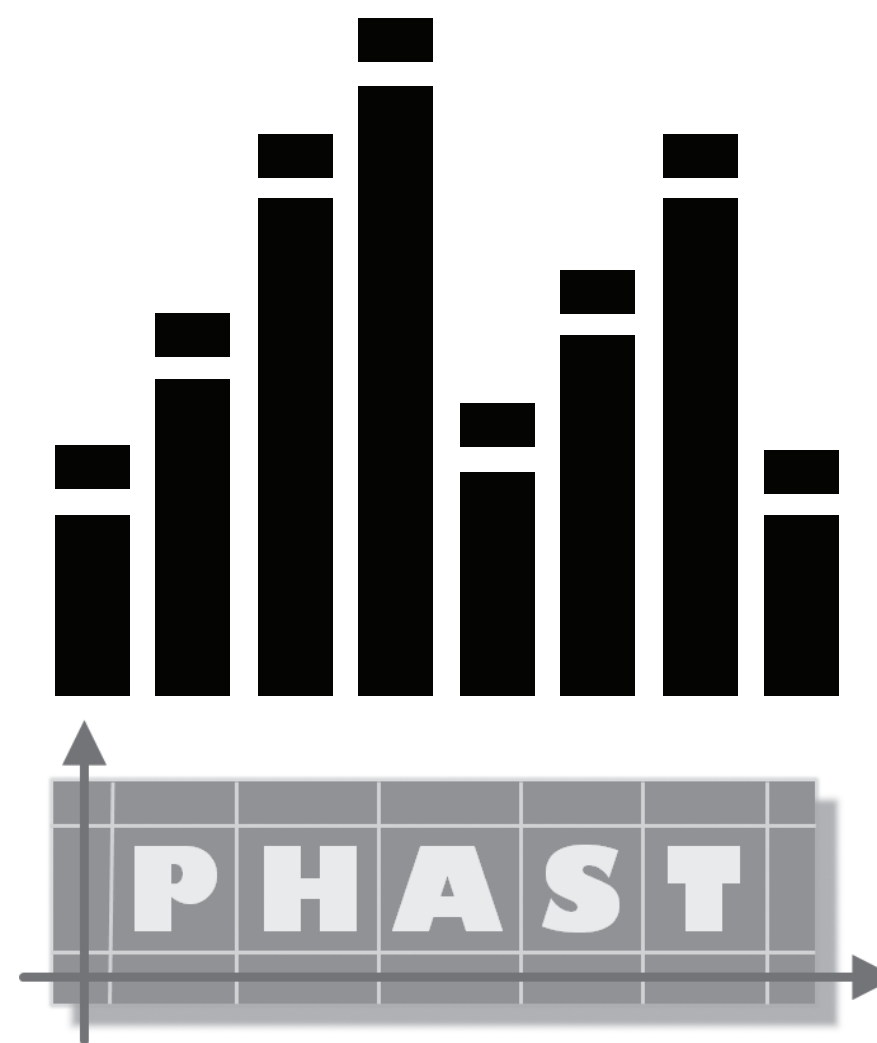


Tamar Klaiman (Presenter) University of the Sciences; Anjali Chainani, University of
the Sciences; Betty Bekemeier, University of Washington
Lessons Learned from Exceptional Washington Local Health Departments in Maternal
and Child Health
Poster Presentation
Annual Educational Conference of the Washington State Public Health Association
Wenatchee, WA
October 12, 2015
[http://www.publichealthsystems.org/learning-outlier-lhds-improve-maternal-
child-health-services](http://www.publichealthsystems.org/learning-outlier-lhds-improve-maternal-child-health-services)

Local health departments (LHDs) are under increasing pressure to improve performance with limited resources. While research has found that financial resources may be associated with better health outcomes, there are some LHDs that maintain exceptional performance, even with limited budgets.

Our goal was to identify and learn from high performing local health jurisdictions in maternal and child health in Washington State.

