

Academic Health Department Learning Community Needs Assessment Results

April 28, 2014

Overview

Beginning in February 2014, a [needs assessment](#) was conducted through the [Academic Health Department \(AHD\) Learning Community](#) to identify activities, topics, and resources of interest and value to community members. The needs assessment was made available to the AHD Learning Community on February 13, 2014, and participation was encouraged using email and the *Council on Linkages Update* newsletter. The following is a summary of results received through April 16, 2014 and represents the responses of 49 people.

Results

Q: The AHD Learning Community is exploring several new activities proposed by members and staff. If the following activities were available, which would you be most likely to participate in? (n=45)

A: Top 3 Activities:

- Listserv for communication
- Subgroups to address specific topics
- Mentorship program

Responses:

	Priority Order* (# of Responses)						Total # of Responses
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
A listserv for communication among members	19	10	4	1	3	1	38
Subgroups within the Learning Community to address specific topics of interest to group members	11	12	10	2	4	1	40
A mentorship program	4	8	6	5	5	4	32
A phConnect community to discuss AHD topics	2	6	5	11	8	1	33
A LinkedIn group to discuss AHD topics	0	5	6	7	10	5	33
Other	2	0	1	1	1	5	10
I'm not interested in participating in new activities	0	0	2	0	1	2	5

* 1=highest priority

Other:

- Discussion of examples of what others have done
- Building pipeline programs to diversify the workforce beginning with high school students
- Continue quarterly conference calls

Q: If subgroups were set up within the AHD Learning Community to discuss the topics described below, what topics would you be interested in focusing on? (n=43)

A: Top 3 Subgroups:

- Education/training
- Developing an AHD partnership
- Funding an AHD

Responses:

	Priority Order* (# of Responses)			Total # of Responses
	1	2	3	
Developing an AHD partnership – Ways to establish and formalize relationships between public health practice organizations and academic institutions	11	8	1	20
Education/training – How AHDs can be used to build the skills and competence of students, public health practitioners, and faculty	16	10	7	33
Research – How AHDs can contribute to and improve public health services and systems research	4	5	5	14
Service delivery – Ways AHDs can help to improve capacity and performance to effectively meet the public health needs of a community	4	5	2	11
Health reform – Roles for public health and how to leverage what practice and academia can offer to an evolving health system	3	3	5	11
Funding an AHD – Strategies for obtaining and enhancing financial support to develop, maintain, or expand AHD partnerships	3	6	9	18
Sustaining and institutionalizing an AHD – Ways to ensure the long-term survival of AHD partnerships	2	4	8	14
Other	0	0	2	2
I'm not interested in participating in a subgroup	0	0	1	1

* 1=highest priority

Other:

- Establishing direct partnerships to help MPH graduates find jobs and internships in public health organizations
- How academia can contribute to AHDs

Q: Please tell us what you would hope to learn or teach by participating in the subgroup you selected as your top choice. (n=32)

A: 13 responses emphasized learning, 4 responses emphasized teaching

Response Themes:

