

TITLE: Evaluation of the Presence and Roles of Community Health Workers in Oregon Post Graduation from Oregon State University's Community Health Worker Entry-level Training

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Public health and health care professionals; people concerned about health equity, access to care, quality of care. Anyone interested in the graduates of Oregon State University's Community Health Worker Entry-level Training and their job roles and impact

ABSTRACT: Background: Community Health Workers (CHWs) are effective in improving health outcomes for underserved and underrepresented communities in health and social service systems. Blended online and in-person training programs provide an opportunity for individuals to become state certified Community Health Workers. Purpose: To assess the geographic coverage and job characteristics of graduates from an entry-level training program designed to reach rural Oregonians. Methods: We will administer a web-based questionnaire using Qualtrics in the summer of 2022. All Oregon State University CHW graduates since 2016 (270) will be invited to participate. The questionnaire will assess training history and needs, current work and work history, networking opportunities, and participant demographics. We will calculate frequencies and percentages for all numeric and categorical survey items; free text responses will be analyzed thematically. Results: Data collection will conclude by July 2022. We expect a participation rate of approximately 75%. Results will be available by September 2022. Implications: This survey will provide insights regarding 1) the presence of CHWs in Oregon, 2) the career paths pursued by graduates of the training program offered at OSU, and 3) the common health needs of individuals served by CHWs. Results can inform further workforce development plans for CHWs in Oregon.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe the demographics of graduates of Oregon State University's Community Health Worker Entry-level Training. Identify the geographical dispersion of Community Health Workers in Oregon who have graduated from Oregon State University's training program. Describe the job roles of Community Health Workers in Oregon as described by graduates of Oregon State University's training program. Identify the demographics of Community Health Worker clientele in Oregon as described by graduates of Oregon State University's training program.
