

Teton County's Local Public Health System Analysis

Conducted Fall 2014

An initial analysis of Teton County's Local Public Health System (LPHS) was conducted to collect information about how agencies within the LPHS interact and connect. In October 2014 an online data collection and analysis tool called "PARTNER tool" was sent to 48 agencies that make up the LPHS in Teton County, WY. (PARTNER tool was developed by Dr. Varda an Associate Professor at the School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado Denver.) Thirty of the 48 agencies responded to the survey (63%).

This is the first time that the LPHS has been examined in Teton County. The results from the survey provides a baseline network score for the Public Health System.

Background

The system maps in the figures below indicate that the LPHS has a very integrated and connected network of agencies. These maps show that, currently, agencies in the LPHS are working together to provide resources, programs, and education to Teton County residents. These results provide insight to show where the LPHS can become even more interconnected to help reduce duplication of efforts, while ensuring that all residents can access public health programs to improve their overall health.

Results

Coalition Density

The "density" score or overall connectedness of the LPHS was 46.2%. To receive a density score of 100% every agency in the LPHS would need to be connected to every other agency. Increasing our density score is one strategy that can be used to strengthen our LPHS.

Degree Centralization

The "degree centralization" score for the LPHS was 47.3%. The term degree centralization refers to how connected the agencies of the public health system are, as a whole. High scores in this area indicates that an agency is interconnected to many agencies in the LPHS.

Trust

The “trust” score was 72.5% for the LPHS. This value indicates the level of trust among the agencies in the LPHS.

Network Maps

Complete Network Map

Figure 1 shows a comprehensive LPHS map. A larger picture of this map can be found in Appendix 1. Forty-eight agencies were invited to fill out the survey. Each agency represented by a circle. A full list of the 48 agencies

can be found in Appendix 2. A legend for the different network maps can be found in Figure 2. The size of the circle correlates to the “overall value” of that agency to the LPHS. Overall value is defined as a combined score that includes Power/Influence, Level of Involvement, and Level of Resource Contribution. These survey definitions can be found in the follow sections. The lines on the network map represent interactions that occur between LPHS agencies at least once per quarter.

