

Applying new GIS tools in public health practice

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: Oral Presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Those interested in mapping environmental determinants of health such as housing, climate change, brownfields, and air quality.

ABSTRACT: Maps can be highly engaging tools for analyzing and communicating public health data. In recent years, the speedy pace of change in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology has reshaped the way that public health professionals can expect to interact with spatial data. New tools are available for conveying and collecting public health data via online platforms that mix media, including maps, graphics, videos, and text. This session will present a series of case studies that detail ways that Multnomah County Health Department has deployed such tools in every-day work. Four examples illustrate the capabilities of new GIS tools: 1) a map of cadmium air concentrations, 2) a set of interactive maps that illustrate vulnerability to the health impacts of climate change, 3) a tool for soliciting community input on brownfields redevelopment, and 4) a set of maps for exploring connections between housing costs, displacement, and health. Session participants will be able to interact with these tools on their personal mobile devices and explore the possibilities for application in their work.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Explain how new mapping tools differ from conventional ones.
- Identify opportunities for applying online mapping tools in public health practice

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