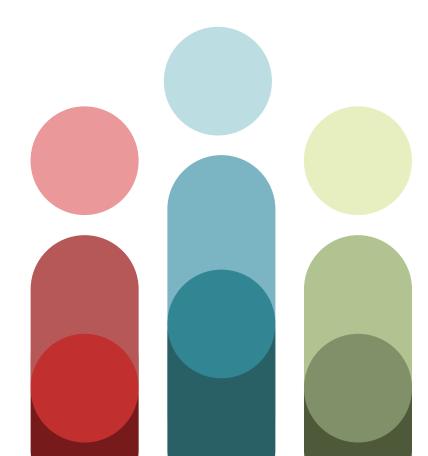
A GUIDE TO USING THE CHW Common indicators

September 2023

This guide brought to you for free and open access by



Learn more at www.chwcre.org



Background

WHO ARE CHWS?

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are trusted community members who promote health in their own communities through a variety of strategies. Growing out of natural healing and helping systems, the CHW model was formalized in communities that had been systematically denied health care and the conditions necessary for health. Thus, CHWs have always been dedicated to health and social equity. (1) The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing inequity and the climate crisis have underlined the domestic and global necessity for well-supported CHWs, who can conduct outreach, share health education, provide support for marginalized individuals and communities, and address the social and structural factors that put individuals and communities at increased risk for a range of health issues, from violence to chronic and communicable disease. (2)

WHAT IS THE GAP IN THE FIELD?

The body of peer-reviewed literature assessing outcomes of CHW programs in the US is substantial and growing. CHW interventions have been associated with significant improvements in health, prevention and management of chronic disease, (3-11) more favorable utilization of health services, and reduced cost. (12-14) Increasingly, CHWs are recognized for their contributions to addressing the social determinants of health (SDOH), both by connecting individuals to basic needs and by organizing communities to address the structural factors that result in inequitable social and economic conditions. (15)

Recent studies reporting contrasting results from programs employing CHWs (13-14) further demonstrate the need for common evaluation constructs and indicators for CHW practice that are thoughtfully developed and consistently applied through a process that directly engages those most affected.

Despite progress in documenting CHW outcomes...

- Lack of standardized measures to assess CHW practice has made it impossible to aggregate data across programs and regions, impeding commitment to sustainable, long-term financing of CHW programs. (16)
- Lack of easy-to-use indicators hinders the ability of many community-based programs to reliably report outcomes to funders and policymakers.
- Lack of attention to the processes by which CHWs achieve outcomes and the conditions they need to be successful has made it difficult to conclusively demonstrate the importance of particular CHW roles, skills, and qualities. (17-18)
- Lack of CHW involvement in all stages of research and evaluation has meant that CHW studies and evaluations have often lacked the crucial perspectives of those closest to and most informed about the work. (19)

WHAT IS THE CHW COMMON INDICATORS PROJECT?

Responding to this need, in 2015, CHWs and researcher allies from five states founded the National CHW Common Indicators (CI) Project. The purpose of the CI Project was to contribute to the integrity, sustainability, and viability of CHW programs through the collaborative development, adoption, and use of a set of common process and outcome constructs and indicators for evaluating CHW practice. In 2023, the CI Project embraced a broader mission, and became the CHW Center for Research and Evaluation (CHW-CRE). For more information, see our website at www.chwcre.org.

HOW WERE THE INDICATORS CHOSEN AND DEVELOPED?

Between 2019-2021, with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), members of the CI Project Leadership Team and the CHW Workgroup at CDC chose 11 priority measurement concepts (also referred to as "constructs") from a pre-existing list of 20. The choices were vetted by participants at a pre-conference meeting at the American Public Health Association's 2019 Annual Conference.

To develop the indicators, CI team members first conducted a literature review to identify existing measurement approaches for each of the 11 constructs. (Because a decision was made to create indicators for policy and systems change at both the state and program levels, there are now 12 priority indicators.) Next, they developed detailed Performance Measures using a template provided by the CDC. Constituent feedback on the draft indicators was obtained through a combination of focus groups, individual interviews, and a virtual Summit. Proposed versions of the indicators were then piloted in multiple sites. Changes were made based on lessons learned, both during the initial development phase and also during the piloting phase.

