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Air pollution poses a significant threat to public health. With increasing concerns about respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19 and asthma, there is a need to understand the impact of air pollution on public health and the environment. My fellowship with the Naugatuck Valley Health District

(NVHD), a public health agency for the towns of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Naugatuck, Seymour, and Shelton, Connecticut, committed to protecting the environmental and physical health of its communities through the promotion of health access, health education, and community engagement. My goals for the summer were to learn more about the fields of public and environmental health, engage with the local community, and consider whether air qua

Current plan does not detail any protocol for air quality monitoring. I had to keep in mind that

air quality does not affect everyone equally; people with heart or lung diseases, older adults and children, and people who spend extended periods

the six towns. I enjoyed conducting this background research as a way to tailor the annex to the specific needs of the Naugatuck Valley.

Community education was an important element of my fellowship. I attended several events where we distributed free items such as COVID-19 test kits, sunscreen, and vaccine information to interested community members. I also tabled at several children's libraries and worked with the librarians to create book displays regarding the environment, air quality, and climate change. Additionally, I developed an Air Quality page on the NVHD website. Intending to educate Naugatuck Valley residents, it explains what air quality is, its