

Who are Community Health Workers?



OBJECTIVES

At the end of this unit, participants will be able to:

- Explain who Community Health Workers (CHWs) are
- Define community health work



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Review the objectives of the session: to explain who are CHWs and define CHW work.
2. Review the PowerPoint slides with the group.
3. Wrap up. Bring the group back together and ask for volunteers to share what they learned from their partner about CHWs and how it is similar and/or different to their work.



Related C3 Roles

All

Related C3 Skills

All



Method(s) of Instruction

Think, pair and share; brainstorm



Estimated time

25 minutes



Key Concepts

Community health worker (CHW)



Materials

- Computer with internet access and projector
- PowerPoint slides
- Flip chart
- Markers

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Who Are Community Health Workers?

What Do We Already Know or Imagine About Community Health Workers?



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Who Are Community Health Workers?

Definition of Community Health Workers from the American Public Health Association:

"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. A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support, and advocacy."

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Who Are Community Health Workers?

CHWs May Work Under Many Job Titles

- Community Health Educator
- Outreach Educator
- Outreach Worker
- Enrollment Worker
- Health Advocate
- Peer Advocate
- Peer Leader
- Street Worker
- Youth Outreach Worker
- Family Advocate
- Family Planning Counselor
- Family Support Worker
- Doula
- Patient Navigator
- Promotor de Salud
- Community Health Representative

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SLIDE 1

- One main idea of Popular Education is that no matter who we are, we all know a lot as a result of our life experience. Therefore, we should always start with what people already know.
- We want to start with what you know about Community Health Workers through a brainstorming activity in pairs.

SLIDE 2

Ask the question on the slide. Give participants about two minutes to talk in pairs. Bring the large group back together, asking each pair to share one idea. Record answers on a flip chart sheet.

SLIDE 3

Ask for a volunteer to read the slide.

Ask the participants, "What catches your attention about this definition?"

SLIDE 4

Explain that there are dozens of titles used to refer to CHWs. Ask, "What are some other titles you have used or heard others use when doing this kind of work?"

- What titles do they have in their work? Ask them to get back into their pairs and spend 10 minutes sharing with each other the following information:
- What title do they have in their work at their agency?
- Who do they work with on a daily basis?
- What are some of the key tasks in their work?

Acknowledgements

This curricula draws from and is adapted from other training curricula for peer educators and community health workers, such as the Building Blocks to Peer Success (<https://ciswh.org/resources/HIV-peer-training-toolkit>) and the Community Capacitation Center, Multnomah County Health Department (<https://multco.us/health/community-health/community-capacitation-center>)

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