

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging 2007 Aging Network Survey



ACCESS TO LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES



Scripps Gerontology Center

Suzanne Kunkel, Abbe Linscott, & Jane K. Straker

April 2008

Background

With a grant from the Administration on Aging (AoA), the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) partnered with Scripps Gerontology Center to conduct the 2007 Aging Network Survey of all Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American programs in the nation. The survey was designed to assess AAA and Title VI involvement in services and programs consistent with AoA's Choices for Independence. As part of the 2006 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA), this initiative seeks to modernize the current long-term care system using the following principles:

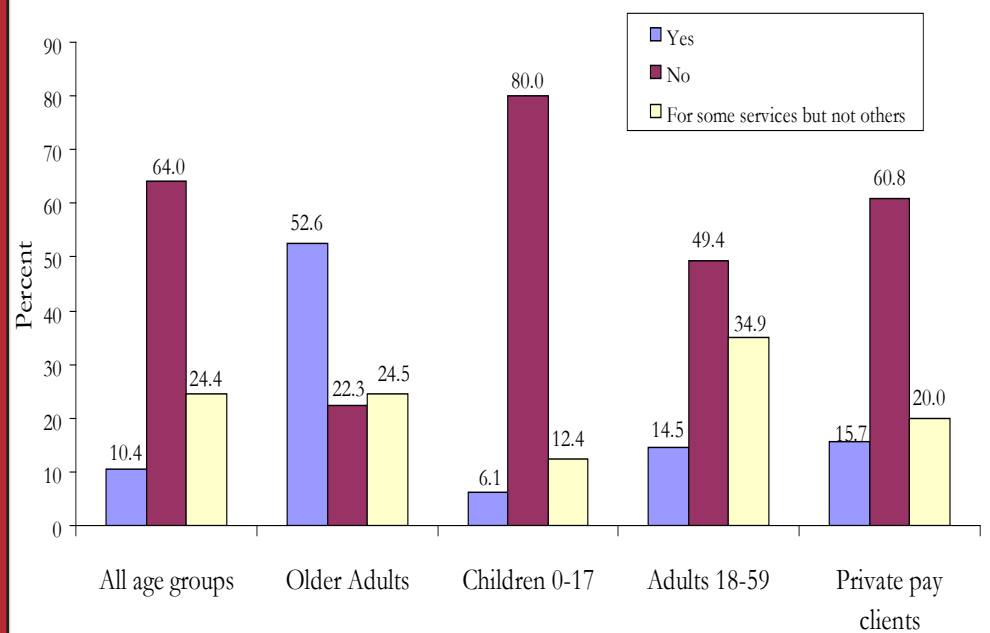
- Enabling consumers to remain in their own homes through the provision of home and community-based long-term care;
- Empowering consumers to stay active and healthy through disease prevention and health promotion services;
- Streamlining access to home and community-based services; and
- Enhancing organizational capacity of the aging network for home and community-based long-term care systems.

Structured around these principles, the survey was launched in June of 2007 to all AAAs (Title VI programs received the survey at a later date). Data collection concluded in December of 2007 with over 80% of AAAs responding. This research brief provides key findings from the assessment as they relate to four topics: Current Status of Aging Network, Involvement in *Choices* Related Activities, Challenges, and Technical Assistance and Training Needs.

This research brief provides key findings from the survey as they relate to the progress AAAs have made towards becoming a single point of entry for the clients they serve and streamlining clients access to home and community-based services. Questions covered formal Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) systems, as well as tasks or steps related to streamlining access such as electronically maintaining client, client health and provider information.

Participants were asked to identify if their organization was the single-point of entry for long-term care services for 5 different groups: all age groups, older adults, children ages 0-17, adults ages 18-59 and clients who are private pay. We defined single point of entry as "providing a one-stop place to gather information on referral and advocacy, to find out about and apply for services, and to evaluate and provide recommendations about services." Figure 1 shows the proportion of agencies that indicated that they were the single-point of entry for each of the 5 groups.

