CLIMATE
SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S A BIG HOAX AND WE CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.
ASSESSING PUBLIC HEALTH’S ROLE IN CLIMATE ACTION

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OUTLINE

- Significance
- Research questions
- Methods
- Initial Findings
SIGNIFICANCE
WHY SHOULD PH GET INVOLVED? WHAT’S AT STAKE?

- Slow climate change and reduce health impacts;
- Create healthy communities;
  - Improve air quality;
  - Increase physical activity;
  - Health-supportive amenities in all communities;
  - Prevent displacement and social isolation;
  - Improve housing quality;
  - Facilitate political engagement by impacted communities
- Expanding definition, conception, and practice of PH
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Re: Public Health’s role and participation in Climate Change:

- What is the current state of involvement?
- Ideally, what should be the role?
- What are the barriers?
- What are the current opportunities?
RESEARCH METHODS:

- Semi-structured interviews (n=113)
  - PH sector engaged with climate change
  - PH sector engaged with climate change for reasons other than climate change (i.e., Equity, co-benefits, etc.)
  - PH sector not engaged with climate change
  - Non-PH sector working on climate change

- Focus Groups (n=2, with 9 and 13 participants)
  - Interviews and FGs transcribed, entered into qualitative software (dedoose), coded
    - Dominant theme analysis
    - Reports for each domain of interest
INITIAL FINDINGS:
RE: PUBLIC HEALTH’S ROLE AND PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE CHANGE:

1. What is the current state of PH involvement?
   - Minimal focus on climate change
   - Engagement with co-benefits
   - Few making the links between their PH work and climate change explicit.
EDUCATOR/MESSAGER

RESEARCH AND SURVEILLANCE

PROTECTION

MOBILIZE, SUPPORT, AND ADVOCATE FOR POLICY, SYSTEMS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE
QU. 3: WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO PUBLIC HEALTH ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE WORK?

- Lack of information
- Lack of funding/resources
- Political barriers
- Organizational barriers
- The nature of climate change
QU.4: WHAT ARE THE CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES SUPPORTING PH ENGAGEMENT?

- Leverage existing partnerships
- Incorporate climate change into existing PH work
- Elucidate connections for public, public health, and decision-makers
- Use the health frame to engage the public and decision-makers
  - Messages should not overwhelm and demoralize people
  - Provide specific actions PH and health sectors can take
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