

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER INSTITUTE

communityhealthalignment.org

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

CHWs connect underserved communities to health and social service resources, improve quality and cultural competence of service delivery, and help health systems achieve a significant financial return on investment.



CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY HEALTH
ALIGNMENT

WHO ARE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (CHWs)?



Trusted, frontline public health workers with a deep understanding of the communities they serve.



Liaisons between health/social services and the community they facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural humility of service delivery.



Individual and community capacity builders by increasing health knowledge and self-efficacy through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, motivational interviewing, social support and advocacy.

CHWs IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOMES (Including, but not limited to the following)



Hypertension



Diabetes



Older Adults



Birth Outcomes



Asthma

Improved Screening Rates

A systematic review of 66 studies found that CHWs are effective in increasing breast, cervical, and colorectal **cancer screening rates**, and that cervical and colorectal cancer screenings are also cost-effective.

Attipoe-Dorcoo S et al. Engaging Community Health Workers to Increase Cancer Screening: A Community Guide Systematic Economic Review. Am J Prev Med. 2021; 60(4): 189-197.

2.5x Return on Investment

In a randomized control trial of low-income, underinsured people with at least two **chronic diseases**, support from CHWs was associated with several disease improvements and had a \$2.47 return on every dollar Medicaid invested.

Kangovi S et al. Community Health Worker Support for Disadvantaged Patients With Multiple Chronic Diseases: A Randomized Clinical Trial. Am J of Pub Health. 2017; 107: 1660-1667.

Kangovi S, et al. Evidence-Based Community Health Worker Program Addresses Unmet Social Needs And Generates Positive Return On Investment. Health Affairs. 2020; 39(2):207-213.

Advancing Health Equity

In a systematic review of 61 studies, interventions with CHWs were particularly effective **with low-income, underserved, and racial and ethnic minority communities** in initiatives such as cancer prevention and cardiovascular risk reduction.

Kim K et al. Effects of Community-Based Health Worker Interventions to Improve Chronic Disease Management and Care Among Vulnerable Populations: A Systematic Review. Am J Public Health. 2016;106(4):e3-e28.