



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT ON

Community Health Workers

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are frontline public health workers who serve as liaisons between healthcare consumers and providers to promote health among groups that have traditionally lacked access to adequate care, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. By sharing the same community, or personal, cultural, linguistic, and other characteristics—sometimes including a medical condition—with those they serve, CHWs work to facilitate access to services and to improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

There are currently more than 50,000 Community Health Workers in the US, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

PCORI Answers Critical Questions

Much remains unknown about the specific roles of CHWs in promoting access to care and garnering better health outcomes. PCORI funds studies that seek to help patients, clinicians, and others answer questions they might have about CHWs, such as:



DOCTOR

My clinic serves an area with a large Asian-American population. Is there any research that shows how to effectively deploy CHWs in this population to improve outcomes?



HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR

How can CHWs help to improve care delivery and health outcomes for cancer patients?

STUDY SPOTLIGHTS

The Effect of Community Health Worker Support on Clinical Outcomes of Low-Income Patients across Primary Care Facilities

This project found that using CHWs did not improve clinical outcomes, but did improve patient satisfaction and reduced hospital stays. Researchers compared outcomes of chronically ill primary care patients, some of whom were provided a health intervention delivered by CHWs, to those that worked with their primary care physicians to set chronic disease management goals. Further details about this project are at www.pcori.org/Long170.

Reducing Asthma Health Disparities through Guideline Implementation

This project compares three different approaches to implementing guidelines for people with uncontrolled asthma. The first intervention uses CHWs for home visits to help people improve their asthma management, the second uses clinic appointments with reminders about following guidelines for asthma. The third intervention involves improved education for providers as well as helping health insurers enhance case management. Further details about this project are at www.pcori.org/Stout035.

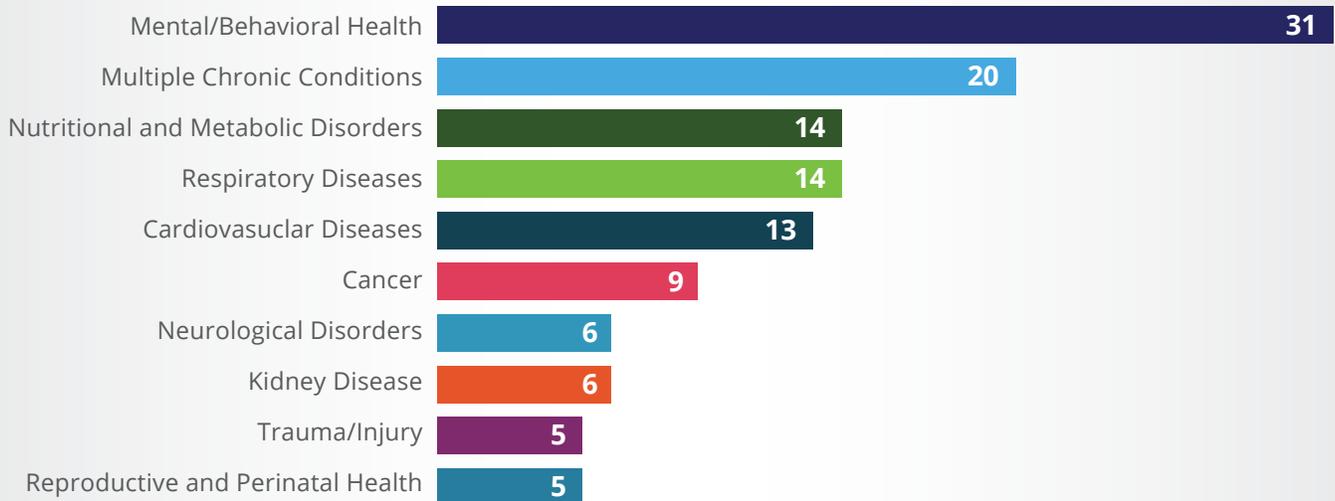
As of December 2018, PCORI has funded nearly
\$300 MILLION TO FUND 79

active or completed comparative clinical effectiveness research studies that use community health workers in an intervention.

BY THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS

Top Condition Categories

**By number of projects. A project may study more than one condition.*



Areas of Care Addressed