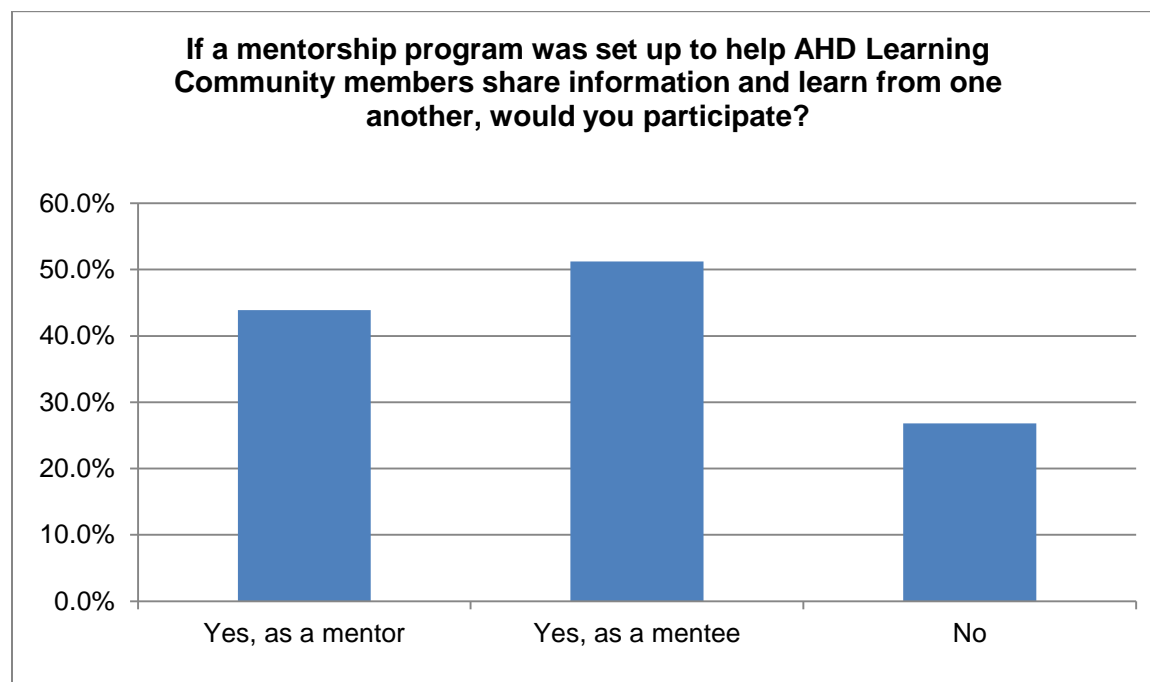
- Improving/supporting student education and training
- Establishing AHDs
- Examples of successful AHDs
- Supporting/educating partners
- Sustaining AHDs
- Funding AHDs

Q: If a mentorship program was set up to help AHD Learning Community members share information and learn from one another, would you participate? (n=41)

A: Responses:

	Percent	# of Responses*
Yes, as a mentor	43.9%	18
Yes, as a mentee	51.2%	21
No	26.8%	11

* Respondents could select multiple options



Q: In addition to activities, the AHD Learning Community is also considering what resources will be most helpful to those working to develop, maintain, and expand AHD partnerships. If the following resources were available on the AHD Learning Community website, which would you be most likely to use? (n=44)

A: Top 5 Resources:

- Partnership agreement templates
- Case stories of AHD partnerships
- More partnership agreement examples
- List of existing AHD partnerships
- Resources to help generate buy-in for AHD partnerships

Responses:

	Priority Order* (# of Responses)			Total # of Responses
	1	2	3	
More examples of AHD partnership agreements	8	2	4	14
Templates for AHD partnership agreements	12	4	5	21
Examples of position descriptions for individuals who coordinate or direct AHDs	2	4	4	10
Templates for position descriptions for individuals who coordinate or direct AHDs	1	1	3	5
Examples of AHD organizational charts	0	7	3	10
A list of existing AHD partnerships	3	6	7	16
A map with the location of Learning Community members or their organizations	1	2	0	3
Case stories of AHD partnerships that demonstrate experiences, successes, challenges, accomplishments, or impact	10	10	9	29
A map or database of organizations interested in developing AHD partnerships	2	0	4	6
Resources to help those working on AHD partnerships to explain and generate buy-in for such partnerships	4	7	3	14
Other	0	0	1	1

* 1=highest priority

Q: How would you like to receive information about AHD Learning Community activities and resources? (n=44)

