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LHD Activities to Ensure Access to Care

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A collaborative study including Dr. Gulzar Shah examines local health departments (LHDs) and how they can play an important role in linking people to personal health services and ensuring the provision of health care when it is otherwise unavailable. However, the extent to which LHDs are involved in ensuring access to health care in its jurisdictions is not well known.

From the study, researchers concluded that there is substantial variation in LHD engagement in activities to ensure access to care. Differences in LHD capacity and the needs of the communities in which they are located may account for this variation. Further research is needed to determine whether this variation is associated with adverse population health outcomes.