National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems

colorado school of public health UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

The National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems (NALSYS) is the nation's oldest and longest-running source of information about local public health delivery systems across the U.S. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and conducted by the University of Colorado School of Public Health, NALSYS follows a national cohort of about 600 communities across the U.S. by surveying the local public health officials who serve these communities every 2-3 years. Originally launched in 1998 with support from CDC, the NALSYS survey asks about a set of 20 public health activities that may or may not be performed in your public health agency's jurisdiction. For each activity that is performed, the survey asks about how effectively the activity is performed, and about the types of community organizations that help to perform the activity in your jurisdiction. The survey also contains some brief questions about your agency's governance structures and use of public health data for decision-making. More information about NALSYS can be found here: https://systemsforaction.org/national-longitudinal-survey-public-health-systems

The survey requires approximately 25-30 minutes to complete. You may discontinue the survey at any time and resume it later by scrolling to the bottom of the survey and clicking the "save and return later" button. If you have any questions or problems related to survey, please contact the principal investigator, Glen Mays, PhD, MPH and our research team at nalsys@ucdenver.edu

Your agency's participation in past waves of this survey has been extremely valuable to the public health field. As a benefit of contributing to this wave of the survey, our research team will produce a customized report of results for your jurisdiction that summarizes current and historical data from your jurisdiction over time, compared to national and peer-group norms. Additionally, our research team is happy to provide you with any other customized data analyses and research summaries from the survey that you may find useful.

We publicly disseminate and publish results from the NALSYS survey in aggregate form only, so that your agency's individual results and your personal identity as a survey respondent remain confidential.



Names of counties that are FULLY CONTAINED within the jurisdiction served by the health department	
(Please list names of counties)	
Names of counties that are PARTIALLY CONTAINED within the jurisdiction served by the health department	
(Please list names of counties)	
Public Health Activities Available in the Community	
The following questions ask about 20 public health activities that may or may not be performed in the jurisdiction served by your public health agency. Please contact our research team with any questions about which agency and jurisdiction this survey references. For each question answered as "Yes", a series of sub-questions will display that ask about how effectively the activity is performed and about the types of community organizations that help to perform the activity.	
I. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, has a OYes community needs assessment process been conducted that Systematically describes the prevailing health status in the community?	



Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	 Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity
What proportion of the total community effort for this activity is contributed by your local public health agency?	 None Some but not half of effort About half of the effort Most but not all of the effort All of the effort
What other types of organizations are involved in performing this activity in your jurisdiction? (Mark all that apply)	None State health agencies Faith-based organizations Physician practices Schools (K-12) Other state government agencies Local government agencies Federal government agencies Hospitals Health insurers Employers/business groups Community health centers Other nonprofits Colleges/universities Tribal organizations Other
If "Other", please specify	
Do any of the organizations involved in this activity provide the following types of services? (Check all that apply) In the past three years in your jurisdiction, has a community needs assessment process been conducted that systematically describes the prevailing health status in the community?	Assistance with housing, shelter or utilities Employment assistance or job training Food and nutrition assistance Child and family support services Cash assistance for low income households Parks, recreation, or physical activity programs Transportation services Support services for older adults Support services for disabled populations Support services for veterans Land use, zoning or community development services Legal assistance Law enforcement Corrections, criminal justice or juvenile justice services Library, arts, or cultural programs Environmental protection programs Environmental protection programs Economic development services Agriculture or cooperative extension services Mental health services Substance use services Services for American Indian/Alaska Native communities None of the services listed above

What proportion of the effort devoted to this activity focuses on addressing health inequities and health disparities experienced by racial/ethnic minority groups and other marginalized population groups in your jurisdiction?	 None Some but not half of effort About half of the effort Most but not all of the effort All of the effort
2. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, has a survey of the population for behavioral risk factors been conducted?	YesNo
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity
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3. In your jurisdiction, are timely investigations of adverse health events conducted on an ongoing basis, including communicable disease outbreaks and environmental health hazards?	○ Yes ○ No
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity
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4. Are the necessary laboratory services available to support investigations of adverse health events and meet routine diagnostic and surveillance needs for your jurisdiction?	○ Yes ○ No
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity

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5. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, has an analysis been completed of the determinants of and contributing factors to priority health needs, the adequacy of existing health resources, and the population groups most affected?	YesNo
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity
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What proportion of the results of this analysis has contributed to the development of strategies or programs to address the social determinants of health (e.g., income, education, gender, ethnicity, social environments, social support, culture, healthy child development)?	 None Some but not half of effort About half of the effort Most but not all of the effort All of the effort
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6. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, has an analysis been completed of age-specific participation in preventative and screening services?	YesNo
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7. In your jurisdiction, is there a network of support and communication relationships that includes health-related organizations, the media, and the general public?	YesNo
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity