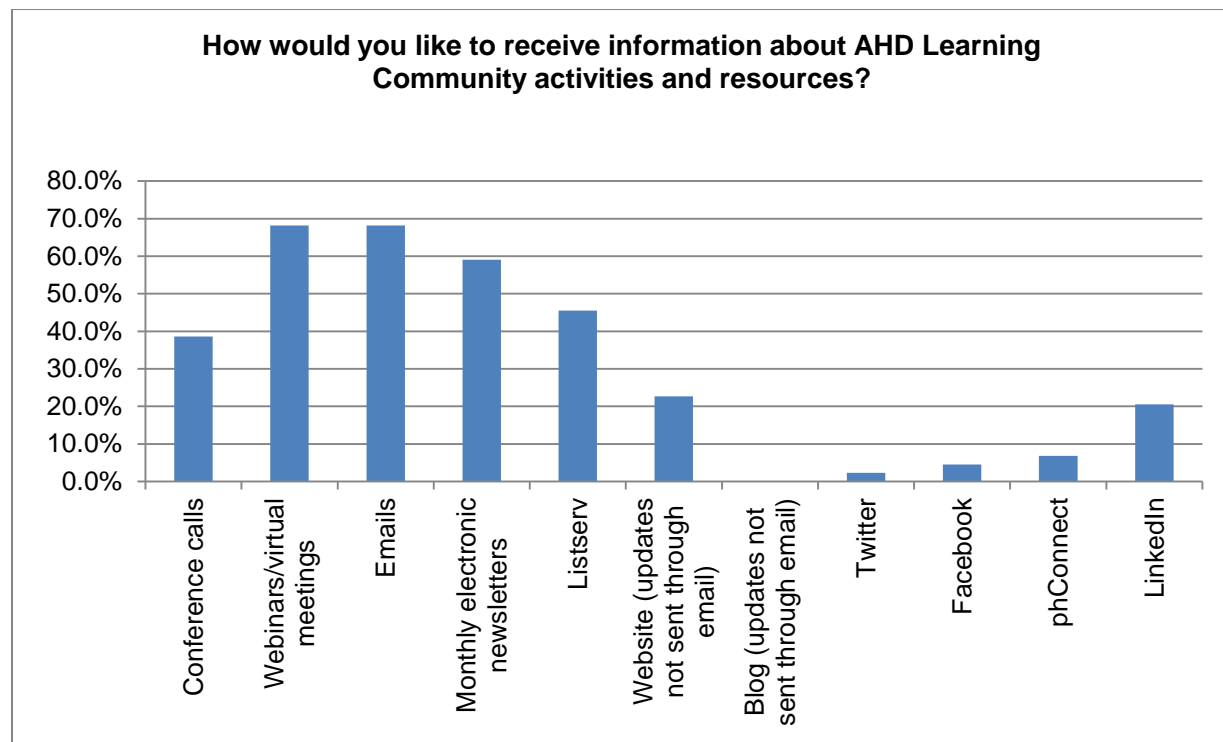
A: Top 3 Information Mechanisms:

- Webinars/virtual meetings
- Emails
- Monthly electronic newsletters

Responses:

	Percent	# of Responses*
Conference calls	38.6%	17
Webinars/virtual meetings	68.2%	30
Emails	68.2%	30
Monthly electronic newsletters	59.1%	26
Listserv	45.5%	20
Website (updates not sent through email)	22.7%	10
Blog (updates not sent through email)	0.0%	0
Twitter	2.3%	1
Facebook	4.5%	2
phConnect	6.8%	3
LinkedIn	20.5%	9
Other		0

* Respondents could select multiple options



Q: What can the AHD Learning Community offer that is of value to you? (n=42)

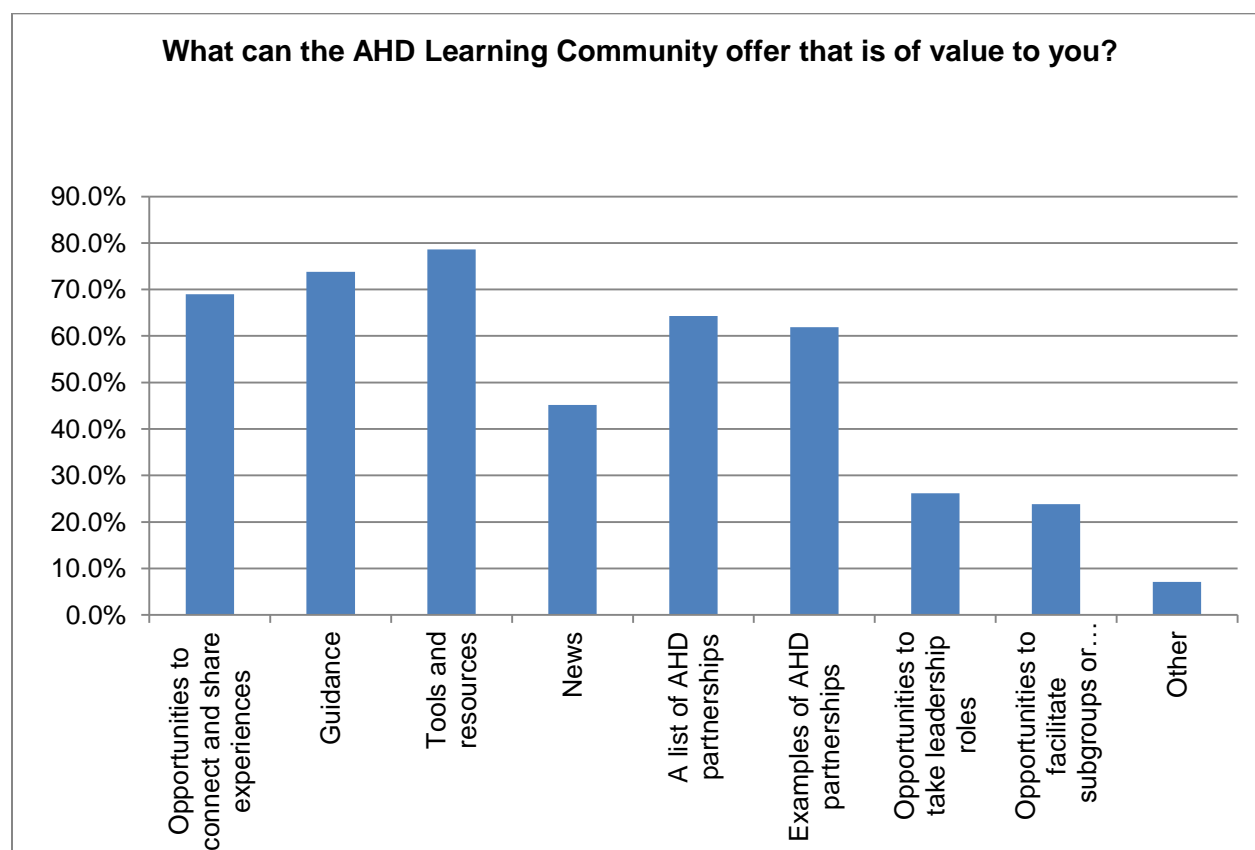
A: Top 3 Values:

- Tools and resources to support AHD partnerships
- Guidance related to AHD partnerships
- Opportunities to connect and share experiences with others who are exploring or working on AHD partnerships

Responses:

	Percent	# of Responses*
Opportunities to connect and share experiences with others who are exploring or working on AHD partnerships	69.0%	29
Guidance in developing, maintaining, or expanding AHD partnerships	73.8%	31
Tools and resources to support AHD partnerships	78.6%	33
News about AHD partnerships	45.2%	19
A list of existing AHD partnerships	64.3%	27
Examples of AHD partnership development, maintenance, or expansion	61.9%	26
Opportunities to take leadership roles in Learning Community activities	26.2%	11
Opportunities to facilitate Learning Community subgroups or meetings	23.8%	10
Other	7.1%	3

* Respondents could select multiple options

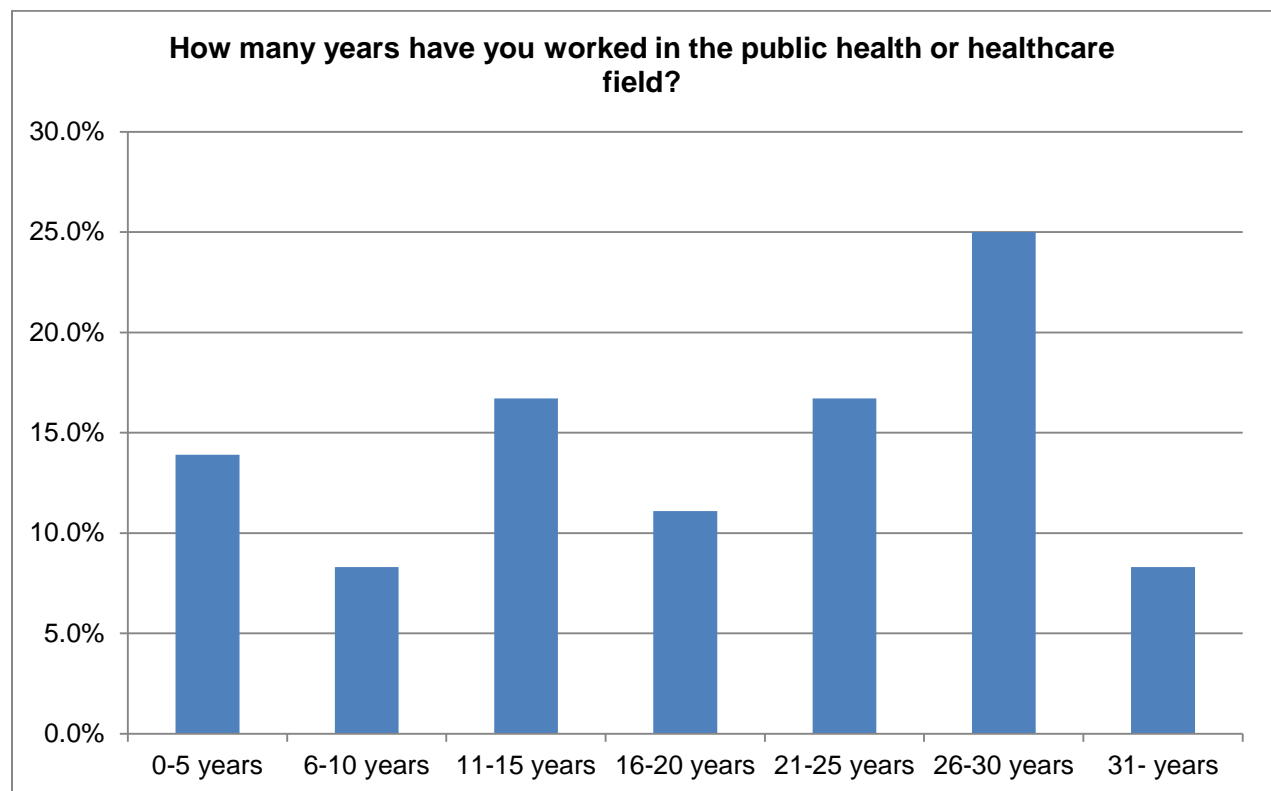


Demographics

Q: How many years have you worked in the public health or healthcare field? (n=36)

A: Responses:

	Percent	# of Responses
0-5 years	13.9%	5
6-10 years	8.3%	3
11-15 years	16.7%	6
16-20 years	11.1%	4
21-25 years	16.7%	6
26-30 years	25.0%	9
31- years	8.3%	3

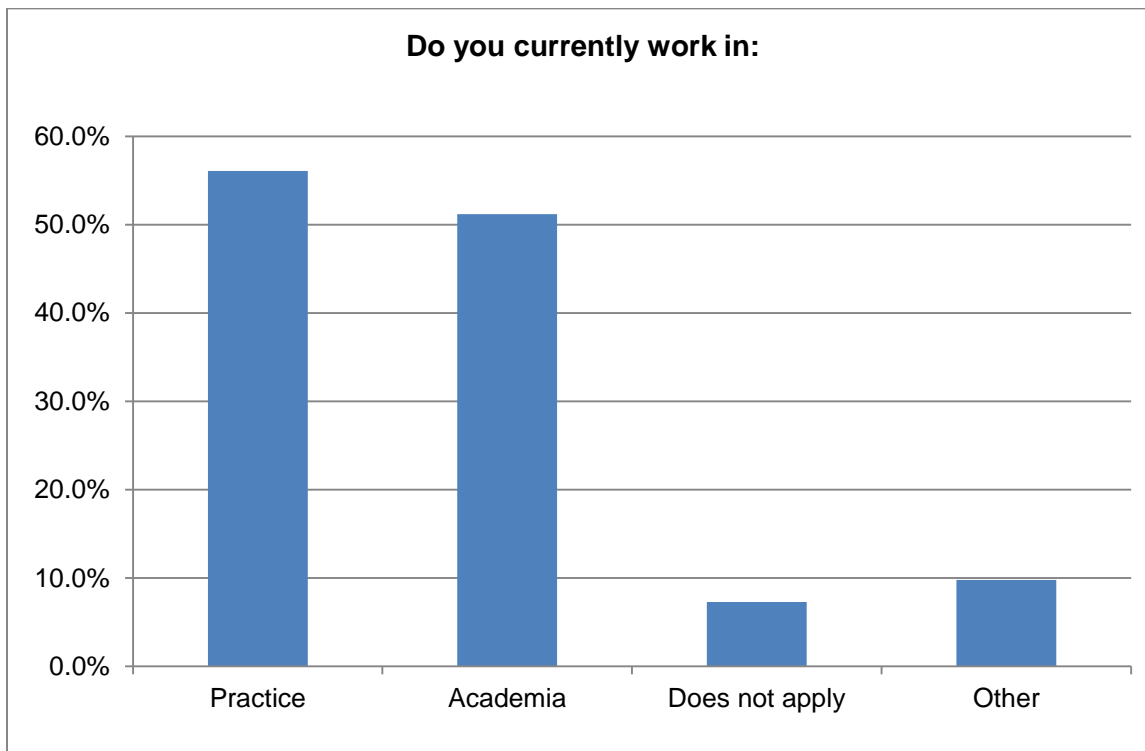


Q: Do you currently work in: (n=41)

A: Responses:

	Percent	# of Responses*
Practice	56.1%	23
Academia	51.2%	21
Does not apply	7.3%	3
Other	9.8%	4

** Respondents could select multiple options*



Other:

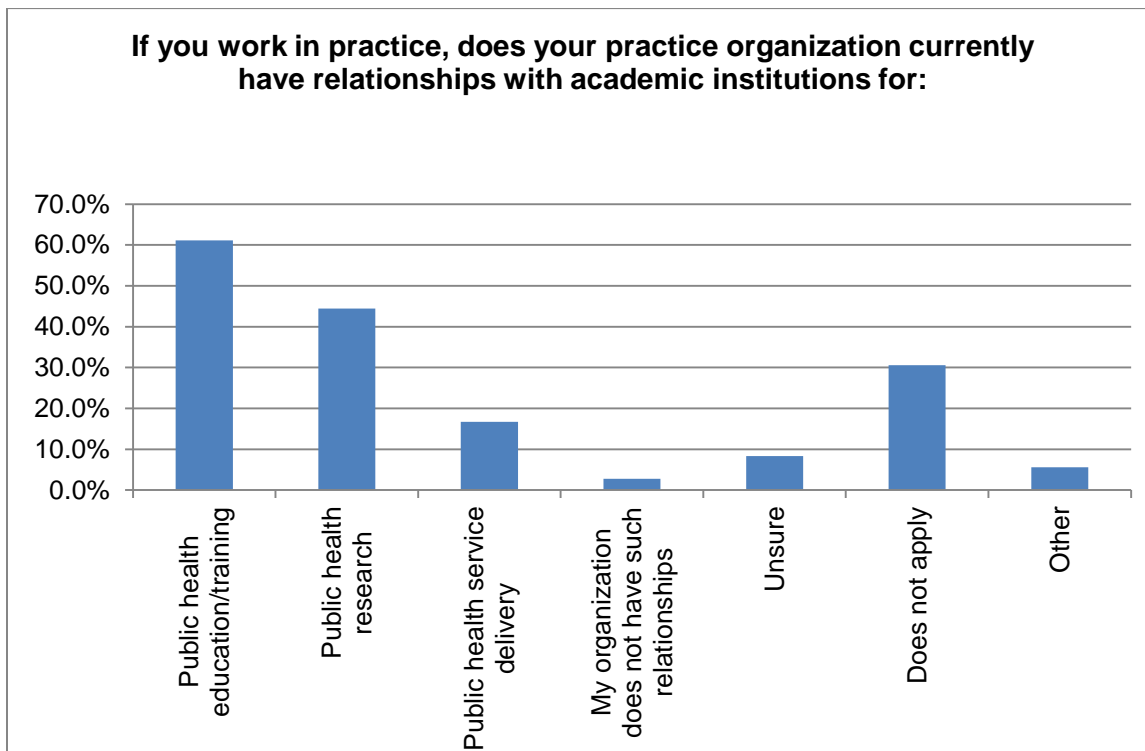
- Philanthropy
- State public health association

Q: If you work in practice, does your practice organization currently have relationships with academic institutions for: (n=36)

A: Responses:

	Percent	# of Responses*
Public health education/training	61.1%	22
Public health research	44.4%	16
Public health service delivery	16.7%	6
My organization does not have such relationships	2.8%	1
Unsure	8.3%	3
Does not apply	30.6%	11
Other	5.6%	2

* Respondents could select multiple options

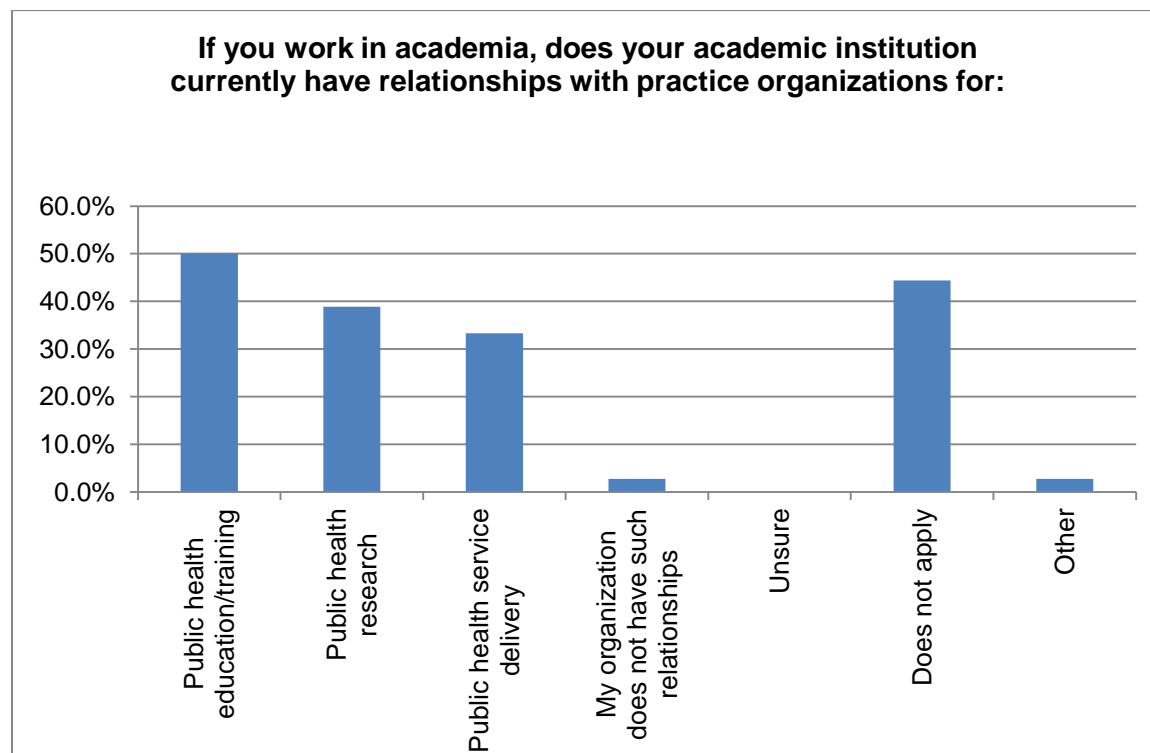


Q: If you work in academia, does your academic institution currently have relationships with practice organizations for: (n=36)

A: Responses:

	Percent	# of Responses*
Public health education/training	50.0%	18
Public health research	38.9%	14
Public health service delivery	33.3%	12
My organization does not have such relationships	2.8%	1
Unsure	0.0%	0
Does not apply	44.4%	16
Other	2.8%	1

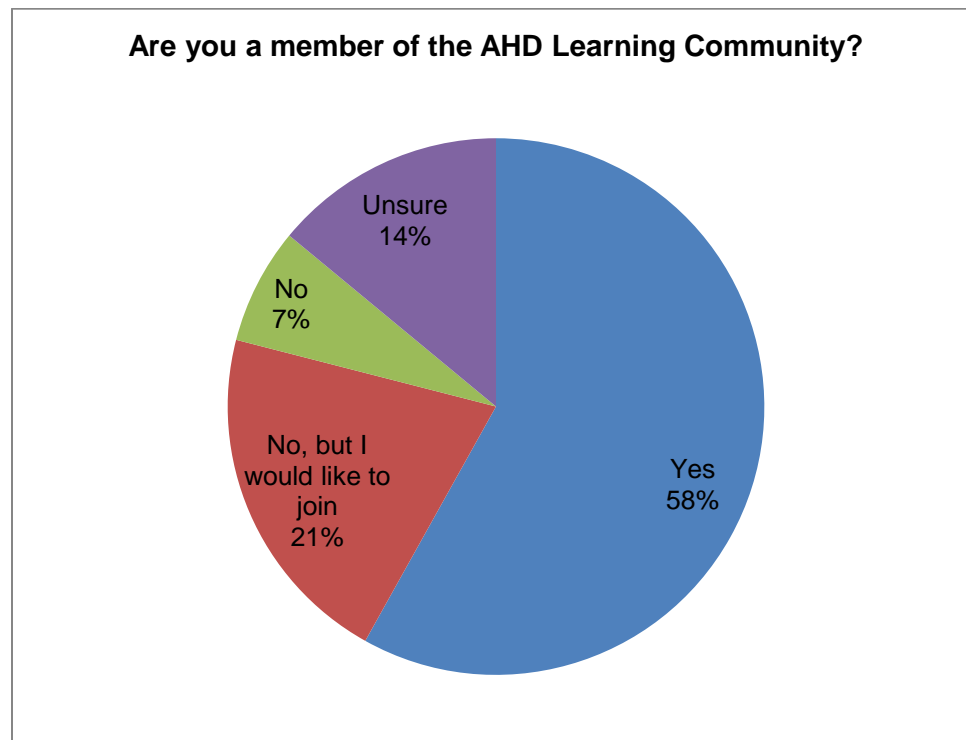
* Respondents could select multiple options



Q: Are you a member of the AHD Learning Community? (n=43)

A: Responses:

	Percent	# of Responses
Yes	58.1%	25
No, but I would like to join	20.9%	9
No	7.0%	3
Unsure	14.0%	6



Q. Please check if you are NOT willing to have your name and email address listed on the AHD Learning Community website as a member.

A: 8.2% (4) of respondents do not want their name and email address listed online

Q: What would you like to share with us about the AHD Learning Community, its future activities, or your participation that we have not yet asked? (n=7)

A: Response Themes:

- Help connect members/create mentorship program
- Organize opportunities to meet in person