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MPH Principles of Public Health: Compiled Student Statistics Assignments

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Compiled Student Reports about Key Public Health Websites

September 18, 2013

United Nations

Merdith Root

The name of the website is “United Nations Statistics Division” and it is sponsored by the United Nations. The United Nations ('UN') is an intergovernmental organization with global reach and many nation-members. It appears that the site offers a huge quantity of data of various types and offers data reported to it by member nations as well as data collected and/or analyzed independently by the UN Statistics Division. It seems that this is predominantly observed statistical data but as there is such vast amounts of information there may be exceptions.

The coverage is global in scope with information on subgroups (by country, gender, age, etc.) and subcategories (such as housing, oil and more) and seems to be at mostly the national level but also includes regional, city and other levels in some cases. If you spend a lot of time looking you can find more targeted information such as the prevalence of disability in various countries (data is from various yearly censuses with some from as distant as the 1960s). The site gives mostly comprehensive sample data but the report on indicators of progress toward The Millennium Development Goals highlights certain things from this comprehensive data.

The primary health related subjects that the site covers are: vital statistics and economic statistics but all of the information could be arguably useful for public health purposes including the demographic, environmental, and gender statistics as well as the geo-spatial information. This site may be helpful to me as an MPH student or in my future career to provide vital statistics, to look at disparities in equity or for use in spatial epidemiology. It will be particularly useful for projects focused on countries outside the United States or for comparing countries. The limitations of the data aren't immediately clear. I think limitations include the sheer volume of data which by its nature means that there are many different sets of data with many sources, different formats, and uses. It really takes awhile to explore the site to find all that it has to offer, which can be time consuming.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Ashleigh Reyna

Name of Website/ Website Sponsor

World Health Organization

Principal Category of Sponsor Organization (Government agency; health organization; advocacy group; other)?

Health Organization

Does this site offer primarily self-reported or observed statistical data?

This site seems to offer similar amounts of both self-reported and observed statistical data.

What geographic area does the coverage primarily focus upon (National, State, County, Census tract, police beat, etc.)? Secondly?

The coverage primarily focuses upon regional geographic areas, and secondarily on national geographic areas.

Does the website offer either comprehensive or representative sample data?

The website offers comprehensive data.

Primary health-related subjects covered (examples: diseases such as diabetes or other subjects such as injuries)?

The primary health-related subjects covered are Alcohol Consumption; HIV/AIDS Deaths; HIV prevalence; Cancer, Cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and Chronic respiratory Deaths; Crude birth and death rates; Cholera, Rubella, Diphtheria, Measles, Mumps, Pertussis, Plague, Neonatal tetanus, Poliomyelitis, and Yellow Fever Cases; child nutrition; child health; maternal and reproductive health; immunization, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis; malaria; epidemic diseases, health systems; environmental health; water and sanitation.

Limitations to the statistical data reported on this website (example: age of the information)

Although the data from this website are updated as more information becomes available or methodologies change, the data from this website are only estimates and as such are indicated to be inconsistent with national statistics at times.

How will this website be useful to you as an MPH student and as a future public health practitioner?

As an MPH student and a future public health practitioner, this website is useful for viewing statistics for countries around the world. Additionally, because these statistics are updated as necessary, I feel confident that this would be a consistent and reliable source for information on the above indicated health-related subjects.

CDC Wonder

Kaitlin Greenberg (Carolyn)

CDC Wonder

Principal Category of Sponsor Organization (Government agency; health organization; advocacy group; other)?

Government agency- Centers for Disease Control

Does this site offer primarily self-reported or observed statistical data?

Observed statistical data from CDC website and other host sites

What geographic area does the coverage primarily focus upon (National, State, County, Census tract, police beat, etc.)? Secondly?

Focuses on national statistics, but they can be broken down by state and county.

Does the website offer either comprehensive or representative sample data?

Comprehensive. The website contains data sets from the CDC and other host sites that compile the statistical data from local and state agencies.

