

Community Engagement and Leadership in the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP)

AN EVALUATION OF SHIP COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TEAMS

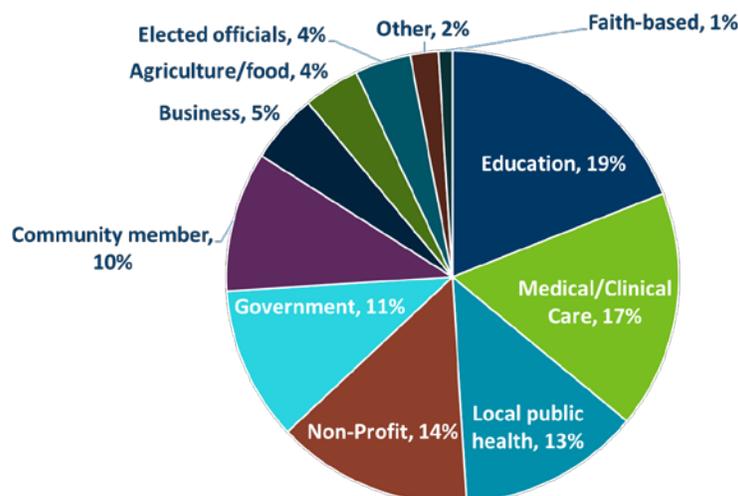
Developing a shared vision of a healthy community

Fifty-two Community Leadership Teams (CLTs) statewide with >800 members form the backbone of SHIP's community engagement strategy. Findings from this evaluation indicate that CLTs are active, engaged groups that benefit SHIP and the participating organizations. CLTs serve as a communications and networking forum, work to coordinate and align activities across organizations working in the same community to fill gaps and avoid duplication, and leverage connections and resources between organizations to enhance their work. The vast majority of CLT members believe they have the potential to have a moderate or major impact on the health of the community.

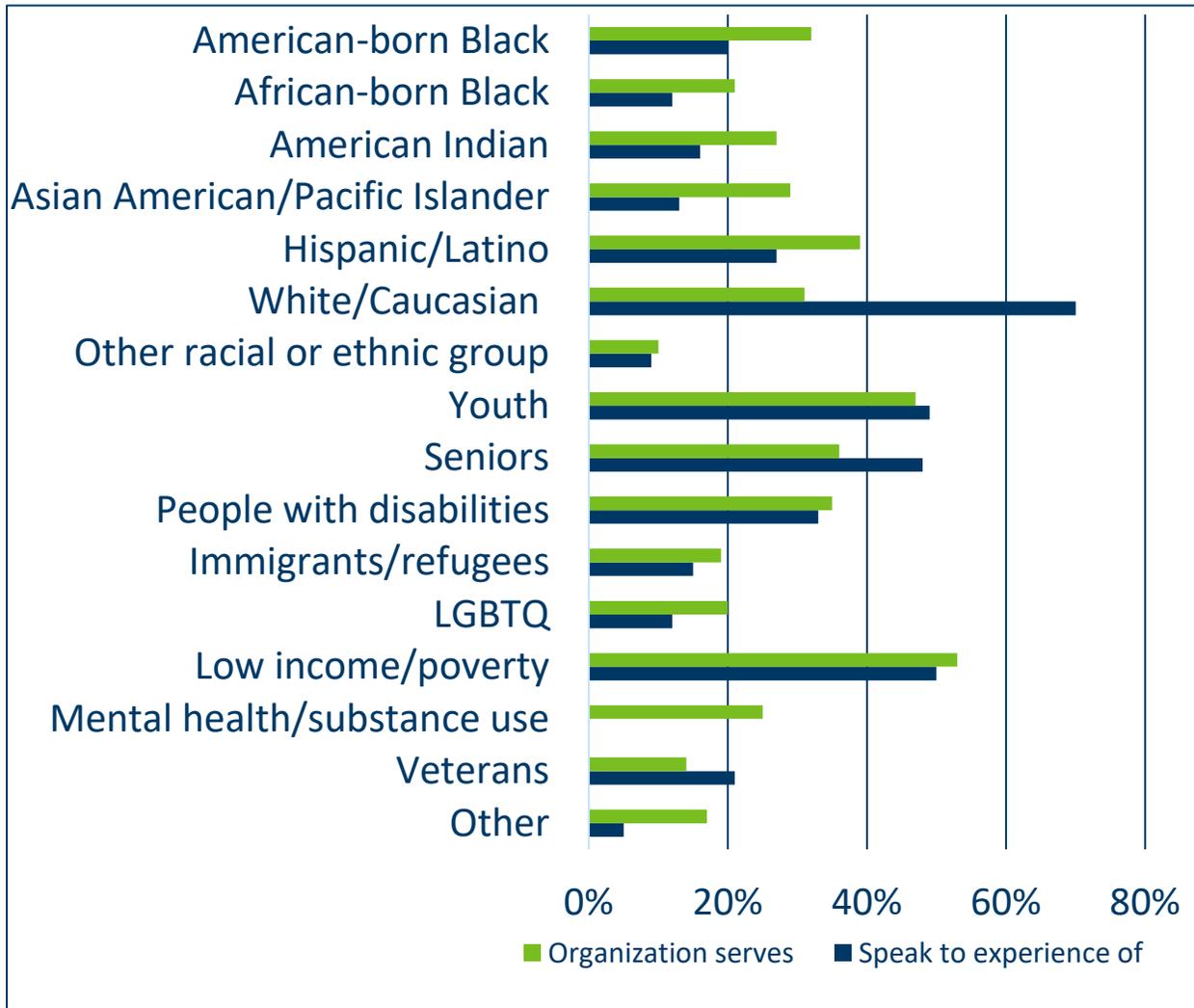
Many Sectors and Populations Represented

