



University of Kentucky
UKnowledge

Health Management and Policy Presentations

Health Management and Policy

6-15-2009

Opportunities for Comparative Research in Public Health PBRNs : A Baseline Analysis of Local Practice Settings

Glen P. Mays

University of Kentucky, glen.mays@cuanschutz.edu

Sharla A. Smith


University of Arkansas

Elaine B. Wootten

Sylvia J. Porchia

Right click to open a feedback form in a new tab to let us know how this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/hsm_present

 Part of the [Econometrics Commons](#), [Health and Medical Administration Commons](#), [Health Economics Commons](#), [Health Policy Commons](#), [Health Services Administration Commons](#), and the [Health Services Research Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Mays, Glen P.; Smith, Sharla A.; Wootten, Elaine B.; and Porchia, Sylvia J., "Opportunities for Comparative Research in Public Health PBRNs : A Baseline Analysis of Local Practice Settings" (2009). *Health Management and Policy Presentations*. 58.
https://uknowledge.uky.edu/hsm_present/58

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Health Management and Policy at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Health Management and Policy Presentations by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.

Opportunities for Comparative Research in Public Health PBRNs: A Baseline Analysis of Local Practice Settings



Glen P. Mays, PhD, MPH; Sharla A. Smith, MPH; Elaine B. Wootten, MA; Sylvia J. Porchia, MPH
 Department of Health Policy and Management, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences



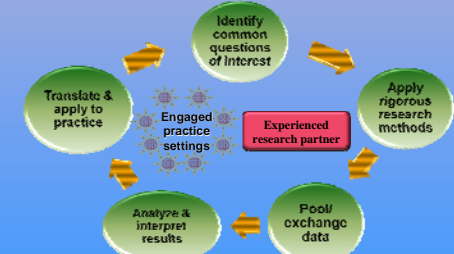
Background & Rationale

- Research on how best to organize, finance, and deliver public health services in real-world practice settings remains limited.
- Research often fails to be translated and adopted into practice.
- Practice-based research networks (PBRNs) provide a model for public health agencies to collaborate with researchers in conceptualizing and conducting studies in practice settings.
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation created the **Public Health PBRN Program** in 2008 to support the development of PBRNs designed to expand the volume and quality of research on public health services and delivery systems.

Research Objectives

- Describe the organizational and operational characteristics of local public health agencies participating in an initial cohort of five (5) public health PBRNs in the U.S.
- Examine variation in practice settings within and between PBRNs.
- Compare practice settings to state and national norms.
- Identify opportunities for comparative research that can be conducted through PBRNs

Conceptual Model of PBRNs

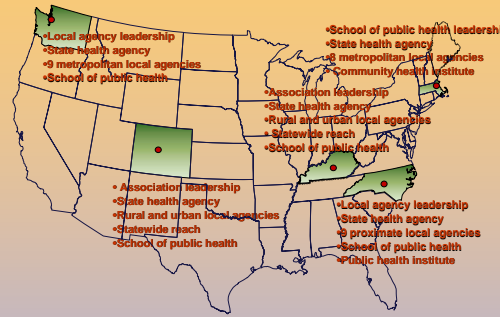


- State or local agency as lead convener
- Champion within each practice setting
- Research partner with relevant expertise
- Mechanisms for communication & information exchange
- Feasible and relevant initial research projects

Research Design & Methods

- Observational, cross-sectional study of five (5) participating public health PBRNs
- PBRN structure and practice setting data were collected from PBRN grantee proposals and interviews with network developers
- PBRN data were linked with local health department data from the NACCHO 2005 National Profile of Local Health Departments survey
- Analysis of variance and equality of proportions tests were used to compare characteristics of networks

Study Settings



Discussion

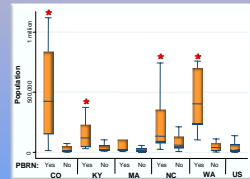
- PBRNs include a heterogeneous mix of local public health agencies based on their size, structure, and resources.
- Within-network variation in practice settings often exceeds between-network variation.
- Agencies participating in PBRNs serve larger, more urban populations and enjoy greater financial and human resources than their non-participating counterparts
- Large differences in the service offerings of local agencies are apparent between PBRNs