The numbering system for the indicators is as follows:

- Indicator #1: CHW compensation, benefits, and advancement
- Indicator #2: CHW enactment of the 10 core roles (20-21)
- Indicator #3: CHW-facilitated referrals
- Indicator #4: CHW involvement in decision- and policy-making
- Indicator #5: CHW integration into teams
- Indicator #6: Participant self-reported health status
- Indicator #7: Participant health and social needs
- Indicator #8: Participant social support
- Indicator #9: Participant empowerment
- Indicator #10: Policy and systems change (program level)
- Indicator #11: Policy and systems change (state level)
- Indicator #12: Supportive and reflective supervision

Each indicator is made up of individual items or sub-indicators. The word "participant" refers to the community members with whom CHWs work. Indicators #1 and #12 have both a CHW-facing component and an employer-facing component.

A primary rationale for choosing these particular concepts is that they can be measured in any CHW program, no matter the setting or community in which the program is based. Collecting these indicators does not require a complicated data collection system; the indicators can be collected electronically or on paper. Collecting these indicators also does not require connection to an electronic health record or a Medicaid database.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT FOR CHWS?

We believe that collecting these particular indicators, which focus on the wellbeing of CHWs and communities, will accomplish three important goals. First, it will help to preserve the integrity of the CHW role, by demonstrating why it is important for CHWs to play a wide range of roles, including roles as advocates and organizers. Second, the indicators will validate the working conditions and environment that CHWs need to thrive, advance in their chosen profession, and make an optimal contribution to community health. Finally, by focusing on wellbeing outcomes that CHWs are uniquely able to achieve (as opposed to focusing only on economic outcomes that are important to health systems), they will provide additional evidence of the contributions CHWs can make to addressing the underlying determinants of health.

Adoption of some or all of these indicators for program monitoring and evaluation by state departments of health, community-based organizations, health systems, and other employers of CHWs, will contribute to the goal of building CHW infrastructure to sustain and finance the CHW workforce.

On-Going Learning and Validation

As mentioned above, face validity of the indicators has been assessed and changes made in the context of piloting in multiple sites. For the indicators or sub-indicators that are intended to function as scales (i.e., to measure an underlying construct), we will conduct statistical validation in Spring 2024 in the context of a national project. We encourage researchers to consider

using these indicators in their work, to conduct further validation studies when appropriate, and to share your results with us. We are eager to work with you and learn from your experience!



For a complete listing of all the indicators with definitions, rationale for using, and recommendations for operationalization, please see CHW Common Indicators Grid, available at www.chwcre.org.

Cl Advisory Group member Teresa Campos-Dominguez presenting at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA)

A GUIDE TO USING THE CHW COMMON INDICATORS



Indicators collected from CHWs:

COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS	
Average rate or salary	What is your current hourly rate or annual salary?	US \$ per hour or year	Results from one pilot site revealed a difference
Average FTE	What is the FTE of your CHW position (or how many hours per week do you typically work)?	FTE or hours per week	between what CHWs understood about benefit and what supervisors understood.
Average # of benefits offered	Does your employer currently offer you the following benefits? (check all that apply)	List of options in 4 domains _ (insurance, paid leave/vacation, reimbursement for work-related expenses, and other benefits)	Frequency of Enactment of the 10 Core CHW Role
% responding "yes"	Are you eligible for promotions/step-ups with pay increases at your place of employment?	Yes/No	Coordination Direct Service
	Responses to 3 open-ended questions, when applicable.	Open-ended	Outreach

CHW ENACTMENT OF THE 10 CORE ROLES

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
% of total roles reported dedicated to each role, as defined by the <u>CHW Core</u> <u>Consensus</u> <u>Project</u>	 What roles did you play in this encounter? (Check all that apply.) Cultural Mediation Health Education and Information Care Coordination, Case Management, or System Navigation Social Support Advocacy Capacity-Building Direct Service Assessments Outreach Evaluation and Research 	Check boxes for roles played

oles

Care	34%
Coordination	7.9%
	24.3%
Direct Service	17.6%
Outreach	10.2%
Outreach	20%
Adverser	10%
Advocacy	13.8%
Social	9.3%
Support	18.8%
Capacity	9.1%
Building	0.5%
Cultural	1.3%
Mediation	3.3%
Individual & Community	1%
Assessments	1.9%
Evaluation &	0.3%
Research	1.2%
Health	0.3%
Education	15%
Site 1 % of	Roles Site 2 % of Roles

5

CHW FACILITATED REFERRALS

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
	Did you make a referral?	Yes/No
% of completed referrals, combined with reasons for non-completion when appropriate	If the answer was "yes," what type of referral?	Context dependent list
	Did the participant receive what was needed?	Yes/No
	If the answer was "no," why?	Context dependent list or free response

Pilot Site #2: Percent of Successful Referrals by Type

Type of Referral*	Count	% of Successful Referrals
Mental Health	33	72.7%
Social Support	25	76.0%
Housing	21	66.7%
Food	20	80.0%
Immigration	18	66.7%
Medical Services	14	57.1%
Social Services	7	57.1%
Employment	2	100.0%