Nine out of 10 members represent a wide breadth of organizations, while the remaining 10 percent are engaged community members. The most common sectors represented were education and medical/clinical care providers, followed by non-profit organizations, local public health and other government. CLT members' organizations serve a wide range of racial/ethnic groups, youth, seniors, people with disabilities and people with low-income backgrounds, among others.

Sectors Represented by CLT Members

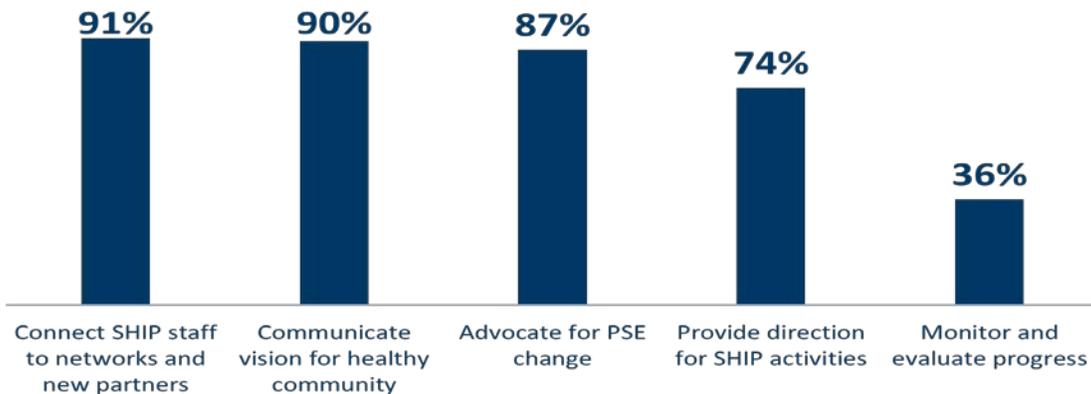


CLT Members Serve and Can Speak to the Experience of These Populations



Members Serve in Five Core Roles

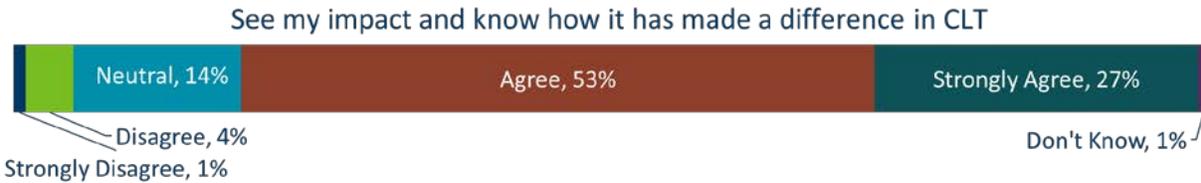
A group comprised of MDH staff, SHIP grantees and CLT members identified the following core roles of CLT members in 2014. Each member may fulfill multiple roles. Results from 2017 found:



Success in Authentically Engaging Members

CLTs have been successful in authentically engaging members in creating new opportunities for shared work, leveraging resources and connections from participating organizations, and creating a shared sense of teamwork and meaningful community impact.

