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# **The Relationship Between Partnership Characteristics, Partnership Functioning and Program Outcomes**

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# Diabetes Initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



**Advancing  
Diabetes  
Self Management**



**Building  
Community Supports  
for Diabetes Care**

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Advancing  
Diabetes  
Self Management

Promoting self management of  
diabetes through primary care settings



Building  
Community Supports  
for Diabetes Care

Community collaborations to support  
self management of diabetes and  
diabetes care

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# Background



- The main focus of the Building Community Supports for Diabetes Care (BCS) program is to promote self-management and diabetes care through community based partnerships
- 8 BCS sites working on building community support through partnerships in an effort to extend diabetes self-management beyond clinical setting into the community and strengthen the community environment

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# BCS Sites



- Maine General Health - Waterville, ME
- Open Door Health Center- Homestead, FL
- Minneapolis American Indian Center - Minneapolis MN
- Richland County Health Dept. - Sidney, MT
- Campesinos Sin Fronteras - Somerton, AZ
- Galveston Community Health District - Texas City, TX
- Metro Denver Black Church Initiative - Denver, CO
- MT/WY Tribal Leaders Council - Billings, MT

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# Objective



To identify characteristics of the partnerships and explore the relationship between partnership characteristics and the functioning of the partnership with program outcomes.

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# Methods



- A questionnaire was developed based on existing instruments and input from the 8 BCS grantees
- Partners within each grantee partnership were identified by the grantee coordinator
- The questionnaire was administered online –each partner was provided with a hyperlink
- Paper-pencil questionnaires were available for those who did not have access to a computer

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# Partnership Characteristics and Partnership Functioning Measures



- Description of the organization
- Relationship in the partnership
- Leadership
- Administration and management of the partnership
- Communication
- Partnership resources
- Benefits of participation in the partnership
- Drawbacks of participation in the partnership
- Collaboration
- Partnership Challenges
- Synergy

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# Results



- A total of 52 partners within the 8 BCS grantee partnerships completed the questionnaire
- 44 surveys were completed online
- 8 surveys were paper-pencil and mailed in
- 100% response rate from the grantee partners

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# Results



- Description of the organization - 50% of the partners have been in the partnership between 1-3 years
- Leadership – empowering people, communicating the vision, inspiring and motivating people (40% said very good)
- Administration and management – communication among partners, organizing activities
- Benefits of participation in the partnership – almost all the partners had already received benefits like heightened public profile, development of valuable relationships, ability to make a contribution to the community

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# Results



- Drawbacks of participation in the partnership – over 90% of the partners did not have any/ expect to experience any drawbacks
- Partnership Challenges – recruiting new partners and retaining existing partners
- Synergy – good synergy in the partnership in terms of working well together

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# Next Steps



- Re-administer survey annually
- Ways to link partnership functioning to program outcomes – both quantitatively and qualitatively

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# Conclusions



- The results from this survey are important in identifying various dimensions of partnership characteristics and partnership functioning
- Importance of linking partnership functioning and their relationship to proximal and distal outcomes of each of the 8 BCS programs

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