



Survey of Federally-Qualified Health Centers' Research Participation: Activities and Needs

About this Survey

This survey investigates the research needs and interests of health centers and the extent to which they are engaged in research activities on their own or in collaboration with academic or other partners.

Your input will be used to:

- **Advocate for funding opportunities** to support health center and community-engaged research;
- Inform policies that **promote health centers' presence** in federally-supported research endeavors;
- **Develop training and resources** to augment health center research activities;
- **Facilitate research collaborations** among health centers or health centers and other research entities (universities, industries, etc.); and
- Enhance mechanisms that **translate and disseminate research in order to rapidly improve community health.**

This survey is being conducted by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at Children's National (CTSI-CN), a joint effort by Children's National Medical Center and The George Washington University (<http://ctsicn.org/>). NACHC and CTSI-CN will disseminate aggregate findings through peer-reviewed articles, webinars, NACHC conference sessions, and free online publications.

Definition of Research

For the purposes of this survey, research is defined as a **systematic investigation** designed with the intention of 1) **advancing knowledge** (e.g., designed to draw conclusions or inferences), and 2) **publishing or otherwise publicly disseminating the results** to audiences outside the local community served (e.g., scholarly journal article, conference presentation, report or brief posted online, or community forum). In many cases, research is also intended to produce results that can be generalized or spread to new patients and settings. Research is often but not exclusively conducted in collaboration or partnership with external researchers and/or through a research consortium.

For the purposes of this survey, **research does NOT include the following:**

- Quality improvement (QI), program evaluation activities, needs assessments, patient or staff surveys, or other routine activities that are part of the health center's normal course of business or practice whether or not there is an intent to disseminate results beyond the local community served;

- Application of business or management methods, such as value-stream mapping or lean six sigma;
- Beta tester for HIT modules or decision support systems;
- Public health surveillance or other routine disease or treatment reporting to a public health agency or insurer; or
- Completion of surveys on organizational perspectives, experiences, and needs (such as this survey).

Who Should Complete This Survey

Each health center should complete this survey even if the center has never been involved in research. This survey should be completed by a health center **CEO/Executive Director, his/her designee, or someone knowledgeable about your health center’s research activities.**

Confidentiality and Ethical Review

All responses are confidential. Only NACHC and our partners at George Washington University and Children’s National Medical Center will have access to individual responses. Any analysis of survey results and related reports will be summarized in such a way that you or your health center cannot be individually identified.

This survey has been reviewed and exempted by George Washington University’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) and NACHC’s Internal Survey Approval and Research Collaboration Workgroup.

For More Information

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Proser, NACHC Director of Research, at 202.296.1960 or mproser@nachc.com.

Name of your health center: _____

City of administrative office: _____

State: _____

UDS Number: _____

Name of person filling out survey: _____

Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

If applicable, member of which Health Center Controlled Network (HCCN): _____

Survey must be completed online. Cannot be mailed or faxed in.

GENERAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE OR INTEREST

In completing this survey, please answer all questions to represent activity that may happen at any of your 330-funded sites.

For the purposes of this survey, research is defined as a systematic investigation designed with the intention of 1) advancing knowledge (e.g., designed to draw conclusions or inferences), and 2) publishing or otherwise publicly disseminating the results to audiences outside the local community served. Research that is conducted in collaboration or partnership with others is also considered research for the purposes of this survey.

1. **Has your health center ever conducted or participated in research either as the lead or as a partner in the research?**

- Yes → Go to Question 2
- No → Go to Question 1b
- Do Not Know → Go to Question 1b

1B. **Is your health center interested in participating in research activities? *Check all that apply.***

- Yes, we are interested in leading research activities → Go to Question 14 (answer barriers and T/TA and Methods questions but not benefits)
- Yes, we are interested in partnering with external researchers → Go to Question 14 (answer barriers and T/TA and Methods questions but not benefits)
- No → Go to Question 14 (only answer barriers and final questions—not benefits or T/TA)
- Do Not Know → Go to Question 14 (only answer barriers and final questions—not benefits or T/TA)

2. **What is the extent of your health center's involvement in research? *Check all that apply.***

- We conduct research on our own
- We conduct research in partnership with one or more community groups (including other health centers, our HCCN, and/or our PCA)
- We conduct research in partnership with one or more academic institutions (e.g., with a faculty member at a university)
- We conduct research in partnership with one or more hospital or health systems
- We participate in research conducted by others (e.g., serving as a site for a multi-site study, recruiting for focus group interviews)
- We advise on research conducted by others (e.g., serving on a study advisory committee)

- We endorse or support research conducted by others (e.g., writing a letter of support for a study)
- Other (please specify): _____

3. Is your health center interested in enhancing or expanding its research activities?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

This section is focused on your health center's experience partnering with outside researchers. For these questions, partnerships may be with a large institution or just one researcher.

