

The Inclusion of Disability in Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans by Local Health Agencies in Connecticut

Imani M. Gatison¹, Sirine Salhi¹, Tara M. Lutz, Ph.D.², & Mary Beth Bruder, Ph.D.²

¹Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative at UConn Health
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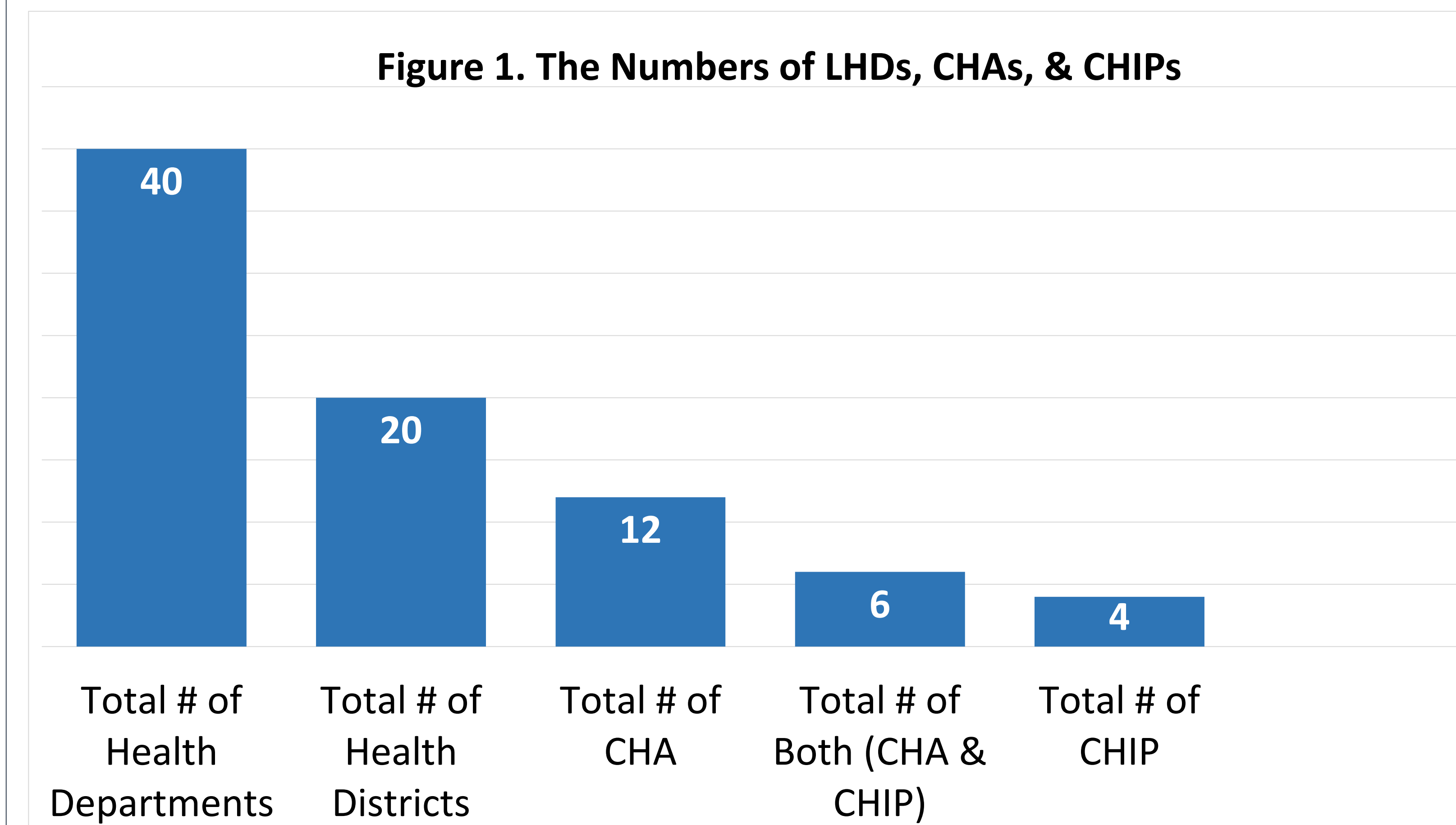
²University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

There are 40 local health departments and 20 local health districts (LHDs) in Connecticut. LHDs use tools such as Community Health Assessments (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP) to meet the needs of the communities which they serve. A CHA is a state, tribal, local, or territorial health assessment that pinpoints vital health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis. A CHIP is a long-term systematic effort to address public health problems contingent on results from the CHA (CDC, 2022). There are approximately one in four adults over 18 years of age living with a disability in CT (CDC, accessed July 5, 2023). This project explored the inclusion of disability in LHD activities and functions by reviewing CHA and CHIP materials.

