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Georgia Southern Examines Factors Driving LHDs Partnerships

November 6, 2015



The objective of the study was to describe levels of partnership between local health departments (LHDs) and other community organizations in maternal and child health (MCH), communicable disease prevention, and chronic disease control and to assess LHD organizational characteristics and community factors that contribute to partnerships.

Data were drawn from the National Association of County & City Health Officials' 2013 National Profile Study (Profile Study) and the Area Health Resources File. LHDs that received module 1 of the Profile Study were asked to describe the level of partnership in MCH, communicable disease prevention, and chronic disease control. Levels of partnership included "not involved," "networking," "coordinating," "cooperating," and "collaborating," with "collaborating" as the highest level of partnership. Covariates included both LHD organizational and community factors. Data analyses were conducted using Stata 13 SVY procedures to account for the Profile Study's survey design.

In conclusion about 1 in 5 LHDs did not have any partnerships in chronic disease control. LHD partnerships should be promoted to improve care coordination and utilization of limited health care resources. Factors that might promote LHD's partnerships include having a public health physician on staff, higher per capita expenditure, and completion of a community health assessment. Community context likely influences types and levels of partnerships. A better understanding of these contextual factors may lead to more complete and effective LHD partnerships.

["Factors Driving Local Health Department's Partnerships with Other Organizations in Maternal and Child Health, Communicable Disease Prevention, and Chronic Disease Control"](#) is published in the Journal of Public Health Management Practice.

Dr. Luo, Department of Public Health, Brody School of Medicine was the lead author. Dr. Winterbauer and Ms. Tucker, Department of Public Health, Brody School of Medicine, Dr. Gulzar Shah, Associate Dean for Research Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University and Dr. Xu, Department of Health Education and Promotion, East Carolina University were co-authors.

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