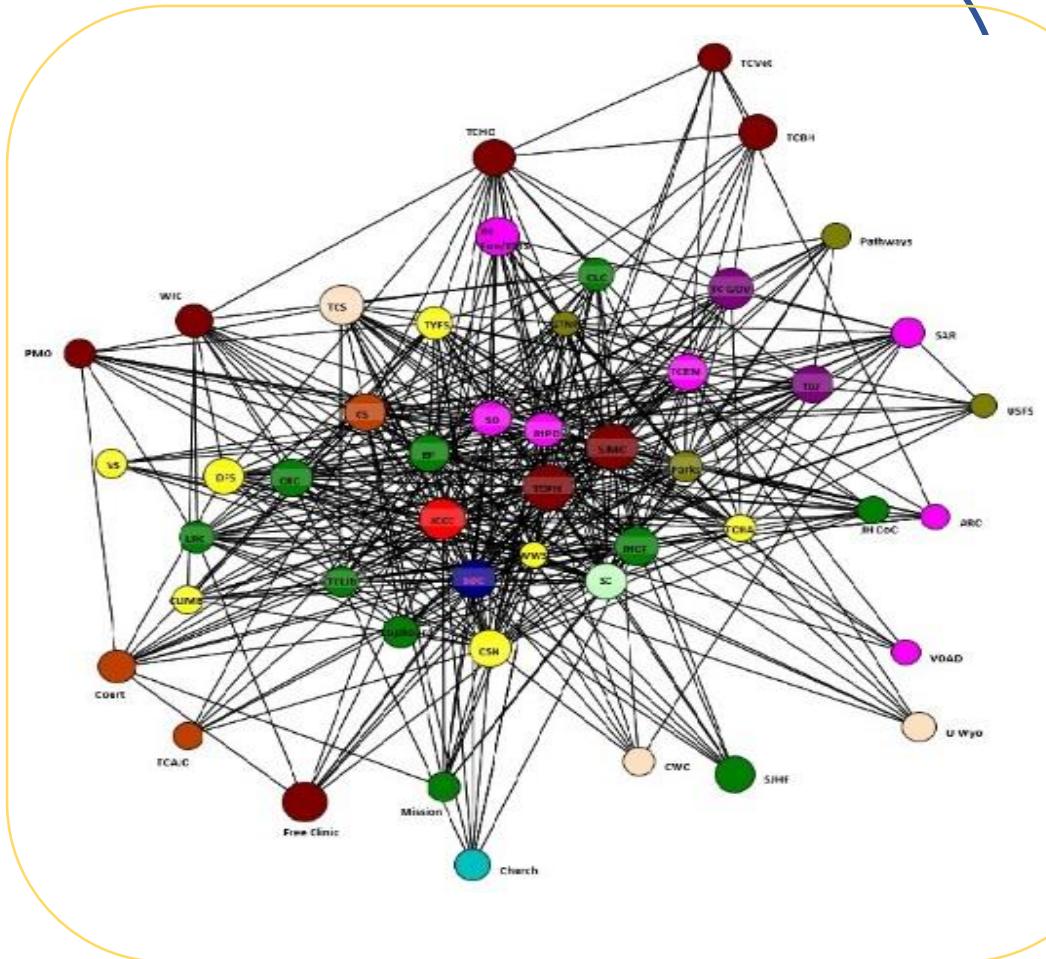


Figure1. Local Public Health System Network Map

Figure 2.
A legend categorizing the types of LPHS agencies for all of the network maps.



Cooperative Activities

Figure 3 represents “cooperative activities” that occur between agencies in the LPHS. The survey tool describes the term cooperative activities as involving, exchanging information with, attending meetings with, and offering resources to partners. In Figure 3, thick lines on the network map indicate a strong working relationships between those agencies. Thin lines represent weaker ties between agencies. A weak tie indicates that agencies both work together and share resources less often. It should be noted that these agencies may be filling a specific niche to the community’s overall health.

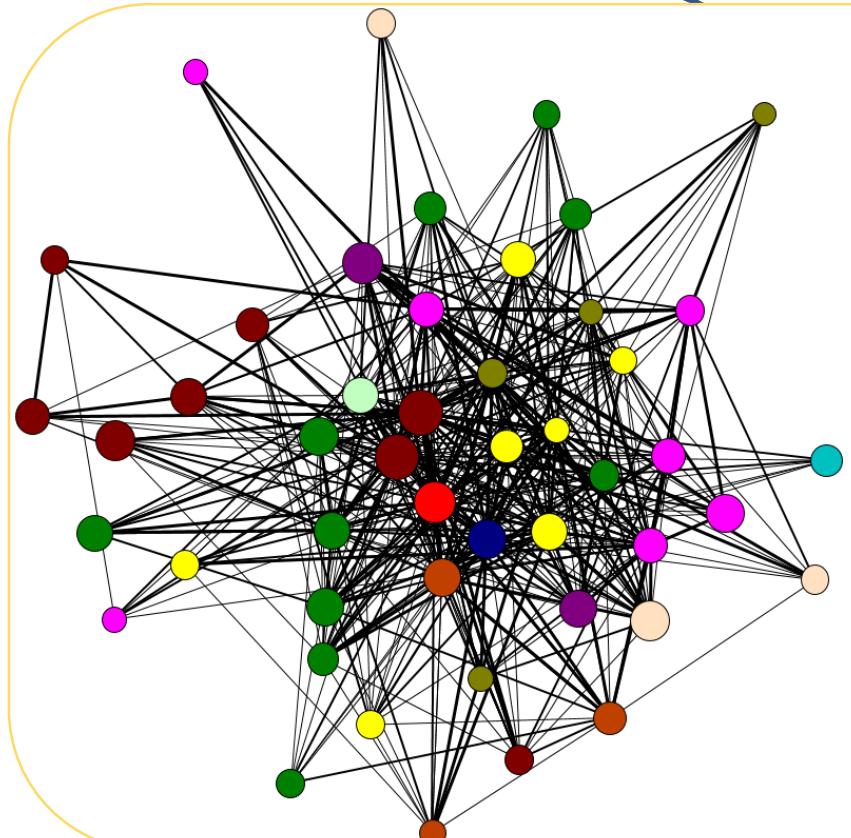


Figure 3. Cooperative Activity Network Map

Coordinated Activities

Figure 4 represents “coordinated activities” among the agencies in the LPHS. The survey tool defines coordinated activities as activities with the addition of intentional efforts to enhance each other’s capacity for the mutual benefit of programs. An example of coordinated activities occurs when separate grant programs share administrative processes. All agencies in the LPHS are involved in at least one coordinated activity.