Conclusions

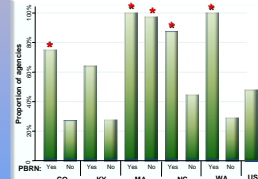
- The diversity of practice settings included in PBRNs create opportunities for conducting comparative studies designed to determine which public health practices and policies work best in which settings, and why.
- PBRNs are particularly well suited for studying how funding and staffing levels as well as service offerings interact with programs and policies to influence outcomes of interest
- PBRN practice settings are not necessarily representative of the full population of agencies in a state or the U.S. Results should be generalized with caution.

Principal Findings

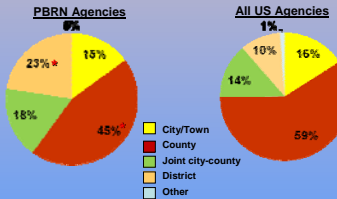
1. Population served by PBRN agencies vs. other agencies



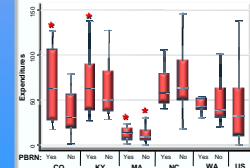
2. Proportion of agencies serving metropolitan areas: PBRNs vs. other agencies



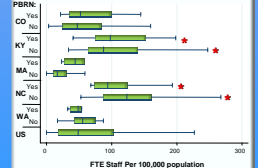
3. Type of governmental jurisdiction



4. Per capita public health expenditures: PBRN agencies vs. other agencies



5. Agency staffing ratios: PBRN agencies vs. other agencies



6. Agency service offerings: PBRN agencies vs. others

Services Offered	PBRN Network					
	CO	KY	MA	NC	WA	US
Child immunizations	100.0%	100.0%	33.3%	100.0%	87.5%	89.8%
HIV screening	100.0%	100.0%	20.0%	100.0%	100.0%	62.7%
STD screening	75.0%	100.0%	20.0%	100.0%	100.0%	64.4%
Cancer screening	50.0%	100.0%	40.0%	100.0%	37.5%	46.5%
CVS screening	50.0%	92.9%	40.0%	100.0%	0.0%	36.6%
Tobacco prevention	100.0%	100.0%	80.0%	87.5%	100.0%	69.1%
Family planning	50.0%	100.0%	40.0%	100.0%	75.0%	58.0%
WIC	75.0%	100.0%	0.0%	62.5%	75.0%	67.2%
Prenatal care	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	87.5%	12.5%	41.8%
Obstetrics	0.0%	78.6%	20.0%	50.0%	12.5%	15.6%
Primary care	0.0%	21.4%	20.0%	50.0%	25.0%	13.9%
Oral health	25.0%	85.7%	40.0%	87.5%	75.0%	30.7%
Substance abuse tx	75.0%	21.3%	40.0%	12.5%	50.0%	11.1%
Injury prevention	100.0%	38.5%	40.0%	62.5%	62.5%	40.3%
Laboratory services	50.0%	35.7%	50.0%	62.5%	50.0%	31.7%
Food service inspection	100.0%	100.0%	83.3%	87.5%	100.0%	76.0%
Blood lead testing	50.0%	100.0%	33.3%	100.0%	25.0%	66.1%
Public water supply regulatio	25.0%	7.1%	16.7%	25.0%	75.0%	30.4%
Hazardous waste inspection	100.0%	7.1%	66.7%	12.5%	75.0%	18.0%

* Difference from US estimate is significant at p<0.05

For More Information

- The Public Health PBRN National Coordinating Center is located at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Email: publichealthpbrn@uams.edu
 Phone: (501) 551-0106
 Website: www.publichealthsystems.org/pbrn

Acknowledgements

- The Public Health PBRN Program is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- We gratefully acknowledge data from the 2005 National Profile of Local Health Departments provided by NACCHO