



WWAMI AHEC SCHOLARS Social Determinants of Health Project Instructions

The goal of this project is to explore a community health concern and how it is being addressed. Completing this project satisfies the Community/Experiential/Clinical component for one year. The following outlines the stepwise process to complete this project during shelter in place or other social distancing restrictions due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Step One: Identify your team

This is designed to be a group project. Please connect with at least one other AHEC Scholar. It must be an AHEC Scholar from another discipline to meet the interprofessional requirement. Your AHEC representative can help you form your team of two to five students. You must let your AHEC Center know who is involved in the project from the outset.

Step Two: Identify a community health issue of focus:

A community health issue can be any topic that is significantly impacting the health of your community. The topic should also be something that you wish to learn more about. The following are topics published by the Center for Disease Control. Your group can draw from this list or develop another topic. You can use one of these topics as it relates to the current COVID-19 crisis, if that interests you.

- Alcohol-related harms
- Food security
- Housing security
- Substance abuse
- Violence against women or sexual minorities
- Heart disease and stroke
- HIV
- Motor vehicle injury
- Nutrition, physical activity and obesity
- Prescription drug overdose
- Teen pregnancy
- Tobacco use

Step Three: Identify a community group or organization

Next, identify a community group or organization that directly or indirectly is working to address the health topic you have chosen. Regardless of the health topic your group selected there should be a wide variety of organizations to potentially interview

Here are some examples:

Topic	Example Organization to contact
Alcohol-Related harm	Mothers against Drunk driving; local police; teen



	center; campus health centers
Food Insecurity	Foodbanks
Housing insecurity	Homeless Shelters
Obesity	Local community center or YMCA
COVID 19	Food Bank or a homeless shelter

Step Four: Arrange a conference call or video conference.

Arrange a meeting with someone from that group or organization you have identified. In most cases you can find an email contact listed on their website. Explain in your email that you are a health professional student at X university/college. You would like to arrange a 30-minute interview to learn more about their group or organization and how they may be directly or indirectly working to address the health issue your group has identified. Here is a sample note:

Example email:

Dr. Ms. Smith,

I'm a Masters in Public Health student from the University of Washington. In addition to my regular classes, I'm also in the WWAMI AHEC Scholars Certificate Program. As part of this program I am learning about how community organizations support underserved populations to improve their health and wellbeing.

I'm writing to see if you would be interested in a phone or video conference interview. The purpose of the interview would to learn more about your organization. I would also like to know about any activities your organizations does together directly or indirectly address (Your Health Topic).

If you are interested in meeting, please send me a convenient time. I anticipate the interview would likely last about a half an hour.

Thank you in advance for considering this request!

Sincerely,

*Name
MPH Candidate University of Washington
Email
Phone*

Step Four: The interview

Begin the interview by recapping who you are and purpose of this interview (see step three). Ask the person if you may take notes during the interview. Before proceeding, also ask the interviewee if it is also ok to use what you learn from this conversation to inform an

Potential Questions to ask

1. Can you tell me about your organization's mission?
2. What type of collaborations, if any, do you have with the health care community?
3. What community members do you serve?
4. We are particularly interested in (insert healthcare topic you chose for your group). Does your organization directly or indirectly work to address (your topic) among the people you serve?
5. What are some of the challenges your organization face in addressing this health issue?
6. If you had more resources or time what are some ways you would expand your program or the services you offer to address this health issue?
7. Are there other people within your organization or another organization that we should consider speaking with?

Be sure to thank your interviewee and offer to send them the slide of your poster once that has been completed.

Step 5: Check in with your affiliated AHEC Center to update them on your group project.

Step 6: Independent Online Research

A. Use the following recourses to help better understand the health issue your community group or organization is working to address:

Census data: <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

County health rankings: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Record local or county data that you found that describes this health issue here:

B. Use Google Scholar and other academic search engines to look for examples of programs that could potentially be modeled in the community you live to address the health concern you discussed in your interview. Find at least two papers.

Paper one:

What was the intervention/program?



What were the results of the intervention/program? From your perspective, did it have a positive impact on the health issues it was aimed at addressing?

Could it work in your community?

Paper two:

What was the intervention/program?

What were the results of the intervention/program? From your perspective, did it have a positive impact on the health issues it was aimed at addressing?

Could it work in your community?

Step 7: Reflections:

Now that you have done both independent research of the literature and spoken with a community organization, consider the following:

Are there any upstream influences that have contributed to this community health issue (ie, Racism, Sexism, Poverty, lack of educational opportunities?)

What else could be done in your community to address this health issue?

Who might health care professionals work together to help address this issue in the community or clinic?

Step 8: Create a Poster Slide

Develop a PowerPoint Poster slide highlights and summarizes your learning.

1. Set your poster size to 24" by 36" on PowerPoint

- Pick your poster orientation: Landscape or portrait
- Use any templates, backgrounds or designs (make sure it does not distract the content of your poster)

2. Create a Title and Sub-title for your Poster

- Title – Title should appear first at the top of your poster for your audience to read
- Sub-title – This should go directly beneath the title
 - Sub-title to include your **names, university affiliations and that you are AHEC Scholars**

3. Poster Content and Section Headings:



Background: In 3-5 bullets, describe your community and the health issue you are exploring. Why is it a problem?

Community Organization Interview: in 2-3 bullets, described the community organization and how it is directly or indirectly addressing the health issue you identified.

Literature Review: in 3-5 bullets list key points of the papers you read on the subject. Describe each intervention and the outcomes

Highlight One Intervention found in your literature review: In 3-4 bullet points tell us about the intervention, why it is a good fit for your community, what might be some challenges, what are some possible community partners in this

Conclusions: In 3-4 bullets discuss a. what are some possible upstream causes (if any) to health issue. How might health care professionals work together to address this issue in the clinical or community setting?