Primary health-related subjects covered (examples: diseases such as diabetes or other subjects such as injuries)?

Mortality data, cancer incidence, HIV/AIDS, TB, vaccinations, natality, and census data

Limitations to the statistical data reported on this website (example: age of the information)

The data sets on this website are HUGE! While this is also a positive feature of the website, the amount of information that you can query can also be a hindrance to sort through if you do not set your search parameters clearly.

How will this website be useful to you as an MPH student and as a future public health practitioner?

Yes! Not only does this website have data sets that will be useful in future projects, but it also has the capability to query documents as well. This will be a helpful feature that will allow me to gather both the data and information/documentation from the CDC website quickly.

Census Bureau

Chee, Patrick

Name of Website/ Website Sponsor

(American Fact Finder. United States Census Bureau)

Principal Category of Sponsor Organization (Government agency; health organization; advocacy group; other)?

(United States Census Bureau)

Does this site offer primarily self-reported or observed statistical data?

(Self-Reported)

What geographic area does the coverage primarily focus upon (National, State, County,

Census tract, police beat, etc.)? Secondly?

National, but you can narrow it down and refine to the state levels and county levels depending on what you are looking for.

Does the website offer either comprehensive or representative sample data?

Representative sample data

Primary health-related subjects covered (examples: diseases such as diabetes or other subjects such as injuries)?

current population and death rates and social-economical status but no particular health-related subjects.

Limitations to the statistical data reported on this website (example: age of the information)

Old census information, and estimation population rather than actually crued values.

How will this website be useful to you as an MPH student and as a future public health practitioner?

It would be great for epi research and stats analysis when comparing states and regions to each other or to that nation.

Minority Health Surveillance

Candace Hsu

Website: Minority Health Surveillance

Category: Government Agency

Offers: Self-reported data, compared with observed statistical data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Focus: Nationally (17 states, 28 communities)

Representative Sample Data because 28 communities are used to represent the minority population as a whole.

Subjects: Chronic disease, interventions (immunizations, screenings) and causes (obesity, physical activity, tobacco use)

Limits: age (18+), ethnic groups, racial groups

This website would allow me to find information regarding disease in minority populations. The website gives information and statistics in relation to chronic diseases and causes. I find the information about tobacco use specifically interesting for the sake of my profession of dental hygiene.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration (SAMSA)

Amber Howard

Name of Website/ Website Sponsor: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Association

Principal Category of Sponsor Organization: Government agency

Does this site offer primarily self-reported or observed statistical data?: Observed statistical data

What geographic area does the coverage primarily focus upon? Secondly?:

Nationwide (U.S)

Does the website offer either comprehensive or representative sample data?:

Comprehensive

Primary health-related subjects covered: This website primarily focuses on alcohol and drug use among adolescents and women.

Limitations to the statistical data reported on this website: I think that because the source of their data comes from surveys, there could be many other hidden variables.

How will this website be useful to you as an MPH student and as a future public health practitioner: It will be helpful in future research, especially because the process is complete and the data is ready to be used. The surveys are readily available for use and the data can be used for my research purposes.

DWI Resource Center

Cara Garner

- 1) DWI Resource Center
- 2) Non-profit organization (private contributions from community members)
- 3) Observed statistical data
- 4) County
- 5) Comprehensive data
- 6) DWI victim services, statistics by county, community action plans, programs for businesses

- 7) Information not updated in last 7 years with most data from 1990-1999, interactive data explorer is not user-friendly
- 8) The website provides services and community programs to help clients that are victims. The lists provided online can be used as referrals in a public health office. The available programs also can help citizens take action. A public health practitioner could promote school programs to reduce underage drinking, increase awareness of DWI offenders, and participate in court monitoring programs.

