HANC Collaborator Survey: 2012

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Introduction

For the last four 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. In 2011 and 2012, we had over 300 respondents from about 1,100 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, in order to achieve a more efficient research enterprise. The following is an executive summary of the 2012 survey and the detailed results. Using data from this year’s survey, we were able to trend HANC performance over the past four 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 of information to HANC collaborators about HANC, on a regular basis through a variety of media. Lastly, as HANC has conducted more face-to-face meetings over the past two years, 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 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, which was designed to gather data concerning HANC’s cross-network coordination and collaboration activities, and the performance of the HANC staff and utility of the HANC portal to facilitate those activities. This year’s survey was shortened overall; however, new questions were added about the Legacy Project and about the frequency of usage of the HANC public website and HANC portal. Also, we are now able to make additional longitudinal comparisons of HANC performance using responses from several domains for which we have collected data for multiple years. A broad spectrum of members from HANC work groups and other collaborators responded to the survey. Respondents identified their primary network affiliation as ACTG 25%, IMPAACT 21%, HPTN 18%, HVTN 13%, MTN 12%, INSIGHT 7%, and ATN 4% (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): 52% 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). (Note: for all questions for which multiple responses were possible, percentages are based on the total number of responses.)

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 38% of the respondents indicated they knew enough about HANC activities taking place outside of their work group (Figure 7); and 67% 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 (41%) indicated they could accomplish their work group objectives more effectively if they had the opportunity for face-to-face meetings (Figures 9 and 10).

Beginning in 2011, new questions were included 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 projects were rated between 3 (medium) and 4 (high) on average (Figure 11). Satisfaction with the outcomes of work group projects was high at 70%, and only 7% responded negatively (Figures 12)). The percentage of those indicating satisfaction with work group’s outcomes in 2012 was higher than 2009 and 2010, reflecting a positive trend related to work group projects over the past 2 years (Figure 13).

This year we asked respondents about their participation in Legacy Project activities, and those that responded indicated they most frequently participated in the Women’s HIV Research
Collaborative (26%), followed by the Be The Generation Bridge (21%) and Creating Art Through Awareness (21%) activities (Figure 14).

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 15):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated cross-network communication and sharing of information/materials</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated cross-network collaboration and/or harmonization of policies and procedures</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated network communication with DAIDS representatives</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated trans-NIH institutes/centers communication</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The highest performance ratings were for HANC’s efforts to facilitate cross-network communication and sharing of information and materials; 87% responded agree or strongly agree in both 2012 and 2011 (versus 65% and 53% in the 2010 and 2009 surveys, respectively). Cross-network collaboration and/or harmonization of policies and procedures facilitation were rated 83% agree or strongly agree (versus 81%, 51%, and 36.3% in the 2011, 2010, and 2009 surveys, respectively). Ratings for HANC’s efforts to facilitate network’s communication with DAIDS representatives were 69% agree or strongly agree (versus 73%, 48%, and 39% in the 2011, 2010, and 2009 surveys, respectively). Finally, ratings for HANC’s facilitation of trans-NIH institutes/center communication were 59% agree or strongly agree (versus 63%, 32%, and 24.5% in the 2011, 2010, and 2009 surveys, respectively). Across the board, this year HANC’s performance ratings in meeting its core mission areas were similar to last year’s, and an increase in ratings compared to 2010 and 2009 (Figure 16). Of note, significantly higher mean ratings of HANC performance for all four areas were observed in 2012 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 (Figure 17). HANC performance on core mission areas by work group was generally consistent across the work groups, although the Seroconverter Study Group had the lowest ratings (Figure 18). Members of HANC-facilitated work groups consistently gave higher performance ratings than non-work groups collaborators...
People who indicated they had knowledge of HANC activities outside of their work groups rated HANC’s performance at a statistically significant higher level in three of the four core mission areas than people with no knowledge of HANC activities outside their work groups (Figure 20).

We asked members of HANC-facilitated work groups to rate HANC’s performance related to facilitation and logistics of the HANC work group calls (Figure 21). All domains queried received ratings between 4 (good) and 5 (very good), on a 5 point scale, for all the work groups (Figure 22). Overall, this year members of HANC work groups rated HANC’s facilitation of work group calls between 4.49 and 4.62 in the various domains, exhibiting a consistent level of high performance seen in past surveys (Figure 23).

Beginning in 2011, we solicited feedback from people attending HANC facilitated meetings. A third of the respondents indicated that they have attended a HANC-coordinated meeting in the past year (Figure 24). These meetings included the Behavioral Sciences Working Group, Community Partners, Legacy HIV Women’s Collaborative, Legacy Project Working Group, and Youth Prevention Research Working Group (Figure 25). The overall quality ratings for meeting reports, follow-up, content, speakers, and agenda development were between 4.30 and 4.55 (Figure 26) on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good). Likewise, satisfaction with HANC meeting logistics, coordination, and accommodations were rated well, between 4.59 and 4.82 on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good) (Figure 27).

The majority of respondents (75%) found the HANC public website to be a useful source of resources and information (Figure 28). Further, the majority of respondents (60%) access the HANC public website on a daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly basis (Figure 29). Meanwhile 44% of respondents access the HANC password protected portal on a daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly basis (Figure 30). This year, 51% of respondents found the HANC password protected user portal to be a useful collaborative tool (Figure 31). Not including those who responded unsure, the percentage of those who responded that the HANC portal is a useful collaborative tool in 2012 was similar to responses in 2011 and 2010, and significantly higher than responses in 2009 (Figure 32).

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. Assessment of HANC’s performance in meeting its core mission areas was similar to last year, and improved from 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 reported the HANC portal to be a useful collaborative tool.
Respondents to the HANC Collaborators Survey

Figure 1: Primary Network Affiliation

- ACTG: 25%
- ATN: 4%
- HPTN: 18%
- HVTN: 12%
- IMPAACT: 7%
- INSIGHT: 11%
- MTN: 6%

Figure 2: Role of Respondents

- Communications: 18%
- Community Advisory Board (CAB): 12%
- Core/Operations center: 10%
- CTU/CRS PI: 9%
- Laboratory: 8%
- Network PI/co-PI: 6%
- Outreach/Community Education: 5%
- Pharmacist: 5%
- SDMC: 4%
- Site Investigator: 4%
- Site/study coordinator: 11%
- Training: 11%
Figure 3: Primary Organizational Affiliation

Figure 4: Are you a member of a group coordinated by HANC staff (including the Legacy Project)?
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 your HANC activities taking place outside of your working group projects?

- Yes: 38%
- No: 38%
- Unsure: 24%

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

- Yes: 67%
- No: 33%
Figure 9: Would you be able to achieve your working group objectives more effectively if you had the opportunity for face-to-face meetings?

![Pie chart showing the distribution of responses: 41% Yes, 20% No, 39% Unsure.]

Figure 10: Achieve Working Group Objectives More Effectively with Face-to-Face Meetings, 2009-2012

![Bar chart showing the percentage of respondents achieving objectives more effectively with face-to-face meetings from 2009 to 2012. The chart indicates a slight decrease in the percentage of respondents who feel face-to-face meetings are effective in achieving objectives, with 44.8% in 2009, 45.0% in 2010, 42.3% in 2011, and 41.2% in 2012.]

- Year 2009: 44.8% Yes, 14.5% No, 40.7% Unsure
- Year 2010: 45.0% Yes, 15.7% No, 39.3% Unsure
- Year 2011: 42.3% Yes, 21.2% No, 36.5% Unsure
- Year 2012: 41.2% Yes, 19.9% No, 38.9% Unsure

**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**

![Bar chart showing ratings of added value on projects and resources.]

1. Training Courses Library on the HANC website: 3.59
2. Clinical Research Site Map on the HANC website: 3.41
3. VQA Resources/Ordering System: 3.33
4. Cross-Network PBMC Processing SOP: 3.66
5. Lab Certificate Library: 3.61
6. ACTG/IMPAACT Laboratory Information: 3.75
7. Legacy Project Conference Presentations/Participation: 3.26
8. Legacy Women's HIV Research Collaborative Webinars: 3.21
9. Financial Disclosure Reporting Harmonization: 3.46
10. Community Training Resources: 3.48
11. Communications Media List: 3.10
12. Behavioral Science Interest Group Webinars: 3.23
13. Behavioral Science Interest Group Resource Center: 3.33
14. Behavioral Science Interest Group Weekly Digest: 3.31
15. HANC Portal/Team Sites: 3.53

1= Very Low  
2= Low  
3= Medium  
4= High  
5= Very High

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

- Yes: 70%  
- No: 7%  
- N/A: 23%
Figure 13: Satisfaction with Outcomes of HANC-Facilitated Working Group Projects, 2009-2012

*Percent indicating “Yes” in 2011 was significantly higher than 2009, at p < 0.01 level.

Legacy Project

Figure 14: In which Legacy Project activities do you participate?

* Percent indicating “Yes” in 2011 was significantly higher than 2009, at p < 0.01 level.
HANC Performance on Core Mission Areas

**Figure 15: HANC Performance Ratings by Percentage**

- HANC has facilitated cross-network communication and sharing of information/materials
- HANC has facilitated cross-network collaboration and/or harmonization of policies and procedures
- HANC has facilitated network communication with DAIDS representatives
- HANC has facilitated trans-NIH institutes/centers communication

**Figure 16: HANC Performance Ratings, 2009-2012**

- 2012 $n = 218$
- 2011 $n = 199$
- 2010 $n = 171$
- 2009 $n = 130$

*For all 4 domains, mean ratings in 2012 and 2011 were significantly higher than 2009, at $p < 0.01$ level.*
Figure 17: HANC Performance by Network Affiliation

- HANC has facilitated trans-NIH institutes/centers communication
- HANC has facilitated network communication with DAIDS representatives
- HANC has facilitated cross-network collaboration and/or harmonization of policies...
- HANC has facilitated cross-network communication and sharing of...

Average

1= Strongly Disagree
2= Disagree
3= Neutral
4= Agree
5= Strongly Agree

Figure 18: HANC Performance by Area of HANC-Facilitated Activity

- HANC has facilitated cross-network communication and sharing of information/materials
- HANC has facilitated cross-network collaboration and/or harmonization of policies and procedures
- HANC has facilitated network communication with DAIDS representatives
- HANC has facilitated trans-NIH institutes/centers communication

Average

1= Strongly Disagree
2= Disagree
3= Neutral
4= Agree
5= Strongly Agree
**Figure 19: HANC Performance by Working Group Membership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Average for HANC Working Group Members</th>
<th>Average for Not a HANC Working Group Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated trans-NIH institutes/centers communication</td>
<td>3.76</td>
<td>3.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated network communication with DAIDS representatives</td>
<td>4.03</td>
<td>3.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated cross-network collaboration and/or harmonization of policies and procedures</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>4.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated cross-network communication and sharing of information/materials</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>4.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 20: HANC Performance by Knowledge of HANC Activities Outside Working Group Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Average for Knowledge of HANC Activities Outside Working Group Projects</th>
<th>Average for No Knowledge or Unsure of HANC Activities Outside Working Group Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated trans-NIH institutes/centers communication</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>3.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated network communication with DAIDS representatives</td>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>3.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated cross-network collaboration and/or harmonization of policies and procedures</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>4.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANC has facilitated cross-network communication and sharing of information/materials</td>
<td>4.43</td>
<td>4.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For the first 3 domains, mean ratings for those with knowledge of HANC activities is significantly higher than those without, at p < 0.01 level.
HANC Facilitated Call Performance

Figure 21: HANC Conference Call Logistics and Facilitation

- Responsiveness of coordinator: 4.62
- Quality and completion of meeting minutes: 4.53
- Clarity and completeness of meeting/call notices: 4.54
- HANC conference call facilitation: 4.54
- HANC conference call logistics: 4.49

Figure 22: HANC Performance on Calls by Area of HANC-Facilitated Activity
HANC Facilitated Meeting Attendance and Performance

Figure 23: HANC Performance Ratings on Calls, 2009-2012

*Data not collected on HANC conference call logistics and responsiveness of coordinator in 2009.

HANC Facilitated Meeting Attendance and Performance

Figure 24: Have you attended a HANC meeting within the last year?

Yes 29%
No 71%
Figure 25: HANC Face-to-Face Meeting Attendance

- Behavioral Science Working Group: 36%
- Community Partners: 21%
- Legacy HIV Women's Collaborative: 7%
- Legacy Project Working Group: 9%
- Youth Prevention Research Working Group: 8%
- Other: 19%

Figure 26: Overall Quality of HANC Meetings Attended

- Meeting reports: Average 4.37
- Follow-up: Average 4.30
- Content: Average 4.53
- Speakers: Average 4.55
- Agenda development: Average 4.51

1= Very Poor, 2= Poor, 3= Fair, 4= Good, 5= Very Good
Figure 27: Satisfaction with HANC Meeting Logistics, Communications, and Accommodations

- Reimbursement procedures: 4.59
- Travel logistics: 4.68
- Hotel accommodations: 4.82
- Meeting facilities: 4.78
- Meeting and planning communications: 4.64

Average ratings:
1= Very Poor
2= Poor
3= Fair
4= Good
5= Very Good

HANC Website and Portal Usage

Figure 28: If you have visited the HANC public website, did you find the resources and information useful?

- Yes: 75%
- No: 3%
- N/A: 22%
Figure 29: How frequently do you access the HANC public website?

Figure 30: On average, how frequently do you access the HANC password-protected portal?
Figure 31: In general, do you think the HANC password-protected portal a useful collaborative tool?

- Yes: 51%
- Not sure: 42%
- No: 7%

Figure 32: HANC Password Protected Portal as a Useful Collaborative Tool, 2009-2012

- 2009: 21.3% Yes, 78.7% No
- 2010: 7.6% Yes, 92.4% No
- 2011: 10.3% Yes, 89.7% No
- 2012: 11.6% Yes, 88.4% No

*Percent indicating “Yes” in 2012, 2011, and 2010 were significantly higher than 2009, at \( \rho < 0.01 \).
Acknowledgments

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