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## 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 **TEXAS**.

A total of 385 individuals initiated the on-line survey, of which 385 self-identified as a CHW of whom 385 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.

This study was supported by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
(Grant U48DP001925) and should be cited as:

*National Community Health Worker Advocacy Survey: 2014 Preliminary Data Report for Texas.*  
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University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

If you have questions please contact us at the [COPH-azprc@email.arizona.edu](mailto:COPH-azprc@email.arizona.edu)

## CHW Demographics



### Years Worked as a CHW

	Response
Average Years Worked	05.84
Minimum Years Worked	9 months
Maximum Years Worked	50.00
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>365</b>







### CHW Age

	Response
Average Age in Years	47
Minimum Age in Years	24
Maximum Age in Years	75
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>273</b>

### CHW Gender

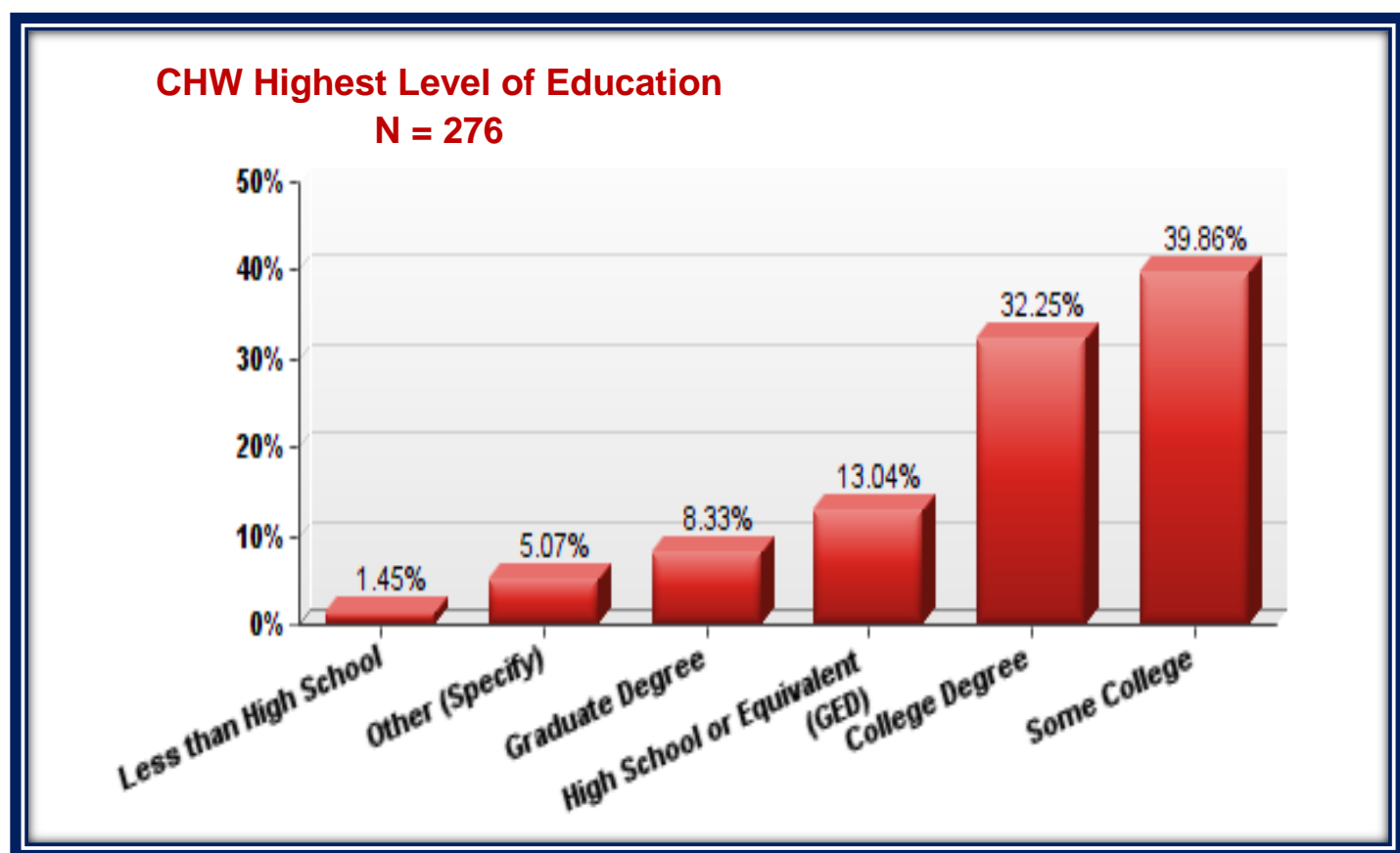
Answer		Response	%
Male		27	10%
Female		248	90%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>275</b>	

