



# HANC Collaborator Survey: Spring 2011

## Contents

Introduction.....	1
Executive Summary .....	2
Respondents to the HANC Collaborators Survey.....	5
Social Networking/Connections and Communications .....	7
Added Value of HANC Work Group Projects .....	10
HANC Performance on Core Mission Areas.....	12
HANC Facilitated Call Performance .....	15
HANC Facilitated Meeting Attendance and Performance.....	16
HANC Website and Portal Usage.....	18
Acknowledgments.....	19

## Introduction

For the last three years, the Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC) has conducted an online survey of its collaborators. In 2009 and 2010, we had over 200 respondents from about 600 collaborators. This year we had over 300 respondents from almost 1,000 collaborators. This survey is an important part of an annual evaluation process at HANC to assess the efficacy of our efforts to facilitate cross-network and trans-institute coordination and communication to achieve a more efficient research enterprise. The following is an executive summary of the 2011 survey and the detailed results. Using data from this year's survey, we are able to trend HANC performance over three years. As detailed below, increased awareness of HANC and its mission and objectives is in part due to an increased presence at network meetings, and increased dissemination to HANC collaborators of information about HANC on a regular basis through a variety of media. Additionally, HANC's expansion of the Behavioral Sciences Work Group has afforded the opportunity for more trans-institute work and is reflected in the improved performance ratings in this area, but it still remains an area of opportunity. Lastly, as HANC has conducted more face-to-face meetings in the past year, we asked about our performance in the conduct of those meetings and were pleased with the survey results.

## Executive Summary

HANC collaborators are members of HANC-facilitated work groups and other people who have access to the HANC portal. HANC collaborators include individuals within the network leadership, core/operations centers, laboratories and statistical and data management centers. Additionally, some site investigators and other staff are members of some of the HANC work groups. Members of DAIDS and other institutes that sponsor some of the network research activities are also HANC collaborators, including OAR, NICHHD, NIMH, NIDA, NIAAA and NCI.

Almost a third of HANC collaborators responded again to this year's survey designed to gather data concerning HANC's cross-network coordination and collaboration activities and the performance of the HANC staff and HANC portal to facilitate those activities. This year's survey was shortened overall, and new questions about meeting facilitation were added. Also, we are now able to make some longitudinal comparisons of HANC performance and responses in several domains for which we have data for 3 years. A broad spectrum of members of HANC work groups and other collaborators responded to the survey. Respondents identified their primary network affiliation as ACTG 27%, IMPAACT 21%, HPTN 15%, HVTN 15%, MTN 13% and INSIGHT 6% (Figure 1). A wide range of primary roles were identified by the respondents (Figure 2) and likewise a large range of primary organizational affiliations were noted among the respondents (Figure 3). 60% of respondents were members of a HANC-facilitated working group or committee (Figure 4). Some members of all HANC work groups responded to the survey (Figure 5).

The HANC survey collected information concerning social networking/connections and communications. The purpose of these questions was to learn more about HANC's role in facilitating cross-network communication and how people would like to obtain information from HANC. People indicated that they preferred to learn about HANC activities from a wide variety of sources (Figure 6). However, only 35% of the respondents indicated they knew enough about HANC activities taking place outside of their work group (Figure 7); and 76% indicated they would like to learn more at network meetings about HANC and/or cross-network activities (Figure 8). As in past years, a significant number of people (42%) indicated they could accomplish their work group objectives more effectively if they had the opportunity for face-to-face meetings (Figures 9 and 10).

This year a new set of questions were added to gauge the value added of HANC projects. We asked people to rate the degree to which specific projects/resources have added value in supporting the science and/or operations of the HIV/AIDS research enterprise. On an added value scale of 1 (very low) to 5 (very high), all but one project rated between 3 (medium) and 4 (high) on average (Figure 11). Satisfaction with the outcomes of work group's projects was high at 67%, and only 5% responded negatively (Figures 12 and 13). The percentage of those indicating satisfaction with work group's outcomes in 2011 was significantly more than what was observed in 2009, reflecting a positive trend related to work group projects.

The HANC survey also gauged the performance of HANC staff in facilitating the core mission of HANC and the work of the HANC work groups. The following are the percentage ratings by area of performance of HANC, not including those who did not respond to the question or responded not applicable (Figure 14):

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
HANC has facilitated cross-network communication and sharing of information/materials	0%	1%	12%	39%	48%
HANC has facilitated cross-network collaboration and/or harmonization of policies and procedures	1%	2%	16%	40%	41%
HANC has facilitated network communication with DAIDS representatives	1%	4%	22%	38%	35%
HANC has facilitated trans-NIH institutes/centers communication	2%	4%	31%	35%	28%

The highest performance ratings were for HANC's efforts to facilitate cross-network communication and sharing of information and materials; 87% agree or strongly agree (versus 65% and 53% in the 2010 and 2009 surveys, respectively). Rating HANC's efforts to facilitate network's communication with DAIDS representatives, 73% agree or strongly agree (versus 48% and 39% in the 2010 and 2009 surveys, respectively). Cross-network collaboration and/or harmonization of policies and procedures facilitation were rated 81% agree or strongly agree (versus 51% and 36.3% in the 2010 and 2009 surveys, respectively). Rating HANC's facilitation of trans-NIH institutes/center communication, 63% agree or strongly agree (versus 32% and 24.5% in the 2010 and 2009 surveys, respectively). Across the board, HANC's performance ratings in meeting its core mission areas increased in this year's survey compared to last two years (Figure 15). Of note, significantly higher mean ratings of HANC performance for all four areas were observed in 2011 in comparison to ratings in 2009. HANC will continue to explore ways to improve trans-NIH institute/centers communication as this remains the domain that has the lowest ratings despite some improvement.

We evaluated HANC's performance ratings based on whether a person was affiliated with one or multiple networks and no significant differences were noted (Figures 16). HANC performance on core mission areas by work group is consistent across the work groups (Figure 17). Members of HANC facilitated work groups consistently gave higher performance ratings than non-work groups collaborators (Figure 18). People who indicated they had knowledge of HANC activities outside of their work groups rated HANC's performance higher in our core mission areas (Figure 19).

We asked people to rate HANC's performance related to facilitation and logistics of the HANC work group calls (Figure 20). All domains queried received ratings between 4 (good) and 5 (very good), on a 5 point scale, for all the work groups (Figure 21). Overall, members of HANC work groups rated HANC's facilitation of work group calls between 4.46 and 4.68 in the various domains, exhibiting a consistent level of high performance seen in past surveys (Figure 22).

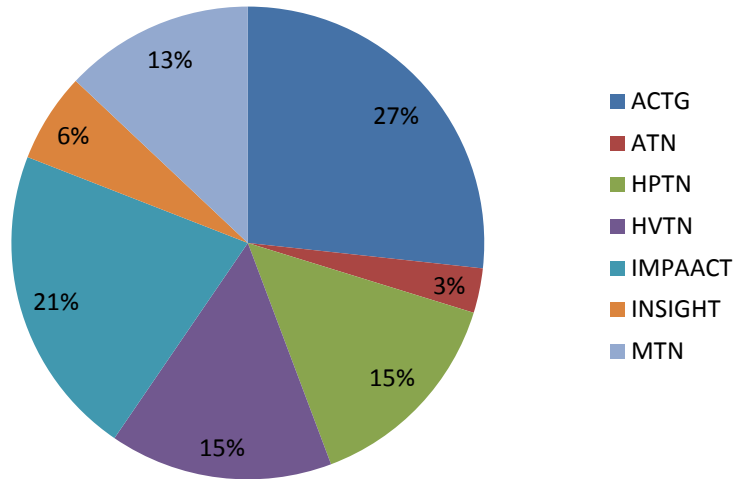
This year in the survey we solicited feedback from people attending HANC facilitated meetings. A third of the respondents attended a HANC-coordinated meeting in the past year (Figure 23). These meeting included the Community Partners, Legacy, Behavioral Sciences, HIV Risk Reduction Counseling and Training (HRCT) and Protocol Costing Projects (Figure 24). The overall quality ratings for reports, follow-up, content, speakers and agenda development were between 4.23 and 4.61 (Figure 25) on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good). Likewise satisfaction with meeting logistics, coordination and accommodations were rated well, between 4.23 and 4.75 on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good) (Figure 26).

The majority of respondents (67%) found the new HANC public website to be a useful source of resources and information (Figure 27). Likewise 56% of respondents found the HANC password protected user portal to be a useful collaborative tool (Figure 28). Not including those who responded unsure, the percentage of those who responded that the HANC portal is a useful collaborative tool is similar to 2010 and significantly higher than 2009 (Figure 29).

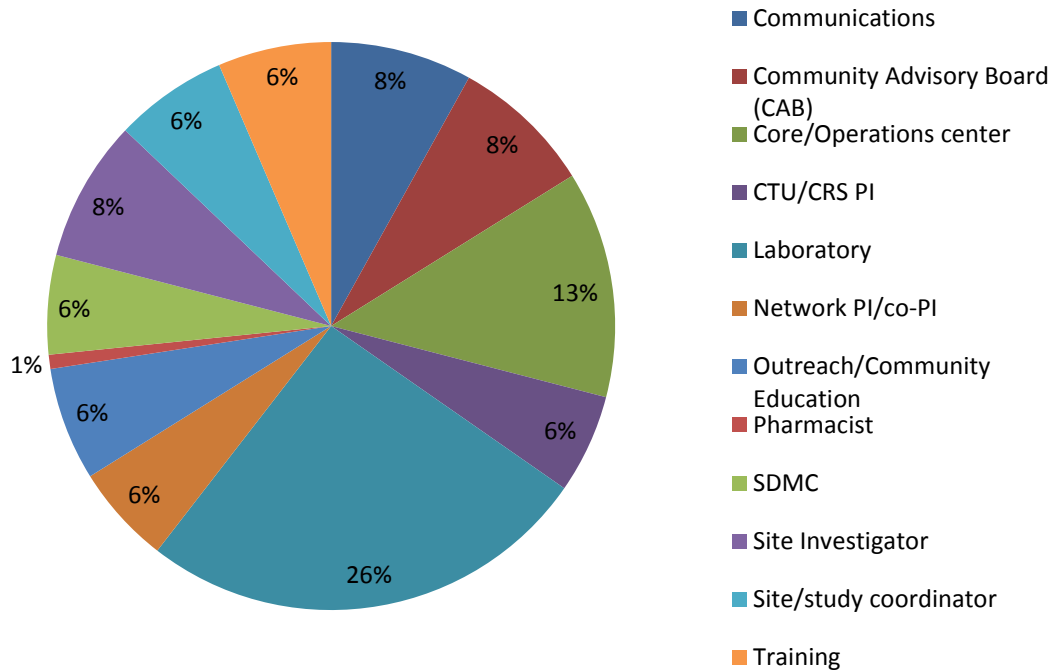
In summary, about a third of HANC's collaborators responded to this detailed survey, providing HANC with informative feedback. Respondents represented the diverse collaborators that work with HANC. Collaborators again indicated that they would like to learn more about HANC's coordination efforts in areas outside of the work group that they participate in, and they preferred a variety of communications methods to learn about HANC's other activities. Assessments of HANC's effort to facilitate cross-network communication, collaboration and harmonization of policies and procedures improved from prior surveys in 2009 and 2010. However, we will continue to emphasize improvement in facilitation of trans-NIH institute/center communication as that still ranks the lowest. HANC collaborators stated that they could better achieve their work group objectives if there were more opportunities for face-to-face meetings. HANC will continue to secure support for face-to-face meetings where appropriate. Overall, HANC staff received very good ratings for their performance in their facilitation of work group calls and face-to-face meetings, as well as good ratings in the added value of HANC work group projects. People appreciated the resources on the upgraded HANC public website and report the HANC portal to be a useful collaborative tool.

## Respondents to the HANC Collaborators Survey

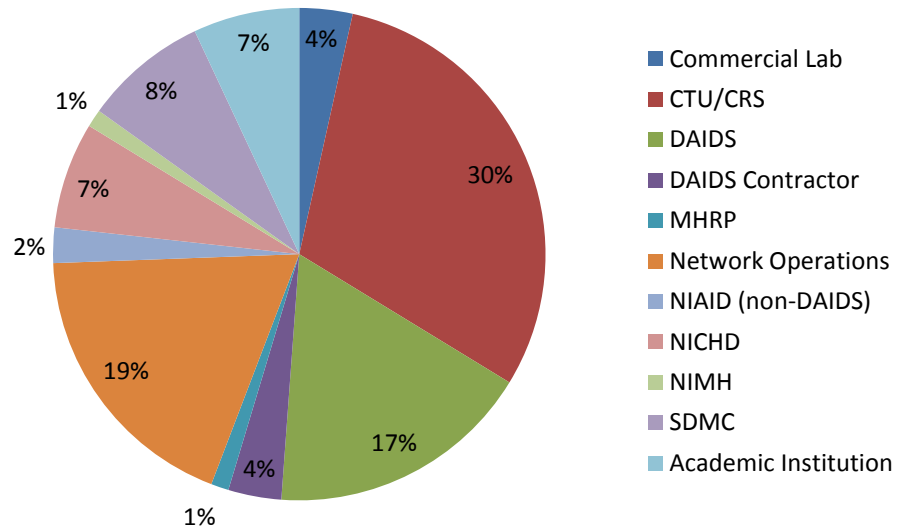
### Figure 1: Primary Network Affiliation



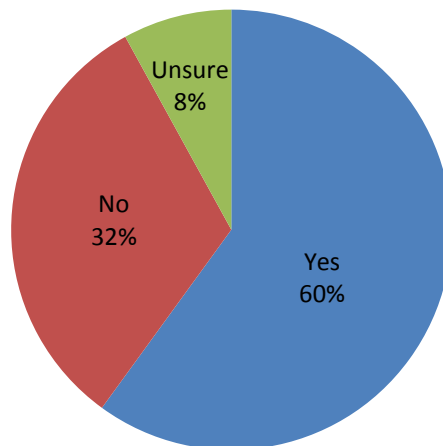
### Figure 2: Role of Respondents



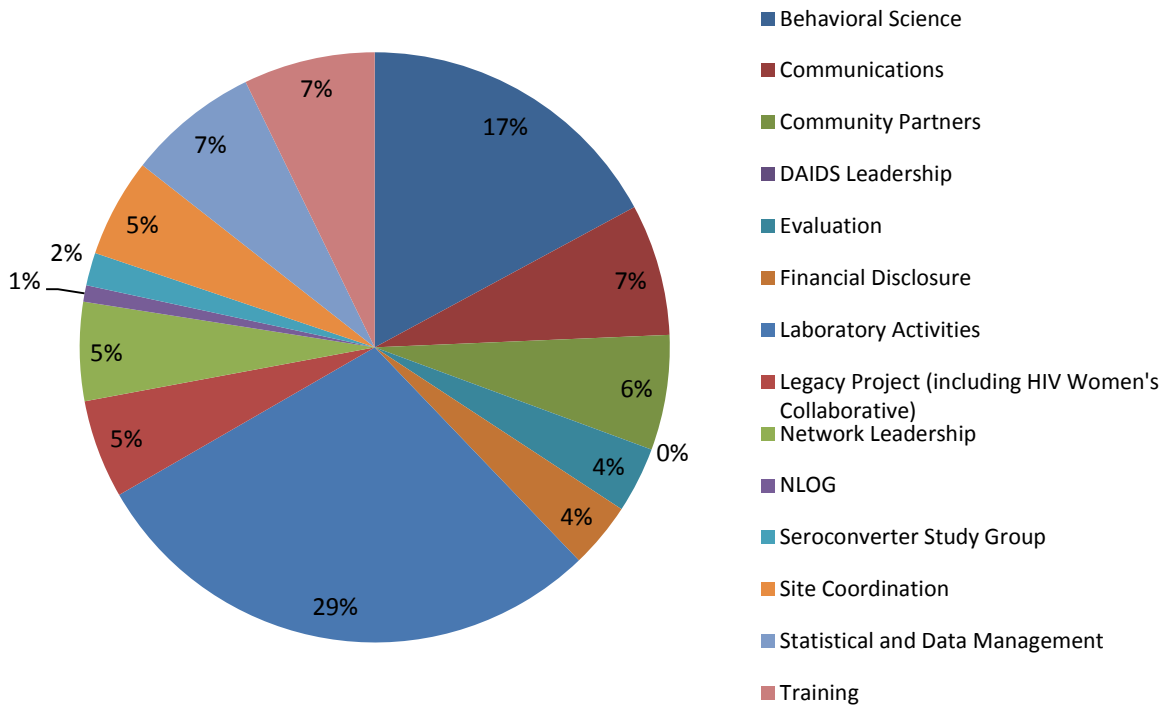
**Figure 3: Primary Organizational Affiliation**



**Figure 4: Are you a member of a working group or committee coordinated by a HANC staff member?**

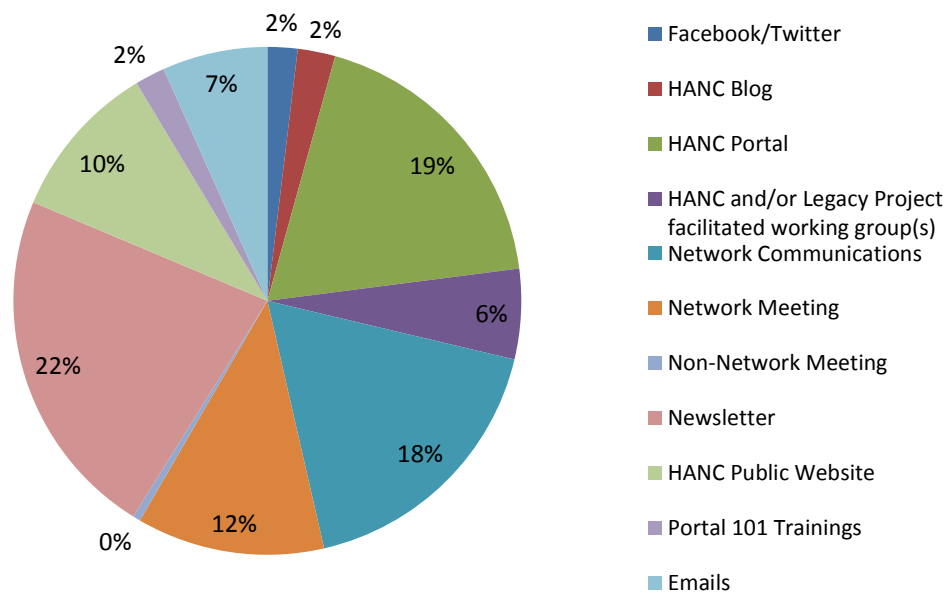


**Figure 5: Area of HANC-Facilitated Activity**

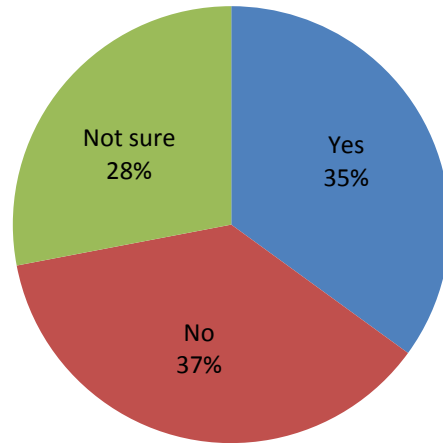


**Social Networking/Connections and Communications**

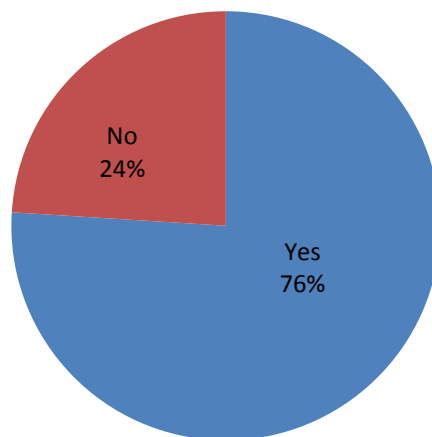
**Figure 6: How do you prefer to receive information about HANC activities?**



**Figure 7: Do you feel you know enough about HANC activities taking place outside of your working group projects?**

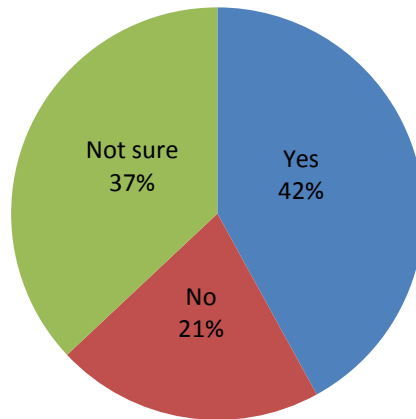


**Figure 8: Would you like to learn more at network meetings about HANC and/or cross-network activities?**

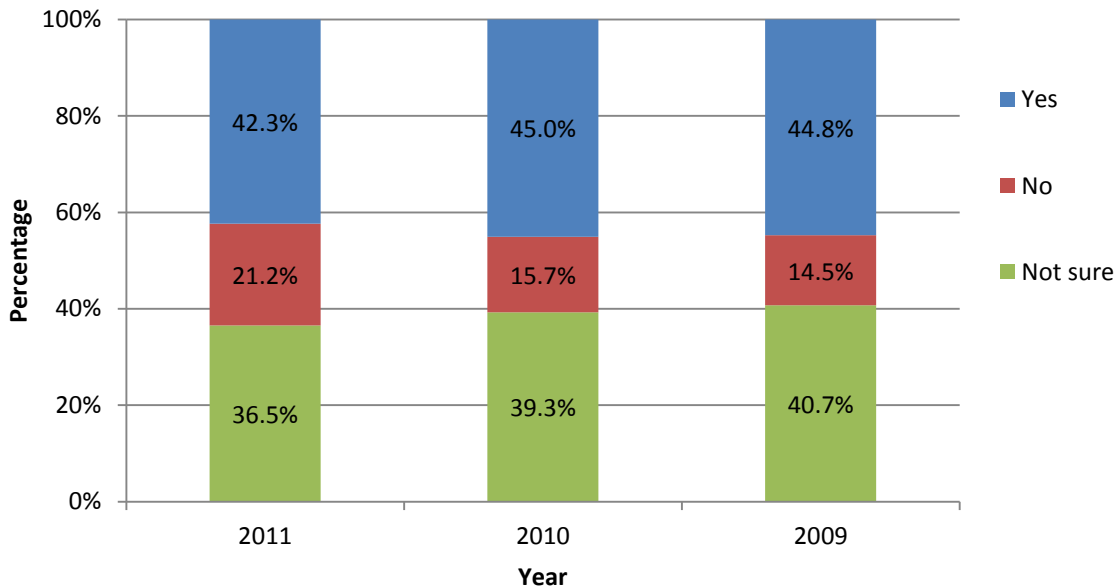




**Figure 9: Would you be able to achieve your working group objectives more effectively if you had the opportunity for face-to-face meetings?**



**Figure 10: Achieve Working Group Objectives More Effectively with Face-to-Face Meetings, 2009-2011**

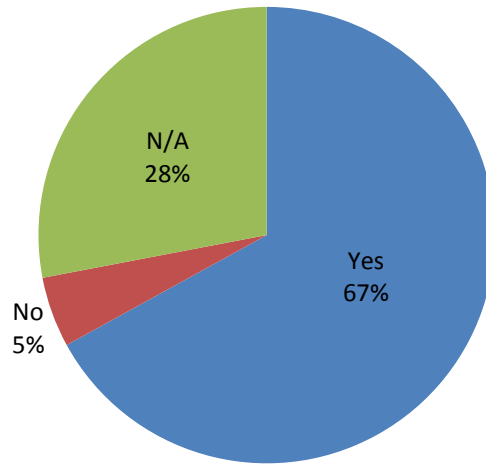


## Added Value of HANC Work Group Projects

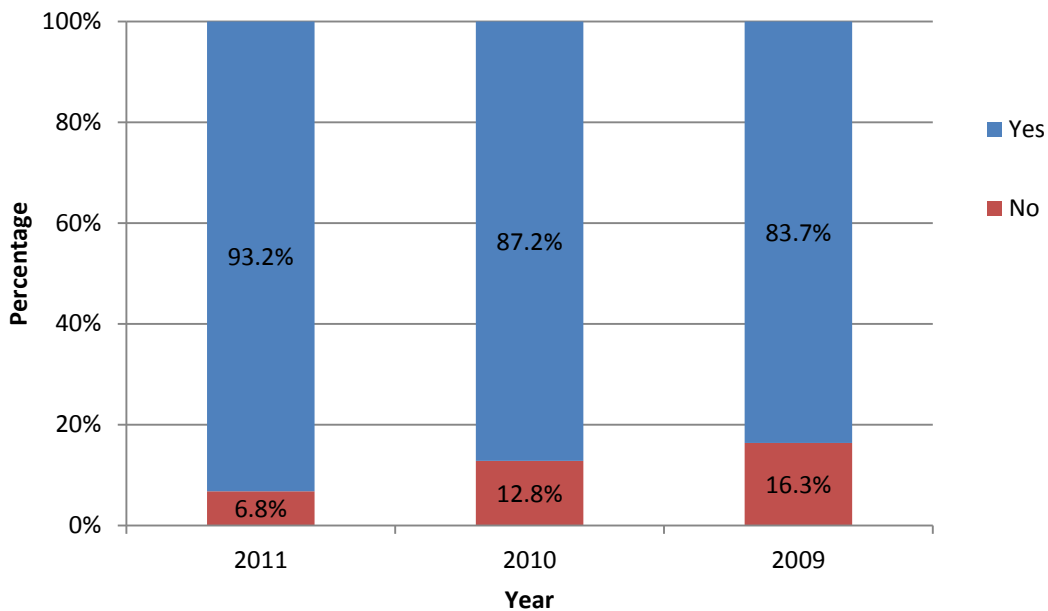
**Figure 11: Ratings of Added Value on Projects and Resources in Supporting the Science and/or Operations of the HIV/AIDS Research Enterprise**



**Figure 12: Are you satisfied with the outcomes of the projects that your HANC-facilitated working group(s) have completed?**



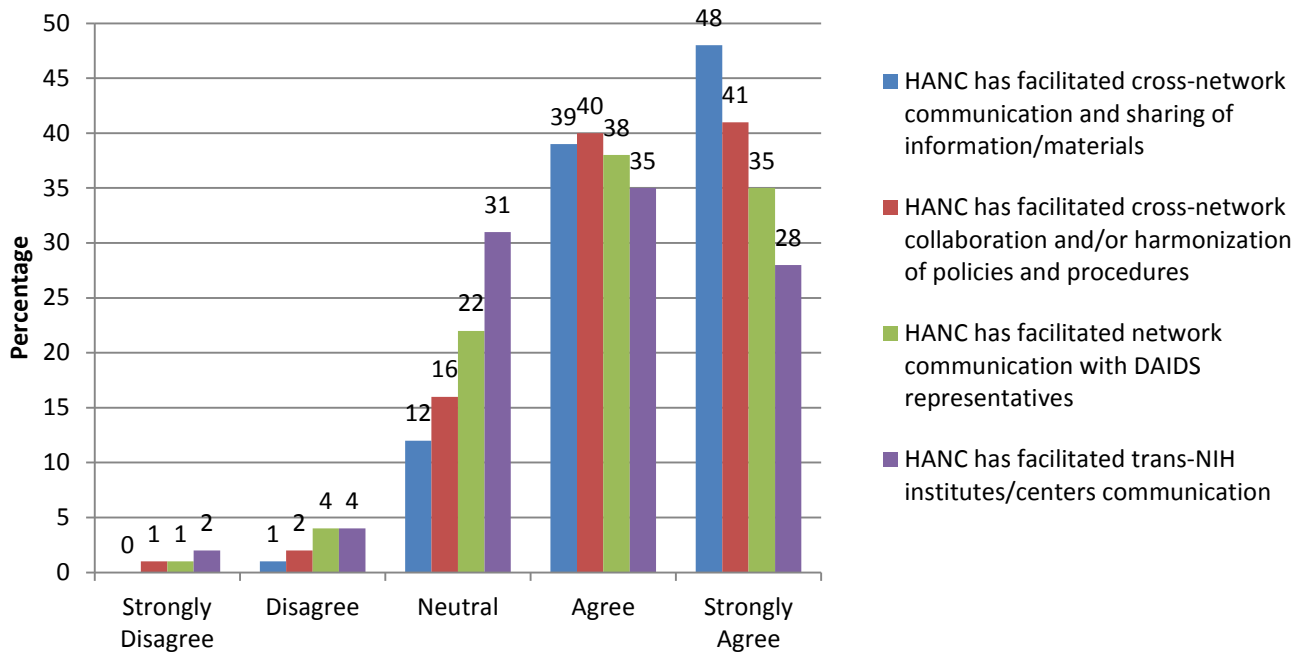
**Figure 13: Satisfaction with Outcomes of HANC-Facilitated Working Group Projects, 2009-2011**



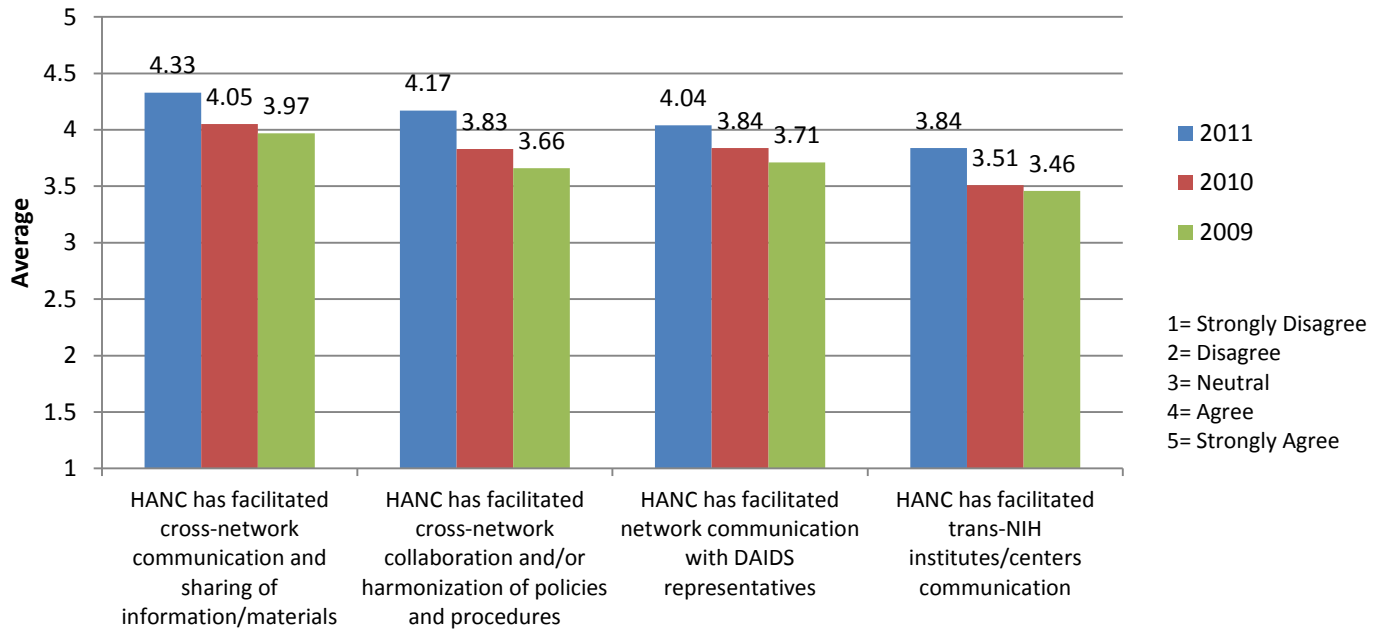
\*Percent indicating "Yes" in 2011 was significantly higher than 2009, at  $p < 0.01$  level.

## HANC Performance on Core Mission Areas

**Figure 14: HANC Performance Ratings by Percentage**

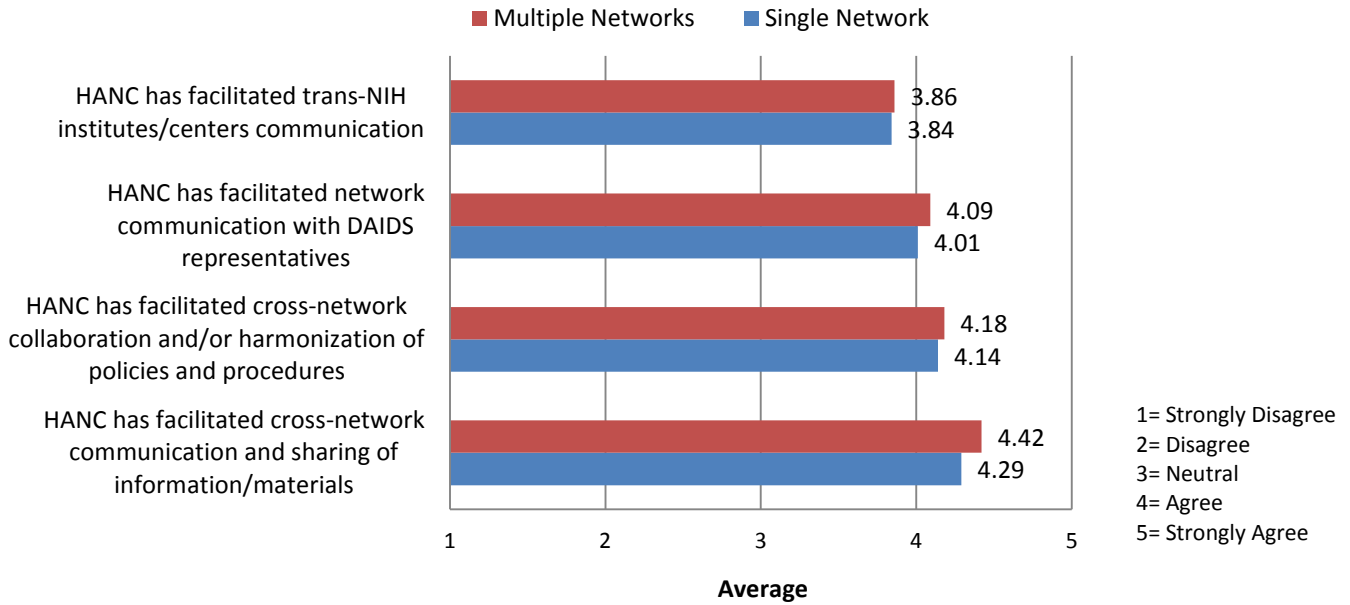


**Figure 15: HANC Performance Ratings, 2009-2011**

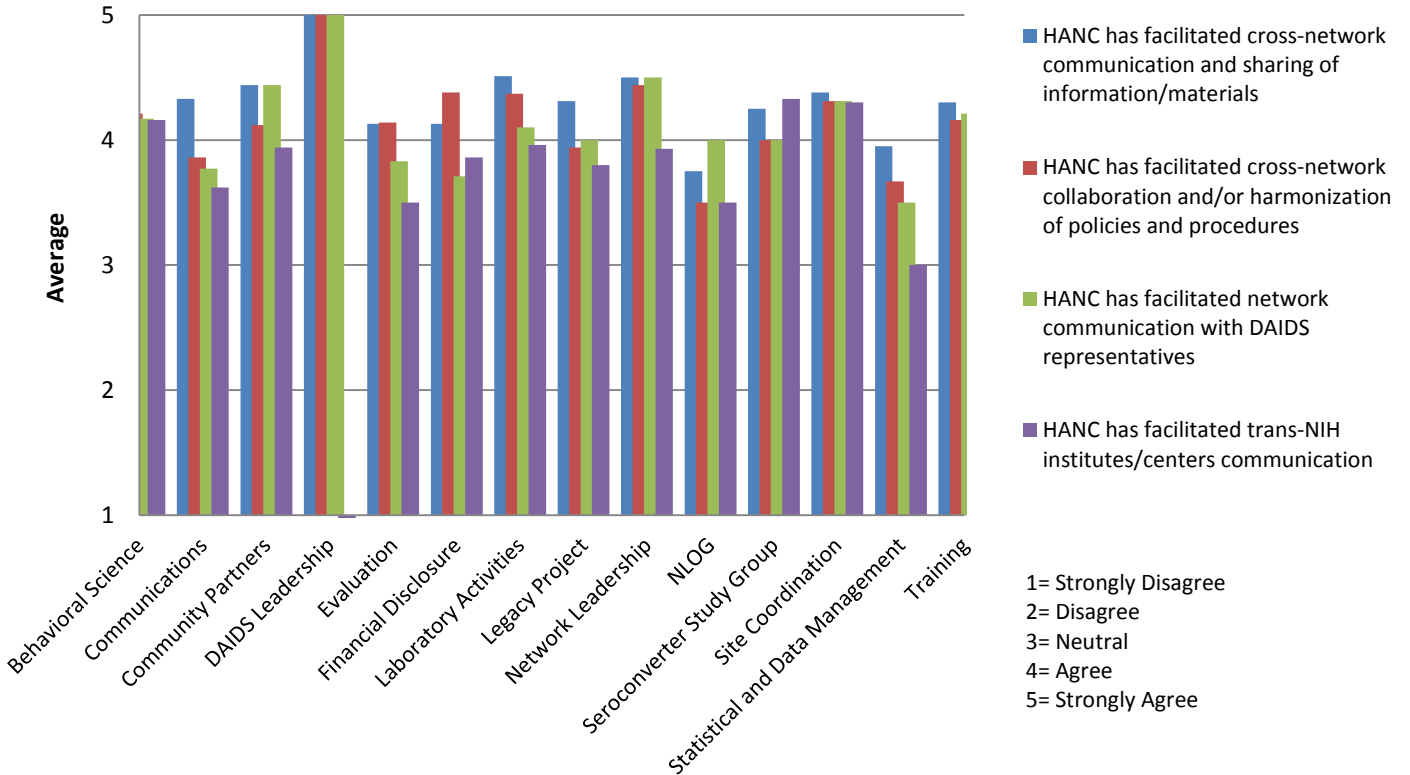


\*For all 4 domains, mean ratings in 2011 were significantly higher than 2009, at  $p < 0.01$  level.

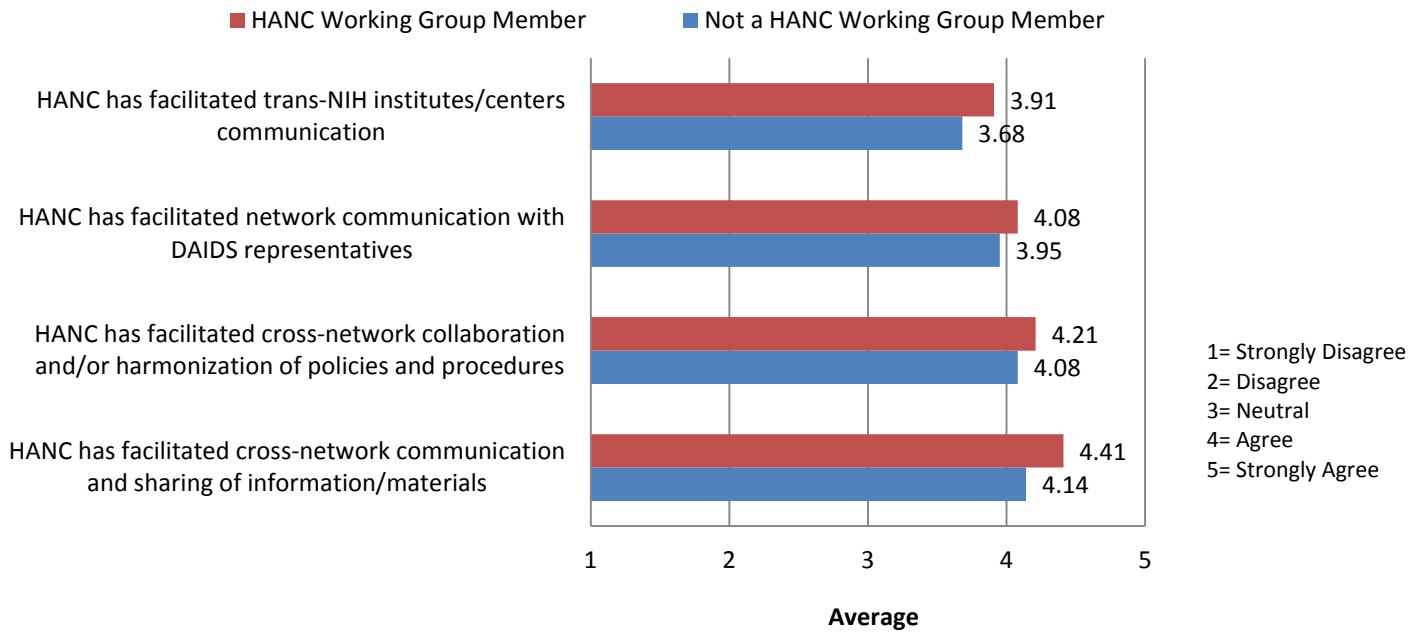
**Figure 16: HANC Performance by Network Affiliation**



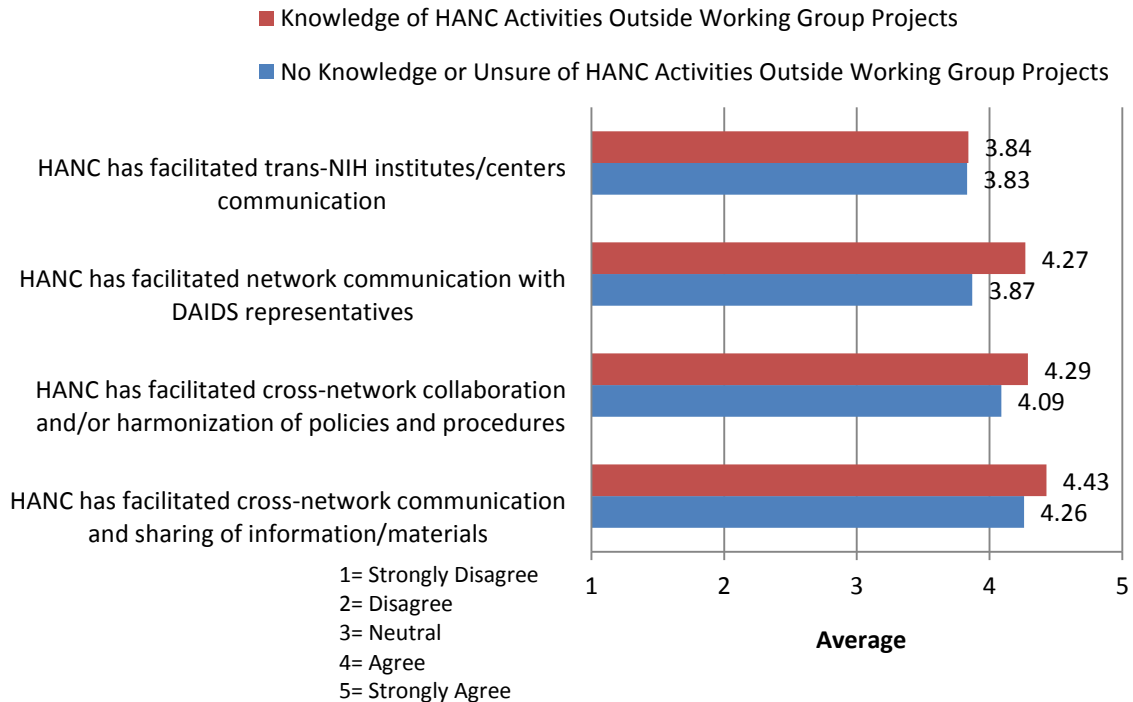
**Figure 17: HANC Performance by Area of HANC-Facilitated Activity**



**Figure 18: HANC Performance by Working Group Membership**

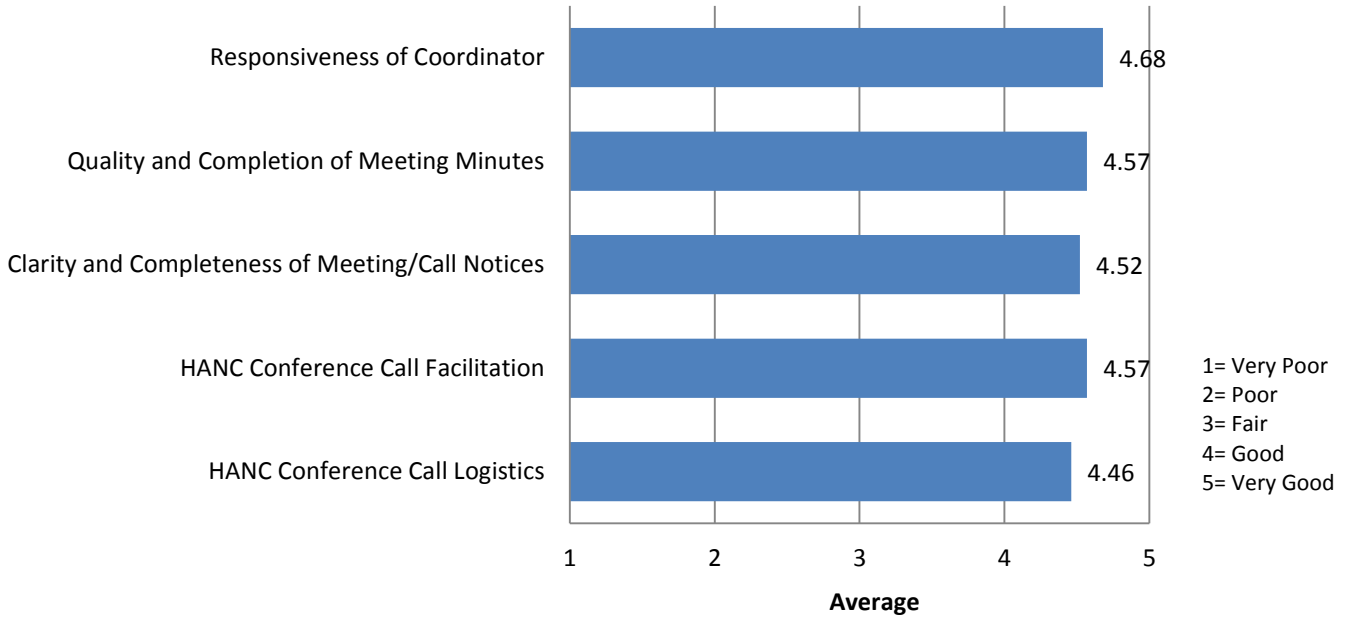


**Figure 19: HANC Performance by Knowledge of HANC Activities Outside Working Group Projects**

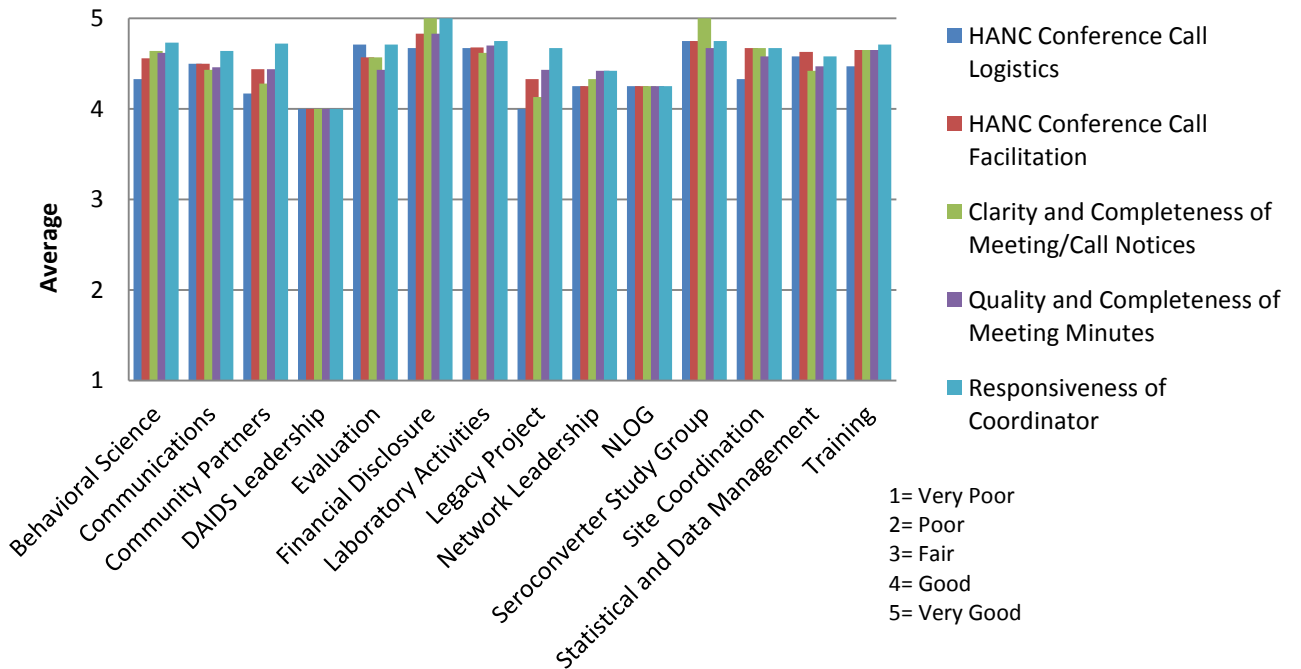


## HANC Facilitated Call Performance

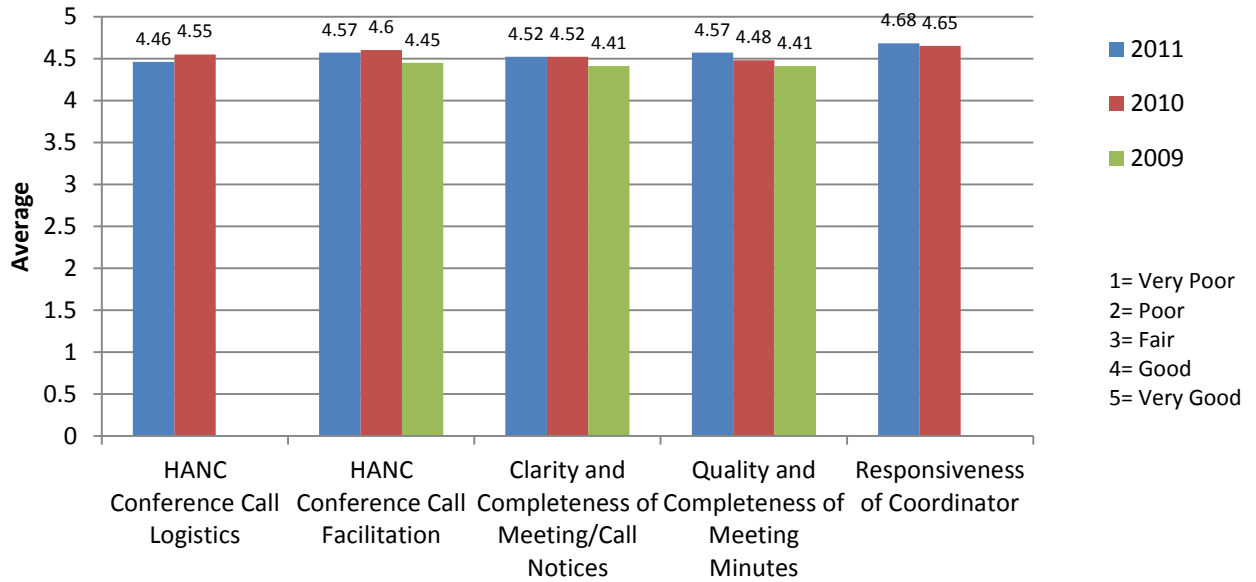
**Figure 20: HANC Conference Call Logistics and Facilitation**



**Figure 21: HANC Performance on Calls by Area of HANC-Facilitated Activity**

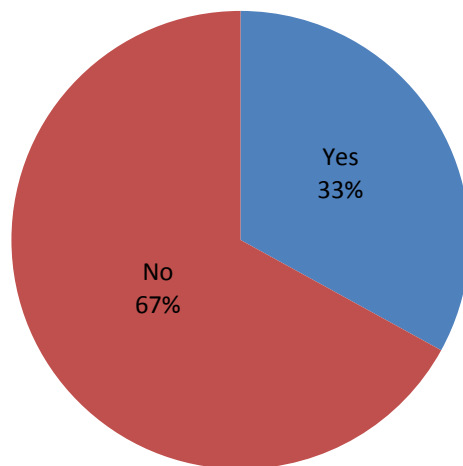


**Figure 22: HANC Performance Ratings on Calls, 2009-2011**



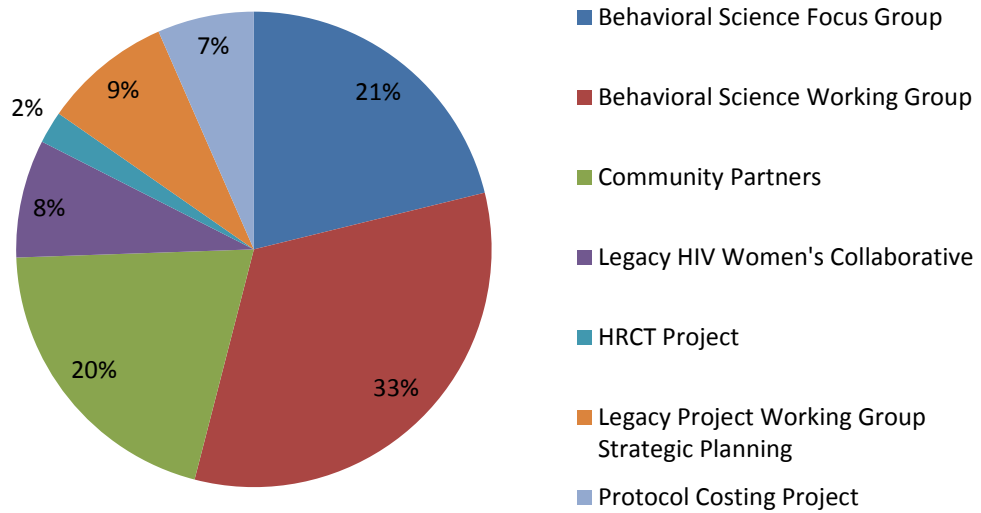
**HANC Facilitated Meeting Attendance and Performance**

**Figure 23: Have you attended a HANC meeting within the last year?**

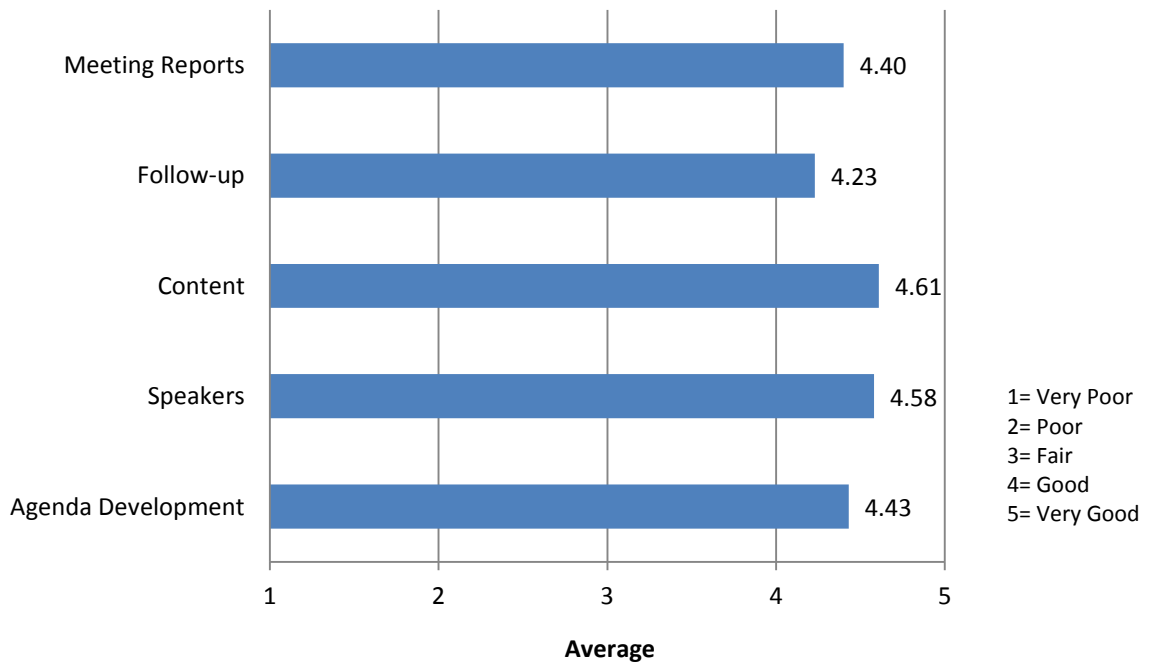




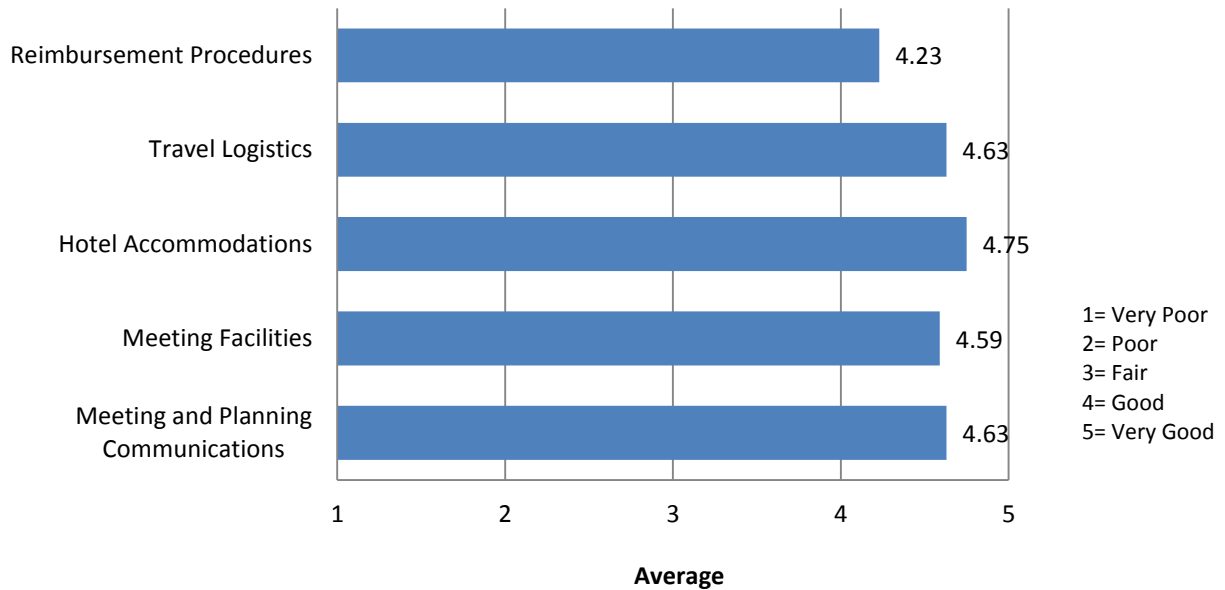
**Figure 24: HANC Face-to-Face Meeting Attendance**



**Figure 25: Overall Quality of HANC Meetings Attended**

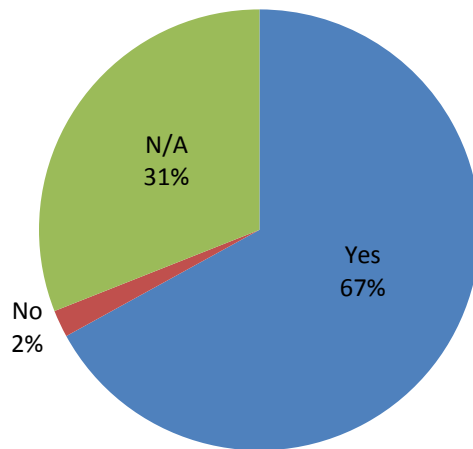


**Figure 26: Satisfaction with HANC Meeting Logistics, Communications and Accommodations**

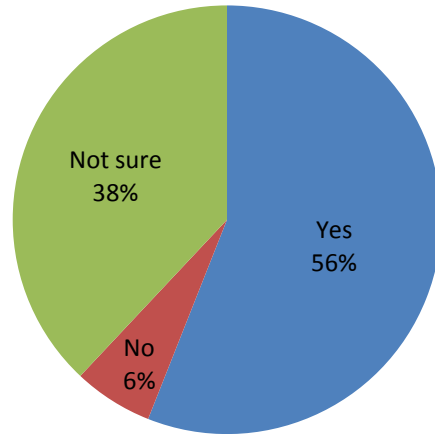


**HANC Website and Portal Usage**

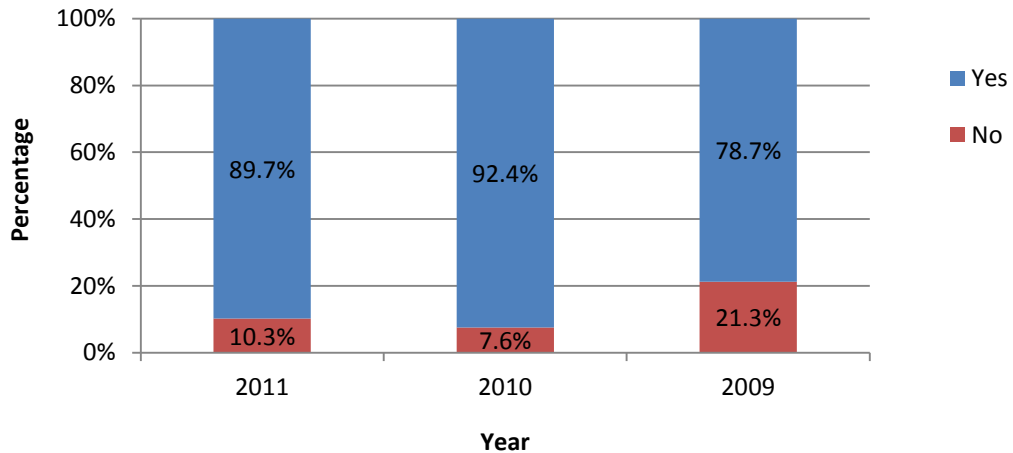
**Figure 27: If you have visited the HANC public website, did you find the resources and information there to be useful?**



**Figure 28: In general, do you think the HANC password protected portal is a useful collaborative tool?**



**Figure 29: HANC Password Protected Portal as a Useful Collaborative Tool, 2009-2011**



\*Percent indicating "Yes" in 2011 and 2010 were significantly higher than 2009, at  $p < 0.01$  level.

## Acknowledgments

Thanks to all of the HANC collaborators who took the time to respond to this survey and thanks to Concept Systems, Inc. for their assistance with the data analysis and chart preparation.