



## **Fact-sheet: Community Health Workers (CHWs), Gaps in Research**

### **CHW Research**

Research is focused primarily on:

- Minority groups in the United States such as African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asian-Americans<sup>1,2,3</sup>
- Women<sup>2,4</sup>
- Urban areas<sup>5,6</sup>
- Chronic health conditions and other diseases such as diabetes, CHF, and HIV<sup>7,8,9</sup>

### **Next Steps**

More research needs to be done to understand CHWs' role of improving health for vulnerable communities, identified by the Affordable Care Act as<sup>10,11</sup>:

- Racial and Ethnic Minorities
- Individuals with Mental Health or Substance Abuse Disorders
- Individuals with HIV/AIDS
- Pregnant Women
- Children
- Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
- Rural Populations
- Victims of Abuse or Trauma

More research needs to be on financing models for CHW's and how to best incorporate them into the health care field.

---

<sup>1</sup> Durant, R. W., Brown, Q. L., Cherrington, A. L., Andreae, L. J., Hardy, C. M., & Scarinci, I. C. (2013). Social support among African Americans with heart failure: Is there a role for community health advisors?. *Heart & Lung: The Journal of Acute and Critical Care*, 42(1), 19-25.

- 
- <sup>2</sup> Koniak-Griffin, D., Brecht, M. L., Takayanagi, S., Villegas, J., Melendrez, M., & Balcázar, H. (2015). A community health worker-led lifestyle behavior intervention for Latina (Hispanic) women: Feasibility and outcomes of a randomized controlled trial. *International journal of nursing studies*, 52(1), 75-87.
- <sup>3</sup> Nguyen, T. T., Le, G., Nguyen, T., Le, K., Lai, K., Gildengorin, G., ... & McPhee, S. J. (2009). Breast cancer screening among Vietnamese Americans: a randomized controlled trial of lay health worker outreach. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 37(4), 306-313.
- <sup>4</sup> Allen, J. K., Dennison-Himmelfarb, C. R., Szanton, S. L., Bone, L., Hill, M. N., Levine, D. M., ... & Anderson, K. (2011). Community Outreach and Cardiovascular Health (COACH) Trial A Randomized, Controlled Trial of Nurse Practitioner/Community Health Worker Cardiovascular Disease Risk Reduction in Urban Community Health Centers. *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, 4(6), 595-602.
- <sup>5</sup> Wilson, T. E., Fraser-White, M., Browne, R., Feldman, J., Price, M., Homel, P., ... & Davis-King, D. (2008). Hair salon stylists as breast cancer prevention lay health advisors for African American and Afro-Caribbean women. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 19(1), 216-226.
- <sup>6</sup> Kaphingst, K. A., Lachance, C. R., Gepp, A., Hoyt D'Anna, L., & Rios-Ellis, B. (2011). Educating underserved Latino communities about family health history using lay health advisors. *Public Health Genomics*, 14(4-5), 211-221.
- <sup>7</sup> Spencer, M. S., Rosland, A. M., Kieffer, E. C., Sinco, B. R., Valerio, M., Palmisano, G., ... & Heisler, M. (2011). Effectiveness of a community health worker intervention among African American and Latino adults with type 2 diabetes: a randomized controlled trial. *American Journal of Public Health*, 101(12), 2253-2260.
- <sup>8</sup> Durant, R. W., Brown, Q. L., Cherrington, A. L., Andreae, L. J., Hardy, C. M., & Scarinci, I. C. (2013). Social support among African Americans with heart failure: Is there a role for community health advisors?. *Heart & Lung: The Journal of Acute and Critical Care*, 42(1), 19-25.
- <sup>9</sup> Rhodes, S. D., Hergenrather, K. C., Bloom, F. R., Leichter, J. S., & Montaño, J. (2009). Outcomes from a community-based, participatory lay health advisor HIV/STD prevention intervention for recently arrived immigrant Latino men in rural North Carolina, USA. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 21(5 Suppl), 103.
- <sup>10</sup> Affordable Care Act. (2011). One Hundred Eleventh Congress of the United States of America. *Federal Sentencing reporter*, 23(3). Retrieved August 3, 2015 at: <http://www.ncsl.org/documents/health/ppaca-consolidated.pdf>.
- <sup>11</sup> National Health Care for the Homeless Council (2011). Community health workers: Financing & administration policy brief. Retrieved July 21, 2015 from: <http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/CHW-Policy-Brief.pdf>