

# Exploring Local Primary Care and Public Health Collaboration: A Practice-based Approach

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Washington, Regional Network Steering Committee Meeting  
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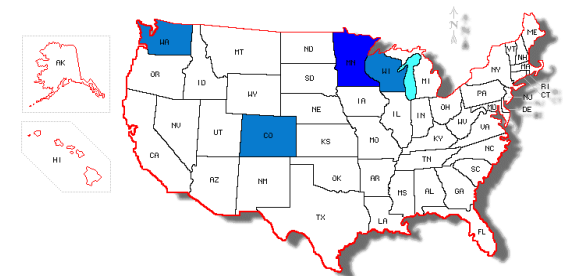
# Health Care and Public Health

- U.S. has the most expensive health care system, yet health care is estimated to contribute to only about 20% of the nation's health.
- Increased collaboration between primary care and public health crucial to improving population health
- Accountable Care Act provides new incentives and expectations for such partnerships

# Research Questions

- How does the degree of integration between primary care and public health vary across local jurisdictions?
- What factors facilitate or inhibit integration, and how can PC and PH increase integration?
- Does the degree of integration differ based on health topic?
- Do areas of greater integration have better health outcomes?

Participating States



# Study Design & Timeline

The study combines existing health data with new data collected through telephone interviews, an on-line survey, and focus groups.

2014: Key informant interviews with PC providers and PH leaders

2015: Online survey of larger sample of PC providers and PH leaders

2016: Analysis, translation and dissemination of a model for supporting PC-PH collaboration, including convening focus groups

# Findings

## Qualitative Interviews:

### Foundational Principles of Collaboration:

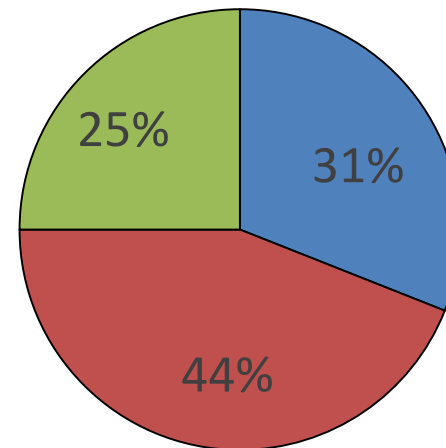
- mutual trust/respect
- communication
- shared vision and values

### Energizing Principles of Collaboration:

- sustainability
- leader innovators
- defined roles/ responsibilities

## Surveys:

### PH Working Relationships with PC Practices



- Fairly Consistent Across Clinics
- Work more closely with some, but same general approach
- Varies widely among clinics

# Challenges and Opportunities for Dissemination

## Challenges:

Differences in perspectives and motivators between PC and PH

PH generally reports

- Higher levels of joint work between PC and PH
- More ways of working together
- More reasons for working together

## Opportunities:

Forthcoming model for integration of PC and PH grounded in current local practice

PC-PH integration is on the radar screen of primary care:

- AAFP Position Paper on Integration of Primary Care and Public Health
- Washington Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP) 2015 Strategic Plan for integration with public health
  - “build organizational structures to foster collaboration”
  - “facilitate meetings (with PH) to develop common goals”
  - “promote member education (in PH)”