	1
Philipsburg	1
Polson	1
Powell	1
Pueblo	1
Rapid City	1
Rocky Ford	1
Roundup	1
Salt Lake City	1
Silverton	1
Superior	1
Telluride	3
Walsenburg	1
Westminster	1
Wheat Ridge	1
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>84</b>

### Top Three Health Issues CHWs Work On

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Tuberculosis - TB	0	0%
Occupational Health	1	1%
Sexual or Reproductive Health	2	2%
Asthma	3	4%
Environmental Health	4	5%
Adolescent Health	4	5%
HIV / AIDS	5	6%
Maternal and Child Health	5	6%
Injury Control	6	7%
Dental Health	8	10%
Alcohol / Substance / Tobacco Use	11	13%
Cancer (Screening and Treatment)	15	18%
Behavioral Health / Mental Health	18	22%
Cardio Vascular Disease - CVD (Screening and Management)	21	25%
Elder Health	26	31%
Chronic Disease Prevention	30	36%
Accessing Health Services	31	37%
Diabetes (Screening and Self-management)	40	48%
Prevention (Nutrition and/or Physical Activity)	41	49%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>83</b>	

### Primary Race or Ethnicity of Population Served by CHWs

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Other (Specify)	4	5%
Asian / Pacific Islander	12	14%
Black / African American	20	24%
American Indian / Alaska Native	25	30%
Hispanic / Latino(a)	45	54%
Non-Hispanic White	50	60%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>84</b>	

## 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 (4%)	4 (6%)	33 (46%)	32 (44%)	72

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

Answer	Response	%
Yes	9	12%
No	28	38%
I don't know	36	49%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>73</b>	



### Desired Aspects of a Community Health Worker Professional Association or Group

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Getting peer support from others.	43	61%
Opportunities to network with other CHWs.	45	63%
Opportunities to share information or learn about community events.	45	63%
Opportunities to work with other CHWs on issues that are important to the CHW profession.	45	63%
Opportunities to gain leadership skills.	53	75%
Opportunities to work with other CHWs on issues that are important to my community.	60	85%
Training or seminars.	64	90%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>71</b>

### A CHW Member Of A CHW Professional Association or Group

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	20	27%
No	53	73%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>73</b>

## 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>