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8. In the past YEAR in your jurisdiction, have there been formal efforts to inform public officials about the potential public health impact of decisions under their consideration?	○ Yes ○ No

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9. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, has there been a prioritization of the community health needs that have been identified from a community needs assessment?	YesNo
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity
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10. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, have community health initiatives been implemented that are consistent with priorities established from a community health needs assessment?	○ Yes ○ No
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity
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II. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, has a community health action plan been developed with community participation to address community health needs?	○ Yes ○ No
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity

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12. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, have plans been developed to allocate resources in a manner consistent with community health action plans?	○ Yes ○ No

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13. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, have resources been deployed as necessary to address priority health needs identified in the community health needs assessment?	YesNo
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity
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14. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, has an organizational assessment of the local public health agency been conducted?	○ Yes ○ No
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15. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, have age-specific priority health needs been addressed effectively through the provision of or linkage to appropriate services?	YesNo
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16. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, have there been regular evaluations of the effects of public health services on community health status?	○ Yes ○ No

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What proportion of the effort devoted to this activity focuses on addressing health inequities and health disparities experienced by racial/ethnic minority groups and other marginalized population groups in your jurisdiction?	 None Some but not half of effort About half of the effort Most but not all of the effort All of the effort
17. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, have professionally recognized process and outcome measures been used to monitor public health programs and to redirect resources as appropriate?	○ Yes ○ No
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity
What proportion of the total community effort for this activity is contributed by your local public health agency?	 None Some but not half of effort About half of the effort Most but not all of the effort All of the effort
What other types of organizations are involved in performing this activity in your jurisdiction? (Mark all that apply)	 None State health agencies Faith-based organizations Physician practices Schools (K-12) Other state government agencies Local government agencies Federal government agencies Hospitals Health insurers Employers/business groups Community health centers Other nonprofits Colleges/universities Tribal organizations Other
If "Other", please specify	

Do any of the organizations involved in this activity provide the following types of services? (Check all that apply) In the past three years in your jurisdiction, have professionally recognized process and outcome measures been used to monitor public health programs and to redirect resources as appropriate?	Assistance with housing, shelter or utilities Employment assistance or job training Food and nutrition assistance Child and family support services Cash assistance for low income households Parks, recreation, or physical activity programs Transportation services Support services for older adults Support services for disabled populations Support services for veterans Land use, zoning or community development services Legal assistance Law enforcement Corrections, criminal justice or juvenile justice services Library, arts, or cultural programs Environmental protection programs Economic development services Agriculture or cooperative extension services Mental health services Substance use services Services for American Indian/Alaska Native communities None of the services listed above
What proportion of the effort devoted to this activity focuses on addressing health inequities and health disparities experienced by racial/ethnic minority groups and other marginalized population groups in your jurisdiction?	 None Some but not half of effort About half of the effort Most but not all of the effort All of the effort
18. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, has the public regularly received information about current health status, health care needs, health behaviors, and health care policy issues?	○ Yes ○ No
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity
What proportion of the total community effort for this activity is contributed by your local public health agency?	 None Some but not half of effort About half of the effort Most but not all of the effort All of the effort

What other types of organizations are involved in performing this activity in your jurisdiction? (Mark all that apply)	None State health agencies Faith-based organizations Physician practices Schools (K-12) Other state government agencies Local government agencies Federal government agencies Hospitals Health insurers Employers/business groups Community health centers Other nonprofits Colleges/universities Tribal organizations Other
If "Other", please specify	
Do any of the organizations involved in this activity provide the following types of services? (Check all that apply) In the past three years in your jurisdiction, has the public regularly received information about current health status, health care needs, health behaviors, and health care policy issues?	Assistance with housing, shelter or utilities Employment assistance or job training Food and nutrition assistance Child and family support services Cash assistance for low income households Parks, recreation, or physical activity programs Transportation services Support services for older adults Support services for disabled populations Support services for veterans Land use, zoning or community development services Legal assistance Law enforcement Corrections, criminal justice or juvenile justice services Library, arts, or cultural programs Environmental protection programs Environmental protection programs Economic development services Agriculture or cooperative extension services Mental health services Substance use services Services for American Indian/Alaska Native communities None of the services listed above
What proportion of the effort devoted to this activity focuses on addressing health inequities and health disparities experienced by racial/ethnic minority groups and other marginalized population groups in your jurisdiction?	 None Some but not half of effort About half of the effort Most but not all of the effort All of the effort
19. Within the past YEAR in your jurisdiction, has the media received reports on a regular basis about health issues affecting the community?	○ Yes ○ No
Overall, how well is this activity performed within your jurisdiction?	Poor - meets none of the need for this activity Fair - meets some of the need for this activity Moderate - meets about half of the need Good - meets most of the need for this activity Excellent - fully meets need for this activity

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What proportion of the total community effort for this activity is contributed by your local public health agency?	 None Some but not half of effort About half of the effort Most but not all of the effort All of the effort
What other types of organizations are involved in performing this activity in your jurisdiction? (Mark all that apply)	None State health agencies Faith-based organizations Physician practices Schools (K-12) Other state government agencies Local government agencies Federal government agencies Hospitals Health insurers Employers/business groups Community health centers Other nonprofits Colleges/universities Tribal organizations Other
If "Other", please specify	
Do any of the organizations involved in this activity provide the following types of services? (Check all that apply) Within the past YEAR in your jurisdiction, has the media received reports on a regular basis about health issues affecting the community?	Assistance with housing, shelter or utilities Employment assistance or job training Food and nutrition assistance Child and family support services Cash assistance for low income households Parks, recreation, or physical activity programs Transportation services Support services for older adults Support services for disabled populations Support services for veterans Land use, zoning or community development services Legal assistance Law enforcement Corrections, criminal justice or juvenile justice services Library, arts, or cultural programs Environmental protection programs Economic development services Agriculture or cooperative extension services Mental health services Substance use services Services for American Indian/Alaska Native communities None of the services listed above
What proportion of the effort devoted to this activity focuses on addressing health inequities and health disparities experienced by racial/ethnic minority groups and other marginalized population groups in your jurisdiction?	 None Some but not half of effort About half of the effort Most but not all of the effort All of the effort

20. In the past three years in your jurisdiction, has there been an instance in which a mandated public health program or service failed to be implemented as required by state or local law, ordinance, or regulation?	○ Yes ○ No
What types of organizations if any, were responsible for performing the mandated activity in the community?(Mark all that apply)	None State health agencies Faith-based organizations Physician practices Schools (K-12) Other state government agencies Local government agencies Federal government agencies Hospitals Health insurers Employers/business groups Community health centers Other nonprofits Colleges/universities Tribal organizations Other
If "Other", please specify	
Overall Assessment of the Local Public Health System	
21. Public health has been defined by the Institute of Medicine an actions undertaken within society to assure the conditions in whi actions undertaken within your agency's jurisdiction to promote of these actions in assuring the conditions in which residents of y Poor Fair Good Very good Excellent	ch people can be healthy. Thinking about all of the health, how would you rate the overall effectiveness
Overall Assessment of Public Health	
22. Thinking about all of the people who reside within your agen health of this population?	cy's jurisdiction, how would you rate the overall
○ Poor○ Fair○ Good○ Very good○ Excellent	

Public Health Data Systems



23. When your agency uses health d of geography do you use most freque				I decision-mal	king purposes, v	vhat level
 County City Zip code Census tract Census block group Census block Other Not applicable - agency does not 	use data					
If "Other", please specify						
What factors limit your agency's ability to use data at a smaller level of geography than the one indicated above? (check all that apply) If "Other", please specify			 □ Data are not collected at a smaller level of geography □ Data are provided to my agency in an aggregated form only and it is not possible to disaggregate the data to a smaller level of geography □ Identifying information for smaller geographic areas are not available in the data sources used by my agency □ The sample sizes and/or frequency counts are not large enough within the smaller geographic areas to permit valid analysis. □ Data are missing for a large proportion of the population at a lower level of geography □ We don't have the resources (e.g., staff skills, time, statistical programs) to disaggregate data beyond what we currently use □ We don't have a need or see the use for data disaggregated to a lower level of geography □ Other □ Not applicable - agency does not use data 			
24. Thinking about the non-fe	deral, st	ate and loc	al data source	es that you	r agency use	s for
planning and decision-making	in your	jurisdiction	(i.e. not Cens	sus, CDC o	r other fede	ral data
sets), what proportion of thes	se data so	ources cont	ain sufficient	informatio	n to allow yo	ou to
summarize data separately fo	r the foll	lowing race	and ethnicity	categories	in your juri	sdiction?
	All	Most	About Half	Some	None	NA
Hispanic	0	0	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc	0
White alone, non-Hispanic	\circ	0	O	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	O
Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, non-Hispanic	\circ	\circ	0	0	0	\circ

