

POLICY EVIDENCE ASSESSMENT REPORT: Community Health Worker Policy



A New Tool from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/pubs/docs/chw_evidence_assessment_report.pdf

The *Policy Evidence Assessment Report* summarizes the evidence base for individual components of chronic disease policy interventions. A community health worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who improves the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. These individuals hold much promise for addressing chronic disease, especially in minority and underserved populations. CHW policy components are elements noted within an existing or recommended CHW policy intervention.

A strong evidence base has emerged in support of many policy components that comprise a CHW policy intervention. We identified 14 CHW policy components and assessed their supporting evidence, using a continuum of evidence strength that included the categories of “emerging,” “promising,” and “best” (where the “best” category reflected the strongest evidence). Our assessment found 8 best, 2 promising quality, 1 promising impact, and 3 emerging policy components (*Figure*).

Authorizing CHWs to provide chronic disease care services was the policy component with the strongest evidence base, though more comprehensive systematic review is needed. In states where CHW policy components have been enacted into law, policy evaluations could provide more evidence to inform policy implementation and new policy development.

For the full report, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention website (*see above*).



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion