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Brief Communications

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This section of the journal provides a forum for sharing information about resources, such as conferences and written materials, which support health disparities research and practice.

This section may also be used for sharing methodological challenges, lessons learned, and good ideas. Research and practice questions may be posted for response by the journal readership.

We regret we are unable to post job announcements or product information at this time.

THRIVE: Tool for Health and Resilience in Vulnerable Environments

Our health is affected by where we work, live, and play. Conditions in the community environment that contribute to health disparities, such as deteriorated housing, poor education, limited employment opportunities, limited household resources, and ready availability of cheap high-fat foods, are particularly exacerbated in low-income neighborhoods where people of color are more likely to live. The complex relationship of place, ethnicity, and poverty manifests differently in different places and requires a comprehensive community health approach that leverages local knowledge.

To help residents and local leaders improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, Prevention Institute developed the web-based tool THRIVE (Tool for Health and Resilience in Vulnerable Environments). Based on input from a national expert panel and piloted successfully

in urban, suburban and rural settings, the THRIVE tool guides users through an interactive process to prioritize health concerns and target the community conditions underlying health. Addressing community conditions represents a key opportunity to reduce disparities in health and improve community health and well-being. The tool identifies key factors (below), allows the user to rate their importance, and provides information about how each factor is related to health outcomes and some direction about what to do to address the factor and where to go for more information. THRIVE can improve the ability of local advocates and practitioners to reduce health disparities by changing the way people think about health and safety, providing an evidence-based framework for change, and fostering links to decision makers and other resources. The tool can also facilitate local collaboration and community participation in decision-making by integrating the priorities of multiple users.

Community Factors Affecting Health and Safety

Racial Justice; Jobs and Local Ownership; Education; Social Networks & Trust; Participation and Willingness to Act for the Common Good; Acceptable Behaviors and Attitudes; What's Sold & How It's Promoted; Look, Feel and Safety; Parks & Open Space; Getting Around; Housing; Air, Water & Soil; Arts & Culture

The California Endowment supported the research behind and development of the community factors; the Office of Minority Health, US Department of Health and Human Services, provided funding for pilot-testing and convening a national expert panel; and the Community Technology Foundation of California provided resources to make THRIVE available as a web-based tool.

Access the THRIVE tool: http://preventioninstitute.org/thrive/index.php