

TITLE: Opportunities for Strengthening Food Systems and Building Social Resilience through Public Health Practice

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Program coordinators, program developers, researchers, leaders

ABSTRACT: As part of the planning process that led to the publication of Oregon's 2017 Climate and Health Resilience Plan, a diverse set of partners and advisors named "social resilience" and "food systems" as two key concepts to further explore. In response to this input, the plan recommended that the state's Climate and Health Program collaborate with partners to study and identify opportunities for incorporating more social resilience and food systems strategies into the overall resilience plan. To this end, our study team conducted a survey of local and state health department employees to assess familiarity with these concepts, their confidence in using social cohesion/resilience and food systems strategies, and what opportunities they have identified. Almost 200 public health professionals in Oregon responded to the survey. As part of the project, we also completed literature reviews and identified a set of potential social resilience indicators. The findings help to illuminate next steps for the Oregon Climate and Health Program, but may also be of use to an array of public health programs working to build community-level social resilience to other (non-climate related) stressors. The session ends with a discussion of social resilience and how these concepts and strategies can apply across the spectrum of public health work.

OBJECTIVE(S): 1. Define the terms "Social Resilience" and "Food Systems"

2. Describe ways in which these concepts connect to public health programs

3. Discuss opportunities for further incorporating community resilience strategies into public health practice