CLT members work collaboratively to improve community health

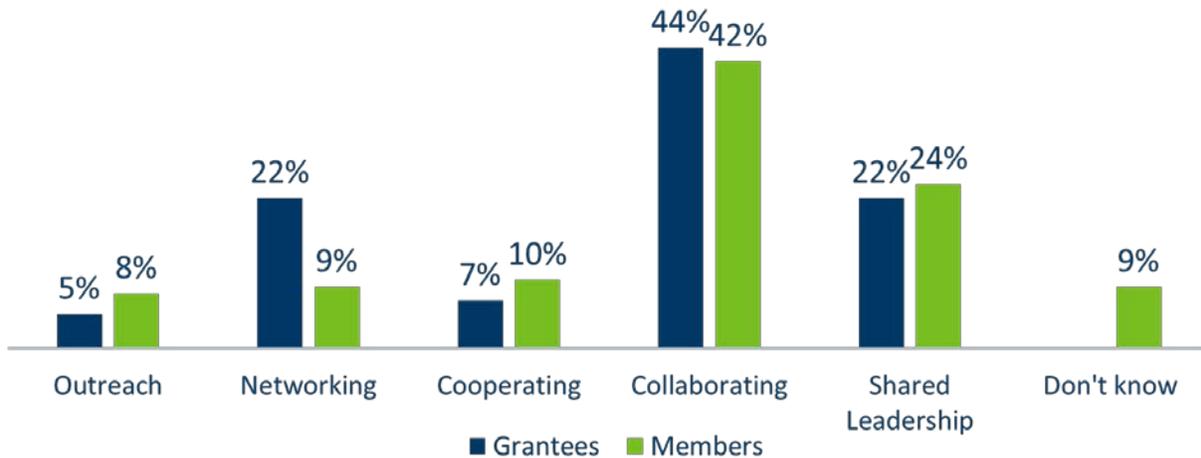


Over 8 in 10 members believe their participation on the CLT has a moderate or major effect on the health of their community.



Two-thirds of SHIP grantees and CLT members reported working at the highest levels of engagement: collaboration and shared leadership

Which of the following best describes the relationship between SHIP staff and the CLT?



Response categories increase in level of engagement. Outreach is the lowest level and Shared Leadership is the highest.

Examples of Community Changes and Impacts

In open-ended questions, CLT members provided examples of the community changes and impacts they observed as a result of the CLT's work.

"Participating and working with the ... CLT is important for us as we feel connected in the work and know through partnership we can be more effective in preventing childhood obesity. Examples of our effective partnerships is the work with the ... Comprehensive Plan, School Wellness Policies and Walk-A-Thons."

"By working with other organizations and volunteers in our community we are able to better identify needs, inequities etc. in our community - and are able to prioritize and address these needs with available funds."

"We have been able to assist in making policy changes that affect our community. We have helped bring parks and trails, connect trails, safer drives and walks (bike lanes, bump outs), create gardens - teach people how to grow and cook healthy foods, help so children can walk to school. Make healthy changes to vending machines and concession stands, create plans for low income families/individuals to pick up needed food boxes (filled with healthy options), help business create healthier working environments and the list goes on. We are making an impact in our community for all people."

"The building of community relationships and diversity of input is key to addressing health disparities. ... Attendees come from many different backgrounds and each has something of value to share with each other. With many community voices and shared focus, our community is strengthened."

Next Steps

MDH is developing technical assistance resources to meet grantee needs, including strategies to promote authentic engagement, and supporting CLT members in fulfilling their roles. A copy of the full report is available at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/oshii/ship/clt-report.html>.

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