CHW INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION- AND POLICY-MAKING

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
INDICATOR Average score on a 6-item scale	 QUESTION/ITEM WORDING 1. As part of my job, I have identified the people or organizations that influence change in my community. 2. As part of my job, people who influence change in my community seek my opinion and participation. 3. As a part of my job, I am a member of one or more groups/organizations that make (i.e., develop and/or enact) policy for my community, city, county, state, or tribe. 4. My employer/supervisor supports my involvement in 	RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 = strongly disagree 2 = disagree 3 = agree 4 = strongly agree Generate mean scores by taking the mean of
	policy making on work time. 5. I am a member of one or more groups that influence	non-missing items for a final range of 1.0 to 4.0.
	6. I believe that as a CHW, I have influenced policy in my organization or community.	





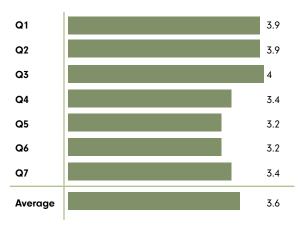
Cl Leadership Team member Keara Rodela sharing with her colleagues during the 2022 Cl Family Reunion

CHW INTEGRATION INTO TEAMS

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
Average score on the adapted Relational Coordination Scale, See: References 22-24	The first 7 items in a validated scale, replacing the phrase "others on your team," with the phrase, "the other healthcare, social service, and/or education providers with whom you work," and replacing the term "patients" with the term "program participants."	1 = never 2 = rarely 3 = occasionally 4 = often 5 = constantly
% of CHWs having access	Do you have access to record information about your participants in your employers' main participant tracking form/system?	Yes/No
% of CHWs with adequate work space	Does your employer provide you with adequate, dedicated space where you can work (e.g., meet with participants, complete paperwork, make phone calls, access a computer, etc.)?	Yes/No
	healthcare, social service, and/or education provid much you agree or disagree with the following state	
Average score on the new 4-item "Influence of racism/ discrimination on integration" scale*	 I feel isolated from them because of my race/ ethnicity or culture. I feel like I have to be the only voice for my race/ethnicity or culture among them. I feel dismissed or devalued by them because of my racial/ethnic or cultural background. I feel that they make assumptions about me because of my race/ethnicity or culture. 	 1 = strongly disagree 2 = disagree 3 = agree 4 = strongly agree Generate mean scores by taking the mean of non-missin items for a final range of 1.0 to 4.0.
Average score on a 5-item scale	They understand my roles and what I do as a CHW.	Not at all (1) A little (2) Some (3) A lot (4)
Average score on a 5-item scale	I feel comfortable going to the other healthcare, social service, and/or education providers with whom I work to talk about participants' needs.	Completely (5) Generate mean scores by taking the mean of non-missin items for a final range of 1.0 to 5.0.

CHW Integration Into Teams

Pilot Site #1 FY 22 Relational Coordination Scale out of 5



CHW Integration into Team

Pilot Site #1 FY 22 Working Conditions



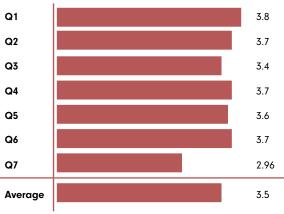


SUPPORTIVE AND REFLECTIVE SUPERVISION

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
	How many hours of individual (one-on-one) supervision were	
	provided to you in the last 30 days?	One-on-one:
# of Hours	How many hours of group supervision (supervision	hours
	conducted with more than 1 CHW) were provided to you in	Group: hours
	the last 30 days?	
	Please rate the overall quality of the individual supervision	
% of CHWs rating	you received within the last 30 days (including administrative	1 = poor
quality as good	and/or clinical supervision)	2 = fair
or excellent	Please rate the overall quality of the group supervision you	3 = good
	received in the last 30 days (including administrative and/or	4 = excellent
	clinical supervision).	
Thinking of the pe	erson you consider to be your primary supervisor over the pas	t 30 days, please rate
the following item	15:	
	1. My supervisor appreciates my role as a CHW.	
	2. My supervisor advocates for the role of CHWs with upper	
	management (staff who rank above the supervisor).	
	7 My superviser has participated in training shout the CUW	1 - atronaly diagona
	3. My supervisor has participated in training about the CHW	1 = strongly disagree
	profession.	2 = disagree
•		3 = agree
Average score	4. My supervisor encourages my professional growth (e.g., by	4 = strongly agree
on the 7-item	regularly encouraging me and/or accepting my suggestions	
"Quality of	within supervision sessions to pursue training opportunities,	Generate mean score
supervision"	attend conferences, develop leadership skills, etc.).	by taking the mean o
scale		non-missing items for
	5. My supervisor understands the strengths and needs of the	a final range of 1.0 to
	community/ies we serve.	4.0.
	A M eanward transmission de altra de the Constant for the 100 means	
	6. My supervisor understands that improving health requires	
	addressing racism and other forms of oppression.	
	7 In my organization CHWo participate on hiving parts	
	7. In my organization, CHWs participate on hiring panels	
	when CHW supervisors are selected.	