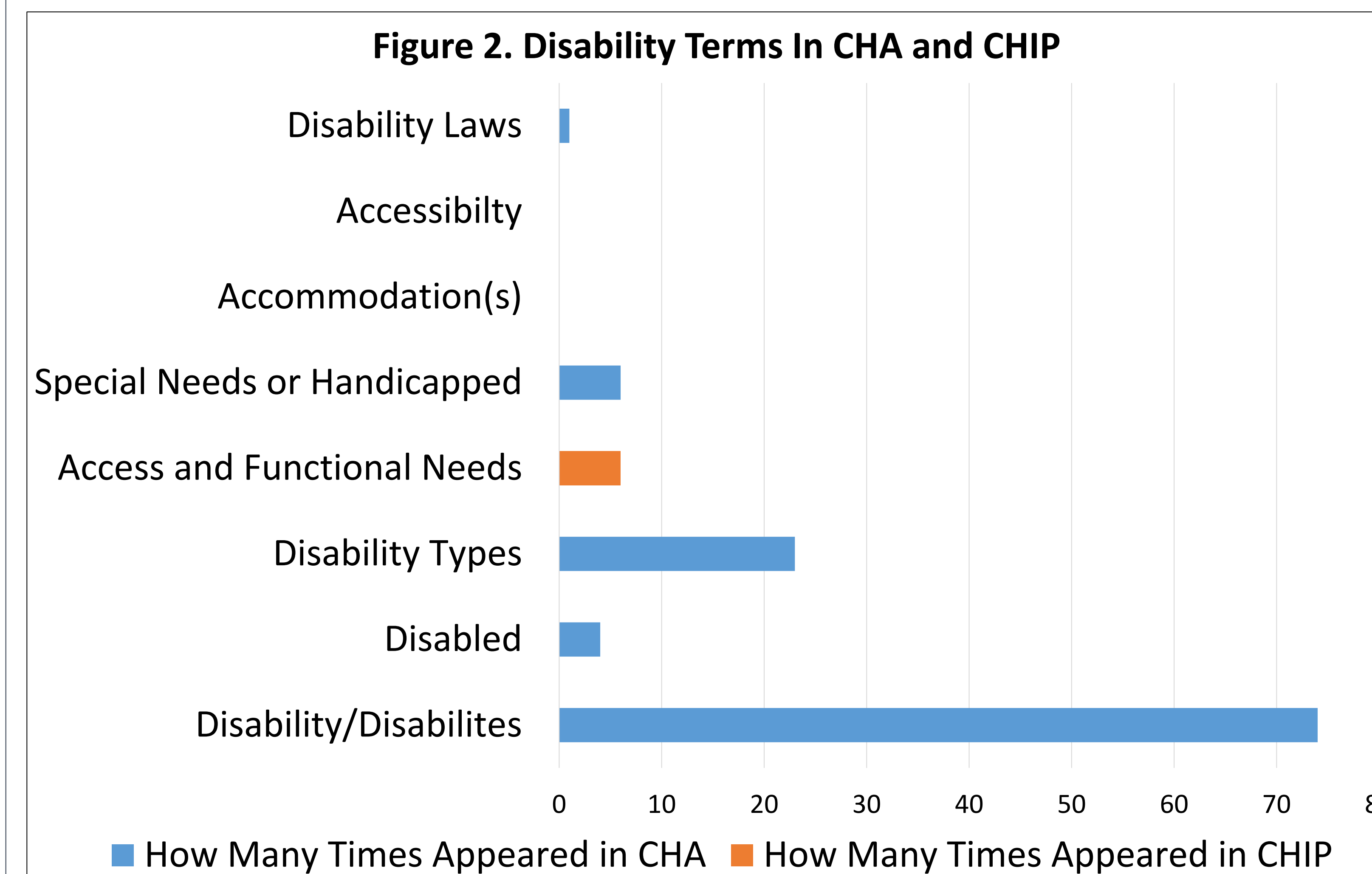
Methods

We developed a Qualtrics survey data collection tool to input information gathered from LHD websites. Data included the type of LHD, LHD contact info, LHD personnel and in particular, community health workers (CHWs), and if CHA and/or CHIP were publicly available. Another collection tool was developed to capture more detailed information about CHA and CHIP materials. In this data collection, we documented the title of the CHA and/or CHIP, CHW terms, and disability terms.

Results



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Discussion

The CHAs and CHIPs on LHDs websites were not easily accessible. Few had both the CHA and the CHIP. The CHA showcased more information on disability terms and disability data from the community than the CHIP. However, some CHAs had no information on disability. The CHIP focused on CHWs, listing who they are and what they are doing over the long-term timeline to improve the health within the community.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Based on our findings, not all LHDs have key tools such as CHA and CHIP readily available for their communities. Further, when CHA and CHIP are available, disability-related information is not always included. Future work should explore reasons for the lack of disability data. LHDs should consider people with disabilities in their functions and activities.

References

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