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Asian alone, non-Hispanic	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, non-Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0	0	
25. How often does your agency part such as researchers, government of						uest it,	
Rarely or neverAt least annuallyAt least quarterlyAt least monthlyAt least weekly							
How do stakeholders in your jurisdiction request health data from your agency? (check all that apply)			 □ Standardized request form □ Ad hoc email/phone request □ Data available on website/portal for download □ Other □ Not applicable - no data requests 				
If "Other", please specify							
In what format does your agency provide data to stakeholders who request it? (check all that apply)			 □ De-identified raw data □ Summary data tables □ Other format □ Not applicable - no data provided 				
If "Other", please specify							
When your agency provides data a does the agency provide guidance users interpret and contextualize disparities between groups that m data, including the reasons why he between groups might be occurring	or support to any health ay be evident ir ealth disparities	help	☐ Never ☐ Rarely ☐ Sometim ☐ Most of t ☐ Always ☐ Not app		a provided		
26. How do community residents agency regarding its data collection						with your	
Residents serve on a formal committee (e.g., a data governance committee) that helps to decide what types of data could or should be collected and used Residents participate in town hall meetings, public forums, or other convenings where data issues are discussed Residents respond to requests for public comment regarding the agency's data collection, interpretation and dissemination activities Residents participate in surveys, focus groups, or interviews regarding the agency's data collection, interpretation and dissemination activities Residents engage with us on an ad hoc basis to help interpret public health data and data patterns (e.g., sense-making) Residents use narrative/story telling or other culturally-resonant approaches to help us to disseminate information and decisions to the community We have not engaged residents in issues of data collection, interpretation or dissemination. Other							
If "Other", please specify							

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Health Equity Data	
The last set of questions below focus on health equity data opportunity to attain their highest level of health. Some typ different rates of illness between two or more groups of per the reasons for those disparities-data that we refer to as hinformation about historical policies and contexts in your j health and wealth opportunities for certain groups of peopoportunities for health (e.g., experiences of community t affordability).	ness of data provide information on health disparities (e.g., ople) whereas other types of data provide information on ealth equity data. Examples of health equity data include urisdiction (e,g., redlining policies that have impacted ble), intergenerational factors that have shaped
27. How often does your agency use health equity data from processes?	your jurisdiction in its planning and decision-making
Never Rarely Sometimes Most of the time Always	
What types of health equity data does your agency use (mark all that apply)?	 Housing quality Housing cost/affordability Historically redlined areas Housing insecurity

Air quality

Proximity to other environmental hazards

Incarceration and criminal justice involvement

Involvement in the child welfare systemClimate exposures (e.g. heat, fire, flooding)

Exposures to crime and/or violenceHistorical agreements and relationships with

Transportation infrastructure (including pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure)
 Educational opportunities/quality
 Employment opportunities
 Income and earnings

Water & sewar infrastructure

Access to parks and recreation

Lending and access to credit

☐ Food environment

tribal nations

Other

In your estimation, what proportion of your agency's current public health programs and activities utilize health equity data to inform their operations? (check one)

None

Less than half

About half

More than half

All

How has your agency used these types of health equity data to develop its approaches to improving health?

Governance

28. Who has the authority to perform each of the following governance roles for your agency and its jurisdiction? (select all that apply) local board of county city/town state health other health government government agency Hire or fire the agency leader Approve the agency budget Propose or request public health policies or regulations Adopt or approve public health policies or regulations Adopt or approve fees to be charged for public health services П Propose or request taxes, tax rates, or mill levies to support public health services If you specified "other" for any of the above, please indicate who has the authority. 29. Is your agency governed by a local board of O No health? If yes, indicate how many members of your local board of health have the following characteristics Please enter "0" if the number of members is zero for any characteristic. If you are unsure of the exact number but know that it is greater than 0, please enter "?" Members appointed specifically to serve on the local board of health Members elected specifically to serve on the local board of health Members designated by statute to serve on the local board of health based on their status as an elected government official (e.g., county commissioner, mayor, city council, township trustee, etc.) Members designated by statute to serve on the local board of health based on their status in a non-elected position (e.g., school superintendent, municipal administrator, etc.) Other members Total members

Thank you for completing the NALSYS survey. If you have any questions or problems related to the survey, please contact our research team at nalsys@ucdenver.edu

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