Supportive and Reflective Supervision Scale by Question

Pilot Site #1 FY 22 out of 4



A GUIDE TO USING THE CHW COMMON INDICATORS

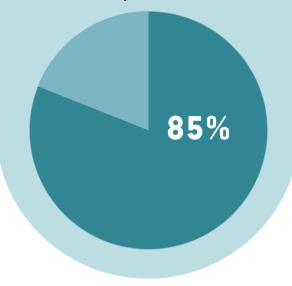
Indicators collected from participants in CHW programs (community members):

PARTICIPANT SELF-REPORTED MENTAL, PHYSICAL AND

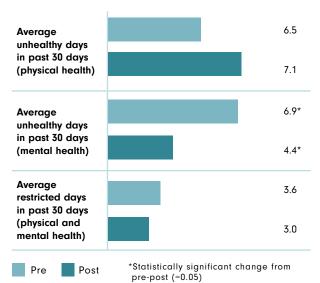
EMOTIONAL HEALTH CDC Healthy Days Survey (Ref. #25)

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
% of participants reporting good to excellent health	Would you say that, in general, your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?	5 response options: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor
# of unhealthy days (physical health)	Now thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?	days
# of unhealthy days (mental health)	Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?	days
# of restricted days (physical or mental health)	During the past 30 days, approximately how many days did poor physical or mental health keep you from doing your usual activities, such as self-care, work, or recreation?	days

Pilot Site #2: Percent of participants reporting same or improved health at 6-month follow-up



Pilot Site #2: Pre and Post Unhealthy/ Restricted Days



PARTICIPANT SOCIAL SUPPORT

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
	 I have others who will listen when I need to talk about my problems. 	
Average score		1 = strongly disagree
on 6 items	2. When I am lonely, I have several people I can talk to.	2 = disagree
comprising the		3 = agree
Emotional and	3. If there is a crisis, I have people I can talk to.	4 = strongly agree
Concrete Support		
sub-scales from	4. I would know where to go if my family needs food or	Generate mean scores by
the Protective	housing.	taking the mean of non-
Factors Survey		missing items for a final
See: Reference	5. I know where (or with whom) to go if I have financial	range of 1.0 to 4.0.
26	difficulties.	
	6. I know where to go if I need help finding a job.	

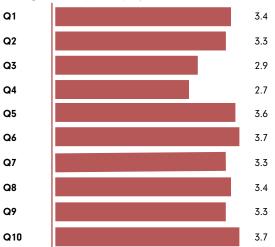


PARTICIPANT EMPOWERMENT (RETROSPECTIVE VERSION)

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
	 I feel more self-confident since I started working with a CHW. I have more control over my life since I started 	
	working with a CHW. 3. I feel more like I belong in my community since I started working with a CHW.	
	 I can work more with my community to make change since I started working with a CHW. 	1 = strongly disagree 2 = disagree
Average score on a new 10 item retrospective scale conducted at	 I am more able to make choices about my life since I started working with a CHW. 	3 = agree 4 = strongly agree
least 60 days after starting to work with a CHW	 6. I have more knowledge and skills for making choices since I started working with a CHW. 	Generate mean scores by taking the mean of non-missing items for
	 I understand more about how outside forces affect me since I started working with a CHW. 	a final range of 1.0 to 4.0.
	8. I feel more optimistic since I started working with a CHW.	
	9. I am more able to speak up for myself since I started working with a CHW.	
	10. I have more access to resources since I started working with a CHW.	

