

Community Health Workers in Vermont

Integration Snapshot: Involvement in Clinical Teams

March 2022

Introduction

This brief provides a summary of key data points about the integration of community health workers (CHWs) derived from a May 2021 survey¹ of 128 CHWs and 33 CHW employers from across Vermont. The survey, conducted by the Vermont Department of Health (VDH), in collaboration with the Vermont CHW Steering Committee, represents an ongoing effort by VDH to collect information about the roles, scope of work, skills, and training of the current CHW workforce in the state.

To assess integration of CHWs into clinical care teams, the survey contained a number of questions for the 26 CHWs and 10 CHW employers who reported working in a hospital/health system, federally qualified health center, or other community health center.

Clinical Care Team Relationships and Responsibilities

92% of CHWs reported working directly with members of a clinical care team, with the top 5 most common team members being: primary care providers (83%), registered nurses (83%), behavioral health care providers (70%), social workers (65%), and other CHWs (57%).

Highlights

Clinical Care Team

92% of CHWs work directly with members of care team

96% of CHWs have access to EHRs

Top CHW Responsibilities



Document patient encounters



Meet regularly or as-needed

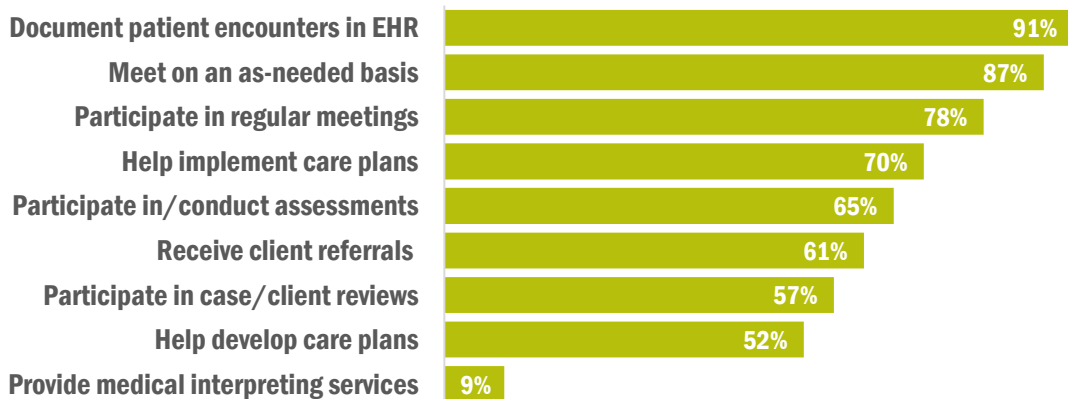


Help implement care plans



Participate in or conduct assessments

Responsibilities of CHWs on Care Team



Source: 2021 Vermont Community Health Worker Survey

Learn more at healthvermont.gov/CHWs

CHW INTEGRATION INTO CLINICAL TEAMS

Access to and Use of Electronic Health Records

CHWs who have access to EHRs can do the following activities with the records:

Enter notes into a patient record	95%
Look up information on the patient record	82%
Read the patient registry list	64%
Schedule appointments	59%

96% of CHWs who work in a health system with electronic health records have access to patients' records

Next Steps

The Vermont Community Health Worker Steering Committee directs efforts to accomplish sustainable change in promoting and supporting the work of Community Health Workers in Vermont. The committee plans to conduct ongoing surveys to collect critical information to inform the statewide priorities to recognize and advance the work of Community Health Workers in Vermont.

For more information: Visit [Healthvermont.gov/CHWS](https://healthvermont.gov/CHWS) or contact Jennifer Woolard, jennifer.woolard@vermont.gov



ⁱ **A note about survey methods and respondents:** Data for this brief was gathered from a web-based survey (administered 05/03/2021–05/28/2021) of a convenience sample of CHWs and CHW employers across Vermont. A total of 145 CHWs and 33 CHW employers responded to the survey. Upon analysis, VDH and PDA excluded 17 participants as they did not appear to be CHWs. This was the second year VDH gathered information via surveys about CHW professionals and organizations that engage CHWs. It is not clear the extent to which the responses are representative of all CHWs or all organizations that engage CHWs in Vermont.

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