TOPIC: The Data Void for Rural Public Health Practice - Making data accessible to address inequities

Monday, May 23, 2022 • 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Location: BigBlueButton or dial in 1-863-208-0022 (pin: 337 216 271)

Objectives:
1. Identify key activities necessary for making data more accessible to and of use among rural public health practitioners.
2. Describe how public health practice partners can and should be engaged in the design and development of what is needed to make data accessible.
3. Describe at least 2 ways local (i.e., county or sub-county) data can be made available to address health inequities and support related decision-making.

Dr. Betty Bekemeier is a professor at the University of Washington (UW) School of Nursing and Director of the UW School of Public Health’s Northwest Center for Public Health Practice. She is a distinguished public health systems researcher focused on examining and improving the effectiveness of our public health systems and workforce. Her research has been of particular interest in 2020 as the dire need for evidence of public health system effectiveness has become so much more obvious to policy-makers and stakeholders in the wake of COVID-19.

Dr. Bekemeier has led many studies regarding local health department services and their impact on health outcomes and disparities. She is PI of the Public Health Activities and Services Tracking (PHAST) Study, which was initiated in 2010 and is today considered a highly regarded database of uniquely detailed and linked data regarding local health department services and supporting interdisciplinary studies. PHAST also includes local financial data from the Uniform Chart of Accounts, being collected prospectively among health departments. Dr. Bekemeier’s studies on change, variation, data standardization, financing, and outcomes regarding public health systems are conducted in close partnership with public health practice leaders and have been immediately relevant to addressing current policy issues.

Her efforts in guiding the generation of evidence and data to support public health practice improvement include development of a dissemination and implementation model aimed at facilitating the uptake and integration of standardized local public health services and financial data into state and local systems. She is also a national public health nursing leader and has served in significant leadership positions in organizations that include the American Public Health Association and the American Academy of Nursing.

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For more information, please contact prevmed@umc.edu

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