Figure 1. Single Point of Entry

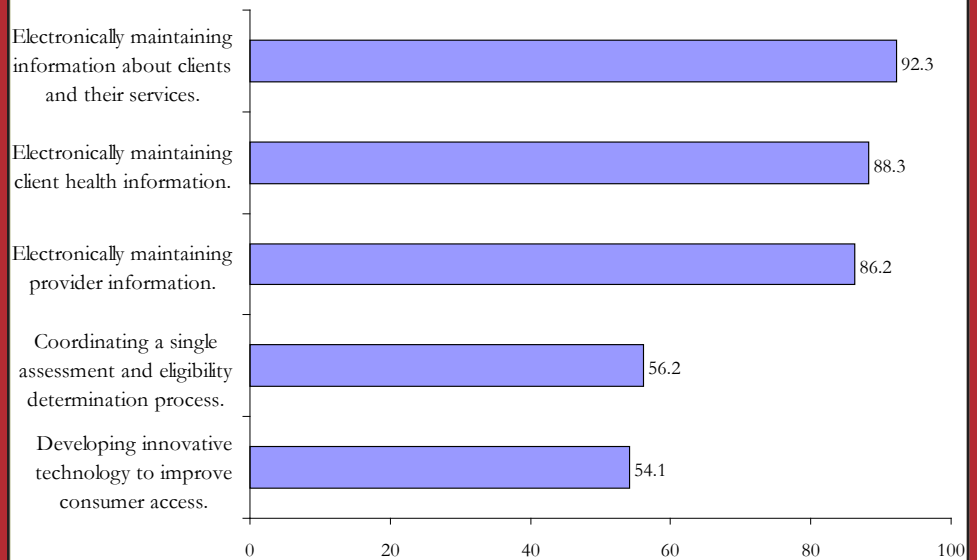


n4a Aging Network Survey

ACCESS TO LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES

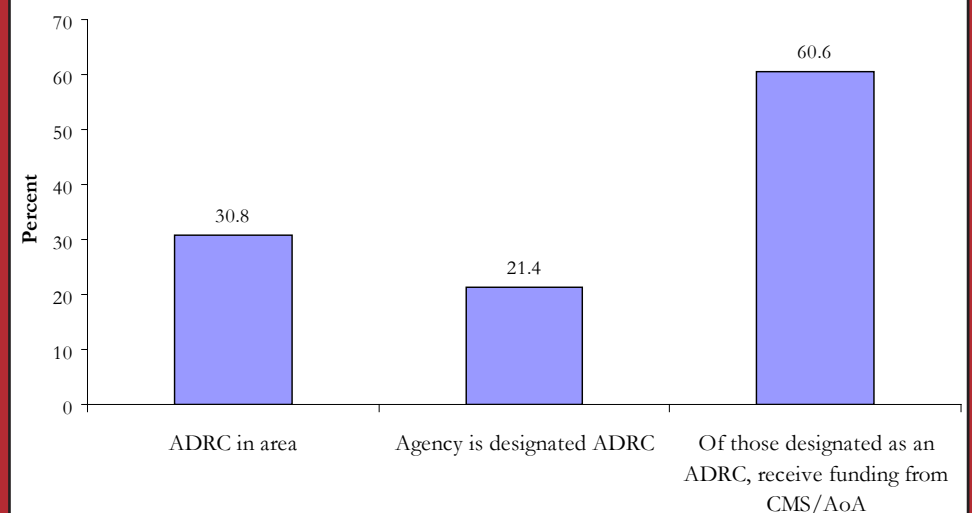
Throughout the survey, participants were asked to rate their level of progress on a set of questions related to the Choices for Independence principles. Related to 'Streamlining Access to Home and Community Services,' participants were asked to rate their progress with the following responses: do not plan to work on this, would like to work on this but cannot, plan to work on this but have not begun, have made progress, or have this in place. Figure 2 shows the percent of agencies that said they either had made progress or have a program in place for items closely related to streamlining access to services and becoming the single point of entry for the clients in their area.

Figure 2. Proportion of agencies who have made progress or have item in place



Just under one third (30.8%) of AAAs identified that there is a designated Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) in their area, while 1 out of 5 (21.4%) identified themselves as the designated ADRC in their area. Of those who were designated as an ADRC, 60.6% received funding from CMS/AoA for their ADRC. Figure 3 shows the the proportion of agencies that responded with 'yes' to questions about their involvement with ADRCs.

Figure 3. Proportion of agencies responding 'yes' to questions about involvement with ADRCs



www.scrippsaging.org scripps@muohio.edu (513) 529 2914
396 Upham Hall, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056

To print/download this research brief or the full report go to:
<http://www.scripps.muohio.edu/research/publications/singlepoint.html>

For other Scripps reports go to:
<http://www.scripps.muohio.edu/research/publications.html>



Funding for this document was made possible (in part) by grant 90AM3126 from the Administration on Aging. The views expressed in these materials do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, or represent official Administration on Aging policy.