Multi-sector Partnerships for Health:

2014 PULSE CHECK FINDINGS

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Across the country, leaders from many sectors are collaboratively reimagining and redesigning the systems that affect health and resilience in their regions. In 2014, representatives from 133 of these multi-sector partnerships in 33 states shared brief profiles of their work using an online questionnaire. While our findings may not represent the full field, they do reveal insights, possibly for the first time, into where and when these groups were formed; who participates; the scope of their visions and approaches; key successes and challenges; and how they finance their work. Here are some selected highlights.

- Multi-sector partnerships for health are broadly distributed across the U.S. and 75% of responding organizations were formed in the last decade (median age = 5 five years).
- Nearly half operate at the county level, with another 22% working at the state level.
- Many constituencies are often involved, with more than half reporting at least 10 different sectors at the table, with certain sectors more commonly engaged than others.
- The most engaged sectors are hospitals and healthcare providers, public health, community organizations, government and elected officials, social services, and academia/research. The least likely to be engaged are: health insurance, philanthropy, and media.
- Nearly half have a broad vision of population health and seek to improve it for all residents, while others focus on a specific disease, risk factor, or population group.
- About one third have a strong emphasis across all four possible action areas, including: health behaviors and risk factors; social, economic, educational conditions or services; health care access, quality, and/or cost; and physical environments.
- Nearly three-fourths named financing as their most persistent challenge, with the vast majority relying on just a few, short-term mechanisms, such as grants and contracts.

Based on these findings, there are several frontiers where groups may have room to improve.

- **Formation:** With so many relatively young partnerships, and with others likely to form, there may be opportunities to get off to an even stronger start as each group learns how to fulfill the basic functions of stewardship, strategy, and sustainable financing.
- **Multi-Sector Engagement:** The number and diversity of sectors in a partnership can affect its purpose and progress, particularly if certain key constituents are absent. Those who value greater inclusion could engage area residents and colleagues who tend to be less involved but are likely important for progress (such as health insurers, philanthropies, business, and those in economic development).
- **Matching Vision and Practice:** Groups with the most comprehensive visions generally did not have an equally comprehensive scope and approach in practice. This disconnect may reflect the fact that many respondents had only just begun this work, and it may also a signal a need for new tactics, tools, and support to assure that those with broad ambitions are equally well-equipped to enact a diverse portfolio of programs, policies, and practices.
- **Sustainable Financing:** Financing for these multi-sector partnerships may be either their chief impediment or a profound way to unlock greater potential. With an expanding menu of financing options, leaders may learn to manage a larger mosaic of financing mechanisms that together could better match resources with the stated values and priorities in each region.

For the full report and to participate in the 2015 Pulse Check, visit: [www.rethinkhealth.org/pulsecheck](http://www.rethinkhealth.org/pulsecheck)
HOW WERE GROUPS COMPOSED?

A total of 133 diverse partnerships responded to the Pulse Check.

- 75% of the groups were formed in the past decade
- Most groups had more than 10 of 15 sectors represented
- Almost half of the groups focused on county-wide change

WHICH ACTION AREAS WERE GROUPS ADDRESSING?

About one third of groups have a strong emphasis across all four action areas.

- Healthcare Access, Quality, and/or Cost
- Health Behaviors and Risk Factors
- Physical Environment
- Social, Economic, Educational Conditions or Services

HOW DID GROUPS FINANCE THEIR EFFORTS?

Most groups rely on short-term financing mechanisms.

- Grants, contracts, donations, prizes
- In-kind or barter agreements
- Hospital community benefit
- Loans
- Dues, earnings, legal settlements
- Health care gain-sharing agreements
- Taxes, trusts, governmental payments

WHERE WERE GROUPS LOCATED?

Groups from 33 states responded to the Pulse Check.
PARTICIPATING MULTI-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

