Analysis of an older adult falls prevention collaboration network in Iowa

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Key Findings

- The key players in older adult falls prevention research were fire departments.

- The key players in providing/receiving information about older adult falls include University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics (UIHC), fire departments, AAAs, and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).

- Organizations serving as bridges to other organizations with the potential to facilitate flow of info and resources are: Fire departments, AAAs, UIHC, and the IDPH Bureau of Emergency Trauma Services.

- The UI IPRC can reach a large number of organizations through our current collaborators. Organizations that we are currently not partnering with but are active in the network are religious organizations & residential facilities.

What did we study?

We surveyed 19 representatives from 15 organizations to assess 1) the position of the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center (UI IPRC) in collaborating with community partners to address older adult falls and 2) how organizations active in addressing older adult falls interact with each other and the UI IPRC.

www.uiiprc.org

Organization in the network

77% belong to a falls prevention and/or control coalition

Services provided by organizations in the network

- Falls prevention services
- Chronic disease prevention/management
- Elder abuse education
- Exercise classes/rehabilitation

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Directed arrows (from respondents to other organizations) indicate identified collaborations. Thickness of the lines indicates frequency of collaborations reported.

**NETWORKS: How do older adults falls prevention organizations collaborate?**

Give information

Out-degree: Milestones AAA (53), UIHC (18), Burlington FD (5) & IDPH (12) give out falls info to many organizations.

In-degree: UI IPRC (1) was nominated most frequently by organizations as a provider of falls information (highest).

Out-degree: IDPH (12), Burlington FD (5), & UIHC (18) identified many organizations that provide falls information to them.

Receive information

In-degree: Organizations identify UI IPRC (1) as an entity they provide falls info to, followed by UIHC (18), IDPH (12) & Burlington Fire Department (5).

Out-degree: Milestones AAA (53), UIHC (18), Burlington FD (5) & IDPH (12) give out falls info to many organizations.

In-degree: UI IPRC (1) was nominated most frequently by organizations as a provider of falls information (highest).

Out-degree: IDPH (12), Burlington FD (5), & UIHC (18) identified many organizations that provide falls information to them.

We looked at level of interaction in seven areas of collaboration around older adult falls prevention: research collaboration, submitting grants, receiving funding or resources, providing funding or resources, provision of older adult falls prevention info, receiving older adult falls prevention information, and co-hosting programs and events.