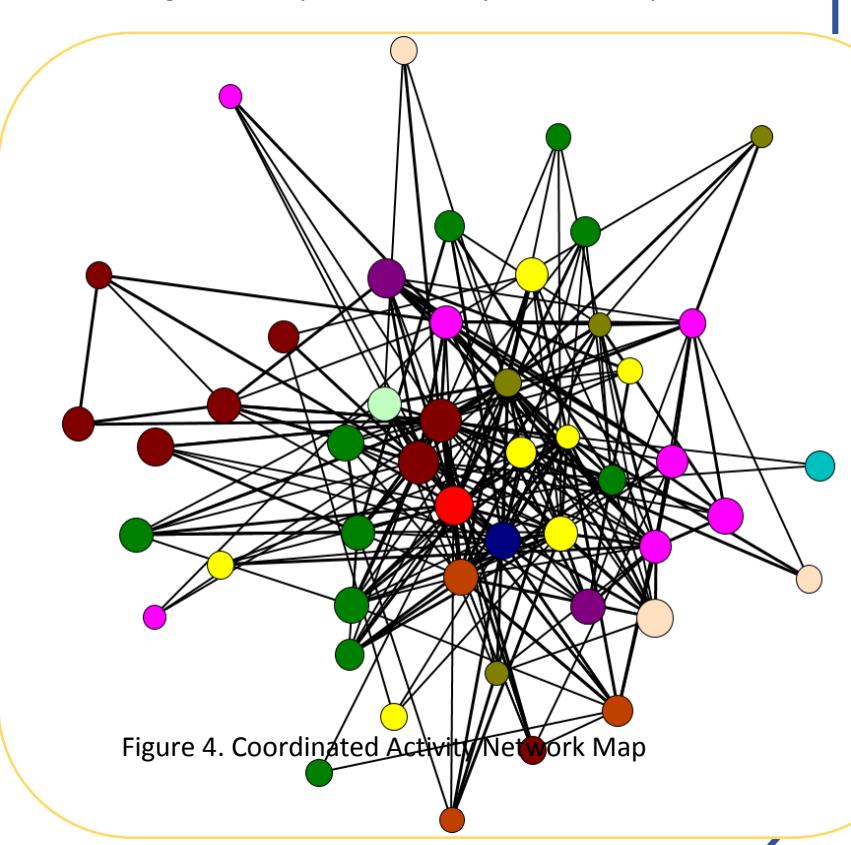


Figure 4. Coordinated Activity Network Map

Integrated Activities

Figure 5 represents the “integrated activities” in the LPHS. The survey tool defines integrated activities as cooperative and coordinated activities plus the act of using commonalities to create a unified center of knowledge and programming that supports work in related content areas. An example of this type of activity would be developing and utilizing shared priorities for funding effective prevention strategies.

Value Scores

Agency respondents were asked to rate how they value the other agencies’ power/influence, level of involvement, and resource contribution to the LPHS on a scale of one to four, with one equaling not at all and four equaling a great deal.

Power/Influence

The quality of power/influence was defined in the survey as, “the level at which an organization/program/department holds a prominent position in the community by being powerful, having influence, successful as a change agent, and showing leadership.” As seen in Figure 6, the average power/influence score was 2.9 out of a maximum score of 4. Twenty-two agencies in the LPHS received scores of a three or higher for level of power/influence.

Level of Involvement

The definition of level of involvement used in the survey was, “the degree to which an organization/ program/department is strongly committed and active in the partnership and gets things done.”