4. Has your health center partnered with external researchers?

- Yes
- No → Go to Question 7
- Do Not Know → Go to Question 7

5. A. In the broadest sense, how would you classify the success of your partnership(s) with external researchers? Note: Success can come in many forms, including establishing strong partnerships, achieving project goals, securing grant funding, etc.

- Successful
- Somewhat successful
- Not successful at all → Go to Question 6

5B. What factors have made your partnership(s) with external researchers successful? Check all that apply.

- Health center leadership was actively engaged
- Clinicians were actively engaged
- Front-line staff were actively engaged
- The partnership was characterized by trust and/or transparency
- The partners had a signed memorandum of understanding
- Our organization received adequate funding and resources
- The researchers understood how our health center operates
- The researchers understood our community
- Each partner had clear roles and responsibilities
- Our organization's research capacity was enhanced (i.e., in terms of infrastructure to conduct and/or engage in research)
- The benefits to our organization were clear and compelling (e.g., helped provide better care to more patients, helped improve quality care, etc.)
- We contributed to defining the research question(s)
- Our organization led the research

Other, please specify: _____

6. Many partnerships have challenges. Have you experienced any of the following challenges with your partners? Please remember that all of your answers will be kept confidential. Check all that apply.

- Health center leadership was not actively engaged
- Clinicians were not actively engaged
- Front-line staff were not actively engaged
- The partnership was characterized by mistrust and/or lack of transparency
- The partnership was not equitable in terms of budget and adequate resources
- The partnership took up more staff time than it was worth
- The researchers valued their knowledge, skills and experience over ours
- The researchers did not understand our community
- The researchers did not understand our priorities
- The researchers defined the research question(s)
- The researchers viewed our organization more as a site for research than as a true partner
- Other, please specify: _____
- We have not experienced any challenges.

7. In the past THREE years, has your health center received funding TO CONDUCT RESEARCH from any of the entities listed below? Check one option per line.

	We have been the primary awardee or subcontractor co-awardee	We have not applied for funding from this source	We have applied but have not received funding from this source	Do Not Know
a) National Institutes of Health (NIH)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Other federal funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) National, state, or local foundation (including pharmaceutical foundations, e.g., Pfizer Foundation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Pharmaceutical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

company (non foundations)				
g) Other, please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Is your health center partnering with any of the entities below in any capacity? If so, please indicate the sponsoring entity. Check all that apply.

- We partner with a National Institutes of Health, Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program. Please specify which CTSA program: _____
- We partner with a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Prevention Research Center (PRC). Please specify which PRC: _____
- We partner with a Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN). Please specify which PBRN: _____
- We partner with other FQHCs.
- We do not partner with any of these.

STAFFING AND ETHICAL REVIEW

9. Does your health center have staff whose specific duties include applying for, coordinating, or conducting research activities? These could be part-time or full-time employees.

- Yes
- No

10. Does your health center have staff whose time is covered fully or partly by research grants or other research awards?

- Yes
- No

11. As a site for conducting research, what role(s) does (do) your health center staff take when conducting research? Check all that apply.

- Develop research questions/hypotheses
- Identify study population/problem to be studied
- Identify or develop the intervention to be studied
- Implement the research intervention
- Recruit research participants
- Develop research protocol and/or methodology
- Collect and/or manage the data
- Conduct data analysis
- Interpret findings
- Manage research funding
- Develop research reports, manuscripts, and other dissemination products

- Serve on a research advisory committee for external groups
- Assess the ethics of the proposed research
- Conduct Quality Improvement (QI)/Quality Assessment (QA) to verify that data collection and other research activities follow protocol
- Other, please specify: _____

12. A. Who is the lead staff person responsible for research-related activities at your health center?

We ask so that NACHC can share research-related resources directly with appropriate staff. NACHC will keep this contact information confidential.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

12B. May we contact this person to learn more about our health center's research activities, infrastructure, and needs?

