LHDs' Implementation and Evaluation of Strategies to Target Psychological, Mental Health, and Other Behavioral Healthcare Needs of the Underserved Population

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LHDs’ Involvement in Addressing Psychological, Mental Health and Other Behavioral Health Care Needs of the Underserved Populations

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Carolyn J. Leep, National Association of County and City Health Officials
Nancy Winterbauer, East Carolina University

2014 Keeneland Conference, April 6-10, 2014
Neither we, nor our spouses, have had a financial, professional or personal relationship that might potentially bias and/or impact the content of the educational activity/session.

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Educational Need/Practice Gap

**Gap:** LHDs expected to play a crucial role as public safety net

– little known about the extent to which mental heath care needs for underserved populations are fulfilled by LHDs

**Need:** understanding current LHD engagement in mental health care is imperative
Objectives

Upon completion of this educational activity, the participants will be able to:

• assess the **extent** to which LHDs implement and evaluate strategies to target the behavioral healthcare needs for the underserved populations

• discuss organizational factors that **facilitate**

• discuss factors that **hinder** LHDs’ ability
Background

• The 2000 IOM report on impact of welfare reform on integrity of primary care safety net providers

• LHDs ...the core of the safety net.
Disparities in mental health outcomes and care.

—Latinos.

—Immigrants.
• **Barriers exist**: in access to behavioral health for the underserved populations.
  - lack of insurance,
  - stigma,
  - preference for informal care, and
  - self-reliant attitudes.
Methods

Data Source:

• 2013 National Profile of Local Health Departments Study conducted by NACCHO.
• A total of 505 LHDs completed the Module 2 of the Profile Study was the source of the main variable (independent variable)
Methods-2

Measurement

Dependent variable: LHD evaluated or implemented strategies to target the behavioral health care needs of underserved persons:

• Implementing strategies to target the health care needs of underserved persons.
• Evaluated strategies to target healthcare needs of underserved populations.
Analysis

Descriptive statistics

Logistic regression

• Statistical weights: to account for the sampling and disproportionate response rate LHD jurisdiction population
Percent of LHDs that **implemented strategies or evaluated strategies** to target the behavioral health care needs of underserved persons by Population Size

\[ p=0.006 \]
Percent of LHDs that **implemented strategies or evaluated strategies** to target the behavioral health care needs of underserved persons by jurisdiction type

- **County**: 30.95%
- **City/municipality**: 25.08%
- **City-county/multicounty**: 25.37%

*p* = 0.5

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Percent of LHDs that **implemented strategies or evaluated strategies** to target the behavioral health care needs of underserved persons by geographic region

![Graph showing percentage of LHDs](image)

- **South**: 17.10
- **NE**: 30.96
- **MW**: 37.09
- **West**: 39.03

*p < 0.001*

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Percent of LHDs that implemented strategies or evaluated strategies to target the behavioral health care needs of underserved persons by LHD characteristics.

* p<=0.01
Logistic regression of LHDs’ implementation of strategies to target the behavioral health care needs of underserved persons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>AOR</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>P &gt; t</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jurisdiction population (vs. &lt; 50,000)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>50,000-499,999</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.38</td>
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<td>500,000+</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>-0.31</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.24</td>
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<td>Jurisdiction type (vs. county)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>City/municipality</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>-2.31</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>city-county/multicounty</td>
<td>1.64</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centralized governance</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>-2.14</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTEs per 10,000 people</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>-1.80</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per capita expenditure (log)</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulltime director</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director’s tenure</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>-0.73</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>With local board of health</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed CHA in the past 3 years</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geographic location (vs. MW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>-0.11</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>-2.53</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>-2.10</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addressing disparity (total score)</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>2.93</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Adjusted odds ratios, jurisdiction type

![Bar graph showing adjusted odds ratios for different jurisdiction types. The graph compares City/municity, city-county/multicounty, and County. The odds ratio for City/municity is 0.16, for city-county/multicounty is 1.64, and for County is 1.00.](image)
Adjusted odds ratios, type of governance

![Adjusted odds ratios graph](image)

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Adjusted odds ratios, by region (Census Bureau Regions)
Main Findings

• Significant variation existed by:
  – Jurisdiction population (Biv)
  – Centralized governance (Biv and Mult)
  – Having LBOH (B)
  – CHA completion (B)
  – Geographic region (B and M)
  – Jurisdiction type (M)
  – Per capita expenditures (M)
• LHDs, as a safety net are expected to help underserved people with basic health issues.

  – 3 out of 10 LHD evaluated or implemented strategies to target the behavioral health care needs of underserved persons
Discussion 2

• **Assurance** is one of the three core function of public health
  – One of the 10 essential PH services:

• Implementing strategies and evaluating strategies to target the needs of the UNDERSERVED population, are important part of the **assurance** function.
Discussion 3

• Several recent developments make LHDs’ role of assurance with respect to behavioral health care even more critical.
  – Declined post recession capacity of LHDs
  – Rise of behavioral health issues in underserved populations
  – Recent changes in insurance options resulting from PPACA”
    • implications for providers
Discussion-4

– Smaller LHDs are less likely to assess or implement strategies to address behavioral health needs.
  • Lack of capacity might be associated with economies of scale and scope.
– Resources do matter for LHDs to fulfill the assurance function.
Discussion-5

Public health role in disparity elimination is widely stressed and acknowledged.

– LHDs can play an important role in reducing disparity with respect to behavioral health issues.

– LHDs should consider assessing behavioral health as a part of their CHA.
Questions

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