New Mexico Department of Health

Samantha Bear

Name of Website/ Website Sponsor: New Mexico Department of Health

Principal Category of Sponsor organization: Government agency and health organization

Does this site offer primarily self-reported or observed statistical data: observed statistical data

What geographic area does the coverage primarily focus upon: the state of NM
Secondarily: services and programs, healthy living, prevention and control, diseases, conditions and statistics, health data and epidemiology, regulations and licensure, emergency preparedness, communities and populations, facilities, resources and information and crisis and emergency help.

Does the website offer either comprehensive or representative sample data:

It appears to be representative sample data because it shows trends and outcomes associated with exposures like smoking. However there is also annual reviews which show comprehensive data for the state of NM for health concerns such as children deaths.

Primary health related subjects covered:

All health data in New Mexico. Everything from amputation to HIV and Hantavirus to West Nile to Youth Risk.

Limitations to the statistical data reported on this website: This is only NM data so you don't get the big picture of the whole nation. You don't have easy access to compare different states or regions. While this is a downfall the data is relatively recent and does span counties as well as the state as a whole.

How will this website be useful to you as an MPH student and as a future public health practitioner:

This website will be extremely useful as a MPH student as well as future practitioner because it offers all different kinds of information about the health in the state in one place. It offers studies, articles campaigns, videos and annual reviews that can be

helpful in identifying problems of planning interventions. It also references for employment, and internship information. It is a very comprehensive and useful site for exploring local issues.

State Health Facts

Elizabeth Van Orton

Website Name: State Health Facts

Website Sponsor: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Principal Category of Sponsor Organization: Non-profit, research, privately operated.

This site offers primarily observed statistical data.

This site reports on National (USA) and state data.

The website offers representative sample data.

The primary health-related subjects covered by this website include:

- Disparities Policy
- Global Health Policy
- Health Costs
- Health Reform
- HIV/AIDS
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Private Insurance
- Uninsured
- Women's Health Policy

Limitations: Data in this website is mainly comparative it allow us to indentify differences among populations but it does not explain the specific causes of those differences.

Uses for MPH students and public health practitioner: In my opinion the information in this website is very valuable, its current and it allows the health practitioner to identify patterns of diseases and compare those patterns among different ethnic groups.

Moreover, it provides information about health disparities and groups affected by them, this information could be extremely useful for grant writing and implementation of intervention and prevention programs.

State Health Facts

Tristen Ashly Adams

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Principal Category of Sponsor Organization (Government agency; health organization; advocacy group; other)? Kaiser is a non-profit, private operating foundation that

operates primarily with funds earned from managing its own endowment, augmented by support provided by external funders.

Does this site offer primarily self-reported or observed statistical data? Unlike grant-making foundations, Kaiser develops and runs its own research, journalism and communications programs, sometimes in partnership with other non-profit research organizations or major media companies.

What geographic area does the coverage primarily focus upon (National, State, County, Census tract, police beat, etc.)? Secondly? Coverage is primarily national; Kaiser focuses on the major health care issues facing the U.S., as well as the U.S. role in global health policy. Secondly, over time, Kaiser has also chosen to focus on other issues that are critically important but may not decide elections or make or break budgets or appear as frequently on the national news – such as HIV/AIDS and minority health. They have also chosen to make a major commitment to address the health issues facing youth, primarily through information campaigns conducted in partnership with entertainment media organizations and increasingly, a broad range of other partners. They also provide state information.

Does the website offer either comprehensive or representative sample data? From what I could tell, representative.

Primary health-related subjects covered (examples: diseases such as diabetes or other subjects such as injuries)? Yes, HIV/AIDS.

Limitations to the statistical data reported on this website (example: age of the information). From what I gathered, a limitation to the statistical data reported on the website would be the age of the information. Other than that, I am not sure.

How will this website be useful to you as an MPH student and as a future public health practitioner? The Kaiser Foundation prides itself on serving as a non-partisan source of facts, information, analysis and journalism for policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the public. Also, their information is always provided free of charge. Thus, as a future public health practitioner, the Kaiser Foundation will be a free and helpful resource for facts, news, polls, and research that are not biased. It can be a trusted source of important information that is, more or less, in lay man's terms.

