

TITLE: Assessing Inequities using the BARHII Tool, a rural perspective of Polk County

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: ph professionals, program developers and evaluators, researchers

ABSTRACT: Polk County Public Health aims to address health equity in rural Oregon through their work on the CLAS standards for the Title V Grant and the Public Health Modernization competency: Health Equity & Cultural Responsiveness. As equity is becoming an everyday discussion, local health departments are looking for a tool to be able to measure capacity and inequities. Polk County Public Health identified the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) toolkit as the model to guide their work. The BARHII tool examines to build greater capacity through local health department staff and programs. Utilizing this organizational self-assessment for addressing health inequities; staff, management, collaborative partners and the county at large identified inequities that exist at the local health department. Data gathered from the BARHII toolkit will inform modifications to align with addressing health inequities at the local health department. Public health systems need to address health equity and cultural responsiveness through identifying their own systemic inequities. Improving health outcomes depends on addressing health inequities at the health department level. This presentation will explore Polk County Public Health's experience using the BARHII tool and considerations for other health departments.

OBJECTIVE(S): Demonstrate understanding of the BARHII tool and its application in a small local health department.

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