

A Web-Based Course for the Public Health Workforce

ROOTS *of* HEALTH INEQUITY

rootsofhealthinequity.org



NACCHO

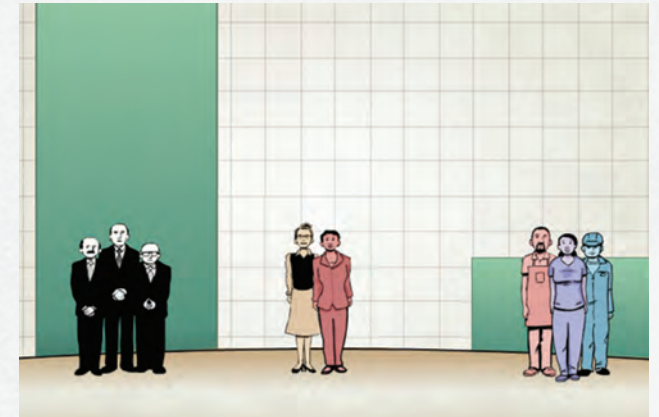
National Association of County & City Health Officials

NACCHO is the national organization representing local health departments. NACCHO works to support efforts that protect and improve the health of all people and all communities by promoting national policy, developing resources and programs, seeking health equity and supporting effective local public health practice and systems.

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ROOTS *of* HEALTH INEQUITY

is an online learning collaborative and educational resource that offers a starting place for those who want to address systemic differences in health and wellness that are actionable, unfair, and unjust.



Our Purpose

Roots of Health Inequity offers concepts and strategies that could lead to effective action on health inequities. The curriculum prompts participants to reflect on how our institutions structure the possibilities for health and wellness.

Why It Matters

Public health can reach the heart of the matter: the core social injustices associated with class exploitation, racism, and gender inequity. Advances can occur by thinking differently about possibilities for practice.

Why Now

A wealth of research has documented the deep connection between lived experience, social injustice, and inequities in rates of mortality, morbidity and life expectancy among different groups. Recent data demonstrates a staggering and growing degree of social and economic inequality in the United States, not seen since the Great Depression.

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Let's Start

Health equity and social justice

have traditionally been at the heart of public health practice. The history of public health is also connected to social justice movements, including those related to the introduction of housing and factory codes, the abolition of child labor, support for guaranteed employment, and food safety.



Roots of Health Inequity is an exciting resource that supports individuals, small groups, and organizations in advancing public health practice. During these challenging times, this online curriculum ties public health to social change and offers keen insight on the important mission of reorganizing public health practice to eliminate health inequities.

Dr. Linda Rae Murray
Chief Medical Officer, Cook County
Department of Public Health and Past
President of the American Public Health
Association, 2009-2012

Public Health's Response

Acting on the causes rather than the consequences of health inequities can seem an impossible challenge. "Where do we start? How can we advance public health practice?" are common questions explored by the Roots of Health Inequity community.

In the process, learners examine:

- Public Health's role in acting on social injustice.
- The underlying assumptions, features, and values of a social justice approach to public health practice.
- The evolution of public health since the 19th century.
- The ongoing tension between the demands for a science-based public health system and one engaged more deeply in the political process.

How can we advance public health practice?

The Curriculum:

What to Expect

As part of this **online community**, participants are expected to bring their own knowledge, experiences, and insights to the table and work with their group members to build new knowledge.

Explore a rich source of case studies, readings, and presentations.

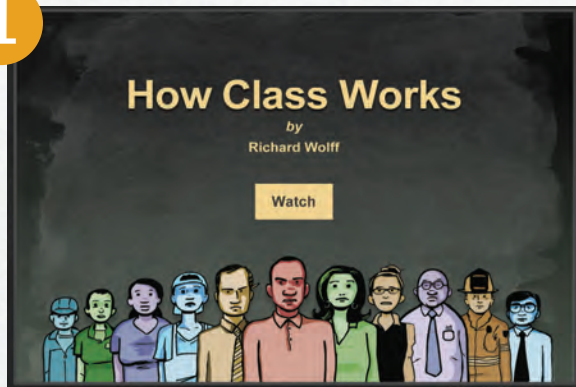
Work as part of a Learning Group at a pace determined by your group.