William Hudspeth

Name: State Health Facts

Sponsor: Kaiser Family Foundation

Principal Category: Private, non-profit foundation focusing on health care policy analysis

The site offers observed statistical data.

Geographic Area: Primarily National with focus on individual states; also some global reporting

The site appears to offer comprehensive data.

The website focuses primarily on health policy in the U.S., addressing disparities, health reform, costs, uninsured, and national polling on health-related viewpoints.

State Health Facts includes more than 800 health indicators. Data come from a variety of public and private sources, including Kaiser Family Foundation reports, public websites, government surveys and reports, and private organizations. These data are updated or added as new data become available; the update schedule varies from indicator to indicator. The availability of older or “archived” data is limited and varies by indicator.

This site should allow one to quickly put together up-to-date summary data for different states and countries to be used in comparisons.

UNM Partnerships for a Healthier New Mexico.

Virva Walkington Name of Website/ Website Sponsor: Health Report Cards for New Mexico Counties.

Principal Category of Sponsor Organization (Government agency; health organization; advocacy group; other)? Health organization that I believe receives governmental (state) funding(?)

Does this site offer primarily self-reported or observed statistical data? observed statistical data

What geographic area does the coverage primarily focus upon (National, State, County, Census tract, police beat, etc.)? Secondly? Primarily County. Secondly State

Does the website offer either comprehensive or representative sample data? Yes, both comprehensive and representative

Primary health-related subjects covered (examples: diseases such as diabetes or other subjects such as injuries)? The website provides an overall county profile. Health-related data covered include list leading causes of death by county, number of health care practitioners (doctors, nurses, etc.), list of health care facilities and resources within a county, and Comprehensive Health Planning Council Priority Needs per county

Limitations to the statistical data reported on this website (example: age of the information). Age of information for some counties is a limitation. The website provides NM data for comparison, but no national data.

How will this website be useful to you as an MPH student and as a future public health practitioner? It provides a good, quick overview of NM counties and the opportunity to compare certain county characteristics.

Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Zip Code Maps

Crystal Krabbenhoft-Romney

Name of Website/ Website Sponsor: New Mexico Department of Health

Principal Category of Sponsor Organization (Government agency; health organization; advocacy group; other)? State Government Agency

Does this site offer primarily self-reported or observed statistical data? Self-Reported Data (US Census 2000) and Observed data (Vital Records and Health Statistics)

What geographic area does the coverage primarily focus upon (National, State, County, Census tract, police beat, etc.)? Secondly? The city of Albuquerque separated by zip code

Does the website offer either comprehensive or representative sample data?

Representative sample

Primary health-related subjects covered (examples: diseases such as diabetes or other subjects such as injuries)? Vital statistics such as Income Disparities, age, income, housing and death rates as well as Asthma, Hep B, HIV/AIDS rates etc

Limitations to the statistical data reported on this website (example: age of the information) information is from 2005 so it is 8 years old. Also, it doesn't compare the rates to New Mexico rates so we can only look at data the disparity by zip code comparison

How will this website be useful to you as an MPH student and as a future public health practitioner? This has a lot of vital information about the city when applying for grants. You can use the zip code analysis to focus your intervention based on the areas that need it the most ie, if you wanted to do an HIV/AIDS intervention you would want to focus your efforts in the zip codes 87102, 87106, and 87108 where the highest incidence rates of HIV/AIDS cases are.

Albuquerque Public Schools

Reese Cuddy	Albuquerque Public Schools	http://ww2.aps.edu
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Directions Part Two: Answer the following questions on your one designated website above and email your answers to Dr. Eldredge. You will need to answer the following questions about *only the statistics aspects* your website:

Name of Website/ Website Sponsor

Albuquerque Public Schools

Principal Category of Sponsor Organization (Government agency; health organization; advocacy group; other)?

Government Agency – funded by the Department of Education >NMPED

Does this site offer primarily self-reported or observed statistical data?