CA Building Healthy Communities
CA Contra Costa Health Services
CA East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation
CA Fresno Healthy Communities Access Partners
CA Go For Health
CA HEAL Zones
CA Healthier Community Coalition
CA Healthy Sacramento Coalition
CA Healthy Ventura County
CA Impact Monterey County
CA Live Well San Diego
CA Patient Health Improvement Initiative
CA Prevention Network for Family Health
CA Sonoma Health Action
CA South Bay Cities Council of Governments Services for Seniors Workgroup/Torrance Prevention Community Council
CA thebalancedetectives.org
CO Center for Improving Value in Health Care
CO Mesa County Health Leadership Consortium
CO Pueblo Triple Aim Coalition
CT Northeast Neighborhood Partnership, an initiative of Community Solutions
FL Bithlo Transformation Effort
FL Hialeah Healthy Families
FL Miami-Dade Health Action Network
GA Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement (ARCHI)
GA Georgia Shape
GA Greater Atlanta Live Well
GA Healthy Houston County
IA Iowa Healthiest State Initiative/Blue Zones Project
IA Quad City Health Initiative
IL Community Engagement & Healthcare Partnerships
IL CommunityRx and the South Side Health and Vitality Studies
IL Feeding America Diabetes Initiative
IL GOHIT’s Public Health Integration Workgroup
IL Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity
IL Impact DuPage
IL Kane County Planning Cooperative
IL Strengthening Chicago’s Youth (SCY)
IL Will County MAPP Collaborative
IN Floyd County Health Coalitions
IN Healthy Communities of Clinton County
IN Reach Healthy Communities
KS Finney County Community Health Coalition
KS Healthy Community Wyandotte
KS Healthy Harvey Coalition
MA Boston Alliance for Community Health (BACH)
MA Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community
MA Interagency Supportive Housing Working Group
MA Statewide Pioneering Healthier Communities
MA The MGH Center for Community Health Improvement
MD Allegheny County Health Planning Coalition
MD HELP/HEZ
MD Long Branch Health Enterprise Zone
MD Prince George’s County Community Advisory Group
MD The Access Partnership
MD The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County
ME Cumberland District Public Health Council
ME Healthy Casco Bay
ME Healthy Maine Partnership
ME Healthy Maine Streets
MI Health Improvement Organization
MI Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance
MI Saginaw Pathways to Better Health
MI The Michigan Health Information Alliance
MN Health Care Homes
MN Health Commons
MN Healthy Michigan/The Health and Wellness Table
MN Healthy Minnesota Partnership
MN Hearts Beat Back: The Heart of New Ulm Project
MN Honoring Choices Minnesota/LifeCourse/Make It OK/others...
MN Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement
MN Minnesota Community Measurement
MN Minnesota Diabetes & Heart Health Collaborative
MN Minnesota Immunization Network
MN PartnerSHIP 4 Health
MN Tri City Partners
MN Winona Collaborative
MO Greater Kansas City Community Health Partnership
MO Heartland Foundation/Healthy Communities
MT MT Healthcare Workforce Advisory Committee
NC Durham Health Innovations
NC Healthiest Capital City campaign
NC Not yet a formal association with a name
NC McDowell County Health Coalition
NC McDowell Health Coalition
NC Orange County Child Poverty Council
NC Renaissance West Community Initiative
NC Rockingham County Healthcare Alliance
NC Wilkes Health Action Team
NE North Central Community Care Partnership
PA Way to Wellville Scranton
NH Healthy Monadnock 2020
NH 5NH Citizens Health Initiative
NH ReThink Health Upper Valley
NH Upper Valley Public Health Advisory Council
NH Upper Valley Public Health Advisory Council/Upper Valley Substance Misuse Prevention Partnership/Upper Valley Healthy Eating Active Living& others!
NJ Eat Play Live Better
NJ North Jersey Health Collaborative
NJ VNA Health Group
NY Corona Maternal Infant Community Health Collaborative
NY Intersectoral Forum on Advancing Health and Equity in New York City
NY North Country Health Compass Partners
NY Prevention Agenda
NY Spinney Hill Partnership
NY The Bronx Health Link
OH Athens County Healthy Community Coalition
OH Health Access Now
OH Healthy Lucas County & Toledo/Lucas County CareNet
OH Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio
OH The Health Policy Institute of Ohio
OH Health Measurement Initiative
OK Urban Health Plan
OR Community Health and Advocacy Resource Team (CHART)
OR Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative
OR Northwest OpenNotes Consortium
PA Healthy York Network
PA Lancaster County Medical Foundation
PA Lighten Up Lancaster
PA Tobacco Free Coalition and Livewell Lancaster
RI Healthy Washington County
RI Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council
SC AccessHealth Spartanburg
SD Live Well Sioux Falls
TX Health and Wellness Alliance for Children
TX The Health Collaborative
VA Live Healthy Lynchburg
VA Virginia Center for Health Innovation
VT ECOS
VT Winoski Coalition for a Safe and Peaceful Community
WA AVE Community Environments
WA CHOICE Regional Health Network
WA Communities of Opportunity
WA Spokane Regional Health District - Priority Spokane
WA Transforming the Health of South Seattle and South King County
WA Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement
WI Evidence-Based Health Policy Project

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ReThink Health works with visionary changemakers to transform health at the regional level, helping to identify and overcome the barriers that hinder true reform. ReThink Health is an initiative of the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation, which was founded in 1953 to seed innovations in health and health care.

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