

## **Poverty and health: A health equity assessment in Deschutes County**

**AUTHORS:** Jennifer Faith\*, Channa Lindsay\*

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Public health professionals working in assessment and epidemiology, health equity, and health communication.

**ABSTRACT:** Public Health Modernization and Public Health Accreditation both highlight the importance of incorporating health equity into the work of local health departments. In order to better emphasize and continuously improve health equity perspectives for our agency, Deschutes County Health Services created an interdisciplinary work group related to health equity. One task being undertaken by this work group is to conduct a health equity assessment to better understand the distribution of social determinants of health, health behaviors, and health factors within Deschutes County. We used data from the American Community Survey, the Census, BRFSS, and other sources to describe the distribution of social determinants of health and their relationships to health behaviors and outcomes in Deschutes County. We will present information on one component of this assessment related to poverty and health, including: (1) our methodology; (2) key findings on how poverty relates to geography, demographics (including race and ethnicity), health behaviors, and health outcomes in our county; (3) ties to Public Health Accreditation and Modernization; and (4) future plans for disseminating our results.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Describe why and how a local health department conducted an assessment related to poverty and health.

### **PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Jennifer Faith, PhD, RD  
Epidemiologist  
Deschutes County Health Services  
5413227163 | Jennifer.Faith@deschutes.org

### **CO-PRESENTER(S):**

Channa Lindsay | Channa.Lindsay@deschutes.org