



Information needs assessment
CSOs working in NCDs in the
Caribbean: Preliminary findings

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UK Health Forum

The [UK Health Forum](#) is a charitable alliance of professional and public interest organisations working to reduce the risk of avoidable non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by developing evidence-based public health [policy](#) and supporting its implementation through advocacy, [modelling](#) and [information](#) provision.

What is an information need?

“the motivation people think and feel to seek information”¹

an information need is the awareness of an individual that they are experiencing an uncertainty which requires a ‘stimulus’, or piece of information in order to resolve that uncertainty, and also the individual must be equipped to recognise the existence of their uncertainty.²

1. Forsetlund L, Bjorndal A. The potential for research-based information in public health: identifying unrecognised information needs. BMC Public Health. 2001;1:1.
2. Cole C. Information need: a theory connecting information search to knowledge formation. New Jersey, USA: Information Today Inc.; 2012.

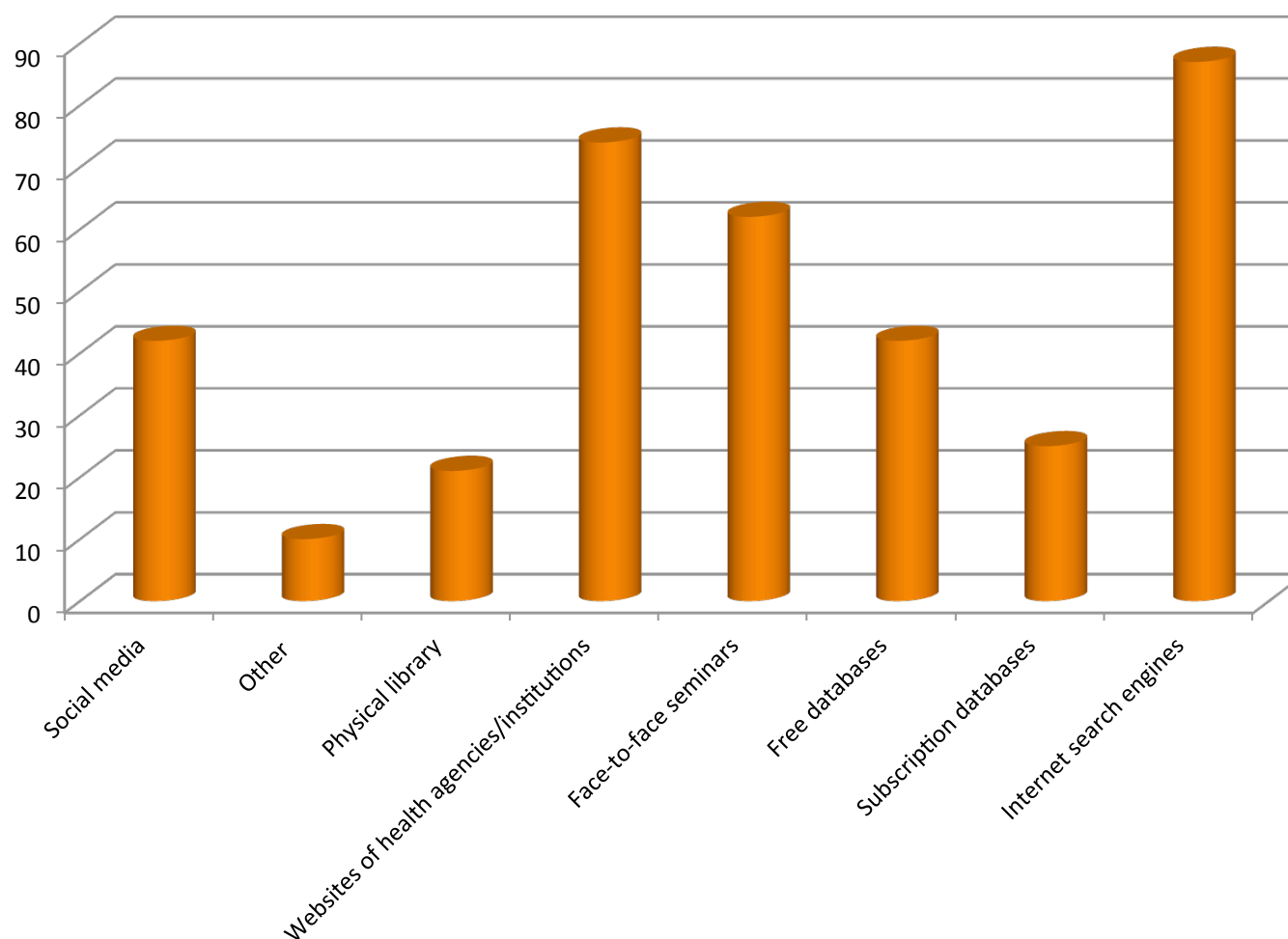
Benefits of INAs

- Prominence of best current evidence to support decision making
- Help to identify areas for development
- Support decision-making
- Justify spending on information provision

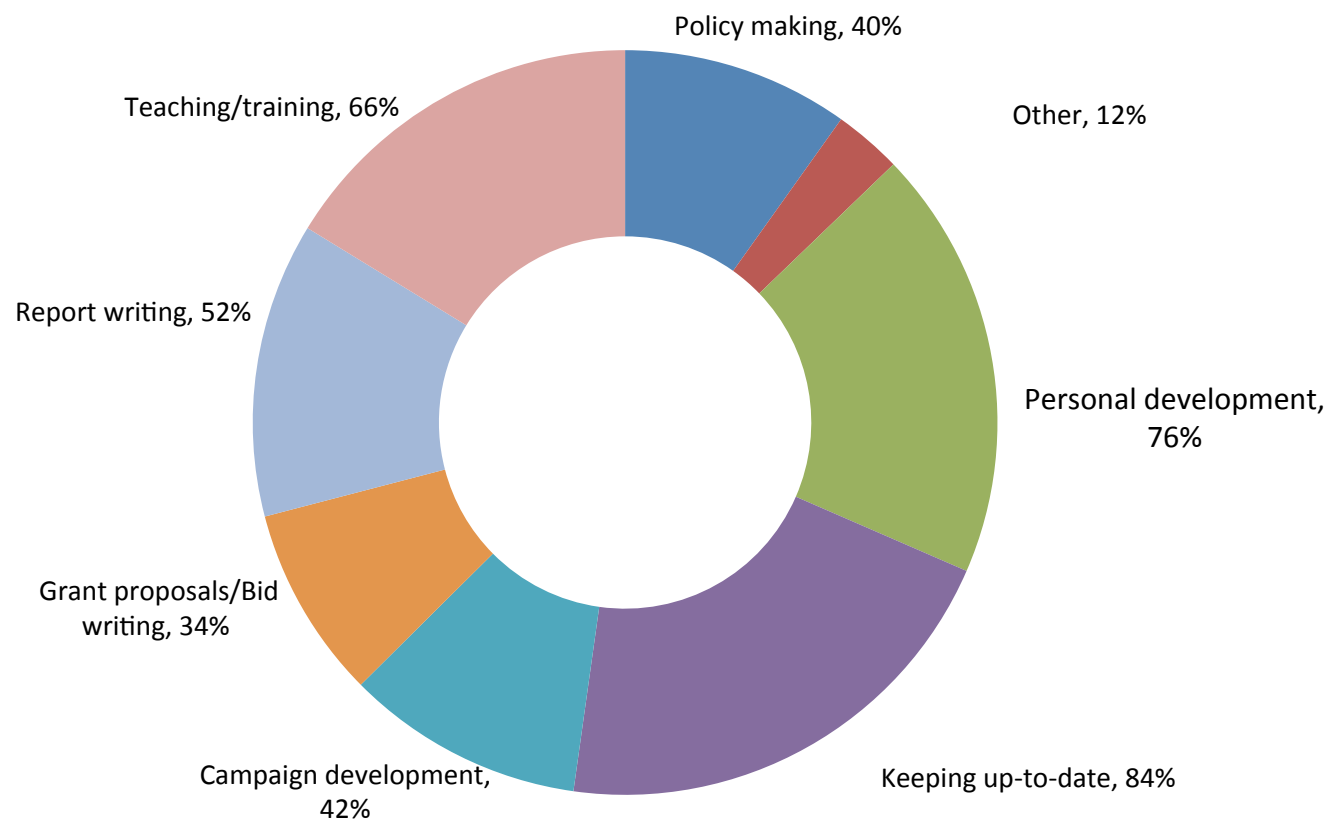
Aims of this INA

- Support public health ncd priorities of CSOs of the Caribbean
- Explore how evidence is used
- Explore any unique challenges that exist and any barriers to information
- Highlight opportunities and possible solutions

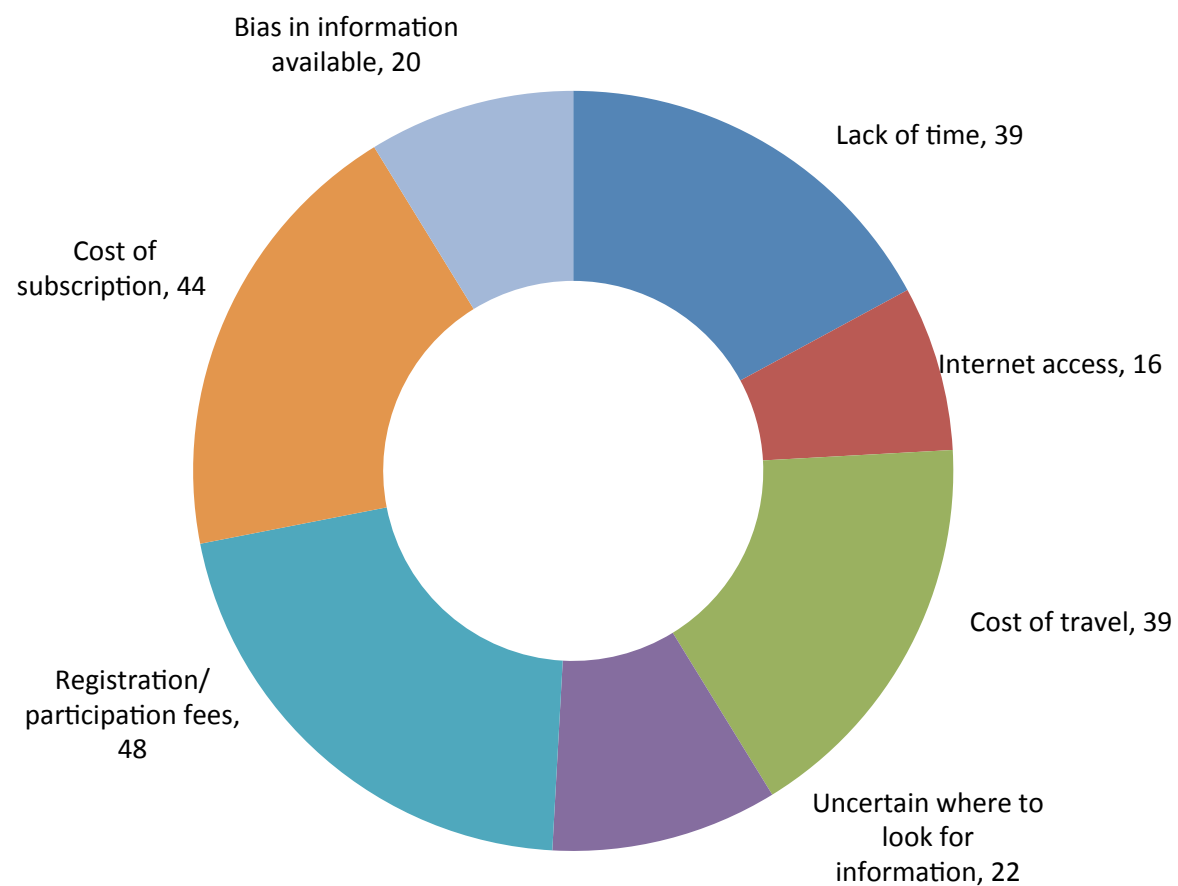
How do you access the information that you need?



What do you use that information for?