Primarily self-reported

What geographic area does the coverage primarily focus upon (National, State, County, Census tract, police beat, etc.)? Secondly?

Primary=City of Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Corrales, Los Ranchos de Alb., Tijeras, San Antonito, and Edgewood.

Secondary=State- New Mexico

Does the website offer either comprehensive or representative sample data?

Representative sample data

Primary health-related subjects covered (examples: diseases such as diabetes or other subjects such as injuries)?

Nursing- Keeping Students Healthy

Asthma Program, Diabetes Info and School Forms, Overall Child Health, and Sick Day Guidelines

Limitations to the statistical data reported on this website (example: age of the information)

Unclear when it was last updated, very vague “Facts,” and Student populations are not age-adjusted.

How will this website be useful to you as an MPH student and as a future public health practitioner?

If I was interested in APS Health Education initiatives this website would be a good resource to start with. I would be able to find their current health education practices and who I could contact to further my research.

Albuquerque Public Schools

J. Alexis Ortiz

Name of Website/ Website Sponsor: **Albuquerque Public Schools**

Principal Category of Sponsor Organization (Government agency; health organization; advocacy group; other)? **Government i.e. city educational system**

Does this site offer primarily self-reported or observed statistical data? **Observed statistical data, based on their quarterly reports, which were collected by a company called RDA (Research, Deployment Accountability).**

What geographic area does the coverage primarily focus upon (National, State, County, Census tract, police beat, etc.)? **Secondarily? City (Albuquerque), specifically the school districts that are encompassed within Albuquerque Public Schools.**

Does the website offer either comprehensive or representative sample data?

Representative sample data

Primary health-related subjects covered (examples: diseases such as diabetes or other subjects such as injuries)? **Primarily information related to education and educational attainment, which we know is a social determinant of health. Examples of topic areas that include statistics are the totals of students at reading level for each grade in each district, student performance gaps by ethnicity, numbers of at risk students in each grade, graduation rates etc.**

Limitations to the statistical data reported on this website (example: age of the information) **One limitation is that there does not appear to much information on missing data or students that were not able to be tracked. Another limitation is that it would be helpful to view the APS data in comparison to other school districts that could serve as a reference group.**

How will this website be useful to you as an MPH student and as a future public health practitioner? **As a student and professional, this website will be useful if I am interested in the role of educational attainment for this local school district with the understanding that education is a social determinant of health. I could use this website to compare education rates of students who went to APS with other health indicators of interest (i.e. morbidity, mortality, cancer rates etc.) or to examine differences in educational persistence by ethnicity and how that correlates with later health outcomes.**

City of Albuquerque

Kurt Nolte

City of Albuquerque Website

- Category- Government agency
- Offers some statistical data e.g., crime- mostly information about services
- Geographic area- City of Albuquerque with some neighborhood information
- Offers some comprehensive data e.g., crime
- Provides information about health and social services centers

- Limitations to statistical data- e.g. crime- out of date, not very granular (e.g., no information about offenders, outcomes etc.) only raw numbers of types of crimes by year
- Helpful in understanding the breadth of city services e.g., hazardous waste disposal

City of Albuquerque

Virginia Chitwood

Website: City of Albuquerque

Principal Category: government agency

Data Type: self-reported crime statistics and airport statistics, observed basic statistics like population, area of city, elevation, household income, education levels, etc.

Geographic Area: City of Albuquerque

Comprehensive or Representative data: Comprehensive

Health Subjects Covered: DWI, Air Quality, Environmental Health, Health and Social Services, Waste Management, Crime

Limitations: No comparisons with crime rates outside city, i.e. county level, across NM, etc., Also the vital statistics are only as recent as 2010.

This website provides good information on crime statistics and vital statistics for the city, which can help if looking for population comparisons across the city, or for establishing SES in the city. Also, this site can provide links to other city programs and departments that might be more specific in what the MPH student is searching for.