

TITLE: Using the Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework to build adaptive capacity to climate change in a coastal Washington county

AUTHOR(S): Jeff Bethel

PRESENTER(S): Jeff Bethel

STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: The topic of this presentation will address the health effects of climate and describe a process by which local public health departments can use to identify their own vulnerabilities and appropriate interventions.

Target audience includes county public health practitioners.

ABSTRACT: Background: Earth's changing climate has brought about numerous health concerns including: aeroallergens, drastic changes in temperature and precipitation, vector-borne and water-borne diseases, wildfires, etc. Local public health departments are at the forefront of building adaptive capacity in response to the health effects of climate change.

Purpose: The purpose of this project was to describe the climate-related impacts, interventions, and vulnerabilities to coastal county in Washington.

Methods: The Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework was used to guide the methods. Developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), BRACE is a five-step iterative process designed to assist public health officials prepare for climate-related health effects through strategy development and program organization.

Results: Results from the first three steps of BRACE identified the climate impacts to the county (i.e. temperature, precipitation, wildfires flooding, aeroallergens, and water temperature and acidity), social and health vulnerability, health effects of climate change likely to impact the county, and public health interventions to address these identified health effects.

Conclusions: The use of the BRACE framework to evaluate the climate-related impacts, interventions, climate and health adaptation plan to guide the County's future efforts to build adaptive capacity.

OBJECTIVE(S): Identify the social and health-related vulnerability to climate change in a coastal Washington county; Identify the climate impacts and associated health impacts to a coastal Washington county; Discuss public health interventions to address the impact of climate change to a coastal Washington county.
