**Background and Methods**

NACCHO conducts the Profile study every three years to develop a comprehensive description of local health department (LHD) infrastructure and practice. The 2016 Profile study included a total of 2,533 LHDs in the United States, of which 76% completed the survey.

In the Profile study, NACCHO assesses the intersection of public health and clinical medicine by evaluating LHD engagement in health care service provision, partnerships, and data sharing.

For more information about the Profile study, email profileteam@naccho.org.

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**Key Findings**

**Many LHDs engage in activities to assure access to clinical services**

- 64% LHDs that assess gaps in access to medical services
- 58% LHDs that address medical needs of underserved populations

**Most LHDs use a health information technology system to share medical data**

- Immunization registries: 85% implemented, 3% in process
- Electronic disease reporting systems: 79% implemented, 3% in process
- Electronic lab reporting: 49% implemented, 8% in process
- Electronic health records: 37% implemented, 24% in process

**Since 2008, LHDs have formalized fewer partnerships* with health care agencies**

- Hospitals: 2008 - 57%, 2016 - 38%
- Community health centers: 2008 - 35%, 2016 - 26%
- Physician practices: 2008 - 21%, 2016 - 35%

*Share personnel/resources and/or have written agreements

**The majority of LHDs collaborate with non-profit hospitals by:**

- Sharing local data resources on social determinants of health
- Providing input on strategies to improve community health
- Jointly conducting a community health needs assessment

**LHDs are less likely to expand clinical services than population-based services**

- Population-based services: Reduced 15%, Expanded 43%
- Clinical services: Reduced 27%, Expanded 33%

**NACCHO Recommendations**

- Continue to encourage LHDs to implement health information technology systems and share data
- Identify needed resources to support more LHDs in expanding the provision of clinical services
- Share promising practices with LHDs related to formalizing partnerships with health care organizations
- Explore ways to increase LHD and non-profit hospital collaboration on community health needs assessments