Robin Pfohman
Program Manager
Community Resilience + Equity
Public Health – Seattle & King County
CLIMATE CHANGE AND PUBLIC HEALTH: OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE EQUITY
Climate change
Race, equity and social justice
KING COUNTY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING MEASURES

Life Expectancy

Tobacco Use

Frequent Mental Distress

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Lack of Physical Activity

Obesity

Diabetes

Preventable Hospitalization
Public Health – Seattle & King County

• Health in All Policies approach

• Role of public health in climate change planning

• Establishes path forward with core functions and recommended action

• Builds a case for needed funding
Guiding Principles

• Lead with environmental justice and racial equity
• Promote a Health in All Policies approach
• Use systems-thinking
• Engage community in an inclusive, equitable way
Adopt broad approach to resilience

- Resilience will not be achieved without addressing racial inequities in our communities
- Opportunity to remediate historical injustice
- Local public health can help frame the conversation
Center people and communities

• Impacts are embedded in communities

• Expected health impacts:
  • immediate and urgent
  • capable of mobilizing public and policy makers
  • Magnify existing inequities
Seek climate justice partners

• Existing health burdens and risks are intensified because of climate impacts
  - Air quality
  - Exposure to toxics

• Climate impacts disproportionately affect people of color and low-income communities
  - Food price increases and swings
  - Heat waves and the urban heat island effect
Case Study: Preventing heat related illness

Stay Safe in the Heat
Case Study:
The Community Health Board Coalition
Case Study: Health Impact Assessment
Thank You!

Robin.Pfohman@kingcounty.gov