



Demonstrating Council Impact

October 2, 2017

Overview

The Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council) brings together [22 national organizations](#) engaged in public health to improve public health education and training, practice, and research. Established in 1992, the Council is currently in its 25th year of furthering academic/practice collaboration to ensure a well-trained, competent workforce and the development and use of a strong evidence base for public health practice. This history encompasses a variety of accomplishments, including:

- Demonstrating the desirability and feasibility of public health practice guidelines, leading to the development of the [Community Preventive Services Task Force](#) and [The Guide to Community Preventive Services](#) (The Community Guide)
- Producing national research agendas focused on public health practice and [academic health departments \(AHDs\)](#)
- Stimulating development of the field of public health services research (now public health services and systems research)
- Influencing the incorporation of student practica into the [Council on Education for Public Health's](#) accreditation criteria for schools and programs of public health
- Developing and maintaining [foundational competencies](#) for the public health workforce
- Supporting practice and academic organizations nationwide in [efforts to develop AHD partnerships](#)

Demonstrating Impact

As the Council continues its work, it is essential to highlight the ongoing impact of the Council and its activities and the value the Council brings to public health. A variety of data points help to illustrate this ongoing impact. For example:

- The Council's newsletter, the [Council on Linkages Update](#), is now sent monthly to more than 1,500 people (up from approximately 50 people in 2011)
- The [Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals](#) (Core Competencies) and related resources and tools were accessed nearly 135,000 times in FY2017 (up from approximately 16,000 in FY2011)
- The Core Competencies are used in [45% of local health departments](#), [more than 50% of state health departments](#), and [approximately 90% of academic public health-focused programs](#)
- The [AHD Learning Community](#) currently has more than 750 members (up from approximately 80 in FY2011) and the [AHD Mentorship Program](#) has matched 15 people seeking guidance with knowledgeable mentors, with notable successes including supporting the formation of a new AHD partnership.
- Council staff answered 85 technical assistance requests related to the Council and its activities in FY2017, serving individuals in 30 states, DC, Guam, and Nepal
- [Virtual AHD Learning Community meetings](#) were attended by more than 120 participants in FY2017 and a [Core Competencies webinar](#) reached nearly 200 people

Council staff are currently working on strategies and resources to better share the results and impact of Council activities with the public health community. One effort underway is a complete redesign of the [section of the Council website featuring examples of how public health organizations and professionals use the Core Competencies](#) to support workforce development.

Over the coming months, this webpage will be transformed into a series of connected pages, with links to related tools and resources, and new examples will be added.

In addition, as discussed at previous Council meetings, the impact of the Council is defined not only by the impact of initiatives of the Council as a whole, but also by the impact Council member organizations contribute individually through activities aligned with the Council's [*Strategic Directions*](#). Council staff are planning for a similar section of the Council website to be devoted to sharing progress toward achieving the goals in the *Strategic Directions*, and in particular, the contributions of Council member organizations.

As Council leadership and staff work to better highlight the impact of the Council, its activities, and aligned activities of Council member organizations, input is welcome on the types of data or examples that can help illustrate the reach of the Council and use of its products. Suggestions may be shared with Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.