METHODS



Using data from the Public Health Activities and Services Tracking (PHAST) database as a resource for identifying **Positive Deviant LHDs** in MCH outcomes in terms of 4 areas:

- Teen Births
- Late or No Prenatal Care
- Infant Mortality
- Percent of Low Weight Births

Semi-Structured Interviews

"Community partnerships only become more important when our direct resources are limited...We want to and are working with partners to use resources we have in a coordinated way to implement models that are collaborative in nature."
-----Survey Participant



Primary data were collected through hour-long phone interviews with staff in 7 out of 10 (70%) Washington LHDs:

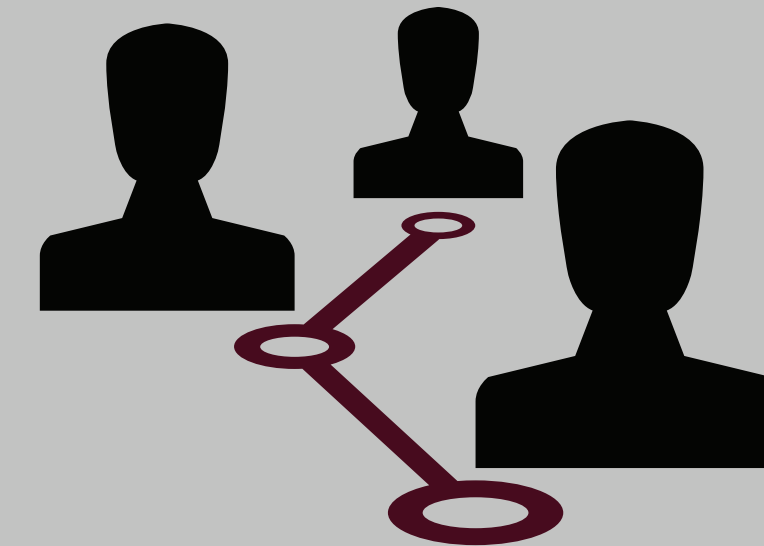
- 4 Metro (31%)
- 3 Micro (27%)
- 3 Rural (27%)



FINDINGS

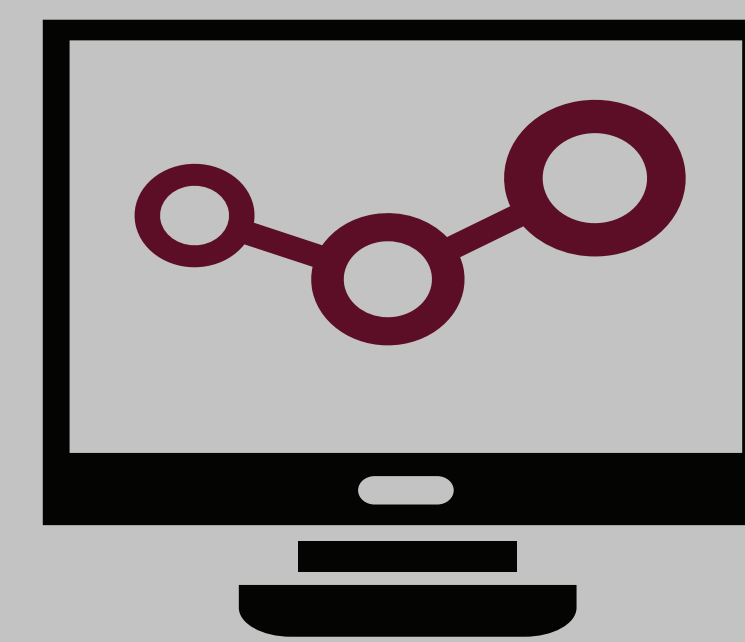
Themes

Positive Deviant LHDs focus on assuring their communities have access to needed services, even when that means changing their roles and responsibilities.



Importance of Community Partnerships:

- Community Based Organizations
- Schools
- Internal



Importance of Clearly Defined Goals:

- Coordination and Administration
- Population Based
- Data-Define

Challenges



Funding



Variations in Data Collection



Staff Turnover

IMPLICATIONS

LHDs can establish and maintain strong partnerships by providing:

- **Technical Expertise**
- **Data Analysis**
- **Referral and Administrative Services for Community Agencies**

Many LHDs have shifted their focus to data-driven basic public health activities and population-based services to cast the widest net with limited resources. Other LHDs can use many of the practices described here to improve their practice and health outcomes.

Feedback



PARTNERSHIPS

"Build community partnerships!

Not advocates for your programs which is what public health does. Partnership is where peers come together and develop strategies to reach specific goals."

DATA



"The opportunities in a local health department for data driven decision making are the exception rather than rule. There's been an upsurge of interest in assessment and it's getting more notice."

"We look at the data. Track the data. When we see a problem in the data, we go for it."

3 FOCUS AREAS WERE EXAMINED

- **Assessment & Policy Development**
- **Research & Evaluation**
- **Regulatory Oversight**