WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER?

“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” (American Public Health Association, 2018).

OHIO CHWs: A BRIDGE BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND HEALTH CARE

Share common traits with the community in terms of:
• Zip code
• Socioeconomic status
• Race/ethnicity
• Life experience

Often provide:
• Culturally appropriate health education
• Advocacy for clients
• Care coordination
• Direct health services
• Home visiting

TOP 5 HEALTH CONDITIONS OHIO CHWs ADDRESS

- Mental Health
- Diabetes
- High Blood Pressure
- Asthma
- Obesity
The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) sponsored this assessment and contracted with the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center (GRC) to complete the assessment. This publication was made possible by grant number 5 NU58DP004826-05-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

**WHERE DO MOST CHWs IN OHIO WORK?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Type</th>
<th>CHWs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managed Care Organizations</td>
<td>159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community-Based Organizations</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>Local Health Departments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federally Qualified Health Centers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**OHIO CHWs BY THE NUMBERS**

- **850*** Certified and non-certified
- **94%** Female
- **46%** African American
- **44%** Caucasian
- **100%** All Ohio Counties served

*The total number of CHWs reported is likely underestimated

**WHO DO CHWs IN OHIO SERVE?**

- **Adult Males**
- **Pregnant Women**
- **Adult Females**
- **Infants and Children**

**WHAT CHWs WANT TO SUSTAIN THE PROFESSION IN OHIO**

- Clearly defined scope of practice in Ohio with possible title protection
- A centralized source for CHW information on training, certification, continuing education, and employment opportunities
- Have the CHW profession and role known by all providers and professionals in Ohio starting with provider training on the role of CHWs
- An annual CHW conference to provide continuing education and professional development
- Stronger advocacy for the CHW profession

Find more information on the 2018 Community Health Worker Statewide Assessment at [http://grc.osu.edu/OhioCHWs](http://grc.osu.edu/OhioCHWs)