

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) conducted an assessment to better understand the epidemiology workforce at local health departments (LHDs) and develop strategies to increase epidemiology capacity and trainings that meet the needs of local epidemiologists

27% response rate

142 LHDs responded from April 9–April 30, 2015



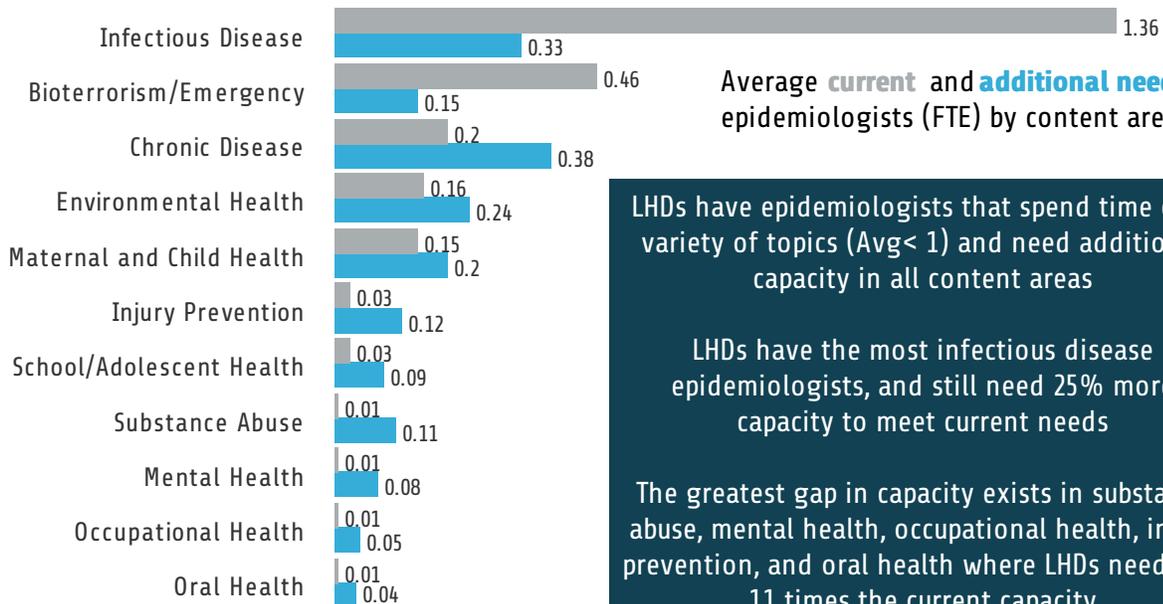
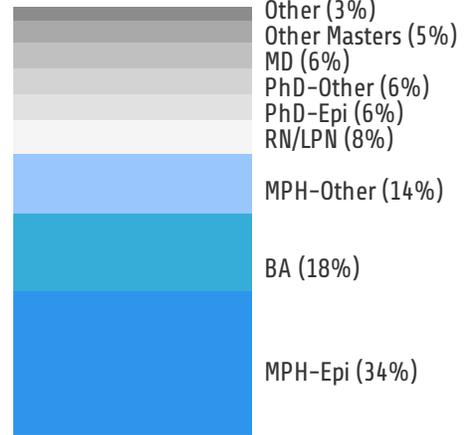
14% of LHDs hired epidemiologists into new positions



1% of LHDs laid off epidemiologists

7% of LHDs lost epidemiologists due to attrition

Most LHD epidemiologists have an MPH in Epidemiology, BA, or other MPH



Average **current** and **additional needed** epidemiologists (FTE) by content area

LHDs have epidemiologists that spend time on a variety of topics (Avg < 1) and need additional capacity in all content areas

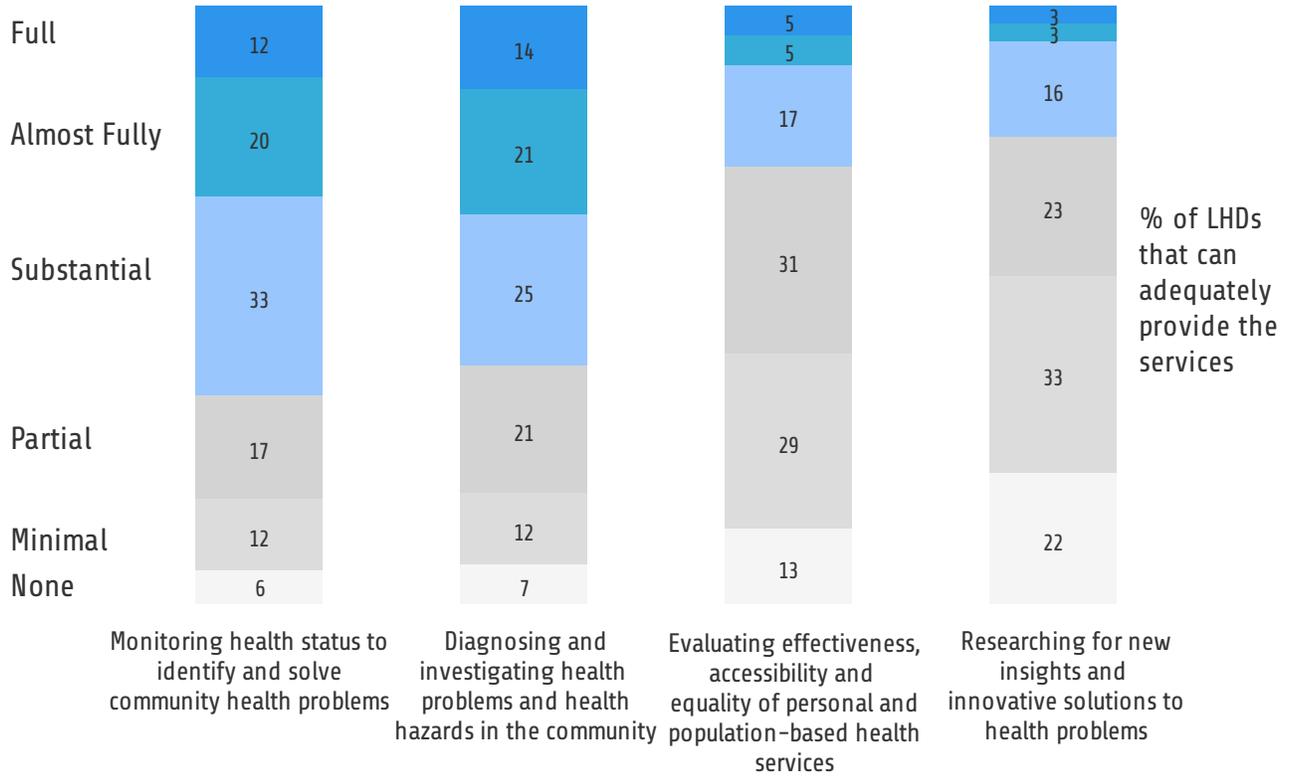
LHDs have the most infectious disease epidemiologists, and still need 25% more capacity to meet current needs

The greatest gap in capacity exists in substance abuse, mental health, occupational health, injury prevention, and oral health where LHDs need 4 to 11 times the current capacity

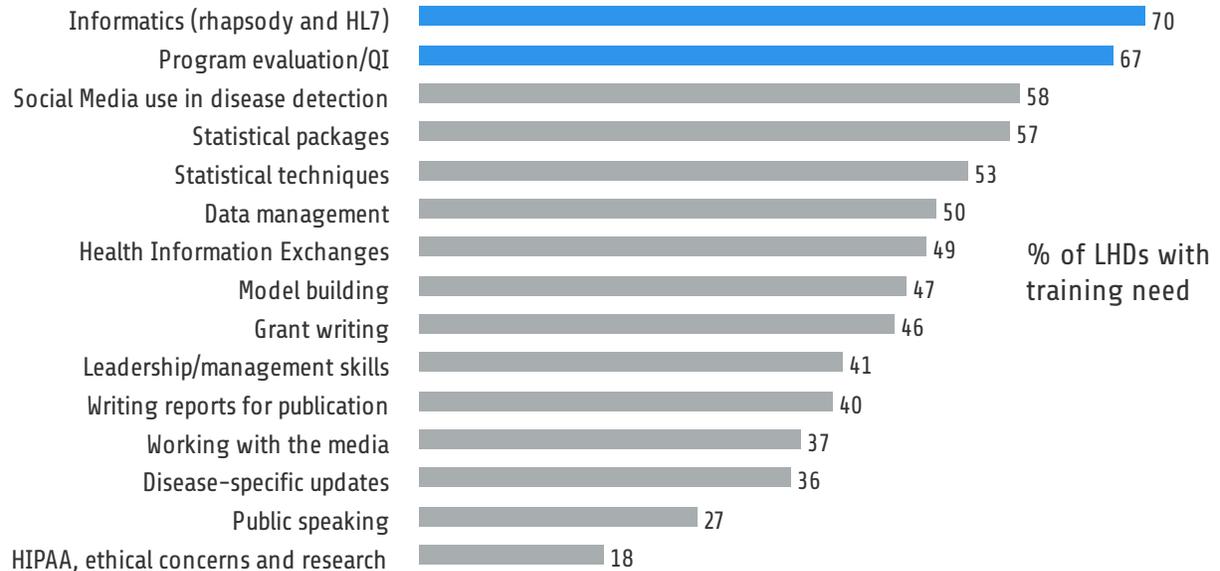
Epidemiology services at most local health departments are funded by federal, state, and local sources. 44% of funding for LHD epidemiologists comes from local sources



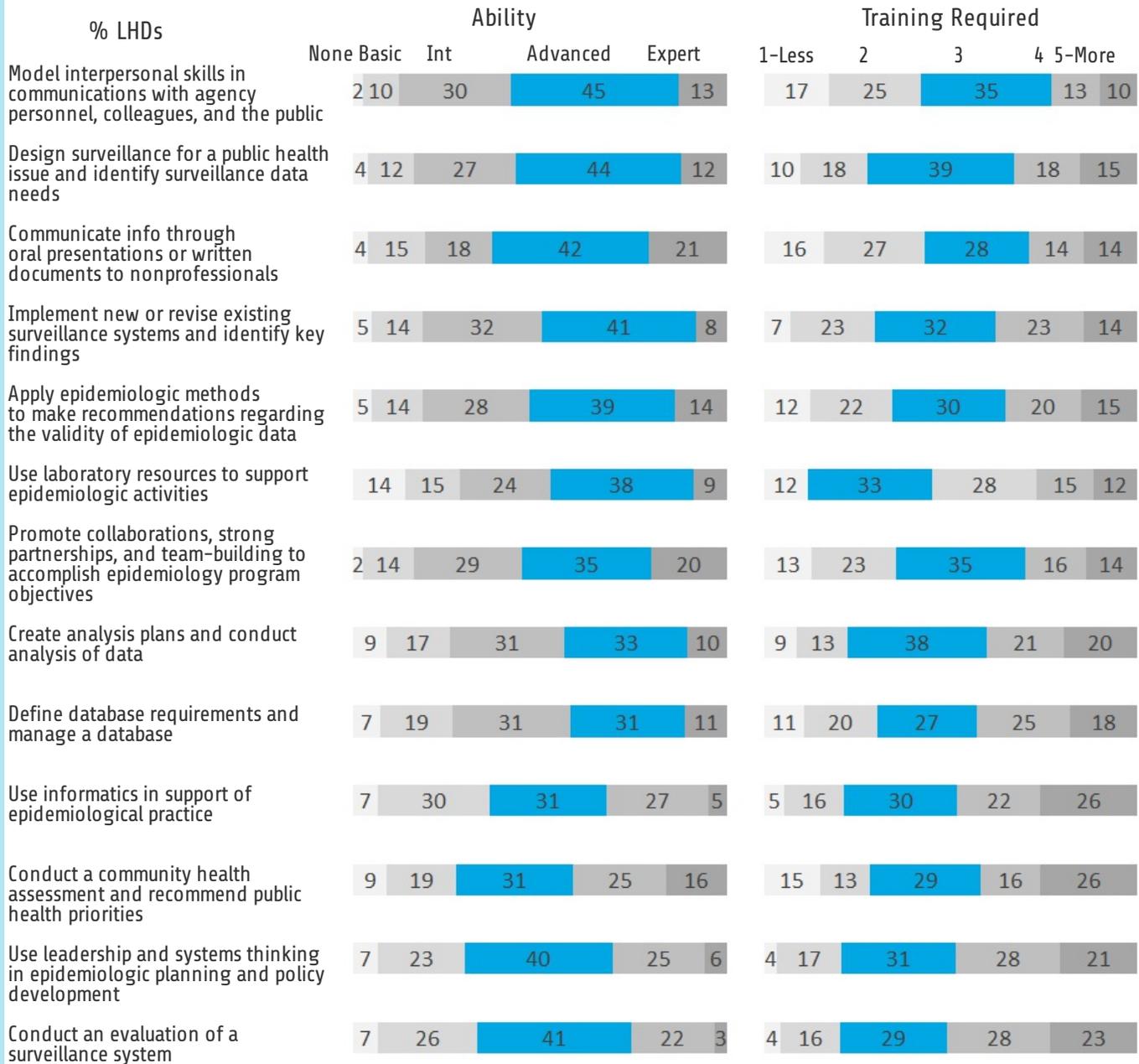
Most LHDs can adequately provide the basic public health services of monitoring health status and diagnosing and investigating health problems, but do not have the capacity to fulfill more complex services such as evaluation and research



LHD epidemiologists have many training needs, but there is an emphasis on program evaluation, quality improvement, and using technology to analyze and collect data through informatics, social media, and statistical packages



Epidemiology Competencies: The competency statements below are abbreviated from the comprehensive competency statements in CSTE's Applied Epidemiology Competencies document



Key Outcomes

LHDs have an epidemiologic emphasis on infectious disease

Epidemiology capacity, expertise, skills, and knowledge are highly variable across LHDs

Limited epidemiology capacity results in a focus on outbreak investigations and day-to-day duties

The role of epidemiologists is always expanding

Epidemiologists at LHDs carry a large burden and are constrained by time and resources