The Public Health PBRN Program: A Status Update

Glen P Mays, University of Kentucky

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A Status Update

Glen Mays, PhD, MPH
University of Kentucky

glen.mays@uky.edu

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Vicious cycles to learning systems

Limited public understanding & political support

Incoherence in missions, Complex, fragmented, variable responsibilities & expectations financing & delivery systems

Large inequities in resources & capabilities Variable productivity and efficiency

Resources incongruent with preventable disease burden

Gaps in reach & implementation of efficacious strategies Difficulties demonstrating impact, value & ROI

Translate evidence for policy and administrative decisions & advocacy

Discover causes & consequences of variation in public health delivery
Diffusion of Public Health PBRNs

- First cohort (December 2008 start-up)
- Second cohort (January 2010 start-up)
- Affiliate/Emerging PBRNs (2011-14)
Research Progression

Delivery System Organization and Structure

Practice Variation

Volume, Intensity, and Quality of Delivery

Cost of Delivery

Value of Delivery
PBRN Reach

- 31 networks
- 1593 local public health agencies
- 35 state agencies
- 52 academic research units
- 58 professional & community organizations
Productivity & Dissemination

- 60 competitively awarded research projects
- 68 articles in peer-reviewed journals
- 221 presentations and conferences & meetings
- 51 reports & tools in the grey literature
- Earned media in elite venues: *Modern Healthcare*, *Forbes*, *Kaiser Health News*, *PBS*, *Men’s Health*
- >15,000 downloads of *Frontiers in PHSSR* articles
- >8,000 downloads from Research Archive
- >2,000 page views on PublicHealthEconomics blog
## Local Health Departments Engaged in Research Implementation & Translation Activities During Past 12 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>PBRN Agencies Percent/Mean</th>
<th>National Sample Percent/Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identifying research topics</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning/designing studies</td>
<td>81.6%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment, data collection &amp; analysis</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disseminating study results</td>
<td>84.5%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applying findings in own organization</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping others apply findings</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research implementation composite</td>
<td>84.04 (27.38)</td>
<td>30.20 (31.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Coordinating Center

- Intramural research activities
  - **Public Health Value**: Cost estimation & economic evaluation
  - **Public Health Reform**: Effects of ACA on public health delivery

- Extramural research programs
  - Quick Strike studies
  - Multi-network research activities
Data Development
- Periodic census surveys of local and state agencies
- National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems
- Public Health Activities and Services Tracking (PHAST): compiling existing administrative data across states

Dissemination & Translation
- Weekly Work in Progress Webinars
- Open-access journal: Frontiers in PHSSR
- Newsletters, Podcasts, Blogs
- Briefings with policy stakeholders
Future Directions

- RWJF’s *Culture of Health* strategic direction
- Population health improvement strategies
- Bridging public health and health care
- Strategies to enhance value
- Monitoring health reform implementation & impact
- Federal research funding
Toward a “rapid-learning system” in public health

In a learning health care system, research influences practice and practice influences research.

Evaluate
Collect data and analyze results to show what does and does not work.

Adjust
Use evidence to influence continual improvement.

Design
Design care and evaluation based on evidence generated here and elsewhere.

Implement
Apply the plan in pilot and control settings.

Disseminate
Share results to improve care for everyone.

Internal
Internal and External Scan
Identify problems and potentially innovative solutions.

External

For More Information

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Glen P. Mays, Ph.D., M.P.H.
glen.mays@uky.edu

Email: publichealthPBRN@uky.edu
Web: www.publichealthsystems.org
Journal: www.FrontiersinPHSSR.org
Archive: works.bepress.com/glen_mays
Blog: publichealththeconomics.org