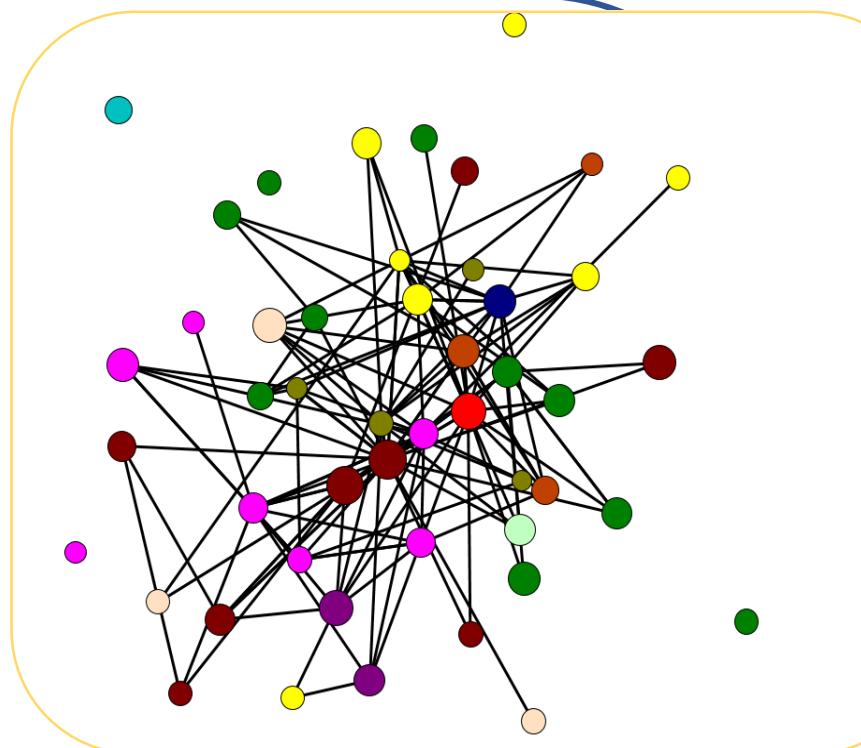


Figure 5. Integrated Activity Network Map

The average level of involvement score was also 2.9, as seen in Figure 7. Twenty three agencies in the local public health system received score of a 3 or higher.

Resource Contribution

Resource contribution was defined by the survey as, “the volume of resources an organization/program/department brings to the partnership like funding, information, or other resources.” The average resource contribution score was 2.78, as seen in Figure 8. Eighteen agencies received scores of over a 3 for resource contribution.

Trust Scores

Total Trust

The total trust score indicates the level of trust among the agencies in the LPHS. To determine “total trust” agencies were asked how reliable, how open to discussion, and how in support of their own mission statement other LPHS agencies are. The average total trust among agencies was 3.18, as seen in Figure 9. Thirty-five agencies received total trust scores of a 3 or higher.

Connectivity Scores

Relative Connectivity

“Relative connectivity” is described by the survey tool as an estimate of how much each member agency is theoretically benefiting by being part of the LPHS. This score is determined by three components: trust, value, and number of connections. The average score for agencies in the local public health system was 46%, as seen in Figure 10.

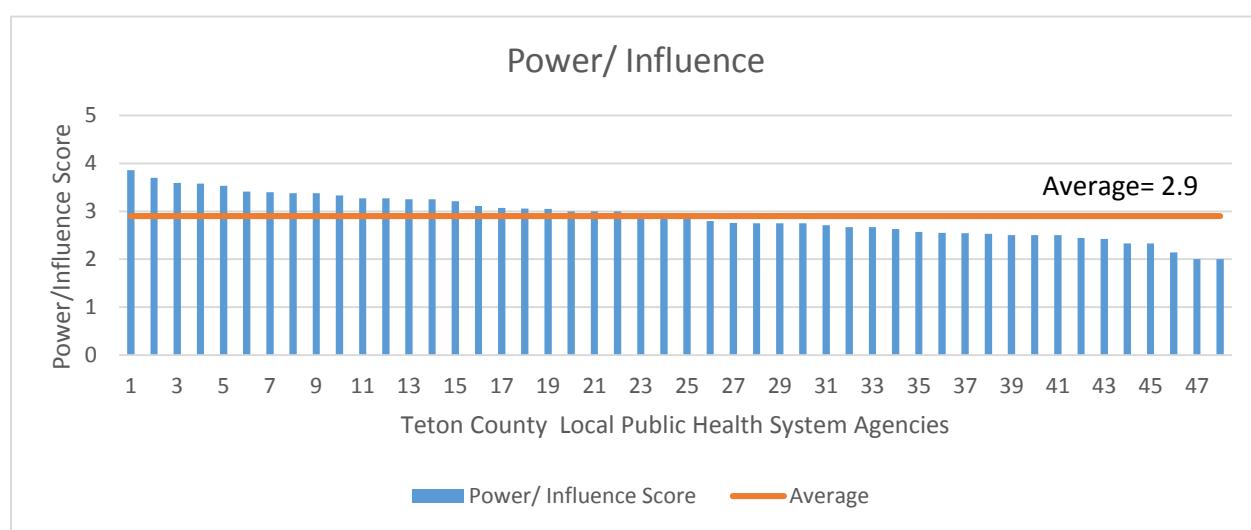


Figure 6. Power/Influence Scores of Teton County Local Public Health System Agencies.

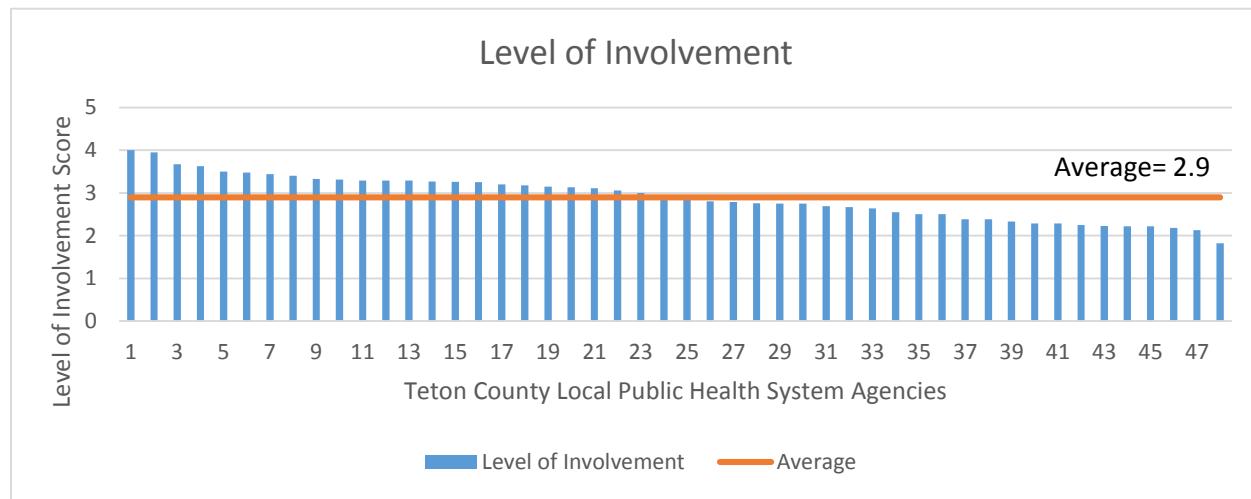


Figure 7. Level of Involvement Scores of Teton County Local Public Health System Agencies.

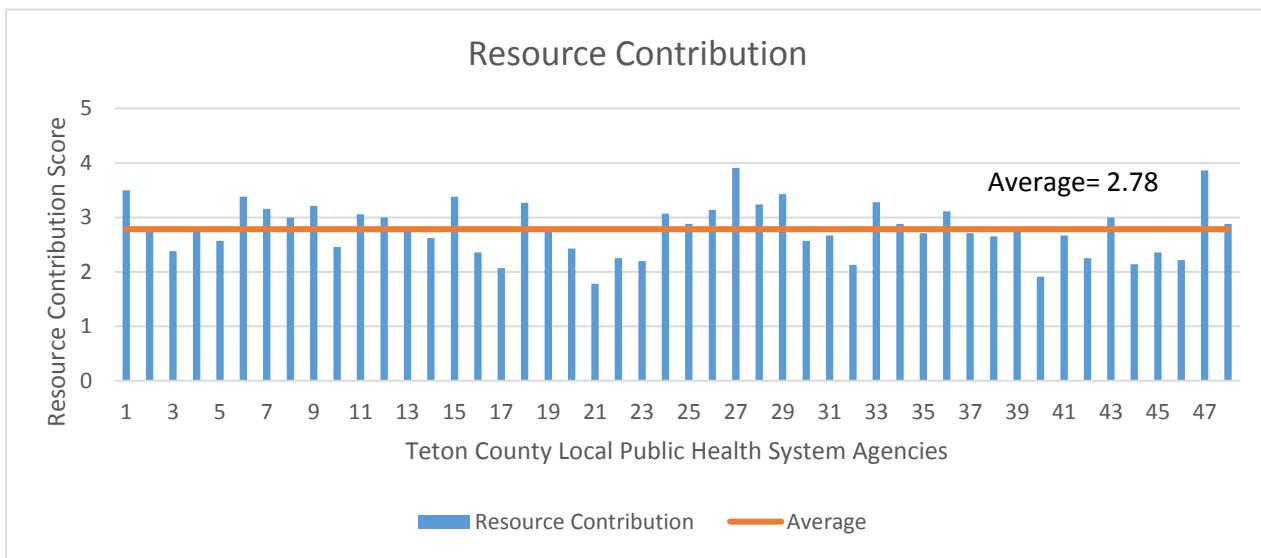


Figure 8. Resource Contribution Scores of Teton County Local Public Health System Agencies.

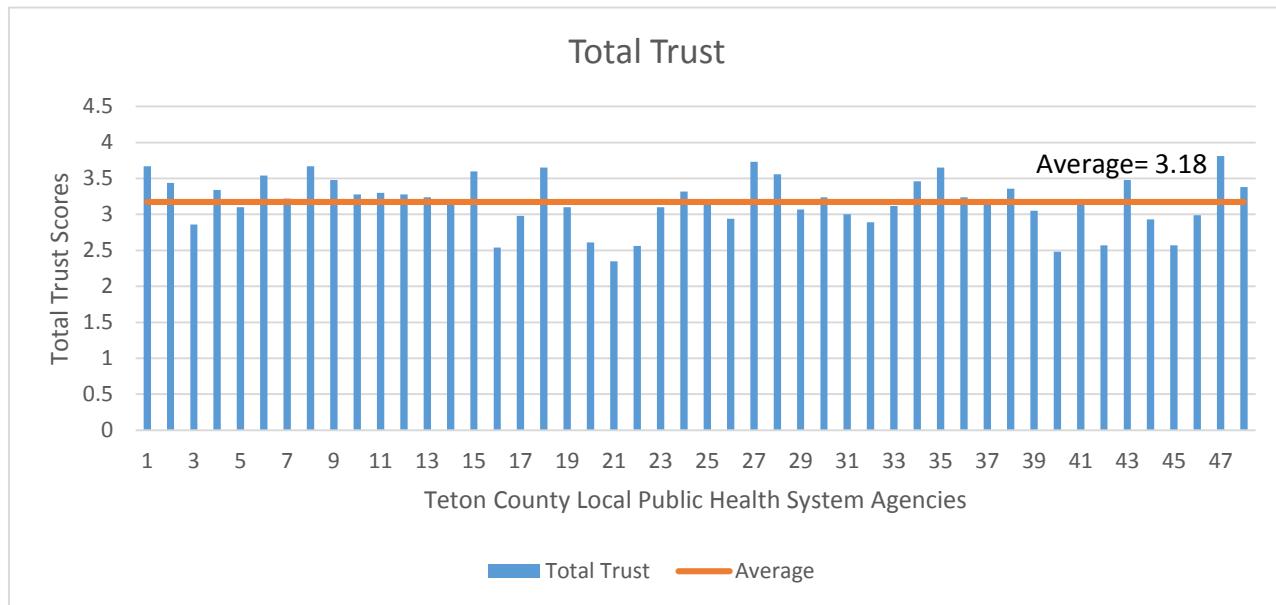


Figure 9. Total Trust Scores of the Teton County Local Public Health System Agencies.

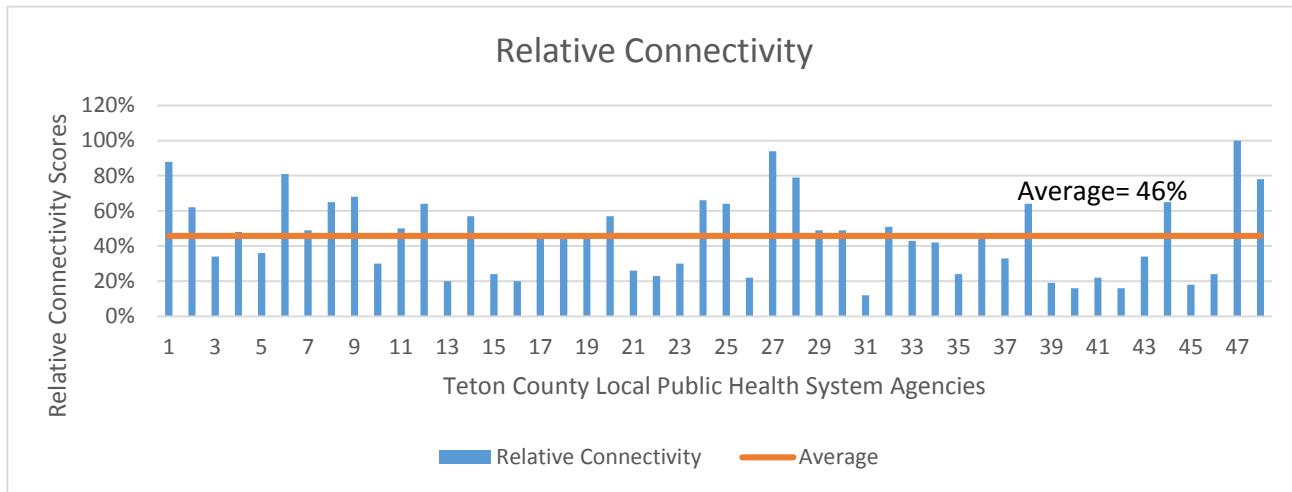


Figure 10. Relative Connectivity Scores of the Teton County Local Public Health System Agencies.

Outcomes

Current Outcomes

The survey tool asked respondents to identify the outcomes achieved by the LPHS, as seen in Figure 11. “Public awareness” received the greatest number of responses, followed closely by “health education services”, “health literacy”, “educational resources.”

Outcomes Achieved from the Work of the Local Public Health System

Answers



Figure 11. Outcomes Achieved From the Work of the Local Public Health System Agencies.

Most Important Outcomes

Respondents identified “improved health outcomes” as the most important outcome from the LPHS (see Figure 12). “Health education services, health literacy, and educational resources” were the next most chosen outcome.

Aspects of Success

The survey tool asked respondents which aspects of the LPHS contribute to its success (see Figure 13). “Bringing together diverse stakeholders” received the greatest number of responses, followed by “informal relationships created” and “exchanging information/knowledge.”

Most Important Outcome of the Local Public Health System

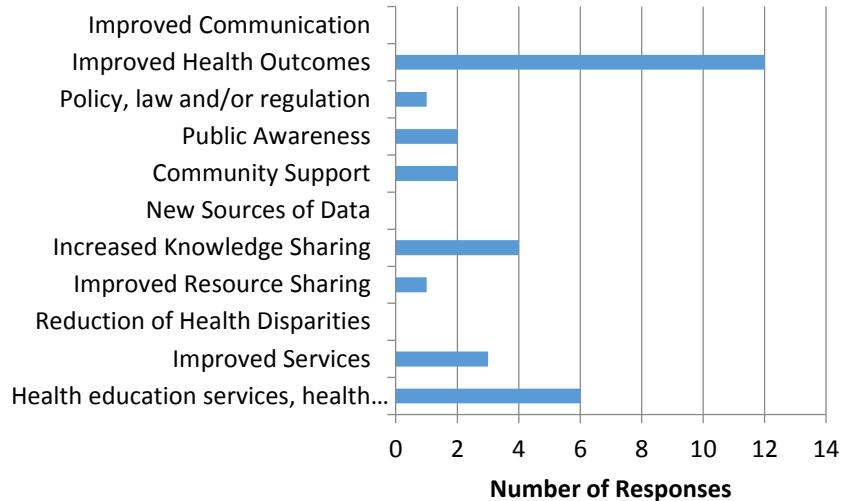


Figure 12. Most Important Outcome of the local Public Health System.

Aspects of the Local Public Health System that Contribute to its Success

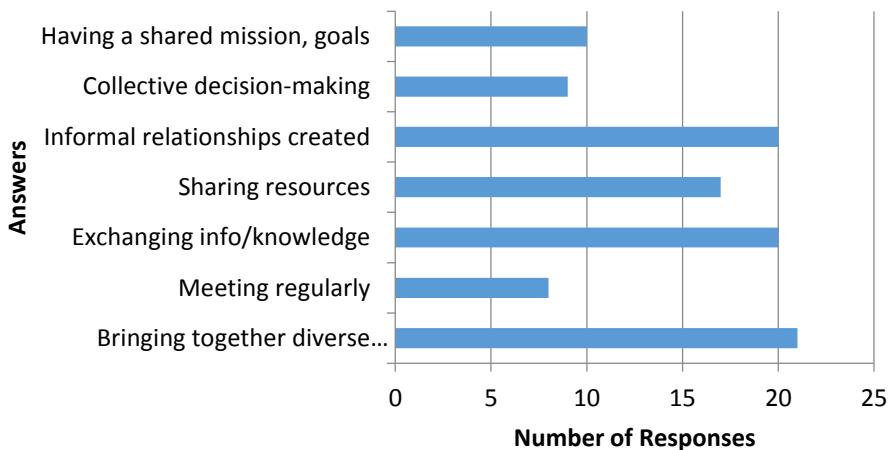


Figure 13. Aspects that Contribute to the Success of the Local Public Health System.

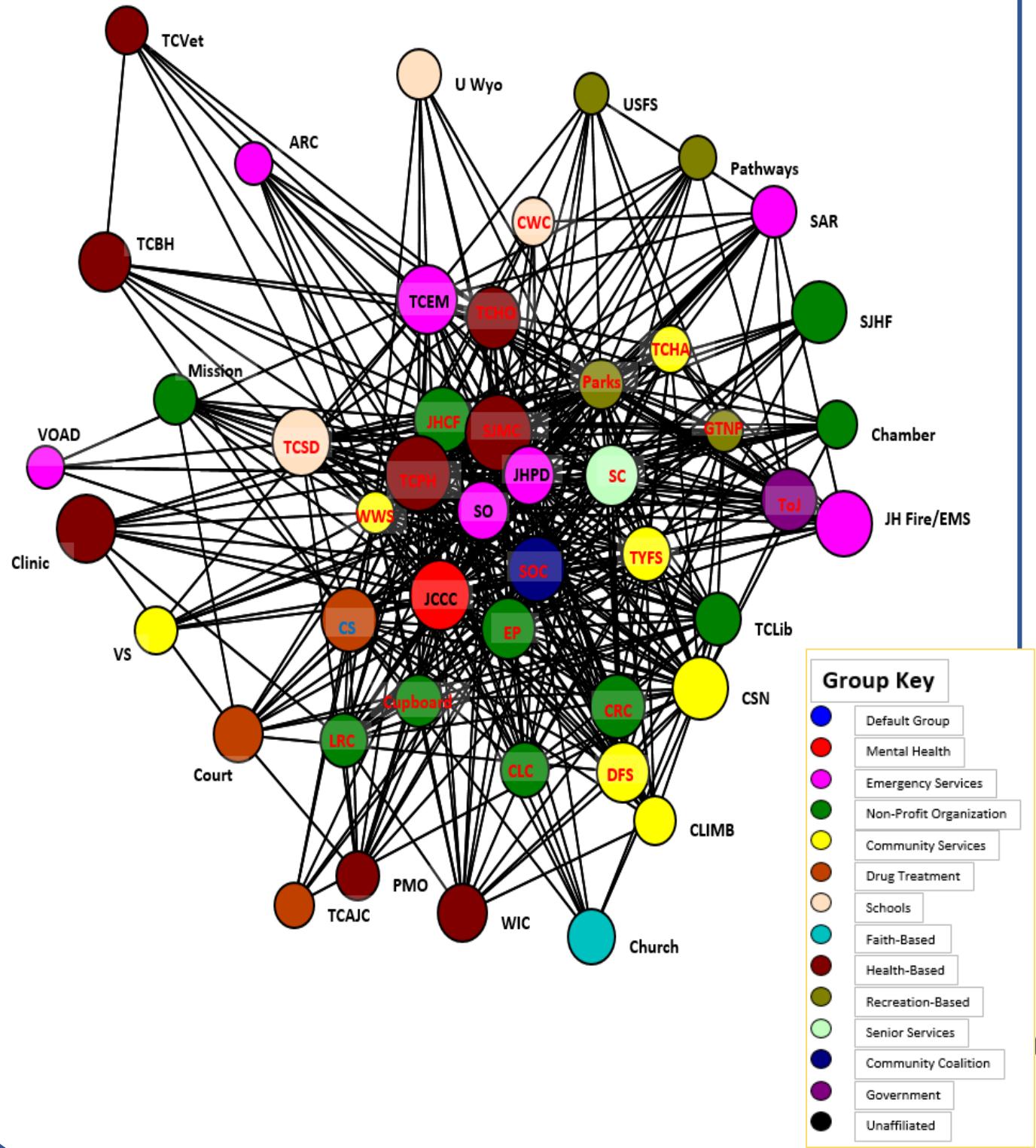
Discussion

The Teton County Local Public Health System agencies do well working together and collaborating on different projects. The network maps support this conclusion by showing that all of the agencies are connected when looking at both cooperative and coordinated activities. There are only a few agencies that need to establish connections during integrated activities.

Overall the LPHS agencies have a high regard for each other, with the average total trust score being a 3.18.

Recommendations to improve the Teton County LPHS include: to continuing to work collaboratively together and reaching out to alternative agencies when new opportunities to collaborate arise.

Appendix 1. Teton County Local Public Health System Map



Appendix 2. List of Local Public Health System Agencies

American Red Cross
Central Wyoming College
Children's Learning Center
CLiMB Wyoming
Community Resource Center
Community Safety Network
Curran Seeley
Department of Family Services
El Puente
Episcopal Church
Food Cupboard
Free Clinic
Good Samaritan Mission
Grand Teton National Park
Jackson Hole Community Counseling Center
Jackson Hole Community Foundation
Jackson Hole Fire/EMS
Jackson Hole Police
Jackson Hole Wyoming Chamber of Commerce
Latino Resource Center
Prevention Management Organization
St. John's Hospital Foundation
St. John's Medical Center
Systems of Care
Teton County Access to Justice Center
Teton County Board of Health
Teton County Community Pathways
Teton County Court Supervised Treatment Program
Teton County Emergency Management
Teton County Government
Teton County Health Officer
Teton County Housing Authority
Teton County Library
Teton County Parks and Recreation
Teton County Public Health
Teton County Search and Rescue
Teton County School District
Teton County Sheriff
Teton County Vet
Town of Jackson
Teton Youth and Family Services
Senior Center of Jackson Hole
United States Forest Service
University of Wyoming Extension
Victim Services
Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
Wyoming Workforce Services