### CHW Race and Ethnicity

Answer		Response	%
Asian / Pacific Islander		2	1%
American Indian / Alaska Native		4	1%
Other (Specify)		5	2%
Non Hispanic White		37	14%
Black / African American		54	20%
Hispanic / Latino(a)		176	64%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>274</b>	

## CHW Highest Level of Education

Answer	Response	%
Less than High School	4	1%
High School or Equivalent (GED)	36	13%
Some College	110	40%
College Degree	89	32%
Graduate Degree	23	8%
Other (Specify)	14	5%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>276</b>

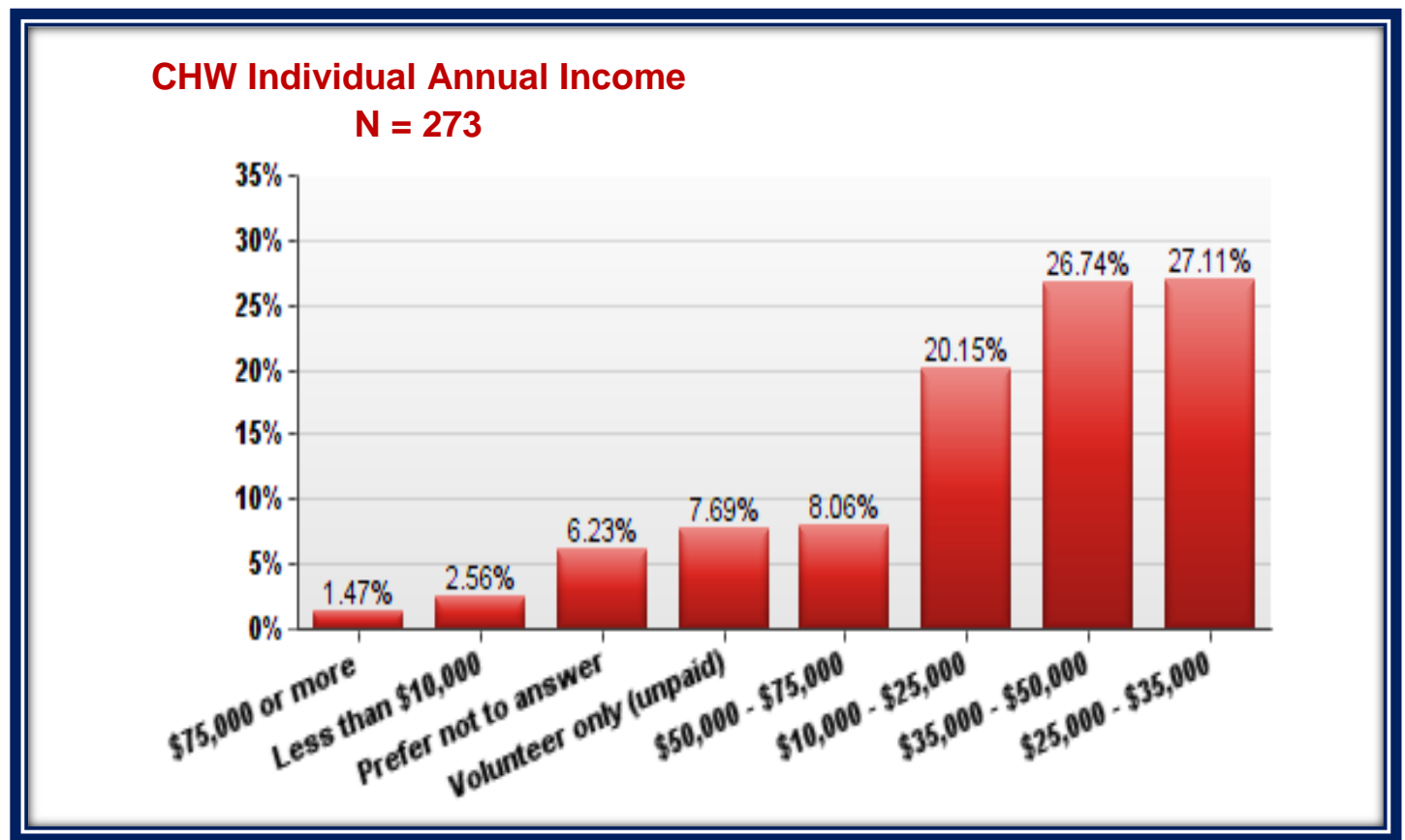


## Number of Hours CHW Worked or Volunteered in a Typical Week

<i>Paid</i>		<i>Volunteer</i>	
Average Hours Worked	38.39	Average Hours Worked	12.08
Minimum Hours Worked	06.00	Minimum Hours Worked	00.50
Maximum Hours Worked	60.00	Maximum Hours Worked	50.00
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>189</b>

## CHW Individual Annual Income

Answer	Response	%
Less than \$10,000	7	3%
\$10,000 - \$25,000	55	20%
\$25,000 - \$35,000	74	27%
\$35,000 - \$50,000	73	27%
\$50,000 - \$75,000	22	8%
\$75,000 or more	4	1%
Volunteer only (unpaid)	21	8%
Prefer not to answer	17	6%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>273</b>

