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Quest for Visibility: Creating a PHN Code in the SOC
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Did you know that...

- the Standard Occupation Code system (SOC), the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics' taxonomy for all occupations in the United States, does not recognize public or community health nursing?
- the SOC does recognize other public health occupations, such as community health worker, epidemiologist, health educator, microbiologist, dieticians, post-secondary teachers, and social workers?
- since 1997 three attempts to petition the SOC to create a P/CHN code were denied due to failure to demonstrate that what community/public health nurses do is sufficiently different from that of the SOC's description for registered nurse?

Consequences:

- High school and college vocation counselors have no way of knowing the public/community health nursing specialty practice exists.
- Human resource professionals have no means of validating public/community health nursing as a separate practice from that of the registered nurse working in clinical practice or even other disciplines.
- Promotes "job creep," a sociological phenomenon where other professions expand their professional roles (i.e., "territory") by assimilating roles conventionally assigned to another.

Actions Taken:

- In July 2014 the Quad Council submitted a petition to the Office of Management and Budget, the federal entity in charge of the 2018 SOC revision, requesting a new code; the letter was accompanied by letters of support from APHA and the University of Michigan Center of Excellence in Public Health Workforce Studies.

What you can do...

- Read: Boulton, M., Beck, A., Coronado, F., Merrill, J., Friedman, C., Stamas, G., Tyus, N., Sellers, K., Moore, J., Tilson, H., Leep, C. (2014) Public health workforce taxonomy. *Am J Prev Med* 47(5S3):S314–S323
- Go to: https://onet.rti.org/pdf/act_list_soc.cfm Complete it from your perspective as a PHN. What tasks do you do that are not on the list? [Note: This is not an active survey; it is only an example.]
- Subscribe: to the SOC update emails at <http://www.bls.gov/soc/> or visit the website often to check on the 2018 revision progress.