- Yes, you may contact this person.
- No, please do not contact this person.

13. A. Does your health center have its own research review committee and/or make independent use of an Institutional Review Board (IRB), even if the researcher's and/or funding source's IRB is also used?

- Yes, we make use of an independent IRB
- Yes, we have our own internal research review committee that is separate from an IRB
- We make use of BOTH an independent IRB and our own internal research review committee
- No, we do not make use of either
- Do Not Know

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH

14. To what degree are the following factors barriers to your health center's participation in research?

	Not A Barrier	A Minor Barrier	A Moderate Barrier	A Huge Barrier
a) Alignment of research-related activities with health center's mission	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
b) Support or interest from clinical staff	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
c) Support or interest from non-clinical staff	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄

d) Support or interest from governing board	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
e) Concern about loss of productivity or income during research activities	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
f) An understanding about what is involved to conduct research	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
g) Funding opportunities for which our health center is eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
h) Access to research collaborators/partners	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
i) Policies or procedures specifying how to prioritize research projects and/or select partners	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
j) Prior research experiences that staff perceived as negative	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
k) Incentives for partnerships between academic and community organizations (e.g., financial and non-financial resources)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
l) Institutional Review Board (IRB) or ethical review expertise	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
m) Dedicated staff time to conduct or participate in research	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
n) Ability to recruit and retain research subjects	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
o) Training in applying for and conducting research (e.g., developing protocols)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
p) Data collection infrastructure (including information technology)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
q) Data analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
r) Technology needs (e.g., information technology/electronic records, audio/video conferencing, computer hardware/software)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
s) Writing/editorial expertise	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
t) Methods to publish/disseminate findings	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
u) Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH

15. To what degree are the following factors beneficial in motivating your health center to participate in research?

	Not A Benefit	Only A Minor Benefit	A Moderate Benefit	A Huge Benefit
a) Improved care delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄

b) Improved patient outcomes and experience	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
c) Additional resources to support health center capacity, including information technology	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
d) Supporting the Community Health Center movement	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
e) Reduction in health disparities	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
f) Academic partnerships that support activities outside research (e.g., assistance with patient experience tools or analysis, training, quality improvement, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
g) Better access to specialty care for patients	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
h) Access to library resources (e.g., journal articles)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
i) Access to other community benefits and resources (e.g., job opportunities, health literacy)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
j) The ability to bring stakeholders together	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
k) The ability to transfer research findings to other settings	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
l) Recruitment and retention of staff	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
m) Co-authoring publications	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
n) Prestige that comes with health center research activities	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
o) Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄

TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND RESOURCES NEEDED

16. What kinds of training, technical assistance, or resources would you or your staff be interested in receiving to support your health center's participation in research?

	Not at all interested	Somewhat interested	Interested	Very Interested
a) Obtaining buy-in from staff and/or governing board	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
b) Finding, developing and sustaining community-academic partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
c) Finding and capitalizing on funding opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
d) Developing research aims or research questions	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
e) Grant and proposal writing for research and evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
f) Finding and using information from	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄

health and medical articles

g) Project management for research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Study design and research methods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Data collection methods (e.g., surveys, focus groups)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Developing a database	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Data entry, cleaning, and coding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Research ethics (e.g., ethical review, issues of HIPAA and/or privacy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) Recruitment of and follow-up with research participants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n) Conducting statistical data analyses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o) Using research to inform programs and services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p) Dissemination and reporting of research findings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q) Building a research department in your organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r) Using research to inform public policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s) Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. What training methods are you and your staff likely to utilize? Check all that apply.

- Free webinars
- Webinars at additional cost
- Half or full day seminars coinciding with NACHC or PCA conferences (at additional cost)
- Multi-day seminars (at cost)
- Online Toolkits and Resource Manuals
- Other, please specify: _____

FINAL QUESTIONS

Unless you provide consent, your responses to this survey will only be shared in the aggregate with other responding FQHCs (aggregated to three or more FQHCs).

18. Do we have your permission to share your complete response to this survey with your state's primary care association in order to inform their own technical assistance programs? Shared responses would not be de-identified.

- Yes
- No

19. Do we have your permission to share your complete response to this survey with your Health Center Controlled Network in order to inform their own technical assistance programs? Shared responses would not be de-identified.

- Yes
- No or Does Not Apply

Survey must be completed online. Cannot be mailed or faxed in.