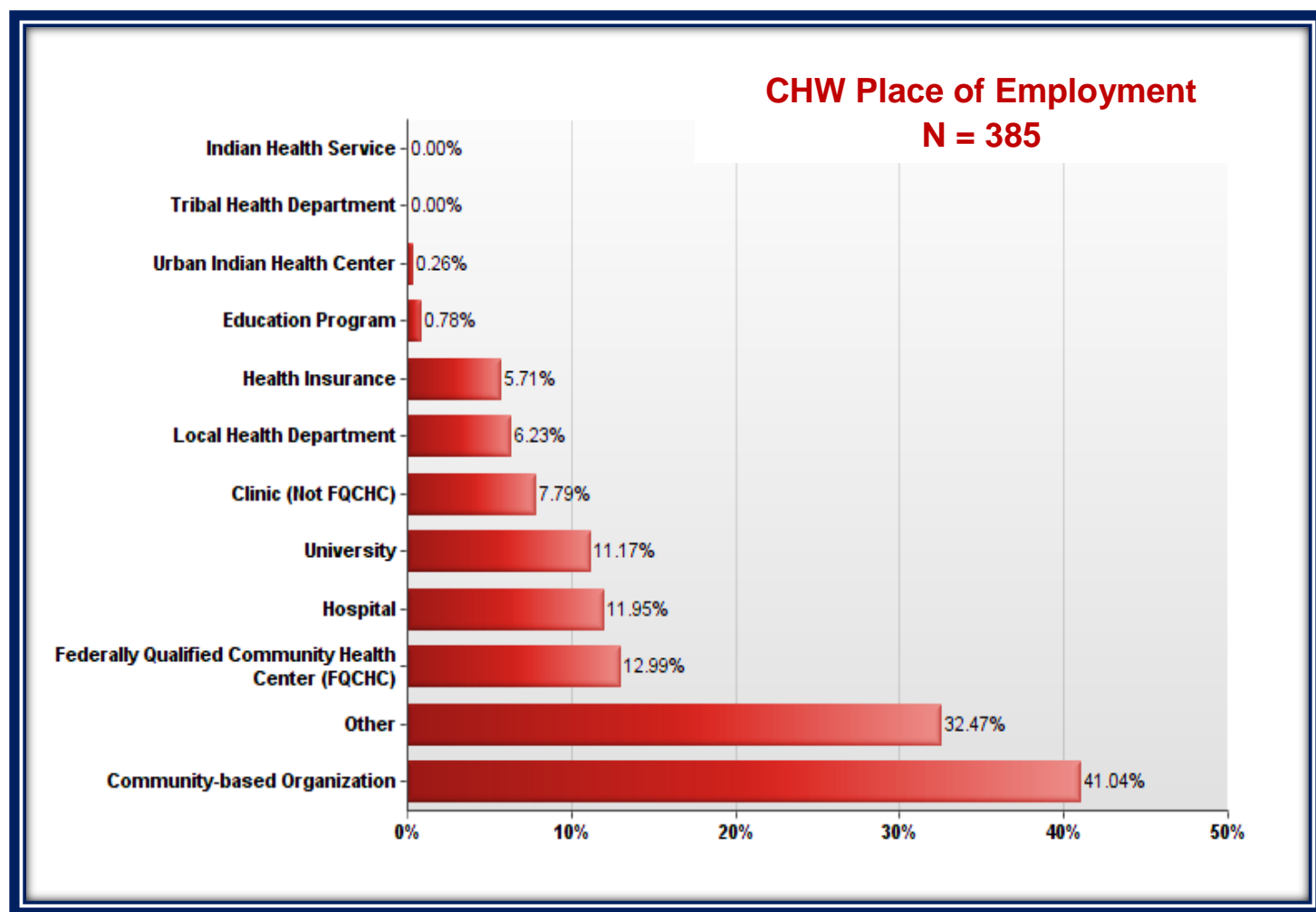


## CHW with Employer-based Health Insurance

Answer	Response	%
Yes	207	76%
No	64	24%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>271</b>

## CHW Place of Employment

Answer	Response	%
Indian Health Service	0	0%
Tribal Health Department	0	0%
Urban Indian Health Center	1	0%
Education Program	3	1%
Health Insurance	22	6%
Local Health Department	24	6%
Clinic (Not FQCHC)	30	8%
University	43	11%
Hospital	46	12%
Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQCHC)	50	13%
Other *(Text Specific Not Listed Here)	125	32%
Community-based Organization	158	41%
* 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>385</b>



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

<b>City</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Response</b>
Alamo	1	Mansfield	1
Albany	1	Maverick	1
Alton	2	McAllen	2
Amarillo	1	Midland	1
Arlington	4	Mineral Wells	2
Austin	25	Missouri City	2
Bay City	1	Morton	1
Beaumont	3	Nacogdoches	4
Bee Busy Inc.	1	New Braunfels	1
Beeville	1	Overton	1
Brackettville	2	Paris	2
Bridgeport	1	Pasadena	1
Brownsville	18	Pharr	1
Cleveland	1	Plano	2
Conroe	2	Port Arthur	1
Corpus Christi	9	Raymondville	1
Cuero	1	Richmond	2
Dallas	24	Rio Grande Valley	1
Del Rio	2	Robstown	2
Denton	1	Rosenberg	2
Dickinson	1	Round Rock	1
Donna	1	San Angelo	1
Eagle Pass	10	San Antonio	23
El Paso	20	San Benito	1
Falfurrias	1	San Elizario	3
Fort Worth	20	San Juan	2
Friona	1	San Marcos	1
Harlingen	2	Socorro	1
Hempstead	1	Stafford	1
Houston	93	Sugar Land	1
Irving	2	Tenaha	2
Jasper	1	Texarkana	1
Kingsville	1	Tomball	1
Laredo	5	Tyler	21
League City	1	Weslaco	8
Lubbock	16		
Lufkin	2		
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>378</b>	

### Top Three Health Issues CHWs Work On

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Tuberculosis - TB	6	2%
Occupational Health	7	2%
Injury Control	11	3%
Cardio Vascular Disease - CVD (Screening and Management)	22	6%
Environmental Health	26	7%
Asthma	32	9%
Adolescent Health	38	10%
Sexual or Reproductive Health	41	11%
HIV / AIDS	45	12%
Dental Health	46	13%
Elder Health	54	15%
Cancer (Screening and Treatment)	57	16%
Maternal and Child Health	60	16%
Alcohol / Substance / Tobacco Use	65	18%
Behavioral Health / Mental Health	80	22%
Chronic Disease Prevention	98	27%
Diabetes (Screening and Self-management)	128	35%
Prevention (Nutrition and/or Physical Activity)	132	36%
Accessing Health Services	140	38%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>367</b>	

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

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Other (Specify)	15	4%
American Indian / Alaska Native	21	6%
Asian / Pacific Islander	42	11%
Non-Hispanic White	116	31%
Black / African American	176	47%
Hispanic / Latino(a)	317	85%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>373</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	14 (5%)	4 (2%)	91 (33%)	165 (60%)	274

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

Answer	Response	%
Yes	61	22%
No	81	29%
I don't know	134	49%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>	<b>276</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.	176	64%
Opportunities to gain leadership skills.	202	74%
Opportunities to work with other CHWs on issues that are important to the CHW profession.	215	78%
Opportunities to share information or learn about community events.	220	80%
Opportunities to network with other CHWs.	221	81%
Opportunities to work with other CHWs on issues that are important to my community.	232	85%
Training or seminars.	257	94%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>274</b>

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

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	123	44%
No	154	56%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSE</b>		<b>277</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>