

Being healthy in our community: Stories of health in Jackson county

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: Oral Presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Public health professionals interest in health equity

ABSTRACT: There are health differences in Jackson County, Oregon based on social factors such as ethnicity, sexual orientation, and educational attainment. A cross-jurisdictional Southern Oregon Regional Health Equity Coalition, SO Health-E, was organized to prioritize regional health disparities, in particular racial and ethnic health inequities, and to advance policies that promote equity and address social determinants of health. Analysis of existing data sources identified health disparities for educational attainment, oral health, teen pregnancy and diversity of service providers in Jackson County. The next step identified by the coalition was community engagement for priority setting and goal planning. The purpose of this study was to interview residents of Jackson County who may be members of groups experiencing these disparities to learn their perspective of what contributes to health, using a multi-cultural story-telling approach. Seventy-five people participated in six focus groups held between July 2015 ? January 2016; three were in Spanish. Results indicated the positive and negative influences of health. Participants provided recommendations for service providers to consider. Issues related to use of children as interpreters and experiences of bias by health care providers and their staff were areas of two areas of concern. Recommendations were then prioritized in a community forum.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Describe the purpose of the study.
- Identify study findings.

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