

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (CHWS)

Summary

This research offers evidence of the vital contribution that CHWs make to promoting the health and wellbeing of communities in Iowa, particularly those often missed by traditional health services. Continued support for the growth of the CHW workforce will increase access to care for all Iowans, and provide them with care and service delivery that meets their needs in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner, thus reducing health disparities, and costs to the health system

What is a CHW?

"A community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery" -APHA

"I feel like my job is to give patients hope and to help them be self-sufficient."

- Iowa CHW

Statistics

32%

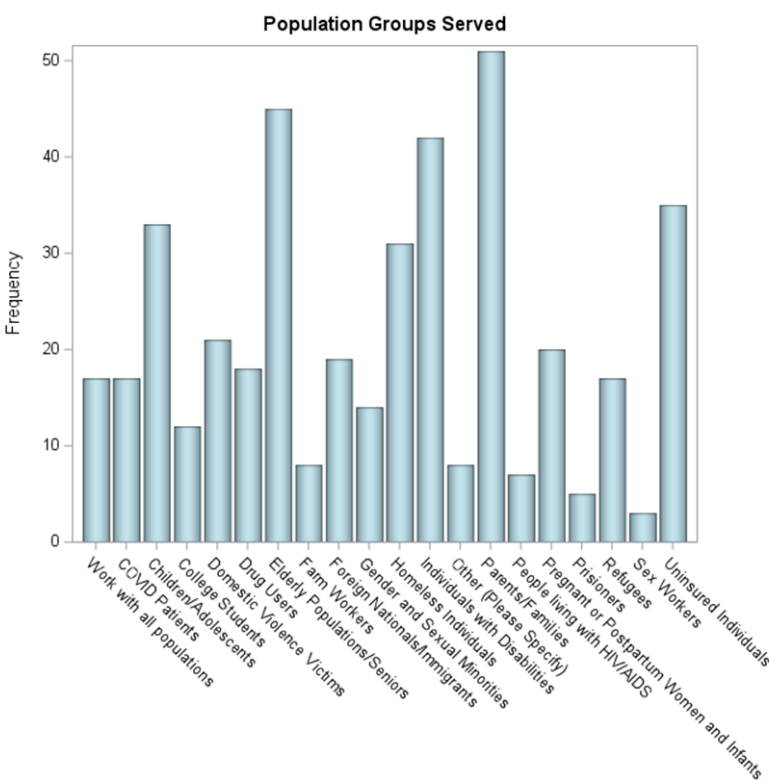


Of CHWs reported serving rural Iowan communities

A growing workforce

17%

Projected increase in the US CHW workforce between 2020-2030



Current Opportunities in Iowa

- CHW Registered Apprenticeship program through the Iowa Chronic Care Consortium
- Online hybrid CHW Professional Skills Training
- Continuing education in a variety of health topics including oral health, maternal health, health disparities, asthma and COVID-19
- Funding opportunities are growing at a state and local level
 - US DHHS has put \$27 million dollars towards growing the workforce

"Many times, family support programs are unsure of the difference they are making since programs are short term, over the phone, or only in emergencies. It was eye opening to experience this with the family and to realize how much of an impact local organizations can have on families when there is trust, consistency and team work."

- CHW