

TITLE: A review of the National Grange: A Community Level Resource with the Capacity to Increase the Reach of Public Health Promotion and Prevention for Rural Residents

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Expanding the reach of public health promotion and prevention efforts in rural areas.

ABSTRACT: People living in rural areas face a unique set of interrelated challenges and barriers, and rural communities are burdened with increased rates of chronic disease. The current lack of public health infrastructure and ability to reach the hard to reach rural audience make it increasingly important to identify effective means of building rural health capacity. Our scoping study examines an existing community resource, the National Grange, as a potential partner with the capacity to increase the reach of public health in rural areas. Our intent was to explore the various public health issues that the Grange has actively engaged with, and to investigate the strategies they have used to reach their target population. We conducted a literature review in traditional search engines of peer-reviewed journals (e.g. PubMed, X) and then expanded our searches to include national and regional publications of the Grange. We identified over 300 items addressing issues or inviting calls to action on matter of public health in the national publication and 720 items in the state newsletters. We coded each of these articles according to the five determinant areas, and then each article was sub-classified by topic. Our initial results indicate that there are over 2100 Grange halls in rural America, and the Grange has been actively participating in all five determinant areas of the Healthy People 2020 Social Determinants of Health for over 150 years. Oregon Grange activities in public health areas were: Health & Health Care 23%; Social & Community Context 26%; Education 25%; Economic Stability 14%; and Neighborhood & Built Environment 12%. A partnership between public health and the Grange could have significant impact increasing the reach of public health promotion and prevention efforts in rural areas.

OBJECTIVE(S): Participants will be able to accurately define Grange activities that align with the goals of public health in their areas/regions, and be able to access and expand the initial partnership developed by this research.
