

Data-Informed Social Work Curriculum: Modeling the Use of the California Healthy Kids Survey for School-Linked Practicums

Author: Thea Lamers

Competency 4: Engage In Practice-informed Research & Research-informed Practice

Behaviors:

- 4.a. Apply research findings to inform and improve practice, policy, and programs.
- 4.b. Identify ethical, culturally informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive strategies that address inherent biases for use in quantitative and qualitative research methods to advance the purposes of social work.

References:

- Cal Poly Humboldt Social Work Department. (2026). *Cal Poly Humboldt Social Work Generalist Competencies*.
- Geierstanger, S. (2025). *School-Based Mental Health Graduate Student Trainee Evaluation Data Overview* [PowerPoint Slides] Google Slides
- Phillippo, K. L., & Blosser, A. (2013, January). Specialty Practice or Interstitial Practice? A Reconsideration of School Social Work's Past and Present. *Children and Schools*, 35(1), 19-31.

Community Needs Statement:

- Bridging the gap with accessible data that connects directly to the experience of youth and families that social work students were engaging with in their practicum.
- Faculty engaging with school-linked social work practice identify the opportunity to connect social work students in community placement with public data dashboards.
- Generalist Social work competency requires understanding practice-informed research and research-informed practice; however, social work students may struggle with making this connection in local community practicums.
- New CA Wellness Coach Certification pathway increases the number of school social work-related careers for undergrad practitioners.

Deliverables:

- Created a research guide for MSW graduates getting their Pupil Personnel Services Credential.
 - Utilizing the research guide was piloted in an assignment during the summer of 2025.
- Created Data-Informed Practice Curriculum for the Wellness Coach Course
 - Mentimeter Pre Survey
 - Using Data for Informed Wellness Coach Practice: Introduction to data dashboards and exploration- Part 1
 - Group activities and reflection prompts.
 - Using Data for Informed Wellness Coach Practice: Critical Analysis- Part 2
 - Return to groups and reflection on critical analysis
 - Mentimeter Post survey
 - Reflection Memo Assignment

Survey and Memo Responses:



Conclusion & Recommendation:

- After these classes, students experienced an increase in comfort level using publicly accessible data and data dashboards.
 - Students drew connections between data-informed practice and:
 - Informing future decisions
 - Connecting to goals
 - Helpful for using data in social work practice
 - Students also highlighted barriers, biases, and limitations
- Inclusion of data-informed practice and research into the Wellness Coach curriculum.

Data Sources and Public Dashboards:

- California Healthy Kids Survey Public Data Dashboard
 - DataQuest and LEA reports
- California Schools Dashboard
- Livewell Humboldt Public Dashboard
- National College Health Assessment Executive Summaries