



CHWs: EVIDENCE

Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA)

July 2013

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER WORKFORCE IN MICHIGAN

COST SAVINGS

Community Health Workers (CHWs)* work in their communities to improve health and reduce health costs. CHW programs report:

- **\$2.53 savings for every \$1.00 of cost** at Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, MI working with patients diagnosed with diabetes and/or heart failure¹
- **\$350,000 in recovered costs** by enrolling newly released prisoners in Medicaid through the Muskegon Community Health Project in Muskegon, MI²
- **\$4.00 savings for every \$1.00 of cost** at Molina Healthcare of New Mexico** by working with high resource-consuming patients to reduce ED usage and increase treatment adherence³

***Molina Healthcare in Michigan will be implementing a similar program in 2013*

HEALTH OUTCOMES

By addressing patients or clients holistically, CHW programs have:

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| Enrollment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helped newly released or paroled prisoners obtain their medical records, find medical homes, and access needed primary care and specialty services⁴ |
| Infant Mortality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decreased low birth weight and inadequate prenatal care in medically underserved women⁵ ● Increased prenatal care, breastfeeding, and immunization among mothers in migrant camps⁶ |
| Nutrition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased availability of healthy produce and neighborhood safety⁷ ● Increased vegetable and fiber consumption and decreased solid fats and sugar consumption in pregnant Latinas⁸ |
| Diabetes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased awareness of blood pressure and blood glucose screening in African American and Latina women in Detroit⁹ ● Decreased blood glucose levels in CHW program participants in Detroit^{10,11} ● Improved adherence to blood glucose testing in Detroit participants¹⁰ |
| Cancer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased knowledge of breast cancer, screening, and prevention among African American, Latina and Arab American women^{12,13,14,15} ● Increased cervical cancer screening among female migrant health workers¹⁶ |
| Mental Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduced depressive symptoms among Latina mothers¹⁷ ● Worked with nurses to lower depressive symptoms among pregnant women¹⁸ ● Reduced stress for community members in Detroit by using policy to increase neighborhood safety⁷ |
| HIV | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased HIV counseling and testing among men who have sex with men in Detroit¹⁹ |
| Asthma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helped to improve lung function, decrease frequent asthma symptoms, and decrease unscheduled health visits among children²⁰ ● Reduced depressive symptoms in care givers of asthmatic children²¹ |

DEFINITIONS

*Community Health Worker is a term that encompasses a health professional as defined by the American Public Health Association, Community Health Worker Section (2009):

A Community Health Worker (CHW) 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 CHW 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.

A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

BACKGROUND: MiCHWA

The Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA) is a statewide coalition that exists to address the unsustainable cycle that currently employs and deploys CHWs in Michigan's communities. MiCHWA's mission is: *To promote and sustain the integration of Community Health Workers into Michigan's health and human service systems through coordinated changes in policy and workforce development.*

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OUR PARTNERS

American Cancer Society, Inc. | Community Health and Social Services, Inc. (CHASS) | Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion | FIT Families Project | Grand Rapids Community College | Health Project: A Community Benefit Ministry of Mercy Health | Henry Ford Health System | Ingham County Community Health Center | MI-Connect | Michigan Department of Community Health | Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research | Michigan Primary Care Association | Michigan Public Health Training Center | Michigan State University College of Human Medicine | Migrant Health Promotion | National Kidney Foundation of Michigan | Network 180 | Southeast Michigan Community Alliance | Southeast Michigan Beacon Project | Spectrum HealthStrong Beginnings (Federal Healthy Start Kent County) | Trinity Health | University of Michigan School of Social Work | Wayne State University School of Medicine

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For more information about MiCHWA, please visit our website at www.michwa.org