Reflect on new concepts and new terminology instead of a “how-to” guide.

Learn and contribute, even if you are familiar with the core concepts.



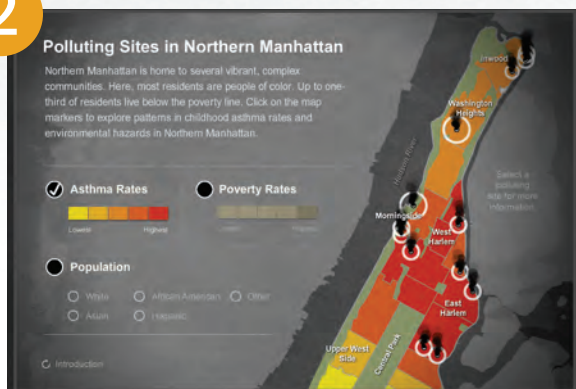
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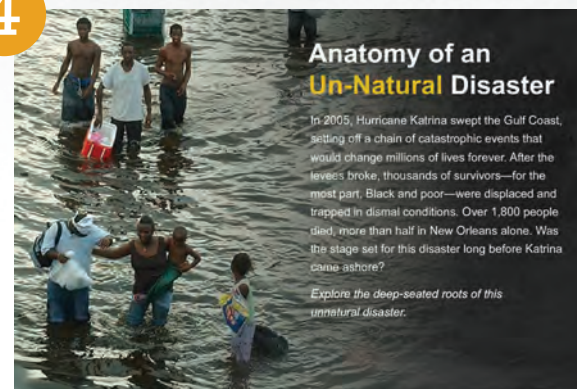
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Interactive presentations from **Roots of Health Inequity**: 1) How Class Works: Richard Wolff Examines Class; 2) Action at the Neighborhood Level: Social Determinants of Asthma in Northern Manhattan; 3) West Harlem's Battle for Clean Air; 4) Hurricane Katrina: The Unnatural Disaster?, and; 5) Connecting the Past and Present: The Evolving Role of Public Health.

Explore concepts and strategies in health equity by working through five critical questions:

1



CE

Where Do We Start?

Explore the relationships among changing the culture of our organizations, engaging community members, and negotiating with political pressures strategically (**Unit 1: Where Do We Start?**). This unit provides Continuing Education by participating in specified activities.

4



What Are the Root Causes of Health Inequities?

Examine the importance of class structure, racism, and gender inequity in the development of health inequities (**Unit 4: Root Causes**).

2



What Are “Frames” and How Do They Influence Public Health?

Consider how “mental models” or “frames” influence public health work. Discuss how values, assumptions, and interests affect the capacity for addressing health inequities (**Unit 2: Perspectives on Framing**).

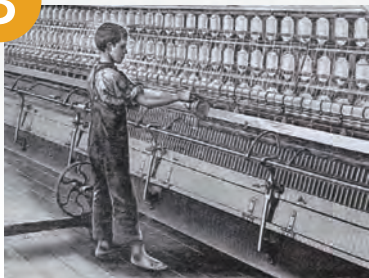
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What Are the Principles of Social Justice?

Explore the principles of social justice and ways to influence the institutions and agencies that generate health inequity (**Unit 5: Social Justice**).

3



What Can History Teach Us about the Role of Public Health?

Explore the transformation of public health during the last 150 years, including the forces that advanced or limited the field (**Unit 3: Public Health History**).

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is accredited as a provider of continuing education for “Where Do We Start?” Go to rootsofhealthinequity.org for details.

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*Examine the importance of
class structure, racism, and
gender inequity ...*

Explore the
transformation
of public health
during the last
150
years

Consider how “mental models”
influence public health work ...

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The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.