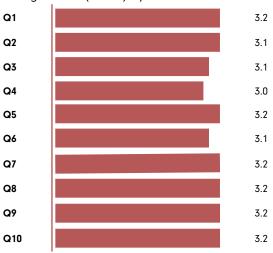
Pilot Site #1: Participant Retrospective Empowerment

Average Score (1 to 4) by Question



Pilot Site #3: Participant Retrospective Empowerment

Average Score (1 to 4) by Question



A GUIDE TO USING THE CHW COMMON INDICATORS

Indicators collected from Employers and/or Supervisors:

COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND OPPORUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
# of paid CHWs	How many paid CHWs currently work for your organization?	CHWs
# of volunteer CHWs	How many volunteer CHWs currently work for your organization?	CHWs
% of CHWs at each salary level	Wage/salary levels at which CHWs are employed with number of CHWs at each level.	Table
# and type of benefits	Please indicate the benefits you currently provide to full-time CHWs. (Check all that apply.)	Context-dependent list
# and type of benefits	Please indicate the benefits you currently provide to part-time CHWs. (Check all that apply.)	Same list as above
% of CHWs eligible for pay increases	Are CHWs currently eligible for promotions/step-ups with pay increases?	Yes/No

Wages for PT and FT CHW by Yearly Salary

from Pilot Site #4 Employer Data

Job Status	Part-time	Full-time
# of CHWs	44	114
Mean	\$21,186	\$42,403
Median	\$20,000	\$40,000
Range (High)	\$55,000	\$87,550
Range (Low)	\$6,000	\$12,000
Standard Deviation	\$3,062	\$5,532
Confidence Interval*	\$20,281-\$22,091	\$41,388-\$43,419

*Alpha Value = 95%

SUPPORTIVE AND REFLECTIVE SUPERVISION

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
% time dedicated to supervision	On average, over the past year what percentage of your FTE (time) is dedicated to CHW supervision?	% FTE
# of CHW FTE supervised	On average, over the past year what is the total FTE (time) of the CHWs you supervise?	total FTE
% of supervisors with training	Have you participated in training about trauma-informed supervision?	Yes/No
% of supervisors with training	Have you participated in training about supportive or reflective supervision?	Yes/No
# of supervisors rating good or excellent	Please rate the quality of support you receive from your own supervisor to provide supervision for CHWs.	1 = poor 2 = fair
# of supervisors rating good or excellent	good or Please rate the quality of support you receive from your organization's culture to provide excellent supervision for CHWs.	

Employers in one pilot site reported spending a range of 10-35% of their FTE supervising CHWs with an average of 21% of FTE.

When accounting for the number of CHWs being supervised, the employers reported spending a range of 6-10% of their FTE per CHW they supervised with an average of 7.7%.

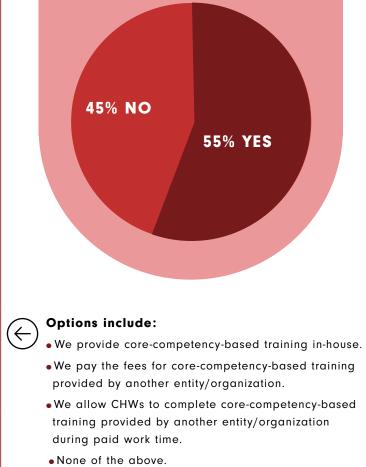


POLICY AND SYSTEMS CHANGE - PROGRAM LEVEL*

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
Existence and type of definition	Does your organization have a written definition of a CHW? If NOT APHA, what affects organization's ability to use APHA or similar? (open-ended)	a. Verbatim or similar to APHA b. Definition not similar c. No definition
Inclusion of 10 core CHW roles in scopes of practice and/or job descriptions	 Does your organization include each of the following 10 core roles in its CHW scope of work and/or job description? (Roles are listed, see Indicator #2.) For each role: If NO, please briefly explain why the organization does not include this role, to the best of your knowledge. (open-ended) 	a. Yes (included) b. No (not included) Explanation of each role is provided.
Requirement that CHWs hired have completed a core competency-based training	 Does your organization require that CHWs you hire have completed a state- or CHW association/network- recognized CHW core competency-based training program, either before or after hire? If NO, what affects your organization's ability to require that CHWs have completed a state- or CHW association/network-recognized CHW core competency-based training program (either before or after hire). (open-ended) 	a. Yes b. No
Provision of or support for CHWs to complete core competency training	Does your organization provide or support your CHWs in completing a recognized CHW core competency- based training program? Follow-up open ended questions depending on answer.	Check all that apply (4 options)
Tracking of # and % of employed CHWs who have completed CHW certification	 Does your organization keep track of the number and % of CHWs employed by your organization who have completed CHW certification? If YES, provide # and explain how information is used. If NO, explain what affects organization's ability to track number and % of CHWs completing CHW certification (open-ended) 	a. Yes b. No

Does your organization require CHWs to complete a recognized CHW core competency training?

Research from Pilot Site #4



Staff members at one pilot site were encouraged to find that they were able to answer "yes" to most of the questions in the indicator



POLICY AND SYSTEMS CHANGE - PROGRAM LEVEL* CONTINUED

INDICATOR	QUESTION/ITEM WORDING	RESPONSE OPTIONS
Requirement for supervisors to participate in training specific to CHW profession	 Does your organization require that CHW supervisors participate in training about the CHW model/ profession and/or training specific to supervision of CHWs? If NO, what affects organization's ability to adopt such a requirement? (open-ended) 	a. Yes b. No
% of CHW program budget supported through sustainable mechanisms	What percentage of your organization's CHW program salary/benefit costs are supported through "sustainable" CHW payment mechanisms? (A list of sustainable payment mechanisms is provided.) Please briefly explain what your organization has done in the past year to increase the % of CHW salary/benefit costs covered by "sustainable" funding, including progress made, successes, barriers and challenges. (open-ended)	Instructions for calculating are provided.

*An indicator for policy and systems change at the state level also exists and has been piloted. It can be accessed <u>here.</u> Questions are vey similar to those in the Program Level indicator.

CI Leadership Team and CHW Council members at the 2022 CI Family Reunion



HOW FREQUENTLY SHOULD YOU COLLECT EACH INDICATOR?

Similar to other projects that have attempted to identify common indicators for CHW practice, we provide some general recommendations for the frequency and modality for collection of the indicators, while recognizing that the indicators can be effectively operationalized in a variety of ways.

Whenever possible, we recommend that indicators be operationalized in existing data collection and/or case management tools, to reduce the burden on CHWs and data management staff. We recommend that some indicators (specifically, Indicator #2 and #3) be collected in each substantive encounter between a CHW and community member. We recommend that participantlevel pre-post indicators (#6-9) be collected when participants enter the program and at 6-month intervals thereafter, while the retrospective version of Indicator #9 can be collected 3 or 6 months after intake or when participants leave the program. Workforce indicators (Indicators 1, 2, 4, 5, and 10) can be collected bi-annually in CHW and/or (in the case of Indicators 1 and 10) employer surveys. Indicator #11 (State-Level Policy and Systems Change) can be collected as often as a state agency wishes to assess its status or progress in creating conditions that promote a thriving and successful CHW workforce. (27-28)

WHO SHOULD Collect Each Indicator?

CHW Programs can collect and have collected the workforce indicators, but it is important to recognize that CHWs' willingness to respond to some items will depend on the existing level of trust within the program and CHWs' faith that they will not experience reprisals for their honest answers. Including these indicators in statewide surveys conducted by a state health department and/or a statewide CHW association can provide an additional level of comfort, though it will still be important to assure CHWs confidentiality, and only report results at levels that preserve this confidentiality. CHWs can effectively collect all the participant-level outcome measures, with the exception of the retrospective version of Indicator #9, which directly links the outcome to work with a CHW and should therefore be collected by an independent third party. States and programs can collect the data for Indicators #10 and #11 from themselves. Experience suggests that having a statewide coordinator to manage data collection from multiple agencies is essential for Indicator #11.

WHY THESE INDICATORS (AND NOT OTHERS)?

- We have developed quantitative indicators because they are easiest to collect and aggregate in a consistent and reliable way. We recommend that these indicators be used along with qualitative methods that are specific to the culture/ community and setting.
- Assessing CHWs' contributions to improving population health (e.g., with community-level indicators) is crucial. However, it is beyond the scope of most CHW programs and appropriate population health indicators will vary from setting to setting.
- We acknowledge the importance of health care utilization and cost measures; however, our aim is to create indicators chosen by CHWs that can be used across all CHW programs. Not all programs have access to cost and utilization data.

How CHW-CRE Fits into the Ecosystem of CHW Support Organizations

The CHW Center for Research and Evaluation is part of a constellation of national organizations that share common principles and work together to advance the CHW workforce. These organizations include (but are not limited to):

NACHW

The National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) was founded in April 2019 after several years of planning and organizing by CHWs and allies across the United States. NACHW is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership-driven organization with a mission to unify CHWs across geography, ethnicity, sector, and experience to support communities to achieve health, equity and social justice.

CHW SECTION OF APHA

The CHW Section of APHA advocates for and promotes the voice and role of community health workers within public health, the community, and in healthcare settings, as well as contributing to the development of the CHW role (including Promotores de Salud, Community Health Representatives, Community Health Advisors, and other related titles) through policy development opportunities. It also provides a forum to share resources, activities, and strategies nationally.

C3 PROJECT

The Community Health Worker Core Consensus Project's primary aims are to expand cohesion in the field and to contribute to the visibility and greater understanding of the full potential of Community Health Workers (CHWs) to improve health, community development, and access to systems of care. The C3 Project offers a <u>single set of CHW roles and competencies</u> for reference by those both inside and outside the field as they work to build greater support for and sustainability among CHWs in all settings.

ENVISION Equity

Envision is a collaboration of Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Community Health Worker allies who work together with financial and administrative support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to elevate the role of CHWs. Developed for CHWs by CHWs, the project encompasses the whole CHW movement. Envision trains and supports CHWs, concentrating on capacity building and the sustainability of a strong, capable CHW workforce.





Acknowledgements

Many people and organizations have contributed to make this Guide and the CHW Common Indicators (CI) Project possible. We would like to express our gratitude to:

Members of the CI Leadership Team:

Victoria Adewumi, Pennie Jewell, Chidinma Ibe, Susan Mayfield-Johnson, Celeste Sanchez Lloyd, Keara Rodela, Noelle Wiggins

Emeriti Members of the CI Leadership Team:

Edith Kieffer, Kenneth Maes, Gloria Palmisano

Members of the CI CHW Council:

Danielle Metz, Valerie McAllister, Ashley Rodriguez, Abby Titter

Members of the CI Researchers Council:

Benjamin MacCormack-Gelles, Rogério Pinto, Pooja Sripad, Ashley Wennerstrom

CI Data Analyst:

Tommy English

Guidance from and linkage with the Frontline Health Project (29):

Pooja Sripad

CI Pilot Sites:

- Campesinos sin Fronteras, Yuma, AZ, Arizona CHW Association, and University of Arizona Prevention Research Center
- Great Rivers Hub, La Crosse, WI, Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
- Prince George's Healthcare Alliance, Upper Marlborough, MD
- Ilinois CHW Common Indicator Group: Illinois CHW Association, Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Public Health Association, Health and Medicine Policy Research Group, and Sinai Urban Health Institute
- Michigan CHW Alliance and Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services
- Southern New Hampshire Area Health Education Center

This work was made possible by Award No. 5-NU38OT000286 from The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD). The views presented here do not necessarily reflect the views of the CDC or NACDD.

Suggested Citation

CHW Center for Research and Evaluation 2023. "A guide to using the CHW Common Indicators," CHW Common Indicators Project, Portland, OR

Contact Information

For more information, please contact info@chwcre.org



References

- 1. Wiggins, N, Kaan, S, Rios-Campos, T, Gaonkar, R, Rees-Morgan, E, Robinson, J (2013). Preparing community health workers for their role as agents of social change: experience of the Community Capacitation Center. J Community Pract. 2013; 21(3): 186-202.
- 2. National Association of Community Health Workers [Internet]. The Association; c2020 [cited 2020 Feb 25]. Available from: https://nachw.org/
- Kieffer E, Caldwell C, Welmerink D, Welch K, Sinco B, Guzman JR. Effect of the Healthy MOMs lifestyle intervention on reducing depressive symptoms among pregnant Latinas. Am J Community Psychol. 2013; 51(1–2):76–89. doi:10.1007/ s10464-012-9523-9.
- Kieffer E, Welmerink D, Welch K, Sinco B., Rees Clayton E, Schumann C, Uhley V. Dietary outcomes of a spanish-language randomized controlled diabetes prevention trial with pregnant Latinas. Am J Public Health. 2014; 104(3):526-33. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2012.301122. Epub 2013 Jun 13.
- 5. Spencer M, Kieffer EC, Sinco B, Piatt G, Palmisano G, Hawkins J, et al. Outcomes at 18 months from a community health worker and peer leader diabetes self-management program for Latino adults. Diabetes Care. 2018; 41(7): 1414-1422.
- 6. The Community Guide. Cardiovascular Disease: Engaging Community Health Workers. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website. March 2015. Accessed September 18, 2020. <u>https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/</u> <u>cardiovascular-disease-prevention-and-control-interventions-engaging-community-health</u>
- 7. The Community Guide. Diabetes Management: Interventions Engaging Community Health Workers. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website. April 2017. Accessed September 18, 2020. <u>https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/</u> <u>diabetes-management-interventions-engaging-community-health-workers</u>
- 8. The Community Guide. Diabetes Prevention: Interventions Engaging Community Health Workers. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website. August 2016. Accessed September 18, 2020. <u>https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/ diabetes-prevention-interventions-engaging-community-health-workers</u>
- 9. The Community Guide. Cancer Screening: Interventions Engaging Community Health Workers Breast Cancer. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website. April 2019. Accessed September 18, 2020. <u>https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/cancer-screening-interventions-engaging-community-health-workers-breast-cancer</u>
- 10. The Community Guide. Cancer Screening: Interventions Engaging Community Health Workers Cervical Cancer. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website. April 2019. Accessed September 18, 2020. <u>https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/cancer-screening-interventions-engaging-community-health-workers-cervical-cancer</u>
- 11. The Community Guide. Cancer Screening: Interventions Engaging Community Health Workers Colorectal Cancer. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website. April 2019. Accessed September 18, 2020. <u>https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/cancer-screening-interventions-engaging-community-health-workers-colorectal-cancer</u>
- 12. Campbell JD, Brooks M, Hosokawa P, Robinson J, Song L, Krieger, J. Community health worker home visits for Medicaidenrolled children with asthma: effects on asthma outcomes and costs. Am J Public Health. 2015; 105: 2366-2372.
- 13. Kangovi S, Mitra N, Grande D, Long J, Asch D. Evidence-based community health worker program addresses unmet social needs and generates positive return on investment. Health Aff. 2020; 39(2): 207-213C.
- 14. Morgan AU, Grande DT, Carter T, Long JA, Kangovi S. Penn Center for Community Health Workers: step-by-step approach to sustain an evidence-based community health worker intervention at an academic medical center. Am J Public Health.



References, continued

- 15. Damio G, Ferraro M, London K, Pérez-Escamilla R, Wiggins, N. Addressing social determinants of health through community health workers: a call to action. Hartford, CT: Hispanic Health Council; 2015.
- 16. Gutierrez Kapheim M & Campbell J. Best practice guidelines for implementing and evaluating community health worker programs in health care settings. Chicago, IL: Sinai Urban Health Institute; 2014.
- 17. Islam N, Nadkarni SK, Zahn D, Skillman M, Kwon SC, Trinh-Shevrin C. Integrating community health workers within Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act implementation. J Public Health Manag Pract. 2015; 21(1): 42–50.
- 18. Kieffer E, Yankey N, Mitchell K, Allen CG, Janevic MR, Thomas C, List J, Palmisano G, Roman LA. The role of evaluation in developing and sustaining community health worker coalitions: the example of the Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance. J Ambul Care Manage. 2015; 38(4): 283-296.
- 19. Coulter, K, Ingram, M, McClelland, DJ, Lohr, A. Positionality of community health workers on health intervention research teams: a scoping review. Front Public Health. 2020; 8: 208. doi:10.3389/fpubh.2020.00208
- 20. Wiggins, N, Borbón, IA. Chapter 3: Core roles and competencies of community health workers. Final report of the National Community Health Advisor Study. 1998. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation, pp. 15-49.
- 21. Rosenthal, EL, Menking, P, St. John, J. The Community Health Worker Core Consensus (C3) Project: A Report of the C3 Project Phase 1 and 2, Together Leaning Toward the Sky. A National Project to Inform CHW Policy and Practice. 2018. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, El Paso.
- 22. Gittell JH. Coordinating mechanisms in care provider groups: relational coordination as a mediator and input uncertainty as a moderator of performance effects. Manage Sci. 2002; 48(11): 1408–1426.
- 23. Gittell JH, Seidner R, Wimbush J. A relational model of how high-performance work systems work. Org Sci. 2010; 21(2): 490–506.
- 24. Gittell JH, Beswick J, Goldmann D, Wallack SS. Teamwork methods for accountable care: relational coordination and TeamSTEPPS®. Health Care Manage Rev. 2015; 40(2): 116–125.
- 25. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) Methods and Measures. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/hrqol/methods.htm
- Counts, J, Buffington, E, Chang-Rios, K, Rasmussen, H, Preacher, K. The development and validation of the protective factors survey: A self-report measure of protective factors against child maltreatment. Child Abuse & Neglect. 2010; 34(10): 762-772.
- Wiggins, N, Maes, K, Palmisano, G, Rodela, K, Rodriguez Avila, L, Kieffer, E. A Community Participatory Approach to Identify Common Evaluation Indicators for Community Health Worker Practice. Prog Community Health Partnersh. 2021; 15(2): 217-224.
- Rodela, KR, Wiggins, N, Maes, K, Campos Dominguez, T, Adewumi, V, Jewell, P, Mayfield-Johnson, S. The Community Health Worker (CHW) Common Indicators Project: Engaging CHWs in measurement to sustain the profession. Front Public Health. 2021; 9:1-12. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2021.674858
- 29. Frontline Health Project. 2021. "Operationalized indicators: Integrating community health worker and client views to assess community health systems," Frontline Health Indicators Guide. Washington, DC: Population Council.

