

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

PUBLIC HEALTH
Practice-Based Research Networks

Public Health Services & Activities Tracking (PHAST):

A multi-state Study of the National Network of PH PBRNs

April 20, 2011
New Orleans, LA

Betty Bekemeier, PhD, MPH, RN
School of Nursing
University of Washington, Seattle


Glen Mays, PhD, MPH
Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

PUBLIC HEALTH
Practice-Based Research Networks

Overview



- Background, Purpose
- PHAST activity Sept.-April
- Gathering data
- Mapping LHD services
- Research questions
- Grant writing

....Next Steps...!

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

PUBLIC HEALTH
Practice-Based Research Networks

What we know....

- “Tremendous” variation exists in local PH practice
- LHD services have different impacts on different populations
- Little evidence exists regarding the “most effective” PH services
- The IOM calls for a measurement system linking resource allocation to PH outcomes
- PH-PBRNs can address translatable questions of value to practice

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

PUBLIC HEALTH
Practice-Based Research Networks

PHAST Study: Purpose


- Provide evidence for **Local PH services** most effective in reducing disparities & improving population health
 - *What works? For what populations? Under what conditions?*
- Establish a data repository for comparing the effectiveness of local PH efforts

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

PUBLIC HEALTH
Practice-Based Research Networks

Emergent PHAST Goals



- Determine the impact of programmatic budget cuts in LHDs to vulnerable populations
- Provide a foundation for responding to newly emerging **opportunities** for PBRN research

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

PUBLIC HEALTH
Practice-Based Research Networks

PHAST (long term) Goals


- Establish an **ongoing** monitoring system & network of PBRN researchers to study the impact of LHD variation & change
- Provide a data repository for new PBRN studies examining LHD systems & practice
- Provide a resource for evidence regarding “what works” in LHD practice
 - Supporting *Comparative Effective Research*
 - Guiding practice

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

The Dartmouth Example

- The Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care
 - <http://www.dartmouthatlas.org/>
- 20 + years of documenting variation in the distribution of medical resources & use
- Informs policy makers & the public
- A “foundation” for improving health care systems




PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

Methods

- Identify, compare, combine common LHD service data
- Link multi-state data into an expandable GIS repository for comparing variation & outcomes in space & over time
- Analyze data for practice variation & related proximal health outcomes *in space & time*
- Facilitate access to database to support research interests across PHAST PBRNS
- Examine study outcomes & evaluate processes relative to the long-term potential of the repository & collaboration



PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

Identifying Variables: Retrospective

- Principles
 - “Easy” to come by
 - Associated with own PBRN interests
- Focus
 - MCH, EH, CD Control
- Specifications
 - Representing **individual LHD services** provided
 - More depth than NACCHO Profile (e.g. volume)
 - Available at the state level
 - Yearly 2005 onward

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

Service Data Crosswalk


• MCH	• EH
– # WIC clients served	– # Restaurants inspected
– # MCC clients served	– \$\$ expended
– # Immunizations	• CD Control
– # CSHCN clients	– # STI clients served
– \$\$ expended	– # TB case investigations
	– \$\$ expended

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

Findings to date....

- PBRN members are critical
 - Bringing a gracious willingness to & interest in locating & providing data
 - Have the relationships with key “data owners”
- A “surprising” amount LHD service data DO exist
 - Including annual LHD expenditure data/service area
- High interest in good data & examination due to:
 - Budget crisis
 - Accreditation
 - CDC Infrastructure grants



PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

Findings to date....

- Hindering factors include:
 - Ongoing budget = state staffing cutbacks
 - Inconsistent data quality
 - Limited written (& adhered to) data definitions
- PHAST states tend to consider the data exploration a useful exercise
- NACCHO Profile Shapefiles
- Make LHD mapping finally possible!

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars


UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

"This study has been a really good opportunity to look across the department and see all that we have that we haven't been using. For example, all of the Title V data referenced below is reported by LHD annually. But at the state level, it's just aggregated for reporting to feds. Nothing more has been done with it."

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

Spatial Data



- NACCHO Profile data currently being mapped
- WA trial VERY recently completed

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

Misc. PHAST Considerations


- Concerns re how data will be displayed & findings disseminated
 - Data sharing flyer
- Gaining high-level support
 - Meeting with ASTHO CFO's
 - Meeting with ASTHLO representatives
- MOU's
- IRBs

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

Research Questions to come...

1. What services "perform" best, under what conditions?
2. Are certain services best provided by LHDs versus other provider?
3. Are services being provided where they are "needed" most? What happens when they aren't?
4. What specific populations are impacted most when a LHD cuts back a specific service?
5. How do funding streams impact specific services and outcomes?
6. Other....???



PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

Funding PHAST (small)


- Quick Strike Research Funds (25K)
 - For technical work establishing database with CSDE
- 3 small (UW) intramural grants written (10K-40K)
 - Support preliminary focus on MCH, pulling in outcome data, piloting a system for prospective data collection

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH Practice-Based Research Networks

Funding PHAST (larger)

- Upcoming PHSSR Funding
 - To establish a system for *prospective* data collection via an electronic repository
- RO1 to CDC
 - Following "tracer conditions" for LHD services




PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars



Questions to consider...

- How does **funding** fit into this?
- What kind of **funding** data are relevant for this???
- How can **funding** data serve as indicators of service?



Betty Bekemeier
bettybek@uw.edu

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

PBRN PHAST Study | A project funded by RWJF–Nurse Faculty Scholars