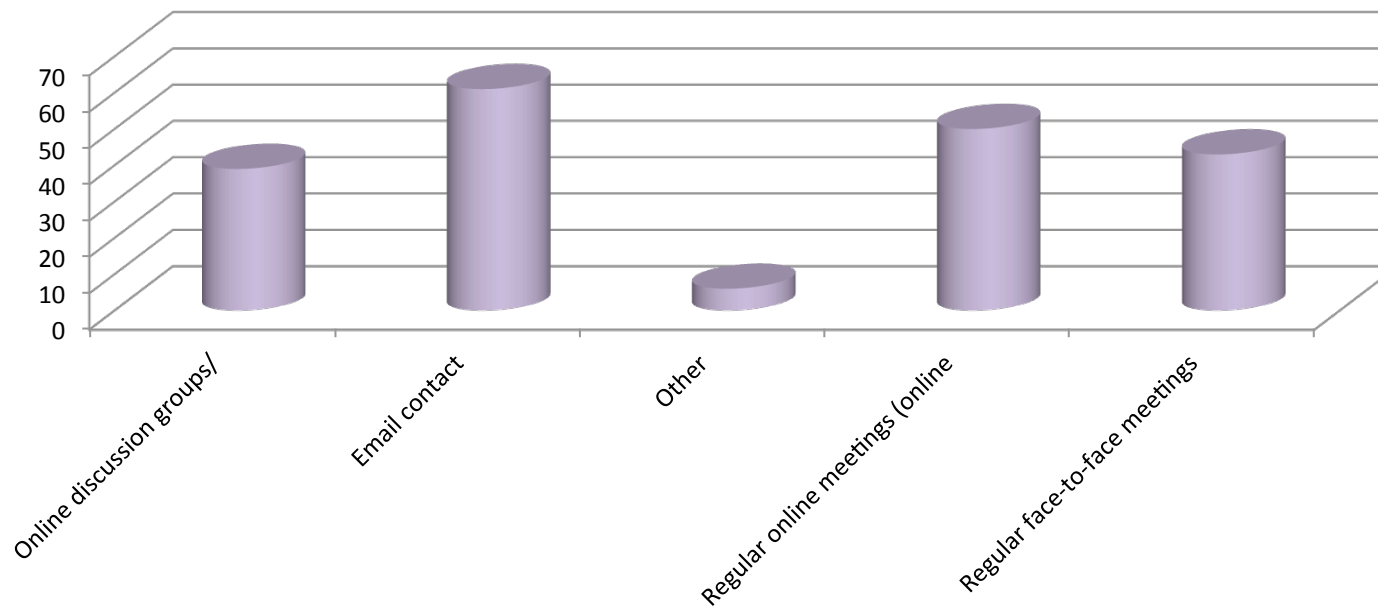


What barriers do you experience in accessing information?



- 87% access information from other countries to use in local setting
- 50/50 whether information on health situation in their country is readily available

How could collaboration be improved?



What is a Community of Practice?

- Enable collaboration, sharing, best practice and professional development in online environment
- Can be open or closed to a particular group of people

What would be your main reason for joining a CoP?

- Keeping up to date (n=58)
- Sharing information (n=55)
- Linking with peers (n=45)
- Other (n=7)

What do we know about CoPs?

- Composed of observers, passive and creative contributors
- High levels of reading activity, low levels of posting
- Online environment where users feel comfortable
- Success in CoP 'champion' and administration/facilitation
- Supported by face-to-face meetings

Confidence in information literacy skills

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Neutral	Somewhat unconfident	Very unconfident
Information searching	49%	32%	8%	0%	0%
Critical appraisal	32%	48%	17%	2%	0%
Managing references	32%	45%	21%	2%	0%
Computer hardware	28%	33%	27%	10%	1%
Computer software	23%	40%	37%	9%	1%
Mobile device	33%	43%	21%	3%	0%

[illegible]

Recommendations

- Increased sharing of information and collaboration between organisation and countries by introducing Communities of Practice
- Find ways to make meetings more accessible eg. live streaming, video presentations
- Training in critical appraisal and IT
- Further research to gain a deeper understanding of barriers to information



Thank you

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