

Environmental health literacy: A tool for communities and researchers

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: Oral Presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Individuals working in community-engaged or participatory research projects, science communicators,

ABSTRACT: The Healthy Environment section of the Oregon Public Health Association works to better understand the relationship between environmental issues and human health through the tool of Environmental Health Literacy (EHL). EHL encompasses scientific, graph and environmental literacy, as well as numeracy and risk assessment. The use of EHL is perhaps best understood within the Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) framework, wherein there is an expectation that data will be returned to the participants and/or participating community to improve knowledge and to inform policy initiatives. There is the secondary expectation that data will be returned in a manner that is understandable and useable. EHL can be used as a tool to frame data disclosure mechanisms. The field of CBPR is an excellent opportunity merge research and education. Additionally, we will discuss ways in which EHL can complement existing outreach/engagement efforts, policy initiatives and community events.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Evaluate research/education projects for ways to incorporate Environmental Health Literacy
- Describe the benefits and detriments of returning data to community participants

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