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Sharing Lessons Learned from Positive Deviant Local Health Departments in Maternal And Child Health

Poster Presentation

8th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation.

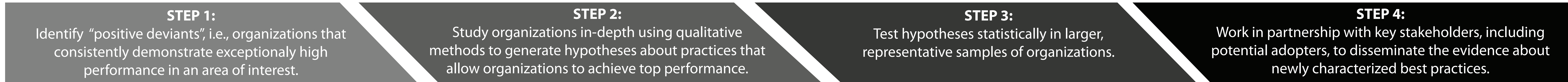
Washington, DC

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<http://www.publichealthsystems.org/learning-outlier-lhds-improve-maternal-child-health-services>

Objective: To identify and learn from local health departments that perform better than expected in MCH outcomes compared to peers

Framework: Positive Deviance Method



50 Positive Deviant LHDs Across 3 States

45 of 50 LHDs (90%) had better than expected MCH outcomes over 2 years

25 LHDs (50%) had 2 or more exceptional outcomes in a single study year

Community Type	Number Identified	Number Interviewed	Percentage Interviewed
Rural	14	10	71%
Micropolitan	10	9	90%
Metropolitan	26	20	77%
Total	50	39	78%

Lessons Learned from Exceptional Florida Local Health Departments in Maternal and Child Health

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.

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

"People ask what is public health—it is whatever the legislation says it is. A lot of times decisions are made and you are required to pull personnel to address the issue of the day and it becomes a challenge to provide services."
—Survey Participant

Semi-Structured Interviews

- 3 FOCUS AREAS WERE EXAMINED**
- Assessment & Policy Development
 - Research & Evaluation
 - Regulatory Oversight

Primary data were collected through hour-long phone interviews with staff in 18 out of 24 (75%) Florida LHDs:

- 12 Metro (67%)
- 1 Micro (5%)
- 5 Rural (28%)

RESULTS

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 LHD Departments

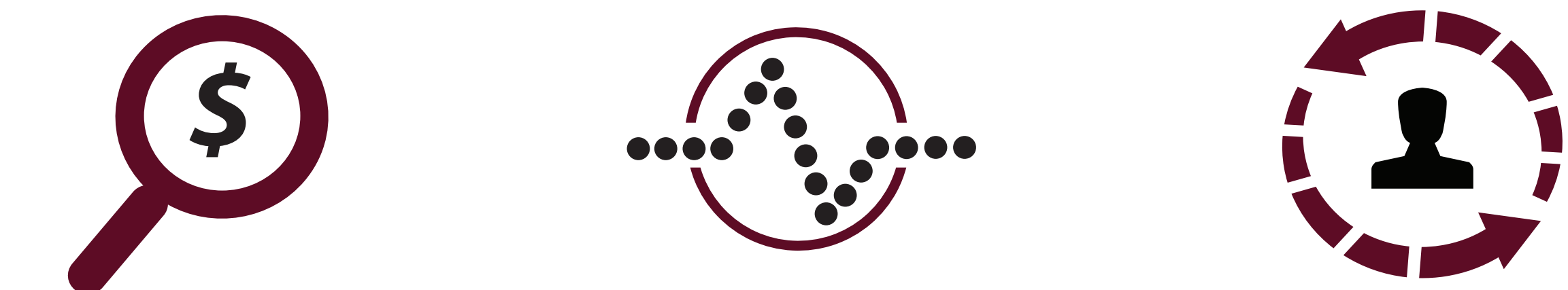
Importance of Healthy Start Coalitions in Improving MCH Outcomes

Importance of Clearly Defined Goals:

- Referral Services
- Population Based
- Data-Defined Outcomes

Challenges

Similar challenges across the LHDs interviewed included funding, the shift to Medicaid Managed Care and staff turnover.



CONCLUSIONS

Our findings offer insight into activities LHDs can undertake—implementing partnerships and identifying evidence-based goals—utilizing the resources they currently have to improve MCH outcomes. *Positive Deviant LHDs* have maintained their assurance role by strengthening partnerships and identifying goals based on community health outcome data.

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Research conducted in cooperation with the University of Washington School of Nursing. Support for this presentation was provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services and Systems Research.
Infographic Design by Kara Richardson

Lessons Learned from Exceptional New York Local Health Departments in Maternal and Child Health

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.

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

"One of our other goals is to stay in operation. We work with partners to maximize resources."
—Survey Participant

Semi-Structured Interviews

- 3 FOCUS AREAS WERE EXAMINED**
- Assessment & Policy Development
 - Research & Evaluation
 - Regulatory Oversight

Primary data were collected through hour-long phone interviews with staff in 14 out of 16 (88%) New York LHDs:

- 6 Metro (43%)
- 5 Micro (36%)
- 3 Rural (21%)

RESULTS

Themes

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

Partnerships

- Service Delivery
- Maximize Resources

Changing Priorities

- Shift from Clinical Services to Population Health

"...we used to offer a lot more services. We've been farming that out – a lot we aren't the lead on. Our rates aren't because of the LHD but community partners. We are seeing a push away from direct services – a lot of MCH programs are seen more as direct service."

Challenges

Similar challenges across the LHDs interviewed included the need for additional funding and workforce training to address population health.



CONCLUSIONS

Developing and maintaining partnerships can help improve MCH outcomes, even with limited resources. Investing in staff training in population health allows for greater flexibility and expertise to address community health issues.

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Infographic Design by Kara Richardson with the National Coordinating Center for PHSSR & PBRNs

Doing More with Less: Lessons from Health Departments in Washington State with Exceptional Maternal and Child Health Outcomes

Tamar Klaiman, Ph.D., M.P.H.; Anjali Chainani, M.P.H., M.S.W.; Betty Bekemeier, Ph.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.N.

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

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

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."

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%)

3 FOCUS AREAS WERE EXAMINED

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

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