

# NACCHO'S 2016 PROFILE STUDY: PUBLIC HEALTH'S ROLE IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

## Key Findings

Many LHDs engage in activities to **assure access to clinical services**

**64%** LHDs that assess gaps in access to medical services

LHDs that address medical needs of underserved populations **58%**

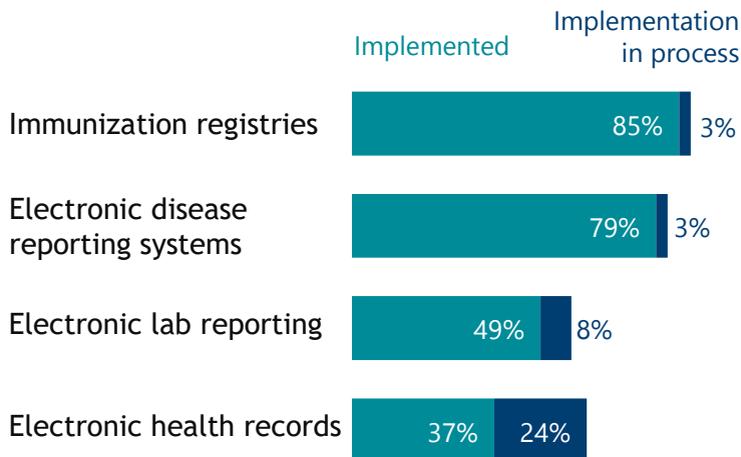
### Background and Methods

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.

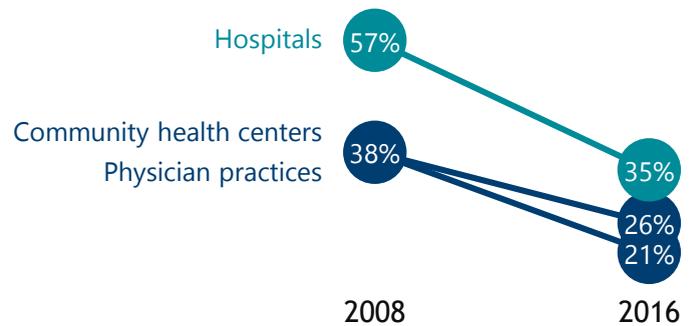
In the Profile study, NACCHO assesses the intersection of public health and clinical medicine by evaluating LHD engagement in health care service provision, partnerships, and data sharing.

For more information about the Profile study, email [profileteam@naccho.org](mailto:profileteam@naccho.org).

Most LHDs **use a health information technology system** to share medical data



Since 2008, LHDs have **formalized fewer partnerships\*** with health care agencies



\*Share personnel/resources and/or have written agreements

LHDs are **less likely to expand clinical services** than population-based services



The majority of LHDs **collaborate with non-profit hospitals** by:



Sharing local data resources on social determinants of health



Providing input on strategies to improve community health



Jointly conducting a community health needs assessment

## NACCHO Recommendations

- Continue to encourage LHDs to implement health information technology systems and share data
- Identify needed resources to support more LHDs in expanding the provision of clinical services
- Share promising practices with LHDs related to formalizing partnerships with health care organizations
- Explore ways to increase LHD and non-profit hospital collaboration on community health needs assessments