

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Collaborative Approaches in Chronic Disease Prevention: Factors Affecting Implementation of Evidence-based Practices in Local Public Health Coalitions

Project Summary: This project combines two important topics in public health – evidence-based practice (EBP) and coalition/partnership work. The research examines how coalitions find, select and use evidence-based chronic disease and related risk factor prevention activities. In addition, it studies the role of local public health agencies in coalitions, and their influence on EBP use and adoption.

The project uses data from a survey of local public health agency directors and coalition coordinators, a network analysis using PARTNER of eight to ten community coalitions, and interview data collected in a subsample of communities. The project addresses a topic of national significance as public health agencies seek to expand their capacity for supporting evidence-based chronic disease prevention practices through community partnerships. Additional findings from the research address the important issue of sustaining the work of coalitions when resources are scarce.

Relevance to Practice: The project is expected to provide a map of community coalitions across Colorado, providing information for coalitions and their managers to build new relationships and share best practices (*in progress*). The findings provide information to local public health agencies on their most common and effective roles in coalitions. The coalitions selected for the network analysis have had the opportunity to understand their coalition from a network perspective and receive direct consultation to develop action steps based on the analysis. Other coalitions can learn from the project's use of the free PARTNER network analysis tool and embark on their own network analyses in the future. Additionally, other coalitions can use the finding to think through coalition sustainability when funding is no longer available or resources are limited.

Project Advisory Committee: The PAC is led by Kyle Legleiter, MPH and includes members from local public health agencies, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Center for Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Prevention, the Colorado School of Public Health's Office of Public Health Practice, faculty from the Colorado School of Public Health and public health professionals from local public health agencies throughout Colorado.

Project Consultants: Danielle Varda, PhD, University of Colorado – Denver, School of Public Affairs and Lori Crane, PhD, Colorado School of Public Health

Research Team: Colorado School of Public Health, Public Health Alliance of Colorado through the Colorado Public Health Practice-Based Research Network

Funding Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Timeframe: February 2010 – February 2012

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