NACCHO’s 2016 Profile Study: Public Health Transformation

Key Findings

LHD top executives most often come from positions in the public health sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position at a health agency</th>
<th>Other public health position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public health position</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-public health position</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Some characteristics differ between new and experienced* LHD leaders

New leaders are more likely to be younger

- Median age of new leaders: 47
- Median age of experienced leaders: 56

New leaders are less likely to come from a local or state agency

- New: 59%
- Experienced: 69%

LHDs are less likely to formalize partnerships* with at least one other organization than in 2008

- Large (500,000+): 2008 98%, 2016 91%
- Medium (50,000–499,999): 2008 92%, 2016 91%
- Small (<50,000): 2008 85%, 2016 68%

More LHDs have expanded population-based service provision than have reduced them

- Obesity prevention: Reduced 6%, Expanded 25%
- Alcohol/drug prevention: Reduced 8%, Expanded 24%
- Epidemiology/surveillance: Reduced 3%, Expanded 11%

NACCHO Recommendations

- Develop resources on LHD leadership core competencies tailored to a broad range of public health expertise
- Ensure LHD leadership resources are appropriate for varying experience levels
- Explore ways to increase LHD partnerships with organizations, particularly from diverse sectors, in order to better navigate the complex and changing population health landscape
- Share promising practices with LHDs to support further expansion of service provision

Background and Methods

NACCHO conducts the Profile study every three years to develop a comprehensive description of local health department (LHD) infrastructure and practice. The 2016 Profile study included a total of 2,533 LHDs in the United States, of which 76% completed the survey.

In the Profile study, NACCHO assesses how the local public health landscape changes over time. This data helps NACCHO’s Public Health Transformation portfolio support LHDs facing complex challenges related to growth, adaptation, and innovation.

For more information about the Profile study, email profileteam@naccho.org.

2016 NATIONAL PROFILE OF LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
